

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE WEST TENNESSEE QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION**  
Revised March 2007

**ARTICLE I  
NAME AND PURPOSE**

**SECTION 1** The name of this association shall be the West Tennessee Quarter Horse Youth Association (WTQHYA), hereafter referred to as the WTQHYA. This organization shall be a division of the West Tennessee Quarter Horse Association (WTQHA); shall operate within the scope of the by-laws and regulations of the WTQHA, the WTQHYA, and the American Quarter Horse Youth Association (AQHYA).

**SECTION 2** The objectives and the purpose of the West Tennessee Quarter Horse Youth Association shall be as follows:

- (a) To improve and promote the American Quarter Horse breed.
- (b) To improve and develop the capabilities of youth, both individually and through team work.
- (c) To develop and improve leadership.
- (d) To encourage high moral character and sportsmanship among members.
- (e) To establish a means whereby youth members may work in conjunction with the WTQHA, the AQHYA, and the AQHA.

**ARTICLE II  
MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1 Voting Member:** Any youth, 18 years of age and under as of January 1 of the membership year, actively interested in horses is eligible to become a voting member. WTQHYA members must also have membership in the WTQHA. All regular members who participate in a minimum of 13 WTQHA season shows, pay their membership dues, actively participate in all meetings and fundraisers will receive a WTQHYA Team jacket or patch.

**SECTION 2 Voting Privileges** Members shall have the privilege of voting at WTQHYA meetings and elections provided that no such member be delinquent by reason of non payment of dues or suspended membership privileges. The member shall not be entitled to vote while such delinquency continues.

**SECTION 3 CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR** As per the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules & Regulations, "membership and election to office in AQHYA, WTQHYA, is a privilege, not a right, which may be terminated or refused for cause detrimental to the interest of AQHYA and WTQHYA, its programs, policies, objectives, and harmonious relationship of its members.

Activities deemed detrimental to the interest of AQHYA and WTQHYA include, but are not limited to, the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, and immoral or indecent behavior. The use of such products or inappropriate behavior while representing the American Quarter Horse Association or the WTQHYA will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Youth who are found associated or indirectly associated with a detrimental activity have a one month suspension from the WTQHYA. Any points accumulated during this suspended period will not be included in team points for the Congress Team. Should detrimental activities occur during the Congress, the member shall not be allowed to participate and an alternate will show the class. The month suspension in this instance will take place in January.

### **ARTICLE III DUES**

**SECTION 1** Membership dues are set by the WTQHYA. These dues are payable on January 1 of each year. Points for the Congress Youth Team qualification will accumulate only following the payment of dues in full. All dues shall be paid to the WTQHYA treasurer.

**SECTION 2** Dues for WTQHYA membership shall be paid directly to that organization. Membership in the WTQHYA does not automatically grant membership in AQHYA.

**SECTION 3** The WTQHYA Treasurer shall maintain a current list of paid members and shall forward that list on a monthly basis to the Youth Advisor and the WTQHYA President and Secretary.

**SECTION 4** All members are expected to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws regardless of whether or not they choose to read them.

### **ARTICLE IV MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1** Annual Membership Meeting: There shall be an annual meeting of the WTQHYA at the first scheduled show of the year. At this time officers will be elected and changes to the by-laws will be discussed.

**SECTION 2** Monthly Meetings: The WTQHYA will hold monthly business meetings at a time selected by the Youth Advisor. Members are expected to be in attendance. Members who have submitted a letter of intent for participation on the WTQHYA NYATT team must attend a minimum of six meetings. Members must sign in and may not send a representative.

### **ARTICLE V OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1** Elective Offices: The elective offices of WTQHYA shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**SECTION 2** Term of Office: Each elected officer shall take office during the annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year and until his/her successor is duly qualified and elected.

**SECTION 3** Vacancies: Vacancies in any office may be appointed by the Youth Advisor upon the recommendation of the existing elective officers.

**SECTION 4** Duties of the WTQHYA Officers:

(a) **PRESIDENT:** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the members.

(b) **VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice President shall, in the absence, disability, or inability of the President, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President. The Vice President shall perform additional duties as designated by the President.

(c) **SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members and shall record, or cause to be recorded, all votes taken and the minutes of all proceeding in a book of the Association to be kept for that purpose. The Secretary shall have the principle responsibility to create a written account of the monthly minutes. Such minutes will be forward electronically to the Youth Advisor and the WTQHYA President on a monthly basis. The Secretary will also maintain records of monthly meeting attendance sign-in sheets.

(d) **TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall have the responsibility for the safekeeping of the funds and securities of the Association and shall keep or cause to be kept a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Association. The Treasurer shall present a report at the monthly meeting which provides the balance in the WTQHYA account and a report of the most recent fund raising activities.

## **ARTICLE VI NYATT TEAM**

**SECTION 1** Letter of Intent: Members seeking to participate on the WTQHYA NYATT team must submit a letter of intent in order for points to be considered. The letter of intent must identify the participating horse and rider. The Youth Advisor and the Secretary will have forms available for said letter. Point accumulation for the NYATT team begins on the date of receipt of the Letter of Intent. Fees for the Letter of Intent are set by the membership.

**SECTION 2** Members with intent for the NYATT Team are expected to participate in all fund raising activities for the Association. If participation is not possible, the youth is to submit an alternate plan for an individual activity to substitute.

**SECTION 3** Points for NYATT Eligibility:

- (a) Points for eligibility for the WTQH YA NYATT team are accumulated during the scheduled shows of the WTQHA season. The point year ends at the conclusion of the September show.
- (b) Points are only accumulated through participation in the Youth 13 and under and Youth 14-18 classes. Membership on the WTQH YA NYATT Team is by competitive placement, and participation does not guarantee a slot on the team.
- (c) One point is earned for participation in a class and one additional point is earned for every horse which places below that member.
- (d) Points are tallied for *each NYATT class* from January to August or after which Association dues are paid. NYATT classes include Showmanship at Halter, Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, Hunter Under Saddle, Reining, and Barrels.
- (e) Two members will represent each of the above classes based on earning the first (1<sup>st</sup>) and second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place high point in that specific class. If a member has high point in more than one class, the member must choose the preferred class and loses the right for placement in any other class unless there is an opening which did not meet the participation requirements. Members may only be assigned to one class until *all* potential team members, based on continuing level of class placement, have received a slot.
- (f) Should a tie occur the member with the most first (1<sup>st</sup>) place wins will be considered the winner.
- (g) Members with barrel horses must specify a NYATT eligible class in which they will participate in a minimum of 13 regular WTQHA shows. In the case of more than two barrel racers contending for the NYATT slots, determination will be made on overall high point in all NYATT eligible classes.
- (h) Should there be additional members who do not qualify for class participation based on high point, said members may compete for empty slots based on overall high point for all classes.
- (i) Each identified horse in the letter of intent accumulates points and may not be substituted. Points stay with the one horse and rider team. Members can file intent to accumulate points on multiple horses. Each horse and rider team is regarded as a separate membership with separate point accumulation.
- (j) Alternates will be named for all classes at the team declaration meeting in August. Alternates must be team members already positioned on the NYATT Team.

**SECTION 4** All NYATT team members must abide by the specific guidelines for that team while at the Congress:

- (a) The WTQHA name will appear on all NYATT Team jackets.

- (b) All NYATT Team members will be present for the team picture taken at the Congress and will participate in the Parade of States.
- (c) NYATT Team members are encouraged to stall with the team to build group unity. Exceptions to stall with a trainer must be approved by the Youth Advisor but may not guarantee that the stall fee will be paid with NYATT funds.
- (d) NYATT Team members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings while at the Congress and to provide the Youth Advisor with a cell number if you are needed back at the stalls or for notification of said meeting.
- (e) NYATT members who do not attend or participate in scheduled NYATT classes forfeit acquiring any WTQHYA funds regardless of circumstances. In addition, said member is not responsible for reimbursing NYATT class fees or stall fees. This member will still receive the team jacket. The only exception to this rule is in the case of a horse which is injured while in at the Congress and is unable to compete.
- (f) Stall fees will be paid only for horses who have qualified for NYATT competition. Other horses may stall with the team at the member's expense.
- (g) All NYATT entry fees are funded by WTQHYA funds. Any additional Congress competition is funded at the individual's expense.
- (h) Members must ride the horse on which they qualified.

## **ARTICLE VII PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

**SECTION 1** All meetings of this organization shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

## **ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1** The Constitution and the By-Laws of the Association may be amended at the annual meeting by a two thirds vote of the members present. The WTQHA must also approve the amendments.

**SECTION 2** Proposals for amending the by-laws must be submitted *in writing* to the Secretary one month prior to the annual meeting. The Secretary is responsible for distributing the recommendation for amendment to the membership prior to the annual meeting.

**SECTION 3** No additions or deletions from the policies set forth in the by-laws can be made without formal amendment being approved at the annual meeting. It is the responsibility of the Youth Director to ensure that these guidelines are maintained.

Amended this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March 2007.

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Secretary

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