

The Constitution of the Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Association

The purpose of the Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Association (SMQHA), is to promote in all ways the interests of the American Quarter Horse, to do all things necessary to advance and improve the breed; to advertise and promote Maryland as a quarter horse state and specifically Southern Maryland as a Quarter Horse area. The Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Association will work in harmony with both the Maryland State Quarter Horse Association and the American Quarter Horse Association.

In order to achieve these goals, the SMQHA will direct activities as follows:

The Association will promote the American Quarter Horse in such a manner as the membership so dictates through the establishment of an organization and structure as described in the SMQHA by-laws. Such promotion will include, but will not be limited to the following activities:

1. Shows that are open to the public and fully sanctioned by the American Quarter Horse Association.
2. Open shows and competitive or non-competitive trail rides.
3. Promote breed improvement by establishing annual futurities and stakes events.
4. Increase public awareness of the attributes of the American Quarter Horse and improve the horsemanship of both the membership and general public by holding open meetings with guest speakers relating to equine topics.
5. Provide for the membership, year-end awards for both organizational leadership and excellence in breeding of horsemanship for the various competitive classes/events.
6. Establish and promote a youth organization, a competitive youth team and as appropriate, a queen to represent the Association at the All American Quarter Horse Congress and /or other such events as mandated by the membership.

APPROVED: by the General Membership on November 22, 1994.

Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Association
BY-Laws

ARTICLE 1

NAME

The name of the organization shall be "Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Association". Its objective shall be to promote in all ways the interest of the Quarter Horse and to do any and all things necessary to advance and improve the breed; to advertise Maryland as a Quarter Horse State and to work in harmony with other state Quarter Horse Associations

ARTICLE II

PARENT ORGANIZATION

The activities of this Association shall be in harmony with the policies set forth by the American Quarter Horse Association.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership

Any individual or family desiring to become a member of the Association shall make application for such membership on forms prepared for that purpose specifically. All applications shall be submitted to the Executive Committee and approved by that Committee for membership.

Section 2. Dues

Annual dues shall be payable upon becoming a member of the Association and yearly thereafter on, or between, the first day of January through the 31st of March. The dues amount shall be as determined by the Executive Committee and concurred in by vote of the general membership. Life members are required to pay \$5.00 for family membership per year.

Membership Dues:

Single Membership \$20.00

Family Membership \$30.00, which includes immediate family (under age 21)

Lifetime Membership \$175.00

Lifetime Members may include their families for \$5.00 per year

A \$10.00 fee is due on each horse and or Amateur, Youth, Novice Amateur or Novice Youth team, you want points kept on for the year-end awards.

Walk-Trot and Lead Line fees are \$10.00 for the Year-End awards

The horse owner, Walk-Trot rider and or Lead Line must be a member of SMQHA.

Points are automatically kept from the postmark date of application.

SMYQHA membership is \$5.00

Owner/Rider Award fee is \$15.00 due on each Horse/Rider. The rider must be the owner. If applying of Owner/Rider Award, a copy of the AQHA registration papers must accompany the application for proof of ownership.

Section 3. Voting

APPROVED: by the General Membership on November 22, 1994.

At all meetings of the membership of record having a right to vote, each member of the Association is entitled to one vote, but not to exceed three (3) votes in a family, provided that dues have been paid to date in full and is otherwise a member in good standing of the Association at the time of casting their vote. The right to vote is extended to each member upon joining the Association, or three per family, and said member may vote on any item of business to come before the body; provided however, that in the case of the annual election of officers, only those persons who have been members for at least thirty (30) days prior to the election will be entitled to vote. Absentee ballot will be counted if received by the secretary the day of the election meeting.

Section 4. Membership Quorum

The number of members which shall be present in person at any meeting of the membership in order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, or any specified item of business, shall be five percent (5%) of the membership as shown on the membership book of the association, who are in good standing with dues fully paid. If a quorum shall not be present, the membership entitled to vote thereat shall have power to adjourn the meeting to some future time, not more than ten (10) days later, at which time the members attending shall constitute a quorum for all purposes.

The number of votes which shall be necessary for the transaction of any business at any meeting of the membership where there is a quorum shall be a majority of those present.

ARTICLE V

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the membership shall be held on such dates and at such places and times as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine, and as are approved by the general membership. The Secretary shall cause to be served oral or written notice on each member not less than ten (10) days previous to such meeting. However, at any meeting at which all the membership shall be present, or at which all members not present have waived notice in writing, the giving of notice as above required may be dispensed with.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of member, other than those regulated by statute or identified above, may be called at any time by the President, or by a majority of the Executive Committee, or by the President upon written request of ten (10) members in good standing. Oral or written notice of such meeting, stating briefly its purpose, shall be served on each member not less than five (5) days before the date set for such meeting. However, at any meeting at which all the membership shall be present, or where members not present have waived notice in writing, the giving of notice as above required may be dispensed with. Unless otherwise indicated in the meeting notice, any and all business may be transacted at a special meeting.

Section 3. Annual Meeting

APPROVED: by the General Membership on November 22, 1994.

The Annual meeting of the Association shall be set for the month of November of each year, at which time the election of officers and directors shall be had in addition to the regular business normal carried on the membership.

Section 4. Southern Maryland

All regular and special meetings must be held in locations in Southern Maryland.

ARTICLE V
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Number

The affairs and business of the Association shall be managed by the Executive Committee composed of the elected officers of the Association, the immediate past president, and five directors. The five directors shall be members in good standing who receive a plurality of the votes for that position at the annual meeting. The President of the Association shall act as chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Terms of Office

The term of office for each of the Directors shall be two years, which are to be staggered. (Example: 2 directors are elected one year for a 2-year term and the other 3 directors are elected the next year for a 2-year term. Nay officer can run for more than two (2) consecutive years if they desire.

Section 3. Responsibilities

The Executive Committee shall have the control and general management of the affairs and business of the Association. Such Executive committee shall in all cases act as a Board of Directors, regularly convened, and they may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of their meetings and the management of the Association as they deem proper, consistent with the membership, these By-Laws and the laws of the State of Maryland.

Section 4. Executive Committee Meetings

Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at such times and places as the Committee may determine. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chairman at nay time or shall be called by the Chairman of the Secretary upon the request of four(4) members of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Notice of Executive Committee Meetings

Notice of Executive Committee meetings shall be given by serving either oral or written notice upon each officer and director at least five (5) days before the date designated for such meeting. At any meeting at which every member of the Executive Committee shall be present, although held without notice, nay business may be transacted which might have been transacted had the meeting been duly called.

APPROVED: by the General Membership on November 22, 1994.

Section 6. Voting

At all meetings of the Executive Committee, each officer and director shall have one vote, except that in the case of a tie vote, the vote of the Immediate Past President shall be excluded. The act of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the executive Committee.

Section 7. Vacancies

Vacancies among the five (5) directors occurring between annual meetings shall be filled of the unexpired portion of the term through appointment by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 8. Removal of Directors

Any one or more of the directors may be removed, either with or without cause, at any time by a vote of the majority of the general membership at any regular or special meeting. If a director of the Executive Committee is absent from two consecutive meetings he/she shall show cause why he should not be replaced; if a director of the Executive Committee is absent from three consecutive meetings he/she shall be deemed to have resigned and shall be replaced in accordance with the provisions of section 7.

Section 9. Quorum

At any meeting of the Executive Committee, a majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; in the event of a quorum not being present a lesser number may adjourn the meeting to some future time, not more than ten (10) days later.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

Section 1. Number

The elected officers of the Association shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Youth Advisor and such other officers as may be authorized from time to time by the Executive Committee and who may be designated by the Executive Committee and approved by the General membership. The elected officers of the Association shall be members in good standing who receive a plurality of votes for that position at the Annual meeting.

Section 2. Election

Officers of the Association shall be elected annually by a majority voter of the membership at its regular annual meeting. Nomination of officers will be conducted at the September general membership meeting, and the election will take place at the November general membership meeting.

Section 3. Duties of Officers

APPROVED: by the General Membership on November 22, 1994.

The duties and powers of the officers of the Association shall be as follows:

President

The president shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and general membership. He shall present at each regular meeting of the membership and the Executive Committee a report of the condition of the business of the Association.

He shall appoint and remove, employ and discharge, and fix the compensation of all servants, agents, employees or clerks of the Association, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

He shall sign, jointly with the Vice President or Secretary, all contracts and agreements in the name of the Association, provided they have been approved by the Executive Committee.

He shall see that the books, reports, statements and certificates required by statute are properly kept, made and filed according to law.

He shall have the authority to sign all notes, drafts or bills of exchange, warrants or other orders for the payment of money in the absence or inability of the Treasurer.

He shall enforce these by-laws and perform the entire duties incident to the position and office and which are required by law.

VICE PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall have the power and shall perform the duties of the President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee. Either he or the secretary must sign all contracts and agreements jointly with the President after approval of the Executive Committee.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee and the general membership in appropriate books.

He shall give and serve all notices of the Association.

He shall be custodian of the records and of the seal, and affix the latter where required.

He shall keep a membership book, so as to show all members in good standing, which shall be open to inspection by any member of the Association who in himself is in good standing.

He shall present to the Executive Committee at their stated meetings, all communications addressed to him or the Association officially.

Either he, or the Vice President, must sign all contracts and agreements jointly with the President after approval of the Executive Committee.

APPROVED: by the General Membership on November 22, 1994.

TEASURER

The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of and be responsible for all the funds and securities of the Association and deposit all such funds within five (5) business days or receipt, in the name of the Association, in such bank or banks, trust company or companies, or safe deposit vaults as the Executive Committees may designate. HE shall sign, make, and endorse in the name of the Association all checks, drafts, warrants, and orders for payment of money, and pay out and dispose of same and receipt therefore, under the direction of the Executive Committee.

He shall exhibit all reasonable times the books and accounts to any officer of directory or any members of the Association in good standing.

He shall render a statement of the conditions of the finances of the Association at each regular meeting of the Executive Committee, and at such other times as shall be required of him/her, and shall make a full financial report at the regular meetings of the membership.

He shall keep correct books of account of all its business and transaction, and shall keep a report of dues and payments and such other books of accounts as the Executive Committee may require.

He shall do and perform all duties appertaining to the office of Treasurer.

The Executive Committee may authorize the establishment of any "special" checking accounts they may deem appropriate for the receiving and disbursing of funds for such activities as "Futurities", "Youth", "Banquet", etc., and may authorize an Association member or members to be responsible for receipts and disbursements under said accounts.

Section 4. Bond

The Treasurer shall be bonded by a reputable bonding company if so required by the Executive Committee and in such amount as may be determined by the Committee and any such fee for such bond shall be paid by the Association.

Section 5. Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall assume any unexpired portion of the term. All vacancies, in any office other than that of President (i.e., Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall be filled by the membership without undue delay at its regular meetings or at a special meeting called for that purpose. In the case of the absence of any officer of the Association or for any reason that the Executive Committee may deem sufficient, the Committee may, except as specifically otherwise provided for in these by-laws, delegate the powers or duties of such officer to any other officer or director, for the period of that officer's absence, provided a majority of the entire Executive Committee concurs therein.

APPROVED: by the General Membership on November 22, 1994.

Any one or more of the officers may be removed either with or without cause, at any time by a vote of the majority of the general membership, at any regular or special meeting. If an officer is absent from two consecutive Executive Committee meetings he shall show cause why he should not be replaced as an officer; if an officer is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings he shall be deemed to have resigned from the Association and shall be replaced in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. How Amended

The Executive Committee shall have the power to make, amend or repeal these by-laws by vote of two thirds of the members of the Executive Committee at any regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee, subject however, to the amendment, revision, votes, and ultimate approval of the general membership at any meeting of the membership.

ARTICLE IX

SEAL

Section 1. Seal

The Seal of the Association shall be in the form as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE XI

WAIVER OF NOTICE

Wherever by statute, or these by-laws, the general membership or the Executive Committee is authorized to take any action after notice; such notice may be waived in writing before, or after the holding of the meeting by the person or persons entitled to such notice.

ARTICLE XII

DISSOLVEMENT

Section 1. Dissolvement

When, and if, the time arrives whereas the Association cannot function as so described in these by-laws, the general membership shall be contacted in writing as the situation causing the decision to dissolve. If the general membership does not respond, or in any way try to alter the situation that has brought about this decision, the Executive Committee in present term shall deem the Southern Maryland Quarter Horse Association dissolved.

Section 2. Treasury Dispersal

APPROVED: by the General Membership on November 22, 1994.

When the Executive Committee deems the Association dissolved, the balance of all funds remaining in the Treasury after all debts have been paid in the name of the Association, shall be in whole, or part, dispersed to whatever non-profit equine organization(s) they feel would most benefit from the funds.

Section 3. Property Dispersal

When the Executive Committee deems the Association dissolved, all properties belonging to the Association shall be sold, and/or disposed of in such manner that would most benefit the Treasury funds or expediency of dissolution, whichever comes first.

APPROVED: By the General Membership of the Association in January 1977, and by-laws of March 21, 1973, with amendments thereby repealed.

APPROVED: January 1979, and by-laws of January 1977, with amendments thereby repealed.

APPROVED: January 13, 1984, and by-laws of January 1979, with amendments thereby repealed.

APPROVED: September 15, 1985, and by-laws of January 13, 1984, with amendments thereby repealed.

APPROVED November 8, 1994, and by-laws of September 15, 1985, with amendments thereby repealed.

APPROVED: November 22, 1994, and by-laws of November 8, 1984, with amendments thereby repealed.

APPROVED: by the General Membership on November 22, 1994.