

BY-LAWS OF THE MAINE QUARTER
HORSE ASSOCIATION

The Association was founded in 1970 and incorporated by the State of Maine on June 5, 1973. The corporate records are recorded in the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds, Volume 2373, Page 103.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Association shall be the "Maine Quarter Horse Association", and it shall at all times be operated and conducted as a non-profit Association in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine.

ARTICLE II: OBJECT

The purpose of this Association is to promote the American Quarter Horse, as a breed, in any and all matters such as they may pertain to the history, breeding, exhibition, publicity, sale, racing, or improvements of the breed within the State of Maine.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

All persons who are interested in Quarter Horses and the objectives of this Association shall be eligible for membership with full voting and other privileges provided they are qualified under such rules and regulations as the Board of Directors may from time to time make. Any member shall be expelled for violation of these rules. Annual Membership dues are due and payable on January 1 of each year. Dues shall be assessed by the Board of Directors. Memberships shall be of two categories: Annual and Life Membership.

Section A Individual Membership: Shall mean a person 19 years old and older, on January 1. Dues are as posted.

Section B Family Membership: Shall mean husband and wife only. Dues are as posted.

Section C Junior Membership: Shall mean any person 18 years or younger on January 1 and who is a paid up member of the Maine Junior Quarter Horse Association. Dues are as posted.

Section D Life Membership: Any person or persons eligible for categories A or B above shall become a life member upon payment of a single fee of \$150.00. A life membership is not transferable, but a life membership may be carried in the joint names of husband and wife, and the successor of them (spouse's death or divorce) shall be entitled to exclusive life membership having the one-time privilege to amend the membership's name to correctly reflect the successor's status by filing, with the Association, a copy of the judicial decree, written

evidence of death, or written instrument of consent signed by the terminating spouse.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The officers shall be elected annually by the members and shall take possession of the office at the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they are elected. The Officers shall be voting members of the Board of Directors and shall have the same powers and duties as all other members of the Board. All officers shall be residents of the State of Maine. Section A Officer

Qualifications:

1. All officers shall be current adult members of the Association.
2. The Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees shall usually be members of the current Board of Directors.

Section B: Duties

1. President: The duties of the President shall be to preside over all meetings of the Association and all meetings of the Board of Directors; to appoint all Committees deemed necessary by the Board of Directors; to call Directors and/or membership meetings as are necessary; to sign, with the Secretary or Treasurer, all contracts and obligations of the Association unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Directors; and shall be an Ex-Officio member of all Committees of the Association except the nomination committee. The President, upon retiring from office, shall be placed on the Board of Directors as a Director-At-Large until such time that three (3) additional Presidents shall retire.

2. Vice-Presidents (First and Second): The Vice-Presidents shall perform all duties imposed on him/her and have all the powers conferred upon the President when, for any cause, the President is unable to act. If the President and Vice-Presidents are absent or unable to act, the Board of Directors shall designate any one of its members to act as President and he/she shall have the full powers of the President. The order of succession shall be from President to First Vice-President to Second Vice-President.

3. Secretary: The Secretary shall give at least a ten (10) day notice to the membership of all meetings of membership and a seven (7) day notice to all directors of Directors' Meetings; shall take minutes of such meetings; shall keep all records and correspondence of this Association; and shall perform such duties as the Directors may from time to time assign.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect all monies due this Association; shall have the care and custody of, and responsibility for such monies-these to be deposited in the name of this Association in a bank designated by the Directors; shall keep

proper books of account showing the disposition of such monies as may pass through his/her hands; and shall make a full financial report at each annual meeting covering the preceding fiscal year and a financial report to the Board of Directors when requested.

5. Executive Committee: There is hereby created an Executive Committee to consist of the current Officers and the immediate past president. The duties of the Executive Committee are limited to consulting on matters that need immediate attention. The Executive Committee shall not be empowered to take permanent action on any item, but shall make a recommendation to the full Board for their action.

ARTICLE V: DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members from the State of Maine, elected for a three (3) year term each, plus the Officers and a maximum of three (3) Director's-At-Large. Director Emeritus may be elected after serving as an Officer and/or Director for 10 consecutive years. This Directorship shall be a voting position for life and will not be subject to the rules of attendance. Directors shall have been members of the Maine Quarter Horse Association for at least one year prior to their nomination. The Directors shall be elected, by the Association membership, at the annual meeting. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Board of Directors are as follows:

Section A The Board shall oversee the Maine Quarter Horse Association and always act for the betterment of it. The Directors will be expected to operate under normally accepted ethical policies.

Section B The Board shall meet with the President on matters involving finances and rule violations and such other matters as the Board deems necessary.

Section C The Board shall have the power to appoint, until the next regular annual meeting, person(s) to vacated or unfilled offices or newly formed offices.

Section D Each member of the Board shall attend meetings called by the President, and shall be dismissed as a member of the Board if he/she should miss four (4) meetings in a fiscal year. Absences will be considered excused if the member contacts the President or Secretary prior to the meeting.

Section E At all meetings of the Board of Directors, the attendance of a simple majority of any number of directors and officers shall constitute a quorum.

Section F The Directors shall keep the President informed at all times of intents and progress.

Section G Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in a central location, or via teleconference (or other technology that may become available). Face to

face meetings will be considered as the first option; teleconference meetings will be considered a second option.

Section H The Directors shall have the power to make and enforce rules and regulations governing the Association.

Section I The Directors shall have the power to censure or expel any member of this Association for action of a derogatory nature to the Association subject, however, to a hearing before the Board of Directors. In order to obtain a hearing, the member must request same in writing, within ten(10) days of his/her written notification from the Board.

Section J The Directors shall have the power to ensure that all show activities run by MeQHA, not falling under the authority of AQHA, are governed by the same rules and regulations as would apply to AQHA classes. If any monies are paid to persons found to have violated these rules, the Directors, after conducting a hearing, shall have the power to demand the return of said monies. Any costs accruing to the Association in affecting this return, shall be borne by the person(s) to whom the money was paid.

Section K MeQHA seeks to remain fair and consistent handling of all cases of disciplinary action. MeQHA will therefore, weigh carefully all circumstances before initiating any disciplinary action. The Board shall have the power to revoke or suspend, from MeQHA activities and events, the showing privileges of the horse/individual(s) responsible for a period of up to one calendar year from the date of the final decision. In all instances, the Board will follow the current AQHA Handbook and shall have the powers granted to the AQHA Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI: COMPLAINTS

Complaints relative to any MeQHA activities shall be addressed following the procedures outlined below:

Section A All complaints shall be sent to a member of the MeQHA Executive Committee, which in turn, will be forwarded to the Committee Chair.

Section B All complaints MUST be in writing and be received with five (5) working days of said violation and accompanied by a check for \$25.00. The check will be refunded if the complaint is found to be valid.

Section C Upon receipt of the complaint, the MeQHA Executive Committee shall review and notify person(s) named in said complaint within fifteen (15) days.

Section D A date for a hearing will be set by the Executive Committee upon a written request from the member the complaint is about.

Section E The object of all hearings is information only. They are to be informal in nature, so that the Board can make a fair and just decision based on the facts presented. All hearings will be held in executive session with a quorum of the Board present. Only Board members and invited parties shall be in attendance.

Section F Only Board members attending the hearings may participate in the decision.

Section G Upon the decision of the Board, the person(s) in question will be notified of the decision taken by the Board.

Section H All violations of AQHA rules will be referred directly to AQHA.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

All committees shall come under the Rules of this Association. All Committee appointments, unless otherwise designated by the Directors, shall be for one (1) fiscal year. All such Committees shall have a Chairman, appointed by the President, and at least three (3) members. In no instance shall the total number serving on a Committee exceed nine(9).

ARTICLE VIII: FISCAL YEAR AND MEETINGS

Section A The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on January 1 and end the following December 31 of each year.

Section B The regular Annual Meeting of the Association for the election of officers, directors, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting shall be held during either November or December, at such time and place as designated by the Directors. At least a ten (10) day notice of such meeting shall be given to each member in good standing by a notice, sent by ordinary mail, to the member's last known post office address.

Section C Special membership meetings may be called at any time and place, by the President, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, or by notice signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the members. Notice of such Special Meetings should indicate the purpose of said meeting and shall be given in the same manner as provided with respect to notice of the Annual Meeting.

Section D Fifteen (15) members in addition to a quorum of Officers and Directors shall constitute a quorum for meetings.