

SECTION ONE (1) GENERAL

All rules pertaining to this section of the Rule Book, and any supplementary rules, will be implemented by the Association.

These Rules and Regulations become effective as at 1 August 2020, at which time all previous Rules and Regulations will be repealed. The status of all points, registrations and records made under previous rules will remain unchanged.

A person, persons, corporation, or society must be a financial member of the Association and in good standing to have all work processed by the Association.

The applicable fee, from the current Schedule of Fees, must accompany all documentation for any service provided by the Association.

These Rules and Regulations must be adhered to at any Association sanctioned event conducted by the AQHA, AQHA Affiliates and by any organisation that has been given Program approval.

DEFINITIONS

Interpretations - Contained in the Constitution of the Association will be deemed to be embodied in these Regulations.

"AmQHA" means the American Quarter Horse Association.

"Appendix Registry" means the register of Appendix "A" numbered Quarter Horses.

"Approved Class" means a recognised class that has been given approval by the Association.

"Approved Performance Bodies" means organisations that the Association recognises as the controlling body for such an equine discipline.

"AQHA" means the Australian Quarter Horse Association, ABN 41 000 964 643.

"Association" means the Australian Quarter Horse Association, ABN 41 000 964 643.

"Breeder" means the breeder of any Quarter Horse who is the owner, or the registered lessee, of the dam at the time of service.

"Category" means several classes.

"Class" means a Judged equine discipline.

"Considered" means that it will be looked at, reviewed, but not necessarily accepted.

"Divisions" is a reference to age, status, and gender.

"DNA Markers" (also called DNA Profile) are a record, issued by a DNA testing laboratory, of the unique genetic identification of an individual horse.

"Equine Discipline" means Western Pleasure, Dressage etc.

"Event" means anything held by the AQHA or an AQHA Affiliate, includes, but is not limited to shows, clinics, demonstrations, conducting trade exhibits, meetings, trail rides, end of year get togethers etc.

"Excessive" means unreasonable, unnecessary, and unwarranted.

"Exhibitor" means a person who presents a horse for judging.

"Financial" means membership fees are paid up to date (a financial member).

“FM or FS” numbered horses mean mares and stallions that have been accepted as Foundation Recording for breeding purposes only.

“Imported Horse” means a horse foaled outside the territorial limits of Australia and imported into Australia.

“Lodged” means Post, Email, Faxed and/or hand delivered to the Association Office.

“Member” means a person whose name is entered in the register as a member of the Association.

“Nominee” means a person who has the right to sign paperwork on behalf of a Constituent membership.

“Owner” in relation to a horse, means the person recorded as its owner in the Association records.

“Recognised Classes” means classes that are deemed point earning by the Association and are listed in these Rules and Regulations.

“Sanctioned Event” means any event run by the AQHA or an AQHA Affiliate where notification received and approval given by AQHA

“Show” means a gathering of horses for competition that are judged. A “Show” is determined as being held from the first class contested on the program to the last class contested on the program.

“Stud Book” means the register of Q, R1 and R2 numbered Quarter Horses.

“Unapproved Class” means a recognised class that has not been given approval by the Association.

1. THE ASSOCIATION

1.1 Professional Code of Ethics

We, the members of the Australian Quarter Horse Association, in carrying out our role of providing service to the Australian Quarter Horse industry, recognise the need to do so in a professional manner, and to deal with the public and our colleagues with the highest degree of integrity. We will endeavour to fulfil our obligations to:

- a) Adhere to the professional standards of the Association and to work to further its goals and objectives;
- b) Ensure that the welfare of the Australian Quarter Horse is paramount and that every Australian Quarter Horse is always treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion;
- c) Conduct all business affairs with integrity, sincerity, and accuracy in an open and forthright manner;
- d) Act with integrity in financial dealings with clients, other professionals, and the public;
- e) Handle our business and operations in a manner that promotes the image of the Australian Quarter Horse industry; and
- f) Instil confidence among clients and the public in the Australian Quarter Horse industry, avoiding any action conducive to discrediting it or membership in the Association.

1.2 Our Statement

The Association’s mission is to:

- a) Develop and implement procedures that ensure humane treatment of all horses and animals associated with the breed;

- b) Develop diverse educational programs, material, and curriculum to position the Association as one of the leading organisations in the Australian Equine Industry;
- c) Record and preserve the pedigrees of the Australian Quarter horse;
- d) Maintain the integrity of the breed;
- e) Provide beneficial services for its members to enhance and encourage Quarter Horse ownership and participation; and
- f) Generate growth of the Association membership via the marketing, promotion, advertising, and publicity of the Association.

1.3 Prohibited Conduct, but not limited to:

- a) Any form of conduct that inhibits competition at Association approved events;
- b) Padding classes, by entering a horse(s) to fill a class to increase show points;
- c) Discouraging a potential competitor from entering a class;
- d) Any competitor inside the arena, assisting another competitor, may be disqualified;
Exception: EWD, Youth Lead Line and Youth Walk & Jog/trot classes. Rule 1.3 d) does not apply to a co-contestant in a team, such as Team Roping or Cutting;
- e) Attempting to reduce competition, or assisting in reducing competition by a member;
- f) Attempting to reduce competition by a non-member of the Association;
- g) Failure to pay when due, any obligation owing to the AQHA or an AQHA Affiliate;
- h) Engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct including, but not limited to, inappropriate language;
- i) Carrying or consuming alcohol in the marshalling areas, working arenas or show pen/contest areas;
- j) Directing abusive or threatening conduct or language toward Association representatives;
- k) Conspiring with another person or persons to intentionally violate Association rules, or to assist in any violation of Association rules;
- l) Changing or altering any Registration or Recording Certificates issued by the Association;
- m) Displaying or advertising an altered Registration or Recording Certificate, issued by the Association;
- n) Selling, issuing, exchanging, giving away, receiving, or offering a false or fraudulent certificate;
- o) Refusing an Association request for the return of a registration certificate, either before, after, or pending a hearing to determine registration or participation privilege in Association approved events. The Association will retain possession of a certificate until resolution of the matter for which the return of the certificate was requested;
- p) Falsely representing any horse owned or managed by him or her to be registered with the Association;
- q) Misrepresenting any horse to be a registered Australian Quarter Horse;

- r) Entering any registered horse in any Australian Quarter Horse event by a name other than that by which the horse is registered;
- s) Representing that a horse registered with the Association has earned or is entitled to any official awards, if that award is not recorded with the Association;
- t) Altering, changing, or attempting to hide or alter natural markings of a horse by surgery, dye or in any other manner;
- u) Completing, signing, or handing over an Association Authority for Transfer to any purchaser of a horse unless the horse is registered or recorded with the Association.

1.3.1 Any member will be disciplined, suspended, fined, and/or expelled from the Association, and a non-member will be fined and/or denied Association privileges for any violation of Rule 1.3.

1.3.2 A person who fails to report any infringement of these rules may also be the subject of disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

1.3.3 The Association may disqualify the horse(s) entered by any member or non-member who is found to have breached these rules.

1.4 Members must:

- assist the Association, its officers, committees, or agents to locate, identify and inspect any horse(s)
- answer promptly and truthfully any inquiry concerning a horse or a horse's ancestor
- give prompt and truthful information concerning any matter of which the person has knowledge
- treat all Association representatives with courtesy, cooperation, and respect, and
- give information to the Association that is true and correct to the best belief and knowledge of the informant.

1.4.1 Any member will be disciplined, suspended, fined, and/or expelled from the Association, and any non-member will be fined and/or denied Association privileges for any violation of Rule 1.4.

1.5 Other Testings

- a) Drug testing is mandatory at State and National Quarter Horse Championship Shows;
- b) If show management desires to conduct its own drug testing, it must obtain written authorisation from the Association and a set of instructions as to the procedure for the testing;
- c) At any Association approved show, only the Association, or representatives of show management, acting pursuant to Association rules, may request specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances for drug testing or require payment of drug testing fees as condition of entry;
- d) Drug testing fees charged by an approved show are subject to prior approval by the Association;
- e) Any show management which desires to conduct its own surgical alteration inspections, must:
 - obtain prior written authorisation from the Association
 - obtain instructions for procedures, and
 - use a registered Veterinarian to conduct all inspections

1.6 Other Equine Organisations

The Association may accept suspension rulings from other recognised equine related organisations.

If the Association accepts a suspension ruling, that acceptance automatically suspends the individual from Association membership privileges and denies privileges for a length of time equal to the suspension for which reciprocity is given.

2. ANIMAL WELFARE

This Animal Welfare Policy applies to any sanctioned event held by the Association, its Affiliates and any organisation that has been given program approval.

2.1 Humane Treatment

The Association will not tolerate inhumane treatment of a horse, or any other animal used in competition.

- a) No member or non-member will treat any horse or animal in a cruel or inhumane manner;
- b) Inhumane treatment includes but is not limited to all relevant animal welfare legislation and rules of the National Authorities controlling the applicable sport;
- c) In any equestrian sporting event, the welfare of the horse is always the primary consideration;
- d) No horse should be ridden or trained in such a way that it is subject to extended periods of mental or physical distress;
- e) Association members must comply with all relevant animal welfare legislation and rules. This applies to all horses exhibited at events sanctioned by the AQHA, AQHA Affiliates and at any event that has been given Association program approval;
- f) The Association encourages all members to follow best animal welfare practice in all their dealings with horses.

2.1.1 Any member will be disciplined, suspended, fined, and/or expelled from the Association and any non-member will be fined and/or denied Association privileges for any violations of Rule 2.

2.2 Responsibility

An individual is responsible for the horse's condition if:

- they designate themselves on the entry form as the exhibitor, or authorises another to designate him/her as the exhibitor on the entry form.
- they sign the entry form on behalf of themselves or another or causes an agent or representative to sign it.
- they physically participate in the class by riding or showing the horse.
- they are the actual trainer, having presented or caused to be presented the horse at the grounds for exhibition.
- both the exhibitor, designated on the entry form, and the person having actual possession of the horse, while physically participating in the event, are conclusively deemed to be authorised by the owner to execute all documents necessary, or convenient, to allow the horse's participation in an event approved by the Association, including documents pertaining to drug testing.

- an individual is prevented from performing their duties, including absolute responsibility for the condition of the horse/s, or is absent from the show, they must immediately notify the show secretary, at the same time appoint a substitute, and such substitute must place their name on the entry form.
- the exhibitor represents the owner regarding their horse(s) entered in an approved show.

2.3 Prohibited conduct

No person on the grounds, including but not limited to barns, stall, practice areas or show arena, can treat a horse in a manner that includes, but is not limited to:

- continuous and/or relentless pressure from the bit, legs, or spurs.
- placing an object, other than a legal bit, in a horse's mouth to cause undue discomfort or distress.
- placing a legal bit in a horse's mouth in an abnormal manner.
- leaving a bit in a horse's mouth for extended periods of time to cause undue discomfort or distress, broken skin and/or bleeding.
- tying a horse's head up (above the withers), back, or around in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress. the horse must be able to hold its head comfortably in a "normal" position.
- tying a horse in a stall without access to food or water for an extended period.
- use of excessive training techniques such as striking a horse's legs.
- excessive spurring or whipping.
- excessive spinning (defined as more than eight (8) consecutive turns in either direction).
- continuing to work or exhibit a horse which appears to be sullen, lethargic, emaciated, dehydrated, depressed, drawn or overly tired.
- schooling using rails higher than 1.2 metres.
- breaking the skin and causing bleeding from the spur, bit, or any other equipment.
- riding or training in such a way that the horse is subject to periods of mental or physical distress.
- exhibiting a horse that has an open wound and/or shows traces of blood, and
- using prohibited equipment on the horse at Association approved events.

2.4 Prohibited Equipment

The use of prohibited equipment includes but is not limited to:

- saw tooth bits
- hock hobbles
- tack collars
- curb straps with tack/rivets or tack hackamores
- war bridles or like devices
- riding in a curb bit without a curb strap
- wire or solid metal curb straps, with or without padding

- wire cavesson
- wire or cable tie downs
- bumper bits
- metal bosals with or without padding
- metal lunging hackamores
- Chambons, headstalls made of metal, with or without padding
- running martingales used without rein stops
- excessively tight nosebands
- draw reins attached between or around the front legs
- side reins (direct from bit to girth or surcingles)
- any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the horse's tail
- any appliance or equipment, which results in any bleeding, and
- any other treatment or conduct deemed by a show official to be inhumane or abusive.

2.5 Nutraceuticals or Herbal Therapies

The onus is on the Owner/Trainer/Handler/Exhibitor, who decides to administer these types of products to a horse, to ensure that they are free of any prohibited substance.

2.6 Surgical Procedures

A horse cannot compete if it has had any surgical procedure which could affect the horse's performance. **Exception:** for those surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the horse. If requested, a Veterinary Certificate detailing the surgery will be required.

2.7 Artificial appliances are not permitted for use in approved classes.

The following are not prohibited:

- conventional pads
- therapeutic shoes
- Pacemakers or prosthetic eyes, if the owner obtains written permission from the Association and the resulting authorisation is noted on the horse's registration certificate.

2.8 Prohibited Drugs and Foreign Substances

A horse that has had any prohibited foreign substance or drugs administered internally or externally cannot compete.

Exception: Acceptable foreign substances listed in Rule 2.9 and drugs as administered under Rule 2.8 b).

- a) A patch of any type, medicinal or otherwise cannot be on a horse when that horse is being exhibited;
- b) A horse that is injured or taken ill once it has arrived at the official show venue, or whilst on the ground during the event, may compete after that horse has been treated by a Veterinarian at that show. The attending Veterinarian must sign a certificate which states:
 - what the horse is suffering from
 - what treatment, including any substances that have been administered internally or externally, and
 - that the horse is sound enough to compete at that show

- c) The certificate must be given to the Show Secretary/Show Manager prior to the horse competing;
- d) A horse cannot be injected at a show unless the Veterinarian, that attended the horse at the show, has otherwise instructed. A Vet Certificate showing the treatment required must be obtained.

2.9 Acceptable Foreign Substances:

The following substances are acceptable:

- Antiprotozoals
- Anti-ulcer medication
- Insect repellent
- Anthelmintics
- Rehydration fluids
- B vitamins (orally)
- Regumate/Altrenogest (mares only)
- Topical ointments not containing Corticosteroids, irritant, or painkillers
- Preventative joint restorative therapies and general "over the counter" feed store supplements

2.10 Every exhibitor will, upon request of show management or the Association representative, permit a specimen of saliva, urine, blood, or any other substance to be taken for testing. Refusal to comply with such a request will constitute grounds for immediate disqualification of the horse from further participation at the event.

If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from the horse indicates the presence of a foreign substance, prohibited drug or medication, this will be taken as prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the horse.

2.11 Penalties and Restrictions

Any person, member, or non-member, found in violation of these rules, will be disciplined, suspended, fined, denied Association privileges, disqualified, expelled from the grounds, and/or expelled from the Association.

2.11.1 If, upon examination by Association or show representatives, after Association authorisation, a horse's physiological functioning is found to be outside normal limits, the horse will automatically be reported to the Association.

Upon written notification by the Association, the horse's participation privileges in Association approved events will be suspended pending a hearing to determine whether the horse's physiological functioning remains abnormal, with the burden of persuasion on the owner to prove normal physiological functioning. Participation privileges of the horse will remain suspended until any hearing.

Any hearing under Rule 2.11.1 must be requested by the owner.

2.11.2 A conviction of an individual, under State or Federal Law, will constitute a presumed violation of these rules for:

- an offence of cruelty to, or
- judicial confiscation of a horse.

3. MEMBERSHIP

A new membership must be signed by the applicant personally and in the case of a Constituent or Affiliate membership, the Nominee must sign. A member is responsible for renewing their membership.

3.1 Membership Application

- a) The membership year is 1 August to 31 July. **Exception:** refer Life Membership Rule 3.12;
- b) Membership of the Association is a privilege, not a right, application for which must be made on forms and by payment of fees and according to the procedures as prescribed from time to time by the Association;
- c) Membership or application will be terminated or rejected by the Association for any cause detrimental to the interests, policies, objectives of the Association and the harmonious relationship of its members, as determined by the Association;
- d) Termination or application rejection proceedings under this paragraph will be conducted in accordance with the Articles of the Association;
- e) The facilities and services provided for, by these Rules and Regulations, are only available to those current financial members in good standing with the Association. All applicants, who wish to use these facilities, must be required to satisfy the Association that they are so entitled;
- f) Any first time member of the Association, or any person seeking to register an Australian Quarter Horse in their name for the first time, is entitled to an initial Promotional Membership. This membership is not available to any person or group that has been a member of the Association previously in any membership.

3.2 Registry Services

To be eligible for the Registry Services offered by the Association, including but not limited to the, Registration/Transfer/Lease of a horse, the person or persons must be a current:

- Financial Life
- Honorary Life
- Financial Full, Constituent or
- Financial Youth

A Youth member can only have two (2) horses registered/leased in their Youth membership. Stallions cannot be registered/leased to a Youth membership.

Horses cannot be registered or leased into an Affiliate or Associate membership.

A horse will only be transferred into a financial membership, being Life, Honorary Life, Full, Constituent or Youth.

No Association services are available to suspended, expelled or non-members.

3.3 Breeding Returns

To lodge Breeding Returns, the owner of the stallion must be a financial Life, Honorary Life, Full or Constituent member.

3.4 Signatory Authorisation

A financial membership may appoint another individual to lodge and sign paperwork on their behalf. This must be done in writing by completing a Signatory Authorisation form and lodge this form with the Association. Cancellation of the authorisation must be made in writing to the Association.

3.5 Membership Showing Rules

To gain points for a Horse, Youth or Amateur, from any competition, the horse must be registered in a financial Life, Honorary Life, Full, Constituent or Youth membership.

3.5.1 For a horse to be exhibited at any State Quarter Horse Show or at the Association's National Show, the horse must be registered with the Association in a current financial Life, Honorary Life, Full, Youth or Constituent membership.

An Exhibitor must hold an individual financial Life, Honorary Life, Full or Youth Membership in their own name to exhibit at any State Quarter Horse Show or at the Association's National Show.

3.5.2 An Amateur/Select exhibitor must be a financial member who holds a current Amateur/Select permit to gain points from Amateur/Select classes and the Youth exhibitor must be a financial Youth member to gain points in Youth classes.

To apply for an Amateur/Select Amateur Permit the individual must hold a current individual Life or Full membership.

An Amateur must hold a current Amateur Permit prior to exhibiting at a show.

3.6 Board of Directors

The only members eligible to be elected as Directors are:

- natural persons who have been Life members, Honorary Life, or financial Full members in their name only, for the past three (3) consecutive years, and
- resident in Australia and not employed by the Association

3.6.1 Voting Privileges

A Full, individual Life or Honorary Life member is eligible to vote in the Board elections, and to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting of the Association, or a referendum if their membership is financial.

Youth and Associate Members cannot vote in the Board elections or vote at the Annual General Meeting or in a referendum but can attend the Annual General Meeting if their membership is financial.

The nominee of an Affiliate, Constituent or Life Membership is eligible to vote in the Board elections, and to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting of the Association, or a referendum if the membership is financial.

3.7 Full Membership

An individual person is entitled to apply for a Full membership within the Association.

3.8 Constituent Membership

Corporations, Partnerships, Societies and the like can apply for a Constituent membership. Each Constituent membership must appoint a Nominee, in writing. That Nominee is the person who has the authority to sign all paperwork on behalf of the Constituent membership until his/her appointment as Nominee

is cancelled in writing, or until he/she is expelled or suspended by the Directors in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

3.9 Affiliate Membership

Clubs or organisations are entitled to apply for an Affiliate membership with the Association. They must have objects similar to those of the Association and have no less than fifteen (15) financial Association memberships, or such number as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Director's, and who complete all forms and supply all information that is required.

Each Affiliate membership must appoint a Nominee, in writing. That Nominee is the person who has the authority to sign all paperwork on behalf of the Affiliate membership until his/her appointment as Nominee is cancelled in writing, or until he/she is expelled or suspended by the Directors in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Any organisation applying for Affiliation must have "Quarter Horse" included in their name.

3.10 Youth Membership

An individual person, eighteen (18) years of age and under as of 1 August in the current show year, is entitled to apply for a Youth membership.

A parent/guardian, who has been nominated on the youth application/renewal of membership, must sign or co-sign all Association paperwork relating to the Youth membership.

3.11 Associate Membership

Associate Members are natural persons who have paid the relevant annual membership fee. Associate Members are not entitled to vote at general meetings.

Horses cannot be registered in an Associate Membership.

3.12 Life Membership

A Life Membership is for a period of twenty (20) years from the date of payment of subscription.

3.12.1 A Corporation or Partnership can apply for a Life Membership with the Association. A Nominee must be appointed, in writing, and the Nominee has the authority to sign all paperwork on behalf of the Life Membership until:

- their appointment as Nominee is cancelled in writing, or
- they are expelled or suspended by the Directors in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution

3.12.2 An individual person can apply for a Life Membership within the Association.

4. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Alterations of these Rules and Regulations by addition, deletion or amendment, at any time, must be affected by resolution of the Board in accordance with the Constitution and will be displayed on the Association web site.

5. INDEMNITY Every member who supplies the Association with particulars relating to any horse will indemnify and keep indemnified the Association from and against all actions, suits, causes or action, claims and demands which may be brought or made against the Association in respect of the registration of such

