

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

**Update from the AQHA Board of Directors  
Australian Quarter Horse Association**

To our valued Members,

Keeping abreast of the restrictions, in the lifestyle we have been afforded by living in this great country, has not been easy for anyone.

To all the people that have lost someone or been affected due to Covid-19, our thoughts are with you.

The Federal and State Governments have given us something to look forward to with the introduction of the “Road Maps” released recently. There are 3 stages that come into effect in May, June and July and they do vary within each State.

We ask our members, to take on board their State Governments road to recovery maps, and we all look forward to the day when life as we know it gets back to normal.

In Association with the Government Health Departments, the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), have developed a Return to Sports framework and this is available at [https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#ais\\_framework\\_for\\_rebooting\\_sport](https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#ais_framework_for_rebooting_sport) and this will allow equestrian sports to re-commence at certain levels.

We are “not out of the woods” so to speak as yet but it is satisfying to be able to do something, even if under restrictions, with our horses.

All Australians need to adhere to the lift in restrictions and not to overcrowd/socialise if we desire these restrictions to continue to be lifted.

AQHA approved shows, at this time, have been cancelled until 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

We have contacted all of our Affiliates regarding any event that they may consider holding prior to 1 August 2020. These events, not limited to but include Clinics, Club Day, Practice Day, working bees, and must comply with the restrictions in place within their State and as restrictions are lifted, the AQHA will continue to contact the Affiliates with updates.

Affiliates have been informed that any event they wish to run must be sanctioned by the AQHA and to follow the guidelines as presented to them by the AQHA for health and safety reasons.

The following must take place for an event to be sanctioned:

- 1. Number of People** - only 10 persons to be on the grounds at all times.
- 2. Travel restrictions** within your state must be taken into account so as not to encourage people to break restrictions.
- 3. Health & Safety Officer – must be appointed and is responsible for the following:**
  - a)** All equipment etc. to be used will need to be sanitised prior to use
  - b)** Name, address and phone number provided and the list kept for future reference if required by Government
  - c)** All persons on the ground to keep the minimum of 1.5 metres distancing at all times
  - d)** Parking of vehicles – allow reasonable distance between each parked vehicle
  - e)** Using stables/yards – keep one stable/yard between each horse
  - f)** Supply hand sanitiser at the entrance of all amenities (arena, stable/yard block, toilet facilities etc)
  - g)** Supply a leaflet to all persons in attendance that details the hygiene required to be taking part in this event

- h) To make sure that if a person who turns up for this gathering is unwell that they are asked to leave immediately
  - i) All persons on the ground in attendance must be a member of the AQHA or the Affiliate holding this event
4. All present at the gathering must complete a sanitising protocol prior to leaving the grounds – including the sanitising of their equipment/tack, this is for the safety of this person, family and other persons that they will come in contact with after this gathering.
  5. Take on board the AIS statement “**get in, train, get out**”

The AQHA has taken into consideration the financial strain on some of its Affiliates, due to not being able to hold events in the last few months, and have offered the Affiliates a payment plan for their Affiliation Renewal which is due 1 August 2020.

Show Season 2019/2020 has been extended until the 19<sup>th</sup> October so that members have the opportunity to take part in their Q20 National Championships (being held 14 October) and to allow each State to have run their 2019/2020 State Shows. This decision may change at a later date as the month's progress depending on Government restrictions.

Annual High Point Awards – there has been much conjecture regarding how this will work for the 2019/2020 Show Season. Depending on the Government restrictions, the Directors determination will be by what is fair to all our members.

Due to the current circumstances, there is no plans in the near future for an Annual Award Night for 2019/2020.

Annual General Meeting has been postponed until 14 October 2020 at AELEC, Tamworth.  
We hope that all financial members can attend.

Memberships are due 1 August 2020. If you are a financial member then you are covered by the AQHA Member Personal Accident Insurance Policy.

1 August 2020 Rule Changes will be available on the AQHA web site as from Friday, 5 June 2020 at Q-News.

#### **Data Share Agreement**

The AQHA entered into an agreement with the AmQHA regarding the use of genetic markers for imported horses and imported semen. This has been instigated to make sure that quarter horse members do not have a problem parent verifying their foals where the parent's markers are held by the AmQHA.

Contrary to what has been stated, the AQHA has not denied access to the AAA Ltd, PHAA or ASH access for parent verification where the sire or dam are Australian bred.

What we do require is that each Association when they are made aware of a breeding to a quarter horse, to contact us by email, informing us of the breeding details so that we can notify the Lab that access to the markers is granted.

The AQHA will endeavour to continue supporting our Affiliates and membership.

Stay positive, stay safe,

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Carol Ricketts  
President