

**By-laws of The
Maryland State Quarter Horse Association, Inc.**

Revised January 2010
(revisions in italics)

The Mission Statement of the Maryland State Quarter Horse Association shall be “to encourage educational, social, recreational, and competitive participation with American Quarter Horses, and to organize and foster future development of the American Quarter Horse through support of the youth, amateur, professional and breeding programs.”

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be the “Maryland State Quarter Horse Association, Inc.”

ARTICLE II - OBJECT

The object of the Association shall be to promote, in all ways, the interests of the *American Quarter Horse*.

ARTICLE III - PARENT ORGANIZATION

The activities of this Association shall be in harmony with the rules and policies of the American Quarter Horse Association.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership

Any individual, family or farm desiring to become a member of the Association shall make application for such membership and shall tender with said application annual dues for the calendar year. The effective date of membership will be as soon as received by the *membership chairman* and added to the membership data base. Below is an explanation of those categories of membership:

Individual	For an individual member.
Family	Husband and wife, and dependent children 18 years of age and under (18 as of January 1 st of the membership year).
Farm	Immediate RESIDENT family and/or employees.

NOTE: Addition and/or deletion of name(s) to the Farm membership must be made to MSQHA in writing by the farm management and done thirty (30) days in advance of that MSQHA function where membership is a condition to be able to participate.

Life	For an Individual or Family membership only.
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Membership status shall be sustained by payment of each year’s annual dues, *with the exception of life members*.

Section 2. Dues

Yearly dues will be set by the Board of Directors and published in the newsletter.

Section 3. Suspension of Members

There will be several criteria for suspension of members as listed below:

Any member issuing to MSQHA a check in payment of bills/expenses that is returned for "insufficient funds" will automatically be suspended after ten (10) days notification to the member by certified mail. Only after a new check (with addition of a processing fee) has been received and processed SUCCESSFULLY through the Association's bank will the member be reinstated.

- a) Any member suspended by the American Quarter Horse Association automatically shall be suspended as a member of this Association for the same duration of time.
- b) Nonpayment of bills/expenses incurred for ANY MSQHA sponsored events (such as futurities, banquet, Stallion Service Sale, newsletter advertising, etc.) will be handled as follows:

FIRST: Warning letter at forty-five (45) days.
SECOND: Suspension at sixty (60) days.

Board of Director Approval is required for reinstatement.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. Number

The four officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. Election of Officers

The officers shall be members over the age of 19 and of record in good standing for a minimum of three (3) months. They shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the membership present at its Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Term of Office

Each officer shall hold office for the term of one (1) year or until his/her successor is duly elected.

Section 4. Duties and Powers of Officers

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

PRESIDENT

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Membership. He/she shall cause to be presented at each regular meeting of the membership and the Board of Directors a report of the condition of the business of the Association.

He/she shall cause to be called regular and special meetings of the membership, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee in accordance with these By-laws.

He/she shall appoint and remove, employ and discharge, and fix the compensation of all agents, employees or clerks of the Association, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

He/she shall sign, jointly with the Vice-president or the Secretary, contracts and agreements in the name of the Association, provided they have been approved by the Board of Directors.

He/she shall have the authority to appoint committees as necessary.

He/she shall see that the books, reports, statements and certificates required by statute and by these By-laws are properly kept, made, and filed.

He/she shall have the authority to sign all negotiable instruments on behalf of the Association.

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

He/she shall familiarize him/herself with Roberts Rules of Order as guidelines for conducting meetings.

VICE-PRESIDENT

During the absence or inability of the President to render and perform his/her duties or exercise his/her powers as set forth in these By-laws, the same shall be rendered and exercised by the Vice-president; and when so acting, he/she shall have all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities hereby given to or imposed upon such President.

Either he/she or the Secretary must sign all contracts and agreements jointly with the President after approval of the Board of Directors.

He/she shall automatically be a member of all established committees.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the membership in appropriate books.

He/she shall give and serve all notices of the Association.

He/she shall be custodian of the records and of the seal, and affix the latter when required.

He/she shall present to the Board of Directors at their stated meetings all communications addressed to him/her officially.

Either he/she or the Vice-president must sign all contracts and agreements jointly with the President after approval of the Board of Directors.

TREASURER

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 ten (10) business days of receipt, in the name of the Association in such bank or banks, trust company or trust companies or safe deposit vaults and the Board of Directors may designate.

He/she shall have the authority to make, sign and endorse in the name of the Association all instruments for the payment of money, and pay out and dispose of same and receive therefore, under the directions of the Board of Directors. He/she also shall have the authority to sign all other negotiable instruments on behalf of the Association.

He/she shall exhibit at all reasonable times his/her books and accounts to any officer or director of the Association.

He/she shall render a statement of the condition of the finances of the Association at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors, 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/she shall keep correct books of accounts of all the Association's business and transactions and he/she shall keep a report of dues and other payments and other books of account as the Board of Directors may require.

He/she shall be responsible for advising the Secretary of anyone whose accounts with MSQHA are in arrears or a member is suspended.

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

He/she shall be bonded in an amount not less than \$15,000 by a reputable bonding company and the fee for such bond shall be paid by the Association. If so directed by the Board of Directors, bond shall be set in any greater amount.

Section 5. Vacancies

In the event a vacancy shall occur in the office of President, the Vice-president shall assume the position of President for the unexpired portion of the term. A vacancy in any office other than that of President shall be filled by the membership without undue delay, at a regular meeting or at a meeting specially called for such purpose. In the case of the temporary absence of any officer of the Association, the Board of Directors may, except as specifically otherwise provided in these By-laws, delegate the powers and duties of such office to any other officer or director for the period of that officer's absence, provided a majority of the entire of Directors concur therein at a meeting of the Board of Directors called for this purpose.

Section 6. Removal of Officers/Directors

Any officer, director or committee chairperson may be removed, with cause, at ANY TIME by a vote of the majority of the *Board of Directors* at a special meeting called for this purpose. The officer/director/committee chairperson involved shall be entitled to the opportunity to present his/her position at such special meeting prior to a vote on removal being taken. Additionally, any officer/director/committee chairperson missing three (3) consecutive meetings without due cause may be brought before the Board of Directors at a following meeting for removal.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the Association as listed in Article V, Section 1 of these By-laws. The Executive Directors, as well as any committee chairpersons that the President designates, shall attend all specially called meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall meet at the direction of the President and shall perform the following functions and duties:

- a) Act as an advisory group to the President.
- b) Assist the President in decisions of a current or urgent nature not requiring action of the Board of Directors of the Association
- c) Assist the President in decisions of a current or urgent nature that are not able to be addressed by the Board of Directors in a timely fashion.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number

The affairs and business of the Association will be managed by the Executive committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and twelve (12) elected directors plus any AQHA directors residing in the state plus any Director Emeritus. The Youth Advisor shall be appointed by the newly elected president with board approval within 30 days after election.

The position of Director Emeritus is reserved to honor a member of long standing and exemplary service to the Association. The Director Emeritus will be nominated in writing to the Board of Directors by any member in good standing. Said nomination will be voted on by the Board at the meeting following receipt of the nomination by the Board. Two-thirds of those Board members present at the Board Meeting will be required to approve a Director Emeritus.

Section 2. Election of Directors

The remaining directors shall be members over the age of nineteen (19) and of record in good standing for a minimum of three (3) months who receive a plurality of votes for that position at the Annual Meeting.

Members elected to these "District slots" will be termed as District Directors. The remaining directors shall be termed as Directors at large. Eleven (11) Directors at Large shall be elected.

With regard to the District Directors, it is determined that if the position cannot be filled by an in-district resident, than this slot can be filled by a resident of another district.

Directors at Large can be an out of state resident. However, out of state representatives to the Board of Directors cannot exceed the percentage proportionate to the prior year's total out of state membership base.

The retiring President who is a member in good standing shall automatically be nominated as a Director.

Not more than one person from a farm or family membership shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. New Districts

For a county to be an independent district, that county must have to meet a membership requirement of thirty (30) memberships. Any county with ten (10) or less memberships may be combined with an adjoining county or counties to form a new district subject to Board of Directors approval. Notification of this to members will be handled via the newsletter.

Section 4. Term of Office

As herein before provided, the term of office for each of the members of the Board of Directors shall be one (1) year or until his/her successor is duly elected. This, of course, does not apply to the President (see Article V, Section 3).

Section 5. Duties and Powers of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall have the control and general management of the affairs and business of the Association. Such Board of Directors shall in all cases act as a governing body, regularly convened, and they may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of their meetings and the management of the Association as they may deem proper, not inconsistent with the membership, these By-laws and the Laws of the State of Maryland.

Additionally, when deemed necessary, the Board of Directors may convene to review and vote a decision on any subject, condition, or situation that may arise and require a judgement/ruling by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Board of Directors Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Directors may determine. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President at any time or shall be called by the President or the Secretary upon the request of four (4) members of the Board.

Section 7. Notice of Meetings

Notice of the Board of Directors meetings shall be given by service upon each officer and director in person, or by mailing to him/her at his/her last known address as it appears in the membership data base at least five (5) days before the date therein designated for such meeting, including the day of the mailing, of a written or printed notice thereof specifying the time and place of such meeting. *At the option of the Executive Committee, the regularly scheduled Board meetings can be canceled with a ten (10) day notice via telephone and/or e-mail.* At any meeting at which every member of the Board shall be present, although held without notice, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted if the meeting had been duly called.

Section 8. Voting

At all meetings of the Board of Directors, each officer and director is to have one vote, irrespective of any number of members he/she claims to represent, except that the President shall vote only in the case of a tie vote. The act of a majority of the members of the Board present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Quorum

At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but in the event of a quorum not being present, a lesser number must adjourn the meeting to some future time, not more than ten (10) days later. *A quorum shall consist of fifty-one (51) percent of the Board Members.*

Section 10. Vacancies

Vacancies among the directors occurring between annual meetings shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by appointment by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 11. Administrative Secretary

There may be a paid, non-voting position of Administrative Secretary for MSQHA. This position is strictly as a paid employee of the Association, and prohibits the individual(s) from holding a position as elected member(s) of the Board of Directors.

The responsibilities include:

1. keep an accurate membership date base
2. maintain show points
3. writing, editing and formatting monthly newsletter
4. first option to retain possession of MSQHA computer

5. any secretarial duties needed by committee chairpersons

Any subcontracting of the above-listed duties are subject to the Board of Directors approval.

Section 12. Remuneration

Officers and Directors will not be paid to perform their duties and responsibilities associated with their elected position in this Association.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

There will be one general membership meeting per year, which will be the election meetin.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the membership, other than those regulated by the statute or identified above, may be called at any time by the President, by ten (10) members of the Board of Directors, or by the President upon written request of ten (10) members in good standing.

Section 3. Notice of Meetings

Notice of general membership meetings will be through the MSQHA newsletter or a special mailing thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. Voting

At all meetings of the membership, each type of membership (Individual, Family, Farm, Life) will be provided ONE (1) vote regardless of the number of individuals that membership represents. To be eligible to vote, however, the member must be a "member in good standing" for a minimum of 90 days prior to the voting meeting. Votes must be cast in person.

Section 5. Proxy

NO proxy will be accepted for any vote.

Section 6. Quorum

Members present will constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX - NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS AND CONTRACTS

All negotiable instruments of the Association except for instruments made and signed by the Treasurer or President for the payment or money, shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President. No officer or agent of the Association, either singly or jointly with others, shall have the power to make any negotiable instrument, or endorse the same, in the name of the Association or contract or cause to be contracted any debit or liability in the name of or on behalf of the Association except as a duly appointed representative of MSQHA. This appointment must be made by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

These By-laws may be altered by amendment, repeal or addition by the majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Association at any special meeting of the Board called for that purpose, provided a quorum of the Board is present at such special meeting, and provided the notification clearly indicated the alterations to be proposed at that meeting. However, before such alterations shall become effective, they must also be approved by the membership at a meeting of the membership for which notice shall state the substance of the alterations to be presented for approval.

ARTICLE XI - ASSOCIATION SEAL

The corporate seal of the Association shall be in the form impressed hereon immediately below.