

GQHA

**Georgia Quarter
Horse Association**

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Effective January 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of GQHA is to serve and promote its membership and the American Quarter Horse industry. Our organization is committed to providing equal and fair opportunities for all levels of competition as well as participation in educational and recreational activities. The GQHA serves as a conduit to AQHA and facilitates fellowship among members who share common interests. It is our goal to be recognized nationally, for the high caliber of shows, competitors, and horses as well as for our high level of support and service to the American Quarter Horse Association.

ETHICS STATEMENT

In an era when organizations must better utilize resources and talent to succeed, Georgia Quarter Horse Association will earn its position as the most trusted innovative and responsive affiliate of the American Quarter Horse Association. We will have achieved this mission when GQHA is consistently named by horse enthusiasts, competitors, publications, and industry insiders as the first and foremost choice for exhibiting, breeding and marketing solutions for small to midsized breeders/exhibitors.

OUR VISION

“GQHA is recognized nationally as a multifaceted organization and committed to supporting all of the diverse interests of the American Quarter Horse.”

EXCELLENCE IS THE INSPIRATION OF GQHA

We have a passion for excellence in our activities, organization, relationships, and members. We endeavor to promote horse activities that are clearly superior to all others offered by organizations and to become distinguished and recognized for our dedication to membership and patron satisfaction. The key to excellence in our projects and activities is talented and dedicated people.

INTEGRITY IS THE SOUL OF GQHA

Our quest is to continually align our actions with our principles. We achieve integrity by making and keeping meaningful commitments and by honestly matching words and feelings with thoughts and actions without desire to deceive or take advantage of others. The integrity of GQHA is the sum of our individual actions among us and with our members, patrons, exhibitors and our community.

INNOVATION IS THE HEART OF GQHA

Innovation is fundamental to the success of “being clearly the best horse organization.” Innovation arises from our motivation for continual improvement of horse shows & activities, organization, relationships, and us. Innovation’s success is born from our trust in individual integrity and trust in our intelligence, skills, and experience.

From this foundation, we can accommodate mistakes encountered en-route to successful innovation.

TEAMWORK IS THE BACKBONE OF GQHA

We seek to build a strong teamwork ethic that enriches our personal lives, strengthens relationships, and contributes to organizational success. The teamwork ethics is strengthened by our commitment to challenge each other (with trust and respect) when we do not live up to agreed upon expectations.

PROFIT IS THE FUEL OF GQHA

As a person needs food and water to thrive and grow, GQHA needs money and labor. While not an end in itself, labor and cash flow are essential to our existence and provide us the means to make our vision a reality and to live our core values.

OUR COMMITMENTS

From GQHA Leaders, we will expect management styles, policies, strategies and structure that are founded in our vision for Georgia Quarter Horse Association.

To our Board Members, we pledge to solicit their input and adapt our activities to maximize their potential for making people more effective and productive in their tasks. We strive to be fair, honest, courteous, and professional. We also expect the same characteristics from our Board Members. Should a Board Member exhibit questionable behavior, the Executive Board will examine the issues and determine the action for the best interest of the individual, the organization and its members.

GQHA NATIONAL DIRECTOR PROCESS

The number of National Director positions is determined by AQHA based on horse population in the state. AQHA National Directors are elected annually. AQHA will notify the state if a National Director is being elevated to At Large, Emeritus status or a change in the number of allocated Directors, creating an open Director seat. All applicants whether for a vacated or held seat are required to submit an application to AQHA by February 1st before the AQHA Convention.

Anyone is allowed to apply to be an AQHA National Director (Article VIII, AQHA rulebook). Candidates are evaluated by a criterion established by the AQHA Executive Committee. GQHA will notify the membership by September 1st of upcoming National Director elections and/or openings. The process herein must be posted on the website.

To be the GQHA (AQHA affiliate) recommended candidate to AQHA, an applicant must:

1. Submit a letter/application to the GQHA executive secretary by September 25th.
2. Be a GQHA and AQHA member in good standing.
3. Must have a minimum of 3 years of GQHA Board of Directors service and be a current member of the GQHA Board of Directors.

Interview and Election:

- Applications will be verified by the nominations committee and recommended to the Board of Directors for interviews to be held no later than November.
- Board of Directors will interview all recommended candidates and hold a confidential vote.
- GQHA will announce recommended candidate at the General Membership meeting.
- GQHA will submit a letter of recommendation to AQHA in support of chosen candidate.
- If there is no additional applicant for a held seat, the Board of Directors will vote no later than November to send an annual letter of endorsement for the sitting National Director. If 2/3 of the Board of Directors vote against the sitting National Director letter of endorsement, a new nominee can be voted on from the floor and recommended to AQHA.

Responsibilities of the National Director:

- GQHA National Directors must be an active/current member in the affiliate.
- Attend AQHA Convention and provide a report to the GQHA Board of Directors and general membership.
- Attend GQHA Board meetings and present any business items from AQHA. Maintain and promote goodwill between AQHA and GQHA, serving as a liaison between the two organizations. National Directors will have voting rights on the GQHA Board.
- Communicate pertinent information between AQHA and GQHA; including but not limited to ideas, issues or concerns to the AQHA Board of Directors as directed by GQHA.
- Assist GQHA or it's members to resolve questions, concerns and problems as it relates to AQHA policies and procedures.

GQHA CRISIS FUND

Distributions from the Crisis Fund will be based on proven financial need arising from a sudden and demonstrable hardship or disaster of a severe and unexpected nature or from serious physical illness. Such distributions shall be limited to the relief of the poor and distressed or the underprivileged. Therefore, before any distributions will be made, there must be evidence of proven financial need.

General Criteria:

1. Limited to any GQHA member or immediate family member (spouse, child/stepchild, legal ward).
2. Must be a GQHA member for 3 consecutive years.
3. Member applying for assistance must:
 - a. Have a referral for assistance through their GQHA Director or AQHA National Director.
 - b. Complete Application for Assistance.
 - c. Provide a financial statement and a copy of the previous year's tax return to the Crisis Fund CPA.

To overcome the reluctance of applicants to send their federal income tax return to the Association for evaluation of their financial need, the Board of Directors has adopted the following procedure. An applicant will send their tax return and financial information to the GQHA CPA to insure privacy of the information. The CPA will evaluate the information to determine if an applicant is eligible to receive payment from the Crisis Fund. The CPA will notify the Crisis Fund Chairman when an application has been received, and after evaluation of the information, will notify the Chairman of the CPA's opinion regarding the financial need of the applicant. The Chairman will then notify the applicant of the Crisis Fund Committee and Board of Director's decision.

In evaluating evidence of financial need, consideration shall be given to the following criteria:

1. Annual gross family income of the recipient.
2. Annual net family income of the recipient.
3. Number of children or dependents comprising family of the recipient.
4. Availability of insurance.
5. Any other source of support available to a recipient.
6. The severity of the disaster, hardship or illness.

The GQHA Crisis Fund Committee shall be comprised of one (1) CPA and two (2) Past Presidents of GQHA appointed by the current President of GQHA. The first year there will be a one appointed to a 2 year term and one appointed to a 3-year term. After that, the current GQHA President will fill any vacancies or expirations of term by appointing a new member to a 3-year term.

SHOW AND YEAREND AWARD RULES

1. Owner(s), as shown on the horse's AQHA registration papers, must be a member in good standing before points earned by a horse count toward year end awards. Points will accumulate from the date of membership and will not be retroactive, except in the case of dues and application received by the Executive Secretary within 24 hours of the completion of a circuit. In such cases, points earned during that circuit/show will count.

2. The word owner as it is used on any occasion in these rules denotes the person(s), farm or organization whose name properly appears last on a horse's registration papers. If more than one name appears in the ownership, each owner must be a member in order for the horse to receive points. If a corporation, farm or partnership is the owner, then the corporation, farm or partnership must have a membership in that name in order for the horse to receive points. A horse may also accumulate points as an AQHA allowed leased horse. If leased, a copy of the lease must be filed with the GQHA points secretary.

3. All points will be accumulated on a one horse, one rider basis. *Only open* points are transferable to a new owner, provided the new owner is also a paid member in good standing of the GQHA. For *youth only*, if a horse dies or becomes permanently disabled for that calendar year, points totaled on a new horse will be totaled with points won by the dead or disabled horse. Death or disability must be certified in writing by a veterinarian and copies mailed to the GQHA Secretary and GQHYA Youth Advisor within 10 days of such incident. A youth may NOT transfer points in halter classes under any circumstance. Once the youth begins showing the second horse, no more points may be earned on the disabled horse for the remainder of the year. If there is no substitution, points earned on the dead/disabled horse will stand for year-end awards.

4. The GQHA Board shall determine which shows will be approved to earn GQHA points each year and the number of shows which will be used to determine year-end winners.

5. A minimum of 10 GQHA points must be earned in an event to qualify for year-end awards.

6. For purpose of calculating the year end awards, the following point system will be used. A horse will receive one point for every horse in the class, with a maximum of 9 points possible. For example, in a 10 horse class points are to be awarded 9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1; in a 5 horse class points will be awarded 5,4,3,2,1; in a 1 horse class points will be awarded 1. A DQ is awarded no point value. For *Halter Classes*, The Grand Champion will receive at least one point more than any other horse (yearling or older) in its sex division unless theirs was the largest class, then there will be no additional points awarded above the class win points. The Reserve Champion will receive as many points as any other horse (yearling or older) in its sex division, except the Grand Champion.

7. Requirements for qualification as the All-Around and Reserve All-Around in each division are as follows:

*GQHA points in 3 AQHA categories:

*10 GQHA points in 1 AQHA category

*5 GQHA points in 1 AQHA category

*1 GQHA point in 1 AQHA category

8. Requirements for qualification as the High Point and Reserve High Point Halter Horse in each division are as follows:

*Horse must have stood Grand or Reserve Grand Champion at least twice during the show year at shows sponsored or sanctioned by GQHA.

9. Approved Classes/Divisions For Year End Awards: (Novice Series classes do not count toward GQHA Year End points.)

a. Open—Any AQHA Approved class or Small Fry Class offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

b. Rookie Amateur— Any AQHA Approved class, offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

c. Novice Amateur— Any AQHA Approved class, offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

d. Amateur— Any AQHA Approved class, offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

e. Select Amateur— Any AQHA Approved class, offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

f. Walk Trot Amateur – Any AQHA Approved class, offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

g. Rookie Youth — Any AQHA Approved class, offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

h. Novice Youth— Any AQHA Approved class, offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

i. Youth — Any AQHA Approved class, offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

j. Walk Trot Youth – Any AQHA Approved class, offered in a GQHA sponsored show.

k. All Breed – Any All Breed class if offered at 3 or more GQHA shows.

l. Other

- Classes such as NSBA classes and Derby classes will not be eligible for Year End awards.
- AQHA Special Event shows and the Introductory show will count toward GQHA Year End awards.
- A Small Fry Exhibitor cannot show in a lope/canter class for that show day.
- There is no ownership requirement for a small fry exhibitor, but they must follow the one rider/one horse point accumulation rule.
- For youth classes that are normally split 13 and under and 14-18 that are combined for all ages at a show, any GQHA points in a combined class will be awarded in the individual rider's age division.
- In the event that a Select Amateur class is offered and is subsequently combined by show management, the points will count toward the select class for the select exhibitor and the amateur for the amateur exhibitor.
- For leveling, yearend awards will not be awarded as separate L2 and L3 awards. For points calculations, the number of horses entered in the L2 class will be used to calculate L2 points. The total number of horses entered in the L2 class and the L3 class will be used to calculate L3 points. This will be the same whether the classes are run as a combined L2/L3 class, or as a separate L2 class and a separate L3 class. Example: L2 has 10 horses entered and L3 has 5 horses entered. Points will be calculated for 10 horses in L2 and 15 horses in L3.

10. Approved All Around and High Point Divisions For Year End Awards:

a. Open—All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved Open classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.a. above.

b. Rookie Amateur – All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved Rookie Amateur classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.b. above.

c. Novice Amateur—All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved Novice Amateur classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.c. above.

d. Amateur—All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved Amateur classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.d. above.

e. Select Amateur—All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved Select Amateur classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.e. above. **Select Amateur exhibitors that show in Amateur Halter classes will have any points earned in Amateur Halter classes considered as part of their Select Amateur category point totals for both the individual**

show as well as GQHA Year End Awards for determining All Around and Reserve All Around winners.

f. Walk Trot Amateur – All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved Walk Trot Amateur classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.f. above.

g. Rookie Youth—All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved Rookie Youth classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.g. above.

h. Novice Youth—All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved Novice Youth classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.h. above.

i. Youth—Small Fry 10 and Under Champion and Reserve Champion; Youth 13 and under All Around and Reserve All Around; Youth 14-18 All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA Approved youth classes offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.i. above.

j. Walk Trot Youth – All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved Walk Trot Youth classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.j. above.

k. All Breed Open - All Around and Reserve All Around. All AQHA approved All Breed Open classes, offered in a GQHA sponsored or sanctioned show meeting the criteria in paragraph 9.k. above.

11. All Year End Class and Reserve Class winners will be awarded a Year End Award. Additional placing awards may be given at the discretion of the GQHA Board of Directors on a yearly basis. The final decision regarding values of awards given shall be made by the GQHA Board of Directors; however, awards will be of equal value between divisions.

12. If a DQ occurs due to a drug violation, all points for the show in question will be revoked. No other changes in points will occur for other riders in that class.

13. Each exhibitor is responsible for determining their level. They must show paperwork to the show management at registration to verify their level. ***GQHA will make every effort to verify levels, but no points will be changed if a DQ occurs due to leveling.***

14. **Amateur of The Year Award:** presented at the Annual Awards Banquet to the GQHA Amateur who has best displayed admirable sportsmanship and leadership qualities.

a. Nominations will be from any GQHA member.

b. Nominations will be in writing or email and explain the reason for deserving the award.

c. Nominations will be sealed and delivered to the Executive Secretary of GQHA.

d. The President of GQHA will select a secret committee of 3-5 members of GQHA.

e. The committee will select the recipient from the letters of nomination based on sportsmanship and competitive spirit throughout the year, contribution of effort to the organization and leadership.

15. **Pam and Randy Wilson Professional Horseman Award:** presented at the Annual Awards Banquet to the GQHA professional horseman who has best displayed high character, professional leadership and high moral standing in their effects to better the GQHA and AQHA. Randy Wilson was a dominate figure in GQHA and AQHA for many years. This award is to celebrate his achievements and dedication to the breed and the organization.

a. Nominations will be from any GQHA member.

b. Nominations will be in writing or email and explain the reason for deserving the award.

c. Nominations will be sealed and delivered to the Executive Secretary of GQHA.

d. The President of GQHA will select a secret committee of 3-5 members of GQHA.

e. The committee will select the recipient from the letters of nomination based on professionalism, sportsmanship and competitive spirit demonstrated throughout the year.

16. Fred “Ham” Phillips Special Achievement Award: presented at the Annual Awards Banquet to the GQHA member who best displays leadership and devotion to the AQHA and GQHA above the call of duty. This award reflects the many years of devotion that “Ham” Phillips gave to the AQHA as a Director, Judge and Breeder in the industry, as well as, his drive to continually better the State organizations for which he so deeply cared.

- a. Nominations will be from any GQHA member.
- b. Nominations will be in writing or email and explain the reason for deserving the award.
- c. Nominations will be sealed and delivered to the Executive Secretary of GQHA.
- d. The President of GQHA will select a secret committee of 3-5 members of GQHA.
- e. The committee will select the recipient from the letters of nomination based on sportsmanship and competitive spirit throughout the year, contribution of effort to the organization and leadership.

17. Horse of the Year Award: presented at the Annual Awards Banquet in memory of “GPF Legal Version” to the horse who exemplifies fortitude, strength, and courage; and who is honest, dependable, and athletic. This horse does not have to be an award winner or champion, but one that does his job at every show and has personality and charisma.

- a. Nominations will be from any GQHA member.
- b. The Owner of the horse must be a GQHA member.
- c. Nominations will be in writing or email and explain the reason for deserving the award.
- d. Nominations will be sealed and delivered to the address below, or emailed to georgiaquarterhorse@yahoo.com.
- e. A committee of GQHA members will be selected.
- f. The committee will select the recipient from the letters of nomination based on the award description above and make a recommendation to the sponsor of the award.

18. Roland Stacey Sportsmanship Award: presented at the Annual Awards Banquet to the GQHA youth who has best displayed admirable sportsmanship and leadership qualities.

- a. Nominations will be from any GQHYA member.
- b. Nominations will be in writing or email and explain the reason for deserving the award.
- c. Nominations will be sealed and delivered to the Executive Secretary of GQHA.
- d. The President of GQHA will select a secret committee of 3-5 members of GQHA. The GQHYA advisor should be considered to be one of the members of the committee unless there is a conflict of interest.
- e. The committee will select the recipient from the letters of nomination based on sportsmanship and competitive spirit throughout the year, contribution of effort to the organization and leadership.

19. Richard Wheatley Memorial Award: Presented by the Wheatley family to the Amateur Highpoint Ranch Rider of the year. This is a year to year rotating award in memory of Richard Wheatley.

20. Novice Championship Show State Qualifying: Points counted for the national championship show will be computed in accordance with the AQHA qualifying period. Points for qualifying will be computed in the same manner as points for year-end awards. The top three individuals in each Novice class that is offered at the Championship Show that are not nationally qualified will be invited to the Championship show as a State Qualifier. There will only be invitations extended in classes where there was participation. No Invitations will be sent or transferred to exhibitors who did not show in that particular class. If a class is offered at the Championship Show that is not offered at GQHA shows and a GQHA member is interested in attending, an invitation may be offered to that individual if they have showed in other GQHA classes. *(As of 2017, you do not have to ‘qualify’ for the Novice Championship Show.)*

GQHYA General Rules

1. **NAME** – The name of this organization shall be Georgia Quarter Horse Youth Association, a division of Georgia Quarter Horse Association, Inc.
2. **MEMBERSHIPS**—See Official Handbook of the AQHA and GQHA as to eligibility of youth.
 - 2.1. In all matters governed by the vote of the members, any member in good standing shall be entitled one vote.
 - 2.2. At the annual meeting, the qualified members of the GQHYA will elect a President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary and Reporter.
 - 2.3. At the annual meeting, the qualified members of the GQHYA will select one or more person(s) who will then recommend to the GQHA Board of Directors to serve as their Youth Advisor(s).
3. **OFFICERS**

Any person wishing to serve as an officer designated in Sections 3.1 through 3.7 below must meet the minimum age requirements as established for such similar positions with the AQHYA as set forth in the current AQHYA Rules and Regulations.

 - 3.1. *President*—Duties shall be usual and customary for this office and shall be entitled to vote on all matters presented to the membership. The President will write and submit a quarterly letter to the membership and to the Secretary. The President will be responsible for scheduling and holding bi-monthly meetings for the GQHYA Board via video call or live meetings. The GQHA President will work in a mentoring relationship with the GQHYA Advisor and/or GQHYA President. The GQHYA President should plan to stay updated on GQHA Board happenings to report to their membership.
 - 3.2. *Vice-Presidents*—They shall in the absence of the President assume customary duties. Vice-Presidents shall plan to assist the President in any necessary duties. Vice-Presidents shall also be willing to take over to assist any board positions which are not being filled satisfactory or that may become vacated during the calendar year.
 - 3.2.1. 1st Vice President – Shall be directly involved with fundraising efforts for the club, helping to come up with ideas and provide effective plans to execute approved activities.
 - 3.2.2. 2nd Vice President – Shall be directly involved with assisting the Recreational Activities Advisor to plan youth social and service events and will assist with Social Media Management as needed.
 - 3.3. *Secretary and Social Media Manager*—Duties shall be usual and customary and shall be responsible for mailing/emailing/posting to social media a quarterly newsletter to all GQHYA members, including a membership list after the first circuit of the year that will be updated regularly. The Secretary will work with the Reporter and 2nd Vice President, to keep GQHYA social media outlets updated regularly.
 - 3.4. *Reporter and Social Media Manager*—Duties to include actively requesting news from GQHYA membership and submitting a bi-monthly report of youth news to the GQHA Secretary, as requested. The Reporter will also have responsibility of maintaining the GQHYA Scrapbook and submitting to AQHA for Youth World Competition via email or online link. The Reporter will work with the Secretary and 2nd Vice President to keep GQHYA social media outlets updated regularly.
 - 3.5. *Delegates*—Chosen to serve as GQHYA officers and are the named delegates for the YES Conference for GQHYA.
 - 3.6. *Recreational Activities Advisor*—Duties include assisting the GQHA Board and GQHYA Advisor in planning and hosting social activities to be held for GQHYA members, activities to be held for both member and non-member youth attendees and exhibitors at the shows, and social outreach activities designed to recruit membership. Recreational activities director and outreach to include youth programming for recreational activities, as well as involving the area 4-H and FFA programs.

4. TEAM RULES

- 4.1. All American Quarter Horse Congress Team—Points counted towards this team will be computed from January 1st through August 1st unless a circuit is active on August 1st, then the deadline will be extended thru the end of the circuit or may be adjusted to meet the entry deadline requirements set by the Ohio Quarter Horse Association.**
- 4.2. AQHYA World Championship Team—Points counted toward this team will be computed from January 1st through May 25th in order to meet the AQHA paperwork deadline.**
***Classes not offered at GQHA shows that are offered at the Congress or AQHYA World Show may be entered by GQHYA members based on other eligibility requirements being met. These Youth shall be considered regular team members and entitled to all benefits.*
- 4.3. Team Eligibility - To be eligible for a team position the youth must be a member in good standing of GQHA. An Intent to Show form, signed by both the youth member and parent/guardian, must be submitted to the current youth advisor by April 15th. 7 hours of volunteer service as outlined on the intent to show form must be completed, verified and turned into the youth advisor. Volunteer hours have a monetary value of \$25. If you do not meet the required volunteer hours, you are responsible for the value of hours not met. Youth must have a minimum of 10 points or have competed at 3 GQHA pointed shows in order to be eligible. Only Georgia residents will be eligible for team positions. Those out-of-state residents competing for these positions must be under legal guardianship of a Georgia resident, verifiable in writing by an attorney to the GQHA President and Board of Directors. Deadline for notification is prior to the first GQHA approved show in the calendar year. The only exception would be an AQHA approved hardship. Out-of-State residents will only be considered if, and only if, there is an open slot with no remaining eligible Georgia residents. Slots to be filled for the NYATT shall be determined based upon the foregoing eligibility requirements and applicable point standings. Any youth so eligible shall be entitled to hold one slot unless there is no eligible youth to fill a vacancy in any other slot. In that event, a youth may be permitted to hold more than one slot.
- 4.4. Points—Points for team positions will be computed in the same manner as points for year-end awards. In classes where GQHA offers age divisions but the team spot does not, the first qualifier will be in the 14-18 age division by points and the second thru fourth qualifier will be selected based solely on point total regardless of age division. For the Youth World, state invitations will be extended to the top six (6) eligible point earners in each offered class who have not nationally qualified. If a position is not filled as above, then invitations may be extended to the next highest eligible point earners until position is filled. Classes which are not offered at GQHA shows and which are offered at the AQHYA World Championship Show may be entered by GQHYA members based on the other eligibility requirements being met. Should these criteria be met, the youth representing GQHYA would be considered a regular team member and be entitled to all funds, etc.
- 4.5. Fundraising—Each team member must raise a minimum of \$200.00 per qualifying period to be eligible to accept a team position. This requirement shall be applied per team, not per year.
- 4.6. Reimbursement—Each team member will receive a reimbursement as outlined in that year's Intent to Show form. Payment is made on a per youth, not a per horse consideration. National Qualifiers (AQHYA World Team) are only eligible for reimbursement if a GQHYA member and has satisfied all above rules of reimbursement. Payment of funds to team members, awards, uniforms, etc shall be determined by the GQHA Board of Directors.
- 4.7. Disciplinary Actions—A member, who without warranted reason, backs out on a team position after final team selection will not be eligible for the Roland Stacey Award, yearend awards or any other team activity for the year. Said member will also be ineligible for the next year's team rosters. Decision of appropriateness of reason for non-participation shall be determined by the GQHA Executive Committee. The decision shall be based on a physician's statement for the youth or a veterinarian's certificate for the horse if submitted within 15 days of the illness or injury. If the reason is found to be inappropriate, the youth will be required to reimburse GQHYA any unrecoverable entry fees, stall fees or incurred expenses due to their actions. Youth are required to stall with the team or they will forfeit all funding.

5. AMENDMENTS AND/OR CHANGES

- 5.1. All rules shall remain in effect until the annual meeting or a meeting called for the purpose changing rules. Members must be notified in writing 15 days prior to meeting date for proposed rule changes.
- 5.2. Any GQHYA rule not specifically covered are superseded by the rules of the GQHA.

6. SCHOLARSHIPS - Goal...To provide opportunities for deserving students who are current members of GQHA, and wish to further their education in a school or institution of their choice.

6.1.0 The number of scholarships available for qualified members and funding levels shall be determined by the GQHA Board of Directors, in its sole and absolute discretion. The GQHA Board of Directors may also determine the best process for evaluating applications and the granting of scholarships annually as circumstances dictate.

6.1. General Qualifications and Requirements for all member applicants-

6.1.1. Applicant must be a current member in good standing on the date the application is filed and been a member of GQHA for the previous three consecutive years.

6.1.2. Age limit-senior high rank to age 22 (Age determined by January 1 of the year scholarship is available).

6.1.3. Pursuing an education beyond high school level.

6.1.4. Submit most recent transcript reflecting GPA. A 3.0 GPA. A 3.0 GPA is required for new applicants as well as renewals.

6.1.5. Possible personal interview.

6.1.6. State career goals

6.1.7 Describe achievements.

6.1.8 Volunteerism minimum two hours in the last year.

6.2. Procedure - New Application

6.2.1. The member student shall complete a NEW Scholarship Application provided by GQHA.

6.2.2. The member student shall submit their most recent school transcript which shall include GPA and must be at least 3.0 to be eligible.

6.2.3. A total of 4 current recommendations from varied sources such as principal, counselor, GQHA member, 4-H advisor, extension agent, college professor or anyone with direct working connection to applicant to be submitted with the application.

6.2.4 Applicant must be a current member in good standing on the date the application is filed and been a member for the previous three consecutive years. Proof of current year membership must be attached to application.

6.2.5 Applicant must have at least two hours of volunteer time during the 12 month period immediately preceding the date of the member student's application to a GQHA or AQHA sponsored event. Proof in the form of a confirmation memo must be signed and dated by the appropriate person in charge of the event, must be submitted with the application.

6.2.6 If there are more qualified applicants than available scholarships, then specific consideration will be given to the following priority list:

1. Scholastic Achievement, including but not limited to GPA
2. Involvement level with equine related clubs, activities and/or work, i.e. GQHA, AQHA, Other Equine Industry, Veterinary, other.
3. Volunteer, leadership and service achievements related to equine organizations.
4. In no event will the financial need of the member applicant be considered in awarding a scholarship.

6.2.7 Applications must be complete, with all required exhibits attached, and submitted in a single package by US mail, to the address specified. No partial submissions will be accepted nor electronic versions accepted. Member applicants are responsible for ensuring delivery, with tracking or delivery confirmation at their own expense. Any deviation from the above instructions will render the member applicant ineligible.

6.2.8. Scholarship checks will be made payable to (i) the school or institution, or (ii) the member applicant only with receipt or proof of prior payment to institution.

6.2.9. If a scholarship recipient withdraws from school after receiving funds from the GQHA, they must refund the scholarships monies within 30 days. They would be eligible to reapply in the spring.

6.2.11. Deadline for application is postmark January 15th.

6.3. Procedure – Renewal Application

6.3.1 The member student shall complete a Renewal Application provided by GQHA.

6.3.2 The member student shall submit their most recent school transcript which shall include GPA and must be at least 3.0 to be eligible.

6.3.3 Applicant must be a current member in good standing on the date the application is filed and been a member for the previous three consecutive years. Proof of current year membership must be attached to application.

6.3.4 Applications must be complete, with all required exhibits attached, and submitted in a single package by US mail, to the address specified. No partial submissions will be accepted nor electronic versions accepted. Member applicants are responsible for ensuring delivery, with tracking or delivery confirmation at their own expense. Any deviation from the above instructions will render the member applicant ineligible.

6.3.5 Scholarship checks will be made payable to (i) the school or institution, or (ii) the member applicant only with receipt or proof of prior payment to institution.

6.3.6 If a scholarship recipient withdraws from school after receiving funds from the GQHA, they must refund the scholarships monies within 30 days. They would be eligible to reapply in the spring.

6.3.7 Deadline for application is postmark January 15th.

6.3.8 Renewal applications can be awarded for a maximum of 4 total scholarship years (includes original new scholarship awarded). A reapplying member applicant shall not be granted approval automatically but must meet all criteria set forth above.

7. YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT

7.1 Membership in GQHYA is a privilege, not a right, application for which shall be made by procedures prescribed by GQHYA. Membership, or application therefore, may be terminated or rejected by the GQHA Board for violation of GQHYA, AQHYA, GQHA or AQHA rules or for cause detrimental to the interest of GQHYA, its programs, policies, objectives and harmonious relationship of its members as determined by the GQHA Executive Committee. Unless otherwise specified in GQHYA or GQHA rules, termination of a current membership shall be conducted by the GQHA Executive Committee under GQHA's disciplinary procedures for notice, hearing and temporary suspension. Rejection of an application shall not be grounds for or entitle an applicant to hearing. The effect of termination or rejection will be denial of the privileges of GQHYA and/or GQHA, and may include but not be limited to the dismissal from the GQHYA NYATT team, all end of year award eligibility may be lost, and may include loss of endorsement for the AQHYA Youth World Show.

7.2 Removal of GQHYA Delegates to AQHYA, GQHYA Directors or GQHYA Officers:

It is a privilege, not a right to serve as a GQHYA Delegate, Director or Officer. Throughout his/her tenure, such individuals must (1) remain a GQHYA member in good standing; (2) adhere to GQHYA, AQHYA, GQHA and AQHA rules and regulations pertaining to membership conduct; (3) conduct themselves in an exemplary manner such as to favorably reflect on GQHYA; and (4) refrain from conduct that is detrimental to the interest of GQHYA, its programs, policies, objectives and harmonious relationship of its members. Such individuals' conduct is subject to continual review, and their service as a GQHYA Delegate, Director or Officer may be terminated or rejected by the GQHA Executive Committee with or without notice and formal hearing. Additionally, GQHA will report these findings and decisions to AQHA and AQHYA, in support and recognition of our affiliate membership in AQHA.