

Official Handbook
of the
OMI Quarter Horse Association
Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
Published January 2010

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Section 1

The name of the organization shall be the OMI Quarter Horse Association. OMI represents Ohio, Michigan and Indiana.

Section 2

The objective of this organization will be to promote, in all ways, the interest of OMI Quarter Horse owners and to increase the number of breeders and owners of the American Quarter Horse in the area. Specific emphasis of the organization will be to

provide funds for charitable purposes, youth organizations, horsemanship programs, horse shows, sales, auctions, promotional contests, and other activities as established by the officers, directors and members.

Section 3

The area encompassed by this Association shall be an area that includes Northwest Ohio, Southeast Michigan, and Northwest Indiana.

The Ohio counties in OMI are as follows: Allen, Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Crawford, Darke, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Logan, Marion, Mercer, Miami, Morrow, Ottawa, Paulding, Putman, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Union, Williams, Wood, Wyandot, and Van Wert.

The Michigan counties included are: Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, Livingston, McComb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Joseph, Washtenaw, and Wayne.

The Indiana counties included are: Adams, Allen, Blackford, DeKalb, Delaware, Grant, Hancock, Henry, Huntington, Jay Lagrange, Madison, Noble, Randolph, Steuben, Wayne, Wells, and Whitley.

Section 4

The address of OMI shall be that of the presiding secretary, Its officers must be permanent residents of OMI as defined in Section 3, and must be over 18 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Members of the Association may be residents of any state, territory, or country.

Section 5

Relationship of AQHA and OQHA

- a) All proceedings of this Association shall conform with the policies and activities of the American Quarter Horse Association.
- b) The OMI Quarter Horse Association shall endeavor to conform with the policies and activities of the Ohio Quarter Horse Association.

Article II- Membership

Section 1

Membership shall be of three categories: annual family membership, annual individual adult membership and charter members.

Family membership shall include husband and /or wife and their children and/or wards age 18 (as of January 1 of the current year) and under, who are reliable people, interested in promoting Quarter Horses registered by the American Quarter Horse Association.

A single individual adult member shall be any person, organization, firm, or corporation, resident of any state, interested in promoting the American Quarter Horse.

Charter members are those members who donated the up front moneys to establish this organization. Charter memberships were accepted until April 1, 1992

Section 2

Any person, firm or corporation having joined this Association shall become subject to the rules and by-laws in force or later adopted by the Association and may be subject to expulsion from the organization as provided in these by-laws.

Section 3

When any person, firm or corporation as a member of this Association is accused of any acts or practices which may be deemed just cause for expulsion from this Association, the accused shall be entitled to a full, fair, and impartial public hearing before the Board of Directors of this Association. Any person, firm or corporation judged guilty of the act or practice as charged shall be expelled by a majority vote of the Directors, Any expelled member may be reinstated with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Article III- Dues and membership application

Section 1

Each membership, family, or individual adult, shall submit a current year application and pay dues as each is prescribed by the Board of Directors and published annually on the website and current year membership application.

Dues, eligibility and membership in OMI are governed by the constitution and by-laws of OMI.

Section 2

Applications for membership must have fees attached and be submitted to the OMI Treasurer. Applications for membership shall include county of residence.

Section 3

Membership will start January 1 and be effective through December 31. After January 1, membership will start the day the application and fee are received at the address of the OMI treasurer.

Section 4

In cases of error in fees or application, the above membership starting date will remain in effect provide the error is corrected within 30 days.

Article IV- Members

Section 1

Members of the Association shall be admitted, retained and expelled in accordance with these bylaws.

Section 2

In all matters governed by the vote of the members, each individual adult member in good standing shall be entitled to vote.

Article V- Association Meetings

Section 1

The regular annual meeting of the members shall be held at such time and place as fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given by mailing a notice to each voting member in good standing in OMI. The notice shall be sent not less than 20 days and not more than 60 days prior to the date of such meeting.

Section 2

Special meetings of the members may be held at such time and place designated in notice whenever called in writing by the president or, in his/her absence, the vice president.

Section 3

At the regular annual meeting, the qualified members of the Association shall elect the president, vice president, secretary/news reporter, treasurer, point secretary, youth advisor(s), and ten members of the Board of Directors. The youth advisor(s), and Queen Advisor will be then appointed by the current Board of Directors.

Section 4

In the matter of election for directors and officers, any member in good standing may cast an absentee ballot by requesting an official ballot and returning it to the membership committee (the presiding membership committee shall not be running for office at the time of appointment).

Section 5

Unless otherwise stated in the by-laws, all meetings of the members of the Board of Directors shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rule of Order.

Section 6- Suggestion by Lisa Busch

All meetings cancelled due to weather, emergencies, state meeting conflicts, etc. and/or rescheduled meetings will be posted on the website.

Article VI- Officers and Duties-

Section 1

The elected officers shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary/news reporter, treasurer, point secretary)_and youth advisor(s). The elected officers shall hold office for one year and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2

The president shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings. In his/her absence the vice president shall have the powers and duties of the president and other duties prescribed by the Board of Directors. Both the presidents and vice presidents term of office shall be one year.

Section 3

The secretary/news reporter elected for one year shall keep minutes of all membership and director meetings. A record shall be made of all the membership and director meetings ***and posted on the website within one week of the meeting.*** Reports of all news, activities and actions of OMI as prescribed by the officers, directors and membership shall be made to advertise and promote all activities of the OMI Association.

Section 4

The treasurer shall receive and disburse funds of the Association and maintain adequate records thereof and prepare the necessary reports of such funds and disbursement for presentation to the Board of Directors and membership.

Section 5

The point secretary will keep totals for year-end awards and youth team candidates.

Section 6

The youth advisor will be responsible for keeping total of points earned for each youth candidate and will audit those points with the point secretary

Article VII- Board of Directors

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall be elected by the OMI membership.

The business and property of the organization shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors.

Five (5) at large Board of Directors were elected at the organizational meeting in 1992, with (4) more elected in 1993. There should be, if available, one (1) director elected from each of the OMI states(Ohio, Michigan and Indiana) and one (1) at large. All directors will serve two (2) years or until his/her successor has been duly elected and qualified

The outgoing President automatically becomes a Director at Large if he/she chooses, until the current President leaves office and replaces the preceding past President as Director at Large.

Section 2

In the case of any vacancy in the Board of Directors, for any reason, the remaining directors by affirmative vote of the majority thereof, may elect/appoint a successor.

Section 3

Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held whenever called by the president or by two-thirds of the directors.

The secretary shall give notice of each special meeting by mail or telephone to each director at least five (5) days before the meeting.

Section 4

A majority of the number of directors shall constitute a quorum present; a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting until a quorum shall be present.

Section 5

At meetings of the Board of Directors, business shall be transacted in such order as the Board may determine.

Section 6

The written contracts of the Association shall be executed in the behalf of the Association by the president or vice-president and attested to by the secretary.

Section 7

Each and/or any director who fails to attend two (2) regular meetings of the organization without notification may be replaced by the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

Article VIII- Year End Awards

Section 1

Membership must be paid in full before any points can be earned toward year-end awards, no retroactive points can be counted. Year-end awards can be awarded to any paid up member of OMI regardless of where they live.

Section 2

Point calculations for year-end awards to be nine points for the first place horse when nine or more horses are shown or one point for each horse if under nine shown. Points issued to horses placing first through ninth at OMI sanctioned shows. No points are to be calculated for horse riders using the AQHA permit rule

Section 3

Ownership clarification rule will follow AQHA rule, which is stated in AQHA rulebook. Owner and exhibitor must be current year members of OMI.

Article IX- Youth Association and Congress Team

Section 1

Membership to be paid by the first meeting in May, for any youth wanting to qualify for the OMI Youth Team. Youth Team qualifiers must live in one of the designated counties listed in Article 1, Section 3, of the OMI rulebook.

Section 2

Point calculations for yearend awards to be nine points for the first place horse when nine or more horses are shown or one point for each horse if under nine shown., Points issued to horses placing first through ninth at OMI sanctioned shows. No points are to be calculated for horse riders in the AQHA permit rule

Section 3

Ownership clarification rule will follow AQHA rule, which is stated in AQHA rulebook. Owner and exhibitor must be current year members of OMI.

Section 4

Youth must attend at least three meetings from January 1st through the meeting with one excused absence allowed if youth advisor or an OMI officer is notified prior to the meeting. The youth must also attend, or have a representative attend, the September meeting if notified that a place on the team has been earned.

Section 5

A youth may try to qualify on more than one horse but must choose only one to compete on the Congress Youth Team and must comply with Congress Youth Team rules.

Section 6

Youth must participate in a designated number of fundraisers and/or raise the amount of funds required for the year qualifying as determined by the youth advisor(s) and youth officers. This includes, but is not limited to, cleaning stalls or providing a representative to clean stalls at the Findlay horse shows. Youth Team candidates will be responsible for any fundraiser they participate in. Failure to return any monetary items will result in expulsion until restitution is made by date set by youth advisor annually and posted on the Youth page of the website.

Section 7

The Youth advisor will place the NYATT Congress team accordingly:

1. All youth qualifying for a 1st position of a class are required to take their place on the team in the class they placed first in regardless if they placed 2nd or below in a class they prefer to compete in. If the Youth placed first in more than one class, they have the choice of which class they prefer to show.
2. All youth qualifying second in a position but not first in any other class are required to take their place on the team in the class they placed 2nd. If the Youth placed 2nd in more than one class, they have the choice of which class they prefer to show.
3. Once all the 1st & 2nd place Youth have made their selections, the 3rd place youth and below will move up in placings to fill any openings in the classes where positions were left open by 1st & 2nd place winners.
4. Alternates will be chosen from the remaining 3rd and 4th positions after the team has been established.

In case of a tie, the person placing 1st in the greatest number of classes will be the winner. In the event that a tie still occurs, the most 2nd places will break the tie and so forth.

Section 13

If any reimbursement(s) are offered to the members of the Congress or other teams (i.e. stalls, car passes, etc) payments will be made only if the member competed in the NYATT class, and/or as required by the funds provider. Not adhering to terms of payment will cause payments to be forfeited.

Article X- Amendments

Section 1

These by-laws can be changed only by a majority vote of the members present at a membership meeting. Thirty (30) days prior to the meeting a written notice and publication of the proposed changes shall be sent to the members by mail, Posted on the OMIQHA website or through the official OMI news publication.

OMIQHA Youth Congress NYATT Rules

For any youth wanting to qualify for the OMI Congress Youth Team, membership dues must be paid by June 1st. Any points accumulated prior to membership being paid will not be counted. . ***This is not possible because they need to attend 3 meetings by the July Meeting; Make this the 1st Monday in May at Meeting?***

Youth Team qualifiers must live in one of the following counties: See Article IX Section 1 AND Article I Section 3

Ohio – Allen, Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Crawford, Darke, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Logan, Lucas, Marion, Miami, Mercer, Morrow, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Union, Williams, Wood, Wyandot and Van Wert. See **Article I Section 3**

Michigan – Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, Livingston, McComb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Joseph, Washtenaw and Wayne See **Article I Section 3**

Indiana – Adams, Allen, Blackford, De Kalb, Delaware, Grant, Hancock, Henry, Huntington, Jay, Lagrange, Madison, Noble, Randolph, Steuben, Wayne, Wells & Whitley See **Article I Section 3**

Point calculations for the youth team are to be nine points for the first place horse when nine or more horses are shown or one point for each horse if under nine shown. Points issued to horses placing first through ninth at OMI sanctioned shows. See **Article IX Section 2**

Congress Youth Team candidates will be responsible for any fundraiser they participate in, and failure to return any monetary items by **June 15th** will result in expulsion. See **Article IX Section 6**

A youth may try to qualify on more than one horse but must choose only one to compete on the Congress Youth Team, and must comply with Congress Youth Team rules. See **Article IX Section 5**

In case of a tie, the person placing 1st in the greatest number of classes will be the winner. In the event that a tie still occurs, the most 2nd places will break the tie and so forth. See **Article IX Section 7**

Youth must attend at least three meetings from January to July and also must attend the September meeting or have a representative present if notified a place on the team has been earned. Youth will be given one excused absence as long as long as they contact a youth advisor or officer prior to the meeting date. See **Article IX Section 4**

Ownership clarification rule will follow AQHA rule, which is stated in the AQHA rulebook. Owner and exhibitor must be members in the current year. See **Article IX Section 3**

Qualifying youth must participate in all fund raising projects, including, but not limited to, cleaning stalls at the Findlay horse shows. See **Article IX Section 6**

(Add to General Association Rules including Queen Advisor Rules)
2009 OMIQHA
Queen Contest Rules

Question- Should we have more specific rules for competition?

Question- Should we have rules or procedure for expulsion? (see Queen 2003)

Question- Should the Queen be from one of the Counties required by our youth?

Question- What if a queen is not found by deadlines?

Question- What if there is only one candidate? Competitions? How do we find another Queen if she fails?

Question- Should the Queen be required to serve on membership committee?

Question- Should we include specific rules about Queen's closet Clothes, Jewelry, etc?

Question- What if there is only one candidate

The candidate must be a current OMIQHA member and comply with the written rules. The candidate must be 18 to 25 years of age (as of January 1, 2009), and not married, divorced, or a single parent. Selections will be made on judging as follows:

- a) **Horsemanship:** There will be one horsemanship class held at the OMIQHA show in August. You may ride your horse or any other horse you choose. The horse is not required to be owned by the candidate. The judges hired for the day will judge the class. The pattern used will be the judges' discretion. The judge will place all Candidates starting at first with points allocated for each place to be averaged into your other two remaining scores.
- b) **Written Test:** The written test will consist of questions on the 2009 AQHA rulebook, general horse knowledge, and OMIQHA rules. The written test will consist of the following types of questions: true and false, multiple choice, and fill in the blank. For all questions, candidates are advised to answer **verbatim** from the AQHA rulebook for full credit.
- c) **Personal Interview:** The personal interview will be held in conjunction with the written test. There will be two or three interviewers, and you will be judged on your answers to their questions as well as your appearance, personality, and overall presentation.

In the event of a tie, the contestant with the highest personal interview will be crowned the winner since we feel that it is very important for our Queen to be well spoken in order to best represent the Ohio Michigan Indiana Quarter Horse Association.

The categories will have the following weights: Horsemanship 20%, Written test 40%, and Personal interview 40%.

The candidate that is crowned the 2009 Queen will be expected to attend a minimum of two OMI meetings, present awards at the OMIQHA show at the University of Findlay in August, assist Buckeye Western with the NSBA awards at the Findlay AQHA show in July, participate in the 2009 Congress Queen's Contest, and be a spokesperson for the association. Other activities the Queen is encouraged to participate in are misc. swap meets, misc. AQHA and Youth Show award presentations, special invitations, equine expos, etc.