

Effective January 2023

# GEORGIA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

## 2023 GQHA Handbook

### **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 breeder/exhibitors.*

### **OUR VISION**

*“GQHA is recognized nationally as a multifaceted organization and committed to supporting all interests of the American Quarter Horse from youth and recreational horse people to the professional horseman.”*

### **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.

## **RULES & BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND OBJECT**

The Name of this organization shall be the Georgia Quarter Horse Association, Inc. Its objective shall be to promote, in all ways, the interest of Georgia Quarter Horse owners, to increase the number of Georgia breeders and owners of Quarter Horses registered by the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), and to advance Georgia's horse industry. All of the proceedings of this Association shall be in harmony with the policies and activities of the AQHA.

### **ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** Membership shall be for individual members, family members, life members, honorary members, farm and corporate members.

**Section 2.** Membership shall be open to any reliable person, firm or corporation, resident of any State, interested in promoting Quarter Horses registered by the AQHA. Any person, firm or corporation having joined this association shall thereby become subject to the rules and by-laws then in force or later adopted by the association, and shall be subject to expulsion from the organization as provided in these by-laws. Voting privileges shall be for members in good standing only.

**Section 3.** Annual membership is open to any individual meeting the requirements of Section 2 in return for the annual payment of membership dues, in the amount to be established from time to time by the Board of Directors. Membership dues are non-refundable. This entitles the member to one vote.

**Section 4.** Family membership includes all immediate members (husband, wife and children 18 years and under who still reside at home) for points, in return for the annual payment of membership dues, in the amount to be established from time to time by the Board of Directors. Membership dues are non-refundable. This entitles the membership to two votes. Two adult members of a family membership must be present in order to exercise both votes allowed to the membership when voting in person.

**Section 5.** Life membership is open to any applicant meeting the requirements of Section 2 in return for payment of membership dues in the amount to be established from time to time by the Board of Directors. A life membership is for individuals only and is non-transferable. This entitles the membership to one vote. Membership dues are non-refundable.

**Section 6.** Honorary membership shall be bestowed by the Board of Directors to any reliable person, firm or corporation, resident of any State, who it deems is worthy of the same. Honorary Membership does not entitle the Honorary Member to a vote.

**Section 7.** Farm or Corporate membership is open to any such entity meeting the requirements of Section 2 and in return for annual payment of membership dues in the amount to be established from time to time by the Board of Directors. This entitles them to one vote. Membership dues are non-refundable.

**Section 8.** When any person, firm, corporation, member or non-member of the Association, shall be accused of any acts or practices against a member or officer or occurring at a function sponsored, sanctioned or approved by the Georgia Quarter Horse Association, which acts or practices may be deemed just cause for suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action for the Association, said person, firm or corporation shall be entitled to a full, fair and impartial public hearing before the Board of Directors of the organization where he shall be faced by his accuser or (and) be permitted to examine all evidence offered in support of the charge against him, and where he shall be given full opportunity to refute such evidence. When such accusation or complaint is made to a member of the Board of Directors, said accusation or complaint shall be heard at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting, or at such other time as designated by the President of the Association. Notices of the hearing shall be given to the accuser and accused as follows:

1. Notice shall be sent by regular or certified mail, to the last known address containing a notification of the accusation, charge or complaint made, and notifying the accused of his rights as specified in Paragraph One of this section. For the purposes of this section, if the accused is a member of the Association, the address on his membership shall constitute the last known address.

2. The meeting shall be scheduled at least ten (10) days from the date of the notice.

3. No continuances of said hearing will be granted unless, in the sole discretion of the Executive Committee of said Association, the reason for same is compelling and warranted. If, after hearing, the accused is found guilty of the accused conduct by affirmative vote of a majority of the directors present, the Board of Directors shall decide the appropriate action to take against the offender. Potential punitive measures may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Suspension from the Association;
- b) Expulsion from the Association;
- c) A determination of ineligibility to participate in Association

sponsored or sanctioned awards, prize money, points, or other privileges of the Association; and

d) Any other such action as the Board of Directors may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

**Section 9.** Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the GQHA and any non-member may be denied privileges of the GQHA by the Board of Directors for the failure to pay when due any obligation owing to the Association. Person owing GQHA and having received written notice of intention to suspend may make restitution within 10 days of receipt of such notice with not further penalty. Persons receiving such notice and failing to pay within 10 days of receipt of such notice of intention shall be suspended for a period of time beginning on the tenth day following notice and continuing for not less than 30 days, nor more than the period of time over 30 days taken to make restitution following the payment of indebtedness. Any check paid to GQHA or GQHYA which is returned for insufficient funds by a farm, corporation, family or individual will receive a penalty as established from time to time by the Board of Directors. If this policy is repeated, these people may be asked to prepay all other services on a cash basis. Any person who leaves the show grounds without paying for stalls used and/or entry fees will be penalized an amount as established from time to time by the Board of Directors. If this policy of leaving without paying is repeated, this person shall be asked to prepay all other entries and stall fees upon arrival at the show.

**Section 10.** Application for membership must have fee attached to it and be submitted to the GQHA Executive Secretary. Membership dues are non-refundable.

**Section 11.** Membership will start January 1 and be effective through December 31. After January 1, membership will start the day the application and fee is received by the GQHA Executive Secretary. A person must have been a member in good standing for a period of 60 days immediately prior to the date of any general membership meeting in order to exercise voting privileges at that meeting.

**Section 12.** In cases of error in fees or application, the above membership starting dates will remain effective provided the error is corrected within 30 days.

**Section 13.** Fees for all categories of membership shall be established from time to time by the Board of Directors. Youth must have parent or guardian join to be a member. Membership applications will require a full list of names and addresses, as well as email addresses, and must be completed annually to ensure correct information is on file. Membership dues are non-refundable.

### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** Members of the Association shall be admitted, retained and expelled in accordance with such rules and regulations as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, adopt. In all matters governed by the vote of the members, each membership in good standing, shall be entitled to vote, as outlined in Article II, Section 2 through 8. For voting privileges, members in good standing is defined as one having paid dues for the current membership year, and having not been expelled or under suspension from AQHA or GQHA and having been a member of the association for at least 60 days immediately prior to the date of any general membership meeting at which a vote may be taken. Suspension of one member of a family membership causes all members belonging under that membership to be denied privileges.

**Section 2.** The regular annual meeting of the membership shall be held at such time and place as may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors, but in any event it shall be held for the purpose of electing officers and directors and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the meeting. Each meeting will be opened with a prayer. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given by emailing a notice to each member entitled to vote thereat, by the Executive Secretary or other persons entitled to call such meeting, stating the time and place of such meeting. Notice is to be mailed to the last known email address of each member in good standing not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days prior to the date of such meeting.

**Section 3.** Special meetings of the members may be held at any time and place as may be designated in written notice by the direction of the President, or in his absence, by either of the Vice Presidents, or by a majority, two thirds of the Board of Directors, or by notice signed by not less than 25% of the members then in good standing. Notice of each special meeting indicating briefly the objects thereof shall be given in the same manner as provided with respect to notice of annual meetings.

**Section 4.** At any meeting of the members held in accordance with the foregoing provisions as to notice, members attending such meeting, present in person, shall constitute a quorum of the members for all purposes unless the representative of a larger number shall be required by law and in that case the representation so required shall constitute a quorum. If any meeting is adjourned to another time and place, no further notice as to such adjourned meeting needs to be given other than by announcement at the meeting at which such adjournment is taken. All meetings of the Association shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised for all situations not governed by GQHA Bylaws or Rules.

**Section 5.** Any officer of the Association may call the meeting of the members to order and may act as chairman of such meeting, precedence being given as follows: President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President. In the absence of all such officers, members present may elect a chairman, The chairman may appoint any member to act as Secretary at the meeting.

**Section 6 (A).** At the regular annual meeting the qualified members of the Association shall elect the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Board of Directors.

**Section 6 (B).** The Executive Secretary shall be selected annually by majority vote of the board of directors. The Executive Secretary can serve successive terms as directed by the board of directors. The Executive Secretary shall be a paid position with salary commiserate with job description and approved by majority vote of board of directors. The Executive Secretary shall not have voting privileges on the Board, nor are they eligible to hold a directorship or other office.

**Section 7.** In the matter of absentee election of Directors, the President, and Vice Presidents, and Treasurer, any member in good standing, as provided in Section 1 of Article III, may cast an absentee ballot by requesting an official ballot, in writing or by email, from the Executive Secretary, completing it, signing it, and returning it by mail to the Executive Secretary so as to be received by the Executive Secretary at least 3 days prior to the annual meeting. **Section 8.** The President or other presiding officer shall appoint three members as inspectors of election at the annual meeting. If the right of any member to vote shall be challenged, the inspectors shall determine such right. The inspectors shall receive and count all ballots, including the absentee ballots, and announce the results of all votes. Their certificate of such results shall be prima facie evidence thereof.

#### **ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 1. (A)** Each Board meeting will open with prayer.

**Section 1. (B)** The business and property of the Association shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors, President, Vice Presidents and The Executive Committee. The Board of Directors shall consist of ten or more directors. Board members must be a member of GQHA for six months prior to election. To be eligible for nomination to President or 1st Vice President, one must have a previous year active service on the board. After the annual meeting, if there is not a qualified, or available, Board member for one of these Officer positions, the Executive Committee has the authority to recommend a qualified GQHA member for Board approval. No significant other or family member of the elected/sitting President can serve as a member of the Board of Directors during that persons Presidency. All GQHA officers and board members must maintain primary residency in Georgia. Vacancies occurring during the year will be filled by the Board. Selection of the Board members should be based on improvement of the Quarter Horse Industry in Georgia and/or interest in promotion of Youth Activities or future industry leaders. Geographic area should be a consideration if it furthers the objectives of the Association. The number of membership of the Board of Directors may be altered from time

to time by amendment of these by-laws, but shall not be less than 10 nor more than 25. No Officer or Director shall vote on any issue or motion that would have an actual or perceived monetary benefit to that individual.

**Section 2.** The election of Directors shall take place at the annual meeting of members or, if not elected thereat, at a special meeting called for said purpose. Election shall be by written ballot and those candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected. Directors shall be elected for a two (2) year term, with approximately half of the Directors elected each year.

**Section 3.** Preference shall be given to those persons who have served on a standing committee or otherwise proven their interest and availability to assume this position of leadership.

**Section 4.** In addition to the Directors elected as above provided, the retiring President of the Association shall automatically become an additional member of the Board with the power to vote for a term of as many years as his successor serves as President; the President of the GQHA shall automatically be a voting member of the Board of Directors for a term of as many years as he serves as President, and the GQHYA will place a representative (adult) on the GQHA Board of Directors with full voting privileges.

**Section 5.** In the event a Director, during his or her term is elected to the office of President or Vice President, he or she, upon taking office shall vacate his or her position as Director and a vacancy shall occur and such vacancy shall be filled by the Board.

**Section 6.** In case of any vacancy on the Board by death, resignation, disqualification, or other cause, such vacancy shall be filled by the Board.

**Section 7.** Notification of the time and place of the regular meeting of the officers and Directors shall be given at least ten days preceding the meeting date, provided, however an emergency meeting may be called if one half of the officers and Directors are present and unanimously decided that the meeting be necessary.

**Section 8.** A majority of the number of voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but if any meeting of the Board there may be less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum shall be present. The National Directors to AQHA from the State will not be considered in determining a quorum. The act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present is the act of the Board.

**Section 9.** All meetings of the Board of Directors business shall be transacted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order newly revised. Board meetings are open to members and visitors; however, they may not speak unless recognized by the presiding officer.

**Section 10.** The written contracts of the Association shall be executed on behalf of the Association by the President or 1st Vice President and attested to by the Executive Secretary.

**Section 11.** Each member of the board of directors will be allowed 2 unexcused absences from scheduled meetings. More than 2 unexcused

absences will be interpreted as a resignation. This will allow the board to fill the vacancy with someone else, and enable them to run the Association effectively. An excused absence can either be called in prior to the meeting or reported in by someone present. The President or presiding officer shall rule on any request for excused absence prior to the start of the meeting for which the excusal was requested. The minutes of the Board of Directors meetings shall reflect the status of all members as either Present, Absent (Excused) or Absent (Unexcused).

**Section 12.** The Board of Directors shall have the power and the authority to make, amend, repeal and enforce such rules and regulations, not contrary to law or the Certificate of Incorporation or these by-laws, as they may deem expedient concerning the conduct, management and activities of the Association, the admission, classification, suspension and expulsion of members, removal of officers, the rules and regulations governing the procedure of such suspension and expulsion and removal, the fixing and collecting of dues and fees, the conduction of shows, contests, exhibitions, races, sales and social functions and other details relating to the general purposes of the Association, all, however, subject to the revisions or amendment by the members at any membership meeting provided the revision or amendment shall have been mailed to all members at least thirty days in advance of the meeting. The Board has the right and power to extend Youth Team invitations for positions not filled under current GQHYA rules and to specify the eligibility of positions for funding.

**Section 13.** Executive Committee **(a)** An executive committee shall be selected at the first meeting of the Board of Directors after their election. Said committee shall consist of the President as Chairman, the 1st Vice President, the past President, for at least 1 year and two other members of the Board of Directors. The two shall be selected by majority vote. Each member shall hold office for such term of one year or until his successor is elected. Any member may be removed for cause by affirmative vote of two thirds of the members of the Board of Directors present at a regular meeting. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the remainder of the term. **(b)** Meetings, Duties and Powers – the Executive Committee shall meet whenever called by the President, First Vice President or by any member thereof with reasonable notice given. A quorum shall consist of three or more members. The committee may act, without convening in meeting, by written resolution signed by all the members thereof and duly entered in the Committee's minutes. The Committee may select others to perform duties and may prescribe other rules and procedures at its discretion. The Executive Committee shall possess and exercise all the powers of the Board of Directors in matters considered sufficiently urgent or of any emergency nature that could not or should not be reasonably delayed until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, except that it may not change the By-laws, fill vacancies, or authorize payment of, or obligate the Association for any unreasonably large sum of money. The Executive Committee may be used in advisory capacity, as a study group or in a capacity deemed expedient by the Board of Directors. The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall

record or cause to be recorded all the actions of the committee and make a full report to the Board of Directors at the meeting subsequent to the committee meeting. The Board of Directors may accept or reject any part of the addition of the committee or rescind any agreement, or void any obligation considered to be not in the best interest of the Association.

**Section 14.** Representatives of the state of Georgia who are Directors of the AQHA shall have a vote on the Board.

**Section 15.** All members of the Board of Directors shall pay membership dues for current year by the first Board meeting of said year and in the event of the failure to do so, upon notification, shall be expelled from the Board and the vacancy created will be filled by the Board.

**Section 16.** A Director that is removed can be re-elected in a subsequent year providing they meet ALL membership qualifications.

## **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

**Section 1 - The Officers.** The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President. The procedure for the election of officers shall be as follows: Nominations for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and all vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be made annually by the current Board of Directors after hearing a report from the Nominating Committee. A copy of these nominations shall be mailed to all members of the Association entitled to vote. This mailing will be at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting. All Officers shall be elected by a majority of the members casting votes at the election, held at the annual meeting, at which time the floor will be open to accept any or all nominations which the membership may wish to make. The President and Vice Presidents shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. The President and Vice Presidents may succeed themselves in office. The President shall appoint such chairman as he deems advisable. They shall hold office for one year and/or until their successors are appointed or approved. Only Directors and elected Officers shall have the right to vote at meetings of the Board of Directors. The President may vote only in case of a tie.

**Section 2 - The President.** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. He/She shall see that the by-laws, rules and regulations of the Association are enforced and shall perform all other duties that may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors. He/She shall be an ex-officio (non-voting) member of all committees. The President, from time to time, may create and empower other committees, general or special. The President shall have a yearly Discretionary Fund that shall be valued and officiated by majority vote of the board of directors. He shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors, but will only cast a vote in case of a tie.

**Section 3 - Vice Presidents.** In the absence of the President, the 1st Vice President shall have the power and shall perform the duties of the President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. In the absence of the 1st Vice President, the 2nd Vice President will be acting President. The Vice Presidents shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4 – Executive Secretary.** The Executive Secretary shall be selected annually by majority vote of the board of directors. The Executive Secretary can serve successive terms as directed by the board of directors. The Executive Secretary shall be a paid position with salary commiserate with job description and approved by majority vote of board of directors. The Executive Secretary shall not have voting privileges on the Board, nor are they eligible to hold a Directorship or other office. The Executive Secretary shall keep the minutes of all membership and directors meetings and shall provide same for inclusion on the GQHA website. He/She shall handle all correspondence and communication for the GQHA, its Board and Executive Committee. He/she shall make a report of membership and directors meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

**Section 5 - Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be selected annually by majority vote of the board of directors. The Treasurer can serve successive terms as directed by the board of directors. The Treasurer shall be a paid position with salary commiserate with job description and approved by majority vote of board of directors. The Treasurer shall not have voting privileges on the Board, nor are they eligible to hold a Directorship or other office. If there is not a qualified candidate for this position, the Executive Committee has the authority to recommend an Officer or Board member for this position for Board approval. If approved by the Board, this Officer or Board member will continue to have voting privileges while holding the position of Treasurer. The Treasurer shall exercise the normal duties of Treasurer, including the duties to receive and disburse funds of the Association, to collect dues and to maintain adequate records thereof. The Treasurer shall work with a CPA, hired by the Board of Directors, to prepare appropriate reports monthly of such funds and disbursements in accordance to GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) for presentation to the Board of Directors and the Membership. Both parties are deemed necessary for appropriate separation of duties to create a checks and balance system within GQHA. The Treasurer shall deposit funds within 5 business days of receipt of said funds in a bank in the name of the Association. An audit of the books shall be performed each year in February. The Audit Committee shall be composed of three (3) Members in good standing appointed by the Board in consultation with the Treasurer.

**Section 6 - Fiscal Year.** The corporation shall conduct its affairs on the fiscal year basis, same to begin January 1 and end December 31 of the same year. An annual review of the accounts of the Association shall be made by a disinterested, Accounting Professional at such time as the Board shall direct. The report shall be presented to the general membership at its next meeting.

**Section 7 - Blanket Bonds.** All officers or employees or members of the Association, who may be charged with the handling of any funds of the Association shall give a surety bond, the premium for which shall be paid by the Association in such reasonable amount as shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 8.** All Board of Directors and Officers will be required to sign a Code of Ethics before beginning their term (see Addendum 1). Any officer, director or member of the Association may be removed for cause by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting called for such purposes. If there is a believed breach of Code of Ethics, written charges shall be served upon said officer at least two weeks prior to the meeting of the Board at which removal proceedings are to be held, and he/she shall be permitted to attend such meetings and defend the charges.

**Section 9.** All officers shall pay membership dues for current year by the first Board meeting, and in the event of the failure to do so, upon reasonable notice shall be removed from office and a vacancy created which will be filled by the board.

**Section 10.** GQHA shall establish and maintain a Crisis Fund to be administered by the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE VI – AQHA NATIONAL DIRECTORS**

The current nominating committee shall, as a vacancy occurs, nominate a sufficient number of members of this Association, who are also members of the AQHA, to be the recommended nominees of this Association for election to the position of Director of the American Quarter Horse Association as representative of the state of Georgia.

#### **ARTICLE VII – PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND OTHERS.**

Any payment or reimbursement of funds to Directors, Officers and other persons shall be reported to the Board of Directors in the Treasurer's report and must be approved by the Board. Any payment or disbursement not approved by the Board, will be considered immediately due and payable to the Association.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – RATIFICATION OF RULES OF GEORGIA QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION.**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall have the right to ratify, amend, or repeal all rules adopted by the GQHYA.

**Section 2.** In any case where GQHYA Rules/Bylaws are not explicit, GQHYA shall be governed by the standing bylaws of GQHA.

#### **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

All amendments have to have approval by the general membership but the Board of Directors may reword an amendment for clarity not disrupting the basic intent of the amendment. Amendments may be proposed and adopted only by the general membership at a meeting called for in part or in its entirety, for that purpose. Proposed amendments must be submitted, in writing, to the By-Laws Committee by September 1<sup>st</sup> to allow the assessment and recommendation to the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE X – SANCTIONING OF SHOWS**

**Section 1.** The GQHA Board of Directors will be empowered to make decisions on sanctioning shows with any association or individual.

**Section 2.** Sanctioning fees: For each Open, Youth, or Amateur class, sponsoring organization will be required to complete a contract with GQHA

in which they agree to pay a fee as may be set from time to time by the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE XI – DECISIONS ON RULINGS**

The Board of Directors has the authority to make decisions and rulings on any questions not specifically covered elsewhere in the By-Laws or Rules.

#### **ARTICLE XII – RULES FOR SHOWS**

**Section 1.** At all GQHA sponsored shows, an All Day Fee will be offered for Amateurs, Novice Amateurs, Youth and Novice Youth classes.

**Section 2.** There will be no (State) double pointing of split/combined shows sponsored by GQHA.

**Section 3.** For Open and all Amateur Awards – For the purpose of calculating year-end high point awards in Open and Amateur classes, all qualifying points count for all GQHA sponsored shows i.e.: Pro-Am, Summer Kickoff, Stars & Stripes, Big A, Georgia Classic, AND any GQHA sanctioned shows (SEE ARTICLE X - SECTION 1). A list of shows approved for yearend awards points will be available on the GQHA website. Shows counted for points will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4.** For Youth Awards – The youth will use all qualifying points to calculate year-end high point awards. See Section 3 above for list of shows. EXCEPTION – Weekdays during school year.

## ADDENDUM 1

### GEORGIA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

WHEREAS, the Georgia Quarter Horse Association recognizes the need to provide a service to the American Quarter Horse industry in an ethical and professional manner, and to deal with the public and our colleagues with the highest degree of integrity;

WHEREAS, the Georgia Quarter Horse Association Bylaws, includes several references to the importance of professional behavior;

THEREFORE, the Georgia Quarter Horse Association has set forth the following Code of Ethics which shall govern our endeavors to fulfill our obligations:

- 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.
- We seek to build a strong teamwork ethic that enriches our personal lives, strengthens relationships, and contributes to organizational success.
- We strive to be fair, honest, courteous, and professional. We expect the same characteristics from our Board Members. Should a Board Member exhibit questionable behavior, the Executive Committee will examine the issues and determine the action for the best interest of the individual, the organization and its members.
- We expect all Officers and Board of Directors:
  - To adhere to the professional standards of GQHA and AQHA and act in a professional manner at all times.
  - To be courteous and exhibit a positive attitude.
  - To instill confidence among members and the public in the American Quarter Horse industry, avoiding any action conducive to discrediting GQHA or AQHA.
  - To refrain from conduct that is detrimental to the interest of GQHA or AQHA, its programs, policies, objectives, and harmonious relationship of its members.
  - To not threaten physical harm or take action with physical harm or verbal abuse.
  - To be responsible for their own behavior/conduct, uphold high standards, and accept the consequences for inappropriate behavior.
  - To adhere to the professional standards of GQHA and AQHA and to work to further its goals and objectives.

- To show respect, courtesy, and decency towards fellow GQHA Board members and members of the association at all times by upholding the highest standards of professional ethics and mutual civility regardless of circumstances.
- To create a supportive culture that builds and maintains a collaborative relationship with all GQHA Board members and members of the association.
- To communicate in an open, honest, and respectful manner in all situations. This includes not engaging in or tolerating slander, put-downs, insults, taunting, name calling, yelling, profane language, bullying, sexual innuendos, or other comments or hostile behaviors likely to offend, hurt, or set a bad example.
- To keep all Internet and social media pages respectable and refrain from posting any comments, blurbs, or pictures that contain inappropriate language, images, or derogatory statements.
- To ensure that the welfare of the American Quarter Horse is paramount and that every American Quarter Horse shall at all times be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion.

Approved:

This 15th day of December, 2020.