

SOUTH DAKOTA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION POLICY

Revised (7/11/2026)

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

1. A copy of the Bylaws and Policy Sheet will be sent to each new member, and a copy of the Bylaw and Policy Sheet will be sent to each member when changes occur. Anyone may obtain a copy of the Bylaws and Policy Sheet by contacting the SDQHA Secretary or on the SDQHA website.
2. Membership Dues shall be as follows:
 - A. FULL MEMBERSHIP - \$50.00 (All rights and privileges). There will only be one fee for membership and that will be \$50.00 and will include the newsletter and directory, voting privileges, and show points to count for awards.
 - B. Dues statements will be sent to each member annually, and to each youth member completing their final year, at the time of the Annual Membership Meeting.
 - C. Dues paid after September 1 will apply to the following year as well as to the remainder of the current year.
 - D. Memberships may be family or individual or a corporation or business. A family membership will receive two votes.
3. A complete list of show dates will be published on the SDQHA Official Publication, the official SDQHA website, to help avoid duplication of show dates.
4. Salaries- Salaried positions will employ independent contractors. The SDQHA Board of Directors will contract salaried positions (Directory Provider, Association Secretary/Treasurer, Point Secretary) by independent bids commencing 30 days following the annual meeting.
5. The Vice President may seek professional assistance in order to implement the annual review of the Treasurer's books, at reasonable monetary expense. There shall be a yearly letter on file, signed by the Review Committee Chairperson and all committee members, stating whether the financial statements accurately represent the financial position of the organization.
6. Any and all complaints and/or concerns shall be expressed in writing and submitted to the Board of Directors for their consideration.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the SDQHA Secretary to remind the various committees and/or people and/or Board of Directors of necessary functions, duties, policies, etc.
8. This Policy Sheet may be changed at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors or the general membership.

GRIEVANCES

1. Inappropriate, abusive or obscene language or behavior directed at any member, committee member, director or officer of the SDQHA shall be strictly prohibited and shall be cause for immediate disciplinary action as defined under ARTICLE II. Section 4 of the SDQHA Bylaws.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1. The date of the Annual Membership Meeting shall be determined by a vote of the Board of Directors, early enough in the year to allow time for adequate planning.
2. Reports of the National Directors will be given at the Annual Business Meeting.
3. Bids received pertaining to the meeting shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors at a board meeting.
4. The location for the annual meeting will be determined by the Board of Directors.

SELECTION OF NATIONAL DIRECTOR NOMINEE

1. Any member seeking a National Director position shall submit to the National Director Selection Committee appointed by the President, a copy of the official AQHA National Director application form together with any additional written comments, by December 1.
2. Each National Director candidate shall have the opportunity to address the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting.
3. In order to be eligible to vote, SDQHA membership dues must be paid prior to September 30 of the year in which the current Annual Membership Meeting is being held. The Annual Membership Meeting concludes the twelve-month year but may be held in the next calendar year as needed.
4. SDQHA members eligible for voting in a National Director election must be present at the Annual Meeting in order for their vote to count. There shall be no mail-in and/or absentee ballots.

PAGE 2 – SOUTH DAKOTA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION POLICY SHEET

5. All eligible ballots cast at the Annual Meeting will then be opened and counted by the present National Directors.
6. The National Director candidate receiving the majority of the eligible votes cast shall win the election.

VOTING PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING A MAJORITY WINNER

1. The voting body shall cast their ballots.
2. Ballots are counted and the candidate receiving the majority shall be declared the winner.
3. If no majority is received by any one candidate, then the two candidates receiving the most ballots will participate in a final election and the one receiving the majority will be declared the winner.
4. If there is a tie in ballots cast in the initial election so it is impossible to select only two candidates for a final ballot, there will be a run-off election to select candidates for the final election. The candidate with the most ballots will then be in the final vote.
5. In each vote the voting body will only be instructed to please vote for the individual that would best represent them. They will not be told if the election is a final election or run-off election.
6. Example voting scenarios with more than two candidates, assuming 100 votes cast, requiring 51 ballots for majority:

A. Three candidate scenarios:

Initial vote

Candidate	1	2	3
Number of Votes	40	30	30

Run-off Vote

Candidate	2	3
Number of Votes	55	45

Final Vote

Candidate	1	2	3
Number of Votes	55	45	dropped

*Candidate Number 1 has won the election.

B. Four candidate scenario:

Initial vote

Candidate	1	2	3	4
Number of Votes	50	20	20	10

Run-off Vote

Candidate	2	3	4
Number of Votes	60	40	dropped

Final Vote

Candidate	1	2	3
Number of Votes	65	35	dropped

*Candidate Number 1 has won the election.

HANDLING OF ASSOCIATION MONIES

1. All Association funds not needed for operating expenses shall be kept in interest bearing savings accounts and/or certificates of deposit. The balance shall be kept in an interest-bearing account.
2. The Treasurer is required to maintain an itemized ledger for all SDQHA savings, banking, and investment accounts to be reported out at BOD meetings.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

1. An incumbent director is automatically nominated for re-election.
2. National Directors will be reaffirmed each year at the annual meeting.

DONATIONS

1. Donations for organizations outside the SDQHA shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

SDQHA OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

1. The SDQHA Official Publication advertising rates will be determined and approved by the Board of Directors.

PAGE 3 – SOUTH DAKOTA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION POLICY SHEET

2. The SDQHA Official Publication Editor/Webmaster shall be hired as an independent contractor by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors reserves the right to solicit bids for this position. Can be combined with other positions.

SHOW POLICIES

1. The SDQHA show approval form must be filed with the SDQHA Secretary at least 30 days prior to the show date. If not received in this time period, the show may not receive additional SDQHA promotion/marketing.
2. The intent of the Board is to not approve two state shows on the same date.
3. Shows seeking SDQHA approval will pay \$85 to SDQHA. Once payment is received, the SDQHA will publish the show's bill on the Official SDQHA Publication prior to the show. Individual and special events will pay \$50 to SDQHA for SDQHA event approval.
4. It shall be the responsibility of the show management to notify the SDQHA Point Secretary of any changes in show results made by AQHA as soon as the show management receives notification from AQHA.

AWARDS

1. The SDQHA will provide monies toward the following awards as the budget shall allow and the Board deems equitable.

Open Rookie Champion & Reserve Champion Show Horse
Open Rookie Champion & Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
Open Level 1 Champion & Reserve Champion Show Horse
Open Level 1 Champion & Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
Open Level 3 Champion & Reserve Champion Show Horse
Open Level 3 Champion & Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
Open Level 3 Champion & Reserve Champion Halter Horse

Amateur Rookie Champion & Reserve Champion Show Horse
Amateur Rookie Champion & Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
Amateur Level 1 Champion & Reserve Champion Show Horse
Amateur Level 1 Champion & Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
Amateur Level 3 Champion & Reserve Champion Show Horse
Amateur Level 3 Champion & Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
Amateur Level 3 Champion & Reserve Champion Halter Horse

Amateur Select Rookie Champion & Reserve Champion Show Horse
Amateur Select Rookie Champion & Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
Amateur Select Level 1 Champion & Reserve Champion Show Horse
Amateur Select Level 1 Champion & Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
Amateur Select Level 3 Champion & Reserve Champion Show Horse
Amateur Select Level 3 Champion & Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
Amateur Select Level 3 Champion & Reserve Champion Halter Horse

2. Winners of the awards mentioned in #1 above shall be allowed to receive cash corresponding to the value of individual class awards won, to be combined with the All-Around or Reserve All-Around Awards in order to obtain an award of greater value.
3. The SDQHA Board of Directors will choose an adult and youth sportsmanship award recipient annually. A nomination form for these awards will be published in the SDQHA Official Publication.
4. If award sponsors are obtained, they will receive appropriate recognition.
5. The Point Secretary shall be employed as an independent contractor by the Board of Directors.
6. The cut-off date for counting points toward year-end awards shall be September 30 of the current show season.
7. SDQHA Producer of the Year Award
 - A. Criteria
 - (1) Must own and breed at least 5 mares every year; bred to an AQHA stallion.
 - (2) Prove that they use them; measure of productivity like showing, ranch horse, rodeo, salability, etc.
 - (3) What are they giving back to the quarter horse industry? (Production sale, 4-H, rodeo, youth).

- (4) Must be nominated by someone else (member or non-member of SDQHA).
- (5) Nominee must be a member of SDQHA.
- B. Incentive for Ranch producers to attend the annual meeting
 - (1) Ranch producer that brings a friend gets free membership and meal.
- C. Producer Committee
 - (1) Chairman would be made public however the committee would be picked by the chairman and would be kept private.
- D. Venues where SDQHA can announce the Producer of the Year
 - (1) 20X Extreme Rodeo, SDHSRA Finals, BHSS & CSF Horse Sales, Brookings, Etc.

DIRECTORY PROVIDER

1. The Directory Provider shall be hired by the Board of Directors as an independent contractor.

SDQHA AFFILIATE MVP

In voting for the MVP, each youth SDQHYA membership, individual SDQHA membership, and SDQHA business membership shall have one vote. Each family SDQHA membership shall have 1 or 2 votes dependent on the membership status.

SOUTH DAKOTA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION POINT SYSTEM

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY:

Membership Requirements

To be eligible for Year-end awards, the exhibitor and all owners listed on the registration certificate must be current SDQHA members prior to first earning points. To promote participation, SDQHA will allow 7 days from first show for membership to be received by SDQHA. It is the responsibility of the members to verify receipt by the SDQHA Secretary.

AWARDS OFFERED:

1. Open Rookie Division
 - Open Rookie Champion Show Horse
 - Open Rookie Reserve Champion Show Horse
 - Open Rookie Champion Ranch Horse
 - Open Rookie Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
2. Open Level 1 Division
 - Open Level 1 Champion Show Horse
 - Open Rookie Reserve Champion Show Horse
 - Open Level 1 Champion Ranch Horse
 - Open Level 1 Reserve Champion Show Horse
3. Open Level 3 Division
 - Open Level 3 Champion Halter Horse
 - Open Level 3 Reserve Champion Halter Horse
 - Open Level 3 Champion Show Horse
 - Open Level 3 Reserve Champion Show Horse
 - Open Level 3 Champion Ranch Horse
 - Open Level 3 Reserve Champion Ranch Horse
4. Amateur Rookie Division
 - Amateur Rookie Champion Show Horse
 - Amateur Rookie Reserve Champion Show Horse
 - Amateur Rookie Champion Ranch Horse
 - Amateur Rookie Reserve Champion Ranch Horse

5. Amateur Level 1 Division

- Amateur Level 1 Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Level 1 Reserve Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Level 1 Champion Ranch Horse
- Amateur Level 1 Reserve Champion Ranch Horse

6. Amateur Level 3 Division

- Amateur Level 3 Champion Halter Horse
- Amateur Level 3 Reserve Champion Halter Horse
- Amateur Level 3 Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Level 3 Reserve Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Level 3 Champion Ranch Horse
- Amateur Level 3 Reserve Champion Ranch Horse

7. Amateur Select Rookie Division

- Amateur Select Rookie Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Select Rookie Reserve Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Select Rookie Champion Ranch Horse
- Amateur Select Rookie Reserve Champion Ranch Horse

8. Amateur Select Level 1 Division

- Amateur Select Level 1 Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Select Level 1 Reserve Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Select Level 1 Champion Ranch Horse
- Amateur Select Level 1 Reserve Champion Ranch Horse

9. Amateur Select Level 3 Division

- Amateur Select Level 3 Champion Halter Horse
- Amateur Select Level 3 Reserve Champion Halter Horse
- Amateur Select Level 3 Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Select Level 3 Reserve Champion Show Horse
- Amateur Select Level 3 Champion Ranch Horse
- Amateur Select Level 3 Reserve Champion Ranch Horse

10. Halter Awards

Halter Horse Awards will include the following classes: Stallions, Mares, Geldings, and Performance Halter.

11. Show Horse Awards

Show Horse Awards will include the following classes: Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Western Equitation, English Equitation, Western Riding, and Trail

12. Ranch Horse Awards

Ranch Horse Awards will include the following classes: Reining, Ranch Rail, Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, all Working Cowhouse Classes, Roping Classes and Speed Events

**If SDQHA approved shows offer other classes during the year, they will be grouped into the correct category.

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13. General Rules

In Open Divisions, points will be totaled on the horse and may have more than one exhibitor.

In Amateur and Select Amateur, points will be on a one horse/one rider basis. The top horse/exhibitor of Select Age will be awarded the Select Amateur Award. The top horse/exhibitor not of Select Age will be awarded the Amateur Award.

Presently there are no halter classes offered in Rookie or Level 1 therefore Champion Halter Awards are not given in those divisions.

CALCULATION OF STATE POINTS:

For individual classes, points will be awarded to entries according to the number of placings awarded by the AQHA Judge in each class with a maximum of 9 placings. Example: If a judge placed eight horses in a class, first place would receive 8 points, second 7, third 6, etc.

There will be 2 points for a Grand Champion in Halter and 1 point for a Reserve Champion in Halter.

OUR COMPETITION IS OPEN TO THE WORLD AND WILL FOLLOW AQHA RULES FOR HORSE ELIGIBILITY EXCEPT WHERE STATED IN THESE POLICY SHEETS.