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CHAPTER 21: ARABIAN HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION  
(AHYA)

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**INTRODUCTION**

The Arabian Horse Youth Association (AHYA) was established at the 1994 Annual Convention.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
ARABIAN HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1.**

The organization will be a division of the Arabian Horse Association and shall conduct business within the scope of the by-laws, Rules and Regulations of the Arabian Horse Association (AHA) and shall be called the Arabian Horse Youth Association.

**Section 2.**

The objectives and purposes of the Arabian Horse Youth Association hereafter referred to as the AHYA, shall be as follows:

- a. To acquaint youth association members with the organization, activities, and function of AHA.
- b. To promote the Arabian Horse.
- c. To provide an area for youth to develop their knowledge and capabilities in working with each other and Arabian Horses.
- d. To encourage scholarship, leadership and community interest as young citizens.
- e. To enable Youth Members to work in conjunction with the AHA Youth Advisory Board.

**ARTICLE II  
MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Types of Memberships**

This association shall have the following classes of members:

- a. AHYA Member Organization members: Consisting of active members of the AHA Youth Member Organizations. The designation "AHYA Member Organization" shall be defined as one youth Member Organization per AHA Member Organization, or any youth Member Organization acceptable to and approved by the AHYA and its Advisory Board.
- b. Individual members: Youth Membership is for individuals under the age of nineteen as of December 1 of the previous calendar year. (Res. 1-11)

**Section 2. Member Organizations**

The AHYA shall be composed of those Member Organizations which are affiliated with a regular member AHA Member Organization, or those youth Member Organizations acceptable to AHYA. These clubs shall be referred to as Member Organizations.

**Section 3. Admission of Member Organizations**

An AHYA Member Organization when not affiliated with an AHA Member Organization is eligible for membership with the AHYA when it:

- a. Submits application for membership with the AHYA. The application shall include:
  - 1) Name of Member organization.
  - 2) Aims and purposes, which shall not be contrary to those of the AHA or AHYA in any way.
  - 3) Names and addresses of the officers of the Member Organization.
  - 4) Name and address of each member in good standing of such Member Organization, which shall not be fewer than seven in number.

- 5) A written agreement of such Member Organization to be bound by the Articles of Incorporation and Constitution of the AHYA and Bylaws of the AHA, heretofore and hereafter duly adopted.
- 6) A written explanation as to why it can not affiliate with an AHA Member Organization.
- 7) A copy of the Member Organization's Constitution.

**Section 4.**

An AHYA Member Organization is considered in good standing with the AHYA when the following provisions are met:

- a. Annually, a minimum of seven individual membership fees be sent to AHYA along with a Member Organization membership list. AHYA is to be notified of any amendments made to the initial Member Organization constitution.
- b. No provision of the local AHYA Member Organization may be in conflict with the AHYA Constitution, AHA Bylaws, or general rules or regulations.
- c. Membership must be open to all youth under the age 19 as of **December 1** of the previous calendar year and under interested in the Arabian Horse.

**ARTICLE III  
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS,  
AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.**

The business and property of the organization shall be managed and controlled by the AHYA Board and the AHA Youth Advisory Board in conjunction with the AHA Youth Activities Committee under the direction of the AHA Youth Department.

**Section 2. Youth Delegates Representation**

- a. Any AHA/AHYA Youth member may be a delegate to the AHYA convention. (BOD 11/13)
- b. Each prospective delegate must be a member as of the **1<sup>st</sup> day of June** of that convention year. (BOD 11/13)

**Section 3. Youth Board of Directors**

Each of the eighteen (18) Regions will elect one Youth Member to serve as a Regional Youth Director on the Youth Board of Directors. In order to serve as Director, a youth must be a current member of a member organization located in the Region that he/she would represent, and be not fewer than 14 or more than 18 years of age as of **December 1<sup>st</sup>** of the first year of his/her two-year term. Upon election of their two-year term, they must not be less than 14 or older than 18 on **December 1<sup>st</sup>** of their two-year term.

Appointment/Elections of Regional Youth Directors:

Regional Youth Directors may be chosen as follows: by appointment per the Regional Youth Coordinator and Regional Director, or by other Regional officers at a Regional meeting; by a special selection committee composed of adult Regional officers; or by special election within that Region. Regions may choose to utilize the AHYA Youth Director Application. (BOD 8/04)

- a. Term of office: The term of office for each AHYA Regional Youth Director shall be a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years based on Regional discretion. This term will commence immediately following the annual AHYA Convention. No Regional Youth Director shall be eligible to hold office for more than two terms. Regional Youth Directors who have not completed their term and reach ineligible youth age may pay their AHA membership dues and finish their term with voting privileges. This will not entitle them to any other AHYA privileges, such as youth programs.
- b. Vacancy: In case of any vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled utilizing the procedures chosen by the Region which the Director represents, found in Section 3. (BOD 8/14)
- c. Quorum: A majority of the number of Youth Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

- d. Powers of the Board of Directors: The Youth Board of Directors shall have the power to take any action consistent with the current policy and purpose of AHA, subject to the approval of the AHYA Executive Committee.
- e. When a Regional Director is elected to an AHYA office, that director shall be replaced in his/her Region utilizing the procedures chosen by the Region which the Director represents, found in Section 3. (BOD 8/14)
- f. The Regional Youth Vice-Director may attend any open AHYA Board of Directors meeting when the Regional Youth Director is present or absent. The Regional Youth Vice-Director shall be entitled to attend any AHYA Board of Directors meeting and vote and shall count in determining a quorum of the AHYA Board of Directors if, and only if, the Regional Youth Director is absent.

**Section 4. Officers**

The officers of the organization shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President. Such officers shall hold that office for a period of one (1) year and until their successors are elected and qualified. Officers and Regional Directors shall take office at the close of the annual AHYA Convention.

- a. President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Youth Board. The President shall appoint all committees subject to the approval of the AHA Youth Advisory Board. The President shall report to all members annually on the status of the association and its activities during the preceding year. No director may serve more than two (2) terms of one year as President, unless to fill the unexpired term of the preceding President.
- b. Vice President: The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President and shall perform the duties as the President may prescribe.
- c. Secretary: The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Youth Board and shall record or cause to be recorded all votes taken. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all proceedings in a minute book of the association to be kept for that purpose.
- d. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the association. The Treasurer shall coordinate the collection of dues with the AHA Youth Department.
- e. Immediate Past President: The Immediate Past President shall serve as an advisor to the President.

**Section 5. Election Procedures**

- a. The elected officers of the AHYA shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- b. Election.  
The officers shall be elected by the Youth Delegates in attendance at the annual AHYA Convention.
- c. Qualifications.  
Candidates for office must be at least 14 years of age as of **December 1st** of the previous year. The candidates for office of President must have served at least 1 year on the AHYA Board of Directors. (BOD 8/14) The candidates for office must be a current Youth Member of the AHYA and have a minimum of 1 full year previous membership at time of election. In addition, candidates for the office of each officer shall at all times during his/her continuance in office, be a qualified member of the AHYA or AHA. (BOD 8/14)
- d. Application.  
Potential candidates must submit an application to the AHA office by a specified due date. All candidates must be present at the annual meeting of the AHYA, and will be required to give an introductory speech at the General Session.

**ARTICLE IV**

**ANNUAL YOUTH BOARD MEETINGS**

The Youth Board will have a minimum of one annual meeting. The time and place of the annual meeting(s) will be announced at the time of the annual meeting(s) of the previous year.

**ARTICLE V**

**ADVISORY BOARD**

The Advisory Board of the AHYA shall consist of the President of the AHA, Vice President, Executive Vice President, the Chair of the AHA Youth Activities Committee, a member of the AHA Youth Department, and any additional members appointed by the Executive Committee of the AHA. This Advisory Board shall consist of at least four adults to assist the officers and Board of Directors of the AHYA in directing the activities of the AHYA. All actions and activities of the AHYA are subject to the approval of the AHYA Executive Committee and the AHA Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VI**

**PLACE OF BUSINESS**

**Section 1.**

The place of business of this association shall be the AHA office in Aurora, Colorado.

**Section 2.**

All correspondence regarding the AHYA shall be directed to the Youth Department of the AHA in Aurora, Colorado.

**ARTICLE VII**

**AMENDMENTS**

The constitution of this organization may be amended at any time by the Youth Board with the approval of the AHA Youth Advisory Board and the AHA Board of Directors.