



NEW MEXICO QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

YOUTH HANDBOOK 2025-2026

All NMQHYA team members must comply with all qualifying rules/criteria within these qualifying time periods for the respective years. This applies to both in-state NMQHYA members and out-of-state AQHYA members wishing to file letters of hardship to attend the AQHYA World Show as state qualifiers to the New Mexico Quarter Horse Youth World Team.

Section I. Qualifying Period

- A. For the qualifying year 2025-2026, NMQHA has designated qualifying shows/events held within the state of New Mexico between May 1, 2025, and April 30, 2026, which constitutes the qualifying period consisted with the current AQHYA qualifying year period.

Section II. Membership/Residency Requirement

- A. NMQHYA State Team Qualifiers – Any youth wishing to compete at the AQHYA World Championship Show as a NMQHYA state qualifier must meet all membership rules including:
 - 1. Being a member of AQHA in good standing as of July 1st of the show year, per AQHA membership rules.
 - 2. Being a member of NMQHA in good standing on or before May 15th. Membership fee may accompany the team application. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- B. AQHYA World Show National Qualifiers – Any youth that is nationally qualified must meet the following membership rules including:
 - 1. Being a member of AQHA in good standing as of July 1st of the show year, per AQHA membership rules.
 - 2. No NMQHYA membership is required.
- C. NMQHYA World Show team members must meet the AQHYA residency requirements listed in each year's AQHYA World Show Competitor's Handbook.

Section III. Change of Affiliation Petition

- A. Youth from another state wishing to file a change of affiliation letter to become a member of the NMQHYA State World Show Team must complete the following:
 - 1. Submit official AQHYA Change of Affiliation to AQHA office by April 1st of the qualifying period.
 - 2. Change of Affiliation will be reviewed by AQHA and NMQHA separately. NMQHA will have final determination as to whether the youth applicant has met NMQHYA World Show Team requirements as a state qualifier and whether such a petition will be accepted.
 - 3. A dated and clearly defined change in affiliation letter filed with NMQHA youth advisor by April 1st of the qualifying period. The petition letter can be sent by email as an attached file. An email or text alone is not sufficient as an original petition.

Section IV. Team Participation

- A. All youth wishing to represent NMQHYA on the AQHYA World Show Team must demonstrate active engagement in the activities of the NMQHYA affiliate. This active engagement is to be demonstrated through meeting the following requirements by June 30 of the current show year:
1. Attendance at a minimum of 1 scheduled NMQHYA membership meeting.
 2. Participation in at least one NMQHYA fundraising activity.
 3. Participation in a minimum of 4 hours of volunteer work at an NMQHA approved event, such as LOEC, Border Circuit, or the Fun Shows.

Section V. NMQHYA State Team Application

- A. Youth must show at a minimum of 1 NMQHA approved show per class, per horse which you are qualifying. If a class is not offered at ALL NMQHA approved shows, youth must show at 1 sanctioned partner event per class, per horse which you are qualifying.
- B. Youth must complete the Youth Team Application form and have the show secretary sign-off on the form.
- C. NMQHA Approved Shows
- NMQHA Land of Enchantment Circuit
 - SWQHA Border Circuit
 - NMQHA/SWQHA Summer Socorro Show
 - New Mexico State Fair
- D. Sanctioned Partners include the following organizations:
- New Mexico Hunter Jumper Association (Arabian Club jumping classes)
 - New Mexico High School Rodeo Association
 - New Mexico Junior High School Rodeo Association
 - New Mexico 4-H Rodeo
 - New Mexico Cutting Horse Association
 - American Paint Horse Association
 - American Roan Horse Association
 - National Cutting Horse Association
 - National Reined Cow Horse Association
 - National Reining Horse Association
 - National Snaffle Bit Association
 - Barrel Racing Industry Alliance
 - Palomino Horse Breeders of America
 - International Buckskin Horse Association
 - American Buckskin Registry Association
 - World Conformation Horse Association
 - Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association
 - United States Dressage Federation
 - National Ranch and Stock Horse Alliance

Section VI. Petition Letters

- A. Youth wishing to petition for positions on the NMQHYA state team must complete the application of petition. Petition application for such classes/events must be submitted to the NMQHYA Youth Advisor to be forwarded to the NMQHA Board of Directors by May 15th following the end of the qualifying period.
- B. Petition forms must be accompanied by a check for \$1,000 for the petition to be considered and youth must become a member of NMQHYA.
 - 1. Each additional class with the same horse will only be \$25 per class.
- C. The NMQHA Board of Directors will review and consider all petition applications and render a decision on each petition requested based on the following criteria:
 - 1. Youth must be in good standing and AQHA and/or sanctioned Club.
- D. The NMQHA Board of Directors will review and consider all petition letters and render a decision by June 1st.
- E. The petition fee for a person attending their first World Show with NMQHYA will be waived.

Section VII. Fees

- A. A \$100 team fee will be assessed to all exhibitors who attend the AQHYA World Show on the NMQHA Youth Team. This fee is required whether the exhibitor is nationally qualified, or state qualified in addition to any AQHA/AQHYA fees.

Section VIII. Horse Substitutions

- A. A youth wishing to designate a different horse in a class/event from the horse they have compiled qualifying events on, must submit a letter of petition supporting the horse substitution to the NMQHYA Youth Advisor to be forwarded to the NMQHA Board of Directors for review by May 31st of the show year.

Section IX. National Qualifiers

- A. AQHYA National Qualifiers are considered members of NMQHYA. A nationally qualified youth wishing to petition into a state qualifying position in classes/events other than their National Qualified classes/events must have fulfilled all state affiliate membership and participation criteria as required of any other state qualifier. They will follow the same guidelines as the petition criteria for the new classes/events.

Section X. Selection, Notification, and Team Conduct

- A. Final team determination for the AQHYA World Championship Show will be made on or before June 15th of the qualifying year and the NMQHYA Youth Advisor will notify all team members. Team members will have 5 days in which to accept or refuse their positions. If refused, the NMQHYA Youth Advisor will offer the position to the next highest point earning youth in a class/event OR open that event to the petition if there are unfilled openings.
- B. Entry process will follow AQHA's instructions for that year's World Show.
- C. All team members will be required to sign and abide by the NMQHYA Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with the NMQHYA Code of Conduct while in attendance at the AQHYA World Championship Show will result in that youth being brought before the NMQHA Board of Directors for disciplinary action and/or possible expulsion as an NMQHYA member through official action of the NMQHA Board of Directors.

