

**Wisconsin Ranch Horse Association  
BY-LAWS**

Established January 27, 2008

**ARTICLE I**

This Association shall be called the Wisconsin Ranch Horse Association and is a non-profit organization in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

**ARTICLE II**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Wisconsin Ranch Horse Association is to provide a NON-PROFIT organization to promote, educate and encourage the exhibiting of the ranch horse by providing ARHA-approved shows and clinics. The activities are intended for the average owner of a registered stock type horse and provide an opportunity to participate in a friendly competition designed for any level horse and rider.

**ARTICLE III**

**Place of Business**

Business may be carried on in any part of the State of Wisconsin that is convenient to members and officials. The primary location of the business will be the home of record of the association President or Secretary as approved by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Membership**

1. Membership is open to any individual interested in the purpose of this organization, as long as that person is not under a current suspension from any equine organization.
2. This association will offer three membership levels; single, family and youth.

3. A family membership is defined as all members of a family residing in the same household as well as any children 18 or under.
4. Memberships run from January 1 to December 31 of each year.
5. All members 16 years of age and over are allowed to vote. Family memberships are entitled to two votes maximum.
6. Any member may be suspended or expelled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors upon proof of wrongdoing. The Board can deny part or all privileges associated with WRHA. Wrongdoing must be agreed upon by a majority vote (51%) of the Board of Directors. WRHA will automatically suspend any member that has been suspended by ARHA.
7. A current membership list with addresses and telephone numbers will be maintained by the Association. This list is not for sale for marketing purposes.

#### **ARTICLE V Point System**

The point system of the Wisconsin Ranch Association will follow the placing and point systems established by the American Ranch Horse Association.

#### **ARTICLE VI Activities**

1. All activities of this Association must be brought before the Board of Directors for approval prior to scheduling. A show committee will be appointed by the President to select dates, decide on a class list and prepare a show bill. Show committee will approve final show bill.
2. Any other committees will be appointed by the President as needed.

#### **ARTICLE VII Officers**

1. Officers of the club are elected positions and shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Any other positions (excluding Charter Rep) shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.

2. The Board of Directors shall consist of current officers and two other board members appointed by the President.
3. The Association will operate on a fiscal year of January 1 through December 31. Elections for new officers and Charter Rep to be held at the annual banquet at the end of the year. If unable to attend, absentee ballots will be accepted by mail to be received not later than two weeks prior to the banquet date (or accepted at the banquet). Absentee ballots are to be signed and must include WRHA membership number to be counted. Officers and board members must be current members in good standing of ARHA. Members in good standing are entitled to one vote (two for family membership). Nominations for positions will be submitted in writing or by email to the President and/or Secretary after the last show of the year but before November 30.
4. Officers and board members to be 18 years of age or older.

#### **ARTICLE VIII** **Duties of Officers**

The affairs of this Association are to be managed by its elected officers and Board of Directors. The officers and Board of Directors shall have the authority to make, amend, repeal and enforce such rules and regulations (not contrary to By-Laws) as deemed necessary concerning the management and activities of WRHA to include the expenditure of money, conduction of shows and/or clinics, suspension of members or fixing of fees, subject to the approval by the members at any regular or special membership meeting. When deemed necessary, the Board of Directors may take whatever action is needed to promote and protect the primary By-Laws of WRHA without membership vote based on 51 percent majority vote of the Board.

**President** - The President will be the Chief Executive Officer of WRHA and shall have general direction and charge of the conduct and operation of said club. President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and shall perform such duties as ordinary to this office. President shall have the authority to execute such documents of every nature on behalf of WRHA.

**Vice President** - The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of his or her duties and shall officiate in the absence of the President. Vice President will have the authority and all powers of the President when, for any reason, the President is unable to attend meetings or perform his or her duties.

**Secretary** - The Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings, call roll and maintain a log of all persons attending meetings. The Secretary will maintain and update membership list mail membership cards and receive and distribute all WRHA mail to appropriate persons.

**Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall collect and disburse the funds of this Association. The Treasurer will be responsible for the money and shall give written financial reports at every meeting. The Treasurer will keep an accurate bookkeeping system and be responsible for disbursing funds under the direction of the Board of Directors. If the Treasurer is unable to perform these duties, the President is authorized to do so. An annual audit will be required during the fourth quarter of each calendar year by two Board members and the Treasurer.

**Board of Directors** - The Board of Directors shall meeting semi-annually or at any other time deemed necessary. The Board of Directors shall have authority to make, amend, enforce and/or repeal such rules and regulations and amend WRHA By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE IX Meetings**

1. WRHA will meet semi-annually at a place designated by the membership. Members will be advised of meetings by email.
2. Board meetings will be held semi-annually or on an as-needed basis. A special meeting may be called in such case as deemed necessary by the President. If the President is unable to attend, than the meeting should be called by the Vice President.

## **ARTICLE X Voting**

Members in good standing are entitled to one vote (two for family membership). Nominations for positions will be submitted in writing or by email to the President and/or Secretary after the last show of the year but before November 30.

## **ARTICLE XI Indemnification**

Each Director, Officer and committee person of said WRHA shall be indemnified by WRHA against all costs, expenses and liabilities reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with or resulting from any action, suit or proceeding to which he or she may make a party by reason of his or her being or having been a Director, Officer or committee person of WRHA, except in relation to matters which shall have been occasioned by the wilful misconduct or dishonesty of such an Officer, Director or committee person. The foregoing indemnification shall cover amounts paid in settlement of any such action, suit or proceeding when such settlement appears to be of the interest in WRHA. The foregoing shall be in addition to any other rights to which such Directors, Officers or committee person may be entitled as a matter of law

## **ARTICLE XII Dissolution of Club**

In the event of the dissolution of the Wisconsin Ranch Horse Association, any assets remaining after club liabilities have been paid are to be distributed by the current Board of Directors to such organizations operated exclusively for agricultural purposes as shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501.c of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **Amendments**

Amendments to these By-Laws may be submitted by any current member of WRHA. Amendments will be acted and voted upon by the Board of Directors with final approval by the membership at the next membership meeting.