

TEXAS DRAFT HORSE AND MULE ASSOCIATION

----- BY LAWS ---- Revised 01.13.2024

ARTICLE I ORGANIZATION

The Texas Draft Horse and Mule Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association, is organized as a non-profit organization conforming to the laws and statutes of the State of Texas.

The Legal address of the Association is the address of the current Secretary of the Association.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Purpose of the Association is to promote breeding, development, training, marketing and use of draft horses and mules. Draft Horses are defined as mature animals of at least 14.2 hands or 58 inches of the recognized Draft Breeds. Draft Mules must be 14.2 hands or 58 inches when mature.

These purposes shall be accomplished in a variety of mechanisms including but not limited to the following.

- a. The Association shall sponsor and conduct a scheduled annual series of draft horse and mule exhibitions, shows, pulling contests and other activities in which teamsters can participate with draft horses and mules.
- b. The Association shall sponsor and conduct a scheduled annual series of educational seminars, clinics and short courses on breeding management, care, training and use of draft horses and mules.
- c. The Association shall publish and distribute to members a quarterly newsletter relating to upcoming events and activities, results of significant activities, animals and/or equipment for sale, horse production information and other information of interest to the membership.
- d. The Association shall develop special activities for young people and encourage shows and contests to conduct separate activities for youth 18 years and under.
- e. The Association shall develop an annual awards program to encourage wide participation in draft horse and mule activities.
- f. The Association shall encourage members to participate in any wholesome activities relating to draft animals.
- g. The Association shall support and participate in civic activities and demonstrations relating to draft horses and mules, i.e., parades, shows, field days, etc.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Membership is open to anyone in any state that owns, shows, raises, or is in any way interested in the promotion of draft horses and mules or in any business related to the draft horse and mule industry.

The control of the Association is vested in its membership.

Annual dues are payable to the Secretary-Treasurer on the 1st day of the fiscal year to ensure no lapse in membership in the Association.

Dues are \$50.00 per year for a family membership and \$30 per year for an individual membership. Anyone over 18 years of age will need their own membership.

The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE IV VOTING AND QUORUM

After proper notification to the members of a meeting, those present shall represent a quorum empowered to conduct all business and election of officers.

Each individual member is entitled to one vote and family memberships are entitled to two votes to be cast in person in any business meeting or for the election of officers of the Association.

ARTICLE V ANNUAL MEETING

A business meeting shall be held annually to conduct all business that shall properly come before the membership.

All members shall be notified by email, website or newsletter of the date and place of the Annual Meeting. Notification will be given at least seven days prior to the Annual Meeting or other special membership meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Officers and Directors of the Association shall be at least 21 years of age and shall be actively engaged in the breeding or ownership of draft horses and/or mules and have been a member in good standing for one year.

a. Officers

The Membership shall elect the following officers at the Annual Meeting. These officers will be elected every two years.

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary-Treasurer

The Terms of all officers shall be two years. The President and Vice-President must have been a Director prior to being elected to either of these offices.

b. Directors

1. Six members are to be elected to serve as Directors.
2. Three Directors are to be elected each year.
3. Directors will serve for a period of two years.

c. Reporter and Historian

The President shall appoint, from a list of volunteers, a News Reporter and a Historian. These positions are not included in the Board of Directors nor the Executive Committee.

d. Board of Directors

The Officers and Six Directors shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors meetings may be called from time to time by the President.

A Quorum will consist of a majority of the Board.

Should a Director miss two consecutive meetings without good cause, the remaining Directors may, at their discretion, ask for his resignation and replace him with an Executive Appointment.

e. Nominating Committee

A nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President to nominate members for all offices. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor. All nominees must make a written or verbal commitment that they will serve as Officers and/or Directors, attend the meetings and do the required work.

f. Youth Representative

Duties of the Youth Representative include:

1. Distribution of ribbons and trophies at shows and events.
2. Promotion of interest in draft animals and in the TDHMA.
3. Assistance with publicity and other duties in conjunction with special events.
4. Attendance at two (minimum) major events the fiscal year.
5. Representing the TDHMA in occasional public speaking forums.

Qualifications for Youth Representative are as follows:

1. Must demonstrate the ability to show a draft animal at halter and performance class.
2. Must be between 13-18 years of age at the time of election.
3. Must have current (paid) status on individual or family TDHMA membership dues.
4. Must be the child or grandchild of an owner of draft horse or mule and have a genuine interest in draft animals.
5. Must be committed to attending as many functions of the Association as possible and have parental consent for out-of-town travel.

The Youth Representative shall be elected at the annual meeting along with the officers and directors. The term of office shall be one year. The candidate receiving the second-most votes shall be elected as the Alternate Youth Representative.

g. Lifetime Director

This is a non-voting, honorary position, unless they are elected to the Board of Directors or an officer position. Criteria for the Lifetime Director are as follows:

1. Minimum 65 years old
2. Minimum 15 years **active** service to TDHMA, not just a member
3. Nominated by members throughout the year, in writing with a bio about nominee
4. Voted on by the Board of Directors
5. Lifetime Directors would be given a framed certificate or plaque
6. Would receive lifetime membership without dues

ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Between annual meetings the control of the Association is vested in the Executive Committee which consists of the President, Vice-President, and the Secretary/Treasurer. In any business of importance other than the regular conduct of the Association, the Board of Directors must be contacted for counsel consent.

ARTICLE VIII
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM


- a. Applicants must be a senior in high school or currently enrolled in an accredited High School and under the age of 25.
- b. Applicants must be a member of the TDHMA (family or individual) for a minimum of three years.
- c. Applicants must complete scholarship application and 500-word essay (How draft horses have influenced my life) for TDHMA Board of Directors approval
- d. Applications must be received by the secretary/treasurer on or before June 1st of each year.
- e. Applicants must be accepted and enrolled at an accredited university or trade school.
- f. Applicants may receive only one scholarship from the TDHMA.
- g. Scholarship is valid for 12 months from award date
- h. Recipients must provide student account number/ID number and address to the TDHMA Secretary/Treasurer for the scholarship fund to be mailed directly to the school.
- i. Scholarship is a maximum of \$1,000 based on board discretion and funds availability
- j. Mail or email completed application with 500-word essay to Secretary/Treasurer on or before June 1st

ARTICLE IVI
AMENDMENTS

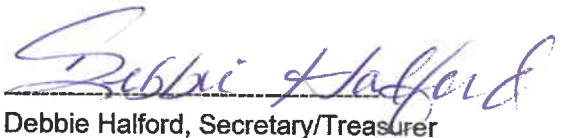
The membership may change, delete, or add to these By-Laws, if approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members voting at any annual meeting or special called meeting.

APPROVED:

The By-Laws of the Texas Draft Horse and Mule Association were approved by unanimous voice vote at the Organizational Meeting held January 13, 2024, at Ledbetter, Texas.



Alan Fry, President



Debbie Halford, Secretary/Treasurer