Mojave River Valley Horsemen's Association

PO Box 171 Apple Valley, CA 92307

BY-LAWS

Mojave River Valley Horsemen's Association

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be the Mojave River Valley Horsemen's Association, and the official abbreviation will be MRVHA.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. Mission Statement: To provide the opportunity for equine enthusiasts of all ages and levels of expertise to ride, show and compete in an atmosphere focused on safety, fun, friendship and skill building for both the horse and rider. To provide quality Horse Shows and other related activities and to stimulate local community interest in horsemanship and horses. To guide young people in the development of horsemanship, showmanship and sportsmanship.

Section 2. Policy: This Organization shall not involve itself in issues not directly pertaining to the business of MRVHA; and, it will conduct all business to the highest ethical standards and without prejudice.

ARTICLE III
Organization

Section 1. This organization is a non-profit association, organized under the laws of the State of California.

Before the Mojave River Valley Horsemen's Association (MRVHA) may be dissolved or permanently closed, the proposed dissolution must be presented to the General Membership for a vote.

A majority vote of the General Membership is required to approve the dissolution of the Association. The Board of Directors may not dissolve or close the Association without membership approval.

Section 2. The office of this organization shall be located at the home of the current President, Secretary or an appointed club member, as determined by the Board of Directors. The legal books of the Club shall be kept in a safe deposit box. The Treasurer, Secretary or appointed Board member shall be signatories and hold keys to the safety deposit box and post office box.

ARTICLE IV
Membership

Section 1. Membership shall consist of breeders, owners, exhibitors, and anyone of good moral character interested in participating in equine events for the benefit of both themselves and their horse(s). Day memberships are required of non-members and automatically granted upon payment of approved fees at each MRVHA event. Day memberships do not confer voting or any other privilege granted with other types of annual memberships.

Section 2. Types of Memberships:

A. Individual Adult membership is a person with no family, or an unmarried or a married person whose family has no interest in the activities of this club.

B. Family memberships include one adult member, their significant other, and junior members. Each adult included in the Family Membership shall be entitled to one (1) vote, for a maximum of two votes per Family Membership.

C. Junior Memberships:

1. Junior membership may be granted to any person under the age of 18 years as of January 1st. Said applicants shall submit their application, along with dues. The application form must be signed by the junior's parent(s) or guardian. Junior members shall have all the privileges of active members, except those of voting or holding appointed or elected offices.

D. Honorary membership:

1. May be conferred by the Board of Directors upon a person who has rendered unusual or outstanding service to this association or to the horse community in general. Non-voting membership valid for one-year only.

E. Lifetime memberships are to be held in an individual's name only.

Section 3. All applicants shall submit a request for membership on an approved MRVHA Membership Application.

Section 4. Membership dues:

A. Are set amounts for either family or individual adults; Junior Membership dues will be set at a lower amount, Lifetime Membership at a higher rate. There is no fee for an honorary membership.

B. Membership shall be on a yearly basis, January 1st through December 31st. Dues will not be prorated for those persons joining the club at other times throughout the year.

Dues notices should be sent 45 days in advance of the due date.

ARTICLE V
Elected Officers and Directors

Section 1. The elected governing body of this Association shall consist of four officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Directors. The office of President should be filled by a member who has previously served on the MRVHA Board of Directors for a minimum of two years. Both Officers and Directors shall comprise the full complement of the Board of Directors.

A. The Show Chairman shall be appointed by the Officers of the Association as the fifth Director, as provided by Article V, Section 3, Paragraph E.

Section 2. Duties of Officers and Directors

A. President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the association and the Board of Directors; to sign all contracts and obligations along with the Secretary, Treasurer or selected Directors; to call special meetings; to appoint special committees. The President shall, in conjunction with the Officers and

Directors, cause an agenda to be prepared for each meeting which will be published by the Secretary a minimum of two weeks prior to a meeting. The president shall be an ex officio member of every committee. The President shall act as the Exhibitor Liaison at the Association events and address any issues of safety and welfare.

B. Vice President: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to exercise any power or duty of the President in the absence of the president; and to succeed to the office of the President in case of vacancy. The Vice President shall act as the Membership Chairman.

C. Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to take the minutes of all regular meetings and Board meetings, said minutes to be published within two weeks of any meeting; to handle such correspondence as necessary or may be required; to give notice of all regular and special meetings including elections; and to have the Secretary's book available for inspection at all meetings.

In the unusual circumstance that both the President and the Vice President have vacated their offices, the Secretary shall exercise the power of the President, solely for the purpose of convening a Board meeting; the sole business of this meeting is the selection of new officers to fill the unexpired term of the vacated offices.

D. Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect all monies due the Association; to have the care and custody of all monies and securities belonging to the Association and to hold and disburse them according to the direction of the Board of Directors; to present a financial report at each meeting, including a profit and loss show report as warranted; and to sign checks for the Association, along with another designee of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the Safe deposit box and post office box keys, along with a second designee from the Board. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the filing of tax documents annually and/or hiring a Tax accountant should further assistance be needed.

E. In the case of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall be appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy at the next regular meeting. In case of a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, Treasurer or Director, the vacancy shall be filled by the Club at a regular meeting, upon one week's notice of nomination(s) by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Board Member Nomination and Election Process

1. Members may submit nominations by mail or in person.
2. Each nominee will be contacted and asked whether they accept the nomination and wish to be included on the ballot.
3. All nominees must be current members in good standing or become members for the current membership year before their name is placed on the election ballot.
4. All nominees who accept their nominations will be placed on the election ballot.
5. The completed ballot will be distributed to all members by mail.
6. If only one nominee is listed for a particular Board position, write-in candidates shall be permitted for that position. Members may write in the name of any eligible member who is willing to serve.
7. All members are eligible to vote for the accepted nominees or eligible write-in candidates to fill the Board of Directors positions.

8. The nominee or eligible write-in candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be elected.

Section 4. Terms of Office:

A. There shall be no limitations on the consecutive length of time any Officer, Director, Chairman or volunteer shall serve the Association.

B. In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the remaining Board of Directors have the option to 1) make an appointment to fill the vacancy, or 2) to allow the vacancy to stand and base the quorum on the remaining Board members.

Out-going Officers and Directors will be responsible for transitioning duties, documents and Association assets to newly elected and/or appointed replacements.

ARTICLE VI
Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees: The members of the Standing Committee shall serve a term of one year. Standing Committees shall have the power to take all actions necessary to carry out the assigned duties and functions, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

The Standing Committees shall be:

A. Membership Committee: The Association Vice president serves as chairperson of this committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to encourage new memberships. They shall maintain a list of all current members for use in the Show office, and provide a membership list to the Board as updated.

B. By-Laws Committee: This committee chairman shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The By-Laws shall be reviewed every five years following the date of By-Laws adoption.

C. Show Committee: The chairperson of the Show Committee shall be appointed by the Board of directors at the first board meeting following the installation of officers, typically the January Board Meeting.

1. The Show Committee shall consist of Officers, Directors, Club members and volunteers, and shall plan and direct all shows in accordance with the appropriate rule book and the Association's Rules and Regulations. The Show Committee shall select judges, obtain awards, publicize shows and take any other reasonable steps necessary to the successful production of a Horse Show, including making necessary expenditures. They shall hear and rule upon all protests, referring to the appropriate rule book. Appeals on the Show Committee's decisions shall be directed to the Board of Directors.

D. Nominating Committee: This Committee shall be appointed and the election shall be held in accordance to Article V, Section 3.

E. All standing committees shall be discharged after the Annual Meeting.

1. Out-going Committee members will be responsible for transitioning duties, documents and Association assets to the newly appointed replacements or the President.

Section 2. Special Committees: The chairperson and membership of such a committee shall be appointed by the President as the need arises, to carry out a specific task. Special Committee chairpersons may be either active members or volunteers.

ARTICLE VII
Meetings

Section 1. Monthly Board meetings shall be held at convenient places, centrally located to all Board members. Board Members shall be notified by the Secretary with an Agenda and the previous meeting's minutes at least ten days prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Four general membership meetings may be held throughout the year and one of those meetings shall be the Annual Membership and Awards Banquet. Dates, agenda and location to be determined well in advance by a Committee appointed by the Board. These meetings shall be open to the public and promoted within the region well in advance of the event dates by the Secretary.

Section 3. Committee Meetings shall be held as the need arises. The time and place of committee meetings shall be determined by the chairperson.

Section 4. Members, volunteers and other interested parties may be invited or request to speak at a Board Meeting with advance notification made to any Board Member.

Section 5. The Officers and Board of Directors may declare an Executive session only for the consideration of membership or disciplinary matters. The minutes shall only record the motion, if any, and whether or not the motion passed or failed.

Section 6. Meetings may be held via conference call, or via online. Under certain instances, a vote of the Board of Directors may utilize phone, fax or email.

Section 7. The annual meeting of the Club shall be at the awards banquet customarily held in December. The membership of this Club shall be given at least one month's notice of the date and place of the annual meeting. Location of the annual meeting will be selected by a Committee appointed by the Board of Directors. A majority vote of the current paid up members present will constitute a legal transaction of the MRVHA business at this meeting.

ARTICLE VIII
Disciplinary Action

Section 1. An elected officer of this Association may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the General Membership in good standing present at the meeting at which the item is being put to a vote. An appointed committee member may be removed in the same manner by a vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Association will not tolerate acts considered to be unbecoming to a member. These acts shall include, but are not limited to the following: obscenity, public profanity, drunkenness, unsportsmanlike conduct, misuse or violation of the rules, or cruelty or misuse of horses or any other animal on the grounds of a MRVHA event.

Section 3. Individual or family memberships may be terminated or suspended by the Board of Directors following a hearing which should determine the appropriate penalty for a given misconduct. The individual or family to be considered in such a hearing shall be notified in writing of the intention of the Board of Directors to hold such a hearing at least one week prior to the hearing and shall have the right to appear at and be heard at the hearing.

ARTICLE IX
Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for this Association and shall apply in all cases not covered by the By-Laws.

ARTICLE X
Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to these By-Laws may be originated by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors or any active members.

Section 2. Amendments are to be submitted, in writing, to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have two regular meetings in which to consider said amendments, the Board of Directors then must pass the amendment on to the Membership for a vote to adopt. The Board of Directors may attach recommendations to the amendment.

Section 3. The Secretary shall cause a notice with Board recommendations, ballot and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be sent to all members in good standing and eligible to vote. The notice shall include the proposed amendment alongside the existing By-Laws and the recommendation of the Board of Directors. This notice shall be mailed at least 21 days before the ballot is due to the Secretary or By-Laws Committee Chair.

A. Adoption of the Amendment shall require an affirmative simple majority vote of those members returning a ballot and eligible to vote.

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PO Box 171 Apple Valley, CA 92307

September 27, 2013: Approved by MRVHA Board of Directors

September 11, 2026: Approved by MRVHA Members in Good Standing