

How the ASHBA Proposed Bylaws Affect Members and Horse Shows

Many of you have heard through social media, ASHBA mailings and email blasts that there is a proposed change to the bylaws of the ASHBA. Here is what we know so far:

What's Happening?

On January 8, American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association (ASHBA) member, Scott Hagan, in accordance with Article XVI, Section 3, proposed amendments to the current ASHBA Bylaws to be voted on by the Membership at the ASHBA Annual Meeting on February 13 in Lexington, Kentucky.

How do the Proposed Bylaws affect me as a Member?

According to proponents, the proposed bylaws will:

1. Return control of the Association to the Membership by returning the ability to vote for the Board of Directors,
2. Prohibit amending the bylaws without vote of the membership (requiring 2/3 majority of the members voting to amend the bylaws),
3. Reduce the number of Board Members from 18 to 11 to improve accountability and productivity,
4. Populate the Board with at least six amateurs and four professionals, six of whom must be breeders (whether professional or amateur); and
5. Prohibit ASHBA Directors from holding positions as Directors/Officers of any other associated equestrian organization (such as USEF, UPHA or ESC) to eliminate potential conflicts of interest.

How Does This Affect Horse Shows?

On January 5, the ASHBA sent out the "2025 Horse Show Application" to all horse show managers and secretaries. (As you know, the KSF WCHS is handling their own qualifications, so that is no longer a function of being an ASHBA Star Show.) However, for horse shows to have their competition results recorded with the Registry on the horse's record, shows must choose from three options:

1. USEF/USEF Lite;
2. Star Show (USEF Saddlebred and Half-Saddlebred rules must be used for competition); or
3. "Non-Affiliate" Horse Show.

In order for a show to choose any other governance option, the only available choice is #3, "Non-Affiliate" which is the most costly and the most restrictive. It offers NO CH Points, NO points earned towards ASHBA Year End High Point Awards, and NO National Select Series classes can be offered. **We are hopeful that a change in the bylaws and new leadership will result in ASHBA taking a more governance-neutral position moving forward.**

If you agree that members, under current ASHBA rules:

- 1. are being denied the opportunity for input in selecting which individuals are elected to the ASHBA Board of Directors, and**
- 2. are being denied a voice in the decisions that the Association is making with regard to matters that affect us all**

Then a “YES” vote in favor of the proposed bylaws would return your right to have a vote/voice in these important decisions.

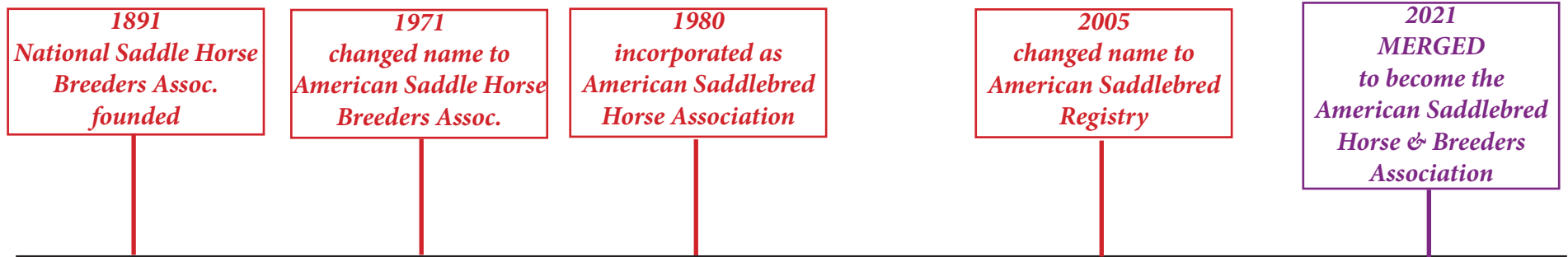
How Can I Learn More?

- 1. ASBNewDirection.com website**
- 2. [Donna Pettry-Smith on Facebook](#)**

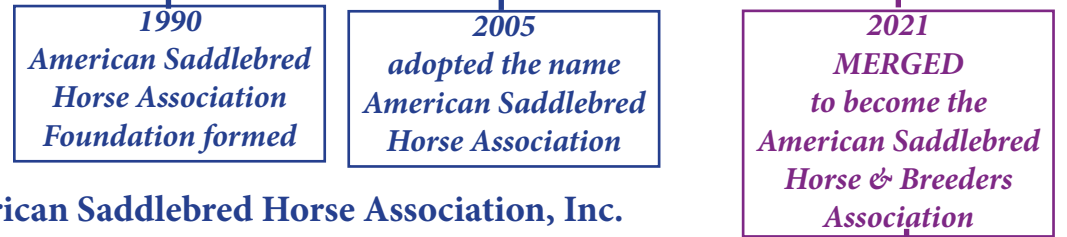
What Can I Do?

- 1. Join ASHBA no later than **February 10, 2025.** Only current members can vote on the proposed bylaw changes.**
- 2. Stay Informed.** Use the links above to stay current with ongoing developments
- 3. If you want to vote “YES” for the NEW Proposed Bylaws:**
 - Use the enclosed Blank Proxy Form
 - Fill in a 2025 Member’s Name who will be attending the meeting in person, or fill in **Anna Marie Knipp**
 - Fill in your name, membership number and legible signature.
 - Give to your Proxy of choice to deliver to the meeting, or if you named Anna Maire, email to her @ AnnaMarieKnipp@yahoo.com **NO LATER THAN FEBURARY 10, 2025.**
 - Anna Marie is a CURRENT ASHBA Board Member and is voting YES to the proposed bylaw change at the Member Meeting on February 13, 2025 in Lexington. She is also willing to answer any questions you might have regarding the recent Audit, the situation with the KSF WCHS futurity/sweepstakes classes, or any other concerns that you may have. Feel free to email her!

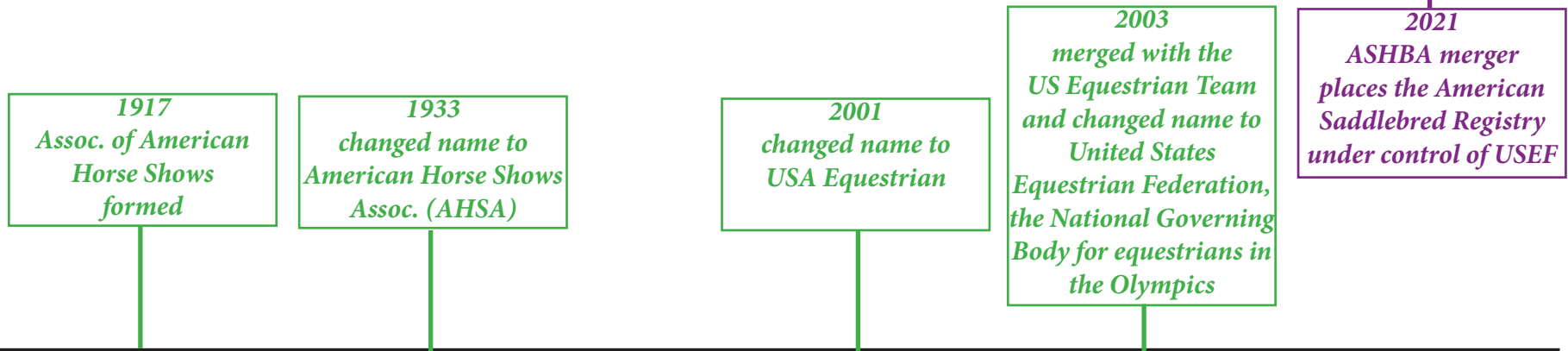
History of the American Saddlebred Registry, Inc.



History of the American Saddlebred Horse Association, Inc.



History of the United States Equestrian Federation



**GENERAL PROXY FOR AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE
AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBER MEETING**

The undersigned, as eligible voting member of American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association, Inc., a Kentucky nonprofit corporation, hereby revokes any previous proxies and appoints

_____ (Proxy)

as proxy of the undersigned member to attend any and all meetings of the members of the Association and to represent, vote, execute consents and waivers, and otherwise to act for the undersigned in the same manner and with the same effect as if the undersigned were personally present at any such meeting and voting such membership interest or personally acting on any matters submitted to members for approval or consent.

The undersigned authorizes such proxy to substitute any other person to act under this proxy, to revoke any such substitution, and to file this proxy and any substitution or revocation of substitution with the Association.

This proxy may be revoked at any time by the undersigned, and unless revoked shall terminate 60 days after full completion (after rescheduling or continuation, if any), of the next annual members meeting.

Dated: _____

ASHBA Member No.: _____

Print Member name: _____

_____ [signature of Member]