

**HANSON RIDING CLUB
BY-LAWS**

Amended as of ~~February 16, 2020~~ March 10, 2024

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Hanson Riding Club, Inc., and shall be referred to hereafter as such.

Article II – Objects

The objectives of the association are to foster, encourage and promote the general interest, welfare, and study of the horse; to ride the trails, hold horse shows, other equine activities and to make high score awards to the leading point winners at shows and trail rides according to the scoring system and rules adopted in 1956, together with amendments and revisions as subsequently adopted.

Article III – Policy

The policy of the organization shall be to cooperate with and assist various local organizations in their efforts in all phases of horse activities in accordance with Chapter 180 General Laws. No profits shall inure to any individual member of this corporation from club-sanctioned activities other than essential paid positions.

Article IV – Membership and Dues

Membership in this organization shall be granted after an application for the same has been submitted by the interested party to the membership secretary (chairperson). Membership is open to individuals, families, and juniors.

- a) Adult Membership: Members over eighteen years of age on the preceding 1st of January.
- b) Junior Membership: Members under eighteen years of age on the preceding 1st of January.
- c) Family Membership: Members shall be considered to consist of a Parent(s) or Guardian(s) and any of their “Junior” children residing in the same household.
- d) Life Membership: An individual member who has paid a lifetime membership fee.

Article V - Rules of Procedure

All business shall be conducted in accordance with “Robert’s Rules of Order”:

Article VI – Powers and Duties of Officers

Elections will be held on an annual basis at the final open meeting for positions that are expiring, some special elections may be held to prevent multiple concurrent vacancies.

Section 1: President:

- a) The President shall preside over board meetings, delegate duties, appoint committees and appoint chairmen for special functions at open meetings.

Section 2: Vice President:

- a) The Vice President shall preside over meetings and carry on duties of the president during his or her absence.

Section 3: Recording Secretary:

- a) The Recording Secretary keeps complete records of the proceedings of the club.

Section 4: Treasurer:

- a) The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the club, keep the accounts.
- b) Prior approval of the board shall be sufficient warrant for the payment of any indebtedness to the club.
- c) Shall be responsible for renewing insurance policies for club.

- d) Books shall be audited annually by an audit committee comprised of the treasurer and two HRC NON board members, and appointed by the board.

Article VII – Board of Directors

Section 1: Henceforth, the Board of Directors shall be called the board.

Section 2: The board will consist of:

- a) Officers (as described in Article VI) for a two year term.
- b) The immediate past President as advisory only (for 1 year).
- c) Eight members elected at large:
 1. Two for a one year term.
 2. Two for a two year term
 3. Two for a three year term
 4. Two alternate for a one year term

Section 3: Any board member or officer who is absent 3 times in a fiscal year (unless absence was excused by board) shall be required to resign. The vacancy shall be filled by the alternate board member or by the board.

Section 4: Two alternate board members shall be chosen from the list of those running for a position but not selected, and shall replace any board member who is absent or who may have abstained from their duties through resignation or removal.

Section 5: Membership Secretary – Shall keep accurate dated records of membership and will provide current lists of members to the board and/or other committees as needed with approval by the board for purposes of club use only.

Section 6: Point Secretary – Shall keep updated lists of members' points on horse shows and trail rides, making point standings available, after events, to the newsletter editor for publication.

Final points will be totaled after the last HRC event of the season and then posted for approval and publication as year-end final standings. Point Secretary may appoint a committee to review points as needed.

Section 7: Appointed Chairmanship:

- a) Legislative Chairperson – To keep members informed of upcoming legislative actions that can affect us in any way, horse related issues and to advise on voting for, or writing to individual legislators.
- b) Trail Rides Chairperson: To run pleasure/judged trail rides in accordance with the N.E.H.T. rule book, to handle all aspects of each ride.
- c) Activities Chairperson: To run an event for the sole purpose and enjoyment of the members and their families.

All preceding positions shall be appointed by the board with a 2/3 majority vote.

Article VIII– Meetings

Section 1: Open meetings shall be a minimum of once a year. Open meetings may include but are not limited to clinics, demonstration and guest speakers. Dates will be posted in the newsletter, on the website, by electronic or special mailing.

Board meetings of the club shall be held on the first Friday of each month or at the request of the president and/or the board of directors.

- Section 2: Quorum: 15 members shall constitute a quorum at an open HRC meeting. 6 board members will constitute a quorum at a board meeting.
- Section 3: Voting Requirements: All club members in good standing at an open meeting are eligible to vote, except Junior Members.
- Section 4: Nominations: Open positions will be posted on the website and social media. Nominations will be accepted up to November 1st. Candidates will be posted in the Winter newsletter with ballot.
- Section 5: Voting: Available Officer and Board Member positions will be voted on once a year at the ~~January~~ banquet. Ballots will be provided at the meeting and write ins will be accepted. Absentee ballots will be made available by mail and digitally.

Article IX – Removal of Officers, Board Members, Chairmen, General Members

The procedure to have any member removed is as follows:

- a) The board has the power to dismiss any member for non-payment of dues, disorderly conduct, un-sportsman like conduct, inhumane treatment to an animal, or conduct detrimental to Hanson Riding Club Inc.
- b) Written notice of complaint must be received by the board within one week of the date of the incident in order to be presented for discussion at the next board meeting.
- c) The member against whom the complaint has been filed will be notified in writing with specifics of the complaint and given ample opportunity to be heard before the board at the following meeting.
- d) A 2/3 majority vote of the board is required for dismissal.
- e) An appeal of the decision may be made in writing within ten days to the board and to be placed on the agenda of the next open meeting for a vote.

Article X – General Complaints

- a) Complaints or concerns regarding a specific incident at any HRC event or function must be reported within 24 hours to the event chairperson.
- b) Complaints not filed or resolved the day of the incident must be submitted in writing, dated, signed and received by the board within 7 days after the incident.
- c) Issue will be discussed at the following board meeting with a 2/3 vote for resolution.
- d) Claimant will receive notification of resolution in writing.

Article XI – Amendments

These by-laws may be presented for amendment by:

- a) The Board.
- b) Any member in good standing may present, in writing, to any member of the board, any proposal to amend. Changes will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- c) Written notification will be sent to the general membership for a mail-in vote. Lack of response to a mail-in vote will constitute agreement.

Any disputes or questions must be addressed to the Board of Directors by mail before ~~March 30, 2020~~May 1, 2024. Please mail all concerns to HRC Secretary:

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