
VIRGINIA COWBOYS ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL BY-LAWS & RULEBOOK

2025

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REVISED

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ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Be it known that we do hereby voluntarily associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a private corporation under the laws of the State of Virginia and do hereby certify the name of this corporation shall be the Virginia Cowboy's Association, herein referred to as the Association, VCA or any other variant.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose for which the corporation is organized is to unite and grow an inclusive, passionate western community within the state of Virginia. Our mission is to support, promote, develop and grow this community at all levels. Whether you are a competing athlete, a coach, an official, a parent or a fan, rodeo and livestock events are for all to enjoy. We are committed to making these events fun and accessible at all levels of competition. Our values are the guiding principles that provide the organization with purpose and direction. These guiding values are community, trust, transparency, passion, integrity, and good sportsmanship.

OFFICERS

This association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer which are voted on by the members and appointed by the Board of Directors. Officers will serve a 2-year term or if voted on by the Board of Directors.

DIRECTORS

There shall be a Director for each contesting event sanctioned by the association, one Judging Director and one Contracts Director.

GENERAL POWER & DUTIES OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

The board of directors shall function as the general policy making arm of the association. The directors will ensure that the organization operates in compliance with legal and ethical standards. The board is responsible for ensuring that the organization is complying with all laws and regulations, and for ensuring that the organization is operating ethically and with integrity.

The VCA Officers & Board of Directors will represent the best interest and growth of the association and its members. Directors and Officers will make decisions that reflect the best interest of the association. The VCA Officers and Board of Directors hold the power to overrule and revise any rule in the Rulebook and By-laws. These rules and by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new rules and By-Laws may be adopted by the board of directors at any regular or special meeting of the board of directors. In the case of any rules deemed detrimental to the association, the board of directors will vote on that rule or event to be changed immediately.

The President shall preside as chairman at all regular and special meetings of the VCA, and perform other such duties as attached to said office, and as directed by the Board of Directors. This office will only have a vote in a tie decision of the Board of Directors.

The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President when he/she is unable to attend.

The Secretary will take all minutes of the meetings, official reports, conduct all official correspondence, and keep all books, documents and papers relating to the association at such place that the board designates. The Secretary will be responsible for preparing an agenda and mailing it to all directors and officers one week prior to any meeting. No business shall be conducted at these meetings unless it is listed on the agenda, or the board declares an emergency.

The Treasurer will be responsible for handling finances of the association which will include accounting for all moneys received, paying normal operating expenses, and preparing a financial statement monthly.

HUMANE RULES

On the cutting edge of animal safety and humane rules the association uses the “Rodeo Industry” Code of Practice for Animal Care and Use. This “Rodeo Industry” Code of Practice for Animal Care and Use was developed by the association and other leading rodeo associations from across the United States and Canada.

GENERAL

1. A Veterinarian shall be on-call and information available for all contestants
2. Stimulants or hypnotics will not be used or given to any animal used for contest purposes
3. No person shall abuse any animal by any non-competitive or competitive action
4. Xxx
5. Xxx
6. Xxx

FACILITIES

EQUIPMENT

LIVESTOCK

FOUNDING DIRECTORS

Founding directors hold permanent positions within the association but withhold votes unless disputes arise.

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Elected directors will be elected by the receipt of a majority of votes cast by e-vote, email, in-person or mail-in ballot. In the event of a tie vote, a vote by the Board of Directors shall determine the winner.

If nominated for two (2) offices, a person must be notified and the nominee must choose the one office which he/she desires to be a candidate in.

- a. Directors cannot serve more than two (2) terms concurrent, except in some cases until his/her successor is elected and qualified.
- b. Any Officers or Directors of the association that does not conduct himself/herself in a manner which is constructive and honorable may be impeached from office by a vote of the Board of Directors.
- c. Only finals contractors at the VCA Finals are eligible to vote for stock contractor director. Stock Contractors may only hold a position on the board as the Stock Contractor Director.
- d. **No family members or close affiliates may serve on the board of directors at the same time.**
- e. Directors can only be nominated and voted on by members of that respected event. Any VCA member can nominate President & Vice President.
- f. President & Vice President positions will be voted by majority vote of the board of directors. All other positions will be majority vote by current members and contestants of respected event.
- g. Any vacancy occurring in the board of directors may be filled by the vote of the majority of the remaining directors, even though less than a quorum. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his predecessor in office.
- h. Seven (5) members of the board of director shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board of directors.
- i.
- j. Any officer or director of the association may not serve on any other rodeo Board of Directors during their term with the exception of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and the High School Rodeo Association.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors, a person must be a paid member during the voting year and for a period of one (1) year and in good standings with the association. In order for a member to serve as a director, he/she must be a present or past active participant in the event for which he/she is nominated.

General Regulations

All contestants entering a VCA event are expected to read and know the rules. Failure to know the rules will not be accepted as an excuse.

1. Timed event contestants
2. The association expects all members and contestants to cooperate with the stock contractors and management when called upon.

3. Any litigation brought forth pertaining to the VCA must be filed in the county of the VCA office.
4. Any member or contestant may be brought before the Board of Directors for any of the following reasons.
 - i. Bad checks
 - ii. Failure to pay entry fees
5. The VCA, stock contractors, and rodeo committee assume no responsibility or liability for injury or damage to the person, property of stock of any owner, contestant, or assistant. Each participant by act of his/her entry waives all claims against the management.
6. Members and non-members competing in all VCA rough stock events must be High School age or older. Members and non-members under the age of eighteen years of age competing in bull riding must wear a helmet and protective vest. Any contestant under the age of eighteen years of age must have a minor's release with parent's signature and notarized before being allowed to compete in the rodeo. This must be filed in the CPRA office and renewed each year.
7. The decision of judges, flagman, and timers will be final. Any protest should be filed with the VCA office in writing (see membership requirements).
8. Anyone competing or contesting under the influence of drugs and/or liquor will be disqualified and placed on temporary suspension until reviewed by the Board of Directors.
9. No stock will be held for any contestant. Contestant must compete in his/her event at the time he/she is entered or in the position drawn.
10. Mistreatment of livestock will result in disqualification and contestant must be placed on temporary suspension list until cleared by the Board of Directors.
11. Contestant will not be eligible for average money in an event in which he/she has turned out stock.
12. In timed events hot shots or electric devices are not to be used for competition purposes. A hot shot or electric device is only to be used by the stock contractor and their personnel to move stock from pen to pen. Hot shots or electric devices are not to be in possession of any contestant during a performance or slack.
- 13.
14. Doctor & Vet Releases
 - a. Contestants are allowed only two (2) releases per year, either a doctor or vet release. Doctor or vet releases must be received in the CPRA office within seven (7) business days following last performance of said rodeo by fax, mail or email. Failure to do so will void the doctor or vet release. Release must have the contestant's name, and rodeo released from.
 - b. Anyone found abusing a doctor or vet release will be brought before the Board of Directors to answer charges.