

**Constitution/Bylaws**  
**San Juan Back Country Horsemen**

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Amended March 2017

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## Article I

### Purpose

Section 1 Our purpose is to perpetuate enjoyable common sense use of horses in the back country; assist government agencies in maintenance and management of the resource; and educate, encourage and solicit active public participation in wise and sustaining use of horses and use by people commensurate with our heritage and the back country resource. To foster and encourage the formation of new state back country horsemen's organizations.

Section 2 The San Juan Back Country Horsemen Chapter incorporates the mission statement and adopts the by-laws of the Back Country Horsemen of Colorado (BCHCO) . This Chapter is an affiliate member of BCHCO.

## Article II

### Membership

Section 1 Membership shall be composed of any individual interested in promoting the purpose as stated in Article I.

Section 2 Associate membership may be acquired by individuals, business or organizations interested in supporting the purpose as stated in Article I.

Section 3 Membership dues shall be paid annually as individual or as family.

Section 4 Associate membership dues shall be paid annually.

Section 5 Any person 15 years of age or younger, not otherwise qualifying for membership with a family group and interested in promoting the purpose as stated in Article I, may be accorded a Junior membership.

Section 6 Membership Types:

Individual – Any man or woman may become an INDIVIDUAL type member of SJBCH.

Family – All immediate family member are included in FAMILY (Shared) memberships, and are eligible to participate fully in SJBCH Unit activities.

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Multi-BCH(Associate) – Anyone desiring to contribute to and participate more actively in more than one BCHCO Local Unit may wish to maintain one or more BCHCO Associate Memberships. This membership type is available only to persons already holding INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY (shared), or BENEFACTOR membership in good standing. No one may sign up for an Associate Membership without:

1. Having registered one of the Parent Membership types, and
2. Having selected Parent Unit Affiliation and providing proof thereof.

Benefactor – (Complimentary) given to persons who have contributed to the equine community, local, state and national units in support of mission-membership categories (No state or national dues are paid on this category).

Duration:

Individual, Family & Multi-BCH memberships – January 1 thru December 31

Business Memberships – July 1 thru June 30

Benefactor – To infinity and beyond

Annual membership dues are compulsory to activate status for membership within the SJBCH. A portion of the annual membership dues will be allotted to the state (BCHCO) and national (BCHA) organizations in order to fulfill membership obligations within the BCHA standards. All membership dues shall be paid in full on a yearly basis (due January 31 of each calendar year) for membership to initiate and/or remain active.

Dues Schedule

Individual, Family & Multi-BCH membership dues are payable January 1<sup>st</sup> for the calendar year.

Applications and fees for Renewing Members received on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> will be exempt from membership dues for the following year. Regular schedule of dues and payments therein will resume the following year.

Notification of Dues Payable

Beginning with the December issue of the SJBCH “Newsletter” and continuing thru March the following year, the “Newsletter” will contain a reminder to renew memberships and include a current membership form (in .pdf format).

Dues notices will be sent out (via the newsletter) by the Unit in a timely fashion to allow for receipt of payment by January 31.

The Secretary will purge the membership roster on April 1<sup>st</sup> and create a “Non-Renewed List” for those members “not in good standing” that have not renewed their membership for the current year. Those members will be removed from the newsletter mailing list.

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The “Non-Renewed List” will be presented to the President to make or direct person contact with those individuals (via email or phone call) as a reminder of SJBCH membership requirements and their current status.

## Article III

### Voting

Section 1 Each member 16 years of age or older and in good standing shall be entitled to one(1) vote on all matters voted upon during a regular or special meeting.

Section 2 Associate members in good standing are allowed two(2) votes on all matters voted upon during a regular or special meeting.

Section 3 Family membership in good standing are allowed two(2) votes on all matters voted upon in a regular or special meeting.

Section 4 A simple majority of members in good standing, voting when the organization is in session, shall be required to conduct that business requiring group action, providing 25% of members are present, and except for removal of Officers and/or Directors which is provided herein.

## Article IV

### Meetings

Section 1 Regular monthly meetings shall be established and held at a time decided by a majority votes at regular meetings.

Section 2 Regular monthly meeting shall be alternated between communities with the area membership to a degree that is practical and acceptable by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 Special meetings may be called by the President, or upon written request signed by any three(3) Directors, or upon written request signed by any ten(10) voting members in good standing.

Section 4 Board meetings shall be held at the convenience of a majority of the Directors but meet at least once a month. Regular members shall be welcome at Board meetings but shall have no vote. When anyone wants to attend a board meeting, they can contact a Board member for the meeting date and place.

Section 5 Twenty-five percent(25%) of voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of this organization.

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## Article V

### Officers and Directors

Section 1 Officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as the voting membership may from time to time create. At least one of the president or vice president must be a full time resident of Archuleta county.

Section 2 There shall be four directors in addition to the officers and immediate past President, who will serve as members of the board (It is recognized that Directors from various geographic locations are desirable, provided commensurate with member interest). There shall be two national Board Directors and one Alternate Director who will serve in the absence of the regular director. Directors shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve one year terms; the alternate to serve one year.

Section 3 Any vacancy or vacancies in any office or in the Board of Directors shall be filled by an election by the Board of Directors for the balance of such term (except President which will automatically be filled by the vice-president).

Section 4 All elected Officers and Directors must be voting members in good standing.

## Article VI

### Duties of Officers and Directors

Section 1 The supreme power and authority of this organization shall be lodged in their assembled meetings, and the Officers and Directors shall conform to the wishes and instructions of such organization but subject to such control and direction by organization, the Board of Directors execute the affairs of the organization. When said organization is not in session , the Board of Directors shall have all the needful authority to execute the purpose of this organization.

Section 2 It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors and to exercise general executive control over the affairs of said organization and to call special meeting of the organization and of this Board of Directors, and to perform all other duties pertaining to such office. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. He may co-sign checks for disbursement of funds.

Section 3 The vice-president shall assist the president when called upon to do so, and in his absence shall be vested with the powers and duties of the President. He may also co-sign checks for disbursement of funds. He is in charge of the scrapbook and photography(historian).

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Section 4 The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all regular, special and board meetings; shall register the names of the members; issue notices and perform other such duties as pertains to such office.

Section 5 The Treasurer shall collect dues, keep and disburse all funds of the organization and shall keep a written account of same which shall be open for inspection by any member in good standing, and shall furnish a written report of the state of finances monthly, and shall be one of the check signers of record, any two of which may validate a check. All funds shall be kept in a bank account.

Section 6 In case of an emergency, presiding officer may obtain votes over the phone.

Section 7 No officer, director or member can be held liable for any action of the San Juan Back Country Horsemen.

## Article VII

### Elections

Section 1 All officers and Directors shall be elected by a majority vote at the regularly scheduled September meeting and their term of office shall be the month next, following the date of such election.

Section 2 No officer shall hold the same office for more than three(3) consecutive terms.

Section 3 A nomination Committee of three members shall be elected two months prior to the regular election of Officers.

Section 4 The purpose of the Nomination Committee shall be to provide a list of suitable candidates for this organizations Officers and Directors to the membership. Nominations for Officers and Directors may also be provided by the membership from the floor prior to the election.

## Article VIII

### Removal of Officers

Section 1 Any Officer or Director may be relieved of their duties by an action instituted by (1) two thirds vote of the Board of Directors or (2) by a majority vote of voting members at a regular meeting.

Section 2 Written notification of action to remove an Officer or Director must be made at the regular meeting preceding the meeting that the action is to take place.

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Section 3 Any Board Member or Officer missing over three(3) consecutive board meetings without an excused absence from the President will be replaced by the Board. Each Board Member or Officer will be responsible to get their information to another Director or Officer if unable to make the meeting.

Section 4 Tarring and Feathering are subject to the same voting rules.

## Article IX

### Committees

Section 1 The Committees, necessary for the function of this organization, shall be designated by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 Committee Chairperson will be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Chairperson in turn will appoint their committee members as necessary to accomplish their committees function.

Section 3 There will be a committee report presented by the committee Chairperson at each board meeting and each membership meeting. Length to be determined in advance by the President and Committee Chairperson.

## Article X

### Amendments

Section 1 This Constitution/Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting or special meeting of the organization provided that notice of such proposed amendments shall have been given to the organization at the regular meeting preceding the submission of such proposed amendments. The Constitution/Bylaws may only be changed by seventy-five percent (75%) of membership in good standing at the meeting. Bylaws require a simple majority.

## Article XI

### Conduct

Section 1 Improper conduct will subject the person(s) involved to removal from the meeting in progress, as voted by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Examples: excessive profanity, drinking, ill manners...

Section 2 Personality conflicts shall not be tolerated.

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Section 3 Animal abuse or neglect shall be investigated and proper action taken.

**Article XII**  
**Finances**

Section 1 Upon the dissolution of the Unincorporated Association (SJBCH), assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

This Constitution/Bylaws adopted on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

\_\_\_\_\_, President

\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary