

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS OF THE
INDIANA RANCH HORSE ASSOCIATION

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1-Name

This state charter of the American Ranch Horse Association (ARHA) will be officially known as the Indiana Ranch Horse Association (IRHA) and shall encompass the state of Indiana. It will be a non for profit association in accordance with the laws of the state of Indiana.

Section 2-Purpose

This IRHA is for the purpose of promoting, stimulating interest, education and providing means for improving the ranch horse and further the interest of its members through cooperation and collaboration with the ARHA. This association shall provide activities intended for all levels of horse and rider to compete in a friendly family orientated atmosphere.

Article II. Memberships

Section 1-Eligibility for Memberships

This membership shall consist of persons, firms, partnerships, ranches and organizations that are interested in the purpose and objectives of this IRHA association and the ARHA.

Section 2- Types & Definitions of Memberships

This IRHA will offer three (3) types of memberships; individual, family and youth. A family membership is defined as all members of a family that reside in the same household as well as any youth 18 years or younger. Youth is defined to be anyone 18 years or younger as of January 1 of that fiscal year. This IRHA will offer 3 divisions within their membership. They will be All Age, Amateur and Youth. The rules and guidelines for these said divisions will coincide with those stated in the ARHA Rule book. This IRHA has the option to split the youth into two (2) divisions being 13 & Under and 14-18 years old. IRHA holds the option to include Novice Amateur and Novice Youth as the board deems advantageous to this IRHA Charter.

Section 3-Rights of Members

All members that are 19 years and older will have voting privileges. Family memberships are allotted two (2) votes. For the annual meeting, each member whose dues are paid on or before

ninety (90) days prior to the meeting may vote. Those current paid members have the right to hold an office and/or reside on committees.

Section 4-Annual Dues

Annual dues are based on a fiscal year. The fiscal year shall be January 1st to December 31. The amount required for annual dues shall be: \$10.00 dollars for an individual membership, \$25.00 dollars for a family membership and \$5.00 for a youth membership. Changing these amounts can be made by the majority vote of the Board of Directors. Continued membership is contingent upon being up-to- date on membership dues.

Section 5-Termination

The Board of Directors, by a majority vote, may refuse the right of participation to any person(s) who jeopardize the integrity of IRHA. IRHA will automatically suspend any member that has been suspended by the ARHA.

Article III Meetings of Members

Section I-Notice of Regular Meetings

Printed notice of membership meetings shall be sent to each voting member or family by mail and/or email at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. An agenda of the meeting shall also be provided.

Section 2-Special Meetings

Special meeting may be called by the President or in his/her absence, the Vice President, or upon petition signed by twenty (20) or more IRHA members. The Secretary shall give notice of the Special Meeting. Notice shall be mail and/or emailed to last known address of each member in good standing of the IRHA at least five (5) days prior to the meeting with starting time, location and shall briefly indicate the subject(s) or matter(s) of discussion.

Section 3-Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the members shall be held after the final IRHA sanctioned show of that said year. Specific date, time and location shall be determined by the Banquet and Awards committee or the President of the IRHA. At the Annual Meeting the business will be, but not limited to; election of officers and directors, amendments to the by-laws, receive reports on the activities of the association and honor the accomplishments of the membership from that year.

Section 4- *Quorum*

The members present at any properly called meeting shall be deemed a quorum for that meeting.

Section 5- *Voting*

All issues to be voted on shall be decided by a simple majority of those present at the meeting in which the vote takes place. Only persons in good standing with the IRHA shall have voting privileges. No proxy voting will be allowed.

Article IV Board of Directors

Section 1- *Role of the Board*

The board is responsible for the overall policy and direction of the association. It shall serve as the planning committee for this association. All matters of concern will be brought before the Board of Directors. Any financial expenses exceeding one hundred (\$100.00) dollars requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors. It will be charged with resolving any disciplinary actions within the IRHA. The Board shall consist of members elected by the membership.

Section 2- *Officers and Duties*

There shall be four (4) officers of the board consisting of: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. There will be as few as two (2) or as many as seven (7) Directors at Large. All Board of Directors are responsible for attending 2/3 of scheduled meetings in person or via conference call or dismissal will follow. They shall be voted on by the membership or if the need arises, appointed by majority vote by the Board of Directors. There will also be an option for a Youth Director. This person will be a youth member of the IRHA and invited by the Board of Directors to be a non-voting member of the board. All officers and board members must be current members in good standing with the IRHA and the ARHA.

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the IRHA and shall have general direction and charge of the conduct and operation of the IRHA. The President shall have the authority to execute all documents of every nature on the behalf of the IRHA. He/she shall preside as chairman at all meetings of the members and be an ex-officio member of all committees.

The Vice President shall, in the absence or inability of the President to act, perform the duties of the President. The Vice President shall be the chairman of the Budget and Finance committee.

The Secretary shall be directly responsible to the President for the operation and management of the business of the office. The Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes of the IRHA, and any additional reports significant to the continued business of this association. He/she shall conduct the correspondence of the IRHA. The Secretary shall give notice to the members of all regular and special meetings. The secretary shall keep current records of all members and their pertinent information, i.e.: phone, address, email, member status, etc.

The Treasurer shall collect, hold and disburse, under the direction of the President, all monies of the IRHA. The Treasurer shall keep books or accounts, submit a statement of accounts at regular meetings, exhibit a full account of receipts and disbursements during the past fiscal year and file all required local, state and federal tax reports. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget and the records shall be audited annually by a committee consisting of the outgoing treasurer, and the Budget and Finance committee. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Budget and Finance committee.

The Directors at Large shall be available to assist in the daily operations of this association. Each Director will be the chairman of a committee to be delegated by the President. Those committees would ideally be, but not limited to: sponsorships, youth activities, show production, special activities, awards & banquet and members activities.

Section 3- Terms and Elections

All officers shall serve a two (2) year term and/or until their successors are elected. Officers may serve two (2) consecutive terms. Directors shall serve a one (1) year term. Directors may serve up to four (4) consecutive terms. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting and Banquet of the general membership. Nominations may be accepted from October 1st to three (3) weeks before the Annual Meeting and Year End Banquet. Ballots will be sent to the paid members at least two (2) weeks prior to the yearend banquet. If unable to attend the yearend meeting and banquet, absentee ballot will be accepted by mail or email up to one (1) week before the Annual Meeting. Those ballots will be sent to the Charter Secretary. Voting for the elections of officers and board members shall be by private ballot at the yearend meeting. Ideally not all of the Executive board should be newly elected in any one year.

Section 4-*Meetings*

Meetings of the board will be held quarterly or upon request of the President or one-third of the board. Notices of all meetings shall be sent out by the secretary to each board member ten (10) days prior to said meeting.

Article V Committees

Section 1-*Committee Formation*

The board may create committees as needed. It is the desire of the IRHA to have standing committees to provide for an equal distribution of member input and balance in the work required to operate this association smoothly. Members of all standing committees shall be members of this IRHA. The duties of all committees and their chairs will be appointed by the President.

Section 2-*Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. It will serve as a buffer for seamless transition in the flow of business and goals between the incoming and outgoing Presidents.

Section 3-*Finance & Budget Committee*

The Vice President will be the chairman of the finance and budget committee. The Treasurer will be a member of this committee. Any major change in the budget must be approved by the Board of Directors. Financial records of this organization are public information and shall be made available to any member upon request when given a reasonable amount of time to make that information available.

Section 4-*Standing Committees*

Each Director at Large shall be the chairman of a standing committee. The committees ideally will be, but not limited to: sponsorships, member activities, youth activities, show production, awards & banquet, special activities. Duties of each committee will be detailed as needed.

Article VI Amendments and Rules

Section 1-Amendments

Final and ultimate authority rests with the members of the IRHA. Amendments may be made to these By-Laws upon approval of a majority vote of the members at said meeting of the IRHA. Amendments shall be furnished in writing to the members a minimum of fifteen (15) days prior to such meeting.

Section 2-Rules

The President and /or Board of Directors are responsible for upholding the rules established by the ARHA that are set forth in the ARHA rule book.

Section 3-Meeting outline

Roberts's Rules of Order – Newly Revised shall prevail wherever not otherwise provided herein.

Article VII Disciplinary Procedure

Section 1-Disciplinary Procedure

The provisions for disciplinary procedure for the IRHA will be equivalent to the rules defined in the ARHA rule book and shall be utilized for disciplining members of this association. Specifically, Violations, Disciplinary Procedure; Suspension; General Notice Procedure; Attorney Fees, Litigation Agreement; where applicable for the IRHA name will be in exchange for ARHA.

Section 2-Member Acceptance

Any person who shall accept the privileges extended by the IRHA, including participation in any activities shall be deemed to have given his/her consent of the provisions relating to disciplinary procedures and all other provisions of these By-Laws. Being a member of this IRHA is a privilege and not a right.

Article VIII Indemnification

Section 1-Indemnification

Each director, officer and committee person of said IRHA shall be indemnified by the IRHA against all cost, expenses and liabilities reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with or resulting from, and action, suit or proceeding to which he/she may make a party by reason of his/her being or having been a director, officer or committee person of the IRHA, except in relation to matters which shall have been occasioned by the willful misconduct or dishonesty of such a director, officer or committee person. The foregoing indemnification shall cover amounts paid in settlement of any such action, suit, proceeding when such settlement appears to be of the interest in the IRHA. The foregoing shall be in addition to any other rights to which such directors, officers or committee person may be entitled as a matter of law.

Article IX Severability

Section 1-Severability

If any section of any part of these By-Laws or the application thereof to any persona or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other section, parts or application of these By-Laws which can be given effect without the invalid section of any part and to this the provisions of these By-Laws are severable.

Article X Dissolution

Section 1-Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of this charter, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of this charter dispose of all the assets of the charter exclusively to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for agricultural purposes as shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations(s) under Section 501.c3 of the Internal Revenue Law.