

Western Pennsylvania Reining Horse Association

Bylaws, Rules, & Regulations

ARTICLE 1. TITLE AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Title. This Association shall be known as the Western Pennsylvania Reining Horse Association (WPRHA) and at all times shall be run as a non-profit organization in accordance with the laws of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All proceedings of the Association shall be in accord with the policies and activities of the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA), unless otherwise specified.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of the Association is to encourage the development and breeding of better reining horses and to develop new reining riders at a grass roots level.

Section 3. Dissolution. Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Association, dispose of the remaining assets of the Association by donating such assets to the NRHA Sports Reining Foundation or other such charitable organization as the Board of Directors may decide.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. Officers. The Officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Officers shall manage and direct the business and affairs of the Association. The Officers shall have and may exercise all authority permitted by these Bylaws. The Officers shall provide an annual report of the general state of the affairs and finances of the Association to the Board of Directors before the end of each year. No Officer shall enter into contracts whether written or verbal, incur debt, or make expenditures in excess of \$250.00 without prior approval of the Board of Directors. All Elected Officers will serve terms of two (2) years, commencing on January 1 following the elections.

Section 1.A. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors. He/She will conduct the business of the Association in accordance with the Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations. The President may negotiate contracts on behalf of the Association. He/She shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors and manage the overall affairs of the Association.

Section 1.B. Vice President. The Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in his or her absence or disability and shall assist the President as necessary or assigned.

Section 1.C. Secretary. The Secretary shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors and record minutes. The Secretary shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as the President may assign.

Section 1.D. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall act as custodian of the assets of the Association and shall be responsible for overseeing the financial affairs, investments, and budgets of the Association. The Treasurer is responsible for compiling the annual report for the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall perform such additional duties as the Board of Directors, or the President may assign.

Section 1.E. Additional Positions. Additional Officer positions may be added as needed. All additional positions must be approved by quorum vote of the Board of Directors and be recorded as an amendment to these Bylaws.

Section 2. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may consist of the elected or appointed Officers and a maximum of four (4) elected or appointed Board Members. Board Members will serve the same terms, two (2) years, as Officers and will commence on January 1 following the elections.

Section 2.A. Responsibilities. The Board of Directors shall jointly supervise the activities of the Association. They have the authority to authorize the entering into contracts, incurring of debt, and making expenditures on behalf of the Association.

Section 2.B. Meetings. The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings with a minimum of four per year (quarterly). The time and place shall be determined by the Officers of the Association. Special meetings of the Board may be called by or at the request of the President. A quorum (being one (1) Officer plus two (2) Members of the Board of Directors) shall be required to be present at all meetings before any business of the Association may be conducted. Officers and Board Members are expected to attend all meetings unless other arrangements are made in advance.

Section 2.C. Conflicts of Interest. Any Officer or Board Member whose vote would be considered a conflict of interest shall not vote on the issue in question. An example of this would be an Officer or Board Member who rides with a trainer or team who is in question, therefore, their vote would not be impartial.

Section 3. Elections. The Board of Directors may establish or approve procedures and requirements for voting, including procedures and requirements relating to ballots, voting, and results. Elections for Officers and Board Members are to be held bi-annually. An Officer or Director may succeed himself/herself for unlimited terms as long as they are re-nominated and re-elected in accordance with the Bylaws.

Section 3.A. Eligibility. Adult Members in good standing with both the WPRHA for the previous and current year are eligible for election to office. Upon election, the Officer or Board Member must maintain an active, full Membership at all times of service and not have any outstanding debt due to the Association. Refusal to pay will result in removal from the position.

Section 3.A.1. Presidential Eligibility. To be eligible for nomination to the president position, the individual must meet all of the requirements listed above and serve as an Officer or Board Member for a minimum of one year, including the year preceding the elections (i.e., a board member or officer for 2022 is eligible for nominations during the 2022 elections, with the position starting in 2023).

Section 3.B. Nominations. Nominations for open positions may be submitted by the Board of Directors or from the general Membership. Nomination shall only be accepted from September 1st through November 1st during general elections and must be submitted on the WPRHA website through the nominations form. All nominations shall be published on the website prior to the last general meeting of the year.

Section 3.B.1. Acceptance. All nominees will be contacted to determine their eligibility and willingness to accept the position to which they were nominated. Officers and

Board Members are volunteers who are expected to perform the duties outlined in these Bylaws and attend all meetings/ events. If a person is not able to attend all meetings and events, it is advised that he/she does not accept the nomination.

Section 3.C. Vacancies. If a vacancy results from the resignation, removal or other inability or incapacity of an Officer or Board Member elected, the position can be appointed by a quorum vote. If, at the time of elections, a vacancy is not filled, the position can be appointed in accordance with the Bylaws. Appointed vacancies are excluded from the eligibility requirements of prior membership stated in *Section 3.A.*. Appointed vacancies will serve the remaining term of their fellow Officers and Board Members. There shall be no additional election period to fulfill vacancies.

Section 3.C.1. Presidential Vacancy. If a vacancy occurs within the position of President, the current Vice President is given first right of refusal before any other individual may be appointed.

Section 4. Removal. Any Officer or Board Member elected or appointed may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment, the best interest of the Association would be served thereby. Inappropriate or unacceptable conduct at a WPRHA event will be considered grounds for immediate removal and the decision shall be final and not subject to appeal or review. Any Officer or Board Member who has been removed from their position is not eligible to be appointed or elected to any position until the next general election is held.

Section 5. Committees. Committees may be formed to assist in the various operations of the Association. These committees may consist of Officers, Board Members, or the general Membership. The formation of each committee must be voted on by the Board of Directors with a majority of those present at the meeting. All committees will be overseen by the President, unless otherwise appointed by the Board of Directors. Committee members do not have voting privileges but can provide experience-based recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Benefits. All Officers and Board Members are individuals who are willing to donate an immense amount of time and energy into the day-to-day operations of the Association. This time and energy should not go unrecognized; therefore, all Officers and Board Members are entitled to the benefits herein.

Section 6.A. Stall Fees. Officers and Board Members who are in good standing are eligible to receive a discounted stall fee at all WPRHA events. The discounted stall fee shall be equal to the fee charged by the arena per stall. There is a limit of one (1) stall per Officer or Board Member, which can be used for horses or tack. Discounted stall fees are non-transferrable and must be used solely by the Officer or Board Member.

Section 6.B. Meals. Officers and Board Members who are in good standing are eligible to receive paid meals at WPRHA events through the food vendor on site. Meal choices are limited to a single food item or combo meal with a beverage. Paid meals will be for breakfast, lunch, and dinner (when applicable); snacks are not considered part of this benefit.

Section 7. Interpretation. The Board of Directors retain final authority regarding the interpretation of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Any individual of good character and reputation, interested in reining horses and the promotion of the reining horse may become a Member of this Association. Anyone who becomes a Member of the Association will be bound by the rules, regulations, and Bylaws of this Association. Any Member expelled, suspended, or reprimanded by the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) will automatically be equally sanctioned, expelled or suspended by this Association for an equal period of time as the NRHA shall determine and shall forfeit all rights under the Bylaws of the Association. Inappropriate or unacceptable conduct at any WPRHA event or meeting will be considered grounds for immediate revocation of Membership.

Section 2. Approval. All Memberships are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, which may approve, reject, suspend, or revoke the Membership of any Member at any time in its discretion. The Board of Directors retain final authority regarding all aspects of Membership, including conditions of Membership, eligibility, qualifications, approval or rejection, suspension, revocation, process types, dues, and interpretations of the provisions of these Bylaws relating to Membership and the decision of the Board of Directors shall be final and not subject to appeal or review.

Section 3. Dues. Each Member of the Association shall pay annual Membership dues to the WPRHA. The classifications of Membership and Membership dues shall be set by the Board of Directors for the best interest of the Association. Said dues are due and payable at the commencement of each fiscal year. The fiscal year of this Association shall be the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

Section 4. Good Standing. A Member will be considered to be in good standing if the Member has paid annual Membership dues for the current year, does not have any outstanding payments due to the Association, and his/her Membership is not suspended or revoked.

Section 5. Meetings. General Membership meetings are to be held no less than quarterly. The time and place shall be determined by the Officers of the Association. Meeting dates will be announced on the website and/or social media at least thirty (30) days prior.

Section 6. Year-End Awards. To be eligible for year-end awards, the Member must be in good-standing with the Association and meet all requirements listed on the Membership form for that year. Year-end awards are tabulated based on the one horse, one rider rule. The Board of Directors shall determine the awards to be given at the annual banquet.

Section 7. Voting Privileges. Membership in the Association is informal, and Members are not entitled to any form of voting privileges, unless the Member is an Officer or Board Member. The Board of Directors may request a vote from the general Membership on significant matters, but these votes would be for the best interest of the Association and are in no way required.

ARTICLE IV. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 1. General. The WPRHA follows all rules and regulations of the NRHA, unless otherwise stated.

Section 2. Classes. Class divisions are at the designation of the Board of Directors. The current class divisions are listed with their eligibility requirements herein.

Section 2A. Ladies. Open to all ladies of any riding level on any horse

Section 2B. Mens. Open to all men of any riding level on any horse

Section 2C. Open. Open to all ages of horses and riders

Section 2D. Non Pro. Limited to exhibitors who meet the requirements of Non Pro status within the NRHA. If a Non Pro rider upgrades to a Professional license with the NRHA in the middle of a season, he/she is no longer eligible to show in Non Pro (or below) classes, however, all earnings from previous classes in that division will count towards year-end awards.

Section 2E. Rookie. Open to any Non Pro rider as defined in the NRHA handbook with \$500 or less in earnings on any horse. Any rider who has won the WPRHA Rookie Year-End Championship award 3 times or more is ineligible for this class.

Section 2F. Leadline. Open to exhibitors who are eight (8) years of age and under on any horse but must be led by someone over the age of 18.

Section 2G. Youth. Open to riders who are 18 years of age and under as of January 1st on any mare or gelding.

Section 2H. Short Stirrup. Open to riders who are 10 years of age and under as of January 1st on any mare or gelding. This class can be ridden with one or two hands at any time during the class.

Section 2I. Novice Horse. Open to any rider on an inexperienced horse whose earnings are less than \$100 in any reining event. This class can be ridden with one or two hands. Simple lead changes are allowed and will not be penalized.

Section 2J. Green Reiner I and Green Reiner II

S2J.A. Eligibility. The green reiner program is open to any rider who has not won over \$100, or earned 50 youth points, in Association-level (NRHA, AQHA, etc.) reining events, or completed any other Green Reiner program. Riders must be considered a Non Pro as defined in the NRHA handbook. There are no restrictions on the horse. A rider may show any horse regardless of ownership, and any points accumulated towards graduation of Green Reiner are tabulated separate from other year-end awards.

S2J.B. Points. Green Reiners will be scored according to NRHA rules. Scores will be used to place the class, and those scores will be converted into Green Reiner Points. Any score over 60 will create points (Example: A score of 64 equals 4 points, A score of 71.5 equals 11.5 points).

S2J.C. Graduation. You are no longer eligible for Green Reiner I if you have earned over 40 Green Reiner Points as of January 1 of the current year. If you reach 40 Green Reiner Points within a show season, you may continue showing in Green Reiner I until the end of that year. When you earn 80 Green Reiner Points you have successfully completed the WPRHA Green Reiner Program, and Members will be awarded a buckle at the end of the year. You are still eligible to ride in Green Reiner classes for the remainder of the year after earning the 80 points.

S2J.D. Rider Rules. All riders may choose to interchange between 1 or 2 hands throughout their pattern.

S2J.D.A. Patterns for Green Reiner I are altered to 2 step-turns or spins, soft stops, and stopping to change leads.

S2J.D.B. Patterns for Green Reiner II are altered to 4 step-turns or spins, soft or sliding stops, and simple or flying lead changes.

Section 2K. Futurity. Open to riders of any experience level on horses aged 3 years. These classes can be ridden 1 or 2 handed in any legal bit.

Section 2L. Open Ranch. Open to horses and riders of any experience level. Horses under age 7 can be ridden two handed in a snaffle bit, aged horses must be ridden 1 handed in any legal bit. Properly fitting bosals are allowed for any age of horse.

Section 2M. Non Pro Ranch. Limited to exhibitors who meet the requirements of Non Pro status within the NRHA. If a Non Pro rider upgrades to a Professional license with the NRHA in the middle of a season, he/she is no longer eligible to show in Non Pro (or below) classes, however, all earnings from previous classes in that division will count towards year-end awards. Horses under age 7 can be ridden two handed in a snaffle bit, aged horses must be ridden 1 handed in any legal bit. Properly fitting bosals are allowed for any age of horse.

Section 2N. Youth Ranch. Open to riders who are 18 years of age and under as of January 1st on any mare or gelding. Horses under age 7 can be ridden two handed in a snaffle bit, aged horses must be ridden 1 handed in any legal bit. Properly fitting bosals are allowed for any age of horse.

Section 2O. Short Stirrup Ranch. Open to riders who are 10 years of age and under as of January 1st on any mare or gelding. This class can be ridden with one or two hands at any time during the class. If the pattern calls for a lope, the rider may choose to perform an extended trot in lieu of a lope without penalty.

Section 2P. Novice Horse Ranch. Open to any rider on an inexperienced horse whose earnings are less than \$100 in any reining event. This class can be ridden with one or two hands in any legal bit or bosal.

Section 2Q. Green Ranch. Open to any rider who has not won over \$100, or earned 50 youth points, in Association-level (NRHA, AQHA, ARHA, etc.) ranch events. Riders must be considered a Non Pro as defined in the NRHA handbook. There are no restrictions on the horse. This class can be ridden with one or two hands in any legal bit or bosal.

Section 3. Show Conditions. WPRHA Membership is not required to show. All entry-fees paid to the Association are non-refundable. All decisions made by the Judge, Officers, or Board Members is final.

Section 4. Outstanding Accounts. Any outstanding balance, credit or debit, from the show season must be fulfilled within thirty (30) calendar days after the last show of the season. Failure to pay balances owed by members will result in forfeiture of any year-ends awards earned. Non-members who owe a balance will be contacted routinely until the balance is paid. Failure to collect payment that is owed to an exhibitor from the WPRHA will result in the payment being credited to the organization as a donation.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, wherein a quorum has been met, upon a majority vote of the directors present. Each Officer and Director counts as one vote and the President is the tie-breaker. Amendments may be submitted to the Board of Directors by any Member of the Association. All proposed amendments must be submitted in writing at least sixty (60) days prior to any regularly scheduled Board meeting. Any amendments to the Bylaws that are approved by the Board shall be effective immediately and shall be posted as a notice on the Association's website and the online version of the Bylaws shall be updated and shall prevail over any previous printed version.

A2.S1. Amendment 1. All Officers and Board Members elected in 2020 will be extended through the end of 2022 (i.e. December 31, 2022) without re-elections because of the COVID-19 Pandemic and cancellation of the 2020 show season.

A2.S2. Amendment 1. Thomas Moyes, the founder of the WPRHA, shall serve as a lifetime Board Member until such time that he retires. He is exempt from the attendance requirement at Board Meetings.

A4.S2. Amendment 1. Addition of Green Ranch. Open to any horse or rider meeting the eligibility of either Green Horse, Green Reiner I, or Green Reiner II.

A4.S2. Amendments to Class Divisions. Green horse was changed to Novice Horse; Ranch was changed to Open Ranch; Short Stirrup Walk-Trot, Green Ranch, Youth Ranch, Novice Horse Ranch, Short Stirrup Ranch, and Non Pro Ranch were added; Changes to the description of Green Ranch from A4.S2. *Amendment 1.*