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.
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> *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.
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> *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.
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> *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 a WPRHA membership for the previous and current year, as well as an active NRHA membership, 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 the requirements listed above and serve as an Officer or Board Member for 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 and 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 4.A. Lapse of Membership. Officers and Board Members are expected to maintain their NRHA and WPRHA memberships. Any Officer or Board Member with a lapsed membership for either organization will be given ten (10) business days to bring their memberships current, or they will be removed from their position.

Section 4.B. NRHA Suspension. Unless waived by NRHA, persons suspended or disciplined by NRHA are ineligible to participate as officer or directors of the Association.

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 discounted stall and shavings fees at all WPRHA events. The discounted stall fee shall be equal to the fee charged by the arena or vendor. There is a limit of two (2) stalls and four (4) shavings per Officer or Board Member, which can be used for horses or tack. Discounted stall and shavings 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. Events are defined as any event held by the Association including, but not limited to, clinics, shows, and banquets. 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 debts 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 seven (7) 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 democratic, where members in good standing have equal rights, privileges, and the right to vote on Association matters.

ARTICLE IV. RULES AND REGULATIONS

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

Section 2. Association Classes. Class divisions of the Association are at the designation of the Board of Directors. The current class divisions are listed with their eligibility requirements herein, however, these may be altered, added to, or changed by the Board of Directors without notice at any time. If a horse or rider is eligible at the beginning of the show season but reaches the set limit in the middle of the season, they are eligible to continue showing in that class for the remainder of the season, unless stated otherwise. Any money earned in Association classes do not count toward NRHA lifetime earnings, however, they will be posted on the Association's website. All earnings caps are set as of January 1st of the current year.

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 toward year-end awards.

Section 2E. Rookie. Open to any Non Pro rider as defined in the NRHA handbook with $500 (or 200 youth points) or less in earnings on any horse (WPRHA, NRHA, etc.). 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. Green Horse. Open to any rider on an inexperienced horse whose earnings are less than $250 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. Open to any Non Pro rider who has not won over $125 in WPRHA or association-level (NRHA, ARHA, etc.) earnings in reining events. The rider must also have less than 40 WPRHA Green Points, 100 NRHA Green Points and 50 NRHA Youth Points. There are no restrictions on the horse. All riders may choose to interchange between 1 or 2 hands throughout their pattern.

S2J.A. Pattern Modifications. Patterns for Green Reiner I are altered to the following:

- Spins: 2 step-turns or spins
- Stops: Soft stops are permitted
- Lead Changes: No lead changes. All patterns will stop in the center to change leads

Section 2K. Green Reiner II. Open to any Non Pro rider who has not won over $350 in WPRHA or association-level (NRHA, ARHA, etc.) earnings in reining events. The rider must also have less than 80 WPRHA Green Points, 350 NRHA Green Points and 175 NRHA Youth Points. There are no restrictions on the horse. All riders may choose to interchange between 1 or 2 hands throughout their pattern.

S2K.A. Pattern Modifications. Patterns for Green Reiner II are altered to the following:

- Spins: 4 step-turns or spins,
- Stops: Soft or sliding stops permitted
- Lead Changes: Simple or flying lead changes are permitted

Section 2L. 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 2M. Derby. Open to riders of any experience level on horses aged 4-7 years.

Section 2N. 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 2O. 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 2P. 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 2Q. Short Stirrup Ranch. Open to riders who are 10 years of age and under as of January 1st on any mare of 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 2R. Green Horse Ranch. Open to any rider on an inexperienced horse whose earnings are less than $250 in any ranch event. This class can be ridden with one or two hands in any legal bit or bosal.

Section 2S. Green Ranch. Open to any rider who has not won over $250 in WPRHA or 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. WPRHA Green Reiner Program. The green reiner program is open to any Member who meets the eligibility of the Green Reiner classes above, and who has not completed any other green reiner program (Club-level or NRHA).

Section 3A. Points. Green Reiners will be scored according to NRHA rules and the WPRHA Bylaws. 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). Any points accumulated towards graduation of Green Reiner I or II are tabulated separate from other year-end awards.

Section 3B. Graduation. Graduation is only eligible for riders who meet all year-end award requirements (i.e. active membership, work hours, minimum entries, etc.).

S3B.A. Green Reiner I. The rider will graduate from Green Reiner I after earning over 40 WPRHA Green Reiner Points. If they reach any of the Green Reiner I LTE/points caps in the middle of the season, the rider may continue riding in Green Reiner I until the end of that year. Upon graduation of Green Reiner I, the rider will be awarded a plaque or picture frame at the year-end awards banquet.

S3B.B. Green Reiner II. The rider will graduate from Green Reiner II after earning over 80 WPRHA Green Reiner Points. If they reach any of the Green Reiner II LTE/points caps in the middle of the season, the rider may continue riding in Green Reiner II until the end of that year. Upon graduation of Green Reiner II, the rider will be awarded a buckle at the year-end awards banquet.

Section 3C. Eligibility Limits.

S3C.A. Green Reiner I. Any rider who reaches the Green Reiner I LTE/NRHA Green Point/NRHA Youth Point limit after the WPRHA show season is completed will no longer be eligible for the Green Reiner I portion of the program and will forfeit all Green Reiner I program awards.

S3C.A. Green Reiner II. Any rider who reaches the Green Reiner II LTE/NRHA Green Point/NRHA Youth Point limit after the WPRHA show season is completed will no longer be eligible for the Green Reiner Program and will forfeit all green reiner program awards.

Section 4. NRHA Classes. The Association may hold shows with NRHA-approved classes. All NRHA rules apply to these classes and will be enforced by show management.

Section 5. Show Conditions. WPRHA Membership is not required to show in Association classes. NRHA membership, rules, and regulations apply to NRHA classes. All entry-fees paid to the Association are non-refundable. All decisions made by the Judge, Officers, or Board Members is final.

Section 6. 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. If the WPRHA has a balance owed to the exhibitor, the exhibitor will be contacted so they may choose their method of payment or to donate the funds to the Association. If they are non-responsive after three (3) contact attempts, the balance owed will default to a donation.

ARTICLE VI. LIABILITY

Section 1. Equine Activities and Participant Assumption of Risk. All individuals participating in any Western Pennsylvania Reining Horse Association (WPRHA) event—including but not limited to riders, trainers, handlers, owners, lessees, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators—do so at their own risk. By attending or participating in any WPRHA event, each participant expressly acknowledges the

inherent risks associated with equine activities, including but not limited to the risk of serious bodily injury, illness, property damage, or death resulting from the unpredictable behavior of horses or other factors associated with equestrian sports. Participants, by signing the required WPRHA Waiver and Release of Liability prior to participation, expressly assume full responsibility and liability for any personal injury, loss, damage, or claims arising from their attendance or participation. This includes, without limitation, responsibility for their own person, equine(s), equipment, and any agents or contractors under their supervision. The WPRHA, its officers, directors, volunteers, affiliates, property owners, sponsors, and any associated personnel shall not be held liable for any injury, loss, or damage sustained by participants or their property, regardless of cause.

Section 2. Infectious Disease Quarantine Liability. In the event that a WPRHA event becomes subject to a quarantine order—whether equine or human, and whether imposed by a governmental body, venue, or veterinary/health authority—the WPRHA shall not be held liable for any resulting expenses incurred by participants, including but not limited to extended boarding or stabling fees, lodging, veterinary or medical expenses, facility usage, or travel delays. All participants acknowledge and accept that they attend WPRHA events at their own risk and are solely responsible for any and all additional costs or logistical burdens that may arise due to infectious disease protocols, quarantines, or emergency declarations affecting the venue or event.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting, wherein a quorum has been met, upon a majority vote of the directors and members present. Each Officer, Director, and Member 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.