

BYLAWS OF
Great Lakes Reined Cow Horse Association, Inc.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this association shall be: GREAT LAKES REINED COW HORSE ASSOCIATION, Inc. ("GLRCHA"). The association shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan as a non-profit corporation.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

GLRCHA was organized for the following purposes:

- A. To perpetuate the early Spanish/ Vaquero traditions of highly trained and well reined, working cow horses, and;
- B. To improve the quality of the western reined stock horse, and;
- C. To promote and educate the public, especially young horse owners, to the training methods of the reined working cow horse, and;
- D. To hold competitive events, seminars, clinics, demonstrations, and exhibits to promote the reined working cow horse, and;
- E. To use and encourage the use of standard rules for conducting and judging contests of the reined working cow horse, and;
- F. To assist and support the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) in the pursuit of its purposes as defined within the NRCHA bylaws.

ARTICLE III

Membership

- A. Membership shall be open to interested individuals, families, businesses, and organizations upon payment of membership fees.
- B. Membership shall not be restricted based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, familial status, age, or marital status.
- C. The membership year shall begin on December 1 and end on November 30 to coincide with NRCHA membership.
- D. Membership shall be offered in following classifications:
 - 1. Single members are those nineteen years and older as of December 1 of the current membership year. They are entitled to one vote on the election of board members and other matters brought to them by the Board of Directors.
 - 2. Family members consist of couples, parent(s), or legal guardian(s) and all children 18 years old and younger. Each family member, 19 years and older, is entitled to one vote on the election of board members and other matters brought to them by the Board of Directors.
 - 3. Youth members must be 18 years old and younger, as of December 1 of the membership year.
- E. Membership fees shall be established by the Board of Directors.
- F. Membership shall not be transferable.
- G. Membership fees are non-refundable.
- H. Annual fees for membership are payable at anytime and are subject to provisions contained within GLRCHA Rules.
- I. Persons who apply for membership during the last show of any show season will have membership for that show and the following membership year. Points awarded during that show are subject to provisions within the GLRCHA rules.
- J. Any member may voluntarily withdraw or may be suspended or expelled by majority vote of the Board of Directors for violation of the Bylaws, non-payment of dues, or for conduct deemed detrimental to the club.

ARTICLE IV

Board of Directors

- A. All property and affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors.
- B. The Board of Directors shall consist of ten active members of the association.
- C. All Directors shall be elected by those present during the Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM) held in November of odd-numbered years. All Directors shall serve a term of two years. The term of Directors shall commence December 1 and end November 30 of odd-numbered years.
- D. Nominations for Directors shall be submitted to the Board of Directors prior to the Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM) held in odd-numbered years. The Board of Directors may nominate further individuals during the AGMM. Election of Directors is by a plurality of the vote. Election results will be announced via newsletter and/or meeting minutes to the general membership.
- E. All Board members must hold a current NRCHA membership.
- F. Any Board member may voluntarily withdraw or may be suspended or expelled by majority vote of the Board of Directors for violation of the Bylaws, non-payment of dues, missing three consecutive regular Board of Directors meetings, or for conduct deemed detrimental to the club.
- G. When there are openings on the Board of Directors, Directors may be nominated by any member at any Board of Directors meeting. A two-thirds vote of Directors attending the meeting is required to add the nominated Director to the Board. The term of any Director so appointed by the Board of Directors ends on November 30 of the next odd-numbered year.

ARTICLE V

Officers of the Association

- A. The association shall have five elected officers: President, Vice President, Association Secretary, Treasurer, and Show Secretary.
- B. Officers will be elected by the General Membership and shall serve in their respective offices for a term of two years.
- C. In case of vacancies, officers other than President shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors to finish any partial term.
- D. In the event the President resigns, is suspended or expelled; the Vice President shall continue the duties and responsibilities of the President and a new director appointed to maintain the nine-member board.

ARTICLE VI

Duties of Officers

- A. Duties of the President:
 - 1. Call general and special meetings as outlined in the Bylaws.
 - 2. Establish the agenda for meetings.
 - 3. Preside at all meetings of the Association and at the meetings of the Board of Directors
 - 4. Be responsible for and carry out GLRCHA business between meetings as authorized by the Board of Directors.
 - 5. Establish committees to carry out programs/activities approved by the Board of Directors and appoint committee chairs with the approval of the Board of Directors.
 - 6. Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.
 - 7. Coordinate GLRCHA programs/activities.
 - 8. Have signatory authority on GLRCHA monies.
- B. Duties of the Vice President:
 - 1. Conduct meetings in the absence of the President.
 - 2. Assume any/all duties of the President upon the request of the President as defined in Section A, items 1 - 7.

3. Carry out duties that may be assigned by the President or Board of Directors.
 4. Serve the remainder of the President's term if for any reason he/she cannot complete the term.
- C. Duties of the Association Secretary:
1. Keep a record of the minutes of each meeting and present them to the Board of Directors at the subsequent meeting, and to the general membership.
 2. Monitor GLRCHA correspondence.
 3. Ensure that notices of meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors are communicated to the membership.
 4. Keep a record of any revisions to the Bylaws and any other Association rules.
 5. Coordinate the election of directors.
- D. Duties of the Treasurer:
1. Keep a record of, have custody over, and be responsible for all funds of the Association.
 2. Establish a separate Association account and issue checks to cover all expenses authorized by the Board of Directors in general budget. Checks shall be signed by either the President or Treasurer.
 3. Receipts for expenses shall be required for reimbursement for general operations expenses; financial reports from shows will serve as record of award payouts.
 4. In coordination with the Show Secretary, generate required financial reports for every show held.
 5. Make monthly reports to the Board of Directors as to monies collected and paid out during the previous month.
 6. Create an annual financial report and submit such report to the Board of Directors, and make it available to all members, during the annual general membership meeting.
- E. Duties of the Show Secretary:
1. Coordinate with the Show Committee and establish shows for each year.
 2. Execute contracts for the hiring of judges for competitive events.
 3. Ensure that notices of shows are communicated to members.
 4. Keep a record of show results for every show held and every member participating.
 5. Keep a record of Association rules.
 6. Coordinate the activities and requirements of each show held.
 7. In coordination with the Treasurer, generate the required financial reports for every show held.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

- A. The Board of Directors shall meet regularly as established by the Board of Directors. Any member or interested individual may attend these meetings.
- B. Seven Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM) shall be held in November of each year. The time and location of the meeting will be established by the Board of Directors and will be communicated to the membership of GLRCHA no less than twenty days prior to the meeting.
- D. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President whenever deemed necessary and all Directors shall be notified no later than twenty-four hours prior to such meeting.
- E. Special meetings of GLRCHA may be called by a majority of the Board of Directors. Five days written or electronic notice will be given to members along with the reason for calling such meeting.
- F. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Simplified and Applied.

- G. For any motion before the Board, the Board may choose by two-thirds majority of those present to open the vote to all members present or to open the vote to all members through a mailed ballot.
- H. Outside of meetings, affairs of the Association may be conducted through electronic correspondence, including putting forth and seconding of motions and electronic voting on motions before the Board of Directors, coordinated by the President of the Association and recorded by the Secretary of the Association. Results of any motions shall be included in the minutes presented at the next Board of Directors meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

- A. Committees shall be established by the President to carry out the programs/activities approved by the membership.
- B. Committee chairs shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- C. Committee chairs shall record the proceedings and actions of their respective committee as a history to assist successive committee chairs and to report to the Board of Directors their activities and accomplishments.
- D. The following are the standing committees for the Association:
 - 1. Membership Committee
 - 2. Rules Committee
 - 3. Show Committee
 - 4. Communications & Advertising Committee
 - 5. Fund Raising & Sponsors Committee
 - 6. Awards Committee
 - 7. Elections Committee

ARTICLE IX

Rules and Regulations

- A. The Board of Directors shall establish rules and regulations for the presentation and judging of GLRCHA events. The rules and regulations so adopted shall be changed, nullified, or repealed only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must provide any changes made to the rules to the membership in writing, once approved.
- B. Any rules adopted by the Board of Directors in any given membership year go into effect the following membership year.
- C. Any member in good standing may present to the Board of Directors a proposed change to the rules and regulations for consideration. Changes are to be submitted in writing before or during any Board of Directors or general membership meeting.
- D. Every new member shall receive a printed copy of the most current GLRCHA rules and bylaws.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

The Board of Directors, by majority vote, may amend or change any provision under these Bylaws. Amendments and changes may also be proposed by any voting member in good-standing. All proposed Bylaw amendments or changes are to be submitted to the Association Secretary, in writing or electronically, no later than the meeting prior to the meeting at which it is to be presented.

ARTICLE XI

Indemnification/Insurance

Officers and board members may be indemnified by the Association to the fullest extent permitted by the laws of the State of Michigan. The association may purchase insurance protecting its officers and directors from civil liability occasioned by their conduct in office.

ARTICLE XII

Disclaimers & Dissolution

- A. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof.
- B. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- C. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- D. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or 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 disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization 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.

These Bylaws were originally approved and adopted by the Great Lakes Reined Cow Horse Association Board of Directors by way of special meeting on the 14th day of January 2007.

Christopher Tschirhart, President

Glenn Gibbons, Director

Darren Powers, Vice President

Jeff Lebbin, Director

Gabrielle Hume, Association Secretary

Debora Summers, Director

Natasha Thomas, Treasurer

Velvet Tschirhart, Director

Lindsay Barron, Show Secretary

Bill Thomas Jr, Director