

Eastern Mountain Ranch Horse Association By-Laws

ARTICLE I: Title and Objectives

Section A: The name of this organization will be the Eastern Mountain Ranch Horse Association, Inc. (EMRHA). EMRHA is an affiliate charter of the American Ranch Horse Association (ARHA).

Section B: The purpose of EMRHA is to encourage, promote, advertise, and develop the ranch type horse as a unique and excellent athlete. The Association will carry out the above purpose by providing ARHA approved shows, clinics and activities. We will strive to offer friendly, fun, family-oriented events and shows where members can promote their horses, and earn points and recognition on a national level.

Section C: The mission of the EMRHA is to promote a safe, sane, all around versatile ranch type horse with athletic talent, brains, style and beauty in the eastern mountains.

To accomplish this goal we will promote ARHA shows, clinics and events to showcase these equine athletes and thereby educate and inform members and non-members of the qualities of these horses.

As the versatile ranch horse is the focus of our efforts, we must always care for our horses and all animals with the dignity and respect they deserve and thereby promote better horsemanship throughout our area of influence.

Section D: All EMRHA events shall be run according to ARHA rules unless otherwise noted in the bylaws, rules and regulations, or other directives.

ARTICLE II: Officers and Board of Directors

Section A: Elected officers of the Association will consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Charter Representative. The officers will be elected by the current members in good standing with both ARHA and EMRHA, for terms of two years. The elections of officers will take place at the annual meeting to be held between November 1st and December 15th of each **odd** numbered year. Officers may be elected to successive terms without limit. All officers must be current members in good standing with both ARHA and EMRHA.

The Board of Directors will consist of 6 members. Directors will be elected by the current members in good standing with both ARHA and EMRHA, for a term of two (2) years. The elections of directors will take place at the annual meeting to be held between November 1st and December 15th of each **even** numbered year. Directors may be elected to successive terms without limit. All directors must be current members in good standing with both ARHA and EMRHA.

Section B: The business of this association shall be managed by its Officers and its Board of Directors.

Section C: The Officers and the Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to make, amend, repeal, and enforce such rules and regulations, not contrary to law, or this Constitution and Bylaws, as they deem necessary concerning the conduct, management, and activities of the charter, the admission, classification, qualification, supervision, and expulsion of members, removal of officers, the rules and regulations setting the procedure of such suspension, expulsion or removal, the fixing and collection of dues and fees, the expenditure of money, the auditing of books and records, the conduction of shows, contests, and exhibitions and other details relating to the general purpose of the charter.

Section D: In the event of a vacancy of an Officer or Director, the Officers and Directors shall have the authority to appoint an individual to fill the unexpired term of any such Officer or Director.

Section E: Any Officer or Director who misses three consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Directors can be immediately terminated as a Board Member. The President may grant a Board Member an excused absence for illness or other emergency.

ARTICLE III: Election of Officers and Directors

Section A: Nominations for the elected Officers and Directors of the Association will be named by a nominating committee, selected by the President, and composed of members of the Board of Directors. There will be at least one (1) nomination for each elected position. The nominating committee will report their nominations to the President no less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of the Association.

Section B: At the written request of any member in good standing with EMRHA and ARHA, the name of any other candidates for the elected Officers or Directors will be placed in nomination and notice shall be immediately given to the membership, provided said written request is placed in the hands of the Secretary not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of the Association.

Section C: Nominations from the floor at the annual meeting will be accepted.

Section D: Each member who is a member in good standing of EMRHA and ARHA shall be entitled to one vote. Absentee ballots, bearing the signature and ARHA membership number of the member in good standing which is not at the annual meeting must be received in hand before the annual meeting convenes to be counted at the annual meeting of the Association. No proxy voting will be allowed.

Section E: The election of Officers and Directors at the annual meeting shall be by closed ballot.

Section F: All Officers and Board of Directors will serve a two year term, with Officers being elected every odd numbered year and Directors being elected every even numbered year.

ARTICLE IV: Duties of the Officers and Directors

Section A: The President will be the chief executive officer and preside at all meetings of the Association. The President shall conduct the business of the charter in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws and other rules and regulations of ARHA. The President will appoint all special and standing committees. The President will be a member of all committees and may also head the committee if deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. The President will sign all contracts or other instruments which the Board of Directors has authorized to be executed. The President may only vote on matters before the Board of Directors in the event of a tie vote.

Section B: It will be the duty of the Vice President to perform the duties requested of him/her by the President and/or Board of Directors and to perform all duties of the President in the case of the President's absence.

Section C: The secretary will keep the minutes of all meetings. Keep the membership roll and issue membership cards; conduct, supervise, count and record all balloting of all elections; and perform the duties requested of him/her by the President and/or Board of Directors.

Section D: The treasurer will collect all monies due EMRHA and will have the care and custody of and responsibility for such monies. Deposit in the name of EMRHA, in such banks as the Directors designate, the monies of the Association. Keep proper books of account, showing the disposition of such funds as may pass through his/her hands. The Treasurer shall make a report of all receipts and disbursements of funds since their last meeting at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors and at the annual meeting of the membership. In the absence of President and Vice President the Treasurer will perform all the duties of the President.

Section E: It is the duty of the Charter Representative to attend national meetings and perform all duties assigned to the office by the regulations of ARHA. The Charter Representative is the communication link between EMRHA and ARHA.

Section F: The duties of the Board of Directors will consist of reviewing policy issues affecting the Association and making recommendations to the general membership regarding these issues. The Board of Directors shall have general charge of the affairs and finances and property of the Association, to which they shall report at the annual meeting.

The Board of Directors is responsible for attending all charter meetings at such time and place as they shall determine. Notice and purpose of any special meeting shall be given at least seven (7) days in advance by mail, phone, fax or email to each Director. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of one half (1/2) of the Officers and Board Members. A majority of such quorum shall decide upon any question that may come before the meeting.

ARTICLE V: Meeting of Members of the Association

Section A: An annual meeting will be held between November 1st and December 15th of each year. Notice of time and location will be given no less than ten (10) days prior to annual meeting. Other meetings can be called by the President with a minimum of ten (10) days notice.

Section B: Special meetings of the Members of the Association may be called by the direction of the President, or majority of the Board of Directors, or by written direction of not less than twenty percent of the members in good standing with no less than ten (10) days notice regarding items needing immediate attention. Said notice shall state in writing the date, time, place, and purpose of said meeting. Only such business as is set forth in the written notice of said special meeting shall be transacted at said meeting.

Section C: Those members present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the charter and a simple majority vote of such quorum shall decide any question that may come before the meeting.

Section D: Except as hereinafter provided relative to the voting for Directors and Officers or other ARHA business, each member in good standing of the charter shall be entitled to one vote at a meeting of the members. Voting by mail ballot for the election of Directors and Officers shall be permitted. Otherwise, voting must be in person at a meeting of the members and voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

Article VI: Membership

Section A: Any individual interested in ranch horses may become a member of this Association. Members shall be admitted and retained in accordance with the rules and regulations of this Association and ARHA.

Section B: Each member of the Association shall pay annual membership dues to the EMRHA. Said dues are due and payable at the commencement of each calendar year. The calendar year of the Association will be January 1 through December 31 of each year.

Section C: All dues of the Association shall be set by the Officers and Board of Directors.

Section D: All monies paid to EMRHA must be in US Funds.

Section E: Membership in EMRHA is a privilege, not a right, application for which shall be made on forms and by fees and procedures prescribed from time to time by Association. Membership, or application therefore, may be terminated or rejected by the Board of Directors for cause detrimental to the interest of the charter, its programs, policies, objectives and harmonious relationships of its members, as determined by the Board of Directors.

Article VII: Liability

Section A: EMRHA does not assume responsibility for safety of participants, guests, or other individuals at shows or other EMRHA sanctioned events.

Article VIII: Annual Statements

Section A: The Officers and Board of Directors shall present at each annual meeting of the Association a full and complete statement of the business and affairs of the Association for the preceding year. Such statements shall be prepared and presented in whatever matter the Officers and Board of Directors deem advisable and need not be verified by certified public accountant, unless the Board of Directors feel that such verification of the statement is warranted.

ARTICLE IX: Amendments

Section A: Amendments to the bylaws will be proposed by the Officers and Board of Directors or the rules committee. The revised bylaw amendments will be voted on by the Officers and Board of Directors. All approved bylaw changes will then be sent by written notice to the General Membership via ballot, for final approval, no less than 30 days prior to annual meeting or special meeting being called for bylaw amendment approval.

Section B: All members in good standing with ARHA and EMRHA are entitled to one vote on bylaw changes.

Section C: A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members in good standing with both ARHA and EMRHA in attendance at the meeting is required for passage of amendments to the bylaws.

ARTICLE X: Dissolution Bylaw

Section A: In the event of the dissolution of EMRHA, any assets remaining after club liabilities have been met will be turned over to the American Ranch Horse Association. In such an event, a special meeting of the remaining members of the Association will be called with no less than thirty (30) days notice of said meeting.

Adopted November 21, 2009