

**NEW ZEALAND REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION  
CONSTITUTION  
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RULES of  
**NEW ZEALAND REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION**

**1. NAME**

The name of the Association is "NEW ZEALAND REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION", hereinafter called "NZRHA".

**2. INTERPRETATION**

In these Articles unless there is something in the subject or the context inconsistent therewith: -

"Association" means the New Zealand Reining Horse Association. (NZRHA)

"Rules" means these Articles of the Association

"Secretary" means any person appointed to perform the duties of a secretary of the Association and include an acting or honorary secretary.

"Year" means the Association's financial year, which will end on the last day of 31<sup>ST</sup> May in each year.

Expressions referring to writing shall be construed as including references to printing, typing, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form.

Words or expressions contained in these articles shall be interpreted in accordance with the Acts Interpretation Act 1924 as in force at the date at which these Rules become binding upon the Association.

**3. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives for which the Association is established are: -

- a. To promote and encourage the equine sport of Reining and encourage the showing of reining horses in New Zealand.
- b. Encourage the development & public interest in Reining Horse shows through promotion of public competitions, public exhibitions, merchandise and printed material.
- c. To support proper standards of performance & judging intended to be governed by the rules and regulations of performance NRHA (National Reining Horse Association of America)
- d. To offer coaching and competitive opportunities in the sport of Reining.
- e. To provide a duty of care to all members of the club and animal welfare.
- f. To provide competitors and spectators with the information they need for a proper understanding of the sport of Reining in the show arena.
- g. To ensure all present and future members receive fair and equal treatment.
- h. To encourage the development and breeding of Reining Horses.
- i. To ensure & maintain suitable standards for professional conduct for providing a fun filled, family orientated atmosphere.

**4. PROPERTY AND INCOME**

The income and property of the Association when so ever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association as set forth in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to the members of the Association.

Provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or servant of the Association or to any member of the Association in return for services actually rendered to the Association nor prevent the payment of interest at a rate not exceeding interest at the rate for the time being charged by bankers for overdrawn accounts on money lent or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any member of the Association.

**5. DISSOLUTION**

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objectives similar to the objectives of the Association and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to any extent at least as great as is imposed on the Association under or by virtue of Clause 4 hereof such institution or institutions to be determined by the members of the Association at or before the time of dissolution and if and so far as effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provision then to some charitable object.

## 6. ACCOUNTS

True accounts shall be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Association and the matter in respect of which such receipt and expenditure takes place and of the property credits and liabilities of the Association, and subject to any reasonable restrictions as to the time and manner of inspecting the same that may be imposed in accordance with the regulations of the Association for the time being in force shall be open to inspection of the members after being received in writing from members (with reasonable restrictions). Once at least in every year the accounts of the Association shall be examined and the corrections of the Balance sheet ascertained by one or more properly qualified auditor or auditors.

## 7. MEMBERSHIP

Subject to these rules the members of the Association shall be such people and organisations as the Committee admits to membership.

- a. Membership is open to all individuals and organisations that accept the objectives and rules of the Association.
- b. Individuals and organisations wishing to become members of the Association shall apply to the Committee for membership.
- c. The Committee shall determine whether or not to accept an application for membership. The Committee is not required to supply reasons for accepting or rejecting an application for membership.
- d. Members shall pay such fees as are determined by the Association at an Annual General Meeting.
- e. A register of members shall be kept by the Association showing the name, address and date of commencement of membership for each member. Provision for noting the date of cessation of membership shall also be contained in the register.
- f. Membership shall cease upon resignation, expulsion, or failure to pay outstanding membership fees within three months of the due date.
- g. Membership fees shall fall due on the first day of June in each year. The financial year of the Association shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> June – 31<sup>st</sup> May.
- h. To be eligible to vote at any General Meeting a member must have paid all membership fees due for the financial year in which the General Meeting is being held.
- i. The Association shall consist of members divided into the following classes:
  - Family Memberships** - being 2 Adults and Children in the same house hold who have paid the subscription specified. Each Family Membership shall have up to two votes.
  - Single Membership** - being persons over the age of 18 years who have paid the subscriptions specified. Each Single Member shall be eligible to cast one vote.
  - Youth Membership** - being persons up 18 years or under as at 1 August of that financial year who have paid the subscriptions specified. Each Youth Member shall be eligible to attend and speak at meetings but are NOT eligible to vote.
  - Social Non Riding Members** - being persons over the age of 18 years who have paid the subscriptions specified. Shall NOT be eligible to vote.

## 8. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Committee may take action to reprimand, fine, suspend or expel any member from the Association. If a majority of the Committee at a Special or General Meeting are dissatisfied with the conduct or behaviour of any Member, such conduct or behaviour shall be investigated by a Special Meeting called for the purpose. The offending Member shall have 21 days' notice in writing from The Secretary, informing him/her of such a meeting and of the nature of the charge brought against him/her. If such a charge is to be held to be proved by the majority of the Members present, they shall be empowered to expel the offending member from the Association. The committee may deny any member all privileges of the Association whenever it shall have been established by satisfactory evidence in a hearing conducted by the Committee that such member has knowingly and wilfully violated rules of the Association.

Anyone who becomes a member of the Association accepts to be bound by all the rules of the Association and renounces to any recourse that he may have against the Association so long as the latter acts in good faith and in accordance with the rules of the Association.

- a. Whenever anyone shall be accused of any violation he shall be given not less than twenty-one (21) days written notice of a time and place for hearing such accusation by the Committee, at which time and place he shall have the opportunity, in person or by counsel, to be heard and to present evidence on his own behalf and to hear and refute evidence offered against him.
- b. The decision and action of the Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.
- c. The Show Manager or official judge of any show event shall have the authority to require a member to leave or withdraw from the show for any reason of misconduct, unprofessional conduct, animal welfare measures or disrespect to the Show committee or Judge. In the event that a member of the NZRHA is asked by the Show Management to leave or withdraw from that show for reasons of misconduct, the Committee shall review the case and all the facts involved and render a decision pertaining the same. This hearing of the Committee must be held within twenty-one (21) days from the date the notice is received by the NZRHA Office provided further that the member involved is given at least twenty-one (21) days' notice. The member shall be notified of the Committee's decision immediately thereafter.
- d. Any suspended member of the Association will not be allowed to participate in a NZRHA organised event as an owner of a horse, a rider, or act as agent, and in the event such suspended member enters an approved show during the period of his suspension either as owner, rider or agent, an additional six months will be added to his suspension and all show winnings will be forfeited. Suspended members are not entitled to membership privileges whilst under suspension.
- e. Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the Association for the failure to pay when due, any obligation owed to the Association provided that fifteen (15) days before action is taken by the Committee, written notice of the account due and the intention to suspend or withhold privileges of the Association shall be delivered to such member. Any suspension and denial of privileges under this section shall terminate upon full payment of the obligation due.
- f. Unsportsmanlike conduct either towards Judges, Show Management or other exhibitors will not be tolerated also no abuse or mistreatment of any horse in any manner will be permitted on the showground's or in the show arena. Violations will be brought before the Committee for possible disciplinary action, fine in any amount not exceeding \$500.00 or suspension.
- g. If the Committee resolves to fine a member it shall in such resolution specify whether or not the member's membership shall be deemed to be suspended until such time that the fine is paid in full.
- h. No drunkenness, swearing, obscene or indecent language or other disorderly conduct by any members shall be tolerated in any NZRHA event, function or place. Any breach of this provision shall render the member concerned liable for expulsion.

## 9. MANAGEMENT – OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

- a. The Association shall have its affairs controlled and managed by the Officers and other members known as the Committee.
- b. The Officers shall consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- c. The Committee shall consist of:
  - o Twelve members, all of whom must be full financial members of the association for a period of no less than one year.
  - o Those elected onto the Committee shall elect amongst themselves at the end of the Annual General Meeting, a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- d. The Members of the Committee shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting. Any vacancy occurring in the Committee by reason of the death, disability, resignation or expulsion of any Member of the Committee (the “Retiring Member”) may be filled by a member appointed by the Committee, which member shall remain a Member of the Committee until the Annual General Meeting at which the Retiring Member was due to retire from the Committee. Any such person shall be eligible to be re-elected.
- e. A Committee Member shall hold office for a term of two years. At the Annual General Meeting each year those Committee Members who have held office for two years shall retire from office. Any member of the Committee who retires from office shall be eligible for re-election.
- f. An Officer shall hold Office for the year in which they are elected by the Committee but may be re-elected in any subsequent year.
- g. 50% (half) of the Committee must stand down annually and shall be eligible for re-election.
- h. The Committee may appoint a sub-committee and delegate a specific task. Such sub-committee will report back to the NZRHA Committee.
- i. The Committee shall meet at least three times in each period of 12 months at such place and time as the Committee may determine.
- j. The quorum for meetings of the Committee shall be six.
- k. Notice of Committee meetings shall be given at the previous Committee meeting or by such other means as the Committee may decide upon.
- l. A member of the committee shall cease to hold office upon resignation in writing; removal as a member of the Association; or absence from three successive committee meetings without approval by the Committee.
- m. The Committee may function validly provided its number is not reduced below the quorum. Any vacancy on the Committee may be filled under clause 9(d).
- n. Questions arising at any meeting of the Committee shall be decided by the majority of votes of those present. In the case of an equality of votes the person appointed to chair the meeting shall have a second and casting vote.
- o. If within half an hour of the time appointed for a Committee meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall be dissolved.
- p. Additional meetings of the Committee may be convened by the President or any two members of the Committee.
- q. The President or, in the President’s absence, the Vice-President, shall act as chairperson at each General meeting and the Committee meeting of the Association.
- r. If the President and Vice-President are absent from a meeting or unwilling to act, the members present at the meeting shall elect one of their number to act as chairperson.
- s. The Secretary shall ensure that records of the business of the Association including the rules, register of members, minutes of all General and Committee meetings and a file of correspondence are kept. These records shall be available for inspection by any member after their request has been submitted in writing (with reasonable restrictions) to the Secretary and shall be held in the custody of the Secretary.
- t. The Treasurer shall ensure that all money received by the Association is paid into an account in the Association’s name. Payments shall be made through internet banking by

any combination of the three signatories authorised by the Committee. Major or unusual expenditure shall be authorised in advance by the Committee or a General Meeting.

- u. The Treasurer shall ensure that correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the Association. These records shall be available for inspection by any member once received in writing (with reasonable restrictions) and shall be held in the custody of the Treasurer.

## 10. MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting:

- a. Shall be held in accord each year within ten (10) months from the end of the financial year of the Association.
- b. The Committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the Association. A special general meeting must be convened by the Committee within three (3) months of receiving a written request to do so from at least ten (10) per cent of the membership of the Association.
- c. At least fourteen (14) days notice of all general meetings and notices of motion shall be given to members. In the case of general meetings where a special resolution is given to members at least twenty-one (21) days before the meeting.
- d. The quorum for a general meeting shall be six (6) members present in person. If within half an hour of the time appointed or general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be dissolved except for provision of Rule 9 l.
- e. Voting at general meetings shall be by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is demanded. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote except for those matters which must be decided by special resolution where a three-quarter majority is required.
- f. All votes shall be given personally and there shall be no voting by proxy other than as permitted by Rule 11.
- g. In the case of an equality of votes the person appointed to chair the general meeting shall have a second and casting vote.
- h. Nominations of candidates for election as Committee Members must be present at the Annual General Meeting or in such other ways as may be determined by the Association at a general meeting.

## 11. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

A special resolution must be passed at either an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the association to affect the following changes:

- a. A change of the Association's name
- b. A change of the Association's objectives
- c. An amalgamation with another Association
- d. To voluntarily wind up the Association and distribute its property.
- e. To apply for registration as a Company, Co-operative or Incorporated Society

A special resolution shall be passed in the following manner:

- a. A notice must be sent to all members advising that an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting is to be held to consider a special resolution;
- b. The notice must give details of the proposed special resolution and give at least 21 days' notice of the meeting;
- c. A quorum must be present at the meeting;
- d. Proxy votes will only be allowed at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting in the case of a Special Resolution to be passed
- e. At least two thirds of those present and proxy votes must vote in favour of the resolution;

## 12. ALTERATION OF RULES

These Rules may be amended or replaced by resolution of any Annual General Meeting or Special General meeting, passed by two thirds majority of those members present and voting. Provided that no addition to or alteration of the non-profit aims, personal benefit clause or winding up clause shall be approved without the Inland Revenue Department's consideration. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from these rules and shall be included and implied into any document replacing these rules.

## 13. INDEMNITY

Every member of the Committee, Auditor, Secretary and other officers for the time being of the Association shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Association against any liability arising out of the execution of the duties of their office which is incurred by him/her in defending any proceeding whether civil or criminal in which judgement is given in his/her favour or in which he/she is acquitted or in connection with any application which under the Act in which relief is granted to him/her by the Court in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust.