

# MISSOURI ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

## Article I - Name

This organization is a NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION duly organized under the provisions of Chapter 355 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, and may be called the MISSOURI ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION, INC. or MAHA.

## Article II - Purposes & Objectives

Its purposes are:

1. To aid and encourage the breeding, raising, use and/or exhibition of purebred Arabian, as well as part-bred and Anglo-Arabian, horses (hereinafter collectively called "Arabians");
2. To initiate, sponsor and/or promote competitions (e.g. shows, or competitive and endurance rides) for Arabians;
3. To promote, encourage and/or organize youth/equine related activities;
4. To collect and disseminate information of interest to the members and/or the public;
5. To promote the improvement and training of Arabians and prevention of cruelty to equines;
6. To foster social, athletic, welfare and recreational activities utilizing or involving Arabians and obtain facilities therefor; and
7. To engage in any other lawful activity beneficial to the Arabian horse or the members.

## Article III - Membership

Any person who is not on the current suspension list of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF)), Arabian Horse Association or any other breed registry, or has not been convicted of animal abuse or neglect, and is interested in promoting or engaging in the objectives of the Association, shall be eligible for membership upon payment of annual dues and completion of an MAHA or AHA Membership Application. Ownership of a horse is not a requirement for membership. There shall be the following types of memberships:

1. **Affiliate Senior Member** - an individual 18 years of age or older, as determined by the rules of AHA. An Affiliate Senior Member is entitled to one vote at elections of MAHA and a membership in the Arabian Horse Association.
2. **Associate Senior Member** - a person 18 years of age and over, as determined by the rules of AHA. An Associate Senior Member is not entitled to membership in the Arabian Horse Association and is not entitled to vote on any business brought before MAHA that involves AHA, unless such person is a member of AHA directly or a member of AHA through another club. An Associate Senior Member is entitled to one vote on all other business and has other rights and privileges the same as Affiliate Members.

3. **Affiliate Junior Member** - a person who is less than 18 years old as determined by the rules of AHA. An Affiliate Junior member is a Junior member of the Arabian Horse Association, has all rights and privileges of a Senior Member except a Junior Member shall not be entitled to vote or hold office.
4. **Associate Junior Member** - a person who is less than 18 years old as determined by the rules of AHA. An Associate Junior Member will not be entitled to membership in the Arabian Horse Association but shall have all other rights and privileges of a Junior Member.

Membership application may be accessed from the AHA website at [www.arabianhorses.org](http://www.arabianhorses.org), from the MAHA website at [www.moarabhorse.org](http://www.moarabhorse.org), the MAHA Communications Director, or the MAHA Membership Coordinator. Membership is valid for one year. A 3-year membership is also available.

#### **Article IV - Management**

The management of the corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors which shall consist of:

1. The FOUR (4) officers designated in Article VI (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer);
2. The immediate Past President;<sup>1</sup>
3. Communications Director;
4. Events Director;
5. Youth Director;
6. Class A Show Director.

In addition, the following Committees and Chairpersons will be selected by and report to the Board of Directors:

1. Class A Show Committee – (Class A Show Director will serve as Chair) - Responsible for any class A shows the club sponsors;
2. Audit Committee – Responsible for reviewing club financials annually;
3. Legislative Committee – Responsible for reviewing and making changes to club Bylaws, Rules and Policies.

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<sup>1</sup> In any given year in which the President succeeds himself or herself so that the position of Immediate Past President is vacant, the President may appoint, with Board approval, any past president to fill that position. If no such Past President is willing or able to fill the position, then the President may appoint a Director at Large from the General Membership at the President's discretion.

4. Youth Committee (Youth Director will serve as Chair) - Responsible for initiating and/or guiding programs and events for our youth members designed to aid and encourage educational, social and athletic recreational activities utilizing or involving Arabians and promoting horse welfare.

The following Coordinators will be selected by the Board of Directors and report as noted:

1. Web Site Coordinator – Communications Director
2. Newsletter Coordinator – Communications Director
3. Membership Coordinator – Communications Director
4. Annual Banquet Coordinator – Events Director
5. High Point Coordinator – Events Director

The individual(s) so elected or appointed shall serve until the next general election.

The committee chairperson of any committee may offer sign-up sheets at meetings.

A simple majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum the transaction of all business. Proxies shall not be recognized for Board votes. If the same individual holds more than one seat on the Board of Directors, then that person shall be entitled to one-vote for each such seat held in that year.

#### **Article V - Meetings**

There shall be at least four (4) Board meetings held each year, with additional meetings as may be called by the President or two (2) other Board members. Meetings may be held via electronic communication, if needed. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to all members of the Association. Members may question and/or comment on business before the Board at the discretion of the President, but shall not be allowed to vote. The Board reserves the right to close a meeting at its discretion.

There shall be at least two (2) general membership meetings held each year.

All meetings, both of the Board and the Membership, shall be conducted according to Roberts' Rules of Order.

#### **Article VI - Officers**

There shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers must be a member in good standing of both AHA and MAHA. The PRESIDENT, or in his/her absence the VICE-PRESIDENT, shall preside at all meetings, decide questions of order, and with the Board of Directors oversee the management of the Missouri Arabian Horse Association according to these Bylaws. The President is authorized to sign checks in the absence or disability of the Treasurer.

The SECRETARY shall keep the minutes of each Board and Membership Meeting and submit a written report to the President and to the Communications Director and/or Newsletter Coordinator for publication. All minutes shall be so submitted within two (2) weeks after the meeting to which they relate. Minutes of Board meetings shall contain names of Board members and committee chairpersons present. The Secretary shall advise Board of Directors of any member missing two (2) consecutive Board meetings. Within a week after the annual meeting and election of officers, secretary shall send to Arabian Horse Association and Region 11 (or such other Region as Missouri may be a part, from time-to-time) officers, names, addresses and telephone numbers of newly elected officers, directors, coordinators, and committee chairpersons of the Association. The Secretary shall also be responsible for filing MAHA's Annual Report with the Missouri Secretary of State.

The TREASURER shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the organization. The treasurer shall deposit all monies and disburse funds of the organization as may be ordered by the Board of Directors. All checks received are to be deposited within two (2) weeks of receipt by the Treasurer with Class A Show monies being placed in separate accounts. The treasurer shall give an account of all his/her transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the association in a form approved by the Board at each Board and General Membership meeting. The books may be subject to an audit or verification on demand of the Board of Directors by a person or persons appointed by the Board. The Association shall carry a Fidelity Bond on the Treasurer. The treasurer shall present to the General Membership at the last general membership meeting of the membership year, a budget based on the current year's income and expenses. The Treasurer, in cooperation with the President, shall ensure that MAHA's annual IRS Form 990 is duly filed with the United States Internal Revenue Service on or before the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of MAHA's accounting period, or May 15 unless MAHA later adopts a different annual accounting period.

## **Article VII - Elections**

The election of officers and directors, if applicable, for the succeeding year shall be held at the last general meeting of the members in a Membership Year. All officers and directors shall be elected for a one-year term, commencing at the beginning of the immediately succeeding Membership Year. All officers and directors shall serve until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified. A nominating committee, appointed by the President and approved by the Board, shall present a single slate of officers to the membership a minimum of fifteen (15) days prior to the election. At the election, any member may nominate other candidates from the floor. Each member shall be allowed one vote per office. All members nominated for an office or position on the Board shall have renewed membership by the date of the meeting at which the election is held.

The following positions will be elected annually by the general membership: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Director, Events Director, Youth Director, and Class A Show Director.

## **Article VIII - Dues**

The amount of dues for the following year shall be established at the last general meeting in each Membership Year.

## **Article IX - Agenda**

At least fifteen (15) days prior to any general or regular meeting, an agenda is to be distributed to all members. Only Board members and Directors need to be notified of and receive agendas for Board meetings. The general membership must be notified of all general meetings through the newsletter or by a separate mailing. The agenda shall list those items to be discussed. Items of an emergency nature that require action by the Board or general membership, but are not listed on the agenda, may be considered, provided that approval of such items receive a 2/3 affirmative vote of those in attendance.

## **ARTICLE X – INSURANCE**

The Board of Directors shall secure such policies of insurance and/or bonds as it may deem reasonably required to protect the interests of MAHA, its officers, directors, and/or members. Such insurance should specifically cover any competitions (e.g. shows, or competitive and endurance rides). Additionally, the Board of Directors shall secure officers and directors insurance. Further, MAHA shall indemnify and hold harmless its officers and directors for their actions and omissions made in the course and scope of their service to MAHA to the extent said actions and omissions were reasonable under the then-circumstances.

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