



Hudson Valley Ranch Horse Association By-Laws

## ARTICLE I

### Section A – Name

The name of the organization will be Hudson Valley Ranch Horse Association (HVRHA).

### Section B – Purpose

HVRHA was formed for the purpose of promoting athletic, versatile ranch type horses. Our association (HVRHA) will carry out the above purpose by providing convenient, local places for members to show and promote their ranch horses, with a fun, friendly, family oriented atmosphere. HVRHA will offer clinics, demos, trail rides, cowboy races, fundraisers, and ARHA (American Ranch Horse Association) approved shows. ARHA will keep records and national points on all ARHA registered horses and offers a national awards program. ARHA also supplies the rule book and standards to conduct ARHA approved shows.

### Section C – Goal Statement

The goal of the HVRHA will be to promote and enjoy the all around ranch type horse that has cow sense, talent and athleticism in the Hudson valley region of New York.

HVRHA will accomplish their goal by offering clinics, trail rides, cowboy races, demos, fundraisers and ARHA approved shows. These events will allow owners and riders to promote their ranch type horses, while offering education and information to the general public, businesses, members & non-members on the versatility, talent and brains of the true type ranch horse.

HVRHA promotes and encourages everyone to always properly care for their horses and all animals, showing them love and respect while exercising excellent horsemanship and sportsmanship towards others.

### Section D – Disciplinary Procedure

Any HVRHA member or non-member may be disciplined, suspended, or expelled from HVRHA and / or its events if deemed necessary by Board of Directors, upon proof of wrong doing. BOD can deny part or all privileges associated with HVRHA. Wrong doing must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt by the Board of Directors, and agreed upon by the majority vote (51%) of the BOD. Any member suspended from ARHA will automatically be suspended from HVRHA until further notice or appeal.

### Section E – Ethics

All members, and Board of Directors and Officers must, under all circumstances maintain honesty, integrity and professionalism. This is essential to the success of HVRHA and public confidence in HVRHA and its representatives. As a requirement of HVRHA membership, all persons involved will agree to abide by HVRHA rules, By-Laws, and goals. All agree to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. These actions will encourage others to act fairly and honestly. Any HVRHA member, Officer or Board of Director who is in violation of any type of unprofessionalism can and will be suspended or removed from their position by an emergency meeting and majority vote (51%) of BOD. Person(s) involved will be notified within 14 days of said action by the HVRHA Board of Directors and Officers.

## ARTICLE II

### Section A – Membership

Membership will be available to all persons interested in beliefs of this association and willing to follow HVRHA By-Laws and Rules. Membership is good for one calendar year, which begins on January 1 through December 31 of the current year (unless it's a lifetime membership).

HVRHA membership is a privilege, not a right. Membership application or any membership can be terminated or rejected at any time by the Board of Directors as they see fit, for behavior or a member's actions that become detrimental or harmful to goals, beliefs and interest of HVRHA and its BOD. This will also include, but not limited to any or all HVRHA shows, events, meetings, policies and by-laws as determined by a meeting and agreement of the Board of Directors.

### Section B – Annual Dues

Each HVRHA member pays annual membership dues. The annual dues become payable January 1 of current year. Dues will be established by HVRHA Officers and Board of Directors on a yearly basis. Annual dues must be paid when applying for membership.

HVRHA offers five types of memberships.

1. Individual Membership: restricted to one (1) person over 18 years of age.
2. Family Membership: includes person requesting membership, his/her spouse and children 18 & under.
3. Youth Membership: restricted to one (1) person 18 years of age & under.
4. Family Lifetime Membership: lifetime memberships are non-transferable and includes husband, wife and children 18 & under. In the event of a death the survivor retains the lifetime membership. In the event of a divorce the membership will be retained in the persons name as agreed to by the parties or as ordered by the court. All changes must be approved by the HVRHA Board of Directors and requires a \$12.00 reissue fee.
5. Individual Lifetime Membership: lifetime membership is non-transferable and is restricted to one (1) person over 18 years of age.

### Section D – Membership Fees

Annual Individual membership -\$20.00

Annual Family membership - \$30.00

Annual Youth membership - \$5.00

Individual Lifetime membership – \$85.00

Family Lifetime membership- \$135.00

### Section E – Voting

Members in good standing will be entitled to one (1) vote. Members may exercise their right to vote by being present at the meetings or by ballot.

ARHA rules state only current ARHA members may vote on official ARHA Officers and business. All other HVRHA members may vote on any other HVRHA business. Nominations will be taken at the board meeting the month prior to HVRHA annual meeting and elections. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the annual meeting. Ballots for election of HVRHA Officers and Board of Directors will be sent out to all current members of both ARHA and HVRHA. ARHA members unable to attend the annual meeting may vote by returning their ballots ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting. A designated date for return will be printed on ballot. Ballot votes will be tallied with votes from HVRHA's annual meeting.

## ARTICLE III

### Section A - Officers

HVRHA officers consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Charter Representative and Youth Advisor. Officers will be elected annually by members in good standing of both ARHA and HVRHA for a term of one (1) year. Officers must be current members and in good standing with both ARHA and HVRHA. Elections will take place at the annual meeting to be held between October 15th and December 31<sup>st</sup> of current year. Officers may be elected to successive terms without limit. Open positions may be filled during the current year for completion by HVRHA officers as deemed necessary. Officers who repeatedly do not attend board meetings may be subject to replacement by the Board of Directors as they see fit. Officers will be notified within 14 days prior of said action.

## Section B – Duties of Officers

**President** - Preside over all meetings of the association and Board of Directors.

Appoint committees deemed necessary by the Board of Directors to help promote and effectively run HVRHA activities and events. Call board and membership meetings as necessary. Sign all contracts and obligations of HVRHA with the Secretary and Treasurer.

**Vice President** – Perform the duties required of him (her) by the President and/or Board of Directors as deemed necessary. The Vice President will have the authority and all powers of the President when for any reason, the President is unable to attend meetings or act on his (her) required normal duties.

**Secretary** – Take minutes of all board and general meetings. Keep all records and correspondence of HVRHA. Receive all mail directed to HVRHA and distribute said mail to the correct people. Secretary will keep a record of all members, addresses, and phone numbers of said members. Keep records of all sponsors, addresses and phone numbers of said sponsors. Send thank you notes to all HVRHA help, volunteers and facility owners for their participation and support of HVRHA.

**Treasurer** – Collect all monies due HVRHA and will have custody of and responsibility for such monies. Deposit all monies in the name of HVRHA in the bank account designated by the Association. Keep correct books of account, showing the disposition of such funds as required by HVRHA. Make available, a financial report to the Board of Directors and Officers at monthly meetings or as requested.

**Charter Representative** – HVRHA’s representative to ARHA. They are the communication link between HVRHA and ARHA, and HVRHA’s board and members. Charter Rep must be able to attend ARHA’s yearly national convention. Charter Rep should promote and encourage members, non-members, and all others to participate in HVRHA and ARHA shows and events.

**Youth Advisor** – Advises and promotes the growth of the HVRHA Youth Association and is the link between the Youth Association and HVRHA. Youth Advisor will meet and advise the HVRHA youth as needed to develop a strong youth program.

## Section C - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will consist of 10 members (at present). The Officers of the HVRHA, the Charter Rep and Youth Advisor will serve as Directors so long as they hold a current position. Four (4) members will be elected by the membership during the annual meeting for a term of one (1) year. One (1) member may be elected as Fundraising Chairperson position, one (1) member may be elected as Show Committee Chairperson as needed by the association. The four (4) other members will be directors. . Successive terms may be held by Directors without limitations. Six (6) members will be elected by current members of both ARHA and HVRHA for a term of one (1) year. All Officers and Directors must be current members in good standing with ARHA and HVRHA. Open positions may be filled any time during the current year for the duration of the current term.

## Section D - Duties of Directors

The Board of Directors will take whatever action is deemed necessary to promote and protect the primary goals and By-Laws of HVRHA without membership vote when deemed necessary at the discretion of the majority (51%) of the Board. However, the Board of Directors can overturn a majority vote of the membership due to any violation of HVRHA’s By-Laws by any and all members, Officers or BOD.

The Board of Directors will review By-Law and goal issues affecting HVRHA and make recommendations to the general membership regarding these issues and then act upon those recommendations.

If the President and Vice President are absent or unable to act, the BOD will designate one (1) of its members to act as President and he (she) will have all powers of the President during such time.

The Board of Directors will have the power to appoint members to fill vacant or new positions until the next regular annual meeting or until deemed necessary.

Directors must be notified of all meetings at least seven (7) days before each meeting. The seven (7) day notice will be waived in the event of a “special emergency meeting” is called by one (1) or any of the officers or board of directors as deemed necessary. The majority vote (51%) of a “special emergency meeting” will determine the results of said meeting. The results of said meeting will be made available to HVRHA members fourteen (14) days later of said meeting if necessary.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### Section A - Meetings:

Meetings will be held monthly, or as necessary. Any member in good standing may attend. Only members in good standing with the HVRHA may vote on HVRHA business and current members in good standing with both ARHA and HVRHA can vote on ARHA officers and business matters. The annual meeting will be held between October 15<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of current year. Meetings are open to anyone who cares to attend. Minutes of all board and general membership meetings will be accessible to all HVRHA members.

##### Section B - Liability:

HVRHA does not assume responsibility for safety of participants, members, non-members or any other individuals at shows or other HVRHA sanctioned events.

#### ARTICLE V

##### Annual Report:

An annual report of the financial status and business affairs of HVRHA will be given at each annual meeting. Reports will be prepared and presented in whatever manner the Officers and Board of Directors deem necessary. Any member may review and question said reports.

#### ARTICLE VI

Amendments to the By-Laws: The above By-Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new By-Laws adopted, by a majority vote (51%) of the members present at any regular or special membership meeting. Members must receive prior written notice of intent to alter, amend, repeal, or adopt new By-Laws at least 30 days prior to said meeting. Members may then vote on said changes at the next meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII

##### Dissolution –

In the event of the dissolution of this Hudson Valley Ranch Horse Association, any assets remaining after club liabilities have been met (paid) will be turned over to the American Ranch Horse Association (ARHA). If such an event occurs, a meeting of the remaining HVRHA members will be called with no less than thirty (30) days notice of said meeting.