

Bylaws of the United States Sport Horse Breeders Association, Inc.

i. Offices

The principal office of the corporation shall be in the City of Southampton, in the County of Suffolk, in the State of New York. The corporation may also have offices at such other places within or without this state as the Board may from time to time determine or the business of the corporation may so require.

ii. Purpose

The purposes for which this corporation has been organized are as stated in the Certificate of Incorporation which may be amended as required.

The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

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 corporation 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.

No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be 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 or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future 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.

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or state or local government for public purpose. Any such asset not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

iii. Conflict Between Bylaws and Incorporation Provisions

In any conflict between the provisions of the certificate of incorporation and these by-laws, the provisions of the certificate of incorporation shall govern.

iv. Definitions

1. A **sport horse** is defined as a horse or pony bred for conformation, movement, and temperament to excel in one of more of the following disciplines: dressage, showjumping, eventing, hunter, or combined driving.
2. A **sport horse breeder** is one whose intent is to produce horses for these disciplines.

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ARTICLE I: STATEMENT OF MISSION

The mission of the United States Sport Horse Breeders Association (“the Association”) is to:

- 1) Support the efforts of U.S. sport horse breeders through education, recognition, and outreach.
- 2) Identify and bring forward issues of concern to U.S. sport horse breeders in a variety of forums.
- 3) Serve as a resource for the U.S. sport horse community.
- 4) Promote the welfare of sport horses in the U.S.A.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERS

- 1) Individual Breeder Members will have voting privileges and are eligible to serve as officers(Directors). Individual Breeder Members may be either:
 - a) Individual *active/former (approved 3/9/15)* sport horse breeders,
 - or
 - b) Individuals designated to represent breeding farms or other such commercial breeding entities or
- 2) Affiliated Group Members: Available to associations and/or groups. Affiliated Group Members will not have voting privileges.
- 3) Associate Members: Individuals with an interest in US sport horse breeding, who are not ~~active~~ breeders, but who wish to support the efforts of the US sport horse breeding community. Associate Members will not have voting privileges.
- 4) Youth Member: *Individuals under the age of 22 with interest in sport horse breeding. Youth Members will not have voting privileges. (approved 3/9/15)*

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP YEAR AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- 1) Calendar:

The membership year will commence on January 1, ending on December 31 of each year.
- 2) Annual membership dues shall be determined by the Board. *(approved 3/9/15)*

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ARTICLE IV: MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

1) BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Association shall be managed by a Board of Directors (“the Board”) of no more than nine members, including at least four individuals to serve as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Officers shall be at least 21 years of age. (approved 3/9/15)

2) ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

Each director shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which he/she was elected and until a successor has been elected and shall have qualified, or until prior resignation or removal. Commencing in 2015 (the second year following incorporation), 3 seats from the Board which have not been elected will be randomly selected to expire that year until the entire board has been elected by the voting membership. In the event original board members wish to allow their seat to expire, it will reduce the number of seats to be randomly selected by that number. Annual elections for expiring Directorships shall be held as follows:

A) Nominations for open seats on the Board of Directors shall be submitted by the general membership and meet the following requirement:

1. Be 21 years of age
2. Be a US Citizen, or legal resident of the United States of America
3. Be a Individual Breeder member in good standing
4. Have not been convicted of a Felony.

B) Nominations and balloting shall be overseen by an Elections Officer appointed by the Board.

C) Nominations must be received by the Elections Officer no later than 30 days prior to the opening of the election.

D) Elections shall be open for a minimum 15 days and concluded by **December 15th. (Approved 11/1/16)**

3) TERM OF DIRECTORS:

Terms of office for directors shall be three years, to begin on the first day of January following their election, to end on December 31st of the third year. **Exception: Terms of Officers shall expire upon their replacement according to provisions outlined in Article V, Section 1. (Approved 12/14/20)** Incoming directors may be formally recognized at the first Annual Meeting following their election..

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4) INCREASE OR DECREASE IN NUMBER OF DIRECTORS.

The number of directors may be increased or decreased by a vote of a majority of all of the directors. No decrease in number of directors shall shorten the term of any incumbent director.

5) NEWLY CREATED DIRECTORSHIPS AND VACANCIES.

Newly created directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors and vacancies occurring in the Board for any reason except the removal of directors without cause may be filled by a vote of the majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum exists, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation. Vacancies occurring by reason of the removal of directors without cause shall be filled by vote of the other directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy caused by resignation, death or removal shall be elected to hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

6) REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS.

Any or all of the directors may be removed for cause by action of the Board. Directors may be removed due to nonfulfillment of duties required by board, misconduct, theft and misrepresentation of our organization all by majority vote of the Board members.

7) RESIGNATION.

A director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board, the president or the secretary of the corporation. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof by the Board or such officer, and the acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

8) QUORUM OF DIRECTORS.

Unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation, a majority of the entire board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business or any specified item of business.

9) ACTION OF The Board.

Unless otherwise required by law, the vote of a majority of the directors present at the time of the vote, if a quorum is present at such time, shall be the act of the Board. Each director present shall have one vote.

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10) PLACE AND TIME OF BOARD MEETINGS.

The Board may hold its meetings at the office of the corporation or at such other places, either within or without the state, as it may from time to time determine.

11) REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING.

A regular annual meeting of the Board shall be held.

12) NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF The Board, ADJOURNMENT.

Regular meetings of the Board may be held without notice at such time and place as it shall from time to time determine. Special meetings of the Board shall be held upon notice to the directors and may be called by the president upon three days notice to each director either personally or by mail, email, or by wire; special meetings shall be called by the president or by the secretary in a like manner on written request of two directors. Notice of a meeting need not be given to any director who submits a waiver of notice whether before or after the meeting or who attends the meeting without protesting prior thereto or at its commencement, the lack of notice to him.

A majority of the directors present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Notice of the adjournment shall be given to all directors who were absent at the time of the adjournment and, unless such time and place are announced at the meeting, to the other directors.

13) CHAIRMAN.

At all meetings of the Board, the President shall preside. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside. In the absence of both President and Vice President, a presiding chairman may be designated from among the members of the Board.

14) EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMITTEES.

The Board, by resolution adopted by a majority of the entire board, may designate from among its members an executive committee and other committees from among the Board and general membership. Each such committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

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ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

1. OFFICES, ELECTION, TERM.

Unless otherwise provided for in the certificate of incorporation, the Board may elect or appoint a president, one or more vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer, and such other officers as it may determine, who shall have such duties, powers and functions as hereinafter provided. All officers shall be elected or appointed to hold office until the meeting of the Board. Each officer shall hold office for the term for which he is elected or appointed and/or until his successor has been elected or appointed and qualified. **Officers whose seats on the Board have expired shall preside only as necessary, serving as placeholders, and shall not vote. (Approved 12/14/20)**

2. REMOVAL OR RESIGNATION.

Any officer elected or appointed by the Board may be removed by the Board with or without cause. In the event of the death, resignation or removal of an officer, the Board in its discretion may elect or appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of president and secretary.

3. PRESIDENT.

The president shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation; he shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board; he shall have the general management of the affairs of the corporation and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect.

4. VICE-PRESIDENTS.

During the absence or disability of the president, the vice-president, or if there are more than one, the executive vice-president, shall have all the powers and functions of the president. Each vice-president shall perform such other duties as the Board shall prescribe.

5. TREASURER.

The treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the corporation, and shall deposit said funds in the name of the corporation in such bank

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or trust company as the directors may elect; he shall, when duly authorized by the Board of directors, sign and execute all contracts in the name of the corporation, when countersigned by the president; he shall also sign all checks, drafts, notes, and orders for the payment of money, which shall be duly authorized by the Board of directors and shall be countersigned by the president; he shall at all reasonable times exhibit his books and accounts to any director or member of the corporation upon application at the office of the corporation during ordinary business hours. At the end of each corporate year, he shall have an audit of the accounts of the corporation made by a committee appointed by the president, and shall present such audit in writing at the annual meeting of the Board, at which time he shall also present an annual report setting forth in full the financial conditions of the corporation.

6. SECRETARY.

The secretary shall keep the minutes of the Board of directors and also the minutes of the members. he shall have the custody of the seal of the corporation and shall affix and attest the same to documents when duly authorized by the Board of directors. He shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the corporation, and shall have charge of such books and papers as the Board of directors may direct; he shall attend to such correspondence as may be assigned to him, and perform all the duties incidental to his office.

7. SURETIES AND BONDS.

In case the Board shall so require, any officer or agent of the corporation shall execute to the corporation a bond in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board may direct, conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties to the corporation and including responsibility for negligence and for the accounting for all property, funds or securities of the corporation which may come into his hands.

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ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

The by-laws may be adopted, amended or repealed by the Board at the time they are entitled to vote in the election of directors. By-laws may also be adopted, amended or repealed by the Board of directors but any by-law adopted, amended or repealed by the Board may be amended by the Board members entitled to vote thereon as herein before provided.

If any by-law regulating an impending election of directors is adopted, amended or repealed by the Board, there shall be set forth in the notice of the next meeting of all board members for the election of directors the by-law so adopted, amended or repealed, together with a concise statement of the changes made.

ARTICLE VII: CONDUCT

Because of its strong beliefs in high moral standards based on traditional values, the organization reserves the right to expect from all of its officers and directors to maintain high moral standards and social values that do not conflict with traditional morals.

ARTICLE VIII: INDEMNITY

The Corporation shall indemnify its directors, officers, and employees as follows:

Every director, officer, or employee of the Corporation shall be indemnified by the Corporation against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon him in connection with any proceeding to which he may be made a party, or in which he may become involved, by reason of his being or having been a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation, whether or not he is a director, officer, employee, or agent at the time such expenses are incurred, except in such cases wherein the director, officer, employee, or agent is adjudicated guilty of willful misfeasance or malfeasance in the performance of his duties. The Corporation shall provide any person who is an officer, director, employee, or agent of the Corporation or was serving at the request of a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation the indemnity against expenses

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of suit, litigation, or other proceedings which is specifically permissible under applicable law.

ARTICLE IX: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Whenever a Director or Officer has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the Board of directors, the Board shall ensure that:

1. The interest of such Officer or Director is fully disclosed to the Board of Directors.
2. No interested Officer or Director may vote on the matter or be counted in determining the existence of a quorum at the meeting of the Board of Directors at which such matter is voted upon.
3. Any transaction in which a Director or Officer has a financial or personal interest shall be duly approved by members of the Board of Directors not so interested or connected as being in the best interests of the organization.
4. Payments to the interested Officer or Director shall be reasonable and shall not exceed fair market value.
5. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval. (As approved by the BOD 1/6/15)

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The foregoing By-Laws were adopted by the directors of:

United States Sport Horse Breeders Association, Inc.

On the _____ day of _____, 2013.

Mary O'Connor

President

Diane Halpin

Secretary

Timothy Kammerer

Treasurer