



Mission Statement

Our mission is to preserve and honor the tradition of the ranch horse in the American West. We aim to stimulate interest in ranch horses, create competitive and learning environments for ranch horse enthusiasts across the United States, and protect the integrity of the horse through education while encouraging responsible stewardship.

We strive to preserve and promote the value of the ranch horse.

We firmly believe that proper training and education are the foundation of the horse's ability and desire to perform his job!

We are committed to protecting, preserving, and promoting the American ranch horse while actively pursuing growth in our industry. Our goal is to create an atmosphere of fun and healthy competition, fostering a community dedicated to the values and traditions of the American West.

**P.O. Box 2891
Apache Junction, AZ 85117**

The World Ranch Horse Association (WRHA) is a national association dedicated to offering safe and healthy competition for ranch horses and riders of all levels. Education is a cornerstone in achieving our goals. We are committed to ensuring that each WRHA-approved show maintains an atmosphere that is safe, friendly, fair, and affordable.

Shows and clinics, endorsed by WRHA, may be conducted in any state by any approved charter or affiliate club. We strive to promote excellence in ranch horse competitions while prioritizing the well-being of both horses and riders.

By-Laws

These by-laws govern all affairs, events, and charter clubs of WRHA. They serve as the association's guiding principles and regulatory framework, ensuring consistency, fairness, and adherence to established standards across all aspects of its operations.

Article I: Corporation Name, Purpose, Location & Corporate Seal

1.1. Corporation Name and Non-Profit Status:

The legal name shall be World Ranch Horse Association, referred to as WRHA. It shall operate as a Non-Profit Association in compliance with the state laws of Arizona.

1.2. Purpose:

The primary purpose of this association is to preserve and support the working ranch horse legacy of the American West. This includes educating ranch horse enthusiasts and those seeking information. WRHA is committed to providing a safe, fun, fair, and friendly atmosphere of competition for riders of all levels in all states. The association seeks to preserve the tradition of the true American West ranch horse and working stock horse. WRHA aims to establish uniform rules for ranch horse competition, standardize judging practices, and define and promote all versatilities of the ranch horse. The core values include practicing integrity, fairness, good sportsmanship, honesty, and upholding traditional values.

1.3. National Organization and Origin:

WRHA is a national organization with its origin in the state of Arizona. Members, Charter Clubs, and Shows may be held in any state, all eligible for WRHA approval and consideration for WRHA Year-End Awards, subject to the approval of WRHA Show Approval Applications.

1.4. Business Operations:

WRHA shall conduct business on a calendar year basis, from January 1 – December 31.

Article II: Members/Membership

2.1. Membership Obligations:

All members are obligated to adhere to the rules and bylaws of the association. Each member must submit a membership application along with an annual membership fee and will hold one (1) voting right as a member in good standing. (amateur or open, youth do not receive a vote)

2.2. Membership Categories:

Membership is open to anyone wishing to participate and is categorized into Individual Youth, Amateur, and Open. Individuals may apply for novice status in Youth or Amateur.

Article III: Board of Directors

3.1. Board of Directors Composition

The Board of Directors shall consist of three (3) directors:

- a. Two (2) Permanent Directors (Founder, Executive Director)
- b. One (1) Term Director

3.2. Rights and Powers

Permanent Directors shall:

- a. Serve without term limits
- b. Have full voting rights
- c. Have the power to appoint and remove the Term Director
- d. Have the authority to amend these bylaws by unanimous consent

3.3. Removal of Permanent Directors

A Permanent Director may only be removed for cause by unanimous vote of the other (2) directors. "Cause" shall include gross negligence in duties, breach of fiduciary duty, criminal conduct, mental incapacity, bankruptcy, death or permanent disability, or written resignation.

3.4. Vacancy of Permanent Director

In the event of a vacancy in a Permanent Director position:

- a. The remaining Permanent Director shall have the sole authority to appoint a replacement
- b. Such an appointment must occur within 90 days of the vacancy
- c. If both Permanent Director positions become vacant simultaneously, the Term Director shall have the authority to appoint one Permanent Director, who shall then appoint the second Permanent Director.

3.5. Appointment and Term

- a. The Term Director must be appointed by unanimous votes of the Permanent Directors.
- b. The Term Director shall serve a two-year term.
- c. The Term Director may be reappointed for additional terms by unanimous vote of the Permanent Directors.
- d. If a unanimous vote cannot be reached, consultation with the Advisory Board will be obtained and the president of that board will have a vote.

3.6 Removal

The Term Director may be removed:

- a. With or without cause by unanimous vote of the Permanent Directors
- b. For cause by unanimous vote of all directors

3.7. Quorum and Voting

Two directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business except as otherwise provided in these bylaws.

- a. The following actions require unanimous consent of all directors:
 1. Dissolution of the corporation
 2. Sale of substantially all corporate assets
 3. Merger or consolidation

3.8. Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly at times and places determined by the members. In-person or virtually. Meeting minutes will be posted on the WRHA website.

- a. Special meetings may be called by any Permanent Director with 48 hours' notice to all directors.

3.9. Compensation

Directors may receive reasonable compensation for services rendered to the corporation in other capacities and may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

ARTICLE IV: ADVISORY BOARD

4.1 Purpose and Authority

The Advisory Board shall serve as a non-governing body to provide guidance, expertise, and recommendations to the Board of Directors while having no fiduciary responsibilities and no formal authority to govern the organization.

4.2. Composition

The Advisory Board shall consist of no fewer than four (4) and no more than ten (10) members, with the exact number to be determined by the Board of Directors.

- a. Advisory Board members shall be selected based on:
 1. Commitment to the organization's mission
 2. Maintain an active membership with WRHA
 3. Ability to advance the organization's objectives
 4. Diversity of perspective and background

4.3. Nomination Process

The Board of Directors shall charge the Executive Director to issue a call for Advisory Board nominations to the general membership at least ninety (90) days before anticipated vacancies through all standard communication channels including the organization's website, email distribution list, and social media platforms specifying:

- a. Number of positions available
- b. Required qualifications and nomination procedures
- c. Terms of service
- d. Submission deadlines

4.4 Eligible Nominators

Any member in good standing may submit nominations including Board of Directors and Advisory Board members. Members may nominate themselves.

4.5 Nomination Requirements

Each nomination must include the nominee's name, contact information, and membership number along with two professional references.

4.6 Nomination Review and Selection Process

- a. The Executive Director shall:
 1. Verify nominations
 2. Check the membership status of nominators
 3. Organize nominations by position
 4. Prepare summary reports for review
- b. Board of Directors Review
 1. Review all complete nominations
 2. Verify qualifications
 3. Contact references
 4. Interview candidates if needed
- c. Selection Process
 1. The Board of Directors shall evaluate candidates based on required qualifications, organization needs, diversity of perspective, geographic representation

4.7 Appointments

Appointments require a majority vote of the Board of Directors, and may request additional information before voting

4.8 Member Communication

The Board shall announce appointments:

- a. Within 14 days of selection
- b. Through all standard communication channels
- c. Including brief biographies of appointees
- d. Expressing gratitude to all nominees and nominators

4.9 Appointment Terms

- a. Members shall serve two-year terms
- b. Terms shall be renewable by unanimous agreement by the board of directors with input from current members of the advisory board.
- c. Terms shall be staggered to ensure continuity
- d. No term limits shall apply

4.10. Meetings

- a. Frequency
 1. The Advisory Board shall meet as often as needed with a minimum of 14 days' notice prior.
 2. Additional meetings may be called as needed by the Board of Directors or the Advisory Board President.
 3. Meetings may be in person or virtually.
- b. Attendance
 1. Members may participate in person or virtually
 2. No formal quorum requirements shall apply
 3. Members are expected to attend at least 50% of meetings annually

4.11. Leadership

- a. Advisory Board President
 1. The Advisory Board shall have a President appointed by the Board of Directors.
 2. The President shall serve a one-year renewable term
 3. The President's responsibilities shall include:

- a. Coordinating with the Board of Directors
- b. Setting meeting agendas
- c. Facilitating Advisory Board meetings

b. Other Leadership Roles

- 1. The Advisory Board may establish other leadership roles as needed, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
 - a. It is recommended that a Vice President continue operations in the president's absence and that someone be assigned to document meetings.

4.12. Advisory Board Responsibilities

- a. Provide strategic advice and guidance
- b. Share professional expertise
- c. Assist in community outreach
- d. Support fundraising efforts (without personal obligation to donate)
- e. Serve as ambassadors for the organization
- f. Participate in strategic planning when requested
- g. Offer feedback on programs and initiatives
- h. Identify potential partnerships and opportunities

4.13 Removal and Resignation

- a. Advisory Board members may be removed by majority vote of the Board of Directors with or without cause
- b. Members may resign anytime by providing written notice to the Advisory Board President or Board of Directors.

4.14 Board of Directors Liaison

At least one (1) member of the Board of Directors shall attend all Advisory Board meetings in the capacity of Board Liaison. Multiple Board members may attend, but only one shall serve as the official Board Liaison per meeting.

- a. The Board Liaison shall:
 - 1. Observe proceedings and take notes
 - 2. Report meeting content back to the Board of Directors
 - 3. Serve as a silent observer unless specifically requested to provide input by the Advisory Board President, asked to clarify board policies or decisions, and required to address immediate governance concerns.
 - 4. Not participate in advisory discussions unless explicitly invited
 - 5. Not vote on advisory recommendations
 - 6. Not chair or lead any portion of the meeting
 - 7. Prepare a written summary for the Board of Directors
 - 8. Document any requests for Board input
 - 9. Note any items requiring Board action or response
- b. In the event a Board Liaison cannot attend:
 - 1. The meeting shall be rescheduled if possible
 - 2. If rescheduling is impossible, the meeting must be recorded for Board review. Detailed minutes must be submitted to the Board of Directors within 48 hours.

4.15 Committees

The Advisory Board may form committees to focus on specific areas of expertise or organizational needs, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

- a. Operation
 - 1. Committees shall be chaired by Advisory Board members
 - 2. Committees may include non-Advisory Board members

3. Committees shall report to the full Advisory Board
4. Committee recommendations shall be recommendations only

4.11 Confidentiality

All Board of Directors and Advisory Board members shall maintain confidentiality of sensitive information and disclose potential conflicts of interest.