

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## **ASSOCIATED HORSE SHOW CONSTITUTION**

### **CHAPTER I BY-LAWS**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

- A. To encourage, foster, and promote equestrian activities.
- B. It is the intent of the AHS and its Board to maintain fundamental values as the reason for our existence; that sportsmanship, and the competition as it relates to the equestrian sport, be experienced and embraced both in and out of the ring by the entire membership, young and old.

#### **II. MEMBERSHIP**

- A. The Board of Directors may admit a horse show applicant to membership in the Association upon application in writing from the prospective member or upon recommendation by a present member.
  - 1. Applicant must be made at least two (2) weeks prior to the annual membership meeting.
  - 2. Date of application determines priority in selecting an open date.
  - 3. The date for a new show will become permanent after completing a trial year according to AHS rules.
  - 4. There will be no more than 30 Horse Show Dates per year. For a new date to be acquired, an existing date must be relinquished.
- B. The annual Membership Meeting shall be held in November of each year; conditions permitting.
  - 1. Purpose of the Annual Meeting.
    - a. To serve as a clearing house for horse show dates.
    - b. To discuss and make suggestions for the current year.
    - c. To (re)-elect Board Members as appropriate.
  - 2. Each show member may secure show date(s) at the Annual Meeting. To do so they must present, in writing, application to the President of the Board prior to the

meeting. Each show member shall delegate on individual to serve as its representative for the year. Representatives may only represent specific show date.

3. Secretarial dues and sponsorships must be paid at the time of the annual meeting.

### III. DUES

- A. Seventy-five (\$75.00) per show date plus sponsorship of at least one annual award at seventy-five (\$75.00); subject to change annually.
- B. Dues are payable within thirty (30) days from presentation of bill or by the Annual Meeting, whichever occurs first.
- C. Delinquent Dues  
Result in loss of seniority for show date.
- D. Horse show managers are required to become AHS members.

### IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. Governing body of activities of the Associated Horse Shows.
- B. Consists of:
  - i. Six (6) Directors elected at the annual membership meeting.
  - ii. One (1) Director appointed by the elected board.
- C. Term of Office
  - i. Each Director shall serve a two (2) year term. A Board member may succeed themselves if they are nominated; but for no more than three (3) successive terms.
  - ii. Rotating re-election.
    1. Three (3) Directors shall be elected annually.
    2. The appointed Director shall change in even numbered years.
    3. Any director may be removed for cause by majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors.
  - iii. Newly elected officers:
    1. Newly elected officers of the AHS shall take Office at the first meeting of the AHS Board following the annual membership meeting.
    2. Retiring officers do not leave office officially until the Awards Banquet and shall attend all interim Board Meetings.
- D. Meetings
  - i. A majority constitutes a quorum for voting purposes.
  - ii. A Minimum of three (3) meetings per year is mandatory.  
Additional meetings shall be called whenever necessary.
  - iii. A meeting of the Board of Directors must be held after the last

show of the season and within two (2) weeks prior to the annual membership meeting.

#### E. Duties

- i. Formulate and enforce policies of the AHS.
  1. Act as a steward at all horse shows; helping maintain the quality of shows by answering all questions and concerns about the rules.
  2. Respond to grievances that have been submitted in writing to AHS Board. Members to submit written grievance within three (3) weeks of occurrence.
- ii. To provide a copy of the current By-Laws to members and show management annually.
- iii. To appoint interim directors to fill vacancies.
- iv. To elect, from their members; a President; a Secretary; and a Treasurer.
  1. Elections to be held at the first meeting following the annual membership meeting.
  2. Board to elect replacements for the above stated officers if vacancies occur.
- v. To write or amend class descriptions as necessary.
- vi. To write or amend division descriptions as necessary.
- vii. To call special meetings to settle disputes not settled at shows.
- viii. To determine penalties when shows or individuals are found guilty of violation(s) of the rules. Severity of penalty to include loss of show date.

#### V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

##### A. President

- i. To preside at all meetings.
- ii. To appoint a banquet chairperson.
- iii. To call meetings of the Board of Directors when necessary according to the rules.
- iv. To appoint a:
  1. Membership Officer
    - a. To keep and record all points for year-end awards.
    - b. To collect membership applications/fees and to assign membership numbers.
  2. Public Relations Chairperson
    - a. To publish horse show results in all appropriate publications.
    - b. To send year-end results to Chronicle Of The Horse.
    - c. To promote a public awareness of AHS in the community.

B. Secretary

- i. To keep minutes of all Board and Membership meetings.
- ii. To be responsible for all correspondence of the AHS.
- iii. To notify members of all meetings.

C. Treasurer

- i. To be responsible for all association funds.
- ii. To sign and deliver checks when authorized by the Board of Directors.
- iii. To submit a financial report at the annual meeting.
- iv. To record payment of exhibitors' dues.

**CHAPTER II FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN THE HORSE SHOW BEING BROUGHT IN FRONT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR LOSS OF SHOW DATE OR BE FINED \$100.00**

**HORSE SHOWS**

I. ORGANIZATION

A. Show Date

- i. A Member in good standing has priority to retain a horse show date each year.
- ii. A Member in good standing has priority to select a new date.
- iii. A member not in good standing relinquishes their show date.
- iv. New members must apply in writing to the Board of Directors requesting a show date.
- v. Total number of shows on the calendar will not exceed thirty (30).
- vi. A horse show may cancel, due to extenuating circumstances, with written notice to the President; however, neither secretarial fees nor sponsorship fees will be refunded. If a horse show cancels for two (2) consecutive years, their rights to that date will be relinquished.

II. MANAGEMENT

B. Duties

- i. To enforce all AHS rules.
- ii. AHS recommends the use of recognized judges.
- iii. To provide a Veterinarian on-call.
- iv. To provide in attendance:
  - 1. First Aid
  - 2. Blacksmith
- v. To have AHS rules available. USEF rules will be used when AHS rules do not apply.
- vi. To file annually for a show date and to send, if possible, a

representative to the Annual Meeting. Each horse show manager has one vote in any election, regardless of the number of horse shows they run.

- vii. To submit results, typed or printed, to the AHS Membership Officer within two (2) weeks following the show; a prize list must be attached. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN THE HORSE SHOW BEING BROUGHT IN FRONT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR LOSS OF SHOW DATE OR BE FINED \$100.00.**
  1. Results must indicate rider's name and AHS number in equitation classes; and horse's and owner's name and AHS number in hunter and pleasure classes.
  2. Results should only be sent for AHS point classes or AHS point divisions.
- viii. To submit, in writing to the President, the names of any exhibitors who fail to pay entry fees within two (2) weeks after a show.
- ix. To prohibit anyone, or any horse, suspended from the USEF from showing at an AHS show.
- x. To provide adequate liability insurance coverage for the show and a copy of certificate sent to the President of the Board.
- xi. To assume responsibility for providing safe showing conditions for exhibitors, staff, and spectators.
- xii. Shows that are in violation of the AHS rules shall be given a warning letter from the AHS Board of Directors for their first offense. Violation(s) of the AHS rules at a future AHS show can be cause to be brought before the Board and be fined \$100.00.
- xiii. To provide a working telephone which can receive and send calls for emergency purposes.
- xiv. If a show must be cancelled, the Board must have prior notification. It may be rescheduled up until November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### III. AWARDS

#### A. Ribbons

- i. Six (6) ribbons shall be awarded in each class when possible.
- ii. Ribbons shall have a minimum of two (2) streamers.
- iii. If Champion and Reserve are awarded. Points are to be calculated by a 10, 6, 4, 2, 1 and ½ system or accordingly, for classes with two (2) riders by a 5 (for first place) and 3 (for second place) system.

#### B. Trophies

Trophies may be given at the discretion of show management. If trophies are NOT to be given, it must be stated as such in the prize list.

#### IV. PRIZE LIST AND ENTRY BLANK

- A. A copy of the prize list must be sent to the AHS Board four (4) weeks prior to the show to be reviewed by board to avoid errors prior to being sent to membership. A copy of current insurance must also be sent to board. If the Board does not receive a copy of the prize list, there will be a fine of \$50.
- B. Classes may not be added to or changed on the show schedule after the prize list has been mailed to the members.
- C. Contents
  - i. Name of Judge(s).
  - ii. Complete class descriptions and judging specifications.
  - iii. Clear indication of AHS point classes and divisions.
  - iv. Wording of class descriptions shall be identical to that in Chapter 4, AHS rules.
  - v. Inclusion of a minimum of twelve (12) point classes.
  - vi. Indication of date of birth on entry blank. Age is as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show season for all exhibitors.
  - vii. Prize lists may include classes or divisions not sponsored by the AHS, but these will not count toward AHS standings.
  - viii. Prize list may indicate any number of point classes, up to and including four (4) in a given division.
  - ix. Where the annual award is given for an individual class rather than a division, only one (1) such class can count for AHS points at a show. This class must be indicated as a point class in the prize list if it is in a division for that show.
  - x. Anything marked point class of a division will count, regardless of minor wording inaccuracies.
  - xi. If a schooling fee is to be imposed at a horse show, it must be marked in large type and prominently displayed in the prize list.
  - xii. There must be at least two (2) different courses of at least eight (8) jumps in all Hunter classes, unless otherwise noted.

### **CHAPTER III ANNUAL AWARDS**

#### I. QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Eligibility as stated in Chapter 4.
- B. Annual membership fees:
  - i. Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) each per exhibitor and owner (if not same as exhibitor), fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per mount (Hunter/Jumper

and Pleasure Divisions/Classes only) must be paid to register with AHS. All fees must be paid in order for points to count toward annual awards. (Fee subject to change annually).

- ii. Payable to AHS and sent to the Membership Officer.
- iii. For points to count for the entire year, membership deadline is in December of the current show year. Specific date to be determined and printed on the application form for that show year.
- iv. Each member must sign a current membership application.

C. Points:

- i. Count 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 for all classes. If there are two (2) exhibitors in a class, 1<sup>st</sup> place will receive three (3) points and 2<sup>nd</sup> place will receive two (2) points.
- ii. Points will only count from the date of receipt of dues by Membership Officer
- iii. A letter of protest must be received by the Points Officer within three (3) weeks of the dispute date for point discrepancies to be corrected.
- iv. All members must provide the secretaries of each horse show with their AHS number for points to count.

III. SPONSORS

A. Eligibility

- i. Any individual or organization may sponsor a class or a division.
- ii. All member shows are required to sponsor a minimum of one class or division annually.

B. Cost

\$75.00 subject to change annually by the Board of Directors.

IV. ANNUAL BANQUET

A. Chairperson

- i. Appointment by the President of the Board of Directors.
- ii. Selects trophies and ribbons with the Board or an appointed committee.
- iii. Has complete authority for banquet planning.

## CHAPTER IV AHS POINT CLASSES AND DIVISION

### I. WORDING AND REGULATIONS

#### A. Classes

- i. **Adult Pleasure.** To be ridden by an adult amateur 18 years or older, on any type of pony or horse suitable for use as a pleasure mount. Judged on performance, manners, and suitability of mount to rider. No martingales.
- ii. **Junior Pleasure.** Open to any type of pony or horse suitable for use as a pleasure mount. To be ridden by a junior. Judged on performance, manners, and suitability of mount to rider. No martingales.
- iii. **Leadline.** Open to children six (6) years of age or under. To be judged on manners and suitability of mount to rider. May be asked to trot. Not eligible for any other classes. AHS points designated to only one class per horse show written to these specifications.

**\*\* Martingales are not permitted in the flat phase of the test.**

#### B. Divisions

- i. **Adult Equitation Division.** Open to amateur riders 18 years or older. To be judged on hands, seat, and control of mount. Division will consist of two (2) over fence classes at 2'6 and one (1) flat class.
- ii. **Junior Equitation Division.** Open to Junior riders. To be judged on hands, seat, and control of mount. Division will consist of two (2) over fence classes and one (1) flat class. Fence heights as follows: Sm/Med ponies at 2'3; Lg ponies at 2'6; and horses to jump 2'9. **May not cross enter into any Pre-Children's Equitation or Hunter classes at the same show.**

- iii. **Adult Modified Hunter**. Open to all adult amateur riders on horses and ponies. Rider may not have shown higher than 2'6" in any show. Fences to be at 2'. **Three (3) in division MUST run as division. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with appropriate division at show managers discretion. Decision to be made before division begins.**
- iv. **Baby Green Hunter Division**. Open to horses/ponies who have not shown over fences in any class prior to December 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding year. Ponies to jump 2' and horses 2'3". Trotting corners will not be penalized.
- v. **Beginner Equitation Division**. Open to all juniors who have not shown in more than eight (8) horse shows in any one year. The division will include a walk/trot; walk/trot/canter and a choice of one (1) or two (2) jumping classes of 4-8 fences at 2'.. Riders can not have jumped higher than 2' in any horse show and may only cross enter into Junior Modified Hunter. **It is hoped that people will use discretion when entering and be mindful of the spirit of this division.**
- vi. **Children's Hunter Division – PONY**. Open to ponies ridden by juniors. Judged on manners, performance, way of going, and suitability of mount to rider. Small/medium ponies, fences 2'. Large ponies, fences 2'6". **May not cross enter into any Pre-Children's Equitation or Hunter class or division. Three (3) in a division MUST run as a division. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with appropriate division at show managers discretion. Decision to be made before division begins.**
- vii. **Children's Hunter Division – HORSE**. Open to horses ridden by juniors. Judged on manners, performance, way of going, and suitability of mount to rider. Fences at 3'. **May not cross enter into any Pre-Children's Equitation or Hunter class or division. Three (3) in a division MUST run as a division. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with appropriate division at show managers discretion. Decision to be made before division begins.**  
**NOTE: HORSE SHOW MANAGERS: At rated shows, USEF rules for Children's Hunter will prevail.**

- viii. **Junior Modified Hunter Division.** Open to junior riders on horses or ponies. Rider may not have shown at 2'6" or higher in any recognized show. Fences at 2' for all. May only cross enter into Beginner Equitation and/or Junior Pleasure or any flat class. **Three (3) in a division MUST run as a division. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with appropriate division at show managers discretion. Decision to be made before division begins.**
- ix. **Lesson Mount Division.** Open to all riders on horses or ponies used **solely** in lesson programs. Judged on hands, seat, general appearance, and control of mount. Recommended classes: 1. walk/trot equitation; 2. walk/trot pleasure; 3. walk/trot/canter; 4. a simple course of four (4) poles or x-rails (must be specified in prize list). **May use any tack used in a schooling program.**
- x. **Long Stirrup Equitation Division.** Open to adult amateur riders on horses or ponies. Adults may not have jumped higher than 2'6" at any horse show. Riders are not eligible for any jumping classes other than Adult Modified Hunter. Recommended classes: equitation walk/trot; equitation walk/trot/canter; and equitation over four (4) cross rails.
- xi. **Mini Stirrup Division.** Open to juniors eight (8) years and younger. Riders may not cross enter into any jumping classes at the same horse show. Riders are eligible for any appropriate flat class. One class of four (4) cross rails or poles may be offered in this division. Poles or cross rails must be specified in prize list.
- xii. **Pre-Adult Hunter Division.** Open to adult amateur riders on either ponies or horses. Fence heights to be at 2'6". **Riders may not cross enter into Modified Hunter or Long Stirrup Division at the same show.**
- xiv. **Pre-Children's Equitation.** Open to Junior riders who have not won three or more blue ribbons in horsemanship over fences at any rated show except in Mini Stirrup, Short Stirrup, or Beginner Equitation. Judged on hands, seat, and control of mount over eight (8) fences. Division will consist of two (2) over fences and one (1) flat class. Ponies to jump 2' and horses to jump 2'6". **May not cross enter into any Children's Hunter class or division or Jr. Equitation division at same show.**
- xv. **Pre-Children's Hunter Division** – PONY. Open to junior riders

still eligible for Novice Equitation Over Fences at any rated show (have not won three blue ribbons in equitation). Judged on manners, performance, way of going, and soundness. Ponies to jump at 2'. **May not cross enter into any Children's Hunter class or division. Three (3) in a division MUST be run as a division. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with appropriate division at show managers discretion. Decision to be made before division begins.**

xvi. **Pre-Children's Hunter Division** – HORSE. Open to junior riders still eligible for Novice Equitation Over Fences at any rated show (have not won three blue ribbons in equitation). Judged on manners, performance, way of going, and soundness. Horses to jump at 2'6". **May not cross enter into any Children's Hunter class or division. Three (3) in a division MUST run as division. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with appropriate division at show managers discretion. Decision to be made before division begins.**

xvii. **Low Schooling Hunter**. Open to all riders on horses or ponies. Judged on performance, way of going, manners and soundness. Fences at 2' or 2'3" at rider's discretion. **Three (3) in a division MUST be run as a division. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with appropriate division at show managers discretion. Decision to be made before division begins.**

xviii. **High Schooling Hunter**. Open to all riders on horses or ponies. Judged on performance, way of going, manners and soundness. Fences at 2'6" or 3' at rider's discretion. **Three (3) in a division MUST run as a division. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with appropriate division at show managers discretion. Decision to be made before divisions begins.**

xix. **Short Stirrup Equitation Division**. Open to riders twelve(12) years of age and under who have not competed in any show over fences exceeding 2'. Open to horses and ponies. Judged on hands, seat, general appearance, and control of mount. Recommended classes; 1. walk/trot; 2. walk/trot/canter; and 3. a simple course of 4-8 fences at 18".

xx. **Short Stirrup Hunter Division**. Open to riders twelve (12) years of age and under. Riders to jump a simple course of eight (8) fences at 18". **May only cross enter into Short Stirrup**

**Equitation and Junior Pleasure at the same show.**

xxi. **2'3" Hunter.** Open to junior and adult amateurs. Judged on performance, way of going, manners and soundness. Fences at 2'3". **May not cross enter into Long Stirrup, Short Stirrup, Beginner Equitation or Lesson Mount.**

xxii. **Low Schooling Jumpers.** Open to all riders on horses and ponies. Courses must be run as Table IIa, Table IIb, Table IIc, or Table V (Optimum Time). Jumps to be at 1'9" and/or 2'. Time allowed will be generous (350m/min). (See USEF Rulebook for Table descriptions).

xxiii. **High Schooling Jumpers.** Open to all riders on horses and ponies. Courses must be run as Table IIa, Table IIb, Table IIc, or Table V (Optimum Time). Jumps to be at 2'9". Time allowed will be generous (350m/min). (See USEF Rulebook for Table descriptions).

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