

**BY-LAWS**  
**NORTHERN MINNESOTA ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION**  
(2008 Revision)

**MISSION**

The general purposes of this organization are as follows: (a) to encourage interest in Arabian horses; (b) to cooperate with other organizations and individuals in developing and maintaining the highest qualities of this incomparable breed; (c) to encourage ownership and enjoyment of Arabian horses at all levels.

**ARTICLE I. Membership**

Application for membership is to be made in writing or on-line and in such form as may be designated by the Board of Directors or AHA. The application must be accompanied by the required fee for current dues. Membership is not transferable and shall cease upon the death of the member, or at the option of the Board of Directors.

A member may be suspended or expelled by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, provided ten days notice in writing to such member shall have first been given, so that he/she may be allowed a hearing before the Board of Directors. Upon the termination of membership of an expelled member, the member whose membership terminates shall have no other property right or interest in the property of the Association.

Any person becoming a voting member of the Association shall acquire a copy of the By-Laws. Any member of the Association may be given a current copy of the By-laws upon requesting it of the Club Secretary or by going to the Association's web-site.

The Voting Membership shall consist of individuals owning purebred Arabian part-Arabian or Anglo-Arabian horses which are registered with the Arabian Horse Association, or individuals who are interested in promoting the Arabian horse.

The Associate Membership shall consist of individuals who subscribe to the principles of this organization but do not wish to have voting privileges.

Persons under 18 are not eligible to vote and shall be considered Youth Members. Any person under 18 wishing to join the Association must have a parent or guardian co-sign the application before becoming a member.

## **ARTICLE II. Meetings**

A minimum number of 6 Regular Association meetings shall be held annually. Board meetings may be held prior to the regular meetings at the same location. Meeting location and time will be determined at prior meetings and the entire membership shall be notified in writing or by any electronic means including e-mail. Meetings may also be held by remote communication as deemed necessary. Example: phone, web-cast, video etc.

The annual meeting shall be held in January in Brainerd, Minnesota.

The majority of the meetings of the Association shall be held within the geographical area described as a triangle between Brainerd, Alexandria and St. Cloud.

The Board of Directors may meet just prior to each regular meeting of the Association, or at anytime, upon the call of the President, or at the request of the majority of the members of the Board. Five members of the Board of Directors must be present to hold a board meeting.

## **ARTICLE III Officers**

The officers of the Association shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall be elected annually in the month of November.

The regular term of each officer shall be one year and shall commence at the adjournment of the annual meeting. The president and vice president shall not hold office more than two consecutive terms. The secretary and treasurer may be re-elected for as many terms as the membership desires. A vacancy occurring in office shall be filled by the election of the Association at the following meeting, with the exception of the President, which shall be filled by the Vice-President. Only persons holding voting memberships shall be eligible to hold office.

## **ARTICLE IV Duties of Officers**

Besides their regular duties, all officers shall also serve on the Board of Directors.

### Section 1. Duties of the President:

The President shall take charge of the meetings and appoint all standing committee chairs, so approved by the Board of Directors and passed on by the members of the Association.

Section 2. Duties of the Vice President:

The Vice-President shall act as aide to the President and shall perform the duties of President in the absence of that officer.

Section 3. Duties of the Secretary:

The Secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings, including the Board of Directors' meetings. The Secretary will not be responsible to keep an accurate list of all club members and addresses of said members. This shall be the duty of the membership chair. The Secretary shall, in general, conduct the correspondence of the Association.

Section 4: Duties of the Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall receive all money of the Association, including the annual dues, and pay all bills authorized by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall keep an itemized and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements, and present a report of the transactions at each meeting. The Treasurer may use his/her discretion in paying out up to \$100.00 per month in total bills without first receiving direct authorization from the Board. Reports of all transactions must be made at the next Association meeting.

The books in which the Treasurer's report of receipts and disbursements for the year have been kept, together with the warrants, vouchers and annual itemized account of the Treasurer, shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for examination annually.

## **ARTICLE V. Dues**

Annual dues for this organization shall be approved by the Board of Directors and voted on by the general membership at the annual meeting.

Persons under 18 shall qualify as Youth members upon paying the amount required by the Arabian Horse Association.

## **ARTICLE VI. Quorum**

Section 1. 30% of the voting membership, or if not 30% present, at least 5 Board of Directors must be present to conduct general business.

Section 2. The quorum to change, alter, add to, or otherwise revise NMAHA's By-Laws, or standing committees authorized by these by-laws, shall be 30% of the voting members and 2/3 vote of that quorum will be required to pass such changes, alterations, additions or revisions at any regular meeting, or by ballot. Notice of which shall be published in the newsletter on-line one issue prior to the voting, with the exception of Article VIII on Conduct, which cannot be repealed or amended except by a unanimous vote of the entire membership.

#### **ARTICLE VII. Disbandment**

In the event that the decision is made by the voting membership of the Association to disband the Northern Minnesota Arabian Horse Association, all club monies shall be turned over to a local charity, and club property sold at sealed bid to the highest bidder. In the event that the club is in debt at the time of disbandment, all debts shall be paid out of the club assets and monies, prior to the distribution of club assets and monies. Such action to be voted on by the voting membership at the time of disbandment.

#### **ARTICLE VIII Conduct**

Any member conducting themselves in such a manner as to be an offense to the Association, or to cause disunity among members of the Association, may be excluded from the Association by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE IX. Hold Harmless Clause**

The Association shall not be held responsible for injury to either persons or animals or for damages to personal property at any Association gathering.

#### **ARTICLE X. Shows**

Section 1. The Board of Directors with the approval of members at a Club Meeting will hire the Show Manager and Secretary for the NMAHA Class A Show.

Section 2. The Show Chairperson for any non-Class A / local show shall be appointed by the President as needed.

## **ARTICLE XI Committees**

In addition to Article X, other committee chairs may be appointed from time to time, as the occasion demands. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three elected members of the Board of Directors whose terms have not expired as of the current year.

## **ARTICLE XII Voting**

Section 1. Voting by proxy, and cumulative voting shall not be allowed. In all elections of officers, voting by absentee ballot shall be permitted, by forwarding ballots to the designated Nominating Committee member.

Section 2. The ability to vote by ballot may be utilized as necessary for any matter that can be voted on at an in-person meeting.

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This is to certify that the foregoing are the By-laws of the Northern Minnesota Arabian Horse Association, duly adopted by a majority vote of the voting members at a meeting of the Association, held in 1966. These By-laws were updated and amended and changed by the membership at four regular meetings of the Northern Minnesota Arabian Horse Association on the dates of April 28, 1979, October 14, 1979, April 16, 1989, and May 18, 2008.

NMAHA By-Laws, Revised 2008