

# BYLAWS OF THE Minnesota Rocky Mountain Horse Club

## ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

*Section 1 – Name:* This organization shall be known as the Minnesota Rocky Mountain Horse Club (MRMHC). It plans to be an affiliated club with the Rocky Mountain Horse Association, Inc. (RMHA). It is a not for profit entity organized in compliance with the laws of the State of Minnesota.

*Section 2 – Purpose:* The Minnesota Rocky Mountain Horse Club is organized exclusively to introduce, promote, encourage ownership, breeding, raising, and the preservation of Rocky Mountain Horses throughout Minnesota and its surrounding area.

## ARTICLE II -- MEMBERSHIP

*Section 1 – Eligibility for membership:* Application for membership shall be open to all those interested in or who own Rocky Mountain Horses and who support the purpose as stated in Article I, Section 2. All members must also be willing to comply with the rules and regulations of the RMHA as they now exist or as they may be modified from time to time. Membership is granted after completion and receipt of a membership application and annual dues.

*Section 2 – Type of memberships:* The Minnesota Rocky Mountain Horse Club shall have the following options for membership:

1. *Individual Membership* – Any person 18 years or older. An individual member is entitled to one vote in the club.
2. *Family Membership* – A family is defined as one or two head(s) of household and all legal dependents within a household. A family membership is entitled to two votes in the club. Only the heads of household may hold office.
3. *Junior Membership* – A person older than 13, but less than 18 years of age whose parent is not a member, but who wishes to participate in club activities. When riding at club events, the Junior member must be accompanied by a responsible adult member and wear a helmet. A Junior member has no vote.
4. *Lifetime Individual Membership* – Any individual who opts to pay a one-time membership fee instead of renewing their membership on an annual basis.
5. *Lifetime Family Membership* – Any family that opts to pay a one-time membership fee instead of renewing their membership on an annual basis.

*Section 3 – Annual dues:* The membership year will coincide with that of the RMHA (January 1 thru December 31). For new members, annual dues shall be paid upon submission of application for membership. For renewed members, annual dues shall be paid by January 31. Continued membership is contingent upon being up-to-date on membership dues. The amounts required for annual dues will be reviewed at each annual meeting; all proposed changes shall be

## Minnesota Rocky Mountain Horse Club Bylaws

approved by a simple majority of the membership physically present as long as a quorum is physically present.

*Section 4 – Resignation and termination* – Any member may resign by submitting a written resignation to the secretary. Resignation shall not relieve a member of unpaid dues, or other charges previously accrued. A member can have their membership terminated by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership. Membership shall automatically be terminated when annual dues for the MRMHC are not paid by March 31.

*Section 5 – Voting Privileges:* Reserved to those eligible members who are current in their dues and in good standing.

### ARTICLE III – MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

*Section 1 – General membership meetings:* General membership meetings shall be held no less than quarterly, at a time and a place designated by the Board of Directors.

*Section 2 – Annual meetings:* The general membership meeting held in the winter shall be considered to be the annual meeting. At the annual meeting the members shall elect officers to the Board of Directors, receive reports on the activities of the club, and determine the direction of the club for the coming year.

*Section 3 – Notice of meetings:* Notice of each meeting shall be given to each voting member via email, not less than two weeks prior to the meeting. Special arrangements shall be made for those members without access to email; their notices shall be sent via US mail.

*Section 4 – Quorum:* A quorum shall be defined as ten (10) members current in their dues.

*Section 5 – Voting:* All issues to be voted on shall be decided by a simple majority of those members physically present at the meetings in which the vote takes place as long as a quorum is physically present.

### ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND DUTIES

*Section 1 – Officers:* The officers of the Minnesota Rocky Mountain Horse Club shall include a president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, and treasurer.

*Section 2 – Officer qualifications:* All officers must be members of the RMHA in good standing throughout their terms as officers with the MRMHC. They shall also be members in good standing with the MRMHC.

*Section 3 – Terms of office:* A term of office shall be for two (2) years. No officer shall serve longer than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position. They shall be elected at the annual meeting by simple majority vote of those members physically present as long as quorum is physically present.

*Section 4 – Duties:* The duties of the officers are as follows:

## Minnesota Rocky Mountain Horse Club Bylaws

1. *President* – The president shall preside at all meetings, ensure that the rules and regulations of the MRMHC are faithfully followed; ensure that all officers perform their duties in a proper and timely manner; be a member of the RMHA; serve as the liaison between the MRMHC and the RMHA; and perform such other duties as pertain to the office.
2. *Vice President* – The vice-president shall assist and advise the president; serve as presiding officer in the absence of or at the request of the president; chair committees and/or coordinate activities as assigned by the president.
3. *Secretary* – The secretary shall be responsible to take minutes, publish and maintain complete and current records/minutes of all meetings; maintain a current list of members; answer correspondence; maintain current copies of RMHA Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, MRMHC Bylaws, and any documents regarding the application for recognition of 501(c) not for profit status; and perform any other duties as necessary that pertain to the office.
4. *Assistant Secretary* – The assistant secretary shall work hand-in-hand with the secretary to help accomplish the duties of the office of secretary.
5. *Treasurer* – The treasurer shall maintain accurate financial records of the MRMHC; receive, hold, and/or disburse all funds as authorized; report regularly to the membership on the financial status of the club; and perform such other duties as pertain to the office.

### ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Section 1 – Board members:* The officers elected by the voting membership shall serve as the Board of Directors. If it is determined by the Board that additional members are necessary to conduct the business affairs of the club, then the board shall make appropriate recommendations at a general membership meeting, and the membership physically present shall vote on such recommendations.

*Section 2 – Meetings and Notice:* The board shall meet at least quarterly, at an agreed upon time and place. An official board meeting requires that each board member receive written notice via email at least one week in advance.

*Section 3 – Quorum:* A quorum must be attended by at least sixty percent of board members for business transactions to take place and motions to pass.

### ARTICLE VI – GOVERNING STRUCTURE

*Section 1 – Governance:* The MRMHC shall be governed by the majority vote of the membership physically present, as long as a quorum is physically present. The officers/directors shall be empowered to represent the majority vote if matters arise and a decision must be made in a timely manner before a general membership meeting can be held. The officers/directors may authorize major event expenditures that require payment, but should not routinely exceed \$350 without discussion and a majority vote of the membership physically present at a general membership meeting.

*Section 2 – Vacancies:* Should a vacancy occur in any office, such vacancy shall be filled by a member volunteer until a majority vote of the membership physically present is made at the next scheduled meeting, as long as a quorum is present.

## Minnesota Rocky Mountain Horse Club Bylaws

*Section 3 – Removal:* In the event that an officer/director fails to fulfill his/her duty or fails to participate as required by the description of his/her office, he/she may be removed from office with a two-thirds majority vote of the membership physically present, as long as a quorum is physically present, and a new officer/director elected to fulfill the term.

### ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

*Section 1 – Committee formation:* The board may create committees as needed such as fundraising, trail riding, show, exhibition, promotion, education, etc. The Board of Directors appoints all committee chairs.

### ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

*Section 1 – Amendments:* These bylaws may be amended when necessary by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting membership at a general membership meeting. Proposed amendments must be sent out in writing along with the notice for the general membership meeting.

### ARTICLE IX – NON CLUB SPONSORED EVENTS

*Section 1 -Non Club Sponsored Events:* MRMHC will not participate in activities or events without being the sole sponsor or becoming a partnering sponsor of said event or activity. If MRMHC chooses to become a partnering sponsor of an event or activity, then a contract and rules must be developed and presented to the board for approval. All parties must agree and sign the contract and rules. Members must be notified of the contract and rules, then sign an agreement prior to participating in the said event or activity.

MRMHC members are free to participate in activities or events where the MRMHC is not a sponsor or participating sponsor. They must act only as a participating individual. They are not to use the MRMHC name when participating, nor will they be covered under the MRMHC insurance policy.

### ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

*Section 1 – Dissolution:* Should the club dissolve, and after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the club, any other assets shall be disposed of to another not for profit RMHA affiliate club, as selected by the voting membership at final dissolution meeting. Any assets not disposed of in that manner shall be referred to the RMHA for final disposition recommendation.