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AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INCORPORATED (d/b/a WISCONSIN HORSE COUNCIL)

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as the “Wisconsin State Horse Council, Incorporated.”

ARTICLE II – EXISTENCE

This organization is to exist perpetually.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSES

1. To represent and promote all aspects of the equine industry and equine recreation throughout Wisconsin.
2. To actively participate in Federal, State and Local legislative issues pertinent to the Wisconsin State Horse Council's (Council's) purposes.
3. To encourage equine events, sporting activities, youth activities, and equine programs as may complement the interests of the membership. (3-25-09)
4. To assist in developing and perpetuating equine programs at the University of Wisconsin.
5. To promote and participate with equine research.
6. To inform and educate the public about equines and the value of the equine industry. (5-22-19)
7. To aid in the protection and care of equine.
8. To assist governmental units to establish model ordinances and regulations pertaining to the care and custody of equines within their jurisdictions.
9. To aid in acquiring trail areas with adequate facilities for equestrians.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The members of the Wisconsin State Horse Council shall consist of persons, associations, businesses, societies or other bodies interested in the purposes of this Council. The Council shall have seven (3-12-14) classifications of membership. The membership year shall be concurrent with the calendar year, except for Youth Membership – as delineated in Section 5.3. (3-25-09)

- 1.1 LEVEL THREE MEMBERSHIP – This membership class is available to any equine related organization or business that derives a portion of its income from the equine industry. This membership shall include but is not limited to any breed of equine, color, discipline, youth group, riding program or professional organization that maintains a not-for-profit status. Examples of business memberships shall include, but are not limited to: training and boarding stables, breeding facilities, farms, tack shops, equine auctioneers, equine farriers, equine veterinarians, equine feed stores, or manufacturers of equine products. Each Level Three Member of this class is eligible to appoint a Director and an Alternate Director to the Board of Directors. Each Level Three member has only 1 vote on the Board of Directors. (3-12-14) The Alternate Director may vote only when the primary Director is absent. In addition, a Level Three Director (or Alternate) may

- 50 not participate in voting at Board of Directors meetings until the membership fee
51 or renewal of their organization or business is paid. (3-25-09)
52
- 53 1.2 The membership fee or renewal of a Level Three organization or business must
54 be paid by the organization or business and not personally by an individual.
55 Also, a completed membership form that indicates the name and contact info of
56 the chief officer of the organization or business, as well as the name and contact
57 info of their appointed Director and Alternate should be included with the
58 payment. (3-22-17)
59
- 60 1.3 All new Level Three applications will be reviewed by the Member Services
61 Committee to determine the legitimacy of the organization/business. The
62 Member Services Committee will inform the applicant and the Wisconsin State
63 Horse Council office if the application is or is not accepted. Thirty (30) days
64 following acceptance of the applicant, the new Level Three Director has voting
65 privileges. (3-20-10)
66
- 67 1.4 Each Level Three Member shall forward to the office of the Wisconsin State
68 Horse Council the name, address, telephone number and email address of its
69 designated Director and Alternate Director with the membership dues by March
70 1, of each year. (3-25-09)
71
- 72 2.1 LEVEL TWO MEMBERSHIP – This membership class is available to any equine
73 related organization or business that derives a portion of its income from the
74 equine industry. This membership shall include but is not limited to any breed of
75 equine, color, discipline, youth group, riding program or professional organization
76 that maintains a not-for-profit status. Examples of business memberships shall
77 include, but are not limited to: training and boarding stables, breeding facilities,
78 farms, tack shops, equine auctioneers, equine farriers, equine veterinarians,
79 equine feed stores, or manufacturers of equine products. Level Two Members
80 may participate in Districts and District meetings in much the same way as Level
81 One Members. If the membership of a Level Two organization happens to span
82 more than one District, the organization as a whole must choose one of those
83 Districts in which to participate. A Level Two organization or business has only 1
84 vote in District matters and as such should appoint an individual for attending
85 District meetings to represent them and vote. A Level Two appointee is eligible to
86 be elected as a Director from that particular District. In addition, a Level Two
87 appointee may not participate in voting at District meetings until the membership
88 fee or renewal of their organization or business is paid. (3-8-08; 3-25-09)
89
- 90 2.2 Each Level Two Member shall forward to the office of the Wisconsin State Horse
91 Council the name, address, telephone number and email address of its
92 designated contact person with the membership dues by March 1, of each year.
93 (3-25-09)
94
- 95 3.1 LEVEL ONE MEMBERSHIP – This membership class is available to any
96 individual person whose interest is similar to those of the Council. This
97 membership class, along with Level Two Members, elects Directors from the
98 District in which they live to represent that District. In addition, a Level One
99 Member may not participate in voting at District meetings until their membership
100 fee or renewal is paid. (3-8-08; 3-25-09)
101

- 102 3.2 Each Level One Member shall forward to the office of the Wisconsin State Horse
103 Council his/her name, address, telephone number and email address with his/her
104 membership dues by March 1, of each year. (3-25-09)
105
- 106 4. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – This non-voting membership class is granted to
107 such individuals as the Directors may from time to time direct.
108
- 109 5.1 YOUTH MEMBERSHIP – This membership is available to any youth ages 1-17
110 years of age as of January 1, of a membership year and residing with a parent or
111 guardian who is a current Level I Member. This membership class does not vote
112 and does not elect Directors from the District in which they live to represent that
113 District. Each Youth Member shall forward their name, current address, phone,
114 email, age, and name of the Level I parent to the office of the Wisconsin State
115 Horse Council by March 1. (6-27-07; 3-25-09)
116
- 117 5.2 FREE YOUTH MEMBERSHIP - Youth who are in good standing with Equine
118 organizations such as 4-H, Wisconsin High School Rodeo, Wisconsin
119 Interscholastic Horse Association, Wisconsin Pony of the Americas Club, or other
120 similar organizations who are invested in youth members will qualify for free
121 membership to the Wisconsin Horse Council. The youth organizations must be
122 members of the Wisconsin State Horse Council, and in good standing with the
123 Wisconsin State Horse Council, preferably at a Level Three Director
124 Membership. Interested youth between 8 years of age and completion of high
125 school, may apply for the free membership with the Wisconsin State Horse
126 Council. Applicants under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian
127 sign a consent form, to be included with the Wisconsin State Horse Council
128 Membership Application Form. (3-22-23; 9-25-24)
129
- 130 5.3 This free membership will run concurrent with the student's school year and will
131 remain viable as long as the Youth Member is in good standing with their Host
132 organization, and the Host organization is in good standing with the Wisconsin
133 State Horse Council. (3-22-23)
134
- 135 5.4 These Youth Members will be non-voting members in the Wisconsin State Horse
136 Council District that they reside in and are only eligible for email newsletters.
137 (3-22-23)
138
- 139 5.5 If the Youth Member leaves the qualifying Host organization, their membership
140 would fall under the terms of the original Youth Membership. (3-22-23)
141
- 142 6. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP – The membership class is available to an individual
143 whose interest is similar to those of the Council. Basically, this is a Level One
144 Membership with a one-time membership fee, giving the individual a paid-up
145 membership for his/her lifetime. The Council's Board of Directors may choose to
146 honor individuals with a free Lifetime Membership by a majority vote of Directors
147 present at any regular Council meeting. (3-20-10)
148
- 149 7. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – This membership class is available to a family of 2 or
150 more whose interests are similar to those of the Council. This membership has 1
151 vote in the District in which they live in regards to the elections and business of
152 that District. (3-25-09)
153

154 **Section 2:** Membership fees shall be established on an annual basis for each membership
155 classification by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
156

157 **Section 3:** All individuals selected to serve as a Director or Alternate Director must sign a
158 Code of Conduct form prior to assuming the Directorship. Failure or refusal to
159 sign the Code of Conduct form will result in the individual not being accepted as
160 a Director or Alternate. (3-25-09)
161

162 **Section 4: LEGACY DIRECTORS**
163

164 4.1 Legacy Directors are expected to attend and participate in Wisconsin State
165 Horse Council Board meetings. Directors may attend Board meetings in person
166 or by any of the electronic means in use by Wisconsin State Horse Council. To
167 remain a Legacy Director, each individual must attend 25% of the Board
168 meetings per calendar year. Failure to attend 25% of the meetings will result in
169 removing that individual as a Legacy Director. (3-23-22)
170

171 4.2 All previous Directors at Large as of August 23, 2006, known as "Legacy
172 Directors" (3-12-14) shall remain Directors at Large until the individual director
173 resigns, changes status/level, fails to renew their membership, or is removed by
174 the Wisconsin State Horse Council Board of Directors. (6-27-07; 3-25-09)
175

176 **Section 5:** An Alternate Director cannot also hold a voting Directorship for another Level
177 Three Membership.
178

179 **Section 6:** A director may hold only one (1) directorship at a time; be it appointed, elected,
180 or legacy. (3-20-10)
181

182 **ARTICLE V – MANAGEMENT**
183

184 Except for the right of Level Three Members, Level Two Members and Level One Members to
185 appoint or elect Directors as provided in Article IV of these bylaws, no individual member shall be
186 entitled to vote on any matter with which the Wisconsin State Horse Council is concerned, the
187 management of the Council being vested solely in its Board of Directors and Executive Board.
188

189 **Section 1: BOARD OF DIRECTORS –** Initially, the Board of Directors is composed of the
190 following:
191

- 192 1. Ten (10) District Directors, two from each District. Initially there are five
193 Districts throughout the State of Wisconsin as shown in Appendix "A".
194 (3-22-23)
- 195 2. Unlimited number of Level Three Memberships. (3-25-09)
- 196 3. Other persons (organizations, agencies, etc.) invited to serve as advisors to
197 the Board of Directors are the following:
 - 198 A. University of Wisconsin – Madison, Extension Horse Specialist.
 - 199 B. University of Wisconsin – Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine.
 - 200 C. University of Wisconsin – River Falls Equine Program.
 - 201 D. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.
 - 202 E. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- 203 4. The Board of Directors may meet monthly or as decided by the Directors to
204 participate in, or decide on the following issues: (3-8-08; 3-20-10)
 - 205 A. Annual review and approval of the operating budget.

- 206 B. Annual election of Directors to the Executive Board.
- 207 C. Annual election of members to the Midwest Horse Fair Board.
- 208 D. Annual election of members to the WSHC Foundation Board.
- 209 E. Annual election of Directors to the Budget & Finance Committee.
- 210 (6-27-07)
- 211 F. Reports from the committees. (3-20-10)
- 212 G. Bring forth to the Executive Board, issues of concern or items requiring
- 213 action.
- 214 H. Set the direction and goals for the next 1, 5, and 10 years.
- 215

Section 2: EXECUTIVE BOARD – The Board of Directors elects the Executive Board except for the District Directors at the Annual Meeting. The twelve (12) member Executive Board is comprised of the following: (9-25-24)

- 216
- 217
- 218
- 219 1. Five (5) District Directors, one (1) from each District. This number is subject
- 220 to change based on the number of Districts.
- 221 2. Two (2) At-Large Directors from the Board of Directors
- 222 3. Three (3) elected officers, which are the President, Vice-President, and
- 223 Secretary. These officers are elected by the Board of Directors, from the
- 224 current Board of Directors.
- 225 4. One (1) Treasurer who is hired by the Wisconsin State Horse Council
- 226 Executive Board. (9-25-24)
- 227 5. One (1) Past President. Initially the Past President will be the last President
- 228 under the old bylaws.
- 229 6. To be eligible to be elected to one of the five (5) elected positions on the
- 230 Executive Board, the candidate must have been on the Board of Directors for
- 231 a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months, immediately prior to election,
- 232 and regularly attending Wisconsin State Horse Council Board of Director
- 233 meetings. (3-25-09)
- 234 7. The number of Directors on the Executive Board may change to coincide
- 235 with the number of Districts and/or representation from Districts.
- 236

Section 3: EXECUTIVE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES –

- 237
- 238 1. The Executive Board is responsible for the daily operation of the Wisconsin
- 239 State Horse Council as determined by the framework of the operating
- 240 budget. It is expected that this Board will have monthly meetings, as
- 241 needed. This Board will provide approved Minutes of those open meetings
- 242 within three (3) weeks to all Directors of the Board of Directors. Approved
- 243 Minutes of all open Executive Board meetings since the last Wisconsin State
- 244 Horse Council Board of Directors meeting will be provided at the following
- 245 General Meeting. (6-27-07; 3-25-09)
- 246 2. This Board will enforce the Code of Conduct.
- 247 3. This Board is Responsible for enforcing these bylaws and issuing
- 248 reprimands.
- 249 4. All records of the Executive Board are to be maintained in the corporate
- 250 offices.
- 251 5. The Executive Board has responsibility for all Wisconsin State Horse Council
- 252 employees and all matters pertaining to its employees, with the exception of
- 253 Midwest Horse Fair employees who are managed by the Midwest Horse Fair
- 254 Board. (3-20-10)
- 255 6. The Executive Board appoints a primary and an alternate to serve as our
- 256 delegates to the American Horse Council, a privilege of our membership in
- 257 AHC. The Executive Board will solicit recommendations for these

258 appointments from the Council's Legislative Committee. Each appointment
259 shall be for a period of three (3) years. The Legislative Committee may
260 recommend reappointments or changes in delegates at any time. (3-20-10)
261

262 **Section 4: OFFICERS –**

- 263 1. The officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
264 (3-27-19) Their terms of office shall be for two years. (3-30-16)
- 265 2. The President and Vice-President shall be elected on alternate years.
266 (3-25-09)
- 267 3. The officers, except for Treasurer, (3-27-19) are elected at the Annual
268 Meeting by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- 269 4. The Treasurer is appointed by the Executive Board. (3-27-19)
270

271 **Section 5: AT-LARGE DIRECTORS –**

- 272 1. Two (2) At-Large Directors serve on the Executive Board. (3-19-11)
- 273 2. One replacement At-Large Director is elected each year at the Annual
274 Meeting by the Board of Directors to a two (2) year term. (3-19-11)
- 275 3. This term of office shall be for two years. (3-12-14; 3-24-20)
276
277

278 **Section 6: PAST PRESIDENT –**

- 279 1. The former President serves in this position until the current President leaves
280 office and fills the Past President position.
- 281 2. In the event the current President leaves the Wisconsin State Horse Council,
282 the Past President remains on the Executive Board until replaced by a
283 retiring President.
- 284 3. If the Past President leaves the Board of Directors, the position remains
285 vacant.
286
287

288 **Section 7:** The District Directors are elected at the District meeting prior to the Annual
289 Wisconsin State Horse Council meeting by the Level One and Level Two
290 Members of the District they are to represent, for two (2) year terms and may be
291 re-elected without limit. (6-27-07)
292

293 **Section 8:** Any committee, committee members, group(s), or individuals requesting funds
294 may not vote on resolutions or motions to approve those funds.
295

296 **Section 9:** All votes in open session, except for elections or other ballot as needed, will be
297 voice votes. If the vote is unanimous, it is accepted as approved. Any vote
298 which is not clearly and obviously a majority voice vote will necessitate a roll call
299 vote. (3-8-08; 3-25-09; 3-19-11)
300

301 **Section 10:** Votes cast in closed sessions may be by ballot or by roll call (if requested by any
302 Director). (3-25-09)
303

304 **Section 11:** Any action required by law to be taken, or any other action that may be taken at a
305 meeting of the Board of Directors, may be taken without a meeting, if a consent
306 in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by at least two-thirds
307 of the Directors then in office. Such consent shall have the same force and effect
308 as a vote of the Board of Directors taken at a meeting and may be described as

309 such in any articles or document filed with the Wisconsin Department of Financial
310 Institutions under Chapter 181, Wisconsin Statutes. (3-12-14)

311
312 **Section 12:** Code of Conduct – In all issues involving conduct of Council members, the Code
313 of Conduct shall be the governing document. Amendments to the Code of
314 Conduct can be made by the general Board of Directors at any full Board
315 meeting by a simple majority vote of the Directors present at the meeting.
316 Whenever the Code of Conduct is amended or changed, the new version must
317 be sent to all Directors, Committee Chairpersons, and District Officers to sign and
318 return to the Council office to be kept on file. Code of Conduct will be referenced
319 in Appendix “C”. (6-27-07; 3-8-08; 3-19-11; 3-22-23)

320
321 **ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

322
323 Officers of the Wisconsin State Horse Council shall be responsible for conducting all meetings of
324 the Executive Board and the Board of Directors.

325
326 **Section 1:** The **PRESIDENT** shall be the principal officer of the Wisconsin State Horse
327 Council. In general, he/she shall perform all duties incident to the office and
328 other duties that may be prescribed by either the Executive Board or the Board of
329 Directors. This officer’s voting privileges are for tie breaking purposes and
330 elections only. (6-27-07)

331
332 **Section 2:** The **VICE-PRESIDENT** shall perform such duties that may be assigned or
333 delegated by the President. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the
334 President during the absence of the President or a vacancy of the Office of
335 President. The Vice-President shall supervise all employees of the Wisconsin
336 State Horse Council, other than Midwest Horse Fair employees. The Executive
337 Board may assign this supervisory responsibility to another member of the
338 Executive Board.

339
340 **Section 3:** The **SECRETARY** shall keep the Minutes of the Executive Board and the Board
341 of Directors, ensure that all notices are given in accordance with the provision of
342 these bylaws or as otherwise required. The Secretary shall in general perform all
343 duties incident to the office of Secretary. (9-25-24)
344 1. In the absence of the Secretary, the Administrative Assistant employed by the
345 Wisconsin State Horse Council may serve as the recording secretary and
346 take Minutes of all open meetings of the Executive Board and the Board of
347 Directors. The Secretary is responsible for the accuracy of the Minutes and
348 archiving the Minutes. (3-8-08)
349 2. The Secretary shall take Minutes of all closed meetings, which will be kept in
350 a separate file in the cloud or computer. (9-25-24)

351
352 **Section 4:** The **TREASURER** is appointed to a two-year term by a majority vote of the
353 Executive Board.
354 1. There is no limit to the number of terms for this office.
355 2. The Treasurer is a non-voting member of the Executive Board.
356 3. The Treasurer must be bonded. The bonding fee is to be paid by the
357 Wisconsin State Horse Council.
358 4. The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all
359 funds and securities of the Council as directed by the Budget and Finance
360 Committee.

- 361 5. The Treasurer will maintain an account for each District.
- 362 6. The Treasurer must present a reconciled statement of accounts at each
- 363 meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Board.
- 364

365 **Section 5:** Any officer, elected or appointed by the Board of Directors, may be removed by a
 366 majority vote of the Board of Directors. Any such removal shall be without
 367 prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed.

368 **Section 6:** Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal,
 369 disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by appointment by the Board of
 370 Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

371 **ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS**

372
 373
 374
 375 **Section 1:** The **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Board of Directors –
 376 1. The March meeting of each year will be the Annual Meeting. (3-20-10)
 377 2. The Annual Meeting shall be for the purpose of elections and any other
 378 business deemed appropriate.

379
 380 **Section 2:** **REGULAR MEETINGS** of the Board of Directors are monthly or as decided by
 381 the Board. (3-20-20)
 382 1. Notice of these meetings shall include location, date, time, and a tentative
 383 agenda.
 384 2. Notice shall be sent to each Director five (5) (3-12-14) days before the
 385 meeting.
 386 3. The annual budget will be approved at the June meeting.
 387 4. The Executive Board meetings and the regular Board of Directors meetings
 388 can be cancelled by a simply majority of the Executive Board. If a Board of
 389 Director meeting is cancelled, office staff will e-mail the decision to all
 390 members of the Board of Directors, as well as post an announcement on the
 391 opening page of the Wisconsin State Horse Council website and on the
 392 Wisconsin State Horse Council Facebook page. If an Executive Board
 393 meeting is cancelled, the President must notify all members of the Executive
 394 Board. (3-27-19)

395
 396 **Section 3:** **SPECIAL MEETINGS** of the Board of Directors shall be held whenever called by
 397 the Executive Board, or by three (3) or more members of the Board of Directors.
 398 1. Notice of such meeting shall include date, time and place of the Special
 399 Meeting.
 400 2. Notice shall be sent to each Board of Directors member at least seven (7)
 401 days before the date of the meeting.

402
 403 **Section 4:** A quorum for an annual, regular, or special Board of Directors meeting shall
 404 consist of twelve (12) Directors entitled to vote and who are present in person or
 405 by phone or by digital media for the transaction of business. (3-20-10)

406
 407 **Section 5:** A quorum for an Executive Board meeting shall consist of six (6) Executive Board
 408 members who are present in person or by phone or by digital media for the
 409 transaction of business. (3-20-10)

410
 411 **Section 6:** Any annual, regular, or special meeting of the Board of Directors may be
 412 conducted in person or by telephone, conference call, video conference, instant

413 messaging, or any other means now known or hereafter developed in which all
414 participating Directors may simultaneously hear or read each other's
415 communications during the meeting and all communications during the meeting
416 are immediately transmitted to each participating Director, and each participating
417 Director is able to immediately send messages to all other participating Directors.
418 (3-27-19)
419

420 **ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES, BOARDS & EVENTS**

421
422 **Section 1: COMMITTEES** – Except as provided for in Article VIII, Sections 3 and 4, the
423 Executive Board may appoint the members of new committees. All Directors will
424 be notified of these appointments when they are made. (3-8-08)
425 1. Committee members annually elect the Committee Chair. Subject to
426 approval by the Executive Board.
427 2. Committees will identify their own timeframe for confirming or choosing their
428 chairman each year.
429 3. The term for the Committee Chair is for one year, to run concurrently with the
430 fiscal year, and may be consecutive without limit. (3-8-08; 3-25-09)
431 4. Committee Chairs of standing committees may add or remove members with
432 the approval of a majority of that committee's members.
433 5. Committee Chairs must be members of the Wisconsin State Horse Council
434 and must sign the Code of Conduct form.
435 6. All committees are accountable to the Executive Board.
436 7. Each committee presents its goals and plans for the next fiscal year at the
437 Annual Meeting and at the convention when one is held.
438 8. Progress reports shall be submitted at the regular Wisconsin State Horse
439 Council meetings.
440

441 **Section 2: MIDWEST HORSE FAIR BOARD** – the Midwest Horse Fair Board of Directors
442 (MHF Board) is responsible for, and manages, all aspects of the Midwest Horse
443 Fair.
444 1. The MHF Board will consist of six elected members, three of which must be
445 current members of the Wisconsin State Horse Council, and three elected
446 from the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin State Horse Council, serving a
447 three-year term; and one member, elected by and from the Executive Board
448 of the Wisconsin State Horse Council serving a one-year term.
449 2. Two additional board members may be elected to one-year terms by the
450 MHF Board. These two members are to be selected from the community, are
451 not on the Board of Directors and may or may not be members of the
452 Wisconsin State Horse Council.
453 3. All members of the MHF Board must attend a minimum of two meetings per
454 year of the Wisconsin State Horse Council Board of Directors.
455 4. The Chair of the MHF Board shall be elected by a majority of the members of
456 the MHF Board.
457 5. To qualify for the chair position the individual must be a current member of
458 the MHF Board and have served a minimum of two (2) years as a member of
459 the MHF Board.
460 6. The term of office for the Midwest Horse Fair Chair shall be for one year to
461 coincide with the fiscal year of the Wisconsin State Horse Council.
462 7. All employees of the Midwest Horse Fair shall report either directly or
463 indirectly to the Chair of the MHF Board.

464 8. Progress reports shall be submitted at the regular Wisconsin State Horse
465 Council meetings.
466

467 **Section 3: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE –**

- 468 1. The Budget and Finance Committee will consist of five (5) members elected
- 469 from the Wisconsin State Horse Council (WSHC) Board of Directors. Also,
- 470 the WSHC President and Treasurer will be on this committee as non-voting
- 471 members. (3-8-08)
- 472 2. Each member will serve a two-year term. In odd years, 2 members will be
- 473 elected to the Committee, and in even years, 3 members will be elected to
- 474 the Committee.
- 475 3. The responsibilities of this committee shall be, but not limited to, the
- 476 following:
- 477 A. Review current finances and create a financial plan for the future of the
- 478 Wisconsin State Horse Council.
- 479 B. Hire audit accounting firm.
- 480 C. Hire tax preparation and accounting advisor firm.
- 481 D. Prepare Wisconsin State Horse Council annual budget.
- 482

483 **Section 4: Vacancies –** A vacancy on any Board or standing Committee composed of
484 elected members due to death, resignation, removal, disqualification or
485 otherwise, will be filled as follows:

- 486 1. An interim replacement may be appointed by the Executive Board within 2
- 487 weeks.
- 488 2. An election within 60 days by the Wisconsin State Horse Council Board of
- 489 Directors will be held.
- 490 3. The Director nominated must accept the nomination, and be present in
- 491 person or by phone, or by other digital media. (3-30-16)
- 492 4. The Director elected will fill the unexpired portion of the Board or standing
- 493 Committee member position’s term (if applicable).
- 494

495 **ARTICLE IX – TERMINATION & RESIGNATION**

496 **Section 1: Termination of Directors –**

- 497 1. An individual Director, including Level Three and Level Two members, a
- 498 Director representing a District, or a Legacy Director may be removed from
- 499 the Council or as a Director by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by a quorum
- 500 of the Directors present at any meeting held in accordance with the
- 501 provisions of this Article.
- 502 2. Three (3) reprimands of one (1) individual will cause a termination hearing of
- 503 that individual, where a simple majority is sufficient to terminate the
- 504 membership or Directorship. The case against the individual must be
- 505 presented by the Executive Board within 30 days of the third reprimand.
- 506
- 507

508 **Section 2: Notification** shall be sent to those involved, at least fourteen (14) days prior to
509 the hearing, and shall include the charge(s) against the individual.

- 510 1. Notification shall include date, time and place of hearing, and set forth the
- 511 charge(s) for possible expulsion.
- 512 2. Directors representing Level Three Memberships may be removed as above;
- 513 however, the organization being represented must be notified in accordance
- 514 with this Article. The organization has the prerogative to remove and/or
- 515 replace the Director with no further action being taken by the Council. In the

516 event that a Director representing an association is removed by vote of the
517 Board of Directors, this individual is no longer eligible to be named a Director
518 representing that association. (3-8-08)
519 3. The charged individual shall be given opportunity to show cause why
520 termination is not justified.
521

522 **Section 3:** Cause for removal of Director(s) may include, but not be limited to:
523 1. Failure to attend three consecutive Council Board meetings without an
524 excused absence. An excused absence may be obtained from the
525 President, Secretary, or notification of the office staff of the Council prior to
526 the meeting being called to order. (3-20-10)
527 2. Violation of the Code of Conduct. See Appendix "C" for the Code of Conduct
528 form. (3-22-23)
529

530 **Section 4:** The charged Director shall be given the opportunity to resign without prejudice.
531

532 **Section 5:** The Executive Board will conduct this hearing in a closed session.
533

534 **Section 6:** It is the responsibility of the Level Three Memberships to fill vacancies of their
535 Directors.
536

537 **Section 7:** Any Director, officer, or Committee Chair may resign at any time, by notifying the
538 President or the Secretary in writing. Such resignation shall take effect at the
539 time specified in the resignation, not to exceed 30 days.
540

541 **Section 8:** Any Director removed from the Council by a vote of the Wisconsin State Horse
542 Council Board of Directors will not be accepted as a Director at any level or as
543 part of any entity of the Wisconsin State Horse Council for a minimum of five (5)
544 years. (6-27-07)
545

546 **ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS**
547

548 These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors who cast a ballot by
549 use of either electronic (on-line) or paper ballots to coincide with the timing of (1) the Annual
550 Meeting, and/or (2) the September meeting. Notice of such amendments shall be given by the
551 15th of February and by the 15th of August with voting occurring no less than 10 days before the
552 Annual or September meeting. Tabulation of ballots will be completed, and results will be
553 presented at the Annual or September meeting. (3-19-11; 3-22-23; 9-25-24)
554

555 **ARTICLE XI – ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER**
556

557 Robert’s Rules of Order shall serve as a guideline for conduct of business at all meetings of this
558 organization.
559

560 **ARTICLE XII – ABSENTEE BALLOTS**
561

562 **Section 1:** Absentee ballots will be accepted and counted for all pre-published motions.
563 Changing a motion cancels an absentee ballot. (3-20-10)
564

565 **Section 2:** Absentee ballots will be accepted and counted for all elections. (3-20-10)
566

567 **Section 3:** Absentee ballots will not be accepted for the termination of a Director, or an
568 Officer. (3-8-08)

569
570 **Section 4:** Proxy votes will be prohibited unless specifically approved for a single event by a
571 majority of the Wisconsin State Horse Council for specific application.
572

573 **ARTICLE XIII – DISTRICTS**

574
575 **Section 1:** District boundaries will coincide with county boundaries.
576

577 **Section 2:** District boundaries may be adjusted to equalize equine or human populations.
578 (6-27-07)
579

580 **Section 3:** Populations shall be based on the number of individual, business, and group
581 members.
582

583 **Section 4:** Initially the State will be divided into five Districts. See Appendix “A”. (3-22-23)
584 **District 1:** Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau
585 Claire, Iron, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, and
586 Washburn.

587 **District 2:** Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette,
588 Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano, and Vilas.

589 **District 3:** Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee,
590 Manitowoc, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington, Waupaca,
591 Waushara, and Winnebago.

592 **District 4:** Dane, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee,
593 Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha.

594 **District 5:** Adams, Buffalo, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La
595 Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Portage, Richland, Sauk, Trempealeau, Vernon, and
596 Wood.
597

598 **Section 5:** District Organization

599 1. To be eligible to be a District Director, the person must be current with his/her
600 Wisconsin State Horse Council Level One or Level Two or Level Three
601 membership and have been elected by his/her District as a Director.

602 2. Each District will elect two Directors to the Wisconsin State Horse Council
603 Board of Directors to serve a two (2) year term at the District meeting
604 preceding the Annual Wisconsin State Horse Council meeting and may be
605 re-elected without limit. The first year one Director will be elected to a one
606 (1) year term. (3-8-03; 9-25-24)

607 3. Of the two Directors, one will be elected as the representative to the
608 Wisconsin State Horse Council Executive Board, for a term of one year, with
609 election at the time of the District Officers’ election preceding the Annual
610 Meeting. This representative to the Wisconsin State Horse Council
611 Executive Board may be changed by an election and majority vote within the
612 District with notice of such change being sent to the Wisconsin State Horse
613 Council Executive Board. (3-8-08; 9-25-24)

614 4. Each District will elect a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary for a
615 two (2) year term. They may be re-elected without limit. (3-8-08)

616 5. Each District will elect Officers for the coming year prior to the Annual
617 Meeting and Convention. Each District shall forward to the Office of the
618 Wisconsin State Horse Council the name, address, telephone number and

- 619 email address of each elected office within five (5) working days of being
- 620 elected. (3-8-08)
- 621 6. All Officers take office on the first day of July following the election.
- 622 7. District committees will be subcommittees of statewide committees, e.g.,
- 623 Trails Committee.
- 624 8. Each District may sponsor events in its own District. The District may
- 625 request funding from the Board of Directors in the annual budget.
- 626 9. All District records, including Minutes of meetings, will be forwarded to the
- 627 Office of the Wisconsin State Horse Council to be kept on file at the Council's
- 628 headquarters.
- 629 10. All District Officers and District Directors must be current Level One or Level
- 630 Two or Level Three Members of the Council and sign the Code of Conduct
- 631 form prior to taking office. (3-8-08)

ARTICLE XIV – WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL EQUINE FOUNDATION

632
633
634
635 As the sole member of the Wisconsin State Horse Council Equine Foundation, it shall be the duty
636 of the Wisconsin State Horse Council Executive Board to monitor the operations of the
637 Foundation.

638
639 **Section 1:** It shall be the responsibility of the Wisconsin State Horse Council Executive
640 Board to ensure that the Foundation operates in accordance with the
641 Foundation's Bylaws. See Appendix "B". (3-22-23)

642
643 **Section 2:** Fifty percent of the members of the Foundation Board of Directors plus one
644 additional member of the Foundation Board of Directors shall be elected by the
645 Wisconsin State Horse Council.
646 1. One member to the Foundation Board of Directors shall be appointed by the
647 Midwest Horse Fair Board from the Midwest Horse Fair Board, and one
648 member shall be appointed by the Wisconsin State Horse Council Executive
649 Board from the Wisconsin State Horse Council Executive Board.
650 a. The Director appointed by the Midwest Horse Fair Board shall serve
651 a term of one year.
652 b. The Director appointed by the Wisconsin State Horse Council
653 Executive Board shall serve a term of one year.
654 2. Each additional member to the Foundation Board of Directors appointed by
655 the Wisconsin State Horse Council shall be elected at large from Directors of
656 the Wisconsin State Horse Council and serve a two (2) year term. (6-27-07;
657 3-24-20)

658
659 **Section 3:** The Wisconsin State Horse Council Equine Foundation is required to present to
660 the Wisconsin State Horse Council Board of Directors an audited Financial
661 Statement or other financial statements as required by the Wisconsin State
662 Horse Council Executive Board at every meeting of the Wisconsin State Horse
663 Council Board of Directors. (6-27-07; 3-8-08)

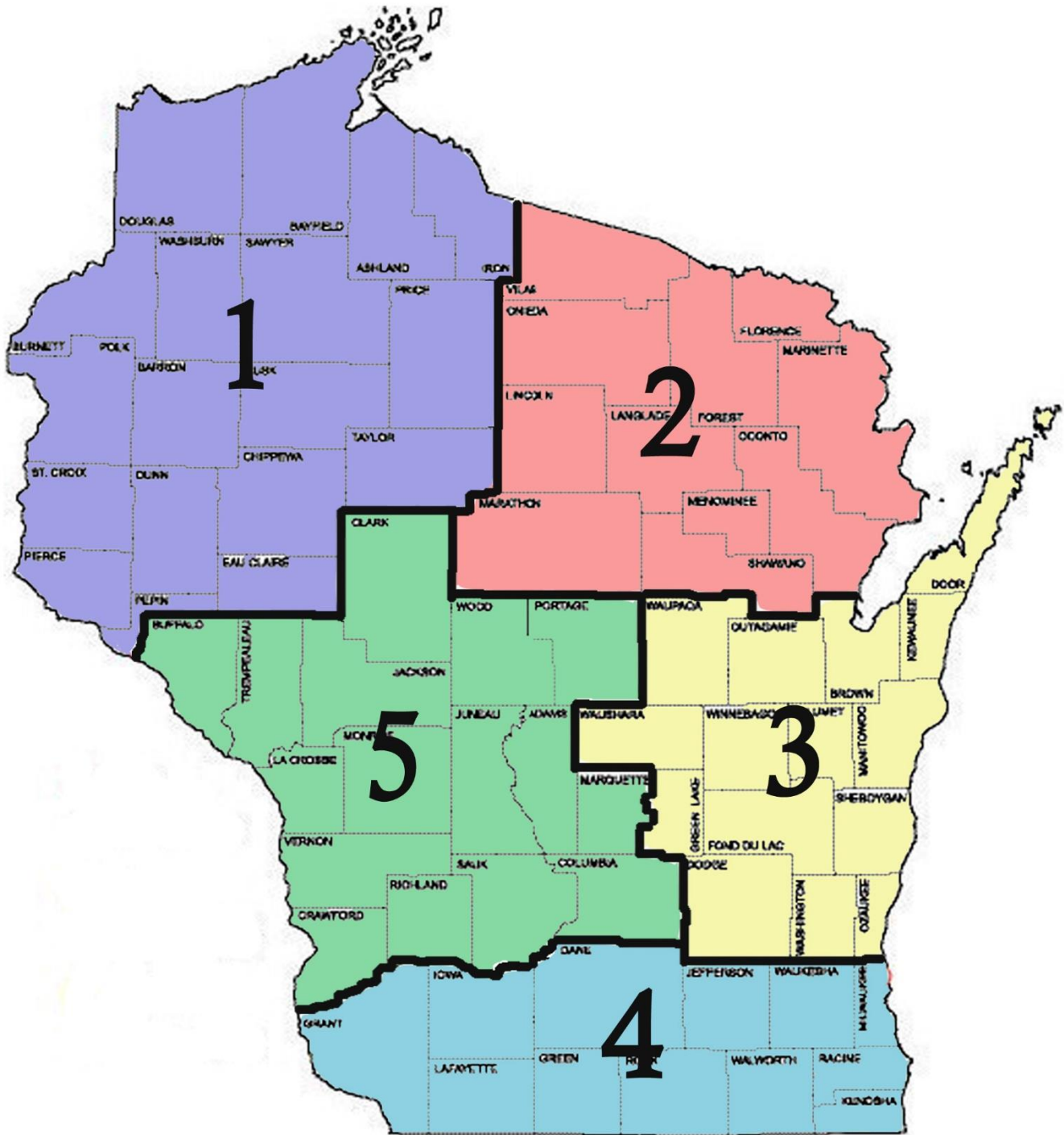
ARTICLE XV – INDEMNIFICATION (3-12-14)

664
665
666
667 **Section 1:** The Wisconsin State Horse Council shall, to the fullest extent permitted or
668 required by the Statute, indemnify each Director and Officer against any and all
669 Liabilities, and advance any and all reasonable Expenses as incurred by a
670 Director or Officer, arising out of or in connection with any Proceeding to which

671 such Director or Officer is a Party because he or she is a Director or Officer of the
672 Wisconsin State Horse Council. The rights to indemnification granted hereunder
673 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to indemnification against
674 Liabilities or the advancement of Expenses to which such person may be entitled
675 under any written agreement Board resolution, vote of members, the Statute or
676 otherwise. The Corporation may, but shall not be required to, supplement the
677 right to indemnification against Liability and the advancement of Expenses under
678 this Section 1 by the purchase of insurance on behalf of any one or more of such
679 persons, whether or not the Corporation would be obligated to indemnify such
680 person under this Section1. The term "Statue", as used in this Article XV, shall
681 mean Sections 181.0871 through 181.0889 of the Wisconsin Nonstock
682 Corporation Law and all amendments thereto which permit or require the
683 Corporation to provide broader indemnification rights prior to the amendment. All
684 other capitalized terms used in the Article XV and not otherwise defined herein
685 shall have the meaning set forth in Section 181.0871 of the Statute.
686

687 **Section 2:** Each individual (other than an employee of the Corporation) who provides
688 services to or on behalf of the Corporation without compensation ("Volunteer")
689 shall be immune from liability to any person for damages, settlements, fees,
690 fines, penalties, or other monetary liabilities arising from any act or omission as a
691 Volunteer, to the fullest extent provided by the Statute or any similar successor
692 provision thereto. For purposes of this section, it shall be conclusively presumed
693 that any Volunteer who is licensed, certified, permitted or registered under state
694 law and who is performing services to or on behalf of the Corporation without
695 compensation is not acting within the scope of his or her professional practice
696 under such license, certificate, permit or registration, unless otherwise expressly
697 indicated to the Corporation in writing.

APPENDIX A



APPENDIX B



BY-LAWS

OF

WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL EQUINE FOUNDATION, INC.

REFERENCE TABLE
TO
BY-LAWS
OF
WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL EQUINE FOUNDATION, INC.

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BY-LAWS
OF
WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL EQUINE FOUNDATION, INC.

ARTICLE I. OFFICES

The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in the City of Columbus, County of Columbia, State of Wisconsin. The Corporation may have such other office or offices, either within or without the State of Wisconsin, as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate or as the purposes of the Corporation may require from time to time.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes and to foster national and international amateur sports competition and for the prevention of cruelty to animals within the meaning of those terms as used in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any successor statute thereto (the "Code"), and is operated, supervised and controlled by Wisconsin State Horse Council, Inc., which is an organization described in sections 501(c)(6) and 509(a)(2) of the Code. In furtherance of the aforementioned purposes, the Corporation's specific purposes shall include the following:

1. To advance the charitable, educational, scientific, fostering of national and international amateur sports competition and prevention of cruelty to animals purposes for which Wisconsin State Horse Council, Inc. was formed.
2. To lessen the burdens of government by developing, operating and maintaining recreational and exhibition facilities open to the public at large.
3. To solicit, collect and receive gifts, bequests, devises or grants of real or personal property, to accept the same subject to such restrictions as may be imposed thereon, from individuals, estates, trusts, associations, corporations or other entities, all to or for the benefit of, or to advance the charitable, educational, scientific, fostering of national and international amateur sports competition and prevention of cruelty to animals purposes of the Wisconsin State Horse Council, Inc.
4. To hold, invest and administer property and to make expenditures to or for the benefit of, to carry out the purposes of, and to perform the charitable, educational, scientific, fostering of national and international amateur sports

competition and prevention of cruelty to animals purposes for which the Wisconsin State Horse Council, Inc. was formed.

5. To make distributions of assets and funds to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Code in the furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.

6. To acquire, buy, receive, own, lease and enjoy, any and all kinds or types of property, either real, personal or mixed, and to mortgage, sell, exchange, transfer or assign such properties where required in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.

7. To exercise any, all and every power which a nonprofit corporation, organized under the provisions of the Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation Law for charitable, educational, scientific, fostering of national and international amateur sports competition and prevention of cruelty to animals purposes, all for the public welfare, can be authorized to exercise, but not any other purpose. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Corporation shall not contribute to, 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. Any gifts, grants, scholarships and other rewards made by the Corporation shall be given or awarded in such manner as does not violate the restrictions under Code section 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE III. MEMBERS

SECTION 3.01. Members. The Corporation shall have one class of members. The sole member will be the Wisconsin State Horse Council, Inc.

SECTION 3.02. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the members shall be held in the month of June of each year, at such time and at such place in the State of Wisconsin as may be designated in the notice of the meeting for the purpose of electing directors and providing the members with a general update on the activities of the Corporation. If the election of directors shall not be held on the day designated herein for any annual meeting of the members, or at any adjournment thereof, the members shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the members as soon thereafter as convenient.

SECTION 3.03. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the President of the Corporation to be held at such time and place as the President of the Corporation shall designate. A special meeting

shall also be called by the Secretary of the Corporation on the written request of any four directors of the Corporation at such time and place as is designated in the written request of such directors.

SECTION 3.04. Notice. Notice stating the place, day and hour of all meetings, and in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be given to the members by giving personal delivery of, telecopying, telephoning or e-mailing such notice at least 24 hours before the time set before such meeting, or if notification is by mail, by mailing such notice at least 72 hours before the time set for such meeting, unless a different time shall be described for a particular action under the Wisconsin Nonprofit Corporation Law. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, with postage prepaid, addressed to the members at their addresses as they appear on the records of the Corporation.

SECTION 3.05. Action by Written Ballot. Any action that may be taken at an annual or special meeting of members may be taken without a meeting if the Corporation delivers a written ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter. The written ballot shall set forth each proposed action and provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action. Approval by written ballot under this section shall be valid only when: (a) the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action and (b) the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes casts by ballot. A written ballot may not be revoked.

SECTION 3.06. Action by Written Consent. Any action required to be approved at a meeting of the members, or any other action which may be approved at a meeting of the members, may be approved without a meeting if a consent in writing, describing the actions so taken, is signed by at least 51% of the members entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof. All signatures on the written consent shall be dated and, in determining whether the required number of members have signed the consent, only those signatures dated after the date of the most recent meeting of the members may be counted. Written notice of member approval under this section shall be given to all members who have not signed the written consent. If written notice is required, member approval under this section shall be effective ten (10) days after such written notice is given.

SECTION 3.07. Fixing of Record Date. For purposes of determining the members entitled to notice of a meeting of the members, the Board of Directors may fix a future date as the record date. If no such record date is fixed, members

at the close of business on the business day preceding the day on which notice is given are entitled to notice of the meeting. A record date fixed under this section may not be more than seventy (70) days before the meeting or action requiring a determination of members occurs.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 4.01. General Powers and Number. The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall exercise its full authority as granted by the Articles of Incorporation, by these By-Laws and by operation of law in establishing and maintaining such policies as are consistent with the purposes of the Corporation.

The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall initially be comprised of those individuals designated in the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation. The full, complete Board of Directors of the Corporation shall be not less than three in number and shall be no more than fifteen in number.

SECTION 4.02. Tenure and Qualifications. Except as provided in Section 4.02(a) below and the Articles of Incorporation, each director shall serve for a term of two years, whose terms shall be staggered so that approximately one-half of the directors shall be elected each year to two-year terms at the annual meeting of the members. Additional directors appointed to expand the number of directors will be appointed to first year terms in a manner that conforms to the one-half rule. No person shall be eligible to serve more than three consecutive full two-year terms as a director of the Corporation. Members of the Board of Directors shall hold office until their resignation, removal, death or incapacity, or until the appointment of a qualified successor. Directors may be removed by the sole member. Directors need not be residents of the State of Wisconsin. (Revised: 8/24/16)

(a) Directors Elected by the Sole Member. Fifty percent of the members of the Board of Directors plus one additional member of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the sole member. The sole member shall elect one member of the Board of Directors from each of the following committees within the Wisconsin State Horse Council, Inc. (the "Horse Council Committees"): the Midwest Horse Fair Board, the Executive Board and the Equine Facility and Implementation Board. Each Horse Council Committee may nominate one of its respective committee members (the "Committee Nominee") to serve on the Board of Directors. If the sole member elects a Committee Nominee, the term of such person shall be as follows:

(i) If the Committee Nominee was nominated by the Midwest Horse Fair Board, then such person shall serve for a term of three years.

(ii) If the Committee Nominee was nominated by the Executive Board, then such person shall serve for a term of one year.

(iii) If the Committee Nominee was nominated by the Equine Facility and Implementation Board, then such person shall serve for a term of two years.

(b) Directors Elected by the Board of Directors. The remaining members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4.03. Resignation. Any director may resign at any time. Such resignation shall be made in writing and shall take effect at the time specified therein. If no time is specified, it shall take effect on the date of its receipt by the Secretary of the Corporation, who shall record such resignation, noting such date. The acceptance of a resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

SECTION 4.04. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the first Wednesday in the month of June of each year, or at such other time and date within 30 days thereof as may be authorized by the Board of Directors and set forth in the notice of meeting, for the purpose of electing officers and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting. If the day fixed for the annual meeting shall be a legal holiday in the State of Wisconsin, such meeting shall be held on the next succeeding business day. If the election of officers shall not be held on the day designated herein for any annual meeting of the Board of Directors, or at any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the Board of Directors as soon thereafter as convenient.

SECTION 4.05. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time and for any purpose or purposes by the President. A special meeting shall also be called by the Secretary of the Corporation upon the oral or written request of any two directors. Any such meeting shall be held at the time and place designated in the notice thereof to be given as provided in section 4.06.

SECTION 4.06. Notice; Waiver. Written notice of the date, time and place of all meetings of the Board of Directors, annual or special, shall be given by the Secretary of the Corporation to each director. Such notice shall either be delivered personally, e-mailed, faxed or mailed to each director at the appropriate location

designated by the director in writing and filed with the Secretary. Personally delivered or mailed notices must be delivered not less than 72 hours before said meeting or if e-mailed or faxed, notices must be delivered not less than 24 hours before said meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. Whenever any notice whatever is required to be given to any director of the Corporation under the Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws or any provision of law, a waiver thereof in writing, signed at any time, whether before or after the time of meeting, by the director entitled to such notice, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. The attendance of a director at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a director attends a meeting and objects thereto to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors need be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting.

SECTION 4.07. Quorum. A majority of the number of directors in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors, but a majority of the directors present (though less than such quorum) may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

SECTION 4.08. Manner of Acting. The act of the majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, unless the act of a greater number is required by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these By-Laws.

SECTION 4.09. Methods of Conducting Meetings. Any and all directors may participate in a regular or special meeting or in a committee meeting of the Board of Directors by, or may conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communications by which either of the following occurs:

(a) All participating directors may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting; or

(b) All communication during the meeting is immediately transmitted to each participating director, and each participating director is able to immediately send messages to all other participating directors. If a meeting is to be conducted through the use of any of the means described in this section, all participating directors shall be informed that a meeting is taking place at which time official business may be transacted. A director participating in a meeting by any means described in this section is considered to be present in person at the

meeting. If requested by a director, minutes of the meeting shall be prepared and distributed to each director.

SECTION 4.10. Action by Written Consent. An action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action is signed by two-thirds of the directors then in office. A consent under this section shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the Board of Directors taken at a meeting. If written action is taken under this section by all directors, the written action shall be effective when signed by all directors, unless a different effective date and time are specified in the written consent. If written action is taken under this section by less than all directors, all directors shall be notified immediately of the text of the written consent and of its effective date and time. Failure to provide notice under this section shall not invalidate the action taken by written consent under this section. A director who does not sign or consent to the action taken by written consent shall not be liable for the action. If written notice is required, the written action shall be effective on the date specified in the written consent or on the tenth day after the date on which notice is given, whichever is later.

SECTION 4.11. Presumption of Assent. A director of the Corporation who is present at a meeting of the Board of Directors or a committee thereof at which action on any corporate matter is taken shall be presumed to have assented to the action taken unless his or her dissent shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting or unless he or she shall file his or her written dissent to such action with the person acting as the secretary of the meeting before the adjournment thereof or shall forward such dissent by registered mail to the Secretary of the Corporation immediately after the adjournment of the meeting. Such right to dissent shall not apply to a director who voted in favor of such action.

SECTION 4.12. Vacancies. Except as otherwise provided herein, any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors, including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors, may be filled by the Board of Directors until the next election by the sole member.

SECTION 4.13. Failure to Attend Meetings. A director of the Corporation that fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings for which such director was duly notified, may be removed by the Board of Directors at its discretion. If such director was elected by the sole member, then the sole member shall elect a replacement director.

SECTION 4.14. Committees. The Board of Directors by resolution adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors, may designate one

or more committees, each committee to consist of three or more of the Board of Directors who shall be appointed by the President of the Corporation to exercise, when the Board of Directors is not in session, the powers the Board of Directors delegates to such committee or committees. The President may also appoint one or more members of the Board of Directors as alternate members of any committee who may take the place of any absent member or members at any meeting of such committee, upon request by the President or the Chair of such committee. Each committee shall fix its own rules governing the conduct of its activities and shall make such reports to the Board of Directors of its activities as the Board of Directors may request.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

SECTION 5.01. Number. The principal officers of the Corporation (to the extent determined necessary by the Board of Directors) shall be a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Treasurer and Secretary, and such other officers and assistant officers as may be deemed necessary may be elected or appointed by the Board of Directors. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of President and Secretary and the offices of President and Vice President.

SECTION 5.02. Election and Term of Office. The officers of the Corporation to be elected by the Board of Directors shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at their annual meeting. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as convenient. The President, Treasurer and Secretary must be elected from among the Board of Directors; other officers need not be members of the Board of Directors. Each officer shall hold office until his or her successor shall have been duly elected or until his or her prior death, incapacity, resignation or removal.

SECTION 5.03. Removal. Any officer or agent may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Corporation will be served thereby. Election or appointment shall not of itself create contract rights.

SECTION 5.04. Vacancies. A vacancy in any principal office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION 5.05. President. The President, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, in general (a) administer all of the business and affairs of the Corporation; (b) have authority, subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the

Board of Directors, to appoint such agents and employees of the Corporation, as the President shall deem necessary, to prescribe their powers, duties, terms and compensation and to delegate authority to them; (c) have authority to sign, execute and acknowledge, on behalf of the Corporation, reports and other documents or instruments necessary or proper to be executed in the course of the Corporation's regular business, or which shall be authorized by resolutions of the Board of Directors; and (d) perform all duties incident to the office of President.

SECTION 5.06. Vice President. One or more Vice Presidents shall perform such duties as the President or the Board of Directors may from time to time specify.

SECTION 5.07. Secretary. The Secretary shall (a) keep the minutes of the members meetings and of the Board of Directors meetings; (b) give all notices in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws or as required by law; (c) be custodian of the Corporation's records and of the seal of the Corporation and affix the seal to all documents the execution of which, on behalf of the Corporation and under its seal, is duly authorized; (d) keep a register of the post office address of each member; and (e) in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5.08. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall see that a true and correct accounting of the financial transactions of the Corporation is made and that reports of such transactions are presented to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of the funds of the Corporation, and shall cause the same to be deposited in such manner in such banks as the Board of Directors may direct.

ARTICLE VI. CONTRACTS BETWEEN CORPORATION AND RELATED PERSONS

Any contract or other transaction between the Corporation and one or more of its directors, or between the Corporation and any firm of which one or more of its directors are members or employees, or in which he, she or they are interested, or between the Corporation and any corporation or association of which one or more of its directors are shareholders, members, directors, officers or employees, or in which he, she or they are interested, shall be valid for all purposes, notwithstanding the presence of such director or directors at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation which acts upon, or in reference to, such contract or transaction, and notwithstanding his, her or their participation in such action, if the fact of such interest shall be disclosed or known to the Board of

Directors and the Board of Directors shall, nevertheless, authorize, approve and ratify such contract or transaction by a vote of a majority of the directors present, such interested director or directors to be counted in determining whether a quorum is present, but not to be counted as voting upon the matter or in calculating the majority of such quorum necessary to carry such vote. This ARTICLE VI shall not be construed to invalidate any contract or other transaction which would otherwise be valid under the common and statutory law applicable thereto.

ARTICLE VII. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY

SECTION 7.01. Investment Policy. The Board of Directors shall adopt a formal investment policy (the "Investment Policy") with respect to the management of the Corporation's investment portfolio. At least annually, the Board of Directors shall (a) review the Corporation's investments and applicable prudence, liquidity and diversification standards; and (b) examine actual investments and investment alternatives in depth by (i) comparing actual investment results to the results reported for alternative investments; (ii) comparing the characteristics of alternative investments and investment vehicles; and (iii) examining and reconsidering the Investment Policy.

SECTION 7.02. Appointment of Investment Advisor. The Board of Directors may appoint one or more investment managers to supervise and direct the investment and reinvestment of all or any portion of the Corporation's investment assets. Any investment manager so appointed shall be an investment advisor registered under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, a bank defined in such act or an insurance company which is qualified to manage the assets of employee benefit plans under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. As a condition to his, her or its appointment, an investment manager shall acknowledge in writing that he, she or it is a fiduciary with respect to the Corporation. The Board of Directors shall furnish the investment manager with the written Investment Policy for investment, which guidelines may include directions with respect to the diversification of the investments. The Corporation may pay such compensation to any investment manager as the Board of Directors shall deem reasonable.

SECTION 7.03. Distributions. The Corporation may make distributions of unrestricted funds in furtherance of its tax-exempt purposes in the manner determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. CONTRACTS, LOANS, CHECKS AND DEPOSITS: SPECIAL CORPORATE ACTS

SECTION 8.01. Contracts. The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute or deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authorization may be general or confined to specific instances. In the absence of other designation, all deeds, mortgages and instruments of assignment or pledge made by the Corporation shall be executed in the name of the Corporation by the President and by the Secretary and, when so executed, no other party to such instrument or any third party shall be required to make any inquiry into the authority of the signing officer or officers.

SECTION 8.02. Loans. No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the Corporation, and no evidences of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by or under the authority of a resolution of the Board of Directors. Such authorization may be general or confined to specific instances.

SECTION 8.03. Checks, Drafts, Etc. All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by or under the authority of a resolution of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 8.04. Deposits. All funds of the Corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as may be selected by or under the authority of a resolution of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX. INDEMNIFICATION, LIMITED LIABILITY AND INSURANCE

SECTION 9.01. General Scope and Definitions.

(a) The rights of directors, officers and, where applicable, volunteers of the Corporation provided in this ARTICLE IX shall extend to the fullest extent permitted by the Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation Law and other applicable laws as in effect from time to time.

(b) For purposes of this ARTICLE IX, "director or officer" means a natural person who is or was a director or officer of the Corporation or who, while a director or officer of the Corporation, is or was serving at the Corporation's request as a director, officer, partner, trustee, member of any governing or decision-making committee, employee or agent of another corporation or foreign corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other

enterprise or who, while a director or officer of the Corporation, is or was serving an employee benefit plan because his or her duties to the Corporation also imposed duties on, or otherwise involved services by, the person to the plan or to participants in or beneficiaries of the plan, and, unless the context requires otherwise, the estate or personal representative of a director or officer.

(c) For purposes of this ARTICLE IX, "volunteer" means a natural person, other than an employee of the Corporation, who provides services to or on behalf of the Corporation without compensation.

(d) For purposes of this ARTICLE IX, "proceeding" means any threatened, pending or completed civil, criminal, administrative or investigative action, suit, arbitration or other proceeding, whether formal or informal, which involves foreign, federal, state or local law (including federal or state securities laws) and which is brought by or in the right of the Corporation or by any other person.

(e) For purposes of this ARTICLE IX, "expenses" means fees, costs, charges, disbursements, attorneys' fees and any other expenses incurred in connection with a proceeding, including a proceeding in which a director or officer asserts his or her rights under this ARTICLE IX, and, if the context requires, liabilities, including the obligation to pay a judgment, settlement, penalty, assessment, forfeiture or fine, including any excise tax assessed with respect to an employee benefit plan.

SECTION 9.02. Mandatory Indemnification.

(a) To the extent that a director or officer has been successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any proceeding (including, without limitation, the settlement, dismissal, abandonment or withdrawal of any action where he or she does not pay or assume any material liability), or in connection with any claim, issue or matter therein, he or she shall be indemnified by the Corporation against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith to the extent that he or she was a party to the proceeding because he or she is or was a director or officer.

(b) In cases not included under section 9.02(a), the Corporation shall indemnify any director or officer against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the director or officer in a proceeding to which the director or officer was a party because he or she is or was a director or officer, unless liability was incurred because the director or officer breached or failed to perform a duty he or she owed to the Corporation and the breach or failure to perform constituted any

of the following: (i) a willful failure to deal fairly with the Corporation in connection with a matter in which the director or officer had a material conflict of interest; (ii) a violation of criminal law, unless the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was lawful or no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful; (iii) a transaction from which the director or officer derived an improper personal profit; or (iv) willful misconduct. The termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement or conviction, or upon a plea of no contest or an equivalent plea, does not, by itself, create a presumption that indemnification of the director or officer is not required under this subsection.

(c) Indemnification under this section is not required to the extent that the director or officer has previously received indemnification or allowance of expenses from any person, including the Corporation, in connection with the same proceeding.

SECTION 9.03. Determination of Right to Indemnification. Unless otherwise provided by written agreement between the director or officer and the Corporation, the director or officer seeking indemnification under section 9.02 of this ARTICLE IX shall make a written request for indemnification which shall designate one of the following means for determining his or her right to indemnification: (a) by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors or a committee of directors consisting of directors who are not at the time parties to the same or related proceedings; (b) by independent legal counsel selected by a quorum of the Board of Directors or its committee in the manner prescribed in section 9.03(a) or, if unable to obtain such a quorum or committee, by a majority vote of the full Board of Directors, including directors who are parties to the same or related proceedings; (c) by arbitration; or (d) by an affirmative vote of a majority of the directors provided, however, that directors who are at the time parties to the same or related proceedings, whether as plaintiffs or defendants or in any other capacity, may not vote in making the determination.

Any determination hereunder shall be made pursuant to procedures consistent with the Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation Law unless otherwise agreed by the Corporation and the person seeking indemnification. Such determination shall be completed, and eligible expenses, if any, shall be paid to the person requesting indemnification hereunder within 60 days of the Corporation's receipt of the written request required hereunder.

SECTION 9.04. Allowance of Expenses as Incurred. Within 30 days of a written request by a director or officer who is a party to a proceeding because he or she is or was a director or officer, the Corporation shall pay or reimburse his or

her reasonable expenses as incurred if the director or officer provides the Corporation with all of the following: (a) a written affirmation of his or her good faith belief that he or she has not breached or failed to perform his or her duties to the Corporation; and (b) a written undertaking, executed personally or on his or her behalf, to repay the allowance and, if required by the Corporation, to pay reasonable interest on the allowance to the extent that it is ultimately determined under section 9.03 of this ARTICLE IX that indemnification under section 9.02 of this ARTICLE IX is not required and indemnification is otherwise not ordered by a court. The undertaking under this section shall be an unlimited general obligation of the director or officer and may be accepted without reference to his or her ability to repay the allowance. The undertaking may be secured or unsecured.

SECTION 9.05. Partial Indemnification.

(a) If it is determined pursuant to section 9.03 of this ARTICLE IX that a director or officer is entitled to indemnification as to some claims, issues or matters in connection with any proceeding, but not as to other claims, issues or matters, the person or persons making such determination shall reasonably determine and indemnify the director or officer for those expenses which are the result of claims, issues or matters that are a proper subject for indemnification hereunder in light of all of the circumstances.

(b) If it is determined pursuant to section 9.03 of this ARTICLE IX that certain expenses (other than liabilities) incurred by a director or officer are for any reason unreasonable in amount in light of all the circumstances, the person or persons making such determination shall authorize the indemnification of the director or officer for only such amounts as he or they shall deem reasonable.

SECTION 9.06. Indemnification of Employees and Agents. The Board of Directors may, in its sole discretion, provide indemnification and/or allowance of expenses in advance of a final determination of any proceeding to an employee or agent of the Corporation who is not a director or officer in connection with any proceeding in which the employee or agent was a defendant because of his or her actions as an employee or agent of the Corporation; provided, however, that prior to such indemnification or allowance of expenses, the Board of Directors shall first determine that the employee or agent acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in and not opposed to the best interests of the Corporation.

SECTION 9.07. Limited Liability of Directors and Officers.

(a) Except as provided in sections 9.07(b) and 9.07(c), a director or officer is not liable to the Corporation, its members or creditors, or any person for damages, settlements, fees, fines, penalties or other monetary liabilities arising from a breach of, or failure to perform, any duty resulting solely from his or her status as a director or officer, unless the person asserting liability proves that the breach or failure to perform constitutes any of the acts of misconduct listed in section 9.02(b) of this ARTICLE IX.

(b) Except as provided in section 9.07(c), this section does not apply to any of the following: (i) a civil or criminal proceeding brought by or on behalf of any governmental unit, authority or agency; (ii) a proceeding brought by any person for a violation of state or federal law where the proceeding is brought pursuant to an express private right of action created by state or federal statute; or (iii) the liability of a director under Wisconsin Statutes sections 181.0832 and 181.0833.

(c) Sections 9.07(b)(i) and (ii) do not apply to a proceeding brought by a governmental unit, authority or agency in its capacity as a private party or contractor.

SECTION 9.08. Severability of Provisions. The provisions of this ARTICLE IX and the several rights to indemnification, advancement of expenses and limitation of liability created hereby are independent and severable and, in the event that any such provision and/or right shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction in which a proceeding relating to such provisions and/or rights is brought to be against public policy or otherwise to be unenforceable, the other provisions of this ARTICLE IX shall remain enforceable and in full effect.

SECTION 9.09. Nonexclusivity of Rights. The rights to indemnification and advancement of expenses provided for in this ARTICLE IX shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification or advancement of expenses may be entitled under any agreement authorized by the Board of Directors, any By-Law of the Corporation, any vote of the disinterested directors or otherwise, both as to action in his or her official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Corporation may not indemnify a director or officer, or permit a director or officer to retain any allowance of expenses, pursuant to any such additional rights unless it is determined by or on behalf of the Corporation that the director or officer did not breach or fail to perform a duty he or she owes to the Corporation which constitutes conduct under section 9.02(b) of this ARTICLE IX. A director or officer who is a party to the same or related proceeding for which

indemnification or an allowance of expenses is sought may not participate in a determination under this section.

SECTION 9.10. Purchase of Insurance. The Corporation shall use its best efforts to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director or officer of the Corporation, to the extent that such director or officer is insurable and such insurance coverage can be secured by the Corporation at rates and in amounts and subject to such terms and conditions as shall be determined in good faith to be reasonable and appropriate by the Board of Directors of the Corporation, and whose determination shall be conclusive, against liability asserted against or incurred by him or her in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability under the provisions of this ARTICLE IX.

SECTION 9.11. Limited Liability of Volunteers.

(a) Except as provided in section 9.11(b), a volunteer is not liable to any person for damages, settlements, fees, fines, penalties or other monetary liabilities arising from any act or omission as a volunteer, unless the person asserting liability proves that the act or omission constitutes any of the following: (i) a violation of criminal law, unless the volunteer had reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was lawful or no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful; (ii) willful misconduct; (iii) if the volunteer is a director or officer of the Corporation, an act or omission within the scope of the volunteer's duties as a director or officer; or (iv) an act or omission for which the volunteer received compensation or any thing of substantial value in lieu of compensation.

(b) Exceptions.

(i) Except as provided in section 9.11(b)(ii), this section does not apply to any of the following: [a] a civil or criminal proceeding brought by or on behalf of any governmental unit, authority or agency; [b] a proceeding brought by any person for a violation of state or federal law where the proceeding is brought pursuant to an express private right of action created by state or federal statute; [c] claims arising from the negligent operation of an automobile, truck, train, airplane or other vehicle by a volunteer; [d] a proceeding against a volunteer who is licensed, certified, permitted or registered under state law and which is based upon an act or omission within the scope of practice under the volunteer's license, certificate, permit or registration; or [e] proceedings based upon a cause of action for which the volunteer is immune from liability under Wisconsin Statutes section 146.31(2) and (3), 146.37, 895.44, 895.48, 895.51 or 895.52.

(ii) Section 9.11(b)(i) does not apply to a proceeding brought by or on behalf of a governmental unit, authority or agency in its capacity as a contractor.

SECTION 9.12. Benefit. The rights to indemnification and advancement of expenses provided by, or granted pursuant to, this ARTICLE IX shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director or officer and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

SECTION 9.13. Amendment. No amendment or repeal of this ARTICLE IX shall be effective to reduce the obligations of the Corporation under this ARTICLE IX with respect to any proceeding based upon occurrences which take place prior to such amendment or repeal.

ARTICLE X. GENERAL

SECTION 10.01. Location. The headquarters of the Corporation shall be located at 132 A South Ludington, Columbus, Wisconsin, as long as the Wisconsin State Horse Council, Inc. is located at the same address.

SECTION 10.02. Corporate Seal. The Board of Directors may provide a corporate seal which shall be circular in form and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Corporation and the state of incorporation and the words "Corporate Seal."

SECTION 10.03. Amendment of By-Laws. During any period in which the Corporation has members, the Board of Directors may alter or amend these By-Laws of the Corporation or adopt new By-Laws, only with the consent of the sole member.

SECTION 10.04. Dissolution. If the Corporation proves unable to carry out the purpose for which it was created, the Corporation shall be dissolved in accordance with law. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation to such organization or organizations, as the Board of Directors shall select, which are organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, educational or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under the Code section 501(c)(3). If the Board of Directors proves unable to agree upon the disposition of the Corporation's assets, all residual assets shall be surrendered to the Circuit Court located in the county in which the

Corporation's principal office is located for disposition by the Court for the benefit of other organizations that are exempt under the Code section 501(c)(3).

SECTION 10.05. Procedure. If the By-Laws are silent as to any procedural aspect of any action or meeting hereunder, the procedures of the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall control such procedure.



WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC DIRECTOR CODE OF CONDUCT

As a duly elected or appointed representative of the WSHC Board of Directors, I acknowledge and embrace the responsibilities inherent in my role. I am committed to fulfilling my duties with integrity and professionalism, adhering to both the legal framework established by the State of Wisconsin, and the Bylaws of the Wisconsin State Horse Council and its affiliated entities. It is my duty to oversee the assets and operations of the Wisconsin State Horse Council and its entities with honesty, fairness, diligence, and ethical conduct, acting only within the confines of my authority.

In accordance with these principles, I pledge to uphold the following Code of Conduct:

1. I will prioritize the Mission of the Council, which is to advocate for and promote a thriving equine industry in Wisconsin.
2. I will engage with constituents, actively seeking their input on significant matters.
3. I will adhere to this Code of Conduct, fostering a transparent decision-making process and conducting Council business in an open manner.
4. I will disclose any potential conflicts of interest and abstain from voting on related matters.
5. I will respect and abide by the majority decisions of the WSHC.
6. I will stay informed about the concerns of my constituents, as well as relevant State and National issues.
7. I will adhere to the procedural guidelines outlined in the WSHC Bylaws.
8. I will honestly and equitably represent the viewpoints of my constituents, refraining from imposing my personal opinions.
9. I will conduct myself with honesty, fairness, and integrity towards fellow Council Directors and members, including refraining from perceived sexual or financial misconduct.
10. I will treat all WSHC representatives with respect and courtesy.
11. I understand that any violation of this Code will be subject to review by the Executive Board, potentially resulting in disciplinary action, including removal from the Council as outlined in the WSHC Bylaws.

I hereby acknowledge that I have thoroughly read and comprehend the WSHC Code of Conduct. I willingly commit to upholding the principles and standards outlined herein.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Original: Prior to 2007
Revision: 5/23/07
Revised: 6/18/24