

MAINE ICELANDIC HORSE ASSOCIATION

Founded January 2005

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Mission Statement

To promote knowledge of the Icelandic horse and its correct use as a competition and riding horse in accordance with the policies of the International Federation of Icelandic Horse Association (FEIF) and the United States Icelandic Horse Congress (USIHC). To provide opportunities and activities associated with the ownership and riding of the Icelandic horse. And to always apply good horsemanship and good sportsmanship practices.

Article I

Name and Object

The name of the association shall be the Maine Icelandic Horse Association. The official abbreviation shall be MIHA. Its objectives shall be to promote the Icelandic horse breed, to educate its membership about the breed, and to provide an environment of support for owners and riders who enjoy the talents and characteristics of the Icelandic. These objectives will be conducted in accordance with FEIF, and with the USIHC as the member association of FEIF in the United States.

Article II

Membership

Section 1: There are three (3) classes of membership: Individual, Family and Sponsor. Individual is 18 years of age or older with one vote. Family is spouse/partner and dependent children under the age of 18 with two votes.

Article III

Dues

Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors on an annual basis. Dues shall be payable on January 1 of each year unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors. Any member failing to pay the annual dues within sixty (60) days shall cease to be a member of the association, unless an extension of payment is extended by the Board of Directors. Such extensions shall not exceed a period of thirty (30) days. A new membership begun after October 1 will become current for the following year.

Article IV

Officers

Section 1: The officers of this association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among the members of the Board. The term of office is two years.

Section 2: The President schedules and presides over all meetings, is responsible for conducting all meetings, and is the primary spokesperson for the association.

Section 3: The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in her or his absence and such other duties as shall be imposed upon him or her by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: The Treasurer will keep the financial records of the Association, collect dues, and report expenses on a quarterly basis. The Treasurer will receive, deposit, and disburse all monies for the association subject to the conditions set forth by the Board of Directors, maintain an accurate accounting of all financial transactions, and submit a written report of all financial activity for presentation at the Annual Meeting each year.

Section 5: The Secretary will keep accurate records of every meeting, and act as public relations delegate.

Article V

Board of Directors

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall be comprised of seven (7) directors, of who four (4) will be officers and the remaining will be directors-at-large. The term of office is two years with a two term limit. The two year term limit can be overruled by a majority membership vote at the annual meeting.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the association and shall set policy and procedures for the club; accept; prepare the budget; and approval of all disbursements in excess of \$100.

Section 3: The Board of Directors may fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors occurring for any reason. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall remain a Director until the next election year. A Director who is absent for two (2) consecutive quarterly meetings may be replaced by action of the remaining Directors.

Section 4: At all meetings of the Board of Directors, four (4) members shall constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be necessary at any Board of Directors meeting to transact business.

Section 5: The Board of Directors shall meet four (4) times a year. Meetings may be done by conference call.

Article VI

Meetings

Section 1: The winter meeting of the Board of Directors in each calendar year shall be designated the annual meeting of club members. The time and place shall be designated by the Board of Directors. Notification to the membership shall be made thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date.

Section 2: The order of business at all meetings shall be as follows:

a) determination of a quorum;

- b) reading of the Minutes of the last meeting;
- c) reports from each committee;
- d) old business
- e) new business

Section 3: At all meetings of members a quorum shall consist of either five (5) members in good standing if voting membership is less than twenty (20), or nine (9) members in good standing if voting membership is twenty (20) or greater. A quorum shall be necessary at any meeting to transact business.

Article VII

Elections

Section 1: At the fourth meeting of the Board of Directors each calendar year, a list of Directors willing to stand for re-election and nominations for new candidates for Director for the next fiscal year will be presented. A nomination must be accepted by the candidate.

Section 2: Votes for conducting elections and other business at the annual membership meeting shall consist of fifteen (15%) percent of current paid membership including at least four (4) members from the Board of Directors. The membership shall be informed of the new Board of Directors within one week from election.

Section 3: The incumbent and new Directors shall meet at the first meeting after the election to choose new officers. The new Directors shall assume their offices at that meeting.

Article VIII

Committees

Section 1: The Board of Directors has the authority to establish or disestablish committees such as, but not limited to, the Events Committee, Nominating Committee, Membership Committee, Promotion Committee, etc. Each committee shall serve as advisory to the Board of Directors, shall elect its own chairperson, and shall report to the Board of Directors as required. Members of

the Board of Directors shall act as liaison to the committee(s) and may serve as chairpersons of committees as necessary.

Section 2: All members shall be eligible to serve on all committees.

Article IX

Rules of Order

“Robert’s Rules of Order” shall be the parliamentary guide for matters of procedure not specifically provided for by the Constitution and By-Laws.

Article X

Amendments

Amendments of the foregoing Constitution and By-Laws shall be adopted by the Board of Directors as needed to provide for the efficient management of the club's activities.

Article XI

Dissolution

If for any reason this association should dissolve, all monies remaining in the Treasury after dissolution shall be donated to the United State Icelandic Horse Congress (USIHC) for use in matters relating to the Icelandic horse breed.