



**Rocky Mountain Hunter Jumper Association  
Bylaws  
2022**

Published by

The Rocky Mountain Hunter Jumper association Board of Directors, LLC

### **General Information**

- A. RMHJA refers to Rocky Mountain Hunter Jumper Association
- B. Fiscal is from December 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Year end points are calculated from December 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Meetings of the *Board of Directors* are open to all members in good standing with RMHJA. Non-members may attend if accompanied by a board member.
- E. Anyone wanting to discuss an issue must present it to the President in advance of the meeting
- F. The President reserves the right to close the board meeting if deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Association.
- G. Only members may vote at board meetings. In the event of a tie, board members will make the deciding vote.
- H. USHJA rules will govern RMHJA shows, except when RMHJA adjusts for local situations.

## **ARTICLE I. Name**

The name of this organization is Rocky Mountain Hunter Jumper Association, LLC (RMHJA)

## **ARTICLE II. Purpose**

- a- To promote the sport of horsemanship through sanctioning and sponsoring hunter, jumper and equitation competitions.
- b- To promote rider safety, animal husbandry, and good sportsmanship.
- c- To support the rules and procedures of the USHJA and RMHJA
- d- To publish information in regard to rules and specifications, show conduct and/or general interest
- e- To adjudicate violations of rules and impose penalties when necessary.

## **ARTICLE III.**

### **a. Membership**

- 1. Individual-One year: \$25
- 2. Individual-Lifetime: \$200
- 3. Horse-One year: \$10
- 4. Horse-Lifetime: \$25
- 5. Family-One year: \$45
- 6. Family-Lifetime: \$300

### Memberships Rules:

- A person may only join if they do NOT owe monies to RMHJA
  - A person must not be in violation of USHJA or RMHJA rules
  - A person must not be under suspension with USEF
  - A person must not be a perpetrator in a fraud in the name of RMHJA or USHJA
- Anyone accused of the above may not participate as an exhibitor, trainer or owner at a RMHJA show.
- A person MUST be a member to accrue points for year end medal finals and year end division awards.

### **b. Annual Dues**

Dues are derived by the *board of directors*. Non-members will pay a non-member fee at every RMHJA event. Dues are payable on December 1<sup>st</sup> of every fiscal year. No matter when you join the dues turn over on the first of December, no dues fee will be adjusted regardless of join date.

### **c. Membership Privileges**

- 1. Bypass RMHJA dues at every horse show.
- 2. Eligibility to compete in yearend medal finals, and year end awards.
- 3. Eligibility to serve on the *board of directors*.
- 4. Eligibility to vote in the general election.

#### **ARTICLE IV. General Membership Meetings**

- a. Members will be notified of annual board meetings.
- b. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- c. At least ten percent of membership must be present for a vote to constitute a quorum.
- d. Order of business will proceed as follows at annual meeting:
  1. Call to order
  2. Printed financial statement
  3. Election of directors
  4. Business to come to the floor
  5. Date of next meeting
  6. Any other special issues
  7. Adjournment

#### **ARTICLE V. Nominations and Elections**

- a. The nominating committee shall consist of board members (excluding the president) who are serving the first year of their two year term. The names of the nominating committee members and a request for nominations shall be published in the RMHJA newsletter and on the RMHJA website three months prior to the nomination deadline. Candidates must be in good standing with USEF, USHJA and RMHJA. The candidate must be over 18 years old.
- b. Elections rules: Written ballot only. Supervised by the nominating committee. No late ballots. Any challenge to a nomination must be submitted 30 days in advance of election.

#### **ARTICLE VI. Board of Directors**

##### **a. General**

The business of RMHJA shall be managed by the *board of directors*, whom shall exercise within the rules of the association, except as otherwise provided by statute or by the Articles of Incorporation.

##### **b. Election and Term**

The *board of directors* may vacillate in numbers depending on positions available and needs of the organization. Each member must be a RMHJA member, in good standing and shall be elected to perform the duties of their position for two years. The *board of directors is a VOLUNTARY position*. Those in paid positions may NOT serve on the *board of directors* for RMHJA.

##### **c. Code of Ethics**

RMHJA *Board of Directors* are expected and required:

- 1- To maintain high moral and ethical standards of performance and behavior and to serve as an example to the general membership, especially the junior members.
- 2- To support, enforce and strengthen the RMHJA Bylaws, RMHJA rules and specifications.
- 3- To support all board resolutions and decisions that have been passed by at least a majority vote.

- 4- To contribute and participate frankly and sincerely at the meetings of the board.
- 5- To participate actively in at least one RMHJA committee and event. Each board member will submit, in writing, a report at the final meeting of the year on what committee (s) they worked, and to what RMHJA events they donated their time.

**d. Powers and Duties**

In addition to the normal *board of director* job requirements, the following will be delegated to the board:

- a. Promulgation and enforcement of RMHJA rules and specifications.
- b. Hiring and contracting of any paid positions
- c. Removal from office of any director, chairman or officer, who in the opinion of a majority of the board, has failed to discharge his or her duties in a manner that is consistent with the best interest of the association.
- d. Interpreting and deciding all questions or ambiguities which may arise in connection with any bylaw, rule, or policy of RMHJA in consultation with appropriate committees if applicable.

**ARTICLE VII. Officers**

**a. President**

1. Be chief executive of the association
2. Preside at all *board of director meetings* and general membership meetings.
3. Appoint chairman of all committees, except paid positions.
4. Be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee
5. Call any special meeting of the general membership or emergency meeting of the *board of directors*.

**b. Vice President**

1. In the absence of the President, exercise all duties of the president
2. Be the parliamentarian (one well versed in parliamentary procedure or in the legislature of this body)

**c. Secretary**

1. Give notice of all meetings
2. Keep minutes of all meetings
3. Maintain all official records, documents and correspondence.

**d. Treasurer**

1. Collect all monies due the association
2. Have the care and custody and responsibility for the funds of the association
3. Keep proper records of the association account
4. Submit a documented report of all association funds at each board meeting
5. Submit an annual financial statement to the board for review within 30 days of fiscal year end.
6. Deposit all checks and pay all bills within 30 days of receipt
7. Keep all books ready for review

## **ARTICLE VIII.**

### **a. INDEMNIFICATION**

RMHJA shall indemnify, to the extent permitted by law, any person who is or was a director, officer, agent, fiduciary or employee of RMHJA AGAINST any claim, liability or expense arising against or incurred by such persons as a result of actions reasonably taken at the direction of RMHJA. RMHJA shall further have the authority to the fullest extent permitted by law to indemnify its directors, officers, agents, fiduciaries or employees against any claim, liability or expense arising against or incurred by them. In all other circumstances and to maintain insurance providing such indemnification. No director, officer, agent fiduciary or employee of RMHJA shall have any personal liability for monetary damages to RMHJA except that this provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of said director, officer, agent, fiduciary or employee to RMHJA for monetary damages for any breach of their duty to loyalty to RMHJA, acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, or any transaction from which said person derives an improper personal benefit.

### **b. Repeal or Modification**

Any repeal or modification of the foregoing provisions of this article for indemnification or advancement of expenses shall not affect adversely any right or protection stated in such provisions with respect to any act or omission occurring prior to the time of such repeal or modification. If any provision of this article or any part thereof shall be held to be prohibited by or invalid under applicable law, such provision or part thereof shall be deemed amended to accomplish the objectives of the provision or part thereof as originally written to the fullest extent permitted by law and all other provisions or parts shall remain in full force and effect.

### **c. Insurance**

The RMHJA *board of directors* shall maintain insurance for events by Legis Insurance coverage. The limits of coverage will be available upon request.

## **ARTICLE IX. Committees TBD**

## **RULES and SPECIFICATIONS**

### **RULE 1. Type of exhibitors**

**JUNIOR EXHIBITORS:** Any exhibitor who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year.

**ADULT EXHIBITORS:** Adult AMATEUR who is at least 18 years of age as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. Amateur exhibitor who is advertised as a trainer or instructor for horse show purposes, or who regularly acts as a trainer, assistant trainer, and or instructor for horse show purposes, or who otherwise conducts himself herself as a professional for horse show purposes, whether or not he she receives remuneration is INELIGIBLE to ride in ANY RMHJA classes which are limited to amateurs or juniors and is INELIGIBLE to ride in ANY RMHJA medal classes. An individual who is in possession of a USEG Amateur card rides under the respective National Federation rules at all RMHJA approved shows. If you are found to be in.

violation of the RMHJA amateur eligibility, you will be subject to the sanctions of RMHJA rules.

### **RULE 2. Horse Recording**

To accrue points and be in good standing for yearend awards, the horse must have a membership with RMHJA. At least one owner of the horse must be a RMHJA member and the owners name must appear on the entry blank.

### **RULE 3. Joining at Horse Shows**

If an exhibitor wishes to join RMHJA or record a horse it must be paid for at the show or online prior to the horse show. Points will count to the standings of the exhibitor and the horse once the membership dues are paid.

### **RULE 4. Nonmembers**

Nonmembers will NOT be eligible for year-end awards, year-end finals or medal finals.

### **RULE 5. Show Approval Requirements**

**TBD**

### **RULE 6. Show Cancellation Policy**

RMHJA reserves the right to cancel any show without prior notification due to:

- inclement weather
- lack of knowledgeable staff to safely execute the show
- catastrophic events (pandemics included)
- If a show cancellation occurs within 30 days of show date no refunds will be approved.
- cancelled shows will be rescheduled if the grounds and dates are approved by the board.

### **RULE 7. Prize List**

#### **Must contain:**

- Membership application RMHJA
- Directions to the show
- Schooling/warmup policy
- Championships offered
- Starting times/lunch times (if offered)
- Show Fees and Refund Policy
- Name of Judges, Stewards, Course Designer, Vet, EMT, Show Secretary
- Entry form, mailing address, stalls, shavings, food, membership,
- Returned check policy
- Closing date if applicable
- Policy for dogs

-Policy for non-showing horses on grounds

**-GRAND STAND POLICY**

**RULE 8.**

**LEGIS INSURANCE IS EFFECTIVE AT ALL SHOWS  
LIABILITY WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED BY EVERY EXHIBITOR OR GUARDIAN  
OF A MINOR.**

Every show operating under the RMHJA sponsorship must be covered under LEGIS insurance policy in general liability coverage of \$1,000,000.00. Liability forms must be signed by exhibitors and the guardians of minors.

**RULE 9. Conduct of Approved Horse Shows**

USEF rules will be followed. Show managers should make every effort to maintain safe show conditions for all spectators and show participants. RMHJA seeks to provide the safest and highest quality shows possible. The USHJA (RMHJA) Rulebook must be available in the show office and each judge should be given a copy of the rule book.

- a. Facilities: RMHJA adopts all USHJA/USEF show standards, facilities, equipment and safety. The show manager is responsible to ensure compliance with all RMHJA rule.
- b. Awards: A prize for first place and ribbons through 6<sup>th</sup> place must be awarded to all competing in RMHJA approved classes. Champion and Reserve Champion may or may not be offered at every show.
- c. Food and Beverages: RMHJA will make every attempt to have food vendors for breakfast, lunch and any other possible options that are available. Other vendors RMHJA will attempt to have onsite may include: clothing from local shops, farm equipment, Murdoch's, tack supply shops and any other local vendor that has any interest in the venue.

**Rule 10. Entry Fee Refund Policy**

If a show is cancelled by the board of RMHJA all fees will be refunded. If a person has registered for the show and has to cancel for non-medical reasons, only class fees will be refunded. No stall refunds and no entry fees refunded, only classes, if already paid. If a person has to cancel for medical reasons, they must provide the board of directors a letter from their vet or doctor for a full refund.

**Rule 11. Ring Delays**

Ring delays will not be tolerated. Once a class starts if a horse is not in the arena within 5 minutes, show officials have the right to cancel the class with no refunds allowed.

**Rule 12. Splitting or combining of classes**

Show officials reserve the right to split or combine classes as seen necessary.



**Rule 13. Managers, Stewards, Judges**

All must be in current good standing and members of RMHJA. It is recommended that these officials also be members of the USHJA and that they have taken and passed the Safe Sport exams provided by USHJA.

**Rule 14. EMT**

The local EMT service will be alerted of the show and the nature of potential injuries. It may be deemed that an emergency professional is on the premises. That will be determined by horse show officials before the start of the show.

**RULE 15. Rule violations by RMHJA members.**

1. First violation gets a warning in writing.
2. Cancellation and forfeiture of all points for any class and/or any show and/or any year with respect to horse or horses, or for all the members horses.
3. Forfeiture of trophies, ribbons prize money or any other award received by the person or his or her trainer, rider, horse or horses for whatever classes and horse shows are deemed appropriate, with the requirement that all such forfeited awards be returned to the horse show within 15 days.
4. Second: occurring within 1 year of the first violation, any sanction appropriate for a first violation and/or suspension or membership.
5. Third: Expelled from RMHJA
6. Multiple violations at one show shall be treated as one occurrence.

**Rule 16. Obligation to report Violations, abuse of animals, abuse of minor**

Horse show stewards, judges, managers, officials are required to report ANY violation of rules, abuse of animals, or abuse of a minor in writing to the Show Standards Chairman immediately. The violator will be contacted immediately, and a discussion shall ensue.

**Rule 17. Presentation of Awards**

Every effort will be made to ensure a notable member of the community is available to pass out awards.

**Rule 18. Ties**

In the event that there are ties in any event, a first place will be awarded to both participants.

**Rule 19. Class Definitions**

2022 USHJA Outreach class rules and definitions will apply

