

BLUESTEM MINIATURE HORSE CLUB BY-LAWS

- 1) **Name**
 - a) The name of the club shall be the Bluestem Miniature Horse Club, hereafter referred to as Club.
- 2) **Purpose**
 - a) The Club is formed for the purposes of promotion of Miniature Horses and recreation for Miniature Horse enthusiasts as stated in the Articles of Incorporation.
- 3) **Members**
 - a) The membership of the Club shall consist of individuals and organizations that have an interest in Miniature Horses and who support the purposes of the Club as stated in the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws and who are in good standing. A member in good standing is a member who has submitted an application for membership and paid their membership dues or patronage if owed for the current year. The club shall have the following classes of members: (a) Regular Member; (b) Youth Member; (c) Patron Member.
 - i) Regular Member: shall be an individual who has attained the age of eighteen years of age as of December 1st of the current year, who has submitted a membership application and paid dues, and agrees to support the purposes of the club. Regular Members shall have one vote on all matters brought before the membership for a vote and shall be eligible to hold any office in the club.
 - ii) Youth Member: shall be an individual who has not attained the age of eighteen years of age as of December 1st of the current year, who has submitted a membership application, and agrees to support the purposes of the club.
 - iii) Patron Member: shall be an individual or organization that has submitted a membership application and paid patronage, and agrees to support the purposes of the club.
 - b) Memberships shall be personal and no member may transfer his/her membership or any rights thereof. Membership shall terminate upon written resignation, death, or failure to comply with the rules, regulations, Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws. Any appeals of membership status shall be made in writing to the Board of members or finally to a court of law whose ruling shall be final. Any actions against the Club shall be made in the county of the registered agent.
 - c) No member shall have any right of interest in any assets or property of the Club. No member shall be personally liable for the debts, liabilities or obligations of the club when the debts, liabilities or obligations were entered into in accordance with these By-Laws.
- 4) **Membership Dues**
 - a) Membership dues shall be established and set from time to time by the Officers and the Board of Members. Memberships shall run from January 1st to December 31st of each year.
- 5) **Voting**
 - a) A Regular Member in good standing shall have one vote in all matters brought before the membership.
 - i) The manner of voting by Regular Members may be by written ballot or show of hands. Any member may request a written ballot on any question before the membership.
 - ii) Mail in voting shall be allowed on any matter so specified by the Officers or Board of Members.
 - iii) Proxy voting is prohibited; each Regular Member may cast only his/her own vote.
- 6) **Officers and Board of Members**
 - a) The club may have such offices as the Officers and the Board of Members may designate or as the activities of the Club may from time to time require. The affairs of the club shall be managed by its Officers and Board of Members. The Officers and Board of Members shall be elected from members in good standing who agree to be nominated either in person or by written notice to the President. One stated purpose of the Club is to represent the needs of Miniature Horse enthusiasts in Nebraska, this is best accomplished by ensuring leadership from among our Nebraska members and therefore 2/3 of the Officers and 1/2 of the Members-at-Large shall be residents of Nebraska.
 - i) The officers shall be comprised of President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer and their duties shall be as prescribed in these By-Laws. The Officers shall be elected by the Regular Members at the Annual Membership and Election Meeting of the Club and shall serve until their term has expired and their successors are elected or until they resign their office or their membership expires.
 - (1) President - The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and all meetings of the Officers and Board of Members, and shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees. The President shall sign all contracts and documents, and shall perform all duties incidental to this office while being responsive to the needs and wishes of the Members. The President shall make recommendations to the Members, propose long term plans, and monitor the financial position of the Club. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee who will solicit nominees and forward a slate of candidates to the membership for consideration at the annual meeting, nominations for all offices will also be accepted from the floor.
 - (2) Vice-President – In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall have all powers and shall perform all duties of the President. The Vice-President shall serve as the Membership Chair and his/her responsibilities will be to promote membership; encourage participation among the membership; and ensure good relations with the Membership. The primary responsibilities of the Vice-President shall be to ensure that membership in the Club is a positive experience for the Members and to ensure the Club is responsive to the needs and wishes of the Members.
 - (3) Secretary / Treasurer – The Secretary / Treasurer shall be responsible for the records of the Club which may include financial; membership; elections; newsletters; web sites; articles and any other records which may from time to time be required. The Secretary / Treasurer shall receive funds belonging to the Club; maintain an accounting of all Club funds and property; and process payments for all liabilities. The Secretary / Treasurer shall make reports of the above to members at least annually.
 - ii) Board of Members - The Board of Members shall be comprised of an AMHA Member-at-Large, an AMHR Member-at-Large and two Members-at-Large and their duties shall be as prescribed in these By-Laws. They shall be elected by the Regular Members at the Annual Membership and Election Meeting of the Club and shall serve until their term has expired and their successors are elected or until they resign their office or their membership expires.
 - (1) AMHA Member-at-Large – The Club shall be a member in good standing of the American Miniature Horse Association (AMHA). The AMHA

Member-at-Large shall serve as a member of the Board of Members and provide leadership to the club on all matters brought before the Board of Members. He/she being especially qualified by their participation and membership in AMHA, shall advise the Club on activities related to AMHA which may include membership, shows, and events. He/she shall promote membership in the Club, good relations with the membership and a positive experience for the members at all Club activities. He/she may be asked to contact AMHA on the Club's behalf; to gather information from AMHA; or to make proposals to the Club related to AMHA. He/she must be an active AMHA member in good standing to hold this office.

- (2) AMHR Member-at-Large – The Club shall be a member in good standing of the American Miniature Horse Registry (AMHR). The AMHR Member-at-Large shall serve as a member of the Board of Members and provide leadership to the club on all matters brought before the Board of Members. He/she being especially qualified by their participation and membership in AMHR, shall advise the Club on activities related to AMHR which may include membership, shows, and events. He/she shall promote membership in the Club, good relations with the membership and a positive experience for the members at all Club activities. He/she may be asked to contact AMHR on the Club's behalf; to gather information from AMHR; or to make proposals to the Club related to AMHR. He/she must be an active AMHR member in good standing to hold this office.
- (3) Member-at-Large (Two Seats) – The Member(s)-at-Large shall serve as members of the Board of Members and provide leadership to the club on all matters brought before the Board of Members. He/she shall promote membership in the Club, good relations with the membership and a positive experience for the members at all Club activities. He/she shall advise the Club on activities which may include membership, shows, events, finances, communications, long term planning and any other matter brought before the Board of Members.
- c) Terms of Officers and Board of Members – Officers and Board of Members shall be elected to serve two year terms. The initial President and Members-at-Large will be elected to a one year term and the Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, AMHA Member-at-Large and AMHR Member-at-Large will be elected to a two year term. Beginning in 2008 and in each even numbered year thereafter elections will be held for the following offices: President and Member(s)-at-Large. Beginning in 2009 and in each odd numbered year thereafter elections will be held for the following offices: Vice-President, Secretary / Treasurer, AMHA Member-at-Large and AMHR Member-at-Large.
- d) Election of Officers and Board of Members – Officers and Board of Members shall be elected by the Regular Members to terms specified in these By-Laws by written ballot at the Annual Membership and Election Meeting.
- e) Vacancies in Officers and Board of Members shall be filled by the President. Vacancies filled by appointment shall be for the duration of the unexpired term.
- f) The Club shall have no employees. Officers, Board of Members, and Members are not employees of the club and shall earn no wages.

7) Meetings and Events

- a) Meetings of Members, Officers and Board of Members shall be held as specified in these By-Laws or as the activities of the Club shall warrant. All meetings are open to any and all members of the Club. At any meeting, the Officers and Board of Members may call a closed session which shall be open to only Officers and/or Board of Members. The topic of any closed session shall be reported to the Members. A majority of the directors present shall constitute a quorum for conducting business.

- i) Beginning in 2009 the Annual Membership and Election Meeting of the Club shall be held between August 1st and October 31st. The purpose of the annual meeting shall be to elect Officers and Board of Members for the coming year and to discuss activities, events, and general business of the Club. Notice of the meeting shall be made to the members at least 14 days prior to the meeting, notices may be made by; telephone, mail, email or other methods. An agenda shall be published and made available to all members 14 days prior to the meeting to allow members time to convey their comments if they will not be in attendance at the meeting.
 - ii) The Officers, Board of Members and committees may meet from time to time as the activities of the Club warrant. Advance notice shall be made to each member of the body meeting and minutes of each meeting shall be made available to the membership excluding closed sessions.
 - iii) The President may call such meetings as the activities of the Club may from time to time warrant. Notice of the meeting shall be made to the members at least 14 days prior to the meeting, notices may be made by; telephone, mail, email or other methods. An agenda shall be published and made available to all members 14 days prior to the meeting to allow members time to convey their comments if they will not be in attendance at the meeting.
- b) The Club shall sponsor, promote, and participate in events proposed by the membership and approved by the Officers and Board of Members in keeping with the purposes of the Club.
 - i) The club will sponsor Miniature Horse shows approved by AMHA, AMHR or other organizations.
 - ii) For each Miniature Horse show or event the President shall appoint a committee to serve as the Planning Committee.
 - iii) For each Miniature Horse show approved by either AMHA or AMHR judge selection will be made by an affirmative written vote of all Regular Members. The results of such votes will be compiled to create the Judge Selection Ranking List (List) which will be a numerical summary of all judges who received votes. The Planning Committee shall then direct the manager or person hiring the judges to use the List to hire judges with the judge receiving the highest number of votes being the first choice. Once judges have been contracted the manager or person hiring the judges will return the List with their comments and notes to the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee may ask the Officers for one variance from the List to meet budget restrictions if needed.

8) Amendments

- a) The Officers, Board of Members, or the Members shall make no changes to these By-Laws that contradict the Laws of the State of Nebraska or the Articles of Incorporation.
- b) Any amendment, restatement or other alteration of these By-Laws shall be submitted to the Regular Members for approval by means of a written ballot at the Annual Membership and Election Meeting and shall not be approved effective unless approved by at least 90% affirmative vote of the membership. Proposed changes shall require 30 days written notice to the members of the proposed change(s).