



GIDDYUP OPEN HORSE CLUB **CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**

Revised: 02/06/2012

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name, Mission Statement and Policies

1. **Name:** The name of the organization shall be GIDDYUP Open Horse Club and the official abbreviation will be GOHC.
2. **Mission Statement:** To provide the opportunity for equine enthusiasts of all ages and levels of expertise to ride, show and compete in an atmosphere focused on safety, fun, friendship and skill building for both the horse and rider.
3. **Policy:** This Organization shall not involve itself in issues not directly pertaining to the business of the GOHC; and, it will conduct all business to the highest ethical standards and without prejudice.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Membership shall consist of breeders, owners, exhibitors, and anyone of good moral character interested in participating in equine events for the benefit of both themselves and their horse.

ARTICLE III

Officers

1. The Officers shall be members, or become members of the GOHC prior to taking office.
2. All Officers shall be selected by the current Board of Directors (BOD); and they shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer for a total of four Officers. These four Officers shall be the Executive Officers, and will be responsible for the routine administration and management of the Organization. The duration of office shall be two (2) years, from January 1, to December 31, and until their successors have been elected.

3. The Officers, after routine selection, shall be formally elected at the Annual BOD meeting held at a time and place determined annually by the President each year; but, will normally be between the months of November and December. Officers will officially take office January 1st; and, may be re-elected for additional terms at the discretion of the BOD. A person receiving a majority of the votes cast for each office shall be deemed to have been elected.

Article IV **Board of Directors**

There shall be a BOD consisting of both the Executive Officers and three (3) Directors elected at large by the Officers who shall serve a term of two (2) years. The BOD shall meet at the call of the President. A Director's term shall be from January 1st thru December 31st.

Article V **Amendments**

Any proposed amendments to this Constitution shall become a part of the Constitution only if passed by majority vote of the BOD assuming a quorum is present.

BYLAWS

The Constitution lays down the principles of the Organization; the Bylaws are the method of procedure rather than the basic principles. These Bylaws are more easily amended than the Constitution and their amendments need not in any way effect the main purpose of the Organization.

ARTICLE I **Membership**

1. Membership is from January 1st thru December 31st.
2. Applicants for membership shall submit applications to the organization. Upon receipt of the application, dues and signed Liability Waiver they will be entitled to all right and privileges of GOHC Club. Participation in any event is not permitted without a signed Liability Waiver.

3. All new members will be added to all GOHC correspondence and invited to participate in any meetings and/or activities that are open to members.

ARTICLE II **Membership Dues**

1. Annual membership dues will be determined annually at a meeting of the Board of Directors.
2. Annual dues will be based upon a calendar year and will not be prorated. Age will be as of January 1st of the current year.

ARTICLE III **Meetings**

1. The BOD shall determine the date and time of the annual BOD meeting. This meeting will normally be held between November and December of each year. At the discretion of the BOD, any meeting may be open to the current membership; but such action is not required.
2. The Secretary will mail/email to members in good standing at his/her address as it appears in the membership roll book, a notice telling the time and place of such annual meeting.
3. For BOD meetings, a quorum will consist of at least five BOD, with a minimum of two Officers being required.
4. Special BOD meetings may be called by the President at such time as required, to conduct unscheduled business.

ARTICLE III **Voting**

Since the GOHC is managed by the BOD, no voting by the members will be required to conduct any business of the organization.

ARTICLE IV **Board of Directors**

1. The business of this organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of three (3) members at large, together with the Executive Officers.

2. Each BOD member shall have one vote and such voting may be done by email, by phone, or by other means acceptable to the President if the BOD is absent.
3. Vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be filled by a vote of the majority of the remaining members of the Board of Directors for the balance of the year.
4. The President shall be Chairman of the BOD.
5. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the BOD meetings. A summary of any decision of the board will be given at the next meeting and will become part of the record.
6. An Officer may be removed when sufficient cause exists for such removal, but will require a unanimous decision by the other Board Members.

ARTICLE V **Officers**

1. The initial officers of the organization shall be as follows:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Three Directors
2. The President shall preside at any and all meetings and shall:
 - a. Present agendas and summarize work of the GOHC.
 - b. Appoint all committees.
 - c. Be one of the authorized signers of checks.
 - d. Otherwise ensure the GOHC fulfills its mission.
1. The Vice President shall in the event of the absence or inability of the President to exercise his office become acting president of the organization with all the rights, privileges and powers as if he had been the duly elected president.
2. The Secretary shall:
 - a. Be the official custodian of the records of this organization.
 - b. Present Board of Officers the latest meeting minutes.
 - c. Attend to all correspondence of the organization and shall exercise all duties incident to the office of Secretary.
 - d. Be responsible for keeping an accurate record of the membership receiving renewal of membership, enrolling new members and deleting expired members.
3. The Treasurer shall:

- a. Manage all banking accounts, and be a primary signer on any accounts along with the President.
- b. Be responsible for making any banking deposits, and paying any bills.
- c. Maintain all financial records for the organization.

6. The Board of Directors shall be the policy making body of the Organization and act upon all important issues brought before the board. All decisions by the BOD are final. The BOD shall hire and fix the compensation of any and all employees, which they in their discretion may determine to be necessary. Compensation to be kept within the guidelines as set by the budget.

7. No officer shall for any reason of his office be entitled to receive any salary, but nothing herein shall be construed to prevent an officer for receiving any compensation from the organization for duties other than as an officer.

ARTICLE VI **Committees**

The Board of Directors shall appoint all committees of this organization, and their term of office shall be for a term as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII **Rules of Conduct, Appeal and expulsion**

1. A member can appeal for an exception to a club rule by submitting a written request with applicable supporting information to the BOD. Requests will be considered, with the decision of the BOD will be final. All protests will be handled in a similar manner.
 - a. An exhibitor or making a protest must be a current GOHC member.
 - b. Protest or appeal must be made in writing, detail all issues; and, submitted to the BOD within 48 hours of the cause of the protest.
 - c. The BOD shall schedule a special meeting within 30 days in order to consider the specific protest, and the exhibitor may be allowed to address the BOD in person.
 - d. Any abuse of GOHC Officers, and/or show staff, or a lack of good sportsmanship will not be tolerated, and will be grounds for disqualification from high point awards eligibility and/or immediate

expulsion from the show and GOHC membership. In the case of a show expulsion, the participant's show fees, and any annual membership fees will not be refunded. The BOD will determine the extent of the consequences.

ARTICLE VIII
Amendments and Rules of Order

1. These By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than majority vote of the BOD.

2. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases not consistent with these By Laws.

Adopted & Approved on this ____ day of _____ 20____

Chairman of the Board

Board Secretary