

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION

Adopted 1975, 1st Revised 1982, 2nd Revision 1986, 3rd Revision 1990, 4th Revision 1993, 5th Revision 1994, 6th Revision 1996, 7th Revision 03/09/1997, 8th Revision 04/01/2001, 9th Revision 01/02/2003, 10th Revision 4/17/04 Revision 4/20/08, Revision 4/25/09, Revision 3/27/10, Revision 2015, Revision 1/20/17, Rev 3/24/24, Revision 4/3/24

ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE, AND COVERAGE

Section 1 – NAME

This organization shall be known as the Northwestern Michigan Horseman's Association. It shall be a non-profit organization and shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan. It shall be abbreviated as NWMHA and shall be referred to as the Association.

Section 2 – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be to promote, stimulate, and create interest in horses and horsemanship for recreational activities, and to accomplish the aforesaid purposes without pecuniary gain or profit to any of its members.

Section 3 – PRINCIPLE OFFICE

The principle office and place of business of the Association shall be the address of the current treasurer.

Section 4 – DISBANDMENT

In case the Association shall disband or become inactive for a period of two (2) years, in which case it shall be considered disbanded, any funds remaining in the treasury shall be turned over to the Michigan State University (MSU) Equine Research Department.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP, DUES, AND VOTING PRIVILEGES

Section 1 – ELIGIBILITY

Membership shall be open to anyone who lives in or who participates in horse activities in northern Michigan.

Section 2 – MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Classes of membership and voting power and privileges shall be as follows:

- A. Individual Membership 1 vote

Section 3 – DUES

Memberships as listed below will have the fees reviewed and set annually by the Board of Directors:

- A. Individual Membership (one person)

Section 4 – VOTING

- A. Membership shall be granted by making proper application with the full payment of all appropriate dues for said membership year.
- B. Membership and privileges granted with membership shall remain effective from February 1 to January 31 of said membership year.
- C. Voting privileges shall be extended only to current members of said membership year.
- D. The collection of points and eligibility of awards shall be extended only to current members of said membership year.
- E. Assessments may not be levied on any member of the Association.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

Section 1 - ELIGIBILITY

No one shall be nominated, elected, or appointed to serve as an officer of the Association who is not a member of the Association.

Section 2 - ELECTED OFFICERS

The elected officers of the Association shall be:

- A. President - Shall serve a two-year term with no limit to successive terms.
- B. Vice President - Shall serve a two-year term with no limit to successive terms.
- C. Directors - Each shall serve a two-year term with no limit to successive terms.

Section 3 - APPOINTED OFFICERS

The following officers may be appointed by the Board of Directors to serve for one-year terms or until replaced by the Board of Directors.

- A. Secretary/ Social Media
- B. Treasurer
- C. Point Secretary

Section 4 – ELECTION

- A. The president and vice-president shall be elected by a majority vote of all eligible members of the Association present at the election.
- B. Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of all eligible members of the Association present at the election.
- C. All members of the Association with a current membership at the time of election are eligible to vote.
- D. Voting for the elected officers shall be held at the annual Awards Banquet.

Section 5 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of all the elected and appointed officers and they shall serve for the term as elected or appointed.
- B. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to act for the Association and shall manage and direct the affairs of the Association except as provided elsewhere by the Constitution and By-Laws.
- C. In case of vacancies on the Board of Directors, the vacated offices shall be filled by the Board to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
- D. After three (3) consecutive absences without cause at regular board meetings, the Board shall have the right to declare the office vacant.

Section 6 – NOMINATIONS

- A. Nominations for elected officers shall be made at the awards banquet.
- B. Nominations shall be made from the floor.
- C. Nominees shall be consulted before nomination is made.
- D. Only members eligible as defined by Section 1 of this article may be nominated.

Section 7 - BALLOTING

- A. Only members eligible as defined by Article II, Section 4 shall be allowed to vote in accordance with the type of membership held.
- B. The president shall appoint two members not being voted upon, to count the ballots cast.
- C. After tabulating the votes cast, the secretary of the Association shall notify those officers so elected.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

Section 1 – ANNUAL MEETING

At this meeting, plans for the coming year and new business of the Association will be discussed and any necessary membership approval will be sought. All matters requiring a vote will be voted upon by eligible membership present.

Section 2 – AWARDS AND NOMINATION MEETING

The annual awards and nomination meeting shall be a banquet. The awarding of year end and other awards and the nomination of officers shall be the order of this meeting.

Section 3 – SPECIAL MEETINGS

A special meeting may be called, at any time, by the Board of Directors or upon petition of ten (10) members of the Association to the president. Notification of such a special meeting and the purpose of the meeting, shall be by mail, to all members at least one week prior to said meeting date. Only those items so indicated shall be considered for vote at any special meeting.

Section 4 – QUORUM

Those Board of Directors, both elected and appointed, in attendance at any official meeting of the Association shall constitute a quorum, with the exception of the president who will serve as the tie-breaking vote, and a majority vote shall prevail on all matters except elections of the elected board itself as stated in Article III.

Section 5 – VOTING AT MEETINGS

Only those present, with current paid membership, will be allowed to vote at any regular or special meetings. Voting shall be determined by type of membership as previously specified and no proxy votes shall be counted.

ARTICLE V – POINTS

Section 1 – AWARDING BASIS

- A. The first six (6) places in each approved class will be awarded points.

1 ST PLACE	6
2 ND PLACE	5
3 RD PLACE	4
4 TH PLACE	3
5 TH PLACE	2
6 TH PLACE	1

Section 2 – POINT ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for any and all points earned by a member or a member's horse, the member must work a minimum of 1/2 day at, or in preparation of, a NWMHA sponsored show or show in a minimum of one class at a NWMHA sponsored show during the membership year.
- B. Points will be awarded only when earned, after membership in the Association is paid.
- C. Only horses shown by a member of the Association shall be awarded points.

Section 3 – AGE OF CONTESTANT

The age of the contestant, as of January 1, shall determine age class in which that individual shall compete for the year.

Section 4 – **AWARDING OF POINTS**

- A. Points will be awarded to a horse in only one class division in any one show.
- B. Points will be awarded according to the age of the contestant.
- C. Points will be awarded for the position in which the horse or contestant placed, regardless of positions won ahead by non-members.
- D. Points are to be awarded to the horse in those classes where the horse is being judged and points are to be awarded to the individual where the individual is being judged (except in Versatility class where the points are awarded to the horse).

Section 5 – **PROTEST OF AWARDED POINTS**

Any protest made by a member regarding the manner in which points are awarded at any NWMHA show shall be made in writing and postmarked within seven days of the show and shall be sent to the president of the Association. The protest shall be accompanied by a certified check or money order made out to the Association in the amount of \$50.00. This money will be returned to the protester if the protest is upheld. Reason for the protest must be specified by the individual entering the protest. The protester and the persons protested against shall be given an opportunity to appear before the Board of Directors at the time of review and hear arguments for and against the protest. The protest will be reviewed by the Board of Directors as soon as is feasible and a majority vote of the Board of Directors shall prevail.

Section 6 – **TABULATION OF POINTS**

The points awarded will be tabulated and kept by the point secretary, and the points as tabulated and kept by the point secretary shall be the official Association record. The show results will be kept by the point secretary until after the awards meeting.

ARTICLE VI – AWARDS

Section 1 – **CLASSES ELIGIBLE FOR AWARDS**

- A. Category I – HALTER
 - 1. Conformation Halter Division
 - a. Mares – all ages
 - b. Geldings – all ages
 - c. Stallions – all ages
 - d. Weanlings and Yearlings – any sex
 - e. Ponies – 56 inches and under
 - 2. Showmanship at Halter Division – classes to be divided by youth ages and adult.
 - 3. Color Halter Division –
A horse must show the recognizable traits of a recognized color breed (i.e. appaloosa, palomino, paint, pinto, buckskin, and POA registries). This class will be judged 75% on color and 25% on conformation. This class will be open to any age of horse of any sex. Points do not count toward year end Grand and Reserve awards.
- B. Category II – PERFORMANCE – classes divided by youth age, adult, or open to all ages.
 - a. Western Pleasure
 - b. English Pleasure
 - c. Reining
 - d. Trail Class
 - e. Jumping-English tack with hard hat
 - f. Western Riding/ Ranch
 - g. Pleasure Driving (single or double)
 - h. Western Horsemanship
 - i. English Equitation

j. Equitation Over Fences

C. Category III – CONTEST

- a. Cloverleaf
- b. Barrel Bending
- c. Keyhole
- d. Speed and Action
- e. Pole Bending
- f. Down and Back
- h. Flag Race

Section 2 – YEAR END HIGH POINT AWARDS

- A. Awards will be made on the basis of total points awarded at NWMHA shows for each years show season and the awards shall be made at the awards banquet.
- B. Champion award will go to the individual member or horse earning the highest number of points for the year, in those classes which qualify by age division.
- C. Reserve Champion award will go to the individual member or horse earning the next highest number of points for the year, in those classes which qualify by age division.
- D. To qualify for an award, a member or horse must have earned points at least **twice** in any one class during the year.
- E. Year end awards will be made to adult and youth members of the Association and their horses in those classes listed in Section 1 of this article. The Board of Directors will recommend the breakdown of ages, within the youth division for the year end awards at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

This constitution and by-laws of the Northwestern Michigan Horseman Association may be amended at any annual meeting. Any such change shall be discussed and formulated by the Board of Directors at a board meeting, and any such changes shall be presented in writing to all members.

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN HORSEMAN ASSOCIATION
BOARD POLICY CHANGES**

Explanation: The intent of “Board Policy” is to institute those items which the Board of Directors feels are necessary to the continued working of the Association, and which are not covered and /or clearly defined in the by-laws; those items which the board feels are in the best interest of the Association and its membership; and those items which need the immediate resolve of the board and to which a major change in the by-laws may be necessary. These policies are subject to review and change at any regular or special meeting of the board.

BOARD POLICY #1 – Adopted March 1996. NWMHA will use the current Michigan 4-H rules for all shows sponsored by NWMHA with the exception of the youth helmet rule.

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