

WESTERN STATES STOCK HORSE GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

GR-001. AFFILIATION WITH AMERICAN STOCK HORSE ASSOCIATION

The Western States Stock Horse agrees to affiliate, cooperate with and aid in every way possible the programs and functions of the American Stock Horse Association and to uphold the policies, rules and regulations of the ASHA.

GR-002. WESTERN STOCK HORSE MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the Western States Stock Horse shall consist of two categories, Annual and Life memberships. Receipts and membership cards shall be issued upon payment of fees.
2. As reciprocal assistance to the Association for privilege of membership and participation, the Association may use any photograph or other form of likeness reproductions of a member, event participant, horse owner, or their horse and registered equine names to promote the Association's objectives and activities including, but not limited to, use by third parties with authorization from the Association.
3. The application for membership should indicate clearly the name (limited to 30 spaces) in which the membership is to be recorded. By applying for membership the applicant automatically agrees to be bound by and to abide by all rules, regulations and policies of the Association.
4. Termination or application rejection proceedings shall be conducted under the Association's disciplinary procedure for notice, hearing and temporary suspension. The effect of termination or rejection may be denial of the privileges of the Association as set forth in the Associations' disciplinary procedure.
5. A membership fee is not refundable.
6. Upon completion and acceptance of a membership application form, an applicant is issued a membership card with an identification number. This number must be used in all official communication with the Association and the card must be presented when participating in Association approved events.
7. Types of Membership

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS – Membership is available for individuals for a one year period beginning with the first day of month of purchase (based on postmark, postal meters are not acceptable) and expiring the last day of December of that year. Renewal notice to the members shall be sent to their last known address not less than 30 days prior to the end of the calendar year. When an annual membership expires, the membership can be reinstated by simply paying the current year's annual fee. Memberships may only be issued to individuals and may not be transferred. The following designations of annual membership in the Association are currently available. An individual membership is restricted to one person, carried in that person's legal name only.

FAMILY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP – An Annual Membership for a family - up to four people in a household.

ADULT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - An annual membership for persons 19 years and older provides privileges of participating in all Association events and activities.

COLLEGIATE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - A collegiate membership is provided for students enrolled in colleges and universities which entitle a student to receive a membership card of eligibility to show in the collegiate division, and to participate in Association events and activities. Students may not vote or hold office in the Association.

YOUTH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - A youth membership is provided for boys and girls age 8 to 18, as of January 1 of the current year, which entitles a youth to receive a membership card of eligibility to show in the youth division, and to participate in Association events and activities. Youth may not vote or hold office in the Association.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - A life membership entitles the recipient to receive a life membership card, a certificate and to obtain any Association services at the member rate for the lifetime of the individual. Life memberships may only be issued to individuals and may not be transferred.

8. MEMBERSHIP FEES:

1. The annual family membership fee is \$30 per family, per year.
2. The annual membership fee for adults is \$16 per individual, per year.
3. The annual collegiate membership fee is \$10 per student, per year.
4. The life membership fee is a one-time fee of \$100.

(The Annual Family, Adult, Collegiate, and Life memberships come with a subscription to the Cascade Horseman, WSSH official publication)

5. The annual membership fee for youth is \$8 per individual, per year.

(The Cascade Horseman subscription can be purchased in addition with the Annual Youth membership, for \$6)

GR-003. TELEVISION AND MEDIA RULES

Attendance at an Association sponsored or approved event, in whatever capacity, shall constitute authorization for the Association, its agents, designees, or assigns to photograph, video tape, televise, or record by other means (hereinafter referred to as “photographic material”) any person or animal on the premises of an Association-approved event, and shall further constitute authorization for the use of such person’s name, voice and biography, or the name, pedigree and performance record of any animal on the premises (hereinafter referred to as “related information”) in conjunction with any photographic material.

The photographic material and related information referred to above may be used in any manner that the Association, in its sole discretion, determines would be beneficial to promoting the purposes and goals of the Association, provided, however, that no photographic material or related information will be used in conjunction with the endorsement of any product unless prior written consent is obtained.

Attendance at an Avocation approved event shall further constitute agreement to the terms and conditions outlined above, and shall constitute a waiver and release, without limitation, of any individual television, radio, motion picture, photographic or other similar rights, including right of privacy, any person or animal may have in or to such photographic material or related information when such information is obtained at an Association approved event by the Association, its agents, designees or assigns.

An Association member, including a member using Association data for commercial purposes, has a duty to preserve and protect the performance records and the property of the Association, including, but not limited to, Association electronic data made available to members via the Association's website or other prearranged consensual access thereto, and the duty to use such data only for the purposes which the Association has granted conditional license. Publication of such data shall carry the following designation. "This information was provided by the Stock Horse of Texas Association from its Official Records."

GR-004. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The current number of Board of Directors of this Association shall be nine (9) directors elected by members in good standing. The number of directors is at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The elections will be staggered with one third (1/3) of directors being elected each year with a term of three years.

GR-005. STANDING COMMITTEES

1. All Standing Committees shall consist of not less than two Association members and not more than ten. All committee members must be Association members in good standing. In making appointments to the committees, the Chairman shall appoint committee members for not less than one year, and not more than three years. Future appointments to fill vacancies and for new members shall be by the Chairman with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors.
2. The Chairperson of each committee shall be elected from the members of the committee.
3. Each committee shall choose one Director to act as liaison between the committee and the Board of Directors.
4. Committee members may be appointed from the Board of Directors and the general membership and a listing of all committee members shall be published as soon as possible after appointment.
5. Some Suggested Standing Committees are education, finance, collegiate, shows and awards, communications and promotion, and sponsorships.

6. Special committees may be appointed by the Chairman from time to time to attend to special business. These committees serve for the duration of the special problem or until replaced or until the committee is disbanded. Special Committees may be Annual Meeting and Convention, Special Events, etc.

GR 006. Collegiate Program

1. At this time the Western States Stock Horse Collegiate Program is under the direction of the Association's Collegiate Standing Committee whose chairman shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
2. College students must be a member of this Association to participate in Association sanctioned events.
3. College students will be eligible to serve on the Collegiate Programs Committee as well as other committees as well as vote on Association Board of Directors.
4. College students are eligible to participate in any Association event as well as specific events planned just for collegiate members.
5. Upon request, the regular Association Show Secretaries will compile results of collegiate entries within regular Association Show Events allowing a collegiate show within a regular Association Show. Placings and awards for Collegiate Show participants will be posted and announced.
6. In addition to regular approved Association clinics and competitions, the Collegiate Programs Committee must apply to the Association for approval for events designed specifically for and limited to collegiate members. Applications to host and/or sponsor special collegiate events must be received in the Association office at least 6 months prior to the event.
7. Results of all Association Collegiate Events must be received in the Association's office within two weeks after the event. Results will be made available on the Association's website and year end totals will be tabulated, distributed and posted on the website.
8. Announcements and Results of the Association's Collegiate Events will be posted on the Association's website as well as included in other Association publicity such as newsletters and press releases.
9. Special awards and recognition may be presented to Collegiate Members at the Associations' Annual Meeting and Banquet.
10. College students will have the opportunity to serve as interns and participate in special educational projects that will benefit both the association and the member.
11. Special guidelines for conducting collegiate activities will be developed by the Collegiate Program Committee to include eligibility.

GR-007. PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULES AND POLICIES

1. An Association member, a standing committee, a special committee, the Board of Directors, or the Association staff may propose a rule change. A Rule change is any change to the Bylaws or Rules.
2. All proposed changes must be submitted on the form designated for that purpose and available free of charge from the Association Office. All blanks must be completed and a justification for the proposed change cited. Forms which are incomplete, lacking the justification, or failing to cite the specific change requested, will be returned to the originator.
3. A proposed change form should be sent to the Association office
4. All Proposed Procedural Changes will be:
 - A. Researched and reviewed by Association Office Staff, Budget and Finance Committee, Board of Directors and the Association Attorney, if deemed necessary. A proposed Rule Change that contains possible legal or financial implication or any consequences deemed not in the best interest of the Association may be subject to action by the Board of Directors. If tabled by the Board of Directors, the proposed change will be returned to the originator with comments from the reviewers. If deemed appropriate for further study, the proposed change will be referred to the appropriate Standing Committee Chairmen and the Rules Committee.
 - B. Referred to the appropriate Standing Committee(s) Chairmen and the Rules and Regulations Committee.
 - C. Referred back to the Board of Directors from the standing committee(s) chairmen and/or rules committee with a report and recommendations. If the proposed change is still deemed advantageous to the Association by the Board of Directors the proposed change will be presented for consideration to the Board of Directors.
 - D. Presented to the Board of Directors in a legal and properly worded form for consideration on the agenda of the next Board of Directors meeting.
 - E. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposed change.
 - F. Emergency Status of Proposed Change.
 1. If a proposed Rule Change is considered to be of such extreme importance by the Board of Directors that it must be acted upon immediately, such proposed change must be presented to the Board of Directors and is subject to amendment. The emergency status of the proposed change should then be put to a vote by the Board of Directors. The emergency status must first be approved and requires a motion and majority vote in favor. Making three attempts between 8am and 8pm, via phone and/or emails, will be deemed reasonable attempts of contact.

2. If the Board of Directors approved the Emergency Status, the proposed change with any amendments attached shall then be put to a vote by the Board of Directors for immediate action and/or implementation. If approved, the Change can become effective immediately. If the Emergency Status of the proposed Change is rejected by the Board of Directors, the proposed change itself cannot be put to vote at this time but can still be presented for a vote by the regular procedure.

GR-008. RELEASE OF LIABILITY

1. The Association and co-sponsoring organizations, if any, shall not be responsible for any personal injury, or for loss or damage to property, occurring at any Association activity. Each owner, exhibitor, handler, or consignor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Association, its officers, directors and employees from and against all claims, demands, causes of actions, and expenses of every kind, including attorney's fees, arising out of or related in any manner to the acts or omissions of an owner, exhibitor, handler, or consignor, or the actions of any animal under the care, custody or control of the owner, exhibitor, handler or consignor. Presentation of signed entry or consignment forms shall be deemed acceptance of the conditions of this rule. In the event an entry or consignment form is not signed or presented, appearance on the grounds or at the sale ring of any Association activity as an exhibitor, handler, owner, or consignor shall be deemed to be acceptance of the conditions of this rule.
2. Disclaimer of Responsibility for Safety of Show or Event Participants.
 - A. Show/event management is responsible for the condition of show/event premises, including arena and exercise areas, the conduct and competence of show/event employees and other representatives , implementation of show/event activities and events, and all other aspects of an Association approved show/event
 - B. The Association does not assume or accept duty or responsibility for safety at this show/event in regard to participants or any other third parties, or for the horses or other property thereof.
 - C. As an express condition of the privilege to participate at an Association approved or sponsored show or event, each owner of a horse, exhibitor, trainer, participants, assume the risks of participation and release and discharge the Association, its officers, directors, representatives and employees from any and all liability, whenever or however arising as to personal injury or property damage, occurring as a result of participation in a show/event conducted by the show/event or on the show/event grounds thereof.
 - D. Without assuming the affirmative duty to monitor possible physical or mental handicaps of exhibitors, if condition of exhibitors' physical or mental disability comes to the attention of the Association, the individual may be denied participation privileges in Association approved events until such time as he or she provides the Association with sufficient

information to conclusively establish physical or mental capability to participate, without posing a significant risk to the health or safety of the individual and/or the other exhibitors of the class in which he or she desires to participate. At Association's sole discretion, the individual may be authorized to use special equipment to enhance physical ability to safely exhibit in Association approved or sponsored shows/events.

GR-009. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The Association reserves the right to independently direct disciplinary action or sanction against individuals coming under the jurisdiction by participating in Association sponsored events. The Association Board of Directors is the forum within the Association that initially or ultimately hears or reviews evidence of alleged violations of rules and regulations by members and/or participants in Association approved events. A member may be disciplined, suspended, fined, and/or expelled from the Association and any non-member participant may be denied any or all Association privileges.

GR-010. VIOLATIONS

1. Financial Violations – Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the Association or any nonmember may be denied the privilege of the Association by the Board of Directors of the Association, for the failure to pay, when due, any obligation owing the Association. Upon receipt of a fraudulent payment, a member or non member will be notified in writing and given a reasonable amount of time to make the payment good. Failure to pay the owed amount to the Association or its sponsoring groups will result in suspension of membership and all privileges. Repeat offenders will be put on a cash only basis.
2. Unsportsmanlike Conduct – Conduct by Association members, non members, exhibitors, trainers, owners, owner's representatives, spectators, and all other persons present on the Association event grounds of facilities shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike, and humane in the treatment of horses. Any of these violations will be subject to disciplinary procedures.