

Northeast Icelandic Horse Club

Bylaws

ARTICLE I

TITLE AND AFFILIATION

Section 1: The name of this club shall be Northeast Icelandic Horse Club. The official abbreviation shall be NEIHC. The NEIHC is associated with the United States Icelandic Horse Congress (USIHC), Montclair, NJ.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE AND LOCATION

Section 1: The purpose of the NEIHC shall be:

- A. To promote and stimulate interest in the Icelandic Horse through pleasure and trail riding, clinics, demonstrations, competitions, breed evaluations and all other activities of similar nature.
- B. To gain breed classes for Icelandic Horses registered with the USIHC at local, county and state horse shows and fairs.
- C. To promote good horsemanship and good sportsmanship.
- D. To promote the knowledge of the Icelandic Horse and its correct uses as a competition and riding horse in accord with the policies of FEIF and the USIHC.
- E. To encourage membership at both regional and national levels.
- F. To recognize the accomplishments and merits of the members on a yearly basis.

Section 2: The NEIHC shall be headquartered at the address of the current President. At year-end, all Club records shall be turned over to the President to be archived.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP, DUES AND FISCAL YEAR

Section 1:

- A. Membership in the NEIHC shall consist of three levels:
 - Individual: 18 years of age and older with one vote;
 - Youth: Under the age of 18 with no voting privileges;
 - Family: Spouse/Partner and dependent children under the age of 18. Two votes included in membership.

- B. Membership shall be open to all persons who subscribe to the aims of the Club, abide by the Club's rules and regulations.

Section 2: All applications for membership shall be reviewed and approved or denied by the Board of Directors.

Section 3: Dues shall:

- A. Be determined on an annual basis.
- B. Be paid upon application for membership. Annual dues are payable on March 1st of each year and shall expire at the end of the fiscal.

Section 3: The fiscal year of the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club shall be April 1st through March 31st.

ARTICLE IV **MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1: The annual meeting of the membership of the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club shall be in March of each year at a time and place as the Board of Directors shall designate. Notification to the membership shall be made thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date.

Section 2: At the March meeting, a slate, with a minimum of three (3) Directors whose terms have expired shall be presented. Nominations may be made from the nominating committee or from the floor.

Section 3: There shall be a minimum of three (3) membership meetings per year. Notice of the meetings shall be given in writing to the members, postmarked not less than fifteen days before the meeting.

Section 4: A quorum for conducting elections and other business at the membership meetings of the NEIHC shall consist of fifteen (15%) percent of the current paid membership including at least four (4) members from the Board of Directors. If a quorum is not present for a meeting, those members present at a second meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5: Votes for conducting elections and other business at the membership meetings of the NEIHC must be made by the member in attendance. No voting by proxy or absentee ballot will be allowed. Votes will be counted by attending members of the Nominating Committee and one designated Board member.

Section 6: No member may be nominated for office until he or she has attained eighteen (18) years of age.

Section 7: The order of business for regular meetings is

- Call to order;
- Roll call; qualifying of members present for a quorum;
- Reception of new members and recognition of guests;
- Reading and approval of Minutes from last meeting;
- Treasurer's Report;
- Board of Directors' Report;
- Reports of Special Committees;
- Unfinished business;
- New business;
- Adjournment.

ARTICLE V **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) members each serving a two (2) year term with a term limit of two (2) consecutive terms.

Section 2: The possession and maintenance of the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club's property is the responsibility of any member(s) appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall take whatever action is deemed necessary to carry out the business of the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club, without membership vote, when deemed necessary.

Section 4: There shall be a minimum of the simple majority of the Board of Directors present to make a quorum.

Section 5: No member may be elected to the Board of Directors, or remain a Director, unless the member is in good standing of the USIHC for a period of one year prior to his or her election to the Board of Directors.

Section 6: A vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by an appointment by the Board of Directors to run until the end of the current terms.

Section 7: The Board of Directors has the authority to remove from office an Officer or Director for any reason they feel is detrimental to the welfare of the New England Icelandic Horse Club. A meeting of the general membership must be called within thirty (30) days to review and concur with or reject such action.

Section 8: The Board of Directors has authority to establish and recognize special committees such as, but not limited to, the Nominating Committee, Membership Committee, Promotion Committee, etc.

Article VI **OFFICERS**

Section 1: The officers of the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The terms of each office are for two years.

Section 2: On even numbered years, the offices of President and Secretary will come up for vote as well as one Board of Directors seat. On odd numbered years, the offices of Vice President, Treasurer and two Board of Directors' seats will come up for vote.

Section 3: No officer shall hold more than one officer's position in the association at one time.

Section 4: All officers are each entitled to one (1) vote at the Board of Directors meetings.

Section 5: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the directors or of the membership. (S)he shall sign all contracts and other instruments of the Club as shall be authorized by the Board of Directors or membership. He or she shall have general supervision of the affairs of the club and shall perform such other duties as are usually imposed upon such officers and other duties as may be assigned to her or him by the Board of Directors.

Section 6: The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in her or his absence and such other duties as shall be imposed upon him or her by the Board of Directors.

Section 7: The Secretary shall see to it that notices of meeting are issued as required by the By-laws, shall keep accurate minutes of the meetings, shall have charge of the Club books and records, shall prepare and keep such forms as may be required for efficient administration and shall sign with the President all instruments requiring his or her signature, and shall perform such other duties as shall be required by the Board of Directors.

Section 8: The Treasurer shall keep the books of account, which shall be open at all times to any member; shall be authorized to countersign on all accounts and shall in general perform such duties as are usual and customary to the office of treasurer; shall perform other duties as shall be assigned to her or him by the Board of Directors, provided, however, that the Board of Directors may, by resolution, designate any person or persons other than the treasurer to sign or countersign any checks of the Club. Funds from the general account may only be withdrawn on the signatures of the Treasurer and the counter signature of any individual appointed by the Board of Directors. A financial report shall be rendered at each meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 9: One member of the Board of Directors shall be designated as the club's official "Liason" to the United States Icelandic Horse Congress with responsibilities as designated by the Board.

ARTICLE VII **INDEMNIFICATION**

Section 1: Each officer, director and committee member of the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club shall be indemnified by the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club against all costs, expenses and liabilities reasonably incurred in connection with, or resulting from, any action, suit or proceeding to which he/she may be made a party by reason of him or her being or having been a director, officer or committee member of the Club, except in relation to matters which have been occasioned by the willful misconduct or dishonesty of such officer, director or committee member.

ARTICLE VIII **DISSOLUTION**

Section 1: Upon dissolution of the club, all monies will be distributed to an Icelandic Horse rescue or charity that directly uses Icelandic Horses in its non-profit program.

ARTICLE IX **AMENDMENTS**

Section 1: Proposed amendment to these Bylaws shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary so that they may appear on the notice of the next General Membership Meeting.

Section 2: The Secretary shall submit the proposed amendments to the officers and Directors for the recommendation to the membership at their next meeting.

Section 3: The Amendment, to pass, must receive a two-third (2/3) majority vote in favor of those members present and voting.

ARTICLE X **APPROVAL**

Section 1: These Bylaws shall be considered adopted upon the endorsement and collection of signatures from at least five (5) USIHC members currently eligible to vote in Congress proceedings and who qualify to be full voting members of the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club.

By-Laws adopted this _____ Day of _____, 2003.