

BYLAWS OF THE OLD PEOPLE'S RIDING CLUB INC.

ARTICLE 1

PURPOSE OF THE OLD PEOPLE'S RIDING CLUB

The purpose of the Old People's Riding Club (OPRC) is to sponsor safe, educational riding activities, to foster communication with adult riders having a fresh new outlook on the sport, and to encourage increased knowledge of horses. Herein we shall define the National organization by the letters NOPRC and the chapters by OPRC where appropriate.

ARTICLE 2

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1. NATIONAL OPRC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

NOPRC is a non-profit corporation, as described in Section 501(c) (7) of the Internal Revenue Code, and has been recognized as such by a letter dated June 18, 2003, from the Internal Revenue Service. The NOPRC has a national office and membership chapters. The non-profit status of the NOPRC does not apply to individual chapters. *Each chapter must apply for the not-for-profit status on their own.*

Section 2. OPRC CHAPTER LIABILITY RELEASE, INSURANCE AND NONPROFIT STATUS.

OPRC chapters may be formed by or riding clubs may affiliate with NOPRC by agreeing to abide by NOPRC policies and procedures, as embodied in these Bylaws, and by submitting annual dues for each chapter member to the NOPRC Membership Coordinator. A minimum of five members is required to form an OPRC chapter. OPRC chapters must obtain a signed liability release form (a suggested form that must be reviewed by each chapter's legal counsel is available on the NOPRC website) from each member of their chapter annually. *Although it is not mandatory, chapters may seek non-profit incorporation and are strongly encouraged to write their own chapter bylaws.*

ARTICLE 3

MEMBERS

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY.

Any person 21 years of age or older may be a member of NOPRC. Persons are eligible for membership without regard to sex, color, nationality, or religion. No person shall be denied membership in the NOPRC or any OPRC chapter due to the fact that they do not own a horse.

Section 2. NATIONAL OPRC DUES AND CHAPTER DUES.

Each member must pay National OPRC dues. Every chapter will collect the NOPRC dues and submit them to the NOPRC Membership Coordinator by Feb 28 of each year. Renewing chapters who have packets postmarked after March 1 must pay a \$5.00 late fee per member. The 2008 National OPRC dues are \$10.00 per member. Incoming new members of new chapters must pay their dues by the first of the month following the date of affiliation with NOPRC. NOPRC dues shall be established at each annual meeting of the NOPRC Board of Directors. Chapters must establish their own annual dues structure for renewing members and for new members who join throughout the year. New chapters forming after July 31 pay \$5.00 membership fee to NOPRC for the remainder of the current year. New chapters wishing to form in October or later will be asked to wait until January for the following year.

Section 3. PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

Members are entitled to participate in all activities sponsored by all OPRC chapters. They may participate in video presentations and instructional and non-instructional riding events and social events sponsored by OPRC chapters.

ARTICLE 4

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

Section 1. STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY.

The NOPRC shall establish a series of proficiency standards covering riding ability and knowledge of horses. All members wishing to participate in mounted activities are required to present themselves to be rated at least to the lowest level of proficiency by a competent and impartial examiner secured by the chapters. Chapters are encouraged to provide opportunities to their members to acquire the knowledge and skill to proceed to higher standards, but members are not required to achieve a proficiency rating above the lowest level. In assessing proficiency, chapters shall use only the standards of the NOPRC, not standards established by other organizations.

Section 2. MOUNTED ACTIVITIES.

Only members of the NOPRC may participate in mounted OPRC chapter activities, with the exception of competitors/riders in a limited number of competitions and mounted activities organized for and advertised to the general public and hosted by the OPRC chapter. Members must have achieved at least the lowest rating prior to participating in OPRC mounted activities, with the exception of participation in the proficiency rating ride itself.

Section 3. **HOLD HARMLESS.**

Members using facilities and grounds made available to the NOPRC or to OPRC chapters are using the facilities or property at their own risk and, by using said facilities or property, agree to hold harmless the property owners, the NOPRC, its officers, and individual members for any injuries they or their animals may sustain.

Section 4. **SAFETY.**

Safety is a strong concern of the NOPRC. All members, when mounted, must wear a conventional type of riding footwear with a heel, such as leather or rubber riding boots, paddock boots, or the equivalent. Members must wear a securely fastened helmet that meets current American Society for Testing and Materials Standard (ASTM) for equestrian sports. The helmet must have a seal bearing the letters SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) to verify testing of the helmet. All members must carry on their person, in an armband holder, a summary of emergency medical information. Attachment of the medical information to the horse or tack is not acceptable. Armbands may be purchased through local tack stores or on the internet see www.useventing.com. In all OPRC competitions, the President, or acting President of the chapter sponsoring the activity shall have the ultimate authority to disqualify any OPRC member or rider if, in the President's determination, that competition is too dangerous for a particular member and/or their mount. The President's decision shall be conclusive for that event.

ARTICLE 5

WELFARE OF HORSES

The NOPRC supports adherence to humane treatment of horses in all situations. This includes upholding the welfare of horses, as one of the primary considerations in all activities. The horses must be treated with kindness, respect, and compassion and should never be subject to mistreatment. This includes ensuring that the owners, trainers, and exhibitors or their agents use responsible care in handling, treatment and transportation of their horses as well as horses owned and placed in their care for any purpose.

The President of the chapter, acting President or any veterinarian present shall have the authority to disqualify any OPRC member or rider if he or she determines there is abuse of a horse or dangerous riding. Abuse of a horse shall include, but not be limited to: riding an exhausted horse, excessive pressing of a tired horse, riding an obviously lame horse, or excessive use of whip and/or spurs. What is or is not, "dangerous riding" is left to the discretion of the veterinarian, the President, or acting President of the OPRC chapter. The veterinarian's decision shall be conclusive for that event, or if no veterinarian is present, the President or acting President's decision shall be conclusive.

ARTICLE 6

MEETINGS

Section 1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

An Annual Meeting (hereafter referred to as the AGM) of the general membership shall be held each year at such time and place as may be designated by the President. Notice of this AGM stating time and place shall be emailed or mailed and delivered at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting to the general membership at the address or email address in the Secretary's records. Included in this notice will be a proxy vote form to elect the President of NOPRC for the following year. Immediately following the AGM, the Board of Directors will hold their annual meeting.

Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the NOPRC Board of Directors may be called by the Secretary or President as the need arises. Notice of these meetings will be delivered by mail or email to the addresses on record with the Secretary at least fourteen (14) days prior to the special meeting.

Promptly following each AGM or special meeting of the Board of Directors, the Secretary (or, alternatively, the President) will publish a record of the actions taken at the meeting.

Section 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President of NOPRC shall be elected by the general membership annually. A proxy form for this purpose will be included in the mail or email sent out to each member before the AGM and can be returned to the Secretary for a vote count.

The President shall appoint the NOPRC Board of Directors. They shall serve a term of three (3) years: They may succeed themselves. As the need arises, new Board members shall be elected to the Board by majority of the remaining Board members. In the instance of a resignation, the President may appoint a new member to fill the void until such time as a vote can be taken.

Section 4. QUORUM.

At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If less than a quorum is present, the Board of Directors present may vote to adjourn the meeting for the purpose of rescheduling the meeting at a time when a quorum may be present. No formal notice is required to the Board of Directors regarding the rescheduled meeting.

ARTICLE 7

OPRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Board of Directors shall govern the NOPRC. The number of Board Members shall be four (4). The Board Members shall serve terms of three (3) years: The Board Members shall be elected by the existing members of the NOPRC Board of Directors during the six month period immediately preceding the end of their term. In the event that there is a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the remaining Board of Directors, after giving notice to the Board of Directors of proposed candidates, shall elect a replacement. By majority vote of the Board, a Board member may be removed at anytime with or without cause given. The removal would be immediate. The President of the NOPRC shall not be a member of the Board of Directors. Board members may serve for successive terms. The Board shall keep a true record of all meetings, a copy of such record being available to any member who requests it.

ARTICLE 8

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. OFFICERS.

The officers of the NOPRC shall be the President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and one Member-at-large. The same person may serve both as Secretary/Membership Coordinator and Treasurer. With the exception of the President, the officers shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall serve until their term expires up until and directly proceeding the next annual meeting. The entire NOPRC Board of Directors is responsible for the day to day running of the club. The Officers may appoint other committees as may be needed for the operation of the organization.

Section 2. PRESIDENT.

The President shall have oversight and control over the activities of the OPRC, and shall act as liaison between the NOPRC Board of Directors and the chapter clubs. Recommends the yearly budget for Board approval and prudently manages organization's resources within those budget guidelines according to current laws and regulations.

Section 3. VICE PRESIDENT.

The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in case she or he is unable to fulfill the duties of the office. The Vice President shall also oversee all special projects, be responsible for updating the bylaws of the club, mentor her or his assigned chapters, and generally be useful to the President.

Section 4. SECRETARY/MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR.

The Secretary shall keep a true record of all meetings and also record the names and addresses of all members. He or she shall give notice of all meetings (except that in the event of the Secretary's absence, incapacity, or failure to act, notice may be given by the President or by any one or more of the members who have made request for the calling of the meeting). The President may in his or her discretion delegate to the Secretary the responsibility for correspondence on OPRC matters. A temporary Secretary shall be appointed by the President to perform the duties of the Secretary at any meeting of the Board of Directors at which the Secretary is not present.

Section 5. TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall have general charge of the OPRC funds. He or she shall keep a full and accurate record of all receipts and payments and shall report the same at each meeting of the Board of Directors and, upon request, to the President.

Section 6. VACANCIES.

If at any time there is a vacancy in the office of Vice President, Secretary or the office of Treasurer, the President may appoint someone to serve until the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 9

EXAMINATION OF RECORD

Any member shall be entitled to examine the Bylaws of the NOPRC, the records of the meetings, the current list of all persons who are members of the NOPRC and the financial records of the NOPRC. A request to examine any of the above items shall be directed to the Secretary or to the President and a reasonable opportunity for such examination shall be provided without delay.

ARTICLE 10

DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal Government or to a State or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of competent jurisdiction of the County in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE 11

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year for NOPRC shall end 31 December of each year.

ARTICLE 12

AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended, or repealed by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors, providing, however, notice of the proposed amendment or repeal is given to the Board of Directors at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the vote.

ADOPTED, as revised, by the Board of Directors this 1 day of April , 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. J. Hill", is written above a horizontal line.

Secretary