

Ohio Arabian & All-Breed Trail Riding Society, Inc.
Articles and By-Laws
As voted and accepted by membership February 2, 2005

ARTICLE I

Section 1 This club shall be known as the Ohio Arabian & All-Breed Trail Riding Society, Inc. (OAATS, Inc.)

Section 2 OAATS is a not for profit organization existing to encourage the development of the competitive trail, endurance, and pleasure trail riding equine. In addition promote and gain public interest the Arabian, Part-Arabian, Arabian Bred, and all Equines as trail riding mounts.

Section 3 The principal office or place of business shall be the home of the duly elected Club President or other suitable meeting place as designated by the same. The clubs permanent mailing address to be PO Box 231, Rising Sun, OH. 43457. Any and all official correspondence shall be mailed to this address.

Section 4 OAATS fiscal and membership year shall be January 1st through December 31st of each year.

Section 5 All new members shall be given a copy of the Bylaws.

Section 6 As an ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION (AHA) chartered club, OAATS shall abide by the current rules of AHA.

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1 The Officers of the Club shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President if applicable. The President, Vice-President and Treasurer shall be nominated and elected by the OAATS Board of Directors at the annual November BOD meeting. These officers shall hold office for a period of one year. The Secretary shall be appointed by the President and shall also hold office for a period of one year.

Section 2 The President shall preside at all general and Board of Directors meetings of the Club. The President shall appoint all special and standing committees, chairpersons and serve as ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall conduct the business of the Club in accordance with the Club Bylaws.

Section 3 The Vice-President shall preside at all general and Board of Directors meetings in the absence of the President. In the event of vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall succeed to that office for the un-expired term.

Section 4 The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings and safeguard the records of the Club and shall be ex-officio Secretary of all Board meetings. The Secretary shall conduct, supervise, count and record the balloting of all elections and perform such other duties as usually pertain to this office, including those specifically assigned by the President and/or the Board of Directors.

Section 5 The Treasurer shall keep and safeguard the funds of the Club and keep accurate records of same. The Treasurer shall be required to report monthly receipts and disbursements of all monies handled through this office. The Treasurer shall also act as Membership Chairperson unless one is appointed separately by the President.

Section 6 The Immediate Past President shall remain on the board of directors to provide continuity of the clubs direction and goals.

ARTICLE III

DIRECTORS AND DUTIES

Section 1 The Board of Directors of the Club shall consist of seventeen members plus the immediate past president: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and 13 elected from the general membership.

Section 2 The Directors shall be elected by the Affiliate membership (Affiliate membership is as defined in Article VI, Section 2a in these bylaws which is in accordance with the membership definitions established by AHA.) The Directors shall hold office for a period of three years, no more than 6 directors may be replaced in any one election.

Section 3 As an AHA chartered club, all Directors must be an individual affiliate voting member of AHA through OAATS.

Section 4 The Board of Directors shall meet as necessary to conduct the business of the Club.

Section 5 Meetings of the Board of Directors will take place in November and February each year. Other meetings as necessary may be held if 2/3 of the members of the board feel it is necessary. Meeting dates will be announced by written notice at least 21 days prior to the meeting date.

Section 6 The Board of Directors will make all final decisions by majority vote regarding sanctioning, CTR Rules, and budget. Changes to the by-laws must be presented to the February general membership meeting for vote.

Section 7 The duties of the Directors shall be to advise the Club in promoting, encouraging and fostering interest in the Arabian Horse. The Directors shall review and act on potential member applications and function in the capacity of an Ethics Review Committee.

Section 8 All vacancies in the offices of the Club, except that of President, shall be filled by appointment from the Board of Directors. Those so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the un-expired term. The office of President shall be filled by the Vice-President for the remainder of the un-expired term. A vacancy on the Board for any reason shall be filled by election at the next general meeting.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

Section 1 The time and place of the general membership meeting shall be designated by the Board of Directors or by approval of the general membership. Each member shall receive a written or telephone notice of each meeting at least ten days in advance.

Section 2 Special meetings of the general membership may be called by the President at any time and place by written or telephone notice to all members at least ten days in advance.

Section 3 Only Adult Full Members of OAATS (as defined in Article VI, Section 2a) will be allowed to vote in any election or on any issue.

Section 4 All meetings shall be conducted by the Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE V

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1 The Nominating Committee shall consist of four members: the Vice-President, acting as chairperson; one Director appointed by the President, and two other members from the general membership excluding, if possible, officers and members of the Board. The duties of the Nominating Committee shall be to accept nominations and report at the general meeting as described in Article V, Section 2. The Nominating Committee is responsible for interpreting these by-laws as applied to elections. The Nominating Committee may, at their discretion, further refine the election process in accordance with these by-laws. Such refinements shall be limited to those necessary for communication to the voting membership.

Section 2 The Nominating Committee shall report at the general meeting held in conjunction with the OAATS sponsored CTR and endurance ride. The Nominating Committee will accept nominations of eligible members (as defined in Article III, Section 3) until a date specified by the Nominating Committee and published in OAATS spring mailing.

Section 3 Absentee Ballots will be allowed providing the member meets the voting eligibility requirements as defined in Article VI and provides a signed, written request to the Nominating Committee Chair no later than August 25th of the current election year.

Section 4 Voting shall be by secret ballot for any office for which there is more than one candidate. The candidates shall be elected by a majority of the voting members (as defined in Article VI, Section 2A).

Section 5 Installation of Officers and Directors shall be held at the beginning of the February meeting. Term of office shall begin upon installation.

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIPS, VOTING RIGHTS AND DUES

Section 1 Eligibility for active membership in good standing:

- (a) Any individual of good character and reputation interested in Arabian Horses and promoting Good Horsemanship.
- (b) Payment of annual dues for membership year which shall run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Section 2 Types of membership:

OAATS shall have four (6) types of memberships. The BOD shall determine the classifications and privileges, other than voting rights, of those memberships.

- (a) Individual Affiliate voting membership: a person who is a current AHA member through OAATS. May vote, hold office, and/or be a delegate through this club. The member is also eligible to vote hold office, be on a committee and/or be a delegate at the regional and national level of AHA. Anyone interested in being placed on the ballot for a director position must be a paid member by February 1 of that election year.
- (b) Individual Associate Non-Voting membership: a person who is not a current affiliate AHA member through this club. Has no voting rights in this club and is not eligible to hold office or be a delegate.
- (c) Youth Affiliate is a Non-Voting membership: Open to any individual under the age of 18 as of December 1 of the previous calendar year has no voting rights and is not eligible to hold office or be a delegate. Is a current AHA youth member through OAATS. Non-voting membership to AHA.
- (d) AHA Life (voting) membership: a life member of AHA who has listed this club as his/her "designated" club, may vote, hold office and/or be a delegate in this club.
- (e) Associate family Non-Voting membership: a person who is not a current affiliate AHA member through this club. Has no voting rights in this club and is not eligible to hold office or be a delegate.

(f) Associate Youth Open to any individual under the age of 18 as of December 1 of the previous calendar year has no voting rights and is not eligible to hold office or be a delegate.

Section 3 Voting rights are granted only to individual affiliate voting members paying AHA affiliate dues through OAATS. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

Section 4 Dues:

(a) Dues for the succeeding calendar year shall be proposed by the Board of Directors and set by vote of the general membership at the February meeting.

(b) The AHA and OAATS membership year shall run from January 1st to December 31st. Dues are due and payable to AHA and OAATS on October 31st preceding the beginning of the membership year and shall become delinquent on Jan 1st of the membership year.

(c) Dues shall be paid to the Treasurer.

(d) New members may join AHA and OAATS at any time but dues shall not be prorated.

(e) OAATS shall transmit to AHA the sum assessed by AHA and collected by OAATS per AHA individual affiliate voting member for dues. These dues shall be transmitted to AHA according to AHA specifications and within 30 days of receipt by the club.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCIAL

Section 1 This Club is a non-profit organization. All funds shall be used in accordance with our stated purpose and to provide for the continued functioning of the Club.

Section 2 To access Club funds in excess of \$2,000 the signature of both the Treasurer and the President will be required.

Section 3 At the close of the fiscal year the books shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors.

Section 4 Should the Club be dissolved, any remaining assets shall be donated for equine research, or a not for profit trail development fund.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1 These Bylaws may be altered and amended at any meeting of the Club by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the regular members present at such meeting and providing that the proposed amendment or alteration was presented in writing to all members in good standing at least ten days prior to the meeting.

Section 2 All amendments passed shall be dated, signed and sent to AHA along with a cover letter signed by both the Club President and Secretary.