



East Tennessee Saddlebred Association

Bylaws and Standing Rules Ratified April 20, 2009

Bylaws

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Article I – Name

The name of the organization is East Tennessee Saddlebred Association and the official abbreviation is ETSA.

Article II – Purpose Statement

To advance and promote American Saddlebred equine activities and industry in the East Tennessee Region. The East Tennessee Saddlebred Association will participate in a distribution of funds in excess over our program needs as available to qualified exempt equine organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article III – Membership

Membership in the East Tennessee Saddlebred Association is for one (1) calendar year, January 1 – December 31. Fees (dues) are payable in advance for admittance in the association.

Article IV – Officers and Officers’ Elections

The officers of the Association shall consist of President, President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Officers are elected for a two (2) year term. Secretary and Treasurer must be re-nominated and elected at the end of each term to remain in office. Secretary and Treasurer are subjected to a two (2) consecutive term maximum after which the individual is required to stay from office for a minimum of a single term (2 years).

The office of President Elect shall serve in that capacity for a single term in preparation to serve as President for a single term followed by serving as Parliamentarian/Historian. The outgoing President is required to stay from office for a minimum of a single term (2 years).

1. Election of officers shall occur biennially.
2. Elections will be held in the fall of each odd year.
3. Members may vote by mailed ballot or proxy.
4. Elected officers shall be notified in writing by the 15th day of December.
5. Any officer may be removed from office by the majority vote of the membership after charges have been brought forth and presented to, reviewed, documented, and voted on by a grievance committee. A grievance committee shall be made up of all officers and committee chairpersons not accused and six (6) members at large chosen at random.
6. If at any time the President resigns, in writing, from the duties of the office, the President Elect shall become President and a new President Elect shall be appointed by the Executive Board from committee and subcommittee chairs to fulfill the remainder of the term. If at any time any officer asks to be excused in writing, the remaining board members will appoint someone to fill the office for the remainder of the term from the committee and or subcommittee chairs.

Officers’ Responsibilities

President

- Responsible for calling meetings and formulating an agenda
- Shall preside over all called or special meetings
- Shall appoint such committees as needed to carry out assigned duties or responsibilities
(exception – nominating committee)
- Shall have the authority to negotiate association’s contracts with the consent of the membership
- Shall have the authority to sign checks when necessary
- Shall be responsible for preparation of an annual budget
- Shall preside at all events held by the association
- Can be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee

- Cannot vote except to break a tie vote of the Executive Board or as an ex-officio

President Elect

- Shall work closely with the President in order to become familiar with the work of the presiding officer
- Assumes the role of the presiding officer in the absence of the President
- Shall have one (1) vote in decision making

Secretary

- Maintains a record, in the form of minutes, of all meetings including the members present and the actions taken
- Shall keep and maintain a list of current membership and perform a role call when required
- Shall have a copy of the bylaws and a list of all standing or special committee members
- Shall give a report of the previous meeting's minutes
- Shall be responsible for publishing the association's newsletter
- Shall be responsible for any member informational correspondence including notification of general meetings and socials
- Shall be the repository for all records and documents of the association which need or are required to be retained
- Shall be responsible for any association news releases subject to review by the President and the President Elect
- Shall be responsible for maintaining a current membership list and provide this or updated lists to the Treasurer
- Shall be responsible for periodically providing an updated membership list to general membership

Treasurer

- Shall hold funds deposited with him/her and maintain a detailed record of the source of these funds
- Shall be responsible for depositing these funds and have the authority to issue checks to pay association obligations on authorization by the President, President Elect, or upon approval and direction by the Executive Board
- Shall maintain a record of all disposition of funds
- Shall assist the President in formulating an association annual budget
- Shall submit a financial report at the end of the association's tax reporting year and at other

periods when requested by the association

- Shall provide all financial records to the audit committee for review at a date to be specified by the President and prior to the final closing of the books

Parliamentarian/Historian

- The former President shall assume this position upon leaving office and shall serve as an ex-officio (no voting privilege on the Executive Board) advisor or Parliamentarian
- Shall be responsible for maintaining the association scrapbook
- May advise or clarify information of past association activities

Article V – Meetings

General Meetings – Unless otherwise ordered by the Association or Executive Board, there shall be two (2) general meetings of the membership of this organization each year.

Annual Meeting – An annual meeting shall be held each year to inform members of the Association's activities and results, to announce and present High Point Awards, and to announce officer election results, if an election year.

Special Meetings – Special Meetings shall be held whenever called by the President or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the officers or upon application of five (5) percent of members in good standing, who make application to the Secretary, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

Officer Quorum – A quorum of the Association's officers must be present at any called meeting. A quorum of officers shall consist of a simple majority of the officers at any called meeting.

Quorum – A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. The majority may decide any questions that may come before the meeting. All questions of a general issue which shall come before the meeting of the members or the Executive Board shall be decided by a majority vote, except the Bylaws of this Association shall be amended as hereinafter provided.

Voting and Proxy – at every meeting each member of the Association, except Junior members who shall not be allowed to vote, shall have one (1) vote at such meetings on all matters which may come before the meeting. Any vote of a member of this Association may be given by such member in person or by proxy in writing (see proxy sample in Article VIII – Amending Bylaws). Said proxy shall be filed with the Secretary of the meeting before being voted. Said proxy shall not be valid after the final adjournment thereof. The current membership ledger shall be the only evidence as to those who are entitled to vote at a meeting of the members.

Rules of Meetings – All meetings of this Association shall be conducted as set forth in **Robert's Rules of Order**.

Order of Business – The order of business at the meetings shall be as determined by the Presiding officer and may be as follows:

1. **Call meeting to order**
2. **Proof of notice of meeting**
3. **Reading of minutes of last meeting**
4. **Reports of officers**
5. **Unfinished business**
6. **Election of officers where in order**
7. **New and miscellaneous business**
8. **Adjournment**

Article VI – Executive Board

- Shall consist of all elected officers and committee members
- Shall hold a planning session annually to establish a calendar of events for the upcoming year
 - which is to be presented to the membership in December for approval
- Consider budget allocations for the upcoming year
- Consider any other changes or updates necessary to present to the membership for approval

Article VII – Committees

Provision shall be made for standing and special committees which will include, at a minimum, the following:

Horse Show Committee – All Executive Board members are automatically members of this committee with the President acting as Chairperson, who is responsible for all activities related to any horse show put on by the East Tennessee Saddlebred Association. Subcommittees may be appointed as needed. All subcommittee chairpersons will report to the Horse Show Committee.

Audit Committee

- Shall be appointed by the President
- Shall receive all financial records, including receipts, vouchers, bank statements, and check registers, from the Treasurer as soon as possible after the end of the association's operating year
- Shall review all transaction records, report findings to the Executive Board, and to make a recommendation as to acceptance of the report

Special Committees

Nomination Committee

- Nominations for this committee shall be made by the membership or by its Executive Board at a meeting held in August of the election year
- Shall consist of three (3) individuals
- Shall be responsible for obtaining a slate of officer candidates to present to the membership for election (consent of the candidates must be obtained and if possible, two (2) candidates for each office should be proposed)
- Shall report the proposed slate of candidates to the Executive Board, on a timely basis, for presentation by the President to the membership for election
- Shall make provision on the ballot for write-in candidate votes

Article VIII – Amending Bylaws

Bylaws of the association may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the membership in attendance at any meeting of the membership at large where the association's members have been notified in writing of the wording of the proposed amendment at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting. Interested members unable to attend the meeting may vote on the proposed amendments by proxy which will be included with the notification.

Rules can be ratified at general meeting by two thirds (2/3) vote.

Proxy example

I, _____, give _____ permission to vote (your name) (proxy holder name)
for me in my absence on this _____ day of _____ for the year _____.
Signature _____ Date _____
Phone _____

Article IX – Compensation

- A. No officer or member of the Association shall receive compensation for duties performed in the exercise of his/her duties.
- B. The association shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.
- C. The association shall be authorized to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II.

Article X – Limits of Liability

To the extent allowed by the laws of the State of Tennessee, no present or future officer of this club (or their estate, heirs, or personal representatives) shall be liable to the club or its members for monetary damages for breach of his/her fiduciary duty as an officer of the club. Any liability of an officer (or their estate, heirs, or personal representatives) shall be further eliminated or limited to the fullest extent allowed by the laws of the State of Tennessee, or as may hereafter be adopted or amended. With respect to claim or liabilities arising out of service as an officer of the club, the club shall indemnify and advance defense expenses to each present and future officers (and their estate, heirs, and personal representatives) to the fullest extent allowed by the laws of the State of Tennessee, both as now in effect and as hereafter adopted or amended.

Article XI –Dissolution

If and when a need for dissolution of the association is determined –

- a. All members will be notified in writing of a meeting, and the purpose of the meeting will be specifically stated;
- b. Approval of two thirds (2/3) of the members in attendance of the meeting will constitute the final act of the association;
- c. All non-cash assets remaining, if any, shall be sold at public auction;
- d. Upon termination and dissolution, as a final liquidation or winding down of the association in any manner or for any reason, any remaining assets of the association, after payment of settlement of all liabilities of the association, shall be distributed for one (1) or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) 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 as set forth in Article 7 of the Association's Article of Incorporation.

Article XII – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on the first day of January and will end on the last day of December of each year.

Standing (General) Rules

- A. Officer Meeting Attendance**
- B. Membership Categories**
- C. Membership Fees**
- D. Member Benefits**
- E. High Point Awards**
 - 1. Eligibility**
 - 2. Accruing Points**
 - 3. Divisions/Classes**
- F. Special Awards**
- G. Awards Banquet**
- H. Affiliations**

A. Officer Meeting Attendance

For officers to remain in good standing, they must attend two (2) regular meetings and three (3) of four (4) called meetings (one called meeting per quarter). Officers must submit his/her reason for noncompliance with this requirement in writing for consideration by the Executive Board.

B. Membership Categories

The following are membership categories:

- 1. **Adult** – Individual 18 years of age or over
- 2. **Family** – Two (2) adults and any children 17 years of age and under
- 3. **Junior** – Any individual 17 years of age and under as of December 1
- 4. **Supporting** – Individual or family who want to support the American Saddlebred by being a member of the association but live too far away to attend meetings and participate in activities
- 5. Other categories of membership may be added from time to time by action taken by the Executive Board with the approval by a majority vote of the members.
- 6. To maintain a membership in good standing, members must have paid dues in the amount stated for the member's classification for the current year. Membership shall commence upon receipt of dues and will be applicable for the current year. Membership may not be retroactive prior to the date of receipt for any purpose.
- 7. Membership is reserved to individuals or families; no provision shall be made for classification categories other than persons.

C. Membership Fees

- 1. Membership fees shall be established by the Executive Board with the consent of the membership at the beginning of each calendar year.

2. Resignation, expulsion, or suspension of a member or termination of his/her membership does not relieve the member from any obligation due to the association.

D. Member Benefits

1. Members shall receive any Association newsletters issued.
2. Mailing lists of membership will be provided to horse shows affiliated with the East Tennessee Saddlebred Association for members to receive programs from those shows.
3. As the East Tennessee Saddlebred Association continues as a Chartered Club of the American Saddlebred Horse Association (ASHA), members qualify for ASHA's Charter Club Affiliation dues rate, a reduced membership fee, if they wish to join.

E. High Point Awards

1. **Eligibility** - Members in good standing need not nominate each horse to accrue points, however, the exhibited horse's recorded owner must also be a member in good standing with the East Tennessee Saddlebred Association. Members are also required to serve on a committee, volunteer, or solicit sponsorships for the ETSA Midsummer Classic Horse Show.
2. **Accruing Points** –
 - a. Points will be awarded for the class in which the horse is shown at each individual show. Horses are not required to be nominated in a particular division; however, points will be awarded only for the exact class in which the horse is shown at each affiliated show.
 - b. Points are earned by a horse or rider depending on the event's judging criteria (e.g. the rider/exhibitor earns equitation or academy points for themselves; all other points are earned by each horse for their exhibition performance).
 - c. Points will follow the horse if it is sold – for example if a nominated horse is sold and the new owner is or becomes a member of the East Tennessee Saddlebred Association, accrued points are considered as earned for award purposes.
 - d. Points are earned from the date the member's fees are received. Points will not be awarded for performances prior to membership.
 - e. All riders must be current members of the Association in order to receive points.
If a horse is leased, the rider will receive points as long as they are a member of the Association.
 - f. All owners must be the recorded owner and be a member of the Association in order to receive points.
 - g. Points will be awarded as follows:
First Place 10 points
Second Place 9 points

Third Place	8 points
Fourth Place	7 points
Fifth Place	6 points
Sixth Place	5 points
Seventh Place	4 points
Eighth Place	3 points
Ninth Place	2 points
Tenth Place	1 point

*Double points will be awarded for Championship Classes when a qualifying class has been required (the horse must have shown and been judged in both classes to qualify for double points).

**Points will be awarded for the place points listed regardless of the number of exhibitors in a class.

3. **Divisions and Classes** – Points will be awarded for horses or riders in the following classes under the listed divisions. Points will be awarded for the exact class the horse is shown in at a given show.

- a. **Five Gaited** – Open, Amateur, Junior Exhibitor
- b. **Three Gaited** – Open, Amateur, Junior Exhibitor
- c. **Fine Harness** – Open, Amateur
- d. **3 Gaited Park Full Mane & Tail** – Open, Amateur, Junior Exhibitor
- e. **Show Pleasure** – Adult, Junior Exhibitor
- f. **Five Gaited Show Pleasure** – Adult, Junior Exhibitor
- g. **Park Pleasure** – Open, Junior Horse
- h. **Country Pleasure** – Amateur, Junior Exhibitor
- i. **Western Country Pleasure** – Amateur, Junior Exhibitor
- j. **Hunt Seat** – Amateur, Junior Exhibitor
- k. **Natural Country Pleasure** – Adult, Junior Exhibitor
- l. **Country Pleasure Driving** – Adult, Junior Exhibitor
- m. **Equitation** – 10 & Under Equitation Walk/Trot
- n. **Academy Equitation** – 8 & Under Walk/Trot
- o. **Academy Equitation** – 9 – 10 Walk/Trot
- p. **Academy Equitation** – 11 – 17 Walk/Trot
- q. **Academy Equitation** – Adult Walk/Trot
- r. **Academy Equitation** – 14 & under Walk/Trot/Canter
- s. **Academy Equitation** – 15 & over Walk/Trot/Canter
- t. **Roadster Pony** – Open, Amateur, Junior Exhibitor
- u. **Pleasure Pony Driving** – Adult, Junior Exhibitor
- v. **English Pleasure Pony** – Junior Exhibitor
- w. **Harness Pony** – Open, Adult
- x. **Hackney Pony** – Open, Adult
- y. **Roadster Horse** - Open, Amateur
- z. **ASB Open Racking**
 - aa. **ASB Style Racking**
 - bb. **Saddle Seat Equitation**

F. Special Awards

The following special awards are given to individuals voted on by the membership at large by write-in ballots provided by the Association prior to the annual meeting and awards banquet.

1. ETSA Sportsman of the Year
2. ETSA Sportswoman of the Year
3. ETSA Youth Sportsman of the Year

G. Awards Banquet

De minimums awards are presented at an annual Awards Banquet held for the general membership. Awards are presented for Special Awards and High Points Awards earned by individuals and/or horses based on the rules listed herein. Members who have not met the stated criteria will not be eligible to receive high point awards regardless of performance.

H. Affiliations

Shows recognized by the East Tennessee Saddlebred Association will be posted on the official website - www.easttnsaddlebred.com and published in the newsletter. Members may request inclusion of other horse shows by a written request from three (3) separate members. If a show is more than 350 miles from Morristown, five (5) members must submit requests. Horse shows should come from the immediate area – Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, West Virginia, or Kentucky. These requests should be made six (6) weeks prior to the show so all members may be notified of the affiliation. If possible, all shows should be affiliated by the beginning of the show season.

Affiliated shows will be provided with the Association's member mailing labels and asked to include the East Tennessee Saddlebred Association with their affiliations. It is also requested that they provide the Association with their show results no later than two (2) weeks after conclusion of the horse show. The affiliated shows will be continuous from year to year.