

THE MIDDLE TENNESSEE HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION

By Laws

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the Association shall be the Middle Tennessee Hunter/Jumper Association.

ARTICLE II

CHARITABLE PURPOSE

The Association shall be operated solely to foster interest in and regulate equine competition in the Hunter Jumper sport in the Middle Tennessee area (within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954) and more particularly to stimulate interest, to educate and to advance knowledge in equestrian sports.

No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of any member or other individual. No substantial part of the Association's activities shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Association shall not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

If the Association shall be dissolved or otherwise terminate, the assets shall be distributed to one or more organizations, which are exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

A. Members of the Middle Tennessee Hunter Jumper Association are not automatically member of the United States Equestrian Federation.

B. There shall be seven classes of membership:

- 1- SeniorOpen to persons 18 years of age and over;
2. Junior Open to persons under 18 years of age;
3. FamilyOpen to the head of a family, the spouse, and all immediate member's family under the age of 18 years.
4. Farm Open to farms or other entities that desire membership in the Association. At least one owner of the farm or entity must be a current MTHJA Senior, Family or Individual Member. Farm membership covers farm only not its owners or employees
5. Individual Life A one time fee is paid
6. Farm Life Same as Farm Membership, but at least one owner of the farm or entity must be a current MTHJA Individual Life Member. Farm Life Membership will be inactive if there is not at least one owner of the farm or entity who is a current MTHJA Individual Life member. Life farm membership covers farm only not its owners or employees.
7. Show Open to shows who will support the aims and the specifications of the Association and which meet the requirements for recognition as set forth in rules and regulations, section three.

- C. The admission of applicants to membership in the Association shall be handled by the Secretary. The admission of an applicant shall be considered only upon the receipt of an application form and a check written for said dues. Applications will be accepted throughout the “Show Year” December 1st to November 30th. Applications should be sent to the Secretary. At a horse show, application must be received before the end of the show for points to count.

ARTICLE IV

DUES

- A. For each fiscal year commencing December 1st, each member shall remit to the Association Secretary annual dues which shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- B. The fiscal year shall be the twelve month period commencing December 1st and ending November 30th.
- C. Points for year end High Score Awards will be awarded by the Association to equitation riders and horses and ponies owned by individuals or entities who have Paid MTHJA memberships. Points are not awarded retroactively. No credit shall be given for any points earned prior to becoming a member each year. At a horse show, application must be received before the end of the show for points to count. Horse and owner must be current MTHJA members for hunter points to accrue and riders must be current MTHJA members for equitation points to accrue.
- D. Members who have paid their membership dues or lifetime fee will be considered active members.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the Association shall be:
1. A President whose duties shall be:
 - a. to manage and transact, subject to the control and supervision of the Board of Directors, any and all affairs and business of the Association.
 - b. to preside at meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors.
 - c. to call meetings of the Board of Directors a minimum of three times per year.
 - d. to perform such other duties as the Board of Directors shall direct.
 - e. at the expiration of the President’s term to serve on the Board of Directors for a term of one year as past President.
 2. A Vice President whose duties shall be:
 - a. to assist the President in the performance of duties imposed by the Bylaws or by the Board of Directors.
 - b. to preside at meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors in the absence of the President.
 - c. to arrange and conduct one or more annual open membership meetings of the Association per year. General membership to be notified via email/social media.
 - d. to perform such other duties as the President or the Board of Directors shall direct.
 3. A Secretary whose duties shall be:
 - a. to give the required notice to all members of all meetings to be held by the Association.

- b. to give notice to all members of the Board of Directors of each meeting to be held
- c. to handle general correspondence of the Association and otherwise.
- d. to keep accurate minutes of each meeting of the Association and the Board of Directors which will be made available to the general membership.
- e. to perform such other duties as the President or the Board of Directors shall direct.

4. A Treasurer whose duties shall be:

- a. to receive from the Secretary all dues; to be custodian of all the monies of the Association; to keep the Officers and the Board of Directors fully advised on all matters connected therewith; to keep a set of books showing the receipt and disposition of monies of the Association; and to present a report of the Association's financial status to the Association at the open general membership meeting.
- b. to carry out the prompt discharge of all financial obligations incurred by the action of the Association or the Board of Directors when they are due.
- c. to be responsible for depositing the monies of the Association in a banking institution to be selected by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer and the President shall have authority to draw checks upon said account and any withdrawals/invoice payments must have the approval of the president or vice president. A withdrawal or check over \$1500.00 requires a Board of Director vote with the exception of expenses incurred relating to the year end banquet or awards.
- d. to pertain such other duties as the President or the Board of Directors shall direct.

5. A Point Secretary who shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors, and whose duties shall be:

- a. to be responsible for the tabulation of points for the high score awards of active members and their horses and ponies at MTHJA recognized shows.
- b. to publish point standings for the general membership approximately ten times yearly from March to December.

The point Secretary will be compensated annually as directed by the Board of Directors.

6. One or more persons who may or may not serve on the board of directors, who shall be appointed annually by the board of directors to serve in the capacity of legal advisor(s).

B. The Officers, with the exception of the Point Secretary, shall be elected every other year at the general open membership meeting in the following manner.

- 1. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers which has been approved by the Board of Directors. All prospective officers will have agreed prior to the meeting to have their name placed in nomination. Persons nominated for the President and the Vice President offices shall have had prior experience on the Board of Directors and these positions will not be replaced in the same year unless both seats are vacant.
- 2. From among the candidates nominated as stated above, the officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the active membership present. Voting will be by written or electronic ballot. Elected officer positions will not be effective until after the annual awards banquet.

C. Each elected officer shall hold office for a minimum tenure of two years. Officers can be re-nominated for any additional office terms.

D. There shall be no limitation on the number of terms an individual may serve on the Board of Directors

- E. A vacancy occurring in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President. Vacancies occurring in the office of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be filled by successors appointed by the Board of Directors to serve in the office until the next biannual election of officers.

ARTICLE VI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is the intention of the Association to have fair representation of all active membership on the Board of Directors. The Nominating committee and the Board of Directors shall bear in mind that the viewpoints of all trainers, competitors and show management who are active members shall be represented during the nominating process.

- A. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the officers of the Association; no less than eight and not more than 20 members elected every other year and the past President serving for only one year.
- B. The election of the members of the Board of Directors will be by vote of the membership at or before the annual general open membership meeting. Nominations shall be handled in the same manner as for officers. Board of Director vacancies opening before end of term will be replaced following standard nomination/election procedures.
- C. The duties of the Board of Directors shall be:
1. to supervise and direct the performance of the officers.
 2. to enforce the provisions of the By Laws.
 3. to perform all functions conferred upon it by the By Laws.
 4. to set forth the rules and regulations of the Association.
- D. The Board of Directors shall meet at such times and places as determined by the President no less than three times per fiscal year. Members of the board not attending at least 50% of the annual meetings can be replaced and are not eligible for board membership the next year.
- E. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a quorum for the transaction of business shall be one third of the Board. A simple majority of those present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall carry all measures put to vote.
- F. The President shall have the power to call a meeting of the Board of Directors at any time and must call a meeting when requested in writing to do so by four or more board members. Written notice of said meeting shall be given by the Secretary to each board member at least ten days prior to said meeting.
- G. The Board of Directors by vote of two-thirds of its entire membership, may after hearing censure, suspend, and/or expel any officer, any member of any committee, or any member of the Association whose conduct shall be found to be prejudicial to the best interests of the Association or in violation of its By-Laws or rules, provided however, such member shall first be notified by the Secretary of the nature of the prejudicial conduct charged, and shall be given a reasonable opportunity to defend such charges before the Board of Directors

ARTICLE VII

STANDING AND OTHER COMMITTEES

- A. The standing committees shall be the Marketing/ Communications/Social Media/Website Committee, the Banquet Committee, Nominating Committee, Bylaws Committee, Rules Committee and such other committees as may be created by the Board of Directors.
- B. The Chairperson of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Each shall serve until the end of the President's term or until the Board of Directors abolishes the committee, whichever comes first.
- C. The Chairperson of each standing committee shall prescribe how many members are to serve on the committee and shall appoint the other members of the committee from among the Board of Directors and the General Membership.
- D. The Nominating Committee shall have a committee chairperson appointed by the Board of Directors. The Board shall determine the number of members to serve on the committee. Each member shall be appointed annually for a term of one year. Any member may serve for two consecutive terms. The nominating committee in identifying members to be nominated for board membership, should place emphasis on ensuring diversity in the membership of the Board so that all member categories are appropriately represented – Exhibitors, trainers, Barn/Farm Representation, Show Managers, Show officials, etc. Emphasis should be placed on matching the board make-up to the membership percentages.

ARTICLE VIII

INDEMNIFICATION

The Association shall indemnify all officers and directors of the Association to the full extent the Association is authorized by law to indemnify its officers and directors from and against all liability, losses, claims, expenses and attorney's fees incurred by any such officers and directors as a result of any such officer or director being made a party to a proceeding because of being an officer or director of the Association.