

Southern Regional Paso Fino Horse Association Constitution

Article I (Name)

Section 1: The name of the Association shall be Southern Regional Paso Fino Horse Association, Inc. hereinafter referred to as SRPFHA, a region of the Paso Fino Horse Association, Inc. hereinafter referred to as *the* PFHA.

Article II (Financial *Gain*)

Section 1: The Association shall be a non profit membership organization existing for public education and welfare as herein expressed.

Section 2: The Association shall under no circumstances be used for personal financial enrichment or gain of its members; and no portion of its money, property , *means and methods or policies* shall be used to benefit individuals, members and/or non members, except as commissions, salaries, and/or expenses paid for employees, agents or services rendered to the or for the Association and approved by the Board of Directors. *Hereinafter referred to as; (BOD).*

Section 3: It is intended that the funds of the Association be used in support of those activities which can reasonably be open to participation of all members of the Association.

Section 4: The business/fiscal year of the Association will be from October 1st. through September 30 th. of each year.

Article III (Objectives and Purposes)

Section 1: The objectives, purposes and goals of the Association shall *in the broad sense* include, but not *be* limited to:

- a. Promote the Paso Fino Horse.
- b. Sustain, enhance, improve, cultivate and protect the breeding, bloodlines, character and heritage of the Paso Fino Horse.
- c. Educate, instruct, inform, enlighten and interest people in proper methods of Paso Fino Horse riding techniques.
- d. Maintain the Breed Standards.

Article IV (Membership)

Section 1: Persons who are interested in joining this Association shall submit an application to the *Treasure BOD of SRPFA. who, upon receipt thereof, shall record and forward the same to the Board of Directors for proper action. The information on the application shall be recorded by the Secretary and made part of the Associations data base and mailing lists. Prospective new members should be furnished by the Secretary with a copy of Southern Regional Constitution. Each new member shall be furnished with a SRPFHA Membership Card. New members may be admitted after approval by a majority of the Board of Directors, after which time they will be allowed to vote at the next regular meeting.* All proposed voting members must meet *the following requirements: all of the terms and conditions of the Constitution, in addition to the following:*

Article IV, Section 1: Continued

(a) Must be interested in improving and promoting the Paso Fino Horse.

(b) Must be of good moral character and high regard for Sportsmanship.

(b) (c) Must be interested in furthering the aims of this Association and pledge to be an active member.

(c) (d) Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Section 2: New members may be allowed to vote at the second General Membership meeting after acknowledgment of their SRPFHA Membership .At a General membership meeting.

Section 2: *Section 3:* This Association may create classes of members to- wit:

(a) INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS are those who have fulfilled all of the qualifications for membership as set forth herein and whose annual dues are paid.

(b) HONORARY MEMBERS are persons who the majority of the Board of Directors feel have made a special contribution to the advancement of the Paso Fino Horse and/or to the Association. They need not meet the requirements for membership as set forth herein.

(c) (b) JUNIOR MEMBERS are those persons who are under the age of eighteen (18) years and meet all of the requirements for membership as set forth herein. Junior members shall not have the right to vote.

(d) (c) FAMILY MEMBERS are those persons of a single family who meet the qualifications for membership as set forth herein. The membership fee shall be reduced for such members. Family is considered to be husband and wife and any children under the age of eighteen (18) years residing in the same household.

(e) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS are persons who belong to and vote with another regional group at PFHA elections but also belong to this Association. Such members shall have no voting privileges and shall not be eligible for Southern Regional offices.

(c) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS are persons who do not belong to PFHA, such members shall have no voting privileges and shall not be eligible for Southern Regional Offices.

Section 3: Southern regional voting members who join another region as voting members are expected by written notification to advise the Southern Regional Secretary to this effect. Unless they specifically indicate resignation from Southern Regional, they will automatically become an Associate Member of Southern Regional until termination of the dues year.

Section 3: Only those Southern Regional Members who (1) are members of PFHA and (2) have informed PFHA that their membership affiliation is Southern Regional are eligible to vote on Southern Regional business and how it conduct it's affairs with the PFHA.

Section 4: Any member charged with acts or conduct detrimental to the Paso Fino Horse, and/or this Association and or the PFHA, and against whom such charges are sustained, shall be expelled from membership by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors. The accused member shall be given an opportunity to defend himself/herself against such charges at a due and proper hearing before the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify the accused member in writing of the charges and set such time as directed by the Board Of Directors for the accused to appear.

Article V (Dues)

Section 1: Dues shall be set from time to time by a majority vote of the members in good standing attending the meeting at which the question of dues is presented.

Section 1: The BOD by majority vote may in the interest of the Association change, modify, suspend and /or implement membership fees/dues.

Section 2: The annual dues shall be payable on the first day of October of each year. Any member *not current failing to pay the annual dues or other assessments within ninety (90) days after notice of such non-payment* shall cease to have *voting any rights or* privileges within Southern Regional.

Article VI (Meeting)

Section 1: Regular and special meetings shall be held at the direction of the President or any majority of the Board of Directors. *Written notice of meetings shall be postmarked and mailed to the members at least two (2) weeks prior to the established meeting date.*

Section 2: The Order of business at all meetings shall be as follows;

(a) The qualifying of members *and new members* present.

Establishing a quorum

(b) The reading and approval of the minutes of the last meeting.

(c) The report of the Treasurer, which *is to be submitted to the Finance Committee for review and approval. has been submitted to the BOD. For approval.*

(d) Report of the Board of Directors and Standing Committees.

(e) Report of Special Committees.

(f) Unfinished Business

(g) New Business.

Section 3: At all *business General membership* meetings, those present in good standing shall constitute a quorum, *provided notification in section 1 has been given.*

Section 4: There shall be at least (4) *business General membership* meetings held each year with the location and time at the discretion of the membership and/or the Board of Directors.

Section 5: Social Functions may be held at the discretion of the Board of Directors and/or Membership however, no official Association business shall be conducted during said function.

Article VII (Officers)

Section 1: The elected officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Three (3) Directors and one PFHA Board Representative.

Section 2: No elected officer (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) may serve in the same capacity for more than two (2) consecutive two year terms; and no person shall simultaneously occupy more than one official position at the same time, except for the elected position of PFHA Board of Representative. (See Article VIII, section 1, for term limits of Directors and PFHA Board Representative)

Article VII continued

Section 3: Section 2: No person shall be elected as an officer of the Association unless such person has been an active member in good standing for at least one (1) year prior to the date of such election. *The term of office for the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer is two (2) years, see Article VIII, Section 1, Term limits of the BOD.*

Section 4: Section 3: The President shall be the executive officer of the Association and Board of Directors. He/She shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee and shall perform such other duties and functions as usually in conformity with the office of President.

Section 5: Section 4: The Vice President shall in the absence of the President preside over meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and perform such other duties as may be assigned to Him/Her by the President or the Board of Directors. *He/She shall preside as Show Chairperson and coordinate all items as required by the PFHA and Southern Regional. If unable to serve in this capacity, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint a replacement.*

Section 6: Section 5: The Secretary Shall record the minutes of all meetings, maintain accurate records of the membership, *(with the cooperation of the Treasurer.)* be the Chairperson of the Secretary/ *Membership* Committee, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to Him/Her by the President or Board of Directors. *He/She shall prepare the Southern Regional Newsletter for distribution to the membership.*

Section 7: Section 6: *The Treasure shall collect all dues and inform the Secretary of the status of active members. The Treasurer He/She* shall receive, deposit and with the approval of the Board of Directors disburse all monies for the Association and maintain an accurate system of accounting for all receipts and disbursements.

A statement of income and expenses must be submitted by the Treasurer at each business meeting. The statement must show a reconciliation of available funds with the latest bank statement. The Treasurer is also responsible for preparing and filing all required reports with government agencies, obtaining any required licenses and obtaining any necessary insurance coverage.

The Treasurer shall *be the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and* make available *to the Finance Committee or any individual designated by the Finance Committee all financial records for annual review or audit. This Committee shall prepare the annual budget. To the BOD all financial records for annual review or audit and will coordinate and cooperate with the BOD appointed Accounting firm.*

Section 8: Section 7: Only those southern Regional members who (1) are members of PFHA and (2) who have informed PFHA that their membership affiliation is Southern Regional are eligible to vote on how Southern Regional conduits its affairs with PFHA. See membership

Article VI I I (Board of Directors)

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the four officers of the Association *and* Three (3) Directors and one (1) elected PFHA Board Representative. The term of office for elected Director and PFHA Representative shall be three (3) years. *and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. (See ArticleVII, Section 1).* At each annual election, one (1) Director shall be elected for a term of three (3) years to succeed the Director whose term expires. *The immediate past President of the Association after the completion of His/Her full term of office will serve on the BOD for a period of one (1) year.*

Section 2: The PFHA Representative shall be expected to represent the Association at all meetings of the *PFHA* Board *such as but not limited to*; The Annual meeting, and Rules Making Convention. Her/She is expected to vote on any matters previously voted on by the Southern Regional members in accord with the majority vote of the Region. *Attendance at the PFHA Board meeting must be approved in advance by Southern Regional Board of Directors as well as expenses to be paid by Southern Regional.* If unable to serve in this capacity at any of the meetings, an alternate may be appointed with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Association and shall determine all question of *means and methods, procedures and policy ies* which may arise during the interval between regular meetings;*accept and discipline members; require an annual budget o be prepaid by the Finance Committee to present to the membership for approval;and approve all disbursements prior to payment.*

Section 4: The Board of Directors may fill a vacancy in any office of the Association occurring for any reason whatsoever. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall perform in that capacity until His/Her successor has been elected by members at the next *business meeting or annual meeting, whichever occurs first.* *General Membership meeting.*

Section 5: At all meetings of the Board of Directors, a majority of its members shall constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be necessary at any Board of Directors meeting to transact business.

Section 6: The Board of Directors shall meet regularly at least four (4) times a year and such other times as may be designed by the President, or a majority of the Board of Directors as defined in Article VIII, Section 1.

Section 7: Any officer or Director or Board Representative who misses two (2) consecutive BOD meetings without just cause and notification may be removed from office by a majority vote of the other member of the Board of Directors.

Article I X (Elections)

Section 1: *An Annual Meeting A General Membership Meeting* will be held in June of each year for the election of Officers, Directors and PFHA Board Representative, whose terms limits expire.

Section 2: The Nominating Committee, if not established by the President in accordance with Article X, Section 2, shall be established at the meeting prior to the June annual meeting. *They The committee* shall be responsible for the selection of a proposed slate of officers, determining that each selectee is *qualified*, willing and able to perform the duties of the office and shall publish to the membership its selections prior to the *annual June General Membership* meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor prior to voting at the *annual June* meeting, provided all criteria are met. The manner of voting for such selection shall be by secret ballot, unless otherwise directed by membership acclamation. *See Article IV Section 3 : Constitution PFHA*

Section 3: The President shall appoint two (2) members to count the ballots and report to Him/Her the results of which He/She shall announce to the members.

Section 4: The *fiscal year* term *of the for* Officers, Directors and PFHA Representative will be from October 1st. To the next September 30th. And newly elected officers will take possession of their office as of October 1st. *See Article VII section 3 and Article VIII Section 1 for term durations.*

Article X (Standing Committee.)

Section 1: There shall be the following standing committee;

- (a) Show Committee
- (b) *Membership Committee*
- (c) *(b)* Publicity Committee
- (d) *(c)* Secretary/*Membership* Committee
- (e) *(d)* Nominating Committee
- (f) Finance Committee*
- (g) (e) Trail Ride Ride Committee*

Section 2: The President, upon taking office shall *within thirty (30) days* appoint the Chairperson *and members* of the Aforesaid committees and may appoint additional special committees as, in His/Her judgment may be required. The President *shall have will* publish in the *next edition of the* Association's Newsletter *and Website* the names of any and all committee appointments.

Article XI (Rules Of Order)

Section 1: “ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED “ shall be the parliamentary authority for matters of procedure not specifically provided for by this Constitution. In the event of conflict, *omissions*, or inconsistency between Southern Regional Paso Fino Horse Association or Roberts Rules, the PFHA Constitution and Association rules shall apply. (See Article VII of PFHA Constitution.)

Article XII (Amendments)

Section 2: Amendments of the foregoing Constitution may be adopted by a Two-Thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any meeting of the Association provided written notice of the proposed amendments shall have been given to the membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. There shall be no voting by proxy in the aforesaid matter.

Article XIII (Dissolution)

Section 3: If for any reason this Association should dissolve, all monies remaining in the treasury after dissolution shall be donated to the University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine at Gainesville, Florida, *if* they be a non-existing group at the time of *dissolvment, dissolution* all remaining monies shall be donated to a *not for or* non-profit group as designated by the Board of Directors.

Revised 12/12/07, Approved by the BOD dated _____,

Approved by the Membership per Article XII dated _____

SRPFHA President _____ dated _____