

# United States Ski-Joring Association ( USSJA )

## By-Laws

The Constitution and ByLaws are subject to and governed by the State of Montana Not For Profit Corporation Laws and Articles of Agreement of the United States Skijoring Association. In the event of a direct conflict between the provisions of these ByLaws and the mandatory provisions of the Montana state Not For Profit Corporation Laws, the Montana state Not For Profit Corporation Laws will be controlling.

### ARTICLE I

#### Name and Objectives

*Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the United States Ski-Joring Association (hereafter "USSJA").*

*Section 2. The objectives of the organization shall be:*

\*to promote, regulate, and support the sport of skijoring throughout the United States, including horse, rider, and skier.

\* to urge members and all exhibitors to accept the rules and standards for safety and competition set forth by the United States Skijoring Association

\* to urge members to coordinate events as well as exhibitor and public awareness regarding the sport of skijoring.

\* to protect and advance the interests of skijoring.

\* to promoting fellowship, helpfulness, sportsmanship, and the sharing of knowledge among members. To follow the USSJA Code of Ethics.

### ARTICLE II

#### Membership

Section 1. Eligibility, Membership shall be open to individuals, organizations, clubs, and sponsors supporting the purpose of USSJA.

Section 2. There shall be three types of memberships, open to anyone over 18 years of age who reside in the United States of America, or any of its territories. They will subscribe to the purposes of this club. Additionally, there shall be 1 additional membership open to all person between the ages of 9 and under 18, and one type of membership open to anyone over 18 and residing outside of the United States of America or any of its territories.

- a) Individual: An individual member enjoys all the privileges of membership including the right to vote and hold office.
- b) Honorary members are persons who are recognized for outstanding achievements or service to the club. If an honorary member wishes to have voting rights or to hold office, an individual membership must be maintained.
- c) Junior membership open to persons from nine (9) to under eighteen (18 ) years of age who wish to receive the newsletter. Junior members shall be ineligible to vote or hold office and said members shall not count in determination of a quorum.

Section 3. Rights and Responsibilities: Members may vote, attend meetings, and participate in events. Members must abide by USSJA's code of conduct and *rules*.

Section 4. Termination of Membership. Membership may be terminated:

- a) Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary, and such resignation is effective immediately upon receipt by the Secretary, except no member may resign when in debt to the club. Any financial obligation to the club, including dues owed for the current fiscal year, are considered a debt to the club and must be paid in full prior to resignation.
- b) By lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such members dues remain unpaid sixty ( 60 ) days after the first day of January each year. In no case whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting or vote be entitled to vote at any club meeting or any ballot presented to the membership for a vote on any matter.
- c) By expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion by a 2/3rds vote of the membership.

## Article III

### Board of Directors

Section 1: Composition of the Board shall consist of no fewer than 9 Directors.

Section 2. Term and Election: Board members serve 2-year staggered terms and are elected by majority vote of the membership.

Section 3. Powers and Duties: The Board shall manage the affairs of USSJA, including financial oversight, rule-setting, strategic planning, and appointing committees. The Board of Directors shall bear the responsibility of general management and governance of the Club. The Board shall be comprised of the Officers and five ( 5 ) other persons , all of whom shall be voting members in good standing, and residents of the United States.

Section 4. Meetings: The Board shall meet at least quarterly. A quorum is a majority of current Board members.

## Article IV:

### Officers

Section 1. Officers: Officers shall include a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Election and Terms: Officers are elected by the Board for two-year terms.

Section 3. Duties: President: Shall preside at all meetings of the general membership. Represents USSJA publicly, and performs any other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

Vice President: Supports the President. Shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in his or her absence or incapacity.

Secretary: Shall keep a record of all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the club and give notice of all the meetings of the Club, and Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify the Treasurer of all persons elected to membership in the Club. In the absence of the Secretary, the Board shall designate a member of the Board to fulfill the duties of Secretary at that meeting.

Treasurer: Shall keep all accounts and shall have charge of all funds, and collect membership dues, and make all payments, keeping a correct list of the membership of the Club. The Treasurer shall render a statement of the accounts at each Annual meeting and whenever requested to do so by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine, and the expense for the bond borne by the Club. The Treasurer shall be elected for a two-year term.

Section 4: Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the Officers during the year shall be filled by a majority vote of all the then members of the Board; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be automatically filled by the Vice President, and the resulting vacancy in the Office of Vice President shall be filled by the Board. A Director elected by the Board to fill such a vacancy shall be elected for the remainder of the unexpired term held by that Director's predecessor in office.

Section 1 Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall bear the responsibility of general management and governance of the Club. They shall serve until the adjournment of the annual general meeting following the election of their successors. The officers of the club shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among the Directors at the first Board Meeting. The officers of the Club shall be President and a Vice President each serving a one-year term. A Secretary, and a Treasurer, each serving two-year terms. At the expiration of their respective terms, serving Directors are eligible for election to an additional two-year term. However no person shall serve more than eight ( 8 ) successive years as a Director.

Section 2 Meetings: The Board may conduct its business by mail, fax, electronic means, video conference, telephone conference call or by polling the Board through the Secretary provided it does not conflict with any other provision in these bylaws. Items voted upon other than a meeting must be confirmed in writing by the Secretary within 7 days after the vote is taken, listing the vote of each Board member and the final tally. In order for business to be conducted by electronic means the following precautions must be in place.

- A) Every Board member must be provided with the means to participate.
- B) A procedure must be in place to verify the identity of the individuals participating to ensure that they are eligible Board members.
- C) A mechanism must be in place to verify that the eligible Board members are listening, and all board members must agree to participate in this manner.

## Article V

### Committees

Section 1. The Board may establish committees for events, rules, safety, youth engagement, fundraising, etc.

- a) All Committee's serve at the pleasure of the board. Committee chairpersons are chosen by the Board and Committee members are chosen by the Committee Chairperson. Reports from all Committees will be made monthly to the Secretary, and published in the Board of Directors meeting minutes. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.
- b) Committee members, Only those members in good standing and able to vote may be appointed by the Board to a Committee. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose service has been terminated.

#### Article VI: Meetings of the Membership

An annual meeting shall be held to elect Directors, share updates, and gather input. Special meetings may be called by the Board or upon request of 10% of the members.

#### Article VII: Rules and Regulations

USSJA may establish official rules for competition and safety protocols. All affiliated events must comply with these regulations and safety protocols.

#### The following are the Top 10 Rules of Competitive Fairness

- 1) A team consists of a horse, rider, and skier. Teams must strive to compete at the highest level of their abilities.
- 2) Horse & Skier may compete in only one division. Rider may compete in other Divisions on different horses.
- 3) Skier and Rider may compete up to four times a day and cannot compete as the same team more than once.
- 4) Horse may compete only twice per day.
- 5) Ropes must be inspected and approved before competing and cannot be attached closer than 6" from the cantle of the saddle. Length of rope 50" for curved tracks, and 33" for straight tracks.
- 6) Gates must be stationary, and breakaway type.
- 7) Both ski tips and both boots must go around a gate or the gate is considered missed.
- 8) When crossing the finish line the skier must finish in an upright position on at least one ski with rope in hand. Both boots must cross the finish line.
- 9) If the skier drops the rope BEFORE crossing the start line, he/she will be allowed a restart.
- 10) The team has four minutes to start once the course is deemed clear. ( Sparby Rule )

#### The Top 10 Rules of Competitive Safety

- 1) Ambulance, EMT, and Veterinarian crews will be on site during competition.
- 2) Horse, Rider, and Skier should be in good physical shape to participate in an extreme sport.
- 3) No performance enhancing drugs are allowed.
- 4) The horse run out is required a minimum of 2/3rds of the length of the course and there must be consistent footing.
- 5) Water for the equine must be available and easily accessible at the race venue.
- 6) Horse leg protection ( bell boots, and wraps ) are strongly recommended.

- 7) Horses should have shoes that will increase their traction such as borium, calks, frost nails with snow poppers. This is highly recommended.
- 8) A equestrian skijoring course should NOT have more than 6 inches of “punch”. Punch refers to how deep the horses hoof punches through the snow upon impact. If the horse course has more than 6 inches of punch it is deemed dangerous.
- 9) Jumps should be twice as wide and high, and three times as long as high.
- 10) Skier must wear a protective helmet.

#### Article VIII: Finances

##### Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be January 1 – December 31.

##### Section 3. Dissolution

Upon dissolution, assets shall be distributed to a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit that aligns with USSJA's mission.

#### Article IX: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership present at a properly called meeting with 30 days' notice.