

**BY-LAWS OF THE HAFLINGER AND HITCH PONY
CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES**

ARTICLE I – NAME

SECTION 1: The name of this organization shall be the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series Corp.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

SECTION 1: The purposes of the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series are as follows:

1. To promote interest in the Draft Haflinger Horses & Hitch Pony
2. To promote improvement in breeding, showing and marketing of the Draft Haflinger horse and Hitch Pony
3. To promote the competition and showing of Six-Horse hitches or other classes that may be determined in the future.
4. To establish rules and guidelines for the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series
5. To conduct a Championship Series Final competition with an annual Champion
6. To provide facilities for meetings for the exchange of ideas
7. To promote and manage exhibits and work in harmony with other horse or livestock organizations
8. To provide any other means for carrying out the purposes of this organization

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 ELGIBILITY: Membership in this organization may be held by any individual, firm, partnership or corporation who is interested in the promotion of the Draft Haflinger horse or Hitch Pony and the competitive showing of six-horse hitches. Acceptance in this Organization may be determined by the Board of Directors upon application.

SECTION 2: DESIGNATION OF VOTING MEMBER

Every membership shall be entitled to one vote on any matter put to vote by the organization and the general membership. In his/her application for membership, they shall designate the name of the individual who shall exercise the vote on behalf of the membership. This designation shall be made annually upon payment of dues as set forth herein.

SECTION 3: FEES AND DUES. Annual fees and dues shall be determined and fixed by the Board of Directors of the organization. Dues for the year in competition must be paid by January 1st of each year. If the member dues are not paid by June 1st of the same year of competition, that member will not be permitted to participate in the Championship Series finals.

SECTION 4: TERMINATION. Membership in this Organization shall terminate when a member fails to pay annual membership dues or any fees fixed by the Board of Directors after the first notice of late payment mailed by the secretary of the Organization. Further, any member disturbing the harmony of the Organization may have his/her membership suspended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors after thorough investigation, and his/her membership may be revoked, and thereby terminated by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Organization present at any annual or special meeting.

Further, in the event any member fails to pay annual dues for three (3) consecutive years, said member cannot be reinstated unless the past and current fees are both paid

ARTICLE IV – CALENDAR YEAR AND MEETINGS

SECTION 1: CALENDAR YEAR. The calendar year of the Organization shall commence on the day after U.S. Labor day and end on the following U.S. Labor day of the year in competition.

SECTION 2: ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting of the members of the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series shall be held at a location where it is deemed the most members will be available as determined by the Board of Directors with due notice to the membership.

SECTION 3: SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special Meetings of the Members may be called at any time by the President, or by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors, or by Petition of a majority of the active members of the Organization.

SECTION 4: NOTICE OF MEETINGS. Notice of all meetings and agenda shall be mailed to each member at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting.

SECTION 5: VOTING. Each paid member, or its designee, shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all business presented for consideration by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6: QUORUM. The paid members of any regularly called meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 7: ORDER OF BUSINESS. The order of business at the annual meeting shall be as follows:

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|----|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Call to order. | 6. | Unfinished Business. |
| 1. | Proof of due notice of meeting. | 7. | New Business. |
| 2. | Reading and Approval of minutes | 8. | Report of Director Election |
| 3. | Report of Officers. | 9. | Other New Business |
| 4. | Committee Reports | 10. | Adjournment |

SECTION 8: MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be responsible for and maintain accurate meeting minutes and financial records for the organization. There will be an Audit of the Financial Records and report conducted annually by a three member committee appointed by the President, to be chaired by one director and two voting members or by a certified public accountant, if available, prior to the annual meeting. A written copy of the meeting minutes and treasure Report shall be sent to each paid membership within a reasonable time following all general membership meetings.

ARTICLE V – DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: NUMBER AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS. The business of the Organization shall be controlled by a Board of Directors consisting of five (5) members, each of whom shall be a member of the Organization. The Board shall be elected by a majority vote of the respective voting members.

SECTION 2: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

1. The Board of Directors shall designate annually three (3) active members to serve as a Nominating Committee, who shall solicit members respectively for the slate of candidates for the election of Directors.
2. In order to be nominated, member must have been a voting member the previous year.
3. A member may self-nominate by submitting their biography to the nominating committee
4. Once a member has been nominated to run for Director, they must agree they will serve as director if elected.

5. At the first annual meeting of the members of this Organization, Directors shall be elected to succeed the incorporating Directors. One (1) Director shall be elected for a one (1) year term; two (2) Directors shall be elected for a two year term and two (2) shall be elected to a three (3) year term

6. **Election Process**

- In order to vote for Director(s), a Member must be in good standing (current in dues) and be present at the annual meeting
- At the annual meeting, all paid members will be advised of the nominations for the Directors and a short biography of each candidate will be provided or read. A ballot will be provided to paid members, one vote per membership.
- The member shall review the candidate(s) and place their vote(s)
- Ballot count for the election of directors shall be done by the nominating committee; its chairman is to announce the results to the membership and Directors prior to the conclusion of the Annual Meeting (Amended by BOD 8/16)

SECTION 3: TERMS OF DIRECTORS. Each Director shall be eligible for two (2) three (3) year terms and then must be off the Board for at least one (1) year before being eligible for reelection to the Board.

SECTION 4: BOARD MEETINGS. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time and place as may be fixed by the Board.

SECTION 5: VOTING. Each Director shall be entitled to only one (1) vote on any question.

SECTION 6: QUORUM. Four (4) of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 7: VACANCIES. Any Director failing to attend two (2) consecutive annual meetings of the membership shall be considered as having vacated his office and shall automatically be dropped from the Board of Directors unless such absence is caused by illness of such Director, or by serious illness in his/her immediate family, or unless an acceptable excuse is furnished to the Board of Directors. Where a vacancy exists, or is created on the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors, by majority vote, shall appoint a Director to serve until such time as a successor is elected.

SECTION 8: COMPENSATION. The members of the Board of Directors shall receive no compensation for their services as such. Directors may be reimbursed for actual expenditures when approved by the Board.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

SECTION 1: The Board of Directors shall reorganize within seventy (70) days after the Annual Meeting and shall elect one (1) person for each of the following offices to serve for a term of one (1) year.

PRESIDENT: The President shall be chief executive officer of the Association, preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and the executive committee, perform duties incidental to such office for the best interest of the Association. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all other committees.

VICE PRESIDENT: The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in case of his/her absence or inability to perform.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members and the Board of Directors and shall preserve in the books of the Organization minutes of the proceedings of all meetings. The

Secretary shall give all notices required by law, by these By-Laws or resolution and shall perform any other duties as may be delegated by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall also keep a list of all paid members of the Organization and their voting designees. The Secretary can appoint an Assistant Secretary, upon approval of the Board of Directors, to help with the business activities of the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary can be a paid position upon approval by the Board of Directors. The Assistant Secretary does not have to be a member of the Board of Directors and if the Assistant Secretary is not a member of the Board of Directors then he/she shall have no voting privileges.

TREASURER The Treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept, full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements of the Organization. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all funds and securities of the organization and shall or cause to be deposited said funds in the name and to the credit of the Organization in such bank accounts at such depositories as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine. The Treasurer shall also regularly report to the Board and Membership the financial condition of the organization. The Treasurer shall also disburse funds of the organization as ordered by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for said disbursements. All checks must be signed by two (2) persons including the Treasurer and another member of the Board of Directors specifically appointed by the Board for said purpose. The Treasurer can appoint an assistant Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer can be a paid position upon approval by the Board of Directors. The Assistant Treasurer does not have to be a member of the Board of Directors and if the Assistant Treasurer is not a member of the Board of Directors, he/she shall have no voting privileges.

SECTION 2 VACANCIES. In the event of death or permanent disability of any officer, the Board of Directors shall declare the office vacant and appoint a successor.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, elect from its own members an Executive Committee consisting of three (3) members. The Executive Committee shall have such powers and duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board and these duties and powers may be all of the duties and powers of the said Board, subject to the general direction, approval and control of the Board. Copies of the minutes of any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be mailed to all Board members within ten (10) days of such meeting.

SECTION 2: OTHER COMMITTEES. The Board of Directors shall establish other committees as they may deem advisable relative to the various interest and activities through which the general welfare of the organization will be promoted; determine the tenure of such committees, their powers and duties. A Director shall sit on each appointed committee as chairperson. Each committee shall select one (1) person to serve as Secretary of the committee. The Secretary shall maintain accurate records and minutes of each meeting of said committee and shall provide a written copy of committee meeting to the Board of Directors for permanent record.

SECTION 3: QUORUM. A majority of the members of all committees shall constitute, respectively, a quorum to transact business

ARTICLE VIII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1: BYLAWS. These Bylaws shall be considered adopted nunc pro tunc as original By-laws and they shall be duplicated and a copy made available to each member.

SECTION 2: AMENDMENTS. Provided that notice of such proposed amendment is included in notice of said meeting, these By-laws may be amended at any meeting of the members of the association by two thirds (2/3) of the active members present.

SECTION 3: Judge Selection. The first year of the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series Finals will utilize the judge(s) selected by the Michigan Great Lakes International Draft Horse show. The Board of Directors reserves the right to nominate a judge for subsequent shows. Should the Board desire to provide its own judge, a nomination ballot for potential judges will be sent out to all paid members for the purpose to come up with a preliminary list of suggested judges. This ballot will be returned to the show committee who will then tabulate the results and narrow the list down to the top five to ten names based on number of nominations received. A final ballot shall then be made up and sent out to the paid membership for the final judge(s) selection based on the number of votes received.

ARTICLE IX – REQUIREMENTS FOR A QUALIFYING SHOW CLASS

SECTION 1: Requirements to be a Six Horse Hitch Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championships Qualifying Class are as follows:

- 1 Each class must be an open class in which any hitch has a chance to participate.
- 2 The show must pay a One Hundred (\$100.00) (US) dollar per year membership fee.
- 3 The show must have at least One Thousand (\$1,000.00) US Dollars in prize money for each six horse hitch class it would like to qualify, unless the show is held in Canada. If the show is held in Canada, the show must have at least One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Canadian dollars in prize money for each six horse hitch class it would like to qualify. All One Thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars must be paid out completely regardless of how many hitches are in the class.
- 4 The entire six horse hitch class must be placed from top to bottom
- 5 At the completion of the show they must return a placing sheet, which will be supplied to them, listing the places of every hitch in the class and how the money was paid.
- 6 A show that has a Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championships class or classes that does not meet all the Requirements of the above listed, may be suspended for a period to be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X – REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFYING A HITCH

QUALIFYING FOR THE HAFLINGER AND HITCH PONY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES FINALS

SECTION 1:

In order to qualify for the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series Finals each hitch must:

- 1 Be a current paid member in good standing of the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series.
- 2 Abide by all rules and guidelines as set forth by the Board of Directors and approve by the Membership
- 3 Be one of the top six (6) in total points in the year of competition.
- 4 In the event a qualified hitch declines to attend, the next highest point earner will be invited and so on down the line with the goal of having six (6) hitches compete in the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series Final.
- 5 In the event a Hitch withdraws from the finals after acceptance and the Board of Directors determines, by majority vote, that said withdrawal was without just cause, The Board may, by

majority vote, impose a penalty, not to exceed 2 years, forfeiting the hitch from competing in the HHPCS Finals and forfeiting HHPCS benefits

- 6 The owner of a qualifying hitch for the finals MUST OWN or LEASE at least four (4) of the horses that are hitched for the Final's class or classes
- 7 In the event of a tie for the finals a two (2) tier tie breaker will be used, this consists of first comparing their head to head competition; if there was none then whoever competed in the LEAST amount of Qualifying shows to get their tied points shall win the tie.
- 8 In the event a Qualifying Hitch for the finals has to decline for any emergency or reason that might arise; it will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors by majority vote.
- 9 A Hitch must either accept or decline the invitation to the finals within 72 hours of direct contact by the board of directors.
- 10 Only one hitch per membership will be allowed in the Finals.

ARTICLE XI – TRAVELING EXPENSE FOR FINALS

SECTION 1: Should market conditions support, and the "Series" does not have the capitol to pay, the Board of Directors may contact the host of the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series Finals to contract for the payment of a set of traveling expense to be paid to each hitch that attends and competes in the Haflinger and Hitch Pony Championship Series Finals.

The following being duly authorized hereby set their hand and seal as follow and approve the above amendment(s):

_____	_____
Ryan Hefner, President	Date
_____	_____
Sam Mathias, Vice President	Date
_____	_____
Cambell Parrish, Secretary	Date
_____	_____
Lance Bean, Treasurer	Date
_____	_____
Kyle D. Love, Director at Large	Date