

Westfield Riding Club, Inc.

Bylaws

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be The Westfield Riding Club, Inc. hereinafter referred to as the Club.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Club shall be to generate interest in the use, care, breeding, and protection of horses. Particular emphasis will be given to expanding the general knowledge of horses and horsemanship for all breeds. This will be accomplished through the use of educational materials, onsite demonstrations and sharing of knowledge between club members. This organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article III – Membership

Membership will be open to anyone with interest in equines. Prospective members are invited to attend two meetings before membership is required.

Article IV – Election of Membership

1. To be accepted for the active membership, persons must submit an application for membership along with payment of annual dues.
2. An active membership entitles the holders to all rights and privileges to the Club.
3. Reinstatement of expired active membership shall follow the same application and acceptance process as required for new members.
4. Members are required to support the Club's purpose and mission by volunteering ten (10) hours. Volunteer hours may consist of but are not limited to: co-hosting an event, attending meetings, participating on committees, assisting with an event, participating in club activities (i.e.: grounds cleanup and fundraising events).

Article V – Meetings

1. The Annual Meeting shall be held such time during the month of January and at such place and upon such reasonable notice as the Board of Directors may determine.

2. Special meetings of the Club may be called by the President at any time, and shall be called by the President upon written request of five (5) members of the Club at such time and upon reasonable notice as the Board of Directors may determine. All members must be notified of any special meetings.
3. At any meeting, a simple majority vote of the general membership present shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI – Annual Dues

1. Annual dues for membership shall be specified in the membership application by levels, as follows:
 - Individual Membership (any one person age 18 or older)
 - Junior Membership (any one person under age 18)
 - Family Membership (any parent(s)/guardians and their children under age 18)
 - Trail Membership (all ages, trail riding privileges ONLY)
2. Annual dues for the year shall be payable between January 1 and March 31.

Article VII – Election of Officers

1. The officers of the Club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for two (2) years each until their successors are elected and qualified. There are no limitations to the number of terms served.
2. Nominations shall be presented by a nominating committee elected by the Board in November. Acceptance of absentee ballots will only be for the reason of required work, sickness injury or death.

Article VIII – Duties of Officers

1. The President shall be the general executive officer of the Club and shall preside at all meetings of the Club and Board of Directors, and shall be ex-officio member of all committees.
2. The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President on his/her absence or disability.
3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings. He/She shall be the keeper of the Corporate Seal and shall take care of all club correspondence. He/She shall read the minutes of the previous meeting to be approved by the Officers and Board of Directors.
4. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all the funds of the Club. He/She shall disburse the general fund of the Club upon the order of the Board of Directors. He/She shall render an annual report and report at the monthly meetings.

5. The Treasurer and/or President shall sign for all monies deposited to or withdrawn from the bank account(s) of the Westfield Riding Club.

Article IX – Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the Club, plus the Past President and two (2) members (one may be a Junior Member) elected from the general membership. The term of service shall be two (2) years. Nominations shall be taken from the general membership by the nominating committee in November and elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting every two years. In the event a Past President chooses not to participate or is holding another Officer position, the Club can elect three (3) general members to serve.
2. The Board of Directors shall meet upon call of the President and five (5) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
3. On all questions regarding construction of these Bylaws, the decision of the club members shall be final.
4. A vacancy of any Officer or Director of the Club, for any reason, shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. The term of the office shall be the remainder of prior term.

Article X – Committees

Except as hereinbefore provided, the President shall appoint Chairman to such committees as his/her judgement may be necessary to carry on the work of the Club.

Article XI – Calendar

The fiscal year of the Club shall be twelve (12) months ending December 31.

Article XII – Procedure

“Robert’s Rule of Order” shall be parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the Bylaws or by special rules of procedure adopted by the Club.

Article XIII – Contracts & Bonds

1. Any legal documents approved by the club membership must be executed by the club President and the Treasurer.
2. The Board of Directors shall approve all budgets and disbursements.

Article XIV – Amendments

The Club can amend these Bylaws after presenting such amendments at a regular meeting. All amendments require 2/3 majority vote of the members present at the next regular meeting.

Article XV – Rights and Privileges of Membership

1. Use of the Club grounds at 29 Fowler Road, Westfield MA, including riding rings and enclosed pasture area. The clubhouse is available for use upon request, per Board of Directors approval.
2. Keys are provided to active members for access to grounds, upon request. The Secretary will maintain a key log.
3. Use of grounds for any organized activity requires Board of Directors approval for scheduling.

Article XVI – Corporate Seal

The Club shall have a seal consisting of a circular, flatfooted die, with the name of the corporation, the year of its organization, and the words “Westfield, Massachusetts” so engraved on its face that it can be embossed on paper or pressure.

Article XVII – Club Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purpose.

It is the organizations intent, upon dissolution, and based on the above paragraph, that the property will be donated to an appropriate charitable and/or governmental land management organization for the purposes of passive recreation to include equine activities. Non-property assets will be donated to for charitable purposes. Dissolution requires the majority vote of all club members and be recommended by the Board of Directors.

Adopted: 1939
Revised: 1947
Revised: 1959
Revised: 1971

Revised: 1975
Revised: 1987
Revised: 1993
Revised: 1997
Revised: 1998
Revised: 2001
Revised: 2004
Revised: 2011
Revised: 2017
Revised: 2020