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| **DEEP SOUTH PASO FIN0 HORSE ASSOCIATION, INC.** |

**BY-LAWS**

**REVIEWED FEBRUARY 2024**

**ARTICLE 1**

**NAME**

**Section 1.**

The name of the Association shall be Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association, Inc.

**ARTICLE 11**

**OBJECTS and PURPOSES**

**Section 1.**

The objects and purposes of the within non-profit membership Association shall be as hereinafter provided:

1. To breed, raise, train, enhance, improve and promote the Paso Fino horse and engage in such other and further related activities and functions as may be requisite to carry out such objects and purposes.
2. To sponsor horse shows (both competition and exhibition) by a majority vote, the membership may elect to permit horses other than the Paso Fino breed to participate in a show sponsored by the Association.

c, To maintain accurate records of all Association affairs and activities with reasonable access thereto for the members of the said association,

d, To sponsor education clinics, trail rides and other forums for the benefit of its members and to instruct and demonstrate proper riding and showing procedure, horse care and attention for the enhancement of the general welfare of the Paso Fino horse

To inform and educate the public in general as to the qualities of the Paso Fino horse, by means of publications, exhibitions and other informative means.

**Section 2.**

The Association shall conduct is operations in such a manner so as to maintain a related position and within the general spirit of the objects and purposes of the Paso Fino Horse Association, Inc.

**Section 3.**

In case the local region rules or by-laws do not cover an item, the national parent organization (Paso Fino Horse Association, Inc.) rules shall apply. If neither set of rules covers the item, the United States Equestrian Federation rules shall apply. (Amended 2010)

 **ARTICLE 111**

 **MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.**

Any person meeting the age requirements of the Association and interested in the objects and purpose thereof shall be eligible for membership application.

**Section 2.**

All membership applications shall be in writing and submitted to the Chairperson of the Membership Committee. An approved applicant shall become a member of the Association upon the payment of the annual dues within thirty

(30) days of such approval notice.

**ARTICLE IV**

**TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.**

1. Individual membership consists of one (1) person,
2. Family membership consists of two (2) adults over the age of eighteen (18) years, residing in the same household, and children of the same household under the age of eighteen (18) years. (Adopted 09/08/90)

**ARTICLE V**

**DUES**

**Section l.**

The annual dues in the amount fixed by the Association from time to time, shall be payable on, or before, the first day of the fiscal year.

Section 2.

Any member failing to pay the annual dues or other assessments, if any are Imposed, within sixty (60) days after notice of such non-payment shall cease to be a member of the Association unless the time for such payment is extended by the Board of Directors; such extension, however, shall not exceed a period of thirty

(30) days.

**ARTICLE VI**

**MEMBER DISCIPLINE**

**Section 1.**

The Board of Directors may censure, suspend or expel from the Association any member charged with acts or conduct detrimental to the Association, provided such charges are sustained after a due and proper hearing before said Board at which the accused was afforded an opportunity to be heard and defend on such charges.

**ARTICLE Vll**

**HONORARY AND LIFE MEMBERS**

**Section 1.**

Any person who has rendered outstanding notable service on behalf of the Association may be recommended for honorary or life membership by any member of said Association; such membership, however, must be approved by the Board of Directors and the members of the Association.

**Section 2.**

Honorary and life members shall not be required to pay any dues or assessments and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges afforded regular members, except that honorary members shall not be entitled to vote or hold office.

**ARTICLE Vlll**

 **OFFICERS**

**Section 1.**

The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and four additional members elected to the Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association Board of Directors. The aforesaid officers shall be elected by ballot at the designated annual membership meeting of each year and assume the duties of their office on the first day of the new fiscal year. Qualifications for voting are that new members shall be a paid member thirty (30) days prior to the voting meeting. January 1 is designated as the first day of the first month of the fiscal year of the club.

**Section 2.**

After the Association has been in existence for at least one (l) year, no person shall be elected an officer thereof unless such person has been an active member in good standing for at least one (l) year prior to the date of such election.

**Section 3.**

No member shall hold more than one (1) elective office In the Association at one time.

**Section 4.**

The term of office for the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be for a period of two (2) years. The terms of office for the additional four (4) Directors, however, shall be for not less than one (1) year nor more than three (3) years on a rotating basis so that the respective terms of office shall not expire at the same time. The term of office for the immediate Past President shall be two (2) years, or until the current President is succeeded. The term of office for the youth representative will be one (1) year.

 **ARTICLE IX**

**DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.**

The President shall be the executive officer of the Association and shall preside over all meetings thereof and the meeting of the Board of Directors. The President shall also act as the Representative to the Board of Directors of the Paso Fino Horse Association. The President shall have the right to appoint a Parliamentarian and all Association committees as may be deemed requisite and serve as an ex-officio member thereof, except the nominating committee, and perform such other further acts and ftlnctions as are usually performed by a President of a Membership Association.

In the event that the President is unable to attend a meeting of the Paso Fino Horse Association Board of Directors, the President shall appoint a replacement from the Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association Board of Directors, in the following descending order: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, any of the other adult Board of Directors members, In the event that none of these members can attend the meeting of the Paso Fino Horse Association Board of Directors, the President is entitled to appoint any member of the Deep South Paso Fino Horse

Association in good standing.

**Section 2.**

The Vice-President shall, in the absence or during the incapacity of the President, perform the duties and functions of that office.

**Section 3.**

The Secretary shall record and maintain a record of the minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the Association, conduct correspondence for the Association and perform such other secretarial duties as may be required by the President or the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall prepare a written agenda for each meeting of the Board of Directors and for any meeting of the general membership.

**Section 4.**

The Treasurer shall be the fiscal officer of the Association and deposit all funds received in the designated banking institution in the name of the Association; shall maintain an accurate account of all finances and financial transactions and made all authorized disbursements only through the checking account so maintained in the designated banking institution.

Disbursements made by said Treasurer shall be supported by properly itemized vouchers and the same be maintained in the files of said officer.

The accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited in the month prior to the annual meeting by the Finance Committee of the Association consisting of three (3) members appointed by the President and such audit shall be signed and reported at the annual meeting. Interim audits may also be made by said committee upon giving at least ten (10) days notice to the Treasurer,

At the annual meeting a full and complete report of all receipts and disbursements and the financial status of the Association shall be made by the Treasurer. During the fiscal year, interim financial reports may be requested by the President or Board of Directors.

No fund shall be withdrawn from the Association depository except by check signed by the President, Vice-President, or Treasurer, and such withdrawal shall not exceed the sum of five hundred ($500.00) dollars. Any amount in the excess of $500.00 shall be countersigned by the President and Treasurer or the Vice-President and Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall also prepare all tax reports and returns as may be required by the State and Federal governments.

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The Treasurer shall present a financial statement of the club's status at each of the scheduled business meetings and published in the newsletter. (Adopted

6/12/88)

**Section 5.**

The Representative to the Paso Fino Horse Association shall attend the meetings of the Board of Directors of the Paso Fino Horse Association and submit a report of each meeting of the Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association, at the next regularly held meeting. The Representative shall vote on national association matters in conformity with the majority vote of the Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association, when applicable. The Representative also will be responsible for informing the membership of all actions taken by the national Board of Directors which may affect the Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association,

The Representative is the national spokesperson for the concerns and desires of the Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association, The Representative is also a voting member of the Paso Fino Horse Association Board of Directors whose decisions affect the Interests of all the members of the Paso Fino Horse Association. Accordingly, the Representative shall carry out the duties of the position in accordance with the best interest of the Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association and the Paso Fino Horse Association.

The Representative is required to attend Deep South Paso Fino Horse Association meetings and not to miss over two (2) meetings. (Amended 2009)

**Section 6.**

The aforesaid officers shall perform the duties and functions prescribed by the within By-Laws and such other duties and functions as may be prescribed and adopted by the Association in accordance with proper parliamentary procedure.

**ARTICLE X**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 1.**

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Association President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, the immediate Past President, and four (4) elected Directors, one of whom shall be a teenage member of not less than sixteen

(16) years of age.

**Section 2.**

The Board of Directors shall be the administrative and policy making body of the Association and have general supervision of the affairs thereof; none of the acts of said body, however, shall conflict with any action taken by the Association as a whole.

**Section 3.**

The Board shall hold at least four (4) meetings per years at such times and places designated by the President.

 **Section 4.**

The Board shall have the right to declare a vacancy in its membership when any member, without just cause, fails to attend two (2) consecutive Board meetings.

**Section 5.**

The Board shall have the right to fill a vacancy on said board by electing a new member who shall hold such office until the next annual meeting of the Association.

**Section 6.**

The presence in person of a majority of the Board members shall be requisite for the transaction of business at any meeting thereof and a majority vote of such members shall be necessary for a decision.

**Section 7.**

The Board shall maintain a record of its meetings and proceedings and submit the same to a regular or special meeting of the membership.

**ARTICLE Xl**

 **MEETINGS**

**Section 1.**

Regular periodic meetings shall be called at the direction of the President. The annual meeting for the election of officers, however, shall be held prior to the end of the fiscal year.

**Section 2.**

Special meetings may be called by the President or Board of Directors; in addition thereto, such meetings must be called when requested in writing by a committee comprised of at least fifty (50) percent of the members in good standing. The exact purpose of all special meetings must be stated in the notice thereof, 

**Section 3.**

Due written notice of all meetings must be given to the membership at least two (2) weeks prior thereto, stating the date, time and place of such meeting; in the event, however, that an emergency meeting is required, oral notice thereof shall be deemed due and sufficient notice.

**Section 4.**

 The presence of at least one-fourth (1/4) of the members in good standing shall be required for the transaction of business at any meeting. If a quorum is not met, the Board of Directors shall act on issues by executive direction, to the best interest of the Association.

There shall be voting by proxy, specified as to a specific item mailed directly to the chair by a member in good standing prior to the voting meeting, with signature on file. The latest dated proxy takes precedence over all others.

(Adopted 10/20/90)

 **ARTICLE Xll**

**ELECTIONS**

**Section 1.**

The President, within a reasonable time prior to the annual meeting, shall appoint a nominating committee, consisting of three (3) members in good standing, none of whom are officers of the Association, and direct such committee to prepare and submit to the annual meeting a slate of officers recommended for the ensuing year. The manner of voting for officers such meeting shall be by ballot. Additional nominations for any office may be made from the floor prior to the voting on the submitted slate of officers.

**ARTICLE Xlll**

**COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.**

The President, upon taking office, shall, within a reasonable time thereafter, appoint the members and chairmen of such committees he deems requisite for the ensuing year. The chairman of all committees shall submit to the Board of Directors their respective programs for consideration and appropriate action.

**ARTICLE XIV**

**EVENTS**

**Section 1.**

The Committee or individual assigned to sponsor or conduct an event shall be responsible for planning and organizing the event, preparing a budget or financial plan for the event if an expenditure of association funds is involved, ensuring that the Association membership is made aware of the event, ensuring that the event is conducted as planned and a report of the event is made to the membership at the next meeting after the even. If the event involves use of association funds, a financial report enumerating all expenditures and receipts shall be provided to the Treasurer prior to the next meeting and all money shall be turned over to the Treasurer with the report. All requests for advance payment and reimbursements must be approved by the Board of Directors. All requests for reimbursements shall be accompanied by receipts or copies of agreement or contracts, (Adopted 06/12/88)

 **ARTICLE XV **

**ORGANIZATION PROCEDURE**

 **Section 1.**

Amendments to the within By-Laws may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership at any regular or special meeting of the Association at which there IS at least a quorum present, provided also that due written notice of such meeting and any proposed amendment shall have been given at least two (2) weeks prior to such meeting.

**Section 2.**

The Association may be dissolved as provided by Statute and upon adoption of a Resolution for such purpose by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a meeting called for such purpose and upon specific written notice to the membership of at least two (2) weeks and at which meeting there is a quorum present. In the event the Association is dissolved, no member or group of members shall receive any benefit from the assets of the Association, but such assets remaining after the payment of the outstanding obligations, shall be divided equally between the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, and Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, specifically to be used in each named school for the purchase and/or maintenance and/or development of equine medical and surgical equipment. (Amended 2009)

**Section 3.**

"Robert's Rules of Order" shall constitute the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically provided by the within By-Laws.

**Original By-Laws adopted November 16, 1986. Amendments adopted as noted.**