

NEW YORK STATE HIGH SCHOOL RODEO ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BY-LAWS AND RULES

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization shall be the "New York State High School Rodeo Association, Incorporated".

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND AIMS

1. To maintain order and standards as set up by the National High School Rodeo Association.
2. To promote high school rodeo on a state wide scale and work toward this goal by bringing statewide recognition to this activity for students.
3. To promote sportsmanship, horsemanship, and character, to promote the highest type of conduct at the various rodeos by setting up standards which will bring about this goal.
4. To promote a closer relationship among the people interested in this activity and the organization that they represent.
5. To increase and maintain interest of the high school students in rodeos and other functions of the Nation.
6. To encourage boys and girls to attend high school, and participate in rodeos, and then to attend college or some other form of higher education,
7. To promote strong representation by the NYSHSRA at the National High and Jr. High School Rodeo Finals.
8. There will be no discrimination due to race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.
9. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers or other persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in paragraphs 1 through 8 hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and to participate in or intervene in, including the publishing or distribution of statement(s), any political campaign on behalf of any candidates for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on

any other activities not permitted to carry on: (A) by corporation exempt from Federal Income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), or by a corporation contribution(s) to which are deductible under Sections 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of

10. 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

11. In the event of dissolution of this nonprofit organization, any assets belonging to the New York State High School Rodeo Association, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the corporation, will dispose of assets of the corporation inclusively for the purposes of the corporation and in such manner or to such or organization or organizations organized and operating exclusively for charitable, education, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Law) as the Board of this corporation shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation has been located, as said court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purpose.

### ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership shall be open to anyone wishing to support and perpetuate the sport of rodeo and high school involvement in the sport.

B. Membership shall be:

1. Contestant Membership: The contestant membership in the Association will be open to all high school, middle school and fifth grade students (grade 5-12) eligible to compete in approved junior and high school rodeos who are interested in the work of the Association and have paid the required membership fee, which will be set by the Board of Directors and is subject to change as occurs in the National and State policies.

C. Any person becoming a member of this Association shall comply with all of its rules, By-Laws and decisions and shall be bound by same.

D. Any affiliate student or adult attending a NYSHSRA Rodeo event, who make themselves incompatible to the operation of the state's program by word or deed, may be suspended for a period established by the Board of Directors. The person must have a majority vote of the Board of Directors to be reinstated after suspension.

E. Contestant members and adult members shall only be entitled to vote at the annual membership meeting. Contestants are given one vote as well as one vote per

contestant to one parent/guardian. Sponsoring members and honorary members hold no voting rights.

#### ARTICLE IV. DUES

A. Dues vary according to the type of membership and subject to changes as according to State and National policies.

B. All dues are payable to NHSRA.

C. All members must be current paid members before May 1st to be eligible for voting.

D. Membership dues and properly completed applications must be received by the State Secretary no later than one (1) week prior to call-ins for a given rodeo to allow time for processing if a member wants to compete at that rodeo.

E. Any member who resigns, withdraws from the Association shall forfeit all rights, claims and interest arising from Association with membership in the New York State High School Rodeo Association.

#### ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

A. There shall be two (2) groups of officers in the New York State High School Rodeo Association:

1. Adult

2. Contestants

B. Adult Officers

1. The officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and will be elected from Board of Director members, by the Board of Directors at their Organizational Meeting.

2. Any officer, by election, may succeed himself or herself in office.

3. The National Director shall be recommended by the general membership to the National Association. The National Director must be a resident of the State of New York. The National Director's term shall be dictated by the current NHSRA By-Laws.

C. Student Officers

1. The officers of students shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and State Queen.

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

A. Student Officer shall perform the duties usually performed by such officer in the student matters of the Association.

1. The student officers will represent the contestant membership on the Board of Directors. The student officer shall have one (1) vote on the Board of Directors, with that vote to be cast by the highest ranking officer present.

B. Adult officers shall perform the duties usually performed by such officers in business matters of the Association together with such duties as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

1. Duties of the President. The President shall be elected annually and assume the duties on or before August 1 and continue to the following July 31st. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors (unless he/she cannot attend and appoints the Vice President to conduct the meeting) and at the annual meeting of the Association and shall have the specific responsibility for advising as to the appointment of all committees and the President and National Director shall be ex-officio members of all such committees. In general, the President shall be responsible for the operation and organization of the Association. The President does not vote unless there is a tie between the Board Members. Therefore, the President will vote only to break a tie.

2. Duties of the Vice President. The Vice President shall perform such duties as are delegated to him or her by the President from time to time and in the absence of the President shall conduct meetings of the Association.

1. The Vice President shall nominate the official timers and notify the Board of Directors.

3. Duties of the Secretary. As Secretary, he or she shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and keep the record of attendance at such meetings and prepare all notice of attendance required to be sent to members of the Board and/or the general membership and be responsible for the conduct of all correspondence of the Board at its direction. The Secretary shall appoint a Rodeo secretary with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall be responsible for the Official notification to the student and adult membership on the point system approved by the Board of Directors at the organizational meeting.

a. The Rodeo Secretary may or may not be a member of the Board of Directors. The Rodeo Secretary is not an officer and reports to the Secretary.

1. The Rodeo Secretary is responsible for updating the points and posting updated points to the approved site for members to view.

4. Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be bonded and have the responsibility for the funds of the Association and shall be responsible for the collection of all accounts receivable in accordance with directions received from the Board of Directors from time to time. He or she shall have the responsibility for keeping the proper books of accounts and manage the records of the Association in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Treasurer shall present at the Organization Meeting of the Association a finance statement for the preceding fiscal year and in addition prepare a budget for the next year to the membership. A financial report shall be present to all Board members at each quarterly meeting.

A. All monies left in the Association accounts, except for an amount designated by the Board of Directors to begin the next year, will be distributed among the national team members equally to help defray their expenses. Money designated as travel money by the Board of Directors shall be distributed at the National Finals Rodeo after the first go-around. Any contestant that is disqualified on a rules violation will not receive travel money..

5. Duties of the National Director: The National Director's term of office and responsibilities are outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA). The New York State High School Rodeo Association (NYSHSRA) shall be responsible for their National Director or designee's legitimate expenses while attending National Meetings (ex: Mid-Winter Meeting) including the National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR) and the National Junior High Finals Rodeo (NJHFR).

C. The student and adult officers shall perform those duties set by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

- A. The annual meeting of the Association should be held at the rodeo preceding the State High School Rodeo Finals at a place designated by the State Board of Directors. If there is not a date chosen prior to the finals then the annual meeting must take place before the conclusion of the NYSHSRA finals.
1. Note of date, time, and place of the annual meeting shall be sent to each member within each district twenty (20) days prior to said meeting.
  2. The purpose of the meeting will be to conduct the student affairs and business of the Association and to elect the Board of Directors.
  3. The student members shall elect from their members at the student meeting held at the annual meeting each year, a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
  4. The student officers shall have the responsibility of keeping the student members

informed of the proceedings of the Association, promoting new members, organizing student committees and assistance for the New York State Rodeo Finals, and promoting the purposes of the Association.

a. Meetings of the student members of the Association whether general or special may convene by order of the student officers for any time and place in New York.

B. The order of business at the annual meeting will be prepared at the beginning of the meeting and shall include:

1. Roll call
2. President's message
3. Approve minutes from prior Annual Meeting of the Association
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Report from National Director
9. Adjournment

C. No votes by absentee shall be allowed at any meeting unless prior approval has been granted by the President to participate via video or teleconference.

#### ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTOR

- A. The business affairs of the Association shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors. They shall have the right to do all things convenient and necessary in conducting the affairs of the State Association. They shall establish major administrative policies and devise measures for the Association's growth and development. They shall select the site for the annual State Finals Rodeo and direct the planning and staging of this activity.
- B. The Board of Directors will be elected by and from the general membership at the annual meeting. Terms of office shall coincide with the fiscal year(s) and will begin on August 1st and end July 31st of the year(s) for which elected. The officers shall be elected by the NYSHSRA Board of Directors and will perform the duties as stated in Article V and VI of the By-Laws. Each officer will serve a one (1) year term and may succeed him or herself in office by election as stated in Article V.B.2. Each Director seat will be a three year term. Beginning in 2017, the 4 Board of Directors seats that were a one year term shall move to a three year term in 2018, the 4 seats serving a 2 year term shall move to a three year term. By 2019 all eleven seats on the board will serve staggered three year terms.
- a. No more than one family member at any one time seated on the Board in a voting capacity.
- C. The State Board of Directors shall be composed of a maximum of eleven (11) members, plus the student officers and National Director. In the event of decease, dismissal, removal, resignation, or other causes of disqualification, the Board of Directors may elect a qualified successor to serve

until a successor can be duly elected by the membership at the next annual meeting to complete the unexpired terms of the said Director(s) or Officer(s).

- a. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held quarterly. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President on ten (10) days' notice to each Director, either personally, by e-mail and shall be held at such time and place as is specified in the notice thereof..
- b. In the intervals between meetings of the Board of Directors, the President of the Association may refer and submit by e-mail to the members, definite questions relating to the affairs of the Association which in the opinion of the President requires the immediate action of the Board. The results of such a referendum requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- c. A minimum of five (5) Directors present shall constitute a quorum to do business.
- d. There shall be an executive committee of the Board of Directors, composed of the President, Vice-President, National Director, Secretary and Treasurer, that shall have the power to transact business of an emergency nature between the Board of Directors meetings.
- e. The Board may elect to appoint itself a committee of the whole to act on specific matters as directed by the Board prior to a regular Board meeting.
- f. Two (2) delegates may attend the NHSRA annual meeting and Mid Winter Meeting with the National Director.
- g. Any Board member missing two (2) unexcused Board of Directors meetings may be removed from the Board of Directors. Any Board member missing three (3) unexcused Board of Directors meetings shall be automatically removed from office unless prior approval was granted by the President.
- h. Members of the Board of Directors shall not use their position for personal gain.

#### ARTICLE IX: STATE CONTEST

A. The State Rodeo Finals shall be conducted under the same rules and regulations as set forth in Article IX of the Constitution and By-Laws of the National High School Rodeo Association, Inc. If, at any time, these rules and By-Laws are not complied with, New York shall not qualify to enter the National Rodeo Finals. A contestant must attend at least (2) qualifying rodeos in order to enter and compete at the State Rodeo Finals.

1. To enter the State Rodeo Finals, a contestant must have enrolled in the insurance plan approved by the National Board of Directors and be current in membership dues.

2. The State Finals will consist of two go rounds and an average.

B. The Organizational meeting will be held after State Finals and on or before August 1st. . At this meeting, the new Board will establish the rules and regulations for the year concerning the qualifying rodeos and the state finals. The rules and regulations will be in accord with NHSRA and not conflict in any way with NHSRA rules and regulations. Once these rules and regulations are approved in this organizational meeting, they will not be amended or changed until the first Board meeting of the next fiscal year. Requests for rule changes must be submitted in writing to the Secretary ten (10) days prior to the first meeting of a new fiscal year, and will be considered by the Board for the new year.

ARTICLE X: BONDING OF OFFICERS

- A. The Secretary and/or Treasurer shall be bonded at the expense of the Association.
- B. The Budget and Finance committee shall be appointed by the President at the annual meeting. This committee shall review the budget and finances for that fiscal year and consist of three (3) members (none of which may be an officer) and shall report to the Board at its organizational meeting.
- C. The NYSHSRA shall purchase Officer and Director liability insurance for all Directors, Officers and National Director at the Associations expense.

ARTICLE XI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

- A. At all times, the National High School Rodeo Association, Inc. rules, regulations, constitution, and By-Laws will supersede those of the New York State High School Rodeo Association.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

- A. These By-Laws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Association by a two thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided the proposed amendment(s) shall have been submitted to the membership for examination at least two (2) weeks prior to their enactment.

Revised February 22, 2023

