

# **SILVER SANDS BRIDLE CLUB, INC.**

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I** **ORGANIZATION**

The name of this non-profit organization shall be Silver Sands Bridle Club, Inc. (which is qualified as a tax-exempt "social club" under section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code), and shall be located at 625 Tomoka Farms Road, New Smyrna Beach, Florida, 32168, in Volusia County, with Post Office Box 291571. Port Orange, Florida, 32129 as its mailing address.

### **ARTICLE II** **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this organization is to encourage, promote, and develop the owning, training, showing, and breeding of grade and purebred horses. Silver Sands Bridle Club strives to encourage fellowship and co-mingling among its members at such horse shows, competitions, and clinics and also strives to encourage and educate members of area 4-H clubs in the practice of equine activities.

### **ARTICLE III** **PURPOSE**

As a non-profit volunteer organization, none of Silver Sands Bridle Club's operations shall result in any form of direct or indirect pecuniary gain to its members. Further, no individual member of SSBC may profit in any way from the activities of the club, as it is contrary to the nature of the volunteer-based not-for-profit organization that is also qualified as a tax exempt social club under section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **ARTICLE IV** **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1:**

The membership of Silver Sands Bridle Club, Inc. shall consist of three member classes: (1) general members, (2) exhibition members, and (3) lifetime honorary members.

## SECTION 2:

General Membership in this volunteer-based organization shall be granted to all persons who satisfy the following requirements:

- (i) such person has completed and filed a membership application with the club,
- (ii) such person has paid the application fee provided in Article V,
- (iii) such person has attended three (3) member meetings within the previous six (6) months,
- (iv) such person has completed three (3) volunteer work shifts within the previous six (6) months,
- (v) such person must read and agree with the Bylaws of Silver Sands Bridle Club, Inc., and
- (vi) such person must be confirmed by a majority of the members present at a general membership meeting.

For purposes of this section, the term "person" means an adult individual (over 18 years of age) or a family group, which may consist of parents and their children under the age of 18. Any individual of a family group member who is over the age of 18 (or later turns 18 after the family group becomes a member as provided herein) shall automatically become an individual general member upon such person's payment of the individual membership dues set forth in Article V.

## SECTION 3:

An "active" general member of Silver Sands Bridle Club, Inc. shall participate in at least six (6) club meetings and six (6) club functions (i.e. working at shows, participating on work days. or participating on club committees) per year (Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>...Aug 31<sup>st</sup>). A general member, through the grant of a hardship exception by the Board, may participate in additional club functions as a substitute for attendance at member meetings in order to attain (or maintain) "active" general member status. Such hardship exceptions may be based on work schedules that conflict with or preclude a member from attending a member meeting. Only "active" general members are entitled to vote at membership meetings (see Article VI). A family group that qualifies as an "active" general member is entitled to a maximum of two (2) votes at membership meetings (see Article VI).

## SECTION 4:

In order to maintain general membership status, adult individual members are required to work three (3) work shifts per year. In order for a family consisting of two (2) or more adults to maintain general membership status, the adult family members are required to work a total of six (6) work shifts per year. For a family consisting of only one (1) adult, the individual work shifts requirements (three (3) work shifts per calendar year) shall apply.

#### SECTION 5:

Exhibition Membership in this volunteer-based organization shall be granted to all persons who meet the following requirements:

- (i) such person has completed and filed a signed membership application with the club which shall include an express assumption of all inherent risks associated with equine activities and an acknowledgment that neither the Club nor any of its members will be held liable for any such inherent risks associated with equine activities.
- (ii) such person has paid the \$1.00 application fee each calendar year, and
- (iii) such person wishes to join Silver Sands Bridle Club in order to show their horses in club shows, to co-mingle with the other members who share a common interest in equestrian activities, and to otherwise participate in equestrian events held at the Silver Sands Bridle Club facility.

#### SECTION 6

Exhibition members will be granted the right and privilege to show their horse(s) in any equestrian event held at the Silver Sands Bridle Club facility, for which they otherwise qualify. Exhibition members shall have access to the Club's internet website for purposes of viewing event schedules, information and the Club's newsletter. Exhibition members may attend regularly scheduled Club member meetings; however, exhibition members do not have the right to vote at any Club meeting. Furthermore, exhibition members do not have any rights to the distribution of the Club assets upon disbandment of the Club as provided in Article X.

#### SECTION 7:

Honorary and Lifetime Membership in this volunteer-based organization may be conferred upon any person who is in sympathy with and aids the objectives of this club. The name of the proposed candidate for honorary or lifetime membership must be approved by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors before the name is submitted to the general membership for voting on at a regular meeting of the members. The honorary or lifetime member is exempt from payment of dues, may attend meeting and activities of the club, may serve on special committees, may vote. but may not hold elective office in the organization.

#### SECTION 8: Termination of Membership

Pursuant to section 617.0601(5) of the Florida Statutes, the membership of any class of member may be terminated on any of the following grounds

- (i) A member fails to make the payment of his or her membership dues before the end of the March for any given year.
- (ii) A member fails to comply with the membership eligibility, attendance and participation requirements (other than the payment of membership dues) for a specific class of membership for a period 90 days after receiving written notice of such noncompliance.

- (iii) A member fails to abide by the By-laws, Articles of Incorporation, policies, rules, and/or regulations of Silver Sands Bridle Club or otherwise engages in any conduct or acts in any manner that is detrimental, disruptive, and/or injurious to the purpose, objectives, activities or operations of Silver Sands Bridle Club.

The initial determination of whether any of the above-described grounds for membership termination are applicable to a particular member shall be made by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority decision of the Board of Directors (at any meeting of the Board of Directors). Such determination of the Board of Directors shall be ratified and become effective immediately upon the approval of such determination by a majority of the members present at the next member meeting. The attendance of the terminated member at such member meeting shall not be a prerequisite or otherwise impact the effectiveness of the membership termination determined under the procedures set forth herein. The termination of membership hereunder shall operate to effectively relieve the terminated member from all further rights, access and interest in and to the property, assets and privileges of the Silver Sands Bridle Club. Following such termination, the terminated member shall no longer be authorized to enter the premises of the Silver Sands Bridle Club or participate in any of its activities without the prior written consent of the President (or other authorized officer) of the Silver Sands Bridle Club.

## **ARTICLE V** **DUES**

### **SECTION 1:**

The annual dues for family membership shall be \$50.00 per year and individual membership shall be \$25.00 per year. Annual dues shall be due and payable on January on each year. There will be a \$20.00 non-refundable application fee. Said fee shall not be applicable toward membership dues. Any member who fails to pay his or her dues before the end of the last day of January shall be suspended from the privileges of membership. The annual dues for exhibition members shall be \$1.00 per year payable on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The duration of their membership shall be the same as other Club members (1 year). Exhibition members shall not be subject to a late fee or re-instatement fee.

### **SECTION 2:**

If dues are paid (postmarked) after January 31<sup>st</sup> and before March 31<sup>st</sup> (postmarked) a \$20.00 late fee shall apply. If dues are not paid by March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Club membership shall expire and the member shall be required to begin the initial application process for membership as outlined in Article IV.

### **SECTION 3:**

The fiscal year of the club shall be the calendar year.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**MEETINGS & VOTING**

**SECTION 1:**

This organization shall meet monthly on the last Monday of the month unless this date falls on a legal holiday and then the meeting will be the next day which is Tuesday. All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m, unless another time is set by the Board of Directors

**SECTION 2:**

The Board of Directors shall meet monthly on the second Monday at 7:00 p.m. or more often if necessary with a 24-hour notice to all Board Members.

**SECTION 3:**

Special meetings of the members may be called by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 4:**

The annual election meeting shall be held in November of each year with installation of officers to follow at the end of the meeting in December.

**SECTION 5:**

A quorum shall consist of fifteen (15) active members at any general membership meeting.

**SECTION 6:**

Order of Business: Call to order, Salute to the Flag, Reading of the minutes of previous meeting by the Secretary and their approval. Treasurer's report and its approval. Reports of officers and committees, correspondence, unfinished business, new business, election of officers (if any), new memberships submitted for voting on and adjournment. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standing authority on all matters not covered herein.

**SECTION 7:**

Each active individual general member shall be entitled to one (1) vote at any and all meetings of this organization (provided that such individual general member is otherwise qualified to vote under these Bylaws).

Each family that is an active general member shall be entitled to a maximum of two (2) votes. Each voter for a family general member must be an adult and present at any given meeting. For example, if only one adult and minor child are present at a meeting, then such family general member shall only be entitled to only one (1) vote (provided that such family general member is otherwise qualified to vote under these Bylaws). Notwithstanding the foregoing, a parent of a family general member may assign a child's membership rights (through a limited power of attorney or otherwise) to an adult relative for the limited purpose of allowing the family general member to have two (2) votes at a meeting, provided that such adult relative is also present at such meeting.

No exhibition member shall have the right to vote in meetings of this organization.

Honorary or lifetime members shall be entitled to one (1) vote at any and all meetings of this organization.

## **ARTICLE VII** **OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1:**

The elective officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

### **SECTION 2:**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers and three (3) elected Board members and the Show Committee Chairperson. The immediate past president shall automatically become a Board member for one year following his/her term as President. All elected officers and board members should be present at all Board of Directors meetings. Nominees for the Board Position of Show Chairperson shall be a member of the Show Committee for the prior two (2) years.

### **SECTION 3:**

All officers and directors of the organization shall be elected at the annual election meeting and all nominees must be a current active member by Aug 31<sup>st</sup> of the current Year as will an active member the prior year to qualify for office. They shall serve for one (1) year, or until their successors are duly qualified and elected. The President shall not hold the office more than four (4) consecutive years. The Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall hold office as long as the membership desires.

SECTION 4:

Vacancy in Office: If any officer fails to discharge the duty of his/her office for three (3) consecutive meetings without satisfactory excuse to the Board of Directors, the office shall be declared vacant by the President, or the Board of Directors if it is the office of President. A new officer or director who meets the qualifications of office shall be appointed by the President. If the vacant office is that of the President, The Board of Directors will by a majority vote appoint a new President.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

SECTION 1:

The general supervision and direction of the affairs of this organization shall be vested in the Board of Directors and they shall audit all bills against this organization, carry on all business and other activities of this organization.

SECTION 2:

The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and he/she shall perform all the duties incident to this office. The President shall have the power to appoint such committees as he/she deems necessary from time to time. The Vice President shall act for the President in his/her absence.

SECTION 3:

The duties of the President are as follows: To open the sessions at the time the assembly is to meet by taking the chair and calling the members to order. To announce the business before the assembly in the order in which it is to be acted upon. To recognize members entitled to the floor. To state and put to vote all matters which are regularly moved on or necessarily arise in the course of the proceedings, and to announce the results of the vote. To protect the assembly from annoyance from evidently frivolous or dilatory action by refusing to recognize them and to assist in the rights of the members. The President shall have the power to select additional Secretaries or other appointed personnel as required with the approval of the general membership.

SECTION 4:

The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep a record of all membership meetings of this organization and the various proceedings of the Board of Directors, upon which all minutes of such meetings shall be presented at the regular monthly meetings for discussion, and revised, or to be voted upon to stand as read. The Secretary shall verify that all nominations of the nominating committee are eligible to hold office. The Secretary shall also prepare a list of those members who have been Active members ninety (90) days prior to the election and are currently Active members. The names on this list are the only members who will be issued a ballot for voting in the general election. The Secretary may designate specific duties to the Assistant Secretary as required.

SECTION 5:

The duties of the Assistant Secretary shall be to act in the absence of the Secretary.

SECTION 6:

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all funds and pay out same upon order of the Board of Directors. He/She shall deliver all funds and records to his/her successor within ten (10) days following the installation of the new Treasurer. All monies of this organization shall be handled by the Treasurer, and deposits made into the bank designated by the Board of Directors, and all checks against the account of this organization shall be signed and countersigned by the President and/or Vice President. Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer. (The Secretary may also sign in the absence of the President and Vice President.) The Treasurer shall present a monthly treasurer's report at the regular monthly meeting and keep a record of all financial transactions. The Treasurer may designate specific duties to the Assistant Treasurer as required.

SECTION 7:

The duties of the Assistant Treasurer shall be to act in the absence of the Treasurer.

SECTION 8:

All books and records of the Silver Sands Bridle Club, Inc. must be audited annually and a report of same given to the members at their regular monthly meeting.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**ELECTIONS**

SECTION 1:

Prior to each annual election meeting, the Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of five (5) active members to select nominees for the various offices and Board of Directors. The names of such nominees shall be placed on the ballot to be used in the election of officers and directors. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to nominate at least one (1) candidate for each office and three (3) Board of Directors and a Show Committee Chairperson. Nominations shall also be taken from the floor. The nomination committee shall be in charge of the making of the ballots and shall supervise the annual election.

SECTION 2:

All voting for officers of this organization shall be by secret ballot and a majority vote shall be required to elect. All counting of the ballots shall be done in front of the members present, by the Vice President/or the Treasurer and two (2) members from the general membership, to be picked by the President.



SECTION 3:

General members who: (i) have been active for at least ninety (90) days prior to an election, and (ii) are current with respect to the dues required under these Bylaws are eligible to vote in an annual election of Officers and Board members. Honorary or lifetime members are also eligible to vote at any and all general membership meetings and annual elections of Officers and Board members. No exhibition members shall have the right to vote in annual elections of Officers and Board members.

**ARTICLE X**  
**DISBANDMENT**

In case of disbandment of this organization, the disbursements of all assets and property will be donated to the deserving charity of the club's choice, as stated in the charter. (Article XI of the Corporate Charter of this organization states, "Shall be distributed to a worthy cause as recommended by the Board and approved by a majority of the active members at the time of disbandment") Inasmuch as a non-profit group is only trustee to the assets, this procedure is not in conflict with the Statutes of this State. Disbandment shall be by unanimous vote of all active members. All active members shall be notified by letter at least thirty (30) days prior to any meeting for the purpose of the taking of a vote for disbandment. Any active members unable to attend meeting of same may vote by absentee ballot.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

There shall be no alcoholic beverage, illegal drugs or profane language used during any competitions or business meetings. This organization shall not be held responsible for injury to either persons or animals or for damages to personal property at any given time.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**AMENDMENT & REVIEW OF BYLAWS**

SECTION 1:

Article X CANNOT BE altered or amended.

SECTION 2:

These bylaws may be altered or amended at any meeting of this organization (except Article X) providing a quorum of active members is present, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of active members present at such meeting. Provided that the proposed amendment has been presented in writing and read by the Secretary at a previous membership meeting.

SECTION 3:

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER says: "if a committee is appointed to revise the Bylaws and they report all corrections back at next meeting, this would be all the notice required, and the amendments could be immediately acted upon"

SECTION 4:

These Bylaws should be reviewed during the first quarter of each fiscal year and if deemed necessary revised.