

Constitution of the Equestrian Club

We, the students, faculty and staff of the University of Rochester, hereby establish the Equestrian Club of the University of Rochester and enact this Constitution for its government. Failure to follow this Constitution could result in revocation of Students' Association recognition of this group.

Article I. Purpose

The purpose of the Equestrian Club is to bring together individuals interested in improving members' riding skills and equestrian knowledge through meetings, lessons and competition.

Article II. Meetings

Section A. General meetings shall occur at least once per month.

Section B. Executive board meetings shall occur at least twice per semester.

Section C. A meeting is valid if a quorum, plus one officer, is present.

Section D. A quorum is defined as half of the current membership.

Section E. The Chair shall preside over the meetings and take roll.

Article III. Membership and Voting

Section A. Eligibility

1. All University of Rochester students, faculty, staff, and graduate students shall be eligible for associate membership.
2. Full membership will be exclusive to University of Rochester undergraduates who have paid the Students' Association Activities Fee.
3. Associate Membership is available to all others aforementioned.
4. Active members are defined as full or associate members who have signed the Rider Contract, paid dues, take lessons, attend meetings, and participate in fundraising.
5. Members are deemed inactive if no riding lessons are taken, and/or member is in violation of the Rider Contract.
6. Only full, active members may take lessons with the team.
7. Members unable to ride solely due to illness or injury shall not be deemed inactive if they are otherwise in compliance with this Constitution .

Section B. Voting

1. Voting on any issue is official only if the meeting is valid.
2. Members have one vote on a given issue, excluding the President who relinquishes privilege of suffrage unless there is a tie.
3. Only full, active members may vote.
4. All decisions excluding elections shall be arrived at by simple majority using a hand vote. The President shall only vote to break a tie.

Article IV. Officer Qualifications and Duties

Section A. Officers

1. President
2. Secretary
3. Business Manager
4. Show Team Captain
5. Fundraising Chair

6. Social Chair

Section B. Duties of Officers

1. All officers must be full, active members.
2. All officers shall promote active recruitment of new members.
3. All officers shall enforce this constitution.
4. All officers are responsible for knowing and enforcing the sections of the Student's Association constitution and by-laws that apply to this group.
5. Specific Duties of Officers:
 - a. President: Shall have had sufficient equestrian experience to lead members of the Equestrian Club. The president shall also be responsible for all duties listed in Club Sports Manual, represent the Equestrian Club in dealings with the University and community, and shall act as meeting Chair. The president shall also maintain a relationship with the barn owner and trainer that allows for candid and respectful interactions that are in the best interest of the team.
 - b. Secretary: Shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records, managing the website of the Club and shall assume Presidential responsibilities in the absence of the President.
 - c. Business Manager: Shall handle all financial matters of the Equestrian Club and Show Team in accordance with Club Sports Manual.
 - d. Show Team Captain: Shall be in charge of all aspects of equestrian competition and preparation thereof and have practical experience in equestrian competition.
 - e. Fundraising Chair: Shall organize and oversee all aspects of Club fundraising.
 - f. Social Chair: Shall be responsible for organizing team activities not related to practice or competition for the purpose of general socialization.

Section C. Nominations and Elections

1. Any full, active member may nominate himself/herself, or another person who has been a full, active member for at least a semester, for any office.
2. Votes will be taken by secret ballot and determined by a simple majority.
3. Elections for President, Secretary, Fundraising Chair, Business Manager and Social Chair shall occur between March 1st and April 1st.
4. Elections for Show Team Captain shall follow Committee policy.
5. Term of office shall be one academic year unless elected mid-year.
6. Mid-year elections are for the term of one semester.

Section D. Vacancies, Resignations and Impeachment

1. Following a vacancy of an office, the position is to be filled within one week.
2. Any member of the Executive Board may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the club accompanied by a petition, capturing one fourth (1/4) of the membership, and a list of grievances.
3. If a vote of impeachment is to take place, the officer in question must be given one week notice prior to the vote. Any member of the group can call for a vote of impeachment.

Section E. Advisor

1. The Club advisor shall be a member of the faculty with sufficient availability to sign necessary paperwork and advise the club on community issues as needed.
2. The Advisor shall be selected by the Executive Board.
3. The Club shall also seek advising from the team coaches and barn owner.
4. The President and Show Team Captain shall meet with the trainers and barn owner at the end of each semester to gather and generate positive and constructive feedback.

Article V. Finances

Section A. Dues shall be collected no later than the second meeting of each semester.

Section B. The Equestrian Club desires funding to help offset the costs of riding lessons, to compensate drivers from the group for the use of their vehicles to and from the stable, and to help with competition fees.

Section C. Fund raising shall occur several times throughout the semester.

Section D. Items of donation must be voted on and approved by the executive board. Items which will incur future expenses must be voted on and approved by the team.

Article VI. Committees

Section A. Purpose of Committee/Mission Statement

1. Show Team: exists to provide full, active members of the Equestrian Club the opportunity to compete in intercollegiate equestrian competition through the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association.
2. Committee operation must be in accordance with the Equestrian Club Constitution.
3. This committee shall exist within the Equestrian Club, and shall not attempt to identify itself as an independent entity.

Section B. Chairperson Duties and Membership

1. The Show Team Captain shall preside over the committee and shall report directly to the Club during regular meetings. In addition, at least one other executive board member shall attend Show Team meetings.
2. The Show Team Captain shall be a full, active member and have been a member of the Show Team for at least one semester prior to running for office.
3. Elections for Show Team Captain shall occur no later than one month prior to the last IHSA competition of the academic year.
4. Eligibility – All full, active members who sign the Show Team Contract and are also eligible for IHSA competition shall be eligible for membership.

Section C. Meetings

1. Meetings shall be determined by the committee chairperson as needed.
2. Meetings shall follow the same rules as the Equestrian Club. The Show Team Captain shall act as Chair.
3. For the purposes of a quorum, membership is defined as the entire population of the committee.

Section D. Finances

1. Monies shall be made available from the Club account.
2. Of the percentage of the team also on the committee, one-half of that number shall be the proportion of funds set aside for Show Team expenses.
3. Club money must be used for University approved expenses.
4. Requests for additional money shall be brought before the President and Business Manager as needed.
5. The President and Business Manager shall confer funds as appropriate.
6. The Show Team shall conduct their own fundraising to help offset costs.

Article VII. Adoption of the Constitution

Section A. Two-thirds of a valid meeting must approve the Constitution.

Section B. The Constitution must be approved by Club Sports.

Section C. This constitution will be ratified upon approval of the Senate and the signature of the Speaker.

Section D. This constitution must not conflict with the Students' Association constitution or by-laws.

Article VIII. By-laws

Section A. By-laws must be approved by Club Sports.

Section B. At least a majority of a valid meeting Created on must approve the by-laws.

Section C. By-laws cannot conflict with this constitution or the Students' Association constitution or by-laws.

Article IX. Amendments

Section A. Adoption and ratification of amendments to this constitution shall follow the same procedure as adoption of the entire.

Article X. Hazing Policy

The harassment of one individual by another individual or group (sometimes called hazing) is not permitted by the Equestrian Club. Behavior prohibited under this rule include actions threatening substantial risk of physical or mental injury; actions exposing the individual to distressing, repulsive or alarming situations or sensations; forced consumption of alcohol or drugs; actions in the form of social pressure which might cause harm to an individual.

Article XI. Discrimination Policy

The University of Rochester Equestrian Club does not discriminate against any individual or group of individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, handicap, or religious, political, or ideological view or affiliations.


Signature of Officer Submitting Constitution

3/24/08
Date


Signature of SA Speaker Granting Approval

3/24/08
Date