

**FLORIDA HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT  
AND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
AMENDED AND REVISED BYLAWS  
(EFFECTIVE 08/05/2024)**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME, DEFINITIONS & PURPOSES**

**Section 1. Name:**

This Association (the "Association") shall be known as THE FLORIDA THOROUGHBRED HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, a DBA of THE FLORIDA HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC., a corporation, not-for-profit, organized and existing under and pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida.

**Section 2. Definitions:**

As used in these Bylaws the following terms shall have the definitions set forth herein, to wit:

(A) "National Association" shall mean The National Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, Inc. or The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

(B) "Board of Directors" and "Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Association.

(C) "Commission" shall mean the Florida Gaming Control Commission, of the State of Florida.

(D) "Horse" shall mean a thoroughbred racehorse two (2) years of age or older under the laws of Florida [Ch. 550 Fla. Stats.] and the rules of racing [Ch. 61D, Florida Administrative Code] in training by a trainer licensed by the Commission, which is not retired from racing and is not retired to breeding, either as a brood mare or stallion.

(E) "Benevolence Award" or "Benevolence Awards" shall mean an award of money or other benefits granted by the Association.

(F) In these Bylaws, where applicable, the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and the masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine, and vice versa, as the context may require.

### Section 3. **Purposes:**

The purposes of the Association, as set forth in the Association's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, are as follows:

(A) to advance, foster and promote, generally, the sport of thoroughbred horse racing and the thoroughbred horse racing industry in the State of Florida;

(B) to foster, promote and otherwise encourage a higher level of public awareness and acceptance of the thoroughbred horse racing industry in the State of Florida and better relations among its participants;

(C) to foster, promote, and improve business conditions generally of the thoroughbred horse racing industry and those persons engaged therein;

(D) to establish standards for racetrack conditions and equine care, safety, health, treatment, and well-being;

(E) to protect the safety of members, their stable personnel and horses; to work with racetrack management to develop appropriate training and stable area conditions, proper emergency preparedness and procedures, responsible vanning services and reasonable stabling arrangements, accommodations and schedules;

(F) to foster professional integrity among horsemen and the horse racing industry and to develop a code of ethics governing the behavior of those persons engaged therein;

(G) to cooperate with equine and humane organizations and public and private agencies, regulatory authorities, racing associations, racing commissions and other organizations located in Florida, including, for example, the Commission and its departments and subdivisions, and the public in formulating fair and appropriate laws, rules, regulations and conditions that affect in any manner pari-mutuel wagering and awards, and are deemed to be in the best interests of horsemen, their employees, backstretch personnel and the horse racing industry in general, and to ensure the enforcement of such rules is fair and equitable;

(H) to disseminate information and exchange ideas among its members and other industry associations and advise its members with regard to developments and trends in the horse racing industry;

(I) to represent the interests and property rights of its members in any matters concerning racing associations, jockey's organizations or any other thoroughbred horse racing industry related organization including, but not limited to, purse structure and distribution,

off-track betting, simulcasting of races, television rights, interest generated on members' monies, jockey's fees and any contracts involving the interests of horsemen;

(J) to represent the interests of its members before any local, state, or federal administrative, legislative and judicial fora including, but not limited to, the Commission with regard to all matters affecting horsemen and the horse racing industry;

(K) to inform and educate its members, horsemen generally, the horse racing industry and the public with regard to all aspects of the horse racing industry in the State of Florida and to foster a better understanding of the horse racing industry via publications, seminars, training programs, research and other activities and services;

(L) to secure available group benefits and discounts and to establish such other benefits and privileges for members in good standing as may be determined by the Board, including, but not limited to, providing benevolence to persons in need;

(M) in general, to assist its members in all matters affecting their interests in thoroughbred horse racing and horse racing industry in the State of Florida; and

(N) to perform any other act or do any other thing permitted by law not inconsistent with the purposes of the Association as stated herein.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **OFFICES**

#### **Section 1. Principal Office:**

The principal office of the Association, in the State of Florida, shall be located at the premises of Gulfstream Park Racing Association, Inc., in Broward County, Florida, or at any other place or places, as the Board may designate.

#### **Section 2. Additional Offices:**

The Association may have an additional office at each Florida thoroughbred racetrack which shall remain open during each racing meet, for the conduct of the business of the Association.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 1. Eligibility:**

Any individual owner who directly or indirectly, through an entity licensed by the Commission, owns a Horse, or a trainer, of a Horse, or is currently licensed as such by the Commission, shall be eligible for membership in the Association.

#### **Section 2. Membership:**

Any person eligible for membership in the Association in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section I above, shall automatically become a member at such time as such person, or the entity through which eligibility for membership is established, shall receive a license as an owner or trainer of Horses from the Commission, and shall be counted on the membership rolls of the Association ("Member") unless, within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of issuance of such license, written notice has been received by the Association that such person or entity declines membership.

#### **Section 3. Honorary Membership:**

Any person who has performed some distinguished service to the sport of thoroughbred racing and who is not already a member of this Association may be elected as an honorary member of this Association. Such election shall take place only at a meeting of the Board. An honorary member shall pay no dues or contributions to the Association and shall be entitled to all privileges of the Association except those of voting and holding office.

#### **Section 4. Membership Privileges:**

Membership in the Association shall confer upon all members the right to stand and participate in all general and special meetings of the Association and the right to one (1) vote in any Association election, as set forth in Article IV, Section 4, Sub-section (B), hereinbelow.

#### **Section 5. Duties of Membership:**

(A) It shall be the duty of every member of the Association to conduct himself or herself at all times in such manner as to merit the respect of the public and to act at all times in the best interests of the Association.

(B) Every member of the Association shall abide by the Bylaws of the Association.

(C) Purse Pool Deductions: The Association shall represent all Horse owners (each a "Horse Owner") and trainers (each a "Horse Trainer") in Florida in contract negotiations with thoroughbred Horserace Permit holders in Miami-Dade County, Broward County, and

Palm Beach County, Florida, and adjoining counties and may, through contracts with thoroughbred Horserace Permit holders conducting Horse racing meetings in any of the aforesaid counties, deduct, or cause to be deducted, from the purse pool, a sum of money that is up to, but not greater than, two (2%) percent of all purses earned by horses competing in Horse racing meetings in any of the aforesaid counties, which money shall be remitted directly to the Association.

#### **Section 6. Standing and Membership Rights:**

In order for a member to be eligible for the various benefits and privileges of membership (other than voting) in the Association, each such member must be in compliance with the following criteria:

(A) Horse Owner members (or their spouse licensed by the Commission) shall:

i. have continuously complied with the provisions of Article III, Section 5 above.

(B) Only individual Horse Owner or Horse Trainer Members who are in compliance with the provisions of Article III, as applicable, may run for a seat on the Board and otherwise participate in the programs of the Association.

#### **Section 7. Suspension and Expulsion:**

(A) A member of the Association may be suspended or expelled from membership in the Association by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board following a hearing for cause for violation of any provision of the Bylaws, for having engaged in conduct that is inconsistent with the best interests of the Association, or for illegal, unethical or unsportsmanlike conduct, or for failure to remain in good standing in accordance with the rules of racing adopted in the State of Florida. The member shall be given reasonable notice (ten (10) days) of such hearing. The member shall have the right to be heard in person or by counsel and to introduce evidence on behalf of such member. While a member is suspended by the Association, such member shall not be permitted to serve on the Board or on any committee of the Association, and no benefits of membership will be provided to such person by the Association. A member of the Association who has been suspended or expelled shall not be eligible to run for elected office, serve on the Board or on any committee of the Association until two (2) years has elapsed following the reinstatement of such member in the Association by the majority vote of the Board. An expelled member may, at any time after six (6) months from the date of expulsion, apply to the Board for reinstatement to membership, and the Board may grant or deny any such application in its sole discretion by the majority vote of the Board. (B) Any officer or director of the Association may be suspended or removed from office in the Association by the

affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board following a hearing for violation of any provision of the Bylaws or for any other cause or reason deemed detrimental to the best interests of the Association. A member of the Board who has been removed from the Board shall not be eligible to run for elected office in the Association, or serve on any committee of the Association, until two (2) years has elapsed following the removal of such member of the Board.

(C) Association members, officers, directors or employees who participate in conduct which the Board, by a two-thirds majority vote, determines to be detrimental to the best interests of the Association, or who misuses or abuses records of the Association, shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, expulsion or termination.

(D) Decisions of the Board made in accordance with, or pursuant to, Article III, Sections (A) and (B) above shall be final and shall not be subject to appeal or further review.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ELECTIONS AND VOTING**

#### **Section 1. Supervision of Elections:**

All Association elections shall be under the supervision of the Board. An Election and Nominating Committee composed of three (3) members shall be appointed by the President of the Association not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the nominating meeting. The members of the Election and Nominating Committee shall, from amongst its members, appoint a chair, and in the event that the Election and Nominating Committee members are unable to do so, then the President shall appoint the chair. No member of the Election and Nominating Committee shall be a candidate in the ensuing election. The three members appointed to the Election and Nominating Committee shall be responsible for seeing that the election is run in accordance with these Bylaws. Ballots shall be counted and accounted for by an independent party appointed by the Board (who is not running for office in the then transpiring election and is not employed by or related to any person running for office in the then transpiring election); and no one else shall have the right to attend the counting of ballots.

#### **Section 2. Elections:**

##### **(A) Election and Terms of Office:**

i. The affairs of the Association shall be managed and supervised by a board of no less than eleven (11) and up to fifteen (15) directors, who shall be divided into two (2) groups. The

Executive Director shall maintain a list of the seats allocated to each Group, based upon the historical allocation of seats to each such group. Elections shall be held biennially, and the terms of all Directors shall be four (4) years.

ii. Directors shall be elected from the membership of the Association.

iii. Seats for each Group of director candidates for election to the Board in each year shall consist of seats reserved for horse owners ("Owner Seat"), and seats reserved for horse trainers ("Trainer Seat").

(B) An election shall be held biennially by the membership to elect Directors, who shall hold office during their term and until successors are elected.

(C) At least thirty (30) days before the general nominating meeting called for the purpose of receiving nominations for Directors, the Election and Nominating Committee shall hold one or more meetings to plan for the upcoming election and coordinate the general nominating meeting. The Election and Nominating Committee shall hold a general nominating meeting ("Nominating Meeting") to receive nominations from the floor, nominating petitions and to announce the nominations, and the date of the general nominating meeting shall be deemed the date of each candidate's nomination. The Election and Nominating Committee shall neither make nor accept any nomination after adjournment of the Nominating Meeting.

The Nominating Meeting shall be at a racetrack designated by the Election and Nominating Committee which is then conducting a racing meeting. There must be at least fifty (50) members of the Association present at the Nominating Meeting to constitute a quorum. Those members present shall sign a list evidencing their presence. A nomination from the floor will be accepted if it receives the endorsement of not fewer than three (3) members present at the meeting, including the nominator and two (2) seconds, or is accompanied by a petition signed by no fewer than seventy-five (75) members of the Association.

Notice of the Nominating Meeting shall be given starting not fewer than thirty (30) days prior to the Nominating Meeting, by one or more of the following means and methods:

i. Announcement over the racetrack stable area public address system at least once each week for the four (4) weeks preceding the Nominating Meeting.

ii. Announcement over the race public address system during racing hours at least once each week for the four (4) weeks preceding the Nominating Meeting.

iii. Advertisement in the *Daily Racing Form* which is a national publication of general circulation amongst participants in the Horse racing industry.

iv. Notice on the racetrack “overnight” at least once each week for the four (4) weeks preceding the Nominating Meeting.

v. General Notice posted in each office of the Association, at the stable gate/track security office of each operating and/or open racetrack in South Florida, and office where entries are taken at each racetrack in South Florida with a then operating racing meeting in progress.

vi. Publication of notice in the Association newsletter, on the Association Website, in social media used by the Association, the Horsemen’s Journal or another publication of general circulation in the equine community in the State of Florida in the issue immediately preceding the general nominating meeting.

Such notice shall inform the members of their right to nominate, the methods of doing so, the date, time and place of the Nominating Meeting and all other information necessary to fully inform each member about the elective process.

### **Section 3. Candidates and Electioneering:**

The chairperson of the Election and Nominating Committee shall notify each candidate of his/her nomination by hand delivery, overnight courier, email (with read receipt confirmation) or certified mail as soon after the nominating meeting as possible and send to each candidate the Affidavit referred to in the following paragraph:

Within fifteen (15) days of the date that each candidate’s notice of his/her nomination for office was sent, each candidate shall complete and deliver to the Association Office (using the then published physical office address or email address of the Association) an Affidavit furnished by the Association that:

(A) The candidate fulfills the eligibility requirements for office provided in these Bylaws, or will fulfill the requirements for eligibility for office provided in these Bylaws on or before, but not later than, December 31 of the year preceding the date of each election, and the failure of any candidate to qualify as of December 31 of the year preceding the date of such election shall automatically result in the removal of each candidate not qualifying by such December 31 date from the ballot in the next ensuing election. The Board may, however, in its sole and absolute discretion, by not less than a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the Board, waive the candidate eligibility criteria set forth in these Bylaws, and may do so on a case-by-case basis.

(B) The candidate has completely read the Bylaws, including those provisions which pertain to elections and candidates, agrees to be bound by the Bylaws, and any/all

decision(s) of the Board with respect thereto, and will not initiate, or participate in, litigation against the Board, the Association or the members of the Association with respect thereto.

(C) The candidate will run for office, serve if elected and remain eligible for the office to which elected.

A candidate for office may also mail or email, to the Association Office with his/her affidavit a biographical and policy statement of not more than four hundred (400) words, and, a statement that such candidate has previously been removed from the Board or expelled from the Association and reinstated to membership, if that be the case. The statement shall be issued as the candidate's official statement by the Association. In all electioneering activities the privacy rights of members of the Association shall be respected by each candidate and the electioneering process may not be abused nor may it be intrusive.

A protest to a candidate or an election must be in writing and sent by Federal Express or certified mail to the Executive Director of the Association and must be postmarked or have other proof that same was sent not later than the seventh (7th) calendar day after the date that ballots were open and counted. Protests against the continued eligibility of elected Officers or Directors to serve must be in writing and sent to the Executive Director of the Association by Federal Express, certified mail or email (with read receipt confirmation) not later than seven (7) days following the discovery of facts supporting said protest. The burden shall be upon the protestant to prove that his/her protest is timely. Each protest shall contain a complete and definite statement of the acts which constitute the alleged violation, including dates and times. The maker must be prepared to substantiate the protest by personal testimony at a hearing or by sworn testimony, witnesses or other evidence. Upon the timely receipt of a protest, the President of the Association shall appoint a special committee to investigate the protest. The special committee will conduct a hearing within ten (10) days of the date the protest was received by the Executive Director of the Association. The special committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Board who shall, by majority vote, at the next regular meeting of the Board, resolve the protest, which resolution shall be final and shall not be subject to appeal or further review.

All expenses of any kind whatsoever incurred by protestants or those persons accused of violating any election rules shall be assumed and paid personally by said persons. No expenses of any kind will be assumed or paid by the Association on behalf of any candidate for office or protestant.

An elected candidate shall take office seven (7) calendar days after his/her election. The lodging of a protest to an election, a candidate or eligibility of an officer or director, shall not affect the status of an elected Officer or Director until a hearing has been held in accordance with these Bylaws.

(D) A Horse Trainer member who has started a Horse five (5) or more times during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the date of the election in which he/she is running for a seat on the Board may only run for a Trainer Seat on the Board. A Horse Owner member who has started a Horse five (5) or more times during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the date of the election in which he/she is running for a seat on the Board may only run for an Owner Seat on the Board. A person who is licensed by the Commission as both a Horse Owner and Horse Trainer who has started a Horse five (5) or more times as a Horse Trainer during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the date of the election in which he/she is running for a seat on the Board may only run for a Trainer Seat on the Board. Each person elected to a seat on the Board must, during the entire term of his/her directorship, maintain his/her eligibility as a Horse Trainer or Horse Owner by continuously complying with the requirements and provisions of Article III, Section 6(A) and (B) above.

#### **Section 4. Manner of Voting:**

(A) Voting shall be by secret ballot. The Board may, in its discretion, engage an independent qualified accountant to oversee balloting and to tabulate the ballots.

(B) The general election of the Association shall be held, and ballots will be counted on the fifteenth (15th) day of March (or if such day falls on a Sunday or State holiday or National holiday on the next business day thereafter) in each year. Each owner and trainer member of the Association shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote in each general election of the Association.

(C) Voting: To be entitled to vote, each member must have a current license issued by the Commission as an owner or trainer of Horses. Elections will be conducted via digital voting.

(D) A member shall vote only once in an election by voting digitally in the manner set forth in Section 4(B)

(E) The Association shall establish a secure system for voting over the internet (which shall include a password protected member login unique to each member), with such system (and any modifications, alterations or enhancements thereof) to be approved by resolution of the Board. Each member of the Association shall be assigned a discreet and unique

personal identification number ("PIN"), and that PIN shall be used and recorded when (i) a member requests a ballot in person or by telephone in the manner set forth in Section 4(D) immediately above, or (ii) when a member casts his/her vote via the internet. Each member shall be entitled to vote only once in an election.

(F) The results of each election shall be tabulated, counted and certified as follows:

i. The seats reserved for a horse owner shall be filled by the horse owner candidates receiving the two highest number of votes cast for horse owner seats on the Board in the subject election.

ii. The seats reserved for a horse trainer shall be filled by the horse trainer candidates receiving the two highest number of votes cast for horse trainer seats on the Board in the subject election.

iii. The open unreserved seat shall be filled by the horse owner or horse trainer candidate who receives the next highest number of votes cast after filling the seats in subsections (F)(i) and (F)(ii) immediately above.

iv. The Chairperson of the Election and Nominating Committee shall promptly report and certify, by letter to the Association, the results of each election and that the election was conducted in conformity with Article IV hereof.

(G) In the event of a tie in any race for any seat on the Board in an election, the Board, as composed with the newly elected Directors (except those in the tying race), shall resolve the tie by majority vote of a quorum of the Board.

#### **Section 5. Other Organizations – Conflicts of Interest:**

No person who is or whose spouse is an officer or director of, or employed by a Racing Association, supervisory entity, rival racing or other organization involving a conflict of interest shall be put on the ballot as or be a candidate for Director of the Association, provided that this prohibition may be waived by vote of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board and any such waiver is in the best interest of the Association. Notwithstanding the foregoing, such a candidate may make himself eligible without first obtaining the approval of the Board by resigning his/her or having his/her spouse resign his/her position with any such other association prior to being placed on the ballot upon providing satisfactory proof of such resignation to the Board. No person who is elected a Director may become, nor may his/her spouse become, a member of any of the organizations referred to above during the member's term of office without the prior express consent as evidenced by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) members of the Board. To the extent any such conflict(s) of interest exist and are waived by the Board, then the member affected by the conflict(s) of interest shall not have the right nor be empowered to vote or otherwise take any action in

his capacity as a Director with respect to any action or activity relating to the Association which created the conflict of interest.

#### **Section 6. Election of Directors:**

The Board shall be elected by the Association's members. No person shall be eligible for nomination or to serve as Director unless:

(A) He/She has been a member in compliance with the requirements set forth in Article III, Section 6 above, on the date of his/her nomination, is also eligible to enter horses at Gulfstream Park (and Gulfstream Park West when it is running), and remains eligible as such at all times throughout his/her term of office.

(B) He/She has a physical presence in Florida (meaning that he/she had one or more horses stabled and training at a licensed thoroughbred race track and was racing Horses in Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County, Florida, or adjacent counties as an owner or trainer for at least one-half (1/2) of the year immediately preceding his/her nomination for office.

(C) He/She also fulfills the following eligibility criteria:

i. Each candidate must submit to the Board for approval a biological and policy statement.

ii. Owner Candidates: Shall have started a Horse compliant with the provisions of Article III, Section 6 above at a thoroughbred racetrack licensed by the Commission in Miami-Dade County, Broward County, or Palm Beach County, Florida, or adjacent counties not less than five (5) times during the year preceding his/her nomination.

iii. Trainer Candidates: Shall have started a Horse compliant with the provisions of Article III, Section 6 above at a thoroughbred racetrack licensed by the Commission in Miami-Dade County, Broward County, or Palm Beach County, Florida, or adjacent counties not less than five (5) times during the year preceding his/her nomination.

iv. Any Candidate who has resigned as a director from the Board during the two (2) years immediately preceding the date of his/her nomination shall not be eligible.

v. Any Candidate who was removed as a director by the Board at any time preceding the date of his/her nomination shall not be eligible unless such Candidate's nomination is approved by two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board. In such cases, the President of the Association shall within ten (10) days of the Candidate's nomination, appoint a special committee to investigate the suitability of the Candidate. Thereafter, the special

committee shall conduct a hearing within the following ten (10) days. The special committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Board who shall, by majority vote, at the next regular meeting of the Board, determine Candidate's suitability, which resolution shall be final and shall not be subject to appeal or further review.

vi. All Candidates shall be in "good standing" with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. As used hereinabove "good standing" shall mean his/her license has not been suspended or revoked during the year immediately preceding the date of his/her nomination.

vii. The term "year immediately preceding" shall mean the three hundred sixty-five (365) days immediately preceding the date of his/her nomination.

(D) Vacancies on the Board other than President shall be filled as follows:

i. The majority of a quorum of directors, as described below in Article IV, Section 6(D)(iii), who are present at the meeting may fill a vacancy on the Board for an Owner Seat by appointing an owner member of the Association to complete the term of any such regularly elected director whose seat is vacant.

ii. The majority of the Board may fill a vacancy on the Board for a Trainer Seat by appointing a trainer member of the Association to complete the term of any such regularly elected director whose seat is vacant.

iii. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article V, Section I (B), of these Bylaws, for the purposes of this Article IV, Section 6 (D)(i-ii), only, not fewer than two thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board must be present at a meeting of the Board to constitute a quorum at any meeting where filling a vacant director's seat will be considered by the Board.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **ASSOCIATION OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES**

#### **Section 1. Board of Directors:**

(A)Composition: The Association shall have a Board of Directors composed of the President (who shall also be a director) and no less than eleven (11) and up to fifteen (15) members of the Association. Members of the Board shall serve for four (4) year terms and until their successors have been duly elected and seated.

If any member of the Board has died, or is absent at more than fifty percent (50%) of the regular meetings of the Board (a "regular" meeting of the Board shall mean a meeting called on not fewer than ten (10) days' notice, and a "special" or "emergency" meeting of

the Board shall mean a meeting called on fewer than ten (10) days' notice) during any twelve (12) month period measured from March 1 through February 28/29 of any year without having been excused in advance in writing by the President (or, in his/her absence the Vice President), his/her position on the Board shall be automatically deemed vacant by the Board. The Executive Director shall send a cautionary letter to any Board member who has accumulated three (3) unexcused absences.

(B) Meetings; Quorum: Except as otherwise specifically provided in these Bylaws, a simple majority of the members of the Board who are present (in person, or electronically via telephone or other electronic communications) at a meeting (whether regular, special or emergency) constitute a quorum for the conduct of business, but a lesser number may adjourn a meeting from time to time pending attendance of a quorum. Members of the Board may attend meetings of the Board electronically, and any member of the Board attending a meeting of the Board electronically:

i. shall be counted as present,

ii. shall be counted as part of the quorum requirement and may vote.

(C) Responsibilities: The Board shall supervise all affairs of the Association subject to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Association.

(D) Liaison and Membership: The Board shall, by means of a newsletter, website, social media or other appropriate means, maintain close liaison with the membership of the Association and keep the membership fully informed concerning all Association business, its own deliberations, and all other matters of interest to horsemen.

(E) Chairperson Emeritus: The Board, by majority vote, may appoint any past president of the Association to the honorary position of Chairperson Emeritus.

(F) Rules of Order: The order and conduct of meetings of the Board shall be administered pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order, as amended and revised from time to time, except as otherwise provided herein.

(G) Medical and Benevolence Matters: Notwithstanding any provision of these Bylaws or Roberts Rules of Order to the contrary, all meetings of the Board and the Benevolence Committee at which medical or benevolence matters are discussed or considered shall be held in executive session (meaning that only Members of the Board, counsel and staff may be present), and all matters discussed at or during all such executive sessions shall be maintained in strict confidence. Any violation of this provision may result in removal from the Board and/or the Benevolence Committee.

## **Section 2. President:**

The President shall serve a two (2) year term and shall be elected annually by the Board from amongst the members of the Board who are physically present at the first meeting of the Board following the immediately preceding election.

The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Association.

The President shall speak for and represent the Association for the conduct of all business of the Association, including but not limited to, meetings, conventions and conferences.

The President shall preside at meetings of the Membership and of the Board and shall be ex-officio a member of all committees that may, from time to time, be constituted by the Board.

The President shall execute any deed, mortgage, bond, contract, or other instrument which the Board has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Association or shall be required by law to be otherwise executed; and in general shall perform all duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

The President shall call one (1) general meeting per year and such additional meetings as the welfare of the Association may require.

The President shall, upon written petition of five (5) or more members of the Board, call a meeting of the Board within six (6) days if a race meet is in progress and within twenty-one (21) days if no race meet is in progress.

The President shall, upon written petition of fifty (50) or more members of the Association, call a general meeting of the Association within twenty-one (21) days. A petition for a general meeting must state the primary purposes or issues for which the meeting is called. The meeting shall be held at the Offices of the Association, or at such other location as the President shall designate. This shall not prevent the consideration of other issues at the meeting. Decisions, recommendations and resolutions passed at general meetings are advisory in nature.

The President shall appoint the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, or Secretary/Treasurer if the office is combined, and all other employees of the Association with the advice and consent of the Board, who shall serve as the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee but shall not have the authority to sign checks or other instruments for, on behalf of, or in the name of the Association unless specifically authorized to do so by the Board.

The President of the Association shall have the authority, acting alone, to approve and pay for any legitimate business expense of the Association up to \$5,000.00 U.S. without having to get additional authority.

### **Section 3. Vice President(s):**

The Association shall have at least one and may have up to three (3) Vice Presidents who shall be selected from among its owners, trainers or owner/trainer members of the Board. The Board shall designate the order of precedence of the Vice Presidents. In case of the resignation, disability or death of the President, the Vice President (if there is only one) or the first Vice President (if there are more than one) automatically becomes the President for the unexpired term. The next Vice President then becomes First Vice President, and succession to office shall continue in such order.

In the absence of the President, or in the event of a vacancy in such office, the Vice President (or in the event there is more than one Vice President, the Vice Presidents in the order designated at the time of their election or, in the absence of any designation, then in the order of their election) shall perform the duties of the President and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President; and, shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board. The Board may designate one or more Vice Presidents as a Vice President for particular areas of responsibility.

### **Section 4. Secretary:**

The Association shall have a secretary who shall have responsibility to:

(A) Keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Members, the Board and committees of the Board in one or more books provided for that purpose.

(B) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law.

(C) Be the custodian of the Association records and of the seal of the Association.

(D) Maintain and keep current a register of the post office address of each member.

(E) In general, perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Secretary by the President or by the Board. One person may hold the office of Secretary/Treasurer.

#### **Section 5. Treasurer:**

The Association shall have a treasurer who shall have the custody of the Association funds and securities, shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Association and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Association in such depositories as may be designated by the Board.

The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Association as may be ordered by the Board, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall report the financial condition of the Association to the Board at the regular meetings of the Board or whenever the Board may otherwise require it.

If required by the Board, the Treasurer shall give the Association a bond in such sum and with such surety or sureties as shall be satisfactory to the Board for the faithful performance of the duties of his/her office and for the restoration to the Association in case of his/her death, resignation, retirement or removal from office, all books, papers, vouchers, money and other property of whatever kind in his possession or under his control belonging to the Association.

#### **Section 6. Executive Director:**

The Board may employ an Executive Director, who shall not be a member of the Board, and who shall perform all duties incident to the office of Executive Director and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

#### **Section 7. Employees:**

The employment of any person employed by the Association may be terminated by either the Executive Director, or by the Board at a meeting of the Board. Termination by the Board may occur only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of directors, described below, who are present at the meeting. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article V, Section I (B), of these Bylaws, for the purposes of this Article V, Section 7, only, not fewer than two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board must be present at a meeting of the Board to constitute a quorum at any meeting where employment termination will be considered by the Board.

#### **Section 8. Committees:**

There shall be standing committees as follows:

(A) There shall be an Election and Nominating Committee as provided hereinabove.

(B) The President shall appoint a Backstretch Committee with the advice and consent of the Board. It shall be responsible for the improvement of backstretch conditions and facilities which shall include living quarters, sanitation, restaurants or kitchens and recreational facilities.

(C) There shall be an Executive Committee as provided hereinabove, whose authority and duties shall be established by resolution of the Board.

(D) The President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Board, such additional standing or special committees as the needs of the Association may dictate and the Board may create, and the chairs of such committees.

#### **Section 9. Annual Report:**

The President or other executive officer of the Association or other person or organization authorized by the Board shall prepare or cause to be prepared an annual financial report which shall be posted on the Association's website annually.

#### **Section 10. Business with Third Parties:**

In the absence of the President at a meeting, convention or conference as referred to in Section 2 of this Article V above, or any other meeting, convention or conference, in advance of each meeting, convention or conference, the President may designate the Executive Director or any Officer of the Association to speak for and represent the Association and the interests of the Association at such meeting, convention or conference.

### **ARTICLE VI**

#### **GENERAL MEETING/NOMINATING MEETING**

There shall be one (1) general meeting per year of the Association, and such additional meetings as the welfare of the Association may require.

Fifty (50) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business at general meetings of the Association called by the President, but a lesser number may adjourn a meeting from time-to-time pending attendance of a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **CONTRACTS, LOANS, CHECKS AND DEPOSITS**

#### **Section 1. Contracts:**

Except as specifically provided herein, all contracts to which the Association is a party, including Purse Contracts and Gaming Contracts and renewal(s), extension(s), modification(s) and/or amendment(s) thereof, shall be reviewed by the Board prior to execution thereof and no such contract, or renewal, extension, modification or amendment thereof, in excess of \$10,000.00 shall be executed unless approved by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board. The Board may authorize the President or Executive Director to enter into any contract (except Purse Contracts and Gaming Contracts which must bear the signature of the President) or to execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Executive Committee (by majority vote of its members) may, within the scope of the business delegated by the Board to the Executive Committee, enter into one or more projects or contracts, provided that as such project or contract may not exceed \$10,000.00 for any calendar year. With sole and specific respect to the Backstretch Fund (which is jointly administered by the Association and Gulfstream Park Racing Association, Inc.), the Executive Committee shall have the authority, by majority vote of its members, to authorize expenditures from the Backstretch Fund of up to U.S. \$15,000.00 for a total project or expenditure cost of up to U.S. \$30,000.00.

#### **Section 2. Checks and Drafts:**

The members of the Executive Committee may execute all checks, drafts or other order(s) for the payment of money. All promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness (other than checks, drafts and order for the payment of money) issued in the name of the Association must be approved by a majority of the Board. All checks, drafts or other order(s) for the payment of money in excess of \$5,000.00, and all notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Association, to be effective, must bear at least two (2) signatures of the Executive Committee members. The Board may, by majority vote, direct that a check, draft, note or other instrument of payment be executed which shall require no further approval or requisition. All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money in excess of \$5,000.00, not previously approved by the Board, shall be issued only upon the written requisition for same signed by at least one (1) member of the Board or the

Executive Director, which such board Member may not also execute the check, draft or other order(s) for the payment of money of the Association.

### **Section 3. Deposits:**

All funds of the Association not otherwise employed in the ordinary course of business shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Association in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board may designate. The monies of the Association shall be deposited in interest bearing accounts or savings certificates at such banks or depositories as may from time to time be designated by the Board or invested in such bonds, securities or investments as may be authorized by the vote of a majority of the Directors attending any meeting of which a quorum of directors is present and shall be subject to check as designated by the Board. Such income may be deposited, pending disposition, in such checking accounts as the Board may authorize from time to time. Disposition of the principal amount of such deposits or investments may be authorized only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors at a meeting where a quorum is present. No funds of the Association may be distributed except for the purposes, and subject to the restrictions, set forth in the charter.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MEMBERSHIP LEDGER**

The Association shall maintain at its principal office and such other office as the Board may designate, an original or duplicate membership ledger containing the name and address of each member.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **FISCAL YEAR**

The Board shall have the power to fix the fiscal year of the Association by a duly adopted resolution.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **SEAL**

#### **Section 1. Seal:**

The Association seal shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Association, the year of its organization and the words "Corporate Seal" and "Florida." The Board may authorize one or more duplicate seals and provide for the custody thereof.

#### **Section 2. Affixing Seal:**

Whenever the Association is required to place its seal to a document, it shall be sufficient to meet the requirements of any law, rule or regulation relating to a seal to place the word "SEAL" adjacent to the signature of the person authorized to execute the document on behalf of the Association.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **WAIVER OF NOTICE**

Whenever any notice is required to be given pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Association pursuant to applicable law, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any meeting need be set forth in the waiver of notice, unless specifically required by statute. The attendance of any person at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where such person attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

The Board may, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board Members, alter, modify, amend or repeal any Bylaw(s) of the Association or make new Bylaw(s), at a meeting called for that purpose, upon ten (10) days written notification to each member of

the Board specifying the contemplated amendment(s). All votes to alter, modify, amend or repeal any Bylaw(s) shall be in writing.

### **ARTICLE XIII**

#### **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

The Board may, with an appropriate resolution, elect to be affiliated with a national organization.

### **ARTICLE XIV**

#### **COMPENSATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

##### **Section 1. Compensation:**

No committee shall receive compensation for acting in such capacity. A director or committee member may be reimbursed, to the extent authorized by the Board, for reasonable expenses.

##### **Section 2. Contracts with Directors and Officers:**

No director or officer shall be financially involved, directly or indirectly, in any contract relating to the operations conducted by the Association, nor in any contract for furnishing services or supplies to the Association, unless such contract shall be authorized by the Board, and unless the fact of such involvement first shall have been disclosed fully to the Board.

##### **Section 3. Limitation:**

No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure directly or indirectly to the benefit of or be distributable to any members, employees, directors, officers, or any other private person. The Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered to the Association and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of the Association.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **INDEMNIFICATION**

#### **Section 1. Indemnification in Actions Other Than by or in the Rights of the Association:**

The Association shall indemnify, to the fullest extent permitted by law, each director, each officer and each representative, including, but not limited to, the Executive Director, who is made or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Association), by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer or representative (or is or was serving at the request of the Association as a director, officer or representative of another entity) against expenses (including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the Association, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, in and of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the Association, or, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

#### **Section 2. Indemnification in Actions by or in the Right of the Association:**

The Association shall indemnify, to the fullest extent permitted by law, each director, each officer and each representative who is made a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Association to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer or representative of the Association (or is or was serving at the request of the Association as a director, officer or representative of another entity) against expenses (including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Association. However, no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such director, officer or representative shall have been found liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his or her duty to the

Association unless, and only to the extent, the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine that in view of all the circumstances of the case, such director or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which such court shall deem proper.

### **Section 3. Indemnification on Actions by or in the Right of the Associate as a Fiduciary:**

The Association shall indemnify, to the fullest extent allowed by law, each director, each officer, employee or representative, including, but not limited to, the Executive Director, who is held to be a fiduciary under any employee pension or welfare plan or trust of the Association or any of its divisions and who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Association) by reason of the fact that he or she is or was such a fiduciary and was serving as such at the request of the Association, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with such action, suit or proceeding for any breach of any of the responsibilities, obligations or duties imposed upon fiduciaries by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and any amendments thereto, if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of such plan or trust, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, in and of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of such plan or trust, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful. The provisions of all of the following paragraphs of this Article relating to directors, officers, employees, agents or representatives shall apply also to directors, officers or employees deemed to be or acting as fiduciaries, specifically including the power of the Association to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of such fiduciaries.

### **Section 4. Determination of Conduct:**

Any indemnification under Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this Article (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the Association only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee, agent or representative is proper in the circumstances because such person has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Sections 1, 2, and 3. Such determination shall

be made (a) by the Board by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, or (b) if such quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable but a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

#### **Section 5. Indemnification Not Exclusive:**

The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which a director, officer, employee, agent or representative seeking indemnification may be entitled under any statute, provision in the articles of incorporation, bylaws, agreement, vote of disinterested directors or otherwise, both as to action in his or her official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee, agent or representative and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

#### **Section 6. Insurance:**

The Board shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee, agent, representative, fiduciary (or is or was serving at the request of the Association as a director, etc. of another entity) against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such.

### **ARTICLE XVI**

#### **ANTITRUST PROHIBITIONS**

##### **Section 1. Restrictions:**

All policies and activities of the Association shall be consistent with applicable federal, state, and local antitrust laws and regulations. Any activities of the Association or related actions of its staff, officers, directors, or members which violate such laws and regulations shall be contrary to Association policy. All Association activities or discussions shall be avoided which might be construed as tending to:

- a) raise, lower, or stabilize prices;
- b) regulate production;
- c) allocate markets;
- d) encourage boycotts;
- e) foster unfair trade practices;
- f) assist in monopolization; or

g) in any way violate federal, state, or local trade regulation and antitrust laws.

**Section 2. Disciplinary Action:**

Association members, officers, directors or employees who participate in conduct which the Board, by a two-thirds majority vote, determines to be contrary to the Association's antitrust compliance policy shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, expulsion or termination. This includes any violation of confidentiality regarding Association business.

-end-