



EAST COAST REINERS ASSOCIATION **(ECRA)**

RULES AND BYLAWS

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Details
December 2006	A	Re-type of original bylaws
March 2015	B	Update to helmet laws for those under 18. Update to points/monies rule for year end awards.
January 2016	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added foundation year to mission statement• Updated special mailings to electronic mailings for annual meeting of the members notification• Added clarifications to membership, shows and year end eligibility descriptions.

MISSION

The East Coast Reiners Association is an affiliate of the National Reining Horse Association founded on Long Island in 1975. The East Coast Reiners Association (E.C.R.A.) objectives are to promote the reining horse and to encourage the showing of reining horses on Long Island, and the surrounding areas.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The East Coast Reiners Association will be run by a Board of Directors consisting of at least 5 members. The Board of Directors shall have general charge of the affairs, finances and property of the organization.

The Board of Directors shall be empowered to fill vacancies occurring in said board. Any vacancy occurring in the board, may be filled by the affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings at such time and place they shall determine.

MEMBERSHIP

An individual of good character and reputation interested in reining horses may become a member of the East Coast Reiners Association.

Members shall be admitted and retained in accordance with the rules and regulations of the NRHA.

Membership dues shall be paid by each member annually at the commencement of the calendar year. Membership forms **will not** be accepted without payment in full. The start date of the individual's annual membership will be the date that both the completed membership form and full payment have been received. The calendar year shall be January 1st through December 31st of each year. Membership forms can be found on our website (ecraonline.com).

MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

An annual meeting of the association shall be held at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors. Notice will be given to each member prior to the meeting.

Special or General meetings of the members may be called by the Board of Directors at a time and place designated by the board.

Notice will be given on our website (www.ecraonline.com) or through electronic mailings to each member. At any meeting held in accordance with the foregoing provisions as to notice, the members attending such meetings shall constitute a quorum.

The ECRA website (www.ecraonline.com) will be the official site for ECRA information and news and will be updated only through the ECRA President's and Vice Presidents joint approval to the Web Site Operator.

COMPLAINTS OR PROTESTS

Any complaint or protest must be in writing and filed with the ECRA President within 10 days of incident or cause. The fee for such protest or complaint will be \$100, payable to ECRA at the time of the written complaint or protest. All protest fees are non-refundable in every instance of protest regardless of outcome.

Upon receipt, all complaints or protests will be referred to the Board of Directors for investigation and recommendation.

Upon complete investigation, The Board of Directors will notify the complainant in writing, whether said protest is allowed or disallowed.

Anyone who becomes a member of the Association accepts to be bound by all the rules of the association and renounces to any recourse which he/she may have against the association so long as the latter acts in good faith and in compliance with the rules of the Association.

SHOWS

All of the East Coast Reiners Association shows will be governed by the National Reining Horse Association Rules and By Laws.

In order to compete in NRHA sanctioned classes at an ECRA show, the horse owner and rider must be a current member in good standing with NRHA. Classes that are not NRHA sanctioned include: ECRA Green Reiner, ECRA Futures Leadline, ECRA Futures Walk/Jog, ECRA Futures Short Stirrup, and Ladies/Gentlemens.

All competitors at any ECRA show must compete proper western attire as defined in the NRHA rulebook.

In accordance with New York State law, an approved safety helmet is required for anyone under the age of 18. This is in compliance with NYS vehicle and traffic law, Title 7, Article 34B, Section 1265 effective as of 7/31/2013.

E.C.R.A. YEAR END AWARDS

The owner and rider must be current ECRA members in good standing for money or points earned to be eligible towards ECRA year-end awards.

In the case of dual or joint ownership, both owners are required to follow the above membership requirements in order for any money or points earned by the rider to be eligible for ECRA year-end awards.

Money and/or point earning are only eligible for ECRA year-end awards from the date of ECRA membership for the current point year. Money and/or point earnings are **NOT** eligible for year-end awards retroactively.

An ECRA year-end award list will be kept for each of the classes offered at ECRA shows. The point year begins with the first show of the season, and ends with the last show of the season

Points or monies will be awarded on a one horse-one rider combination in the following classes: Green Reiner, Youth classes, Ladies/Gentlemens, Futures classes, and all non-pro classes. ECRA year-end awards in these classes will be awarded to the rider.

Points or monies and ECRA year-end awards will be awarded to the owner of the horse in the following classes: Open and Novice Horse Open Only one horse-one rider combinations are eligible for ECRA year-end awards in these classes.

In order to be eligible for ECRA year-end awards, the horse and rider combination must have shown in at least 2 of the 3 affiliate ECRA shows within the point year. In the event that there are less or more than 3 ECRA shows, the horse and rider combination must compete in at least 50% of the ECRA shows offered within that point year in order to be eligible for ECRA year-end awards.

REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION

The Board of Directors shall be empowered to remove or suspend by the majority of vote of the Board of Directors any board member from his/her office or member deemed to be a hindrance to the best interest of ECRA.

DISSOLUTION

In the event that the ECRA financially cannot move forward with the expenses of running horse shows and dissolves the affiliate, the balance in the operating account after any outstanding liabilities and debts are paid would be donated. The Board of Directors will entertain the balance of money to be donated to another NRHA Affiliate, the NRHA or to the Reining Horse Sport Foundation in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma either in the full amount or split any remaining funds between the above options