

Treasure State Cutting Horse Association | By-Laws

Treasure State Cutting Club now operates as a DBA: Treasure State Cutting Horse Association, a 501c(7) non-profit organization, shall be referred to as TSCHA. TSCHA is without capital stock and does not own real property. The principal office or place of business of TSCHA shall be that of any officer residing in the state of Montana and the legal address shall be the same. TSCHA was organized to promote the sport of cutting and cutting horse events in a competitive and congenial environment in which to compete and develop the necessary knowledge and skills. TSCHA is not an affiliate of the National Cutting Horse Association, hereafter referred to NCHA. TSCHA does, however, base its' show rules on those in the current NCHA Official Handbook - Rules and Regulations, except in certain instances which are addressed in the TSCHA Show Rules. TSCHA is a grassroots organization whose primary purpose is to encourage and assist cutters of all ability levels.

TSCHA is comprised of a Governing Body of Officers and Directors, non-governing positions, and general membership. Completion of a current membership application/liability release waiver and payment of annual membership dues are required to be a member of TSCHA and compete in (whether it be directly or indirectly) TSCHA produced cutting horse events. Membership year is January 1 to December 31.

TSCHA is governed by the Governing Body of Officers and Directors. Any Officer or Director may form a committee or solicit volunteers to assist with fulfilling the responsibilities of their position or for the purpose of meeting other needs of the club.

A quorum of the voting Governing Body must be present to bring to any issue to vote, motion or measure brought before the Governing Body. For this purpose, a quorum is five (5) voting members of the governing body. A vote cannot be taken at any meeting, whether scheduled or informal, that is not conducted by the President or Vice President. *Proxy votes are not permitted.*

Meetings of the Governing Body can be regularly scheduled or informal, as needed. Official minutes of any meeting are to be recorded and maintained by the Secretary or approved representative and provided to the Governing Body either upon request or at the next regularly scheduled meeting and posted on the club Facebook and website pages.

Members of the Governing Body and non-governing positions must be members in good standing of TSCHA. Good standing is defined as having currently paid membership dues at the end of the preceding show season or having currently paid membership dues at the beginning of the current show season.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

A General Member is defined to be a single TSCHA member or part of a family TSCHA membership. A Family Membership unit is considered to be spouses and includes children 18 years or younger at the start of the points year. Individuals over 18 years of age cannot be part of a Family Membership, unless they happen to turn 18 during the points year in which the membership is held. A Family Membership is limited to two (2) votes, neither of which can be cast by youth. An individual that is 18 years or older at the start of the points year must join as a single TSCHA member.

A minimum of one regularly scheduled General Membership meeting is required annually before the beginning of the current show season and the General Membership will be notified in writing, a minimum of two weeks prior to the meeting with the date, time and location. Written notice can be in the form of a mailed notice, email, Facebook and/or through our website.

General membership meetings are to be conducted by the President or Vice President. At the General Meeting, an election process will be conducted to fill any vacant positions subject to election by the General Membership. If there are no candidates, appointments will be made by the President, subject to confirmation by voting members of the Governing Body.

The President sets the agenda for the General Membership meeting, held subject to Roberts Rules of Order, which must include that time be allotted for the General Membership to bring forth for discussion any issues they believe pertinent to TSCHA. A voting General Member must be a member of TSCHA and in good standing, defined as having currently paid membership dues at the end of the preceding show season or having currently paid membership dues at the beginning of the current show season. The

General Membership is encouraged to bring forth requests, ideas, concerns and grievances to the Governing Body at any time and it is the responsibility of the Governing Body to be responsive to any issue brought before them by a member of the General Membership.

GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body of TSCHA consists of the elected officers and directors of the organization in office at the time of the meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Five (5) directors, elected by the General Membership or appointed by the President subject to confirmation by the Governing Body, will fulfill the responsibilities of conducting the sponsored and/or approved cutting events. Directors are elected for two-year terms. Duties include securing event facilities, cattle, judges, and volunteer help as well as ensuring that the show is conducted in a professional and orderly manner. Oversight of the website / internet presence, show results, compilation of points and standings from approved competitions, year-end awards, and public relations / sponsorships, will be the responsibility of the directors and officers of the organization. *Members must have a minimum of two years' experience on the Board of Directors in order to run for the Vice President or President positions.*

OFFICERS

President: Two-year term. *No voting privileges except to cast tie-breaking votes.*

The position of President is filled from the completed two-year position of Vice President. Responsibilities include setting the agenda for and presiding over all Board of Director meetings, participating as an ex-officio member of all committees, negotiating and securing show venues including cattle and all that entails, setting the show schedule subject to approval by the voting members of the Governing Body, securing insurance for club activities, updating / correcting ByLaws and Show Rules as necessary, and filling any vacated Board or Officer position as required. The President may also terminate any Director or Officer for two or more unexcused absences from regularly scheduled board meetings and/or consistent failure to complete duties required of that position. If both the Presidency and Vice-Presidency become vacant, an election conducted by a remaining officer to complete the calendar year term will be held from the General Membership.

Vice-President: Two-year term. Has voting rights.

The Vice President is to be elected from the General Membership. If there are no candidates, this position would be filled by Presidential appointment subject to confirmation by the voting members of the Governing Body. Acceptance of this position requires a four-year commitment to complete the two-year term of office to be followed by a two-year term as President. The Vice President assists and advises the President on all club business and assumes Presidential duties during the absence of the President or if the office of President is vacated. Handles equipment & setup at shows, banners.

Treasurer: Two-year term, staggered with Secretary. Has voting rights.

The Treasurer is to be elected from the General Membership. If there are no candidates, the position would be filled by Presidential appointment, subject to confirmation by the voting members of the Governing Body. Responsibilities include accounting for all income and expenditures, preparation of club and show profit/loss reports, banking transactions, paying approved bills, and having the checkbook on the show grounds at the start of each show.

Secretary: Two-year term, staggered with Treasurer. Has voting rights.

The Secretary is to be elected from the General Membership. If there are no candidates, this position would be filled by Presidential appointment, subject to confirmation by the voting members of the Governing Body. Responsibilities include recording and maintaining minutes from all regularly scheduled meetings, maintaining the membership and sponsorship records, receiving show results and updating point standings from each approved event for year-end awards.

Past President: One-year term

The outgoing President will automatically become a member of the Board of Directors for a one-year term.