

## **OCER BYLAWS (Revised Nov. 2013)**

**1. NAME:** The name of the organization shall be OZARK COUNTRY ENDURANCE RIDERS, INC. The official abbreviation shall be OCER.

**2. CORPORATE POWERS:** The Corporate Powers of OCER shall be vested in the Board of Directors (which will be abbreviated throughout as BOD), each of whom shall be a member in good standing, said powers subject to the limitations of these Bylaws and the applicable laws of the state of Missouri and the United States.

### **3. DEFINITIONS:**

3.1 Quorum: A majority of the board members being present at any meeting of OCER.

3.2 Throughout these Bylaws, the phrase "in good standing" is defined to mean a member whose dues are not in arrears.

3.3 The definitions for the Endurance Riding and Limited Distance Riding shall be as defined by the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC).

### **4. PURPOSE:**

4.1 To promote the sport of the endurance and limited distance riding, to act as an education center and clearing house for information concerning these types of riding and to encourage proper care of these horses.

4.2 To promote rider education through convention seminars, newsletter articles and other means as approved by the BOD.

4.3 To present year-end award for outstanding performance in endurance and limited distance riding.

**5. FISCAL YEAR:** The Fiscal Year shall commence on the first day of December and end on the last day of November.

### **6. MEMBERSHIP:**

6.1 Any person interested in the purposes and objectives of this organization shall be eligible for membership and upon proper application and payment of the required dues shall be accepted into the membership.

6.2 There shall be Individual Members, Junior and Family Members. The BOD shall determine the dues, classification and privileges of these members with the individual membership having one vote and OCER member. Once a child reaches the age of twenty-one, they must obtain their own membership.

6.3 Dues are payable on or before December 1<sup>st</sup> each year. A member whose dues are in arrears as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, shall cease to be a member and shall forfeit all privileges of membership and shall only be accepted back into the membership in that year upon reapplication for membership and payment of required dues.

6.4 The resignation of any member shall become effective upon written notice to the President.

6.5 Member Suspension: Members may be removed or suspended from OCER for just cause:

6.5.1 By a majority vote of the Directors present and voting, a quorum being present.

6.5.2 A minimum of 15 days written notice shall first be given to the accused member and to each Director stating the time and place of the meeting and stating the case for which it is intended the member be removed or suspended.

6.5.3 The member may respond either orally or in writing not less than five (5) days before the effective date of the expulsion and may be present and be represented if he or she so chooses, by any person at said meeting.

6.5.4 The hearing shall be conducted as a formal proceeding, with both sides having a full opportunity to question witnesses and present their views.

6.5.5 Any continuance requested by either side may be granted at the discretion of the BOD.

6.6 A member who has written a check to the OCER that is returned for any reason will be issued a warning letter stating the check must be made good with valid funds 30 days of the check date. Furthermore, if there is a second offending check within a year of the first, the person will then be put on a cash only basis for a period of one year from the date of the second offending check.

### **7. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

7.1 The BOD shall consist of four (4) officers and three (3) directors elected from the general membership at the yearly general meeting

7.1.1 The immediate past president of the OCER, if not re-elected as an official, shall be one of the three directors for the coming year.

7.1.2 Nominees must be members in good standing and reside in Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas or Arkansas.

7.1.3 Election of an Officer and Directors shall be carried out using procedures in accordance with these Bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order, Revised (current edition) and laws of the state of Missouri and the United States. Election shall be plurality; ties must be broken by recount or a re-vote if necessary.

7.2 The BOD of OCER shall be a President, Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and three Directors. These officers and directors shall be elected at the yearly meeting of OCER.

7.2.1 Each Officer and Director shall take office after being elected and shall serve for a term of one year and until his or her successor is duly elected.

7.2.2 The President shall, at the yearly meeting of OCER and at such times as she or he shall deem proper, communicate to the BOD or OCER membership such matters and make such suggestions as may, in the President's opinion, tend to promote the welfare and increase the usefulness of OCER and shall perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to the office of President or as may be described by the BOD.

7.2.3 The President shall call special meeting of the membership when requested in writing by a majority of the BOD or by petition of at least 25% of the voting members of OCER designating in said call the time, place and purpose of the meeting.

7.2.4 The President is the official spokesperson for OCER and is directly responsible to carry out the policies and directions of the BOD. The President may make no policy changes or exception without prior Board approval

7.3 The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of his or her temporary disability or absence from meetings and shall have other duties as the President or BOD may assign.

7.4 The Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of the proceedings of the yearly meeting and any other meeting of the full Board.

7.5 The Treasurer shall keep an account of all monies received and expended for the use of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall make a report at the yearly meeting and when called upon by the President.

7.6 Should a member of the BOD cease to be a member in good standing of OCER, said member shall cease to be a Director.

7.7 Should a position of the BOD become vacant, the President shall nominate a replacement who, upon approval of the Board, shall fill the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

7.8 Meetings of the BOD shall be conducted at the yearly meeting of OCER and such other times and places as the Board or President shall designate

7.9 Special meetings of the BOD may be called at any time by the President or by three (3) board members, provided that the call for such meeting be sent to each board member at least 20 days before the meeting, stating the purpose, time and place of the meeting.

7.10 The BOD shall have power to conduct, manage and control the affairs and business of OCER and to establish rules and policies not

7.11 In the absence of a meeting, the BOD can take action by mail or electronic media, provided that the question, being moved and seconded in writing, be distributed to each board member, that at least 10 days be allowed for comments to be returned to the president, that the said comments be distributed to all board members and that at least an additional 10 days be allowed for return of written ballots and that a majority of the Board returns ballots.

## **8. RIDE SACTIONING:**

8.1 The BOD has the authority to accept or not to accept, at its discretion, rides to which OCER shall provide its services, including but not limited to the services described in Article 4. This agreement to provide services shall be called sanctioning the ride. All rides must also be sanctioned with AERC and be conducted in accordance with their rules and regulations.

8.1.1 Sanctioned rides may be in Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas.

8.1.2 Sanctioned ride managers must be OCER members in good standings

8.1.3 Sanctioned rides must adhere to AERC and OCER ride rules

8.1.4 OCER will abide by AERC decisions regarding protests.

8.2 OCER shall provide services for approved OCER sanctioned benefit rides. OCER sanctioned benefit rides are those rides that contribute profits to OCER. OCER is liable for expenses to a limit voted on by the BOD at the yearly meeting for the subsequent year's rides.

8.2.1 BOD shall approve all benefit ride

8.2.2 BOD shall vote on benefit ride limits for the subsequent year at the yearly meeting

8.2.3 Benefit ride managers over the benefit ride limit will be liable for expenses.

8.2.4 Manager and alternate managers must be OCER members in good standing. BOD will approve minimum ride fees for benefit rides at the yearly meeting for subsequent year.

8.3 Once sanction has been granted, the BOD has the authority to rescind that sanction for cause. Such cause may include but is not necessarily limited to violation of OCER rules or endangerment of equines. Sanction may be rescinded before, during, or after the event as circumstances warrant.

## **9. COMMITTEES:**

9.1 OCER will accept volunteers at each yearly meeting for the following committees:

9.1.1 Rider Education

9.1.2 Membership/Public Relations

9.1.3 Sanctioning

9.1.4 Awards

9.2 Additional committees will be set up and served by volunteers as necessary.

## **10. MEETINGS:**

10.1 There shall be yearly meeting of the general membership of OCER at a place designated by the BOD. Said meeting shall take place anytime between August and November.

10.2 Special meeting of the general membership may be called by the BOD at a time and place designated by the Board or by petition of at least 25% of the membership for any lawful purpose, provided at least 20 days written notice be sent to each OCER

## **11 AMENDMENTS:**

11.1 Amendments to these Bylaws shall be placed before the full membership of OCER for a vote, upon petition for such amendment by at least 25% of the voting membership or upon approval by majority of the BOD.

11.2 The proposed amendment shall be distributed to each voting member along with a return ballot and notice of the closing date for ballots to be returned, such date being at least 30 days and no more than 60 days from the date the proposed amendment is mailed out.

11.3 The amendment shall take effect only if approve by two-thirds of those members who return ballots by the closing date for returning ballots. The member chosen by the BOD shall validate and count the ballots and certify whether the amendment passes or fails.

11.4 All petitions and ballots shall be kept on file for a period of two years, open for inspection by any member of OCER.