

By-Laws for Greater Randolph Area Trail Riders Association

Revisions as of March 2, 2022

1. General. The By-Laws of the Greater Randolph Area Trail Riders Association (GRA-TRAILS) are established by the Board of Directors (BOD) to govern the operation of the Association and are provided for the information and guidance of all members. Members and their families are enjoined to observe the spirit and intent of the rules described in these By-Laws. Failure to comply with the rules herein may subject membership in the Association to Board of Director review.

2. Financial Assessment.

- a. Yearly membership dues will be set by the Board of Directors.
- b. The BOD will set the registration and/or admission(s) price for participation in all Association activities and events.
- c. Dues not renewed within 90 days in the calendar year will be cause for membership termination. The Secretary and/or Treasurer will provide the BOD an updated member list at the May meeting each year.
- d. The BOD will ensure any damaged equipment is repaired or replaced as needed to support Association events.
- e. The Treasurer will maintain a list of Association property with appropriate identification numbers.

3. Funds.

- a. Financial income will be used for the operations and maintenance of the Association with the exception of fund raising events for specific causes as approved by the Board of Directors.
- b. The Treasurer is responsible for the accountability and control of funds of the Association and will insure compliance with all applicable laws. Expenditures for other than routine administrative costs require approval by the Board of Directors.
- c. No funds will be reimbursed or distributed without an appropriate receipt.

4. Administration. The President and Vice-President serve a one year term. Should the President be unable to complete a term in office, the Vice-President will assume the position of President and complete the unexpired term. Mid-term replacements for the office of Vice-President or any Member of the Board of Directors will be appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. A President must serve one full term as a President in order to assume the position of Past President. Appointed officials (Trail Boss, Secretary, and Treasurer) may serve as an elected official in addition to their appointed office. Members of the Board of Directors who may have a conflict of interest concerning an action item, should abstain from voting on that item. Activities, expenditures, and events requiring GRA-TRAILS sanction must be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Committees may be established or dissolved at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Duties and responsibilities of all

committees will be determined by the Board of Directors. Appointment of committee chairmen will be made by a consensus of the Board of Directors.

5. Membership Applications. The Association will not be limited in the number of members. Membership applications can be received by any BOD at any time. Applicants must be sponsored by a current GRA-TRAILS member. The applicant is considered a provisional member with all rights of a member at the time of application. Application(s) will be presented to the BOD for concurrence/objection at the next business meeting. In the very rare case that an applicant is turned away, then the President will contact both the sponsor and the applicant.

6. Children. Parents are responsible for the safety and conduct of their children at association sponsored activities. Children will not be permitted to participate in these activities unless attended and supervised by a responsible adult for the child.

7. Trail Boss. The Trail Boss is appointed by and serves at the discretion of the Board of Directors or until their resignation.

a. Duties include, but are not limited to, organization, route determination, safety and production of all trail rides. The Trail Boss will ensure that the Board of Directors is informed of all planning and potential issues for upcoming trail rides in a timely manner which allows the Board of Directors to take action and give timely notice to members and other interested parties. The Trail Boss may request the Board of Directors to appoint volunteer committees to assist in the organizing and production of any Association activity. The Trail Boss is an appointed position; therefore, does not hold voting privileges. The Trail Boss may appoint/establish a management crew to include an assistant(s) and scouts in numbers to insure the safe operation of all trail rides.

b. San Antonio Livestock and Exhibition (SALE) Rodeo Grand Entry participants. SALE limits the number of Trail Riders to 9 per group. Historically, GRA-TRAILS is represented by the Trail Boss, Assistant Trail Boss, Queen, best female and best male riders along with 4 Scouts. The Trail Boss, Assistant Trail Boss and Scouts will come to a consensus on the best riders and a first alternate for each category. The Best Riders will be announced at the Awards Dinner and Dance during the week-long SALE ride. If a Scout or other rider is unable to ride into the arena, then one of the alternates will be selected by the Trail Boss to replace them.

8. Trail Rides. Trail ride rules are established, announced, and enforced by the Trail Boss and his management crew. The rules for the rides will include the following:

a. Comply with local and state laws.

b. All equine animal owners must provide current documentation of a negative Coggins test or they will not be permitted to register or participate in the ride.

c. Care and behavior of animals, including pets, are the personal responsibility of the owners. All dogs must be on leashes or tethered in the owners camping area.

d. Mounts which present a danger to other mounts or participants will not be allowed to participate.

e. Stallions will only be permitted on the rides if determined safe by the Trail Boss.

- f. Illness and injuries to horses are the personal responsibility of owners.
- g. Participants will assist in keeping rest stops and camping areas clean.
- h. Consumption of alcoholic beverages permitted only at scheduled breaks during the ride.
- i. Participants are expected to maintain prudent behavior at all Association events. Persons displaying rude or disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the event and, possibly, may be denied the right to participate in future events.

9. Safety. Safety for humans and animals is the first and foremost in GRA-TRAILS. Participants and attendees at Trail Ride events shall exercise safe practices at all activities. Dangerous and unsafe acts will not be tolerated. Except for law enforcement authorities on official business, firearms are strongly discouraged at GRA-TRAILS activities. The firearms policy may become more restrictive dependent on external policies and participants will be notified prior to any event and at registration. Participants who brandish firearms during any GRA-TRAILS activity may be asked to leave the event and could be restricted from participation in future activities.

10. Liability. As stated in Chapter 87 of Texas Law any person, including a farm animal activity sponsor or farm animal professional is not liable for property damage or damages arising from the personal injury or death of a participant in a farm animal activity. GRA-TRAILS is not pecuniary liable for the misconduct of or damages by members. Appropriate action as to the membership status will be taken by the Board of Directors as a result of such incidents in order to minimize recurrence and to maintain credibility of GRA-TRAILS.

11. Responsibility. It is the responsibility of each participant to be familiar with, understand, and abide by established trail ride rules and these By-Laws. Trail Ride rules will be published on the flyer and as part of the registration form for each ride.

12. Social Media. The content of all social media (Facebook, Website, and any other social media) maintained and operated by GRA-TRAILS will be the responsibility of the incumbent President. This includes, but is not limited to, postings, filters, updating, permissions, and access. The President may appoint administrators, but they alone do not have the authority to update or change any content or post any comments without the expressed consent of the President. The President may delegate this authority to the Vice-President at his or her discretion.

13. Meetings. The BOD will meet monthly or more frequently as required to discuss and make decisions regarding the Association's events and administration. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with Article VII Section 1 of the Constitution. At the President's discretion the BOD may be asked to consider and vote on time sensitive matters of importance via electronically (email, text) or telephonically. Any decisions or votes will be an agenda item for the following month and annotated in the minutes.

14. Lifetime Membership. Life Time membership is the most prestigious award among GRA-TRAILS members. The Lifetime Membership award recognizes superior service and contributions towards the success of GRA-TRAILS Members may nominate any current member in good standing with GRA-TRAILS who:

- a. Maintained a paid membership 7 of the past 8 years.
- b. Served in a leadership position (President, VP, BOD, Trail Boss)
- c. Served as a hands-on member of the Association (Committee chair, Assistant Trail Boss, Scout, ground crew, etc)


A committee comprised of the current President, current Lifetime member and a member of the current BOD will meet annually to review nominations. The current President will act as the committee chairperson. The committee is not obligated to approve nominations in any given year. The committee must reach a unanimous decision in order to submit candidate (s) to the BOD. The committee will provide their decision regarding Life Time Members to the BOD prior to any announcement. Benefits of Lifetime Membership include paid dues for life as well as any additional recognition/benefits as determined by the BOD. Ideally, new Lifetime Members will be formally recognized at the Annual Christmas Party.

15. Queen/Princess Selection and Voting. The Queen Coordinator will review applications for Queen/Princess to ensure eligibility. Voting for Queen/Princess will take place during the Queen's Ride usually in June of each year. Ballots with the eligible candidates will be provided to each member who has paid dues. This corresponds to one vote per family unless each spouse acquires membership status separately by paying dues as per Article VII Section 3 of the constitution. If either the Queen or Princess are unable to fulfil their term, then the Board of Directors will accept nominations and vote on replacements for the remainder of the term.


16. Equipment. GRA-TRAILS equipment including but not limited to the truck, bus, supply trailer, generators, stoves, coolers, and, tables should be used exclusively to support club sponsored events. The equipment is not for lease/rent or lending by any group, member or non-member. The BOD may entertain exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis.

17. Amendments. Amendments or changes to these By-Laws may be made by the Board of Directors as circumstances warrant. To establish an easier reference, any changed amendments will be placed in the main body of these By-Laws.

18. Distribution. The original copy of these By-Laws, inclusive of all revisions or changes thereto, shall be retained by the Secretary. Each member shall be informed of the content of these By-Laws and may be furnished a copy upon request. The most current version of the GRA-TRAILS Constitution and By-Laws will be posted on the GRA-TRAILS website.


Acting Secretary (John J. Sebastyn)

March 2, 2022


President (Jerry Croniser)

March 2, 2022