

San Juan Back Country Horsemen Bylaws

Revised Mar 2023

Article I

Purpose of the San Juan Backcountry Horsemen (SJBCH)

- To perpetuate the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country.
- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage
- To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations

Mission

The San Juan Back Country Horsemen, also known as the organization hereafter, incorporates the mission statement and adopts the by-laws of the Back Country Horsemen of Colorado (BCHCO). This organization is an affiliate member of BCHCO. Anywhere the SJBCH Bylaws conflict with the BCHCO Bylaws, the SJBCH Bylaws take precedence.

Core Values of the SJBCH

- SJBCH members treat all organization members and our community members with respect, courtesy, fairness and dignity.
- Members treat other members with respect.
- SJBCH members are conscious of the fact that while they are engaged in organization activities, everything they do either directly or indirectly has the potential to reflect upon SJBCH as a whole - members conduct themselves accordingly.
- Organization members follow the instructions of team leaders when engaged in organization activities and projects.

Article II

Membership

Membership shall be composed of individuals interested in promoting the purpose as stated in Article I. Members in good standing promote the purpose and core values of the SJBCH and are current on dues. Annual membership duration is February 1 through January 31 except Lifetime memberships which are valid in perpetuity.

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Membership Types

- Individual – Anyone may become an Individual type member of SJBCH.
- Family – All immediate family members are included in Family (shared) memberships and are eligible to participate fully in SJBCH activities.
- Junior - Any person 17 years of age or younger, not otherwise qualifying for membership with a family group and interested in promoting the purpose as stated in Article I, may be accorded a Junior membership.
- Multi-BCH (Associate) – Anyone desiring to contribute to and participate more actively in more than one BCHCO chapter may wish to maintain one or more BCHCO Associate memberships. This membership type is available only to persons already holding Individual, Family (shared), or Junior membership in good standing. State and national dues are not paid on this category.
- Lifetime - (Complimentary) given to persons who have shown continuous, long-term support of the organization's mission and activities. Lifetime memberships do not expire. State and national dues are paid on this category.
- Benefactor – (Complimentary) offered to persons who support SJBCH via service or cash donations. For all practical purposes, Benefactor and Individual members are identical. Benefactor memberships are of one year in duration.

Dues

Annual membership dues are compulsory to activate status for membership within the SJBCH. A portion of the annual membership dues will be allotted to the state (BCHCO) and national (BCHA) organizations in order to fulfill membership obligations within the BCHA standards. All membership dues shall be paid in full on a yearly basis (due January 31 of each calendar year) for membership to initiate and/or remain active. Dues received after September 1 will be exempt from membership dues for the following year. Regular schedule of dues and payments will resume the following year.

Fee Schedule (as of Jan 31 2022 and may be updated per the Board of Directors (BOD) discretion at any time)

Individual - \$35

Family - \$40

Junior - \$20

Multi-BCH - \$20

Lifetime - \$0

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Benefactor - \$0

Article III

Voting

Each member 18 years of age or older and in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all matters voted upon during a regular or special meeting. 2/3 of members, from a quorum of 25% of total membership in good standing, voting when the organization is in session, shall be required to conduct business requiring group action.

In case of an emergency, presiding officer may obtain votes over the phone.

Article IV

Meetings

Regular monthly meetings shall be established and held at a time decided by a majority vote of the BOD. Special meetings may be called by the president or upon written request signed by any three (3) members of the BOD or upon written request signed by any ten (10) voting members in good standing. Twenty-five percent (25%) of voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting.

BOD meetings shall be held at the convenience of a majority of the BOD but normally will be conducted once a month. Regular members shall be welcome at the BOD meetings but shall have no vote. Any member in good standing may attend a BOD meeting, 2/3 of BOD in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any BOD meeting.

Article V

Officers and Directors

Officers of this organization shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as the BOD may from time to time create. At least one of the president or vice-president must be a full-time resident of Archuleta County.

The president may appoint directors in addition to the officers and immediate past president. The officers and directors together comprise the BOD. A BOD member may be appointed to represent the organization at BCHCO meetings. Officers and directors shall serve one-year terms. Vacancies in any office of the BOD shall be filled by an election or appointment, as applicable, by the BOD for the balance of such term, except president which will automatically be filled by the vice-president.

All elected officers and directors must be voting members in good standing.

Article VI

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Duties of Officers and Directors

The power and authority of the organization shall be exercised in the assembled meetings. When said organization is not in session, the BOD shall have all the needful authority to execute the purpose of the organization.

It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings of the organization, exercise general executive control over the affairs of the organization, call special meetings and to perform all other duties pertaining to the office. The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The president may co-sign checks for disbursement of funds.

The vice-president shall assist the president when called upon to do so and in the president's absence shall be vested with the powers and duties of the president. The vice-president may also co-sign checks for disbursement of funds.

The secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all regular, special and BOD meetings; issue notices and perform other such duties as pertains to the office.

The treasurer shall collect dues, keep and disburse all funds and make financial statements available to any interested party as soon as practical; shall furnish a written report of the state of finances monthly; shall be one of the check signers of record. All funds shall be kept in a bank account.

No officer, director or member can be held liable for any action of the San Juan Back Country Horsemen.

Article VII

Elections

All officers and directors shall be elected by a majority vote at the regularly scheduled September meeting and their term of office shall begin the next month.

No officer shall hold the same office for more than three (3) consecutive terms unless uncontested.

Nominations for the BOD election can come from a nominating committee, current BOD or general membership prior to the election or from the floor on election day.

Article VIII

Removal of Officers

Any officer or director may be relieved of their duties by an action instituted by (1) 2/3 vote of the BOD or (2) 2/3 majority vote of a quorum of 25% of total membership in good standing at a regular meeting.

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Written notification of action to remove an officer or director must be made at the regular meeting preceding the meeting that the action is to take place.

Any BOD member or officer missing over three (3) consecutive BOD meetings without an excused absence from the president may be replaced by the BOD. Each BOD member or officer will be responsible to get their information to another director or officer if unable to make the meeting.

Article IX

Committees

Necessary committees shall be designated by the president with the approval of the BOD.

Committee chairperson will be appointed by the president with the approval of the BOD. The chairperson in turn will appoint their committee members as necessary.

There will be a committee report presented by the committee chairperson at each BOD meeting and each membership meeting.

Article X

Amendments

The bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting or special meeting provided that notice is given at the preceding regular meeting. The Bylaws may only be changed by 2/3 of a quorum of 25% of total membership in good standing.

Article XI

Conduct

Improper conduct by a SJ BCH member or guest during an SJ BCH event (or an event in which the SJ BCH is represented by the member or guest) will subject the person(s) involved to removal from the event, if practical, and discipline, as voted by 2/3 of the BOD. Any member accused of misconduct may explain and/or defend their conduct either in person or in writing to the BOD during a scheduled meeting. Examples of improper conduct include excessive profanity, excessive drinking, ill manners, willfully mistreating animals or other conduct inconsistent with the organization's core values.

Discipline of Member or Guests

Members whose conduct has been deemed improper by the BOD may be disciplined by the BOD to include verbal counseling or warning, written Letter of Admonition (LOA), censuring within the organization's membership, uninvited to renew their membership, or expulsion from the organization. The member may appeal discipline from the BOD to the general

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membership, in person or in writing, during a scheduled meeting where 2/3 of a quorum of 25% of total membership in good standing may overturn the BOD's decision.

Guests to SJBCH events whose conduct has been deemed improper by the BOD, may be uninvited to future SJBCH events at the discretion of the BOD.

Article XII

Finances

Upon the dissolution of the unincorporated organization (SJBCH), assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

These Bylaws adopted on this ____ day of _____, 2023

_____, President

_____, Secretary