



## **2026 BYLAWS**

**The McDowell Saddle and Bridle Club was established in 1967 as an organization to promote horsemanship in McDowell County, to cooperate with the 4-H and FFA and offer educational programs to further the knowledge of the horse community.**

Please remember this club is a membership-oriented facility. You are welcome to bring guests. If a guest wants to accompany you often, then please invite them to become a member out of respect to the paying members. Your membership allows you to use the arena for your personal use. All members have the same privileges, and you are expected to be respectful of other members who are also using the facility. All members should make themselves available on scheduled workdays and help the club on a regular basis. If we pull together, we will accomplish much more than if only a few participate. Remember, this is your club. It is due the same respect as your property, your household, your church, and any other public facility.

### **BY-LAWS OF THE MCDOWELL COUNTY SADDLE AND BRIDLE CLUB**

#### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be The McDowell Saddle and Bridle Club, Inc. This organization was established in 1967.

#### **ARTICLE II - The purpose of the organization shall be:**

1. To promote horsemanship in McDowell County.
2. To exist and cooperate with the local 4-H Horse Groups, Pony Club's, and FFA in McDowell County and to offer educational programs to further the knowledge in the horse community.
3. To aid financially and otherwise in the building and maintain a permanent horse show arena.
4. To receive gifts of money, merchandise, and properties of every kind for use in conducting the objectives set forth above.
5. The club will permit horse shows or other events, upon approval by the Board of Directors, on a "per show" fee. Fees will be determined according to the type of event being presented with the minimum fee being **\$250**. Organizations renting the facility are not permitted to sublease or host other organizations without board approval and a separate fee.

#### **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

The membership year will run from January 1st to December 31st. The membership of this organization shall include all people interested in promoting horsemanship and interested in fulfilling the purpose of the saddle club in McDowell County. In the election of Officers and all other voting matters, the membership shall be restricted to paid, in good standing, members only. Membership guidelines are as follows:

1. Individual membership \$40.00 (19 and over) - one (1) vote.
2. Family membership \$60.00 - two (2) votes. Each member must be present at the meeting to vote. We will accept absentee ballots when deemed necessary.
3. Senior membership \$20.00 (65 and over) - one (1) vote.
4. Youth membership \$20.00 (age 18 & under) - Parent & Instructor both to sign Membership Form - This membership is for youth that would like to participate in Horse Shows for End of Year Awards and come with their instructors for schooling - no voting or other club privileges.
5. All people under eighteen (18) are required to have a parent or guardian, (an instructor if Youth membership) present always while on MSBC premises.
6. No one under eighteen (18) can hold office or vote.
7. All members and riders must sign a waiver stating that the individual will not hold the club responsible for accidents, injury, or damage to personal property.
8. Anyone who owes the Saddle Club for show tabs or has a returned check must pay the amount of the check back in full plus a \$35 return check fee and will be suspended from writing checks to the club for the remainder of that year.
9. The Board of Directors will have the power to refuse or cancel membership to anyone with two-thirds vote of the Board present at the time of the meeting.
10. You must be a member in good standing for the Year-End High Point awards. A member in good standing is defined as anyone who has not had any returned checks and has never done anything derogatory towards the club.
11. All members and guests are required to have Negative Coggins when on MSBC premises.
12. No alcohol or illegal drugs permitted on premises.
13. Disruptive behavior & profanity will not be tolerated and could result in disciplinary action up to revoking membership. Social media bashing or derogatory actions towards the grounds, Board or any member of the club could result in probation or disillusion of membership via a vote by the board. If membership is revoked, then there will be a 1-year probationary period before any membership can be attained.
14. All pets must be on a leash.
15. No horses in restricted areas at any time.
16. Members must remove jumps, barrels, poles, etc. from the arena before leaving.
17. Do not leave trash. Please take trash with you on non-show days.
18. Upon leaving MSBC grounds, saddle club members must leave the arena empty of any jumps/poles/barrels, **turn off water, turn off lights (if used) and close and lock gate.**
19. Vehicles that are not pulling a trailer must be parked in designated areas.
20. For their safety, all children must be always attended to. For everyone's safety, no bicycles, remote control cars, balls, or other such items will be allowed on show grounds on show days.
21. All youth under the age of 13 are required to wear properly fitted protective headgear that meets or exceeds current ASTM standards with the chin harness securely fastened at all times while riding, driving, or handling an equine. It is the responsibility of the rider and the parent or guardian to make sure that the headgear being worn complies with all safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, is properly fitted and in good condition. We make no representation or warranty expressed or implied about any protective headgear, as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries in equestrian activities. If a youth under 13 is found not wearing or wearing defective or improperly fitted headgear they will not be able to participate in equine activities until the problem is resolved. Anyone over 13 and under 18 that

chooses to not wear protective headgear must have a parent or guardian signature stating that they refuse to wear protective headgear.

## **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

1. The officers and board members of this club shall be nineteen (19) years of age or older.
2. The officers shall be as follows: A. President B. Vice-president C. Secretary D. Treasurer and will serve a three (3) year term. This will assure continuity of the Club policies and programs. The positions for Officers are open to any member with a one (1) year service on the Board or with the Board of Director's approval.
3. Board members will consist of 7 members (5 one year, 1 two year & 1 three year) plus the past President and/or Vice President. The board member positions are open to anyone that has been a member in good standing for one (1) year or have the approval of the board of directors.
4. Board members and officers are not to miss more than two meetings per year without extenuating circumstances. Any board member who knows they are going to miss a meeting needs to notify the President. If a current board member cannot physically attend a meeting because of an extenuating circumstance, the board member needs to make themselves electronically available at the time of chosen meeting if possible.
5. Any officer who resigns a position or otherwise cannot fulfill their duties will be replaced with the runner up in the last election, if that person cannot or will not take the position then the general membership will vote in a new officer at the next scheduled meeting.

## **ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS**

1. The officers and board members of this club shall be nominated at the general meeting in November and elected during the general meeting in December. Nominations can also be emailed to the President if you're unable to attend the meeting. To be nominated as an Officer, you need to have served on the Board for at least 1 year, unless approved by the Board of Directors. To be nominated to the board, you need to be a member in good standing for one (1) year, unless approved by the Board of Directors.
2. All elections shall be by secret ballot. If unable to attend the December meeting to vote, then ballots can be emailed to the President

## **ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven (11) members elected by the majority of the Saddle Club's members.

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and seven (7) other persons: five (5) of whom shall be elected to a one year term, one (1) to a two-year term, one (1) to a three-year term, plus the immediate past President and/or Vice President who will serve as the Director for a one (1) year term following his/her last term in Office. This will assure continuity of the Club policies and programs.
2. The expired term of the multi-year member of the Board of Directors or that of an appointed member who is filling a cancellation or resignation shall be elected at the annual election.
3. The President currently in Office shall have a deciding vote in the case of a tie vote.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS**

1. Regular meetings shall be held at least once a month on a date and time decided on by the Board of Directors. If membership, other than the Board, is not attending meetings, then meetings may be held virtually by the board, and any decisions made will be emailed to the membership.
2. Special meetings can be called by the President when needed with a forty-eight (48) hour notice.
3. The Board of Directors shall meet monthly, in person or virtually, or more often as deemed necessary by the President.
4. Order of Meeting: a. Call meeting to order. b. Opening Prayer c. Reading of minutes by the Secretary d. Treasurer's report e. Report of the committees f. Unfinished business g. new business h. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE VIII - PLAN OF WORK**

1. The annual work plan shall be suggested by members and presented to the Club as a whole prior to March 1.
2. The Board of Directors will strive to fulfill the suggestions voted on and approved of by the members.

## **ARTICLE IX - QUORUM**

A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of membership present.

## **ARTICLE X**

1. The newly elected Board of Directors will review the By-laws in December. If any amendments are to be made, they should be made and voted on at the January meeting by the general membership in attendance. No other amendments can be made to By-laws until the following year unless a special Board meeting is called, and a two-thirds vote deems it an emergency.
2. An amendment becomes effective immediately upon passage.
3. Any motion made on the night of a regular meeting can be seconded, discussed and passed or tabled for the next meeting.
4. Once a motion is voted on it shall not be voted on again. All complaints will be in writing directed to the President. Revised January 2026.