

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this association shall be the Southern Trailriders Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as “STA.” Its principal address is **8501 Veterans Memorial Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32309.**

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The general purpose of the STA shall be to promote and develop public equestrian trails and related facilities throughout the southern United States; to promote an active interest in equestrian trailriding by others; to facilitate legislation, rules, ordinances, and policies which are consistent with the promotion of equestrian trails; to encourage the compatibility of equestrian trails with natural resource conservation; to educate the general public relative to equestrian recreational activities; and to enjoy trailriding.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

The qualification of members and the manner of admission shall be by signifying agreement and interest in the purpose of the STA. Admission requires submittal of a written application, along with appropriate membership fee. A member shall be notified in writing of acceptance into the STA and given a copy of the Bylaws and membership list. A guest may participate in a maximum of three functions before being required to submit a membership application.

Section 1. **Individual Membership** - Shall consist of individuals with mutual interests who are entitled to participate in the STA activities.

Section 2. **Family Membership** - Shall consist of head(s) of household, children 18 and under and grandchildren who are entitled to participate in the STA activities.

Section 3. **4-H Youth Membership** - Shall consist of individuals who are active members of a 4-H horse club who have mutual interests with the STA who are entitled to participate in said association activities.

Section 4. **Affiliate Club Membership** - Shall consist of clubs with mutual interests in a subordinate relationship. As such, the affiliate club is entitled to receive information about ongoing activities on a regular basis and may appoint one of its members to be its representative in the STA. This membership does not entitle members of the affiliate club to participate in the STA’s ongoing activities except for the designated representative. This does not prevent affiliate club members who have joined the STA as an individual, family or 4-H member from participation as they are otherwise entitled.

Section 5. **Business Membership** - Shall consist of business entities with mutual interests desiring to support the activities of the STA to ensure its continued success.

Section 6. **Voting** - Each individual, family and business membership classification is entitled to one vote in matters of the STA business. All other memberships are non-voting.

Section 7. **Termination of Membership** - If a member becomes three months delinquent in dues, the membership will be revoked. Reinstatement shall follow the normal procedure for acceptance as a member and payment of delinquent dues. A member can be terminated as a result of a grievance. Upon termination or expulsion of membership for any reason or cause, the said member shall forfeit dues and fees paid, all rights, privileges and claims to the assets of the STA.

Section 8. **Grievance Process** - Any member can submit a grievance against another member to any board member based on representation of detrimental evidence, such as acting in a manner contrary to the express objectives of the STA or in violation of the Bylaws of STA or its rules of trail etiquette, as incorporated herein, criminal violations, drunk or disorderly conduct, being physically abusive to horses, or having disregard for the safety and welfare of others. The president will appoint a grievance committee consisting of five members to investigate the grievance. The committee will provide a

recommendation to the board based on majority vote. The board will vote to determine appropriate action and the decision will be published in the next newsletter.

ARTICLE IV – LOCAL CHAPTERS

A group of the STA members may petition the Board of Directors for approval to establish a local chapter upon submittal of the proposed name, designated geographic area and those individuals interested in forming the chapter. The number and duties of local chapter officers and directors shall be the same as set forth in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

The STA shall meet at a time and place so designated by the President or his/her designee, and written or telephone notice shall be given to the membership. Those members present shall constitute a quorum in order that the STA business can be conducted.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. The term of officers and directors of the STA shall be one year. The Board of Directors shall make the appointment of officers and directors to fill mid-term vacancies.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be fixed at eleven, consisting of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, newsletter editor, five directors elected from the membership at large, and the immediate past president. The outgoing president shall automatically serve on the Board; however, during the organizational year, an “at large” director shall be elected to fill the vacant seat. All other directors and officers shall be elected by the membership.

Section 3. Nominations for officers and directors shall be made by the Board of Directors, with a slate of officers to be recommended to the membership by way of the newsletter at least fifteen days prior to the scheduled election. Any additional nominations may be submitted by the membership at the final meeting of the year at which officers will be elected.

Section 4. Elections shall be held at the final meeting of the year, and the membership shall be notified of such meeting by the newsletter at least fifteen days prior to the scheduled election.

Section 5. The new officers and directors shall assume their official duties on January 1.

Section 6. An officer or director may be removed from office for failure to perform the duties as set forth in the Bylaws by a two-thirds’ majority vote of the members present at a duly noticed meeting.

Section 7. A husband and wife shall not hold the offices of President and Treasurer at the same time.

ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. The **President** shall preside at all scheduled meetings; be responsible for the duties of other officers of the STA; call special meetings as deemed necessary; be the official spokesperson for the STA; appoint project managers, committees and respective chairmen; and prepare and present an annual report to the membership at the final meeting of the year.

Section 2. The **Vice-President** shall preside in the absence of the President, perform duties of president for the unexpired term in the event of a vacancy in the office of President; assist the President in carrying out his/her duties; and plan STA activities in cooperation with the President.

Section 3. The **Secretary** shall handle all secretarial and clerical work within the bounds of this office, acting as secretary at all meetings; take minutes at each meeting and present

those minutes at the following meeting; and keep the official record of all minutes and bylaws.

Section 4. The **Treasurer** shall account for all monies of the STA and present a financial report; pay all bills promptly by STA checks; prepare and present an annual financial report at the final meeting of the year; and cooperate with the requests of the STA accountant on the annual income tax return as needed.

Section 5. The **Board of Directors** shall serve as a permanent Bylaws Committee and recommend changes for consideration by the membership; act as trustees for club properties; make policy decisions to effectively carry out the purposes of the STA; set the amount of annual dues and any other special fees to be assessed; and employ such persons as necessary to carry out the functions of the STA. In addition, each individual Board member shall have the authority to ask a member to leave a trailride if the member's conduct is in violation of these Bylaws.

Section 6. The **Newsletter Editor** is responsible for publishing and mailing the newsletter to members each month and may enlist the assistance of other members to help in gathering information for publication.

ARTICLE VIII –NEWSLETTER

“Hoofprints” shall be the official newsletter of the STA. Publication shall be monthly, on or about the first of each month, with a submittal deadline date of the 20th of the month preceding publication.

ARTICLE IX – LIABILITY PROTECTION

Members and guests of the STA understand that horseback riding is a dangerous sport and that they ride at their own risk. Members and guests will be required to sign liability waiver forms for STA activities. The STA will secure insurance for the club directors and officers annually.

ARTICLE X – COGGINS REQUIREMENT

A current negative Coggins shall be required for all horses ridden by members and guests at all functions of the STA and shall be produced upon demand.

ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION

The STA shall be dissolved by three-quarters' majority vote of the total membership and in accordance with Chapter 617, Florida Statutes. In the event of dissolution, all claims against the STA must be satisfied. Any remaining assets after claims have been satisfied shall be donated to a Florida agency or organization designated by the Board of Directors to benefit an equine entity.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

Changes and/or amendments to these bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds' majority vote of the members in attendance at a scheduled meeting following 30 days' prior written notice specifying the date, time and location of said meeting.