

THE ONTARIO MORGAN HORSE CLUB INC.

BY-LAWS – 2021

ARTICLE I – NAME: The name of this Club shall be The Ontario Morgan Horse Club, (OMHC) headquartered at Toronto.

ARTICLE IA – BOUNDARIES: The boundaries of the OMHC are consistent with the boundaries of the Province of Ontario. All OMHC activities will take place within these boundaries.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the OMHC shall be:

- 1) To promote appreciation and understanding of the Morgan as the ideal family horse, while at the same time preserving the romance and tradition of the breed.
- 2) To encourage improvement in quality Canadian Morgan stock through good breeding programs and introduction of recognized bloodlines.
- 3) To establish a respected public image of the Morgan as “The Versatile Breed”, as demonstrated by member participation of all types of shows, classes and events; and by utilization of their Morgans for family enjoyment.
- 4) To co-operate with The Canadian Morgan Horse Association in working for the advancement of the breed.
- 5) That any and all funds raised solely by fundraising efforts of the OMHC shall be deposited into a separate fund raising account and that the funds shall be applied solely toward the promotion and furtherance of the objects of the OMHC. The books of the account shall be open for inspection by the board and OMHC members at any time during the annual meeting.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES:

Section 1:

- a) Individual Adult OR Senior Youth – one vote.
- b) Family/Farm – two votes.
- c) Individual Youth (17 years of age & under) – no vote.
- d) Life – one vote
- e) Associate – no vote.

Section 2:

- a) Any INDIVIDUAL, 18 years of age & over, residing in Ontario, may become a voting member upon payment of one year’s membership dues.

- b) Any SENIOR YOUTH, 18 to 20 years of age, residing in Ontario, may become a voting member upon payment of one year's membership dues. He/she is also considered a member of the Just-In-Tario Youth Club. However, a maximum of two Senior Youth will be allowed to hold office on the Just-In-Tario Youth Club executive at any one time.

Section 3:

- a) Any FAMILY/FARM, residing in Ontario, may identify two adults voting members upon payment of one year's membership dues. The YOUTH of that family of farm are automatically members of the Just-In-Tario Youth Club.

Section 4:

- a) Any INDIVIDUAL YOUTH, 17 years of age & under, residing in Ontario, may become a non voting member of the OMHC; And a member of the Just-In-Tario Youth Club upon payment of one year's membership dues.

Section 5:

- a) Any INDIVIDUAL, 18 years of age & over, may become a LIFE member upon payment of the life membership dues. A LIFE member must be a resident of Ontario at the time of registration only, and is entitled to one vote, even if they do not continue to reside in Ontario.

Section 6:

- a) Any INDIVIDUAL, not residing in Ontario, may become a non voting ASSOCIATE member upon payment of one year's membership dues.

Section 7:

- a) Annual membership fees shall be set, from time to time, by majority vote at a regular general members' meeting. Dues are payable January 1st of each year. Age restrictions apply as of January 1st of that year. There will be not partial fees for portions of a year.

ARTICLE IV – VOTING:

Section 1:

- a) Each voting member shall be entitled to one vote at all regular and special meetings of the OMHC or on questionnaires circulated by the OMHC.

Section 2:

- a) A member may vote by proxy on a specific decision through representation by an officer or other member in good standing. A signed authorization of such representation must be presented to the Secretary of the OMHC before the opening of the meeting.

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Section 1:

- a) The Officers and Directors shall constitute the Board of the Directors of the Ontario Morgan Horse Club, (OMHC).
- b) The Board shall be responsible for general management of the OMHC and shall devise ways and means to achieve the objectives of the OMHC within the scope of these by-laws.
- c) The Board shall be responsible for the formation of OMHC policy, general progress of OMHC affairs, approving and co-ordinating of shows & events for OMHC members.
- d) An Individual that has been a OMHC member in good standing for two consecutive years can hold a position of office on the OMHC board.
- e) No more than ¼ of the OMHC board shall be comprised of non purebred registered Morgan horse owners.
- f) Owners of part-bred Morgans have the same rights to sit on the Board as purebred Morgans owners until such time part-bred Morgans number one-third of the Board.
- g) Only one member per household may stand on the Board of Directors.
- h) The term of office for members of the Board shall be two years. No person shall be eligible to hold the office of President for more than two consecutive terms (four years.)

Section 2:

- a) The officers of the OMHC shall be: A President, A Vice President, A Secretary, and A Treasurer. The executive shall also include the Past President in an advisory capacity.

Section 3:

- a) Seven Directors-At-Large shall be elected by popular vote of the membership.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Section 1:

- a) The President shall be the Chief Co-ordinating Officer of the OMHC and when present shall preside at all meetings. The President shall perform all duties commonly associated with this office and such additional duties as the Board of Directors shall designate.

Section 2:

- a) The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence or inability to act, shall be directly responsible for OMHC activities, and shall carry out the objectives of the OMHC,

Section 3:

- a) The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the members and the Board of Directors, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall be responsible for general correspondence on behalf of the OMHC, and have the powers and duties commonly associated with this office.

Section 4:

- a) The Treasurer shall receive monies paid to the OMHC and shall be responsible for the deposit of same in the proper bank account. The Treasurer shall account for the funds of the OMHC and shall keep such records and books as may be directed by the board of Directors. A detailed report of all receipts and disbursements will be made whenever requested by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall arrange for an impartial auditing of the books annually. The treasurer shall have the powers and duties commonly associated with this office and shall be responsible to ascertain that all disbursements from the OMHC funds are fully authorized before payment.

Section 5:

- a) The Directors-at-Large and/or Chairpersons from the general membership shall be assigned various portfolios to meet the objectives of the OMHC (see job descriptions document)

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS:

Section 1:

- a) At least three general meetings will be held annually. Special meetings may be held at any time upon the call of the President. Board of Directors meetings will be held as required.

Section 2:

- a) Notice of all general meetings, stating the time and place thereof, shall be sent by mail to each member at least 14 days before the meetings.

Section 3:

- a) A special meeting of the Board of Directors must be called to authorize expenditures of \$1000.00 or more, if required between regular meetings.

Section 4:

- a) A quorum will be considered to be at least ten members at any general meeting; and six out of eleven at board meetings.

ARTICLE VIII – VACANCIES:

Section 1:

- a) Any Officer or Director of the OMCH may resign during their term by giving written notice to the Secretary of the OMHC. Such a vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors until the next normal election.

Section 2:

- a) The members may, by majority vote, remove from office any Officer or Director. Such a vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors until the next normal election.

Section 3:

- a) The members may, by majority vote, remove a member from a committee which has been appointed by them.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS:

Section 1:

- a) These by-laws may be subject to amendment or repeal by a majority vote of members after a general circulation of the requested amendment.

Section 2:

- a) The Board of Directors will be obligated to give due consideration to a request for Amendment when submission is filed with the OMHC Secretary and bearing the signatures of not less than six voting members in good standing.

January 26, 2006

Signature of President

Signature of Secretary

Ontario Corporation Number 399383

Latest update made 2021 to include the Social Media Policy and Code Of Ethics.

Disclaimer:

As an affiliate organization of the Canadian Morgan Horse Association, the Ontario Morgan Horse Club shall follow and enforce guidelines and policies put forth by the CMHA where applicable.

Ontario Morgan Horse Club Code Of Ethics

Code of Conduct/Ethics:

The OMHC expects that all persons will conduct themselves in an honest, forthright, ethical, and sportsmanlike manner in their relationship with each other at anytime they are involved in Morgan horse-related matters.

1. To ensure that the welfare of the Horse is paramount and that every animal shall always be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion.
2. To uphold and adhere to the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and sportsmanship of the OMHC.
3. To always act professionally among members and the public in the Horse industry, avoiding any action that may reflect badly on the OMHC.
4. A member should issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner
5. Members participating in events with their Morgans, should always act in a way that best promotes themselves, the club, and the breed.
6. Any member of the club running an event, fundraiser or purchasing items are expected to pay the full amount owed in a timely manner. Any person or entity with a debt outstanding for more than 60 days to the OMHC is deemed "suspended." This will include delivery of physical items or money. The membership can be reinstated if the board votes to allow it once the items or money have been delivered.

Any conduct alleged to be in violation of these Code of Ethics will be brought forward to the board and reviewed as required.

Jurisdiction of the OMHC

1. The Executive Board shall have the authority to hear all complaints of violation of the Code, including but not limited to complaints of misconduct of OMHC members.
2. Failure to renew OMHC membership or resignation of OMHC Board Position shall not be grounds for automatic dismissal or avoidance of a complaint.

3. OMHC shall not, unless there are exceptional circumstances, hear any complaints which involve:
 - i. Private and/or contractual disputes between two or more persons that should properly be settled by a court of law.
 - ii. Rule infractions at competitions or other equine events where formal protest procedures are available as a means of filing violations of misconduct but have not been used.

Procedures for Review

1. All members of the OMHC agree to and shall be bound by this Code of Ethics during their membership in the OMHC.
2. Alleged infractions of the OMHC Code of Ethics, as adopted or amended, may be brought to the attention of the Executive Board by submitting the complaint and supporting documentation.
3. The OMHC Executive board shall interpret and enforce the OMHC Code of Ethics in matters brought before it for consideration.
4. If a member of the Executive Board has a business or personal conflict of interest with any of the parties to the complaint being reviewed, they will be removed from the complaint discussion and decision.
5. The Board of Directors may set up an Executive Committee to hear charges laid against members. On report to the Executive Committee of a charge against any member which may result in suspension or expulsion, the charge shall be laid before a meeting of the Executive Committee and the member so charged shall have fifteen (15) days notice in writing of such meeting and shall have the right to be heard. The Executive Committee shall make its recommendations with reasons, in writing to the Board.

Complaints

1. Complaints can be filed by individuals who are current members of the OMHC. An individual cannot join for the purposes of filing a complaint.
2. The complaint must contain the full name of the person or persons in possible violation and describe their relationship to the OMHC. The burden of proving all alleged violations of the Code is on the individual submitting the complaint.

3. The complaint must set forth with particularity of the facts, events and the location and date of the alleged infractions which the complaining party believes constitute violation of the Code.
4. The complaint shall name witnesses to said actions then known to the complainant.
5. The complaint must include supporting documentation then in the possession of the complainant.
6. A person who has been suspended or expelled from membership shall, after the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date of suspension or expulsion, have the right to apply to the Board of Directors for re-instatement. On such application the Board at its next meeting may by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board present re-instate the person.

Penalties:

If the Executive Board finds that the alleged party has violated the Code, it may impose such penalties as it deems proper, including but not limited to the following:

- I. Private warning letter
- II. Denial of privileges such as Highpoint & Futurity
- III. Suspension or Expulsion of Membership

References for Code of Ethics

1. *UPHA CODE OF ETHICS*. (2020). United Professional Horsemen's Association. <https://www.uphaonline.com/copy-of-how-to-become-a-professiona>
2. *CMHA Constitution*. (2018, August 16). Canadian Morgan Horse Association. <https://morganhorse.ca/constitution>
3. *Member Policies & Suspensions*. (2020, November 1). American Morgan Horse Association. <https://www.morganhorse.com/membership/membership/member-policies-suspensions/>

Ontario Morgan Horse Club Social Media Policy

Responsibility

This social media policy is designed to encourage the appropriate and effective use of social media platforms, as well as provide guidelines for staff and members to exercise personal responsibility when using social media.

There is a great responsibility for those individuals who identify an affiliation with the OMHC and/or discuss OMHC related matters, to demonstrate behaviour that is consistent with the OMHC values and policies.

Scope of Policy

This policy covers all members of the OMHC. It also covers all individuals working or volunteering within the OMHC at all levels. This policy however, does not cover private and/or contractual disputes between two or more persons. Private emails, texts or messages between members over private dealings do not fall under this policy. The policy may take into effect if these matters are slandered publicly on personal or OMHC pages.

Consequences

Failure to comply with the OMHC Social Media Policy may result in the requirement to remove posts, comments, participation in OMHC online groups or other social media publications that are deemed in breach of this policy. Additionally, members may be subject to suspension of membership and/or OMHC activities, or other disciplinary proceedings as determined by the Board. See the Code of Ethics section for more in-depth breakdown of complaints and penalties.

Appropriate Use of Social Media

The OMHC engages with social media on a professional level. If any OMHC members/staff use social media channels they are asked to follow this policy and any other guidelines which are in place to ensure effective and appropriate usage. When using social media:

- Engage with others on social media platforms on a regular basis where appropriate
- Use appropriate language
- Use caution when making a decision to post information online.
- Ensure that your profile and any content you post are consistent with the professional image you present in respect of your association with the OMHC
- Make it clear in postings that you are speaking on your own behalf. If you disclose your affiliation with the OMHC, you must state that your views do not represent those of the OMHC.

Do not:

- Upload content deemed spam, disruptive, threatening, abusive, harassing, obscene, libellous or an invasion of another's privacy – this includes text, audio, gifs, photographs or videos

- Use the OMHC's name or shared post in a derogatory manner or disparage the OMHC or other members
- Upload content deemed confidential by the OMHC. If you are unsure, please contact the OMHC board.
- Use OMHC logos, brands, slogans or other trademarks without the OMHC's prior written consent
- Use inappropriate/irrelevant hashtags
- Post negative/irrelevant personal messages through the OMHC's pages on any social media platform
- Breach Data Protection requirements (for example, never disclose personal information about another member online)
- Breach any other laws or ethical standards (for example, never use social media in a false or misleading way, such as by claiming to be someone other than yourself or by making misleading statements)

The OMHC does not discourage staff, volunteers or members from engaging with social media platforms for personal use. However, guidelines are in place to ensure that you are using them appropriately and are not jeopardizing the organization with inappropriate online behaviour. If you are aware of negative comments posted on any of our pages, please report it to the OMHC board directly.