

MELODY RIDERS SADDLE CLUB, INC. BY-LAWS

2017

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Melody Riders Saddle Club of Valley and Chewelah, Inc. For convenience of use, the name shall be publicly known as the Melody Riders Saddle Club (MRSC).

ARTICLE II: MISSION

Section 1: It shall be the mission of the Melody Riders Saddle Club to promote quality family and youth activities related to horses; to promote friendship and cooperation between individuals and other horse-related clubs and organization; and to provide educational opportunities for members and youth to learn how to care for and enjoy horses; as outlined but not limited to the items in Section 2, 3, and 4.

Section 2: To engage in and to provide social and recreational club or clubrooms at or near Chewelah, Washington or such other places as may be deemed advisable. To set out and prepare grounds for recreational, athletic and riding purposes; to promote competition and saddle and riding club meets in accordance with the Melody Riders Saddle Club Western Games Rules; all of the foregoing to be conducted and operated without profit to members. To publish a newsletter periodically and provide a club calendar of events for the members. To buy and sell all kinds of apparatus and materials required by persons frequenting the clubs social clubrooms and grounds. To purchase or lease or otherwise acquire and sell, convey or otherwise dispose of lands, buildings, easements or property, real and personal, which may be requisite for the purpose of/or capable of being conveniently used in connection with any of the needs and objectives of the club.

Section 3: To rent the arena for occasional use by commercial or non-profit organization's activities, as approved by vote of the club members.

Section 4: To raise money by subscription and dues and to grant any rights and privileges to subscribers and to do such other and further things consistent with the foregoing as may be necessary for the purpose thereof.

All of the foregoing to be such objects and purposes as are consistent with the operation of purely social and recreational club and association, without profit to members. The club is a nonprofit organization with all monies received after expenses being used exclusively for the benefit of the club.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular meetings will be held every first Thursday of each month, with the

exception of the month of December. The meeting place to be decided upon at the previous meeting. The annual meeting shall be the October meeting.

Section 2: Special Meetings may be convened as necessary by any member of the executive committee. Special meetings would consist of the officers (as stated in Article V, section 1) of the club and any special activity committee chairpersons; this shall constitute an executive committee.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: DUES Membership fees shall be \$30 per person or \$40 per family consisting of the parents and all children up to and through the age of eighteen as of January 1. Special consideration will be given in cases of hardship.

Dues are payable annually, January 1. No person shall be considered an active member of the club unless dues have been paid. Privileges of membership including arena use, voting rights and eligibility to hold office are withheld until paid.

Dues are subject to change as membership growth and/or conditions warrant such change. Such change may be made at any general (regular) meeting, provided two-thirds majority vote of those present at the meeting, including at least 4 officers and 2 members is obtained.

Section 2: ARENA USE

In order to use the arena for activities or supervised individual riding, arena users must be current members of the Melody Riders Saddle Club. Sponsors of open events must seek approval of the club and provide proof of adequate liability insurance.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1: Officers in this club shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, ways and means, western games chairman, and grounds supervisor; totaling seven (7), all of whom shall comprise the board of trustees of the club.

Section 2: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: The president shall preside at all business meetings, appoint all standing committees, and the Newsletter Editor, be an ex-officio member of all standing committees and generally conduct the business of the club.

VICE-PRESIDENT: In the absence of the president, the vice-president shall assume the duties of the president; and shall read the by-laws of the club orally at the October meeting. They shall maintain a record of club property and the current location of such property and submit a report annually at the October meeting.

SECRETARY: The secretary shall provide an agenda for each meeting, keep records of the proceedings of all meetings, keep a record of all money transactions through copies of the treasurer's reports and conduct the correspondence of the club, including distribution of a periodic newsletter. The secretary's books are property of the club and shall be available for inspection of the membership at any time. Secretary's books must accompany secretary, or in his/her absence, be sent with his/her report to every meeting.

TREASURER: The treasurer shall take charge of all funds of the club, keep a correct account of all monies received and expended, keep a roll of paid members at each meeting, collect the annual club dues and pay all bills by duplicate/carbon-copy, as they occur and are approved by the club and the president. (or his/her ex-officio). Treasurer's books must be available for inspection by the membership at any time. Treasurer's books must accompany treasurer, or in his/her absence, be sent with his/her report to every meeting.

WAYS AND MEANS CHAIRPERSON: The ways and means chairperson shall be responsible for the organization and coordination of general fund raising activities with the exception of responsibilities encompassed by other officers and will plan the awards banquet. He/she will receive all monies and bills for general fund-raising events, make accurate account of them, turn them (monies & report) over to treasurer and give a complete report at the following club meeting.

WESTERN GAMES CHAIRPERSON: Facilitates the organization of day-awards and year end awards and shall organize recreational play day activities during the year.

GROUNDS SUPERVISOR: Shall supervise the care of the arena in preparation for events. He/she shall oversee the necessary watering and working of the grounds to maintain safe footing for the scheduled activities. He/she shall work with the executive committee to prepare for events held at the club grounds. He/she shall bring to the attention of the club repairs or improvements that need attention on club work days. He/she shall supervise the care of the tractor and sprinkler system and bring necessary repair of same to the attention of the executive committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS

WEBMASTER: Keep latest news posted on website; to include minutes of meetings, calendar of activities, standings of summer game series, horse Shows, and TGIF results

TGIF 4D BARREL SERIES PRODUCER: Shall be responsible for organizing TGIF events, coordinate dates with executive committee, keep record of all monies received and expended, and provide such record to the treasurer; and shall give a complete report at the club meeting following each event.

Horse Show Director: The Horse Show Director shall be responsible for organizing all horse show events, coordinate dates with executive committee, keep record of all monies received and expended, and provide such record to the treasurer; and shall give a complete

report at the club meeting following each event.

Section 3: AUDITS: The club president shall appoint at the October meeting a disinterested third party to audit treasurer's books, and make a full report to the club no later than January.

Section 4: Each officer shall be required to present before the club, for approval, all proposals concerning expenditures, schedules, rules and changes for the activities of the respective offices.

Section 5: All officers upon retiring from office shall deliver to their successors all monies, accounts, record books, papers and other property belonging to the club.

Section 6: Vacancies in an office shall be filled at any regular meeting in the same manner as at regular elections.

Section 7: All officers may succeed themselves.

Section 8: Any and all officers who are trustees shall remain in office until succeeded by a successor.

Section 9: Club keys to be held by and limited to the members of the Executive Committee or Appointed Chairpersons.

ARTICLE VI: QUORUM

Section 1: Four (4) members present a regular meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2: The quorum for a special meeting shall consist of two-thirds of the executive committee as defined in Article III, Section 2.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS

Section 1: Election of new officers will occur annually at the annual October meeting, the beginning of the club's fiscal year.

Section 2: After written notification of proposed action and just cause, the club reserves the right to replace any officer who does not fulfill his/her duties or obligations to and for the club in accordance with Article VI and a two-thirds majority vote at a regular meeting.

Section 3: Nominations may be made from the floor and the president may appoint a nomination committee by the September meeting.

Section 4: No person is eligible for office unless a member of the club for at least one year.

ARTICLE VIII: VOTING

Section 1: To vote on financial matters members must be over 18 years of age.

Section 2: Members twelve (12) years and older may vote on all non financial club business and elections.

Section 3: All members voting must have paid membership as of January 1 of current year.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

The by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting in accordance with Article VI providing:

1. Changes are proposed at least one meeting prior to voting.
2. All members have been notified of proposed changes by phone, or in writing.
3. A two-thirds majority vote is cast.

ARTICLE X: INSURANCE

Section 1: The club shall have the authority to purchase liability insurance for the protection of its members, when necessary for events put on by the club.

Section 2: Members of the club may not sue the club or any other member.

ARTICLE XI: REAL ESTATE

No real estate or interest in real estate of any kind, owned or being purchased by this corporation shall be sold unless such sale shall first be approved at a regular meeting of the corporation members by secret ballot with a majority of 80% of members voting in favor of such sale. No such vote shall be had on such sale until and unless the intent of such sale is first advertised in Local Newspaper at least once; and second, all members are notified by mail of such intent, with both publication and mail to appear no less than six (6) days prior to a regular meeting of the members of the corporation. This article shall not be subject to change or modification unless such change or modification also be advertised and notification be mailed out at least (6) days prior to any regular meeting or which such

change or modification will be presented to the corporate members.

In the event the members, after notice as provided herein, shall vote to sell such real estate or interest therein, then such sale shall be executed by the president and one adult trustee of the corporation as instructed by the members.

ARTICLE XII: CONDUCTING BUSINESS AT MEETINGS

ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER shall govern this association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not in conflict with the by-laws of the Melody Riders Saddle Club of Valley and Chewelah, Inc.

Revised: October 13, 2016

Finalized: November 10, 2016

Revised certified by:

President Debbie Harbin

Official document signed, on file with MRSC

MELODY RIDERS WESTERN GAMES & OPEN HORSE SHOW RULES

1: EQUIPMENT

- 1.1 Western equipment is to be used. The rider's saddle must have a saddle horn and fenders and stirrups that are properly adjusted so as to allow the feet to fit in the stirrups. Bridle type is optional, however, a throat latch is recommended. If a deficiency is discovered, the contestant will be given an opportunity to correct the problem before competing.
- 1.1 A. Open Horse Show-- Equipment will follow the Washington State Horseman and United States Equine Federation rules for English/Western riding tack and attire, age of horse, use of bits. If 4-H classes are incorporated—4-H rules and regulations will be applied through the PNW horse contest guide and USEF (United States Equestrian Federation)

2. DRESS CODE

- 2.1 Clothing must be modest and appropriate. No spaghetti straps, no mid-riff tops or halter tops will be allowed. Competitors must wear long pants and riding boots with heel.
- 2.1 A. Horse show clothing will follow general rules of Washington State Horseman, United States Equine Federations for English/Western attire. Helmets are strongly recommended for youth, age 18 and under, recommended for adults, but not required. Boots must be worn in all riding disciplines. If 4-H classes are Incorporated 4-H PNW Horse Contest Guide and USEF regulations will apply. Helmets and specific attire are required.

3. RE-RIDES

- 3.1 Re-rides will only be allowed for the following reasons:
 - 3.1.1 Failure of ALL timing devices.
 - 3.1.2 Course obstruction as determined by the judge
 - 3.2 Unacceptable reasons for re-rides include:
 - 3.2.1 Failure of tack or participant's equipment.
 - 3.2.2 Horse or rider accident or injury.
 - 3.2.3 Horse or rider damage to arena equipment.
- 3.1-3.2.3 Applicable to open horse show if western games classes are implemented for into the open horse show daily events)
4-H Western Game events will follow 4-H PNW Horse Contest Guide rules.

4. DISQUALIFICATIONS (all reasons for disqualifications are at the Judges discretion and are final)
 - 4.1 Rider not at the arena gate by third call, not completing 1st obstacle within 1 minute, or excessive delay in completing the course.
 - 4.2 Running over the timer or timing light or arena personnel.
 - 4.3 Intentionally striking the horse with arena equipment
 - 4.4 Excessive abuse of the horse or use of inhumane equipment
 - 4.5 Unsporting conduct, such as use of profane language or disorderly conduct, being intoxicated or under the influence of illegal drugs, or intentionally and/or blatantly knocking over poles, barrels, etc.
 - 4.6 Horse creating safety risk in arena such as horse hitting gate or fence while in the arena to compete.
 - 4.7 Off course; breaking pattern and not correcting pattern or breaking the timer light prematurely
 - 4.8 Running through gate to start or end the course. Gate must be closed & arena presented to rider by judge before rider is to start course. Horse must also be under control before leaving the arena. (Rider may enter the arena on foot, leading horse and mount/dismount before and after ride if safety warrants)
 - 4.9 Disputing to excess the judges' decision. The judges' decision is final. Continuing to dispute the decision by either the rider or the rider's representative will result in rider disqualification in the next event. If disqualification occurs during the last event of the day, rider will be disqualified from the 1st event of the next day they compete.
 - 4.10 The arena will be divided into two separate lanes by a rope. Knocking the rope off the stands, or crossing rope will result in a disqualification.
 - 4.11 Falling off and/or dismounting the horse while horse is in the pattern.
 - 4.12 The Melody Rider has a zero tolerance for illegal drug use. If you are caught in possession of illegal drug, your membership will be permanently revoked and you will not be allowed to participate in any further club activities.

*All rules in this section will be applied to the Open Horse Show as necessary

5. PENALTIES

- 5.1 A five second penalty will be added to every knocked down pole, barrel, dropped flag, container missed or knocked down.
 - 5.1 A Applicable to open horse shows if western games are included in the daily horse show events

6. PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

- 6.1 The duty of the Procedures Committee is to handle rule disputes. All committee decisions are final.

- 6.2 Procedures Committee shall be lead by the Western Games Chairperson. The voting committee will include two executive officers, two adult general members and one youth (11-18 years of age) general member. A quorum of three is required for a vote. General members will be appointed by the western games chairperson the day of each event as necessary.
- 6.2 A Open Horse Show-- Procedures committee shall be lead by the open horse show chairperson. Any complaints not resolved at the horse show shall be addressed for resolution with the board members and attending membership at the next general business meeting. Judges decisions on class placings and rules are final.

7. JUDGES

- 7.1 The Western Games Chairperson shall appoint a lane judge and a back-up timer for each lane for each event.
- 7.2 Any questions or disputes shall be directed to an executive officer on the grounds or the Procedures Committee. Disputes need to be in writing,
- 7.2 A Open Horse Shows-- Any questions or disputes shall be directed to an executive officer or the horse show chair-on the grounds. Disputes need to be in writing. Judges decisions are final!

8. ELIGIBILITY FOR YEAR-END AWARDS

- 8.1 A member may nominate multiple horses for year end awards, but will receive awards for the highest horse/rider combination at the years' end.
- 8.1 A. Open Horse Show-- A member may nominate multiple horses for year-end awards, but will receive awards for the highest horse/rider combination only. A \$20.00 nomination fee must be paid per horse/rider combination, in addition to club membership fees and daily show class fees to be eligible for year-end awards. Membership and nomination fees must be paid prior to participation in the shows to accumulate daily show points toward year end awards.
- 8.2 Members must ride in at least five of the six western games shows in the series and ride in at least four of the six all day events to be eligible for year-end awards.
- 8.2 A. Horse Show Members must ride in at least two of the three open horse shows in the series and participate in the daily high point classes for each show Points from all three shows will determine high point winners in each division.
- 8.3 "Buy-in" option: Rider will be allowed to pay a \$20 entry fee to maintain eligibility for year end awards (one time per year) if they are unable to ride in one day's competition and want to remain eligible for year end awards Buy ins must be paid within two weeks of notification from the awards committee.

- 8.3 A Open Horse Show “Buy-in” option: Rider will be allowed to pay one all day entry fee to maintain eligibility for year end awards (one time per year) if they are unable to ride in one day’s competition and want to remain eligible for year end awards. Buy-ins must be paid within two weeks of notification from the awards committee.
- 8.4 One (1) point is awarded per competing rider combination per event in each rider’s age group. In case of a tie, the point is split. The fastest horse rider combination will receive as many points as there are horse rider combinations in that event. If there is a disqualification in that event, that disqualified combination will not receive any points; however, the total points available will remain the same.
I.e. 28 in that event: fastest time receives 28 points and then descending points per descending times.
The horse rider combination with the most points in all events for all days, and filled requirements of 8.2 and 8.3, will be the western games champion of that age group for that year. The combination with the second most points reserve champion and so forth.
- 8.4 A Open Horse Show-- The horse/rider combination per event in each age group will receive as many points as there are horse/rider combinations in that event. For example, if there are 28 riders in that event, the first place horse receives 28 points, with descending points awarded per placing in class. In case of a tie, the points will be added together and split between the tied riders. Disqualified horse/rider combinations will not receive points but the total points will remain the same
The horse rider combination with the most points in all events for all days, and filled requirements of 8.2b and 8.3b, will be the horse show champion of that age group for that year. The combination with the second most points reserve champion and so forth. Ribbons will be given to 5th place in all classes. Special awards will be given based on available funds. No special awards or daily highpoint will be given to classes or divisions with less than two people in them. Points will be accrued for classes or divisions with one person in them, who is a member, paid the nomination fee, and daily fees toward year end awards.
- 8.5 Only immediate family members may share a horse and then only in different age groups to receive points.
- 8.6 A rider can ride a horse not belonging to them (under lease) and the owner can still use that horse as a backup horse as long as the two competitors are not in the same age group.
- 8.5-8.6 Open horse show—8.5 and 8.6 will apply to horse shows
- 8.7 A vet/farrier slip is needed in order to substitute a horse. The vet slip must specify unsoundness and estimated time of horse’s return to competition. Rider must return to original declared horse as soon as horse is sound. Additional vet slips will be necessary if unsoundness exceeds original estimated time of return to competition. W.G. Chairperson may waive Vet Slip requirement if horse

becomes visibly lame or unfit for competition during a gaming show. Or if evidence is provided to substantiate lameness in the absence of the horse the day of the show. ie: A date and time video may be accepted.

- 8.7A Open Horse Show—8.7 applies to open horse shows.
- 8.8 Year-end awards will be selected by the Western Games awards committee, based upon available funds. Funding is based upon entry fees and sponsorships. Awards shall be pro-rated based upon the number of qualified riders in each age group with the last place in each age group receiving a last place awards; mid-way placings will receive appropriate mid-way awards, and 1st place, an appropriate 1st place award.
- 8.8 A. Open Horse Show-- Year-end awards will be selected by the Horse Show awards committee, based upon available funds. Funding is based upon entry fees and sponsorships. Awards shall be pro-rated based upon the number of qualified riders in each age group with the last place in each age group receiving a last place awards; mid-way placings will receive appropriate mid-way awards, and 1st place, an appropriate 1st place award.

9. SAFETY RULES

- 9.1 Stallion owners shall park in a designated stallion parking area. Stallion owners shall not allow anyone under the age of 21, other than family members of the stallion owner, in the stallion parking area. Stallion handler must be at least 21 years of age. Stallions will be identified by a blue ribbon in the tail.
- 9.1A Open Horse Show—See 9.1
- 9.2 The MRSC Western Games Committee reserves the right to ask any horse presenting a danger to spectators or competitors to leave the MRSC grounds.
- 9.2 A Open Horse Show—See 9.2
- 9.3 Horses shall not be ridden faster than a trot when outside an arena. After two warnings, competitor will be disqualified from the next event.
- 9.4 A staging area shall be established at the in/out gates, and shall remain free of vehicles and pedestrians.
- 9.5 A red ribbon will be placed on the tail of any horse that exhibits a tendency to kick.
- 9.6 No foals will be allowed in the arenas.
- 9.3-9.6 Open Horse Show—apply to open horse shows.
- 9.7 The course will be raked after every 10 runs unless otherwise specified by the Western Games Committee or the judge.
- 9.7A. Open horse show—applies to horse show if a western games event is offered and raking will be specified by horse show chair or the judge.
- 9.8 Must be 14 years or older to run gate during competition or have adult supervision at all times. Gate must be latched after each entry

10. ENTRY FEES:

- 10.1 A \$20.00 per person, per day entry fee plus a \$5.00 per person, per day office fee shall be charged. After two paid family entries, additional family entries shall be charged at a rate of \$10.00 per rider plus the \$5.00 per person office fee. A family shall be defined as “a legal parent or guardian and/or their spouse and immediate children under the age of 19 as of January 1.
- 10.1 A Horse Show entry fees: \$5.00 per class—All day fees and special rates will be determined and listed on show forms for the year.
- 10.2 A \$5.00 post entry fee will be charged if rider is not signed up 15 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.
- 10.2 A Open Horse Show—A \$10.00 post entry fee per horse/rider combination will be charged to participants post entering the day of the show. Pre entries meeting or exceeding the show expenses for the day must be received 1 week before the show is scheduled to avoid cancellation.
- 10.3 Time only entry fee is \$5.00 per class or \$20.00 per day plus a \$5.00 per day office fee if the time only is for a second horse. Time only entries are not eligible for end of day or year-end awards. Time only horses will be run at the end of each event. Only one time only run per horse, per event will be allowed.
- 10.4 Non-member day entry fee shall be \$20 plus the office fee or \$5.00 per day. Points will not begin to accumulate until membership is paid, but non-member day will count toward year-end award eligibility. Non-members must sign a liability release form before riding.
- 10.3, 10.4 Open Horse Show—Do not currently apply to open horse shows—see entry fees in 10.1 B and 10.2 B..
- 10.5 Only designated workers are allowed inside the announcer’s stand during competition. Second offense will result in disqualification from next event.
- 10.6 All debts owed to the Melody Riders by an individual must be paid in full before that individual and/or family members can ride in any MRSC sponsored event or receive any awards.
- 10.7 The MRSC shall contract one person to administer the Office and one person to operate the computer and two lane judges. The office fees shall be split between the office positions; lane judges will be paid \$1.00 per rider.

11. AGE GROUPS (AS OF JANUARY 1)

- 11.1 Lead Line, 10 & under, 11-18 and 19 and over (no saddle will be awarded in Lead Line).
- 11.1 A. Horse Shows—Lead Line, 13 & under, 14-18 years, 19 & over, and walk trot all ages. There will be no cross entry allowed in age divisions. Cross entry is also not allowed in the following: lead line to walk trot all ages; lead line or walk trot to lope canter classes. Exception: walk trot all ages may enter green horse classes to gain more experience toward future competition in lope canter classes. Classes

such as walk trot all ages may be divided based on number of entries, age, and skill level of riders.

11.2 Riders shall ride in their appropriate age group only and will remain in that age group for the entire season.

11/2 A Open Horse Show: See 11.2.

11.3 If there are two children in the same age group needing to ride the same horse, the older child may move up to the next age group and receive points, provided they declare their intent to move to the next age group prior their first competition in the series. This rule applies to immediate family members ONLY.

11.3A Open horse shows: 11.3 does not apply

11.4 Special Needs riders will compete in their appropriate age groups with lead line help if necessary.

11.5 A western games senior division for 50 years and older, has been added on a trial basis for the 2017 season.. It does not count for year end points or awards. The entry fee is \$5.00 plus the daily entry fee.

12. LEAD LINE RIDERS: (DEFINED AS RIDERS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE)

12.1 Lead Line entry fee shall be \$5.00 per day, per rider. They will not be charged the office fee.

12.1 A. Open Horse Show Fees—Lead Line entry fee shall be \$5.00 per class.

12.2 Lead Line will participate in all events except the revolving events.

12.2 A Open Horse Show—Lead Line will be allowed to participate in specific events listed on the entry form. No cross entry into walk trot all ages or lope canter classes.

12.3 No points will be given in the Lead Line Class, but rider participation will count toward year-end awards and all Lead Line Participants will receive equal year-end awards.

12.3 A Open Horse Show—Lead Line- No points will be given in the Lead Line Class, but rider participation will count toward year-end awards and all Lead Line Participants will receive equal year-end awards. Lead Line will receive daily ribbons and awards based on funding and participation.

12.4 The Lead Line handler must be at least 16 years old. When leading from the ground, Lead Line handlers must have a lead rope attached to the rider's horse at all times and maintain complete control of the horse from start to finish. The handler will not turn horse loose to run home. A loose horse will result in disqualification of the rider in that event.

12.4A Open Horse Show—see 12.4 Horses will be under control by the handler, at all times by a lead rope.

12.5 If riding double, the Lead Line rider must be in front of the handler at all times and must help maintain control of the horse from start to finish.

12.5 A. Open Horse show—Riding double is not allowed in lead line classes.

12.6 Leading a Lead Line from another horse will not be allowed.

12.6A Open horse show—see 12.6

12. EVENTS:

To be ran each day:

Pole Bending
Idaho Figure 8 Stake
Key Poles
Two Stake
Revolving event
Barrel Racing

Revolving event (one event ran per day):

Texas Rollback
Speed Barrels
Two-Barrel Flag Race
Paper Clip
Polo Race
Flying M Race