

# BYLAWS OF THE PIEDMONT CHAPTER OF THE OLD PEOPLES RIDING CLUB hereafter known as OPRC-Piedmont

## ARTICLE 1

### PURPOSE OF OPRC-PIEDMONT

Sponsoring safe horsemanship and building confidence through continuing education.

## ARTICLE 2

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1. The OPRC-Piedmont provisionally is a non-profit corporation, as described in Section 501©(7) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2. OPRC-Piedmont is affiliated with National OPRC (hereafter known as NOPRC) by agreeing to abide by NOPRC policies and procedures, as embodied in their Bylaws, by remitting dues for each club member to the NOPRC, and by obtaining a signed liability release from each member of this chapter annually.

## ARTICLE 3

### MEMBERS

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY. Any person over the age of 21 may be a member of OPRC-Piedmont. Persons are eligible for membership without regard to sex, color, nationality, or religion. No person shall be denied membership in OPRC-Piedmont because they do not own a horse.

Section 2. DUES. The dues structure for the coming year is established by the Board of Directors in December of each year.

## ARTICLE 4

### PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES/ STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY

Section 1. NOPRC has established a series of proficiency standards covering riding ability and knowledge of horses. All members are required to be rated to the D1 standard by the President or an impartial examiner. Only the NOPRC standards shall be used. Chapter members may progress up to two (2) ratings per year at the D standard. At the C standard, a six- month waiting period between ratings is required. It is highly recommended that members obtain the USPC Manual of Horsemanship. More than a D1 rating is not required by NOPRC but is encouraged.

Section 2. MOUNTED ACTIVITIES. Only rated members of OPRC-Piedmont or rated and current members of other OPRC chapters, if invited, may participate in mounted chapter activities with the exception of riders participating in activities organized for the general public by this chapter. Those being rated are also an exception.

Section 3. HOLD HARMLESS. Members using facilities and grounds made available to OPRC-Piedmont are using the facilities or property at their own risk and agree to hold harmless the property owners, OPRC-Piedmont, NOPRC, it's officers, and members for any injuries they or their animals may sustain as per the NOPRC release form that is signed at the beginning of each calendar year.

Section 4. SAFETY. All members must, when mounted, wear accepted footwear, an ASTM-approved helmet, and attach in plain sight, a medical information armband to his/her person. It is the responsibility of the rider to update the information as necessary. In all OPRC mounted activities, the President of the chapter sponsoring the activity, or the President's designated representative, is the absolute authority to disqualify any OPRC member or rider if, in the sole determination of the President or the President's designated representative, the competition is too dangerous for a particular member and/or his/her mount. The President's or the President's designated representative's decision shall be conclusive for that event.

#### ARTICLE 5 WELFARE OF HORSES

In all OPRC-Piedmont mounted activities, the President of the chapter or the President's designated representative, or any veterinarian present, shall have the authority to disqualify any member or rider if, in their opinion, the mount is not in an appropriate state of health for the activity or if there is evidence of harmful practices. The decision reached by either the veterinarian, the President or the President's designated representative is final.

#### ARTICLE 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Board of Directors shall govern OPRC-Piedmont. The number of Board Members shall include five (5) officers. The Board members shall serve terms of three (3) years and shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. At each AGM two Board positions shall be up for election. Every third year only the President's position shall be open for election. Board Members may stand again for one consecutive term. After completion of two consecutive terms, the member must stand down for one year. After one year, the member may become eligible for re-election to the Board. However, the Board Of Directors may waive this provision by a vote of two thirds of the members present at the scheduled AGM (e.g., in the event no person wants to run for the office and the current officer wishes to remain). In addition, at each AGM, the President shall appoint two (2) at-large members to serve on the Board for a period of one (1) year. In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the remaining members shall elect a replacement. The President shall be a member of the Board of Directors. The Board shall keep a record of all meetings, a copy of which shall be available to any member upon written request.

#### ARTICLE 7 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Section 1. The Board of Directors of OPRC-Piedmont shall hold the Annual General Meeting each year before Jan 31st. All members will be notified by letter or by email in a timely manner. The Board of Directors may call special meetings if the necessity arises.

Section 2. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a 2/3 majority shall constitute a quorum for transacting business. If a quorum is not present, the Board may vote to adjourn and reschedule the meeting.

#### ARTICLE 8 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. PRESIDENT. The President shall have oversight and control over the activities of OPRC-Piedmont, and shall act as liaison between NOPRC and OPRC-Piedmont.

Section 2. VICE PRESIDENT. The Vice President shall take over the duties of the President if the need arises. She shall also help organize events as needed and be or general help to the President.

Section 3. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and record the names and addresses of all members. He or she shall give notice of all meetings and complete the membership requirements of NOPRC. The President may, at his or her discretion, delegate to the Secretary the responsibility for OPRC-Piedmont correspondence.

Section 4. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall have general charge of OPRC-Piedmont funds. He or she shall keep a full and accurate record of all receipts and payments and shall report the same at each Annual General Meeting.

Section 5. COMMUNICATIONS. The Communications chair shall act as liaison between the public and the club, and between the membership and the BOD.

For Detailed Job Descriptions, refer to OPRC Board Job Descriptions document.

ARTICLE 9  
EXAMINATION OF RECORD

Any member shall be entitled to examine the Bylaws of OPRC-Piedmont, the records of meetings, the membership, and the financial statements. A written request to do so shall be directed to the Secretary or to the President.

ARTICLE 10  
DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the assets shall be distributed to local animal-related charities.

ARTICLE 11  
FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of OPRC-Piedmont shall end on December 31 of each year.

ARTICLE 12  
AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended, or repealed by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Directors providing notice of the proposal or repeal is given to all members.

ADOPTED, as revised, by the Board of Directors - Sunday, December 5, 2021