



DISCIPLINARY RULES

Section 1. Violations

A violation is any act or omission by any person or entity that is contrary to ICHO Rules, Standards and Policies or prejudicial to the best interest of the ICHO or its members. Without limiting the foregoing, any person shall be deemed guilty of a violation who shall:

- A. treat any horse in a cruel or inhumane manner ;
- B. intentionally or through gross negligence file a false registration application or other document with the ICHO;
- C. fail to obey any penalty imposed by the ICHO for a past violation;
- D. bribe, or attempt to bribe, a judge or other show official; or fail to report to the ICHO Board a bribe, or attempted bribe, of a judge or other show official ;
- E. fail to perform his or her duties and responsibilities as a show official in accordance with the rules of the ICHO;
- F. willfully refuse to follow the directions of the show management or ring stewards while showing or in the show ring;
- G. be convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor relating to the horse industry;
- H. fail to pay when due any obligation owing to ICHO ;
- I. act in a manner deemed unethical, dishonest, intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of the ICHO or its members;
- J. conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate ICHO rules, or intentionally cooperate with another person or persons, either by affirmative action or inaction, to violate ICHO rules; or
- K. violate any other rules or policies of the ICHO, not herein specifically cited.

Section 2. Complaint Procedure

- A. Upon receipt of written complaint that a person has allegedly committed a violation, the President shall refer the complaint to the Disciplinary Committee for investigation. The committee chairperson will notify the alleged violator of the investigation and nature of the alleged violation and afford the alleged violator a reasonable opportunity to present a written response to the complaint. The committee may also request additional written statements (sworn or unsworn) from the complainant, alleged violator, and any other persons having knowledge of the alleged violation. The alleged violator shall be furnished with a copy of all such statements and an opportunity to respond to them in writing. After completion of the investigation, the Disciplinary Committee may either dismiss the charges or find that a violation did occur and recommend a penalty be assessed. If a majority of the members of the Disciplinary Committee find that the alleged violator did commit a violation, the committee shall make a written report of its findings to the Board, together with its recommended penalty. A copy of the report shall be furnished promptly to the alleged violator. After the alleged violator has had an opportunity to provide the Board with a final written response, the Board shall review the report of the Disciplinary Committee, consider its recommendation, and take such action as the Board deems just and appropriate for the violation, taking into account any past discipline against the violator.

Section 3. Violation Penalties

If found guilty of a violation, the member shall be subject to such penalty as the Board ^ may set, including but not limited to:

A. Censure, Suspension and Expulsion

1. Censure: The Board may issue a private censure to the person or a public censure to be published in the Gazette.
2. Suspension: A vote of suspension may occur, in which event the suspended person is forbidden for the time specified in the findings to hold or exercise office in the ICHO, or participate in any show recognized or sponsored by the ICHO. Any suspension of membership shall be for a specific time period , following which the Board of Directors will entertain a request by that person for reinstatement to full membership.
3. Expulsion: A vote by the Board to revoke a member's current membership and all related privileges with the Association, and permanently prohibit a member from securing any type of membership available in the Organization in the future.

B. Notification of Sanctions

1. In the event a member is expelled or suspended, written notice shall be forwarded to the last known address of such member.

2. When a member is disciplined (other than by private censure), suspended or expelled, the name and address of such person and a brief description of the violation may be published in the ICHO Gazette.
3. A list of disciplined persons and the records relating to the disciplinary actions shall be maintained at ICHO's office.
4. In the event that the Board terminates the suspension of a member, then notice of the termination may be published in the ICHO Gazette.

Section 4. Litigation Forum And Expenses

Every member, by joining the ICHO, or non-member participating in the exhibition of horses at any ICHO-approved horse show, or exposition agrees that:

- A. The ICHO Board is the forum within ICHO which ultimately considers evidence of alleged violation of rules and regulations by members or non-members, decides all matters pertaining to registration of horses, and hears appeals from other committee action.
- B. Proceedings before the Board or its committees, shall be informal, and rules of evidence need not be observed. The standard by which admissibility of evidence is determined is whether the evidence is such that an ordinarily prudent person might reasonably rely upon it.
- C. If any person seeks judicial review of any ICHO final decision, action or rule and the ICHO's decision, action or rule is not reversed or overturned, the member or non-member bringing the action shall reimburse the ICHO for the reasonable attorneys' fees, court costs and other expenses incurred by the ICHO in defense of any such action.
- D. The Board shall not be liable, individually or collectively, for any act performed for or in behalf of the ICHO, unless such act is performed in willful and intentional bad faith. All Board members shall be held harmless and indemnified by the ICHO against all reasonable costs and expenses they may incur as a result of being made a party to any legal action. The Board shall be liable for costs and expenses incurred by the ICHO only to the extent of the legal assets of the organization. Neither the Board nor the members, officers or agents of the ICHO shall be personally liable for any claims or demands against the ICHO.
- E. Personal jurisdiction and venue of any legal action against the ICHO, its Board or any members of its Board for alleged acts or omissions relating to the ICHO shall lie solely and exclusively in the Court of Greene County, Ohio, where the ICHO maintains its principal place of business.