

NRHA

2026 ELECTIONS

SEATS FOR ELECTION

- Vice President (One seat): Two-year term begins January 1, 2027, followed by a two-year term as President.
- Director-at-Large (One seat): Two-year term begins January 1, 2027.
- Director (One seat for each North American region): Two-year terms begin January 1, 2027.
 - Mountain
 - Southeast
 - Southwest
 - Canada
 - Mexico

ELECTRONIC VOTING DATES

Open: September 1, 2026 at noon CDT

End: September 15, 2026 at noon CDT

NOMINATION DEADLINE

Affiliate and Write-in candidate Nomination deadline for Director-At-Large and Directors: June 1

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christa Morris-Stone, cmorris@nrha.com, (405) 946-7400, ext. 105

NRHA REGIONS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

The following Election Procedures have been reviewed and approved by the NRHA Board of Directors pursuant to their authority in the NRHA Bylaws. As these procedures can be changed at any time, please refer online in the ReinerSuite Resources Library for the most up-to-date and accurate version.

1. **Overview.** On an annual basis, NRHA conducts elections for Director-at-Large and the Board of Directors. Biennially, elections for Vice President are held. All elections are conducted under the procedures defined herein and in the NRHA Bylaws.
2. **Regions and Councils.**
 - (a) The following regions are established to represent members residing globally:

- (i) North American Regions. Comprised of all countries, states and provinces in North America and divided into the following regions. North American Affiliate Championship qualifying regions may be altered by the NRHA Board of Directors and may differ for the voting regions listed herein. Please refer to those conditions for details:
 - (1) East Central – Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee
 - (2) Mountain – Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado
 - (3) North Central – North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska
 - (4) Northeast – Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and District of Columbia
 - (5) Northwest – California (**See below***), Idaho, Oregon, Washington
 - (6) South Central – Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana
 - (7) Southeast – North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Virginia
 - (8) Southwest – Arizona, California (**See below***), Nevada and New Mexico
 - (9) Canada – Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland, Labrador, Nunavut Territory Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and Northwest Territories.
 - (10) Mexico. See (iii) below.

*** Members residing in the following California counties will be considered in the Southwest Region for elections: Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernadino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura. Members residing in any other California counties will be considered in the Northwest Regions for elections.**

(ii) **Additional Regions.**

- (1) Europe – comprised of all countries in Europe
- (2) South America – comprised of all countries in South America. See (iii) below.
- (3) Oceania – comprised of the continent of Australia and proximate islands. See (iii) below.
- (4) NRHA Affiliates within the aforementioned additional regions will form a Council to represent the interests of members residing in their Region.
 - (a) Each Council shall create a written procedure outlining how delegates are named to the respective Council and how their representative on the NRHA Board of Directors is determined. For NRHA Board of Directors eligibility, refer to NRHA Bylaws. Article III. 4. (c).
 - (b) Additionally, each Council shall develop policies and procedures to direct its activities. Such policies and procedures are subject to the approval of the NRHA Board of Directors.

- (iii) **National Association Affiliate Responsibilities.** If a region outside of the United States is home to only one National Association Affiliate (NAA), that NAA is responsible for determining the board representative(s) for the respective region and for submitting that information to NRHA in a timely manner. Should more than one NAA be approved for a given region, those NAAs should develop a written procedure to name their representative(s). Such policies and procedures are subject to the approval of the NRHA Board of Directors.

3. Director Allocation. To provide leadership for the sport of reining globally, each region will be granted the following number of directors to be elected by the members residing within specific Regions.

- (a) Directors will be allocated as follows with terms of approximately ½ of the directors

expiring each year:

- (i) North America – One director each for Canada, East Central, Mexico, Mountain, North Central, Northeast, Northwest, South Central, Southeast, and Southwest
- (ii) European Council – Two directors
- (iii) South American Council – One director
- (iv) Oceania Council – One director

4. North American Region Director Candidate Eligibility, Criteria, Qualifications and Commitment.

- (a) Additional Criteria. Candidates must meet the criteria listed in NRHA Bylaws. Article III. 4. (c), in addition to the following:
 - (i) Be at least 25 years of age.
 - (ii) Be a current member of the NRHA Affiliate that nominated him/her. A write-in candidate does not need to be a member of an NRHA Affiliate.
 - (iii) Be a member in good standing with NRHA for a period of not less than two (2) years. If a member has been suspended for reasons other than failure to pay and is reinstated, he/she must be a member following reinstatement for a period of two (2) years prior to the date of nomination. Any individual who has been removed from the NRHA Board of Directors or Executive Committee is not eligible for candidacy unless approved by a majority vote of the Board.
- (b) Qualifications. Candidates should possess the following attributes:
 - (i) Knowledge of the reining horse industry.
 - (ii) Evidence of commitment to the Association's objectives through personal involvement in the industry (diversity of non pros, professionals, judges, breeders, stallion owners, etc.).
 - (iii) Potential to bring a special expertise or experience to the board (i.e. background in general management, accounting, legal, marketing, advertising, promotions, sponsorships, human resources, information technology, show production and management, breeding, training, etc.)
 - (iv) Prior board-level experience at the regional/affiliate level or within some form of nonprofit entity.
 - (v) Willingness to support board views even when not personally in agreement.
- (c) Commitment. Candidates should be willing to commit to the following:
 - (i) Ability to serve knowing the time commitment expected of them.
 - (ii) Financially willing to commit to the expense, which could include at least the procurement of a personal computer and accessories, if necessary, for video conferencing (web cam, microphone, broadband connection) and at most for personal travel, airfare, lodging, transportation and meals when attending a minimum of three Board of Directors meetings per year.
 - (iii) Time commitment to participate in meetings either in person or via teleconference and/or video conference meetings (if available), and willingness to become educated about issues at hand as necessary.
 - (iv) Willingness to actively serve on board-level committees as chair/vice chair or member.

5. Vice President and Director-at-Large Candidate Eligibility, Criteria, Qualifications and Commitment.

- (a) Candidates for Vice President or Director-At-Large must meet all of the items listed above in Section 4.
- (b) Additionally, to be eligible for election as Vice President or as a Director-at-Large, an individual must have served for at least one year as a member of the Board of Directors prior to taking office (see NRHA Bylaws. Article V.)

6. Nominations.

- (a) North American Director nominations:
 - (i) The nomination period shall close at least ninety (90) days before the start of the annual elections.
 - (ii) Director candidate nominations may be made by affiliates. Nominations must be submitted in writing by an officer of the affiliate **who is not being nominated as a candidate**. The language must include the name of the nominating affiliate, candidate's name, candidate's region for election and election year. It is recommended that the letter contain the candidate's NRHA membership number for identification purposes. A biography of the candidate, including his/her credentials, must be submitted by the deadline. It is recommended that the candidate submit a high-resolution photo to accompany elections information. Only one candidate is allowed per nomination letter. There is no limit to the number of nominations that can be made by an affiliate. Affiliates shall only nominate candidates to represent their respective region.
 - (iii) Write-in candidates for director may be accepted if the nomination is accompanied by a minimum of 25 signatures from eligible voting members in good standing residing within the respective region. The nomination language must include the candidate's name, candidate's NRHA membership number, candidate's region for election and election year. On the same document, supporting members must sign and print his/her name and provide his/her NRHA membership number. A biography of the candidate, including his/her credentials, must be submitted by the deadline. It is recommended that the candidate submit a high-resolution photo to accompany elections information.
- (b) Vice President / Director-at-Large nominations:
 - (i) For Nominating/Governance Committee nominations, refer to NRHA Bylaws Article V. (a).
 - (ii) For write-in nomination criteria, refer to NRHA Bylaws Article V. (a).

7. Election Administration.

- (a) The Nominating/Governance Committee shall monitor incoming nominations to assure that at the least the minimum number of candidates nominated in each region will fill the number of seats for that region and shall take action to stimulate nominations if any region is not generating enough nominations to fill the respective number of region positions open in that region. Such action would include:
 - (i) Sending notices directly to each affiliate in the region.
 - (ii) Networking for candidate recommendations that the Nominating/Governance Committee could then encourage an affiliate to nominate. (iii) Networking for candidates to be write-in nominees.
- (b) Voting.
 - (i) Annual elections shall be conducted by online electronic voting ballot. Ballots only will be accepted via the online ballot.
 - (ii) Election dates shall be approved by the NRHA Board of Directors and shall be open for a period of two weeks.
 - (iii) Per NRHA Bylaws. Article II. 9., to be elected, an individual must receive at least a majority of votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, the two candidates receiving the most votes will advance to a run-off election. Run-off election dates shall be approved by the NRHA Executive Committee and shall be open for a period of thirty (30) days.
- (c) An NRHA staff member shall be designated as the Elections Administrator. This person also should be the Nominating/Governance Committee's staff liaison. He/she shall:
 - (i) Agree to maintain the integrity and confidentiality of NRHA elections.
 - (ii) Set up the online ballots under the direction of the Nominating/Governance Committee.
 - (iii) Interface with ballots as necessary.
 - (iv) Draft and send electronic election notices and voting instructions.

- (v) Maintain voter eligibility lists specific to each region and integrate them with the ballots.
- (vi) Finalize the tally of each election and announce the results.
- (vii) Conduct the annual elections in accordance with the procedures contained within the Board-approved Election Procedures and NRHA Bylaws.
- (viii) Verify that candidates meet the requirements of the position.
- (ix) Organize candidate biographies for publication on the NRHA website, in the NRHA Reiner magazine, and distributed to members in respective regions via email.
- (x) Prior to the start of the elections, all members of the respective region(s) will be provided with voting and password instructions to access the online ballot. Voting credential information shall only be sent to individual members, and to no other party, at the member's current email or physical mailing address of record in the NRHA database.
- (d) Upon completion of the validated final tally by the Elections Administrator, the election results shall be as soon as possible published on the NRHA website and in the NRHA Reiner magazine.
- (e) For voting eligibility, refer to NRHA Bylaws. Article II. 7. Additionally, no individual member shall vote more than one ballot in any North American Region election.

APPENDIX A

ANNUAL DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE ELECTIONS

SEATS ELECTED BY THE NRHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Director-At-Large (Two seats): Elected by the Board of Directors from within the membership. One-year term begins January 1.
- Director-At-Large (One seat): Elected by the Board of Directors from within the Board that are serving the next year. One-year term begins January 1.

VOTING DATES

- To be held prior to December 31

NOMINATION DEADLINE

- Nominating / Governance Committee and nominations from the floor: November 1

NOMINATION AND VOTING PROCESS

- In addition to nominations coming from the Nominating/Governance Committee, any Board member with a term extending into the upcoming year may nominate a candidate from the floor. All nominations must be submitted in writing by email to the Elections Administrator by the deadline.
- If the nominee is not a current Board member, a Candidate Biography form is recommended for inclusion on the ballot.
- After nominations close, the Elections Administrator will verify candidate eligibility. Confirmed candidates will be forwarded to the President and Commissioner, then shared with the Board of Directors.
- The electronic voting period will be announced to Board members at least five days before voting opens. Only Board members that are serving the next year may vote.