

# THE AMERICAN BLAZER HORSE HANDBOOK



---

*Official Rules, Regulations, and Policy Guide for the  
American Blazer Horse Association, Inc.  
Third Edition, 2020*

**“The secret to success is constancy of purpose.”**

***Benjamin Franklin***

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of the American Blazer Horse Association is to help people everywhere discover, enjoy and remember American Blazer Horse.**

## **FORWARD**

The American Blazer Horse Association was formed in June 2006 to continue promoting the vision and mission of the original Blazer Horse Association, which was formed in 1967. The new ABHA is a membership owned organization that is overseen by a Board of Directors. The purpose of the ABHA is to have a strong association of Blazer Horses and their owners participating in a variety of venues. The ABHA will set the guidelines for registration, exhibiting, breeding and also for the ABHA Youth Association.

The ABHA will help educate people about the general welfare of horses through literature, seminars, and clinics and about Blazer Horses in particular. The ABHA recognizes the fact that the equine industry is ever evolving and it is the responsibility of the organization to keep the members abreast of those changes. The ABHA will encourage its members to be on the cutting edge of the industry on a national level. This commitment is made to all members of the ABHA and owners of Blazers Horses, with the goal of providing a resource and partnership therewith.

***Brian M. Harper***

***Chairman, Registration Regulations & Rule Book Committee***

***American Blazer Horse Association, Inc. 2006***

**[www.blazerhorse.com](http://www.blazerhorse.com)**

## **PROFILE OF AN AMERICAN BLAZER HORSE**

The Blazer Horse was designed to be a “user friendly” horse standing between 13 and 15 hands at maturity.

Great athleticism, incredible soundness, and a willing disposition are desired and proven characteristics of the breed. Blazer horses display a great bone to body mass ration with smooth muscling. They have a very large bold eye that is wide set. The great athleticism comes in part from short coupling that ties in well.

Blazer Horses display a slight crest in the neck with a clean throat latch, an extreme slope to the shoulder for smooth movement, and nicely defined withers. A complete picture of the Blazer Horse includes a well-rounded croup with a long hip and underline. The skeletal structure of a Blazer Horse provides the animal with bold joints and flat leg bones which measure seven inches in circumference below the knee for every thousand pounds of body weight. One of the best traits of Blazer Horses is their great feet, consisting of hard, thick hoof walls and a deep sole plate.

Blazer Horses are exclusively solid colored horses, with no white above the knees, hocks (except for acceptable face markings), with solid colored eyes. Blazer Horses are extremely versatile and it is not uncommon for the gymkhana horse on Saturday to be a relaxed trail horse on Sunday. Blazer Horses have also been known to go directly from the cow pen into an English event with little difficulty. With their great ability for versatility, the Blazer Horse is a horse for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **Blazer Horse Creed**

We believe that the world is better with American Blazer Horses in it. We believe that horses ought to be gentle, willing, honest, agile, and bred with conformation and disposition in mind.

We believe Blazer Horses meet this expectation over and over again. We believe that Blazer Horses are a gentle whisper from the history of the American West.

We believe in yesterday. We honor the horses and the people who got us this far, and we believe their stories deserve to live on. We believe that the best horses in our breed haven't been born yet, that our biggest promoters aren't involved yet, and that the future is bright for American Blazer Horses and the equestrians who love them.

We believe the future is now. Right now. To be a part of this movement means a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to leave a mark... to make history. We believe this is no time to think small. We believe in stories. Stories help us understand where we've been, who we are, and what we aspire to become. Stories are the best way we know to celebrate this breed and keep building it... one believer at a time. We believe it's our job to tell those stories.

Most of all, we believe in tomorrow. We believe... no, we know!...that Blazer Horses are special... that this journey is worth it... and that if we stay true to what we believe ... together, we can change the world. Because we believe in Blazer Horses.

Written by Brian Harper-Tibaldo May 2019

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **SECTION 1 ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

## **SECTION 2 BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN BLAZER HORSE ASSOCIATION, INC. .(ABHA)**

- 2.1 OFFICES
  - 2.1.1 MEMBERS
- 2.2 MEETING OF MEMBERS
- 2.3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 2.4 OFFICERS
- 2.5 COMMITTEES
- 2.6 CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND GIFTS
- 2.7 CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP
- 2.8 NON PROFIT STATUS
- 2.9 BOOKS & RECORDS
- 2.10 FISCAL YEAR
- 2.11 DUES
- 2.12 WAIVER OF NOTICE
- 2.13 AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

## **SECTION 3 CORPORATION POLICIES**

- 3.1 EMPLOYEES OF THE ABHA
- 3.2 CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT
- 3.3 CORP. BRANDING GUIDELINES
- 3.4 DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITIES
- 3.5 ABHA DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

## **SECTION 4 REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY**

- 4.1 ELIGIBLE HORSES
- 4.2 ACCEPTABLE BODY COLORS
- 4.3 UNACCEPTABLE BODY COLORS
- 4.4 ACCEPTABLE WHITE MARKINGS
- 4.5 UNACCEPTABLE WHITE MARKINGS
- 4.6 EYE COLOR
- 4.7 ACCEPTABLE TYPE & CONFORMATION
- 4.8 HEIGHT REQUIREMENT/RESTRICTION
- 4.9 SCARS & BRANDS
- 4.10 GENETIC DEFECTS

- SECTION 5      REGISTRATION PROCESS**
- 5.1      PROCESS OVERVIEW
  - 5.2      GENERAL INFORMATION
  - 5.3      MAIN REGISTRY BOOK
  - 5.4      BROOD BOOK
  - 5.5      SOUNDNESS EXAM
  - 5.6      BREEDING STOCK RECORD
  - 5.7      YEARLY STALLION REPORTS
  - 5.8      BREEDER'S RECEIPT
  - 5.9      APPLICATION DENIAL
  - 5.10     NAMING A HORSE
  - 5.11     CHANGING THE NAME OF A HORSE
  - 5.12     AGE OF THE HORSE
  - 5.13     CHANGE IN COLOR OR MARKINGS
  - 5.14     SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR REGISTRATION  
AND TRANSFERS
  - 5.15     REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATES
  - 5.16     DUPLICATE CERTIFICATES
  - 5.17     TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP
  - 5.18     LEASE
  - 5.19     AUCTION SALE
  - 5.20     SALE OR DISPOSAL WITHOUT REGISTRATION  
CERTIFICATE
  - 5.21     EMBRYO TRANSFER
  - 5.22     ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION
  - 5.23     DEATH OF A HORSE
  - 5.24     REGISTRATION FEES
  - 5.25     VIOLATIONS AND FRAUDULENT PRACTICES
  - 5.26     LIABILITY

- SECTION 6      JUDGING STANDARDS**
- 6.1      GENERAL RULES
  - 6.2      MOVEMENT
  - 6.3      CONFIRMATION

**Section 7      Bylaw change log**

## **SECTION I**

### **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE AMERICAN BLAZER HORSE ASSOCIATION, INC., A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that we, the undersigned, all being natural persons of full age, have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act and do hereby certify:

#### **ARTICLE I**

The name of the corporation shall be American Blazer Horse Association, Inc. The corporation is a non-profit corporation.

#### **ARTICLE II**

Subject to dissolution in the manner provided by law, the duration of the corporation shall be perpetual.

#### **ARTICLE III**

The purposes for which this corporation is formed are as follows:

1. To promote the Blazer Horse in Idaho and in the United States.
2. To proffer the advancement, study, breeding, exhibiting, and maintenance of the Blazer Horse.
3. To educate members and the general public regarding the Blazer Horse.
4. To maintain a registry of the Blazer Horse and its offspring.
5. To support and encourage Blazer Horse owners.

6. To do all things and take all actions necessary or incidental to the accomplishment or promotion of the foregoing purposes.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

The street address for the corporation's office is: 16114 Idaho Center Blvd., Suite 3, Nampa, ID 83687.

#### **ARTICLE V**

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Articles III and VI.

#### **ARTICLE VI**

Upon dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated under the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act, as the Board of Directors shall determine.

#### **ARTICLE VII**

The corporation will have members. Qualifications for the rights of members shall be established by the Board of Directors in the corporate by-laws.

Certificates of membership shall be issued to all members. Membership fees, dues, or assessments may be levied upon all members.

#### **ARTICLE VIII**

The management of and control of the corporation shall be vested in its Board of Directors comprised of members who shall be elected in accordance with the by-laws of the

corporation. The corporation shall initially have eight (8) directors at large and one (1) director emeritus. Directors shall serve staggered two-year terms with four directors being chosen in even years and five directors being chosen in odd years.

The names and addresses of the incorporators and of the initial directors who shall serve as such until their successors are selected and qualified in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws are:

Ed McNellis  
621 Robinson Rd., Nampa, ID 83687

Michael Kruse  
6740 S. Eagle Rd., Meridian, ID 83642

Katharine Cram  
716 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> North, Mtn. Home, ID 83647

F. Neil Hinck, Director Emeritus  
1894 Miller Rd., Adrian, OR 97901

Donna Kelleher  
22965 Red Top Rd., Wilder, ID 83676

Candice Price  
8089 Rustin Rd., Middleton, ID 83644

Renee Wells  
1456 S. 600 W., Oakley, ID 83346

Deanna Wirz  
7285 McElroy Rd., Melba, ID 83641

Faye Redd  
17275 Hollow Rd., Caldwell, ID 83607

## **ARTICLE IX**

These articles may be altered or amended only upon a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors and of at least two-thirds of the members entitled to vote.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF these Articles have been signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006 (Sec. 1, Page 2 of original).



## SECTION II

### BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN BLAZER HORSE ASSOCIATION, INC.

#### 2.1 OFFICES

The mailing address for the principal office of the corporation shall be 16114 Idaho Center Blvd. Suite 3., Nampa, ID 83687.

#### 2.2 MEMBERS

**Classes of Members** – There will be but one class of members. A membership may be comprised of a single individual, a business, or an individual with spouse/domestic partner and/or minor children. Each membership is entitled to one vote.

**Election of Members** – Any person interested in becoming a member of the corporation shall submit a written, signed application with appropriate fee, on a form approved by the Board of Directors, to the secretary of the corporation. Applicants whose application is approved shall become members of the corporation upon payment of the required initiation fees and dues. There are two types of members, lifetime and annual members. Fee to be set by the Board of Directors. Annuals dues to be paid annually prior to voting on any matters or serving on the Board of Directors. Annual year is Jan 1 through Dec 31.

**Voting Right** – Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote per membership (household) on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

**Termination of Membership** – Members may be suspended or terminated if they become ineligible for membership. The corporation reserves the right to suspend or expel any member found to mistreat or neglect the care of horse(s), falsely represent the American Blazer Horse Association or be convicted of fraud or embezzlement.

**Resignation** – Any member may resign by filing a written request with the secretary of the association, but such resignation shall not relieve the member of their obligation to pay any dues, assessments, or other charges heretofore accrued and unpaid at the time of resignation. In the event of resignation of membership, any previously paid fees to the organization shall remain in the custody of the ABHA without regard to refund or prorate of said fees.

**Reinstatement** – On the written request signed by a former member and filed with the secretary, the Board of Directors, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board, may reinstate such former member who were suspended or terminated to membership on such terms as the Board of Directors may deem appropriate. Reinstatement for default resignation will occur when annual dues and any outstanding balances due the Association are paid.

**Transfer of Membership** – Membership in this corporation is non-transferable or assignable.

## **2.3 MEETING OF MEMBERS**

**Annual Meeting** – A meeting of all members shall be held annually for the purpose of electing directors and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting. If the election of directors is not held on the day designated herein for any annual meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of members as soon thereafter as is convenient.

**Special Meetings** – Special meeting of the members may be called by the president, the Board of Directors, or not less than one-fifth of the members having voting rights, at a place designated by the Board of Directors. If no designation is made, the place of meeting shall be the principal office of the corporation in the State of Idaho, but if all the members shall meet at any time and place, either within or without the State of Idaho, and consent to the holding of a meeting, such meeting shall be valid without call of notice, and at such meeting any corporate action may be taken.

**Notice of Meetings** – A written or printed notice stating the place, day, and hour of any meeting of members shall be delivered either personally or by first class mail, to each member (household) entitled to vote at such meeting, not less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty (60) days before the date of such meeting, by or at the direction of the president, or the secretary, or the officers or persons calling the meeting. In case of a special meeting, or when required by statute, a court, or by these by-laws, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice. If mailed, the notice of the meeting shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at his or her address as it appears on the records of the corporation, with postage thereon prepaid.

**Information Action by Members** – Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of the members, or any action that may be taken at a meeting of members, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by all the members entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof.

**Quorum** – Six directors present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum at such a meeting. If a quorum is not present at any such meeting of members, a majority of members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

**Proxies** – At any meeting of members, a member entitled to vote may vote by proxy executed in writing by the member or by his or her duly authorized attorney in fact. No proxy shall be valid after three (3) months from the date of its execution, unless otherwise provided in the proxy.

**Voting by Mail** – Where directors or officers are to be elected by members or any class or classes of members, such election may be conducted by mail in such a manner as prescribed by the Idaho Code 30-3-53 or by any other applicable statute.

## **2.4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**General Powers** – The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors.

**Number, Tenure, and Qualification** – This number of directors shall be eleven (11) Directors shall be elected to two year terms at the annual meeting of membership.

**Vacancies** – Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors and any directorship to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of directors shall be filled by the President, as the case may be. A director appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of his predecessor in office. Upon the vacancy of a director with “emeritus” status, said directorship will be filled with an “at large” director subject to the manner and process described herein.

**Compensation** – Directors as such shall not receive any stated salaries for their service, but by resolution of the Board of Directors, a fixed sum and expenses of attendance, if any, may be allowed for.

**Classification of the Board** – Directors shall serve staggered two-year terms with six directors being chosen in even-numbered years and five directors being chosen in odd-numbered years. Classification of the terms of directors shall

be evaluated as needed and any changes must be approved by the majority of the membership. Complete declassification (non-staggering) of the Board members' terms may only be approved at an annual meeting of members, with not less than ninety (90) days notice given prior to such meeting being held. Declassification can only be upheld with an affirmative vote of 75% of the members in attendance at said meeting.

## **2.5 OFFICERS**

**Officers** – The officers of the corporation shall be one (1) President, one (1) or more Vice-Presidents (the number thereof to be determined by the Board of Directors), one (1) Secretary, one (1) Treasurer (secretary and treasurer may be a combined job), and such other officers as may be elected in accordance with the provisions of this article. The Board of Directors may elect or appoint such other officers, including one (1) or more Assistant Secretaries and one (1) or more Assistant Treasurers, as it shall deem needful or desirable. Any two (2) or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of President and Vice President.

**Election and Terms** – The officers of the corporation shall be elected at the first annual meeting of the Board of Directors. If the election of officers is not held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as is convenient. New officers may be created and filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Each officer shall hold office until his successor has been duly elected and qualified.

**Removal of Officers** – Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interest of the corporation would be served thereby. Such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed.

**Vacancies** – A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be

filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

**Powers and Duties** – The officers shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as may from time to time be specified in resolutions or other directives of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such specifications, each officer shall have the powers and authority and shall perform and discharge the duties of the officers of the same title serving in non-profit corporations having the same or similar general purposes and objectives of the corporation.

## **2.6 COMMITTEES**

**Committees of Directors** – The Board of Directors, by resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors in office, may designate one (1) or more committees, each of which shall consist of one (1) or more Directors. Said committees, to the extent provided in such resolution, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the corporation; however, the designation of such committees and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any individual Director of any responsibility imposed on it, or him or her, by the law.

**Committees** – Committees not having and exercising the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the corporation may be designated by a resolution adopted by a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Members of each such committee shall be members of the corporation and the president of the corporation shall appoint the members thereof. Any member thereof may be removed by the person or persons authorized to appoint such member whenever in their judgment the best interests of the corporation shall be served by such removal.

## **2.7 CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND GIFTS**

**Contracts** – The Board of Directors may authorize any officer(s) or agent(s) of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by the by-laws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.

**Checks, Drafts, or Orders** – All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Directors, such instruments shall be signed by the Treasurer or an Assistant Treasurer and countersigned by the President or a Vice-President of the corporation.

**Deposits** – All funds of the corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

**Gifts** – The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or device for any purpose of the corporation.

## **2.8 CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Certificates of Membership** – The Board of Directors shall provide for the issuance of certificates evidencing membership in the corporation. Said certificates shall be in such form as may be determined by the Board. Such certificates shall be signed by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary. All certificates shall be consecutively numbered. The name and address of the member and the date of issuance of the certificate shall be entered on the records of

the corporation. If any certificate is lost, mutilated, or destroyed, a new certificate may be issued on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine.

**Issuance of Certificates** – When the applicant has been elected to membership and has paid any initiation fees and dues that may then be required, a certificate of membership shall be issued in his or her name and delivered to him/her by the secretary.

## **2.9 NONPROFIT STATUS**

**Purpose** – The Corporation is organized for the purpose of promoting the advancement, study, breeding, exhibiting, and maintenance of records of the Blazer Horses. The organization’s mission is: To help people everywhere discover, enjoy and remember Blazer Horses.

**Non-Profit Purpose** – The Corporation is organized exclusively for purposes which are not for profit, and not for pecuniary benefit or financial gain. No part of the corporate assets, net income, or profits shall be distributed to, or inure to the benefit of its officers, directors, or members, except to the extent permitted for a nonprofit corporation under the nonprofit corporation laws of the State of Idaho.

## **2.10 BOOKS AND RECORDS**

The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of accounts and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Board of Directors. All books and records of the corporation may be inspected by any member or his/her agent or attorney for any purpose at any reasonable time.

**2.11 FISCAL YEAR** - The fiscal year of the corporation shall be from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **2.12 DUES**

**Annual Dues** – The Board of Directors shall determine from time to time the amount of registration or membership fees, if any, and annual dues payable to the corporation by members, and shall give appropriate notice to the members.

**Payment of Dues** – Dues are payable in advance of the first day of January for the year in question. Dues are assessed on a whole basis by calendar year and shall not be prorated or amortized for members who pay dues after January 1st, or for new members joining after January 1st.

**Default and Termination of Membership** – When any member is in default in payment of dues for a period of three (3) consecutive months, his or her membership may thereupon be terminated by the Board of Directors as provided herein. Upon such termination, the Board reserves the right to retain any and all previously paid dues.

## **2.11 WAIVER OF NOTICE**

Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the By-laws of the corporation, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such a notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

## **2.12 AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

The by-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new by-laws may be adopted by a majority of the Directors present at any regular meeting or at any special meeting, if at least

thirty (30) days notice is given of the intention to alter, amend, or repeal, or to adopt new by-laws at such meeting and such amendment does not affect the total number of directors, or the method or way in which directors are elected or selected. If any of these exceptions apply, then the by-laws may only be amended by the members by a two-thirds (2/3) vote that is cast by the members or a majority of the voting power, whichever is less.

## **SECTION III**

### **CORPORATION POLICIES**

#### **3.1 EMPLOYEES OF THE ABHA**

The American Blazer Horse Association henceforth referred to as “the ABHA” shall employ individuals within the ranks of its membership in either an elected or appointed capacity. Though said members may be described as an “employee” of the organization, all work shall be done on a volunteer basis with the understanding that no compensation or personal profit shall exist. Employees may however, submit requests for reimbursement of personal expense rendered in an official capacity, and/or on behalf of the ABHA. Additionally, certain tasks of the organization may be contracted out.

#### **3.2 CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT**

The ABHA provides that all aspects of business be conducted without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, disability, religion, or political affiliation, and in full accordance with all state and federal employment legislation.

Employees of the ABHA are expected to fulfill certain duties and expectations which support the mission and values of the corporation and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner deserving of the membership’s trust and support. The following list is not all-inclusive but is intended to illustrate the minimum expectations for acceptable conduct and performance of all employees serving the ABHA in an elected or appointed capacity:

- Execute decisions and/or actions performed in a capacity representing the ABHA in accordance with the best interest of the organization.

- Always practice the ethical and humane treatment of horses as described by local laws, and pursuant to the rules and regulations of specific events and/or shows in which Blazer Horses are represented in a named and official capacity.
- Perform assigned duties and responsibilities to the ABHA with the highest degree of personal ethics.
- Do not act or undertake actions in an official capacity on behalf of the ABHA that shall directly or intentionally proffer the success of one member or group of members over another.
- Demonstrate respect for other employees of the organization, as well as all members.
- Support efforts that ensure a safe and healthy operational environment.
- Resolve issues, disagreements, and disputes in a professional manner and through established business processes.
- Meet or exceed established job performance expectations.
- Use personal discretion at all times in maintaining confidentiality and not disclosing proprietary information outside of the organization. Proprietary information shall include but is not limited to policies, practices, planning, funding, banking, etc. as they relate to the success of the ABHA.

Conduct unbecoming an employee of the organization shall be considered grounds for dismissal, pursuant to the discretion of a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### **3.3 CORPORATION BRANDING GUIDELINES**

The official brand of the American Blazer Horse Association shall not under any circumstances be used without the express written consent to the ABHA. Such written notices

shall only be given by or under the direction of the President or other party so authorized by the president.

### **3.4 DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The ABHA does not assume responsibility for the actions, success, financial returns, or safety of individual breeders, show participants, or owners and/or participants in any horse related endeavors or activity. Equine endeavors are understood to be accompanied by some degree of risk for the participants' success, safety, and financial well being, and the owners of Blazer Horses and members of the organization shall assume such risks and agree to hold the ABHA without fault.

The ABHA exists as a member-driven organization, with the goal of providing rules and regulations that allow for the continuation and success of the Blazer Horse. As a company, the ABHA and its employees are bound by corporate guidelines, and legal standards for a non-profit organization. Accordingly the company is indifferent to the success of one member or group of members over another.

### **3.5 ABHA DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

The Board of Directors has the right to discipline, suspend, fine, or expel members of the ABHA who demonstrate a clear lack of regard for the company's best interest, who violate the company's Code of Business Conduct, or undertake actions which are otherwise deemed unethical in the view of the Board.

The continuation and success of the Blazer Horse as defined in this document should be the intention of every breeder who registers stock with the ABHA. Any member found to be registering horses under false pretenses, or failing in good conscience to disclose known faults or disqualifications as stated herein may be subject to increased fines or penalties.

## SECTION IV

### REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY

The by-laws and rules affecting registration of Blazer horses shall be subject to change only by the Rules & Registration Committee. Any time the word “Blazer” is used in this handbook in reference to any rule or regulation, it shall include all the horses eligible for ABHA registration.

#### 4.1 ELIGIBLE HORSES

All horses applying for registration into the American Blazer Horse Association (ABHA) must be documented descendants of the foundation sire, “Little Blaze” ABHA registration number “F-1.” *For a more detailed analysis of pedigree requirements, see section 4.11.*

- Horses of unknown descent or who are not documented descendants of “Little Blaze” will NOT be registered as a Blazer Horse, but may be entered into the Breeding Horse Stock Record to record their lineage.
- Horses in the Breeding Stock Record CANNOT produce a registered Blazer offspring UNLESS they are bred to a REGISTERED Blazer Horse, therefore giving the offspring a direct line to “Little Blaze.”
- All horses applying for registration must meet regulations and standards including but not limited to height, color, and markings.
- Horses produced by any type of cloning process are not eligible for registration in the ABHA. Cloning is defined as any method by which the genetic material of an unfertilized egg or embryo is removed and replaced by genetic material taken from another organism, added to/with genetic material from another organism, or otherwise modified in order to produce a live foal.

## 4.2 ACCEPTABLE BODY COLORS

**Bay** – Body color ranging from tan through red, to reddish brown; mane and tail are black, with black on lower legs.

**Bay Roan** – Body color is a uniform mix of red and white hair on a large portion of the body, but with black legs and typically darker hair covering the head. Some black hairs may be visible throughout the body. Solid dark skin over the body is required to be considered for registration.

**Black** – Body color is black without the presence of light or white, red, or brownish hairs on any part of the body. Some sun-fading may occur. Typically, black horses do not have a visible dorsal stripe.

**Blue Roan** – Body color is a uniform mixture of white with black hair over a large portion of the body, but usually darker in color on the head and lower legs. Some red hairs may be mixed in. Mane and tail are generally dark. Solid dark skin over the body is required to be considered for registration.

**Blue Silver** – The silver dapple gene is present. Body color ranges in shade from black to mouse-colored, frequently with dappling; mane and tail are lighter than the body, usually ranging from white to silver or grey. No visible dorsal stripe or other dun characteristics, and the lower legs are usually the same shade as the body.

**Buckskin** – Body color is yellow, yellowish, or gold. Lower legs are black. Typically, buckskins do not have a visible dorsal stripe.

**Chestnut** – Body color dark red or brownish-red; mane and tail usually dark red or brownish-red, but may be flaxen.

**Dun** – Body color yellowish or gold; mane and tail are black or brown; horse has a dorsal stripe and often zebra stripes on legs and transverse stripe over withers.

**Grulla** – A form of dun with body color smoky or mouse colored (not a mixture of black and white hairs, but each hair is mouse colored); Mane and tail are typically black. Usually, a black dorsal stripe is present and black zebra striping may be visible on the legs.

**Palomino** – Body color is golden yellow; mane and tail are white or cream colored. Typically, palominos do not have a visible dorsal stripe.

**Red Dun** – A form of dun with body color yellowish or flesh-toned; mane and tail are red or reddish, flaxen, white, or mixed. If a horse has red or reddish dorsal stripe and usually red or reddish zebra stripes on legs and transverse stripe over withers.

**Red Roan** – Body color is a uniform mixture of white with red hair on a large portion of the body, but usually darker in color on the head and lower legs. Mane and tail are often red, but may be flaxen. Solid dark skin over the body is required to be considered for registration.

**Red Silver** – The silver dapple gene is present. Body color ranges in shade from sorrel-like to bay-like, frequently with dappling, and the lower legs may be slightly darker; mane and tail are lighter than the body, usually ranging from white to silver or grey. No visible dorsal stripe or other dun characteristics.

**Seal Brown** – Body color is black, or near-black, with a black mane and tail, black legs, and reddish or tan areas around the eyes, muzzle, behind the elbow and in front of the stifle. Appearance is very similar visually to a dark bay, the only difference being the reddish or tan points on the body.

**Sorrel** – Body color is reddish or copper-red; mane and tail are often the same color as the body but may be flaxen.

### **4.3 UNACCEPTABLE BODY COLORS**

**Creamello** – Light or pink skin over the body, with white or cream colored hair and blue eyes.

**Grey** – Body color is a uniform mixture of white with other color hair. Grey is characterized by a progressive silvering of the body hair over time as more white hair appears. Grey horses may appear solid colored at birth but will become lighter with age, and will often display dappling or red speckles.

**Perlino** – Light or pink skin over the body, white or cream colored hair and blue eyes. Mane, tail, and lower legs are typically somewhat darker than the rest of the body hair.

**White** – Body color is white. Skin is pink but eyes are typically dark. Small black spots may be found on the skin but usually are not accompanied by colored hair. Some white horses may be variegated, meaning they have patches of colored hair, usually intermixed with white hair.

### **4.4 ACCEPTABLE WHITE MARKINGS**

**Snip** – Any marking between the two nostrils. Snips are often vertical but may appear in any shape or position.

**Star** – Any marking on the forehead.

**Strip** – A narrow marking extending vertically in the area between the forehead and the nostril.

**Blaze** – Broad vertical marking extending the length of the face.

**Star & Strip** – A marking on the forehead with a strip extending to the nasal peak. The star portion may be connected to the strip portion but may also be separated.

**Bald Face** – A very broad blaze, often extending beyond the bridge of the nose, and encompassing the upper lip and both nostrils. The lower lip may also be white on horses with a bald face. For acceptance, the skin around the eyes may not be pink.

**Coronet** – Any narrow foot marking around the coronet band in the area where the hair meets the hoof.

**Half Pastern** – A foot marking which includes only one half of the pastern area.

**Pastern** – A marking which includes the entire pastern.

**Sock** – A marking extending up the leg from the coronet up the cannon bone, or halfway to the knee on the foreleg, or halfway on the hock on the hind leg.

**Stocking** – A full marking extending into the area of the knee on the foreleg, or into the area of the hock on the hind leg.

**Roan Patches** – Areas with white hair scattered through the basic body color and which do not have any underlying light colored skin.

**Dark Spots** – Patches of dark hair within white facial or foot markings.

#### **4.5 UNACCEPTABLE WHITE MARKINGS**

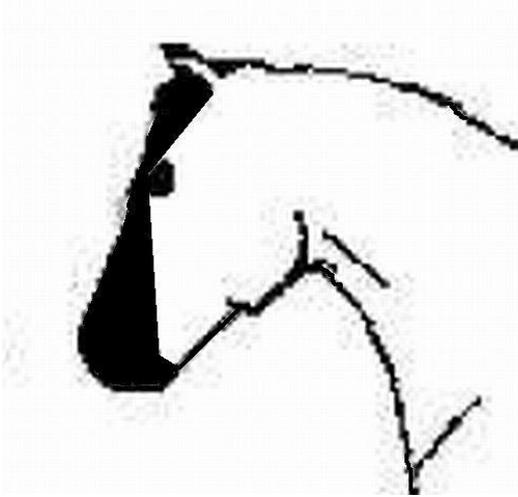
The American Blazer Horse Association recognizes Blazers as a solid-colored horse. Any breed of solid-colored horses can and does occasionally produce offspring with overo paint/pinto characteristics. These types of markings are un-

characteristic of the Blazer Horse and are considered to be unacceptable. Horses displaying white markings outside of the face or feet shall not be registered with the ABHA. The following regulations and definitions apply:

1. Horses which possess body markings or conditions that are characteristic of a paint, pinto, appaloosa, or albino are not eligible to be registered.
2. It is unacceptable to have white markings above a line parallel with the ground drawn around the front leg at the point of protrusion on the back of the knee. (The accessory carpal bone or lateral styloid process).
3. It is unacceptable to have white markings above a line parallel with the ground at the most prominent bony protrusion at the top and inside of the hock (known as the medial malleolus of the tibia).
4. It is unacceptable to have white markings on the jaw, neck, or body behind lines dropping from behind the horse's ear to the corner of the mouth on either side of the skull, and excluding the eye.
5. It is unacceptable to have white markings on the jaw or underside of the head behind a line drawn from the corner of the horse's mouth, extending under the jaw to the opposing corner of the mouth.
6. Areas of pink, white, or mottled skin located on a horse's genitalia, including the sheath or udder, or inside the hind legs including the inner surface of the hind quarters up to and including the ventral surface of the tail, which are not readily visible when the horse is in a standing position, ARE NOT considered white markings as described above, and a horse possessing these characteristics shall not be denied registration on that basis. This dispensation only applies to areas of the skin where no hair is normally present.
7. See figures 4.5.1 and 4.5.2 for diagrams of acceptable white markings.

**FIGURE 4.5.1**

**White markings of the face shall be allowable only when they fall within the shaded areas on the diagrams below.**



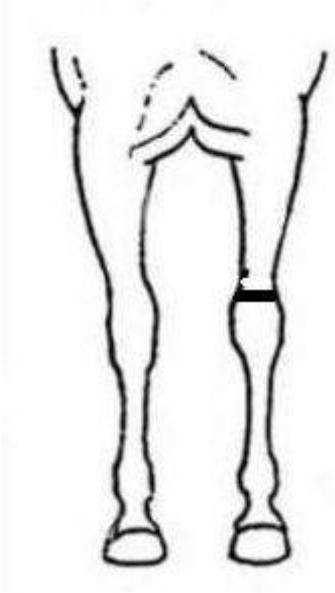
**PROFILE VIEW**



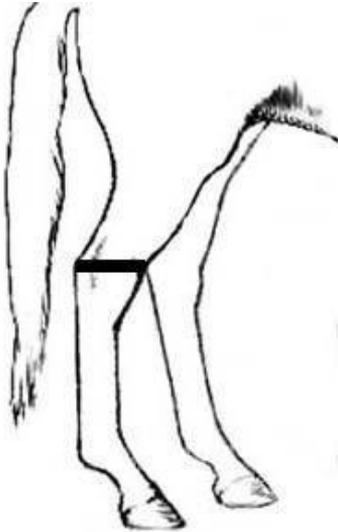
**FRONTAL VIEW**

**FIGURE 4.5.2**

**White markings of the hind legs and fore legs shall be allowable only when they are in the areas BENEATH the dark line in the diagrams below.**



**FORE LEGS**



**HIND LEGS**

#### **4.6 EYE COLOR**

Eyes should be a shade of amber, brown, or black. Horses with partial or full blue eyes, or whose eyes lack all pigments

(appear pink) may NOT be registered. The skin directly surrounding the eye (upper and lower eyelids, and inside and outside corners) must be dark. Horses with partial or full areas of white skin surrounding the eye may not be registered.

#### **4.7 ACCEPTABLE TYPE & CONFORMATION**

The American Blazer Horse is bred to be a willing and versatile saddle horse. While the body type may vary, the Blazer Horse must demonstrate the qualities of a horse bred for long term soundness and usability.

The Blazer may be of stock type or sport horse type, or of a degree in between.

The Blazer is a light horse breed and should not demonstrate the physical characteristics of a draft horse or a draft horse cross. For the purpose of this provision, a draft horse shall be any horse which by reason of its weight, conformation, or bone structure is fitted for heavy work.

When breeding the Blazer Horse it is the responsibility of every breeder to preserve and propagate the qualities of soundness, willingness, and usability within each individual of the breed.

#### **4.8 HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS**

To be considered for registration at any level in the ABHA, a horse must stand a minimum of 13 hands (52 inches) and not exceed 15 hands (60 inches) by the age of five (5) years. Measurements are to be taken on a level hard surface to the highest point on the horse's withers.

Horses who do not reach 13 hands, or who grow to exceed 15 hands may not be registered. Any registered horse who then fails to fall inside of the height restriction/requirement by five years of age shall have their papers surrendered and

destroyed, and said horse will further be ineligible for registration with the ABHA.

Horses within the 13 to 15 hand size range can and occasionally do produce foals that will stand shorter than 13 hands or taller than 15 hands at full maturity. Since the full extent of a horse's height may not be known at the time they are registered, the ABHA holds the owners of horses responsible to notify the Registrar in the event that their horse falls short of, or exceeds the breed's height parameter. Members or owners who fail to disclose such information, or are found to be intentionally registering horses who do not meet the height standards may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

## 4.9 SCARS & BRANDS

All scars, brands, and tattoos appearing on a horse should be shown on a horse's registration certificate. Brands, scars, or identifying tattoos not appearing on the certificate will be added by the ABHA free of charge if the record owner submits the registration certificate, a diagram or photo showing the shape or location of the scar or brand, and the date of injury or branding (if known), or the location and exact description of the tattoo.

## 4.10 GENETIC DEFECTS

The conditions listed below are considered undesirable traits or genetic defects by the ABHA. Horses with these conditions are not eligible to be registered as breeding stock. Spayed mares and geldings with these conditions may apply for special consideration from the Rules & Registration Committee. If granted registration, the conditions shall be indicated on the registration papers. If any mare or stallion is known to have any of the following conditions and they are not noted on the registration form, the owner shall, upon discovery, immediately report such condition to the ABHA to indicate its condition on the registration certificate. Failure to report these conditions in a timely manner may subject the owner to possible disciplinary action and removal of privileges for both the owner and the effected animal.

1. **Parrot Mouth** – Overshot or undershot, with one set of teeth (either upper or lower) completely behind the other. Defined by the American Association of Equine Practitioners as “no occlusal contact between the upper and lower central incisors.”
2. **Cryptorchid** (stallions only) – Less than two visible testicles descended into the scrotum at maturity.
3. **Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis (HYPP)** – A muscular disease caused by hereditary genetic defect that leads to uncontrolled muscle twitching or profound muscle

weakness and in severe cases may lead to collapse and/or death. According to research, this condition exists in certain descendants of the stallion “Impressive” – AQHA Registration #0767246. When the parent(s) tracing from the HYPP line has tested negative (N/N) for HYPP the horse will be allowed to be registered without genetic testing. If the parent(s) tracing from the HYPP line has tested positive, or never been tested, genetic testing for HYPP with a negative result (N/N) is mandatory before registration in the ABHA is completed. Any foal found testing homozygous positive (H/H) for HYPP or heterozygous positive (H/N) will not be eligible for registration in the ABHA.

#### **4.11 PEDIGREE REQUIREMENTS**

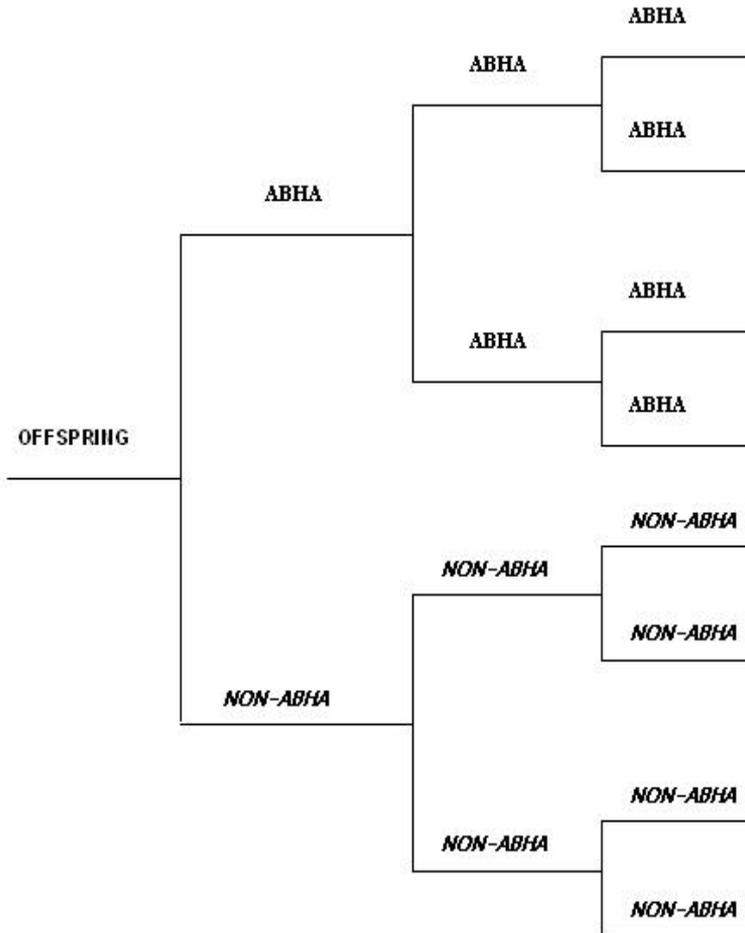
Cross breeding between Blazer and non-Blazer horses is an acceptable way of expanding the gene pool of the breed. The offspring of a cross between Blazer and non-Blazer shall be considered for registration regardless of the pedigree of the non-Blazer parent so long as the offspring meets all other criteria defined in section 4. In addition to meeting those physical requirements, Blazer-cross horses may be granted registration with the ABHA pursuant to the following stipulations:

1. Blazer Horses registered with an “F” or an “H” designation on or before December 31, 2006 were subject to the rules of the original Blazer Horse Association and are considered fully registered ABHA horses regardless of their pedigree. Whether bred to ABHA or non-ABHA horses, the offspring of these horses are eligible for registration in the ABHA assuming they meet the physical criteria.

2. For horses registered with the ABHA on or after January 1, 2007 their offspring will be granted registration with the ABHA so long as no more than seven (7) non Blazer Horses can be found on a four generation (15-horse) pedigree, where the offspring in question is recognized as generation #1. See the examples in figures 4.11.1, 4.11.2, 4.11.3 and 4.11.4. **(This rule temporarily suspended effective 5/17/2019 ending 5/17/2029. Per board of director vote on May 17, 2019. Horse being registered** must have at least one parent with a documented lineage back to Little Blaze F1, the foundation sire and meet all other American Blazer Horse Association requirements as far as height and conformation.
  
3. Horses whose pedigrees include (or are believed to include) Blazer Horses, but who have never been registered with the ABHA shall not be recognized as a Blazer, or Blazer-cross. The offspring of such horses will be registered only in the event the other parent is a Blazer Horse, and that the pedigree of said offspring meets the qualifications previously defined.

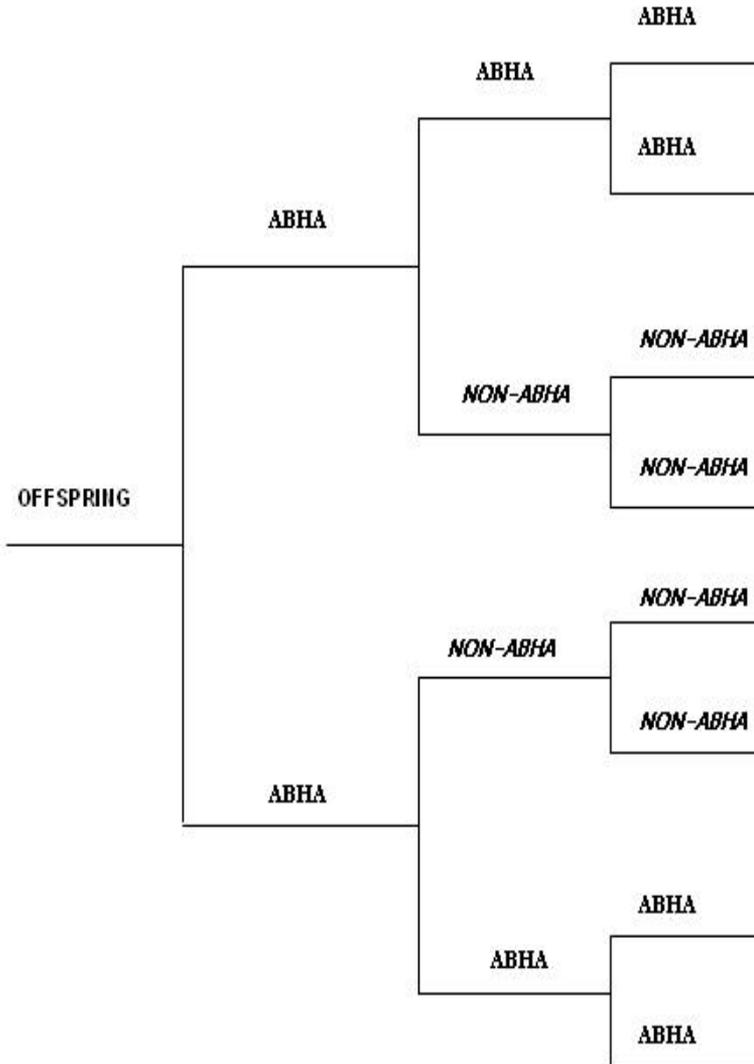
**FIGURE 4.11.1**

**Acceptable pedigree of an ABHA horse registered on or after January 1, 2007. Seven or more ABHA horses can be found in this four generation pedigree.**



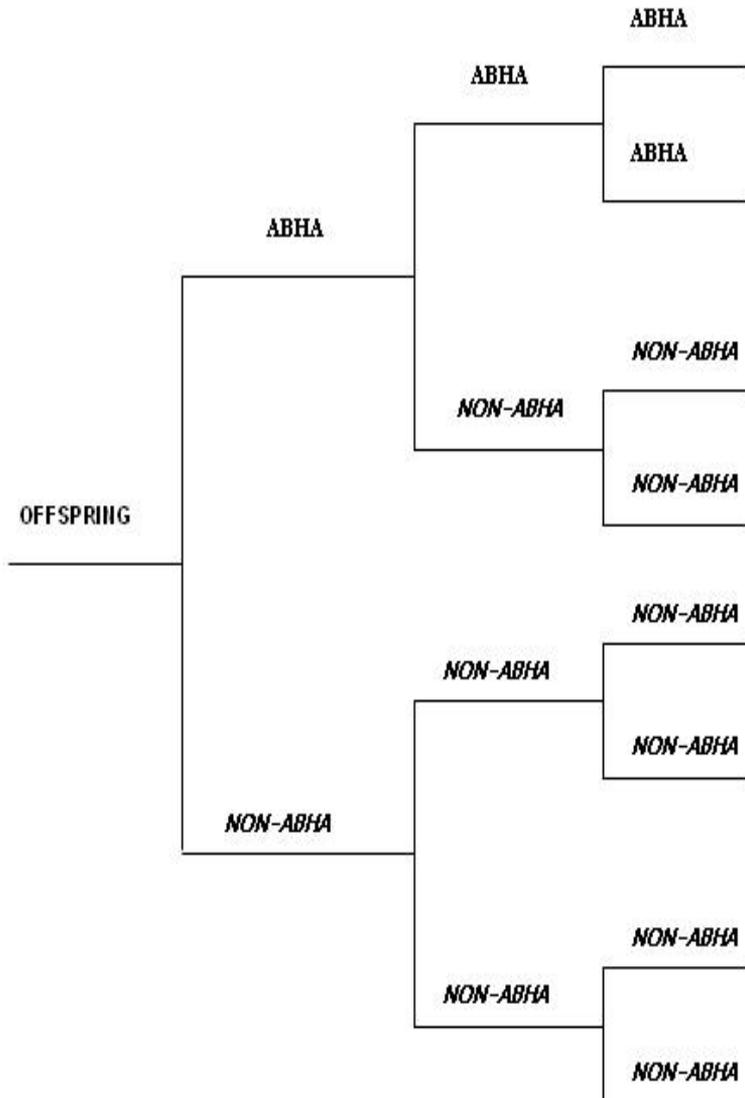
**FIGURE 4.11.2**

**Acceptable pedigree of an ABHA horse registered on or after January 1, 2007. Seven or more ABHA horses can be found in this four generation pedigree.**



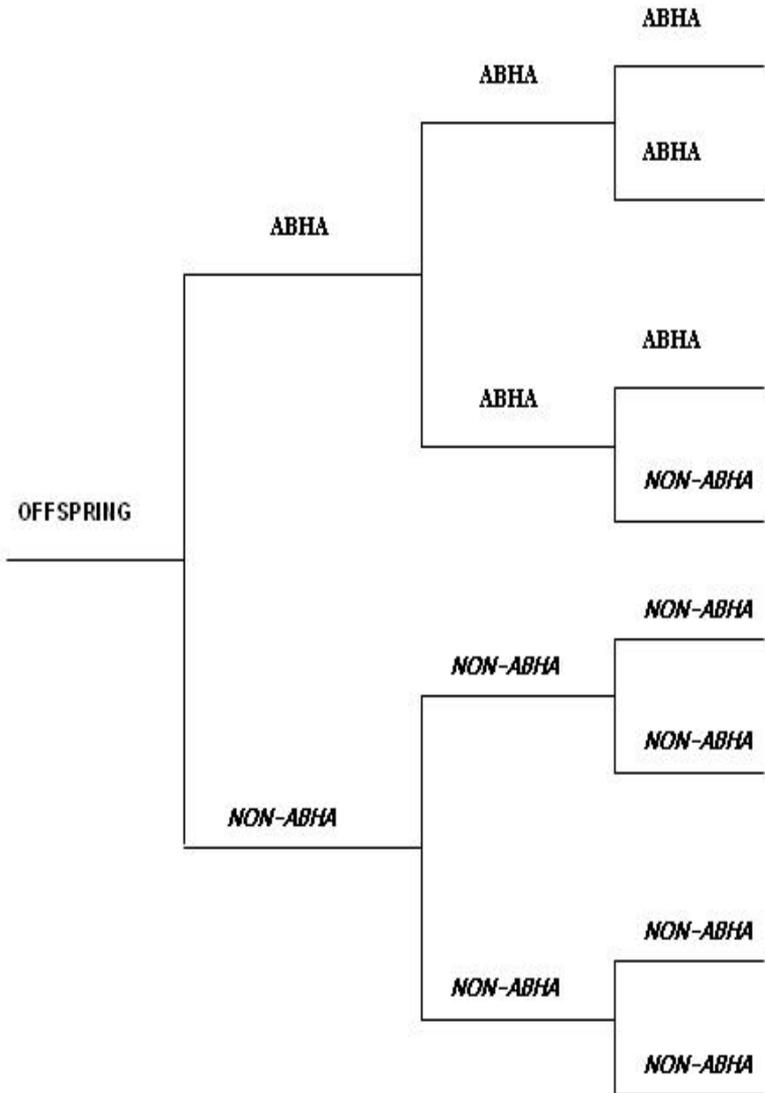
**FIGURE 4.11.3**

**UNACCEPTABLE** pedigree of an ABHA horse. Seven ABHA horses **CANNOT** be found in this four generation pedigree.



**FIGURE 4.11.4**

**UNACCEPTABLE** pedigree of an ABHA horse. Seven ABHA horses **CANNOT** be found in this four generation pedigree.



## **SECTION V**

### **REGISTRATION PROCESS**

#### **5.1 PROCESS OVERVIEW**

Any horse meeting the requirements detailed in Section 4 is eligible for registration in the Main Registry Book of the American Blazer Horse Association (ABHA) by submitting the appropriate forms, fees, and photographs to the Registrar of the ABHA. In order to produce registered offspring, all stallions and mares must be inspected and subsequently advanced to the Brood Book.

When a mare is bred, the mare owner should request the stallion owner to sign a Breeder's Certificate. Upon the birth of the foal, the Breeder's Certificate will serve as proof of pedigree, and shall be submitted to the ABHA along with an application for registration in the Main Registry Book, five pictures of the foal, and the applicable fee.

#### **5.2 GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. All incomplete applications or applications received without appropriate fees shall be placed on administrative hold curtailing any further business transactions until the appropriate information is presented or the balance due is paid. Any issues unresolved after one hundred twenty (120) days, the application will be denied and any fees shall be forfeited by the applicant.
2. The postmark date, if any, on all material submitted to the ABHA in relation to registration shall be considered the date of submission.

3. All signature requirements shall be expected to match the signature on file with the Registrar of the ABHA.
4. In any case where these rules and regulations require the personal signature of the applicant, the Registration Committee may waive such requirements after being satisfied that the applicant cannot or, with good cause, will not provide a signature.
5. The rules and regulations in effect at the time of submission will apply to each transaction.
6. All rules and information regarding registration of Blazer Horses and the accompanying processes have been reviewed by the Registration Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. These rules and regulations are subject to amendment and/or repeal by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the American Blazer Horse Association, but only after such amendments shall have been submitted to the Registration Committee, or other committee, and then presented to the board by the chair of said committee, in the form of a motion to appeal or amend. Without such committee involvement, amendment and or repeal will necessitate a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the Board.

### **5.3 MAIN REGISTRY BOOK**

Horses listed in the Main Registry Book are eligible to compete in all ABHA programs and activities limited to proper compliance with the rules and regulations of the ABHA. Any stallion, mare, gelding, or spayed mare may be listed in the Main Registry Book providing the horse's physical requirements specified pursuant to the following regulations:

1. There shall be no inspection of confirmation to be listed in the Main Registry Book.

2. Horses foaled on or before December 31, 2006, and having a minimum of one parent with an ABHA “F” or “H” number may be registered.
3. Horses foaled on or after January 1, 2007 must have one or both parents listed in the ABHA Brood Book.
4. An application must be submitted to the ABHA with the appropriate fee. Applications submitted more than 90 days after the foal is born may be subject to a late fee.
5. A minimum of five (5) photographs must accompany each application for registration. These photos must show a complete view of the front, sides, hind, and top views of the horse. All white markings must be shown completely and clearly from all applicable angles. Additional photos may be submitted for closer views of scars, brands, or detailed white markings to be included on the registration certificate.
6. Only producing animals need to advance to the Brood Book, and all stock considered for advancement to the Brood Book must first be recorded in the Main Registry Book.

#### **5.4 BROOD BOOK**

A stallion or mare of not less than two calendar years of age and listed in the Main Registry Book may apply for a listing in the ABHA Brood Book. Horses registered with an “F” or “H” number on or before December 31, 2006 are already in the Brood Book, and the following specifications do not apply.

Horses registered on or after January 1, 2007 must be listed in the Brood Book to be eligible for recognition based on the “Get of sire” or “Get of dam.” **Offspring born to ABHA parents listed only in the Main Registry Book are not eligible for registration until one or both parents advance to the Brood Book.**

In order to advance from the Main Registry Book to the Brood Book, all of the following conditions must be met:

1. The horse must pass a physical soundness and requirements exam, the specifics of which are defined in section 5.5.
2. The horse cannot possess any genetic defects or undesirable traits as outlined in Section 4 of this handbook.
3. The application for advancement into the Brood Book must be accompanied by no fewer than five (5) current, full-view photographs of the animal, showing both sides, front, top, and rear view of the horse, and which clearly identify any white markings on the face or feet, and any visible scars or brands.
4. The application fee must be paid to the ABHA at the time the application is submitted.
5. The horse is in his second calendar year.

## **5.5 SOUNDNESS & REQUIREMENTS EXAM**

The following must be affirmed in writing by a certified equine veterinarian after his or her personal inspection of the animal:

1. The horse does not have a “parrot mouth.”
2. The horse does not have excessive toeing in or out of the front legs beyond 30 degrees.
3. The horse does not have signs of cryptorchid (stallions only). Both testicles have descended from the abdomen and appear to have descended normally.
4. The horse’s body color and white markings are congruent to the information listed on the animals ABHA Certificate from the Main Registry. Any changes to this information will necessitate verification that the horse’s current condition falls within the specifications listed in Section 4.
5. The horse’s eye color is a shade of amber, brown, or black.
6. The horse has no obvious skeletal defects which are believed to be genetic and are of a nature that prevents

or limits the soundness and usefulness of the horse in a career under saddle.

7. The horse stands no less than 13 hands at the withers, and no taller than 15 hands at the withers. If the horse has not yet reached maturity, a reasonable affirmation should be obtained that the animal will fall within this measurement at the height of maturity.

## **5.6 BREEDING STOCK RECORD BOOK**

Horses that do not meet the bloodline requirements for registration may be given a Breeding Stock Number to be held in the Breeding Stock Record Book. The following regulations apply:

1. It should be understood that horses listed in the Breeding Stock Record Book are NOT Blazers Horses. They do not represent the breed and should not do so in any official capacity.
2. Horses listed in the Breeding Stock Record Book are not eligible to compete in ABHA shows or awards.
3. Offspring of horses listed in the Breeding Stock Record Book must meet all physical and pedigree requirements of the ABHA as defined in Section 4.

## **5.7 YEARLY STALLION REPORTS**

The owner, agent, or lessee of every American Blazer Horse stallion must make a written report showing the names, registration numbers, mare owner contact information and breeding date(s) of all mares exposed to said stallion during the year. A Stallion Report shall be the official method of the ABHA for determining proof of pedigree for each horse registered in the ABHA. The following applies:

1. All Stallion Reports shall be assessed a filing fee, which shall be a standard rate no matter how many mares

- have been bred to the stallion in question. The fee must be submitted with the report
2. Each stallion shall have a separate report and owners of multiple stallions may not include more than one stallion on a single report
  3. All stallion reports are due to the ABHA by November 30<sup>th</sup> and should include information for all mares bred (ABHA as well as non-ABHA) since November 30<sup>th</sup> of the previous year.
  4. Registration of all offspring is the requirement of the mare owner, and the duties of the stallion owner are considered completed once said stallion owner has submitted the yearly Stallion Report.
  5. Only one foal may be registered per mare listed on the Stallion Breeding Report, with the exception of twin foals, which must be verified by a licensed veterinarian.
  6. Thirty (30) days must elapse between a mare's exposures to different stallions in order for the offspring to be eligible for recognition of the stallion's pedigree. If the mare in question is exposed to more than one stallion within a 30 day period, the resulting foal may only be registered on the pedigree line of the dam, and the pedigree of the stallion shall be designated as "Unknown" on the resulting foal's record.
  7. A Stallion Report must include and distinguish between hand breeding or pasture breeding.
  8. A Stallion Report must include an acknowledgment of the type of breeding that occurred, including hand breeding (live cover), pasture breeding (live cover), as well as transported cooled or frozen semen.

## **5.8 BREEDER'S RECEIPT**

For all intents and purposes related to the registration of an ABHA foal, the owner of the mare at the time of breeding shall be referred to as the "Breeder."

Upon receipt of a valid Stallion Report, the ABHA shall furnish within thirty (30) days sent, via US Mail, a Breeder's Receipt to

the owner of each mare bred to the stallion and listed on the report in question. This notice shall serve as legal affirmation to the mare owner (breeder) that breeding has occurred.

## **5.9 APPLICATION DENIAL**

Any application for registration may be denied if it is not established to the satisfaction of the Registrar that all matters relating to the registration or transfer are in proper order.

For any situation in which it appears there may have been irregularities in connection with the registration or transfer of any horse, the Registrar may require the recorded owner(s) or recorded lessee(s) of the horse to furnish such blood type or DNA analysis reports and other documents relating to the circumstances of the registration or transfer.

In the event of failure to furnish this information, the registration or transfers, as well as the entries that may have been made with respect to the descendants of that horse may be expunged by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the ABHA.

The burden of proof for the registration or transfer of a horse is the responsibility of the applicant.

## **5.10 NAMING A HORSE**

Each horse for which registration is applied must be given a name. The following regulations apply:

1. The name must be acceptable to the ABHA.
2. The name must not conflict with the name of any other horse registered with the ABHA, either living or deceased.
3. The name must not exceed 30 characters including letters, numbers, and blank spaces.

4. Any numerals contained in the name, either Roman or Arabic must be limited to a count of five (5) and must not appear at the beginning of the name.
5. Punctuation marks within the name will be limited to apostrophe ('), hyphen (-), or notations affiliated with accents intended to reflect a dialect other than English, (EXAMPLE: [ä], [ü], or [ń].)
6. The ABHA reserves the right to decline any suggested name if any of the above stated criteria are not met.
7. If a choice of name is declined, the owner shall provide an alternate name.

### **5.11 CHANGING THE NAME OF A HORSE**

An owner may change the name of a horse in the Main Registry Book. The following regulations apply:

1. The new choice of a name is compatible with the specifications listed in Section 5.10.
2. The horse in question has never competed in any show or sanctioned event.
3. The horse has never earned a special achievement or recognition.
4. The horse has never earned money, points, or awards as shown on ABHA records.
5. The horse has no offspring.
6. The horse has never appeared on a breeding document submitted to the ABHA.
7. The person applying for the name change owns the horse without lien or lease.
8. The appropriate fee is paid at the time the application for a name change is made.

### **5.12 AGE OF THE HORSE**

The age of the horse shall be computed on a basis of a calendar year starting January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year foaled. It is a

weanling during the calendar year in which foaled and a yearling in the first calendar year following its foaling date, regardless of the time of year foaled. For example, a horse foaled anytime in 2003 was considered to be one (1) year old on January 1, 2004 and two (2) years old on January 1, 2005.

If a horse's age, by examination of its teeth, is determined to conflict with the age designated on said horse's paperwork, the horse will be suspended from the Main Registry Book and/or Brood Book and will be prohibited from representing the ABHA or participating in ABHA approved events. Such determination by oral examination shall only be deemed accurate when made by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the current "Official Guide for Determining the Age of the Horse " as adopted by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Suspension will be maintained until any conflicts are resolved at which time a lifting of the suspension may be recorded by the Registrar and all rights shall be reinstated in regard to said horse, and appropriate corrections made as is deemed necessary. The ABHA reserved the right to permanently revoke registration if the error in age determination is proven to be fraudulent in nature.

### **5.13 CHANGE IN COLOR OR MARKINGS**

It is recognized and understood that in some cases the color and/or marking of a horse may be difficult to determine at the time of the horse's birth, and that occasionally, an assumption made upon foaling is later proven to be false.

If the base color of the horse's body, as defined in Section 4.2 changes as the horse ages, or if white markings are proven with age to be incorrectly recorded on the horse's registration certificate, the owner must request that said horse's record be amended. Such requests will be handled by the ABHA at no charge to the horse's owner and must include:

1. The official registration certificate

2. A correctly completed application form provided by the person requesting the changes.
3. Additional information as is deemed appropriate by the Registrar.

Upon approval of the Registrar, an amended registration certificate shall be issued to the recorded owner.

#### **5.14 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR REGISTRATION OR TRANSFERS**

When an application for registration, recertification, or transfer is denied by the Registrar based on the requirements and guidelines established in this handbook, the legal owner of the horse has the right to appeal the decision of the Registrar with the ABHA Registration Committee. Such appeals should come in the form a formal letter of explanation to the Registration Committee Chairperson.

The Registration Committee may request additional information, documentation, or an inspection of the animal in question before rendering a decision. Any cost associated with such inspections shall be the responsibility of the owner.

#### **5.15 REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATES**

A replacement certificate is a new registration certificate issued when the original certificate is in existence but has been defaced. ABHA must be provided with the original certificate along with the replacement fee before a replacement certificate can be issued.

#### **5.16 DUPLICATE CERTIFICATES**

A duplicate certificate is a replacement certificate that is issued when the original certificate has been lost or destroyed.

It is issued when sufficient proof of loss or proper identification of the horse has been submitted to the ABHA. The following applies:

1. ABHA may issue a duplicate registration certificate after the current record owner or authorized agent files the proper affidavit, duly notarized, properly completed and stating the circumstances under which the original registration certificate was lost or destroyed, and pays the required fee. Such an affidavit is to be accompanied by four (4) full view photographs of the animal showing front, sides, and rear views.
2. If the present owner is not the owner of record at the ABHA, he/she additionally shall provide the ABHA an affidavit from the last recorded owner to obtain the duplicate registration certificate. Such an affidavit shall describe the circumstances of the transfer and the identity of the person to whom the registration certificate was delivered.
3. If the application for the duplicate certificate contains a discrepancy to question the identity of the horse, ABHA may require an inspection of the animal.

## **5.17 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP**

Each transfer of ownership of a registered horse shall be recorded by the ABHA. The owner of record at the time of the sale has the responsibility to complete their portion of the transfer document providing that the animal is free and clear of any lien. The buyer is then responsible to deliver the ABHA certificate and the transfer form to the ABHA for recording of the ownership transfer and updating of the horse's certificate. The fee for a transfer of ownership may be paid by the buyer or the seller, but it is ultimately the responsibility of the buyer to deliver the registrations certificate and fee to the ABHA.

If a registration certificate and transfer form is delivered to the ABHA without sufficient information, the registration

certificate will be retained by the ABHA until the transfer can be completed and recorded.

Any alteration or defacement, change or amendment of a complete transfer will necessitate verification and may cause a delay in the transfer process.

Buyers are cautioned that without an official transfer of ownership, authorized by the seller, recorded by the Registrar of the ABHA, and denoted on the horse's registration certificate, the horse in question may not participate in any Blazer events, nor may any offspring be registered. Additionally, without transferred papers, the buyer may not be able to prove ownership from a legal standpoint in the event of a dispute. In the view of the ABHA, the simple handing over of a registration certificate without completing the transfer process DOES NOT constitute legal ownership of the papers or the horse, and in the event of a dispute the ABHA will acknowledge the last owner of record as the legal owner of said animal.

If a horse is purchased on time payments, the accompanying lien is an agreement between the buyer and seller, and does not involve the ABHA. The ABHA considers the ownership of a horse to have legally changed when the signed transfer and payment arrives at the office and not before. If the seller elects to retain papers until full payment is made, the ABHA does not recognize the sale until the transfer is submitted. Alternatively, if the seller opts to transfer the papers to the buyer while time payments are still being made, the ABHA will no longer recognize the seller as the legal owner of said horse, irrespective of whether or not the buyer fulfills his or her payment obligation.

## **5.18 LEASE**

For a lease of a horse to be recognized by the ABHA, written notice of such lease shall be filed with the ABHA, signed by both the recorded owner and the lessee.

The notice shall specify the effective date of the lease and may provide a term no longer than three years, at the expiration of which, the lease must be re-recorded to remain effective. If the term is intended for a shorter period, it shall also provide a termination date. Termination other than expiration of the lease term may be accomplished by written notice to the ABHA, specifying the termination date, signed by both the owner and the lessee, or by a properly recorded transfer report, which shows a change of ownership from owner to lessee, signed by the record owner. No additional fee shall be charged for terminating the lease, whether automatic or by subsequent notice thereof.

During the effective term of the lease, the ABHA will not record subsequent changes in ownership until the lease is terminated. Only the lessee or lessee's agent is authorized to sign Stallions Breeding Report, or Registration Applications pertaining to the leased horse(s).

#### **5.19 AUCTION SALE**

When a horse is sold through an auction, the seller may deliver to the auction management the registration certificate along with a properly completed transfer report, and instruct the auction representative to obtain the name of the buyer and his/her address, and to send the registration certificate, the completed transfer form, and required transfer fee to the ABHA on the seller's behalf. Ultimate responsibility for completion and delivery of the transfer report to the ABHA lies with the buyer.

#### **5.20 SALE OR DISPOSAL WITHOUT REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE**

The recorded owner of any registered horse sold or dispersed without the registration certificate (i.e. sold without papers),

shall surrender the certificate to the Registrar for cancellation along with a written statement.

After cancellation of the registration certificate, it may be renewed, reissued, or reinstated only upon the request of the last recorded owner.

## **5.21 EMBRYO TRANSFER**

Foals must have one parent verified in the Brood Book, having one (1) foal per production cycle, an 11 month time period. Embryo transfers in excess of one (1) foal per production period will be disqualified from registration.

## **5.22 ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION**

If cooled semen or frozen semen is to be transported for the purpose of breeding a mare or mares at any place other than the premises of collection, the stallion owner or lessee must obtain and sign a collection/insemination form from the ABHA. If the collection procedures or shipping arrangements are made by someone other than the stallion or lessee, that person/entity (or their representative) must also sign the collection/insemination certificate, which must accompany the shipment of cooled semen or frozen semen to the mare owner. Date of collection and date of shipment must also be completed by the parties responsible for those duties before the sample and certificate are shipped to the mare owner.

Upon receiving the semen and the collection/ insemination certificate from the stallion owner, the owner or lessee of the mare for which semen is received shall complete and sign the certificate. If the shipment is received by, or the insemination procedure is provided by anyone other than the registered owner of the mare, their signature will also be required on the certificate. Additionally, the date of receipt and insemination must be recorded. This certificate (not a Breeder's Certificate)

shall be sent in time to be received by the ABHA office within 15 days from the date of insemination. Any subsequent breeding in the same breeding season will require another certificate.

The stallion owner or lessee shall on his or her annual Stallion Breeding Report to the ABHA, clearly distinguish those mares bred using transported cooled or frozen semen and those mares that are hand bred or pasture bred.

Any foal resulting from the use of transported cooled or frozen semen may be required to have it's pedigree verified by genetic testing, including sire, dam, and foal, and/or by other genetic testing as the ABHA deems necessary. All expenses incurred shall be that of the registered applicant's. In addition, the Registration Committee has the authority to require parentage verification by genetic testing of all foals born on any premise receiving transported semen.

Any foal resulting from the use of transported cooled or frozen semen shall not be registered without a transported collection/insemination form (which is not the Breeder's Certificate or the Registration Application), unless the foal qualifies for registration based solely on the dam's lineage, in which case the foal may be registered but the sire's pedigree shall not be considered authentic, and will not be listed on the registration record. Transported collection/insemination forms are available at no charge to stallion owners upon request.

The Registration Committee has the authority to send a representative to inspect the premises and practices of any person or breeding establishment using artificial insemination and no person shall refuse, upon reasonable request to offer full access of said premises.

### **5.23 DEATH OF HORSE**

The death of a registered Blazer Horse shall be recorded with the Registrar of the ABHA. The date of death, registered name of horse, registration number, and signature of the recorded owner must be submitted.

The original registration certificate may also be sent to the Registrar for the purpose of recording the death thereon. Upon a written request, the registration certificate will be returned.

## 5.24 REGISTRATION FEES

	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>NON MEMBER</u>
Membership	\$25	NA
Main Registration (up to 90 days old)	\$25	\$50
91 days – 3 Yrs. Reg.	\$100	\$125
4 Years or Older Reg.	\$200	\$225
Brood Book – Mare	\$20	\$45
Brood Book – Stallion	\$100	\$125
Breeding Stock Record	\$10	\$35
Update of Certificate (BHA to ABHA)	\$10	\$20
Yearly Stallion Report (Due by Nov 30)	\$10	\$35
Ownership Transfer (due within 6 months of sale)	\$10	\$35
Late fee if over 60 months)	\$25	\$45
Duplicate Certificate	\$25	\$50
Correction of Certificate	\$10	\$35
Lease Recording Fee	\$10	\$35
Name change (restrictions apply)	\$100	\$100

## **5.25 VIOLATIONS AND FRAUDULENT PRACTICES**

1. No person shall refuse any reasonable request by the Registrar for assistance in locating, identifying, inspecting, examining, or obtaining information concerning any matter of registration.
2. No person shall alter an official registration certificate or issue, sell, exchange, give, or offer any false or fraudulent registration certificate representing it as a genuine registration certificate.
3. No person shall furnish information to the Registrar for the purpose of any official action which is not true and correct to the best of that person's knowledge.
4. If any person knowingly makes a false or fraudulent statement in order to enter an animal, the entry will be expunged and the maker will be barred from making entries in the future.

## **5.26 LIABILITY**

Neither the American Blazer Horse Association, nor any of its Directors, Officers, Committee members, nor staff shall be liable in any event for any action or failure to act in connection with the operation of the Registrar.

Any Registrar record found to be inaccurate may be expunged as deemed appropriate by the Registration Committee of the ABHA.

If any statement in any registration of transfer application should at any time be found to be false or inaccurate, the registration or transfer may be omitted from publication or published in altered form. If any error in published

information should be discovered after publication, the correction may be made and published in such form as the Registration Committee determines.

## **SECTION VI**

### **JUDGING STANDARDS**

#### **6.1 GENERAL RULES**

1. The American Blazer Horse should be judged as a riding animal, even in conformation classes. There should be no difference in the breed standard between horses shown in hand, on the line, driven, or under saddle.
2. The American Blazer Horse is bred to be a willing and versatile saddle horse. While the body type may vary, the Blazer horse must demonstrate the qualities of a horse bred for long term soundness and usability.
3. The Blazer maybe of stock type or sport horse type, or of a degree in between, provided the individual shows the qualities for long term soundness and usability.
4. When judging the American Blazer Horse, any qualities contributing to soundness, willingness, movement, or usability should be heavily weighted over qualities that are interpretive to individual preference (body style, muscle length, head type, etc).
5. A mature horse of five years or older must stand at minimum of 13 hands (52 inches) and not exceed 15 hands (60 inches). Measurements to be taken from a level, hard surface to the highest point of the horse's withers.
6. Judges need not consider minimum height requirements when judging immature animals. (Four years and under).

#### **6.2 MOVEMENT**

1. Horses must be serviceably sound. Horses must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind, or complete loss of sight. Transmissible weakness shall be considered a serious fault in breeding stock.

2. The horse shall be free moving, with a forward gait. The horse should appear neither sluggish nor over excited. Horses that interfere when moving or show traits traceable or relative to soundness faults must be penalized.
3. All horses are to demonstrate a traditional four beat walk. It is desirable for the horse to show a relaxed, long reaching walk, that tracks or over-tracks.
4. All horses must demonstrate a traditional, ground covering two beat diagonal trot. The horse that can demonstrate both a relaxed and slower trail-horse trot and a longer extension during the profile viewing will be given preference over any animal only demonstrating one or the other. Jogging while demonstrating movement is not preferable. Horses who only demonstrate the jog have not met the standard of movement for the breed, and should be placed accordingly.
5. Horses must be controllable, mannerly, and safe during presentation. Horses demonstrating unsafe or dangerous behaviors are to be dismissed from the arena and not placed.
6. In conformation classes, all breeding stock should have their bite checked. The exhibitor will show the teeth to the judge upon request. Parrot mouth or overbite will be considered as unsoundness. Stallions or non-gelded colts over two years of age must have both testicles descended.

### **6.3 CONFORMATION**

1. The American Blazer Horse is a saddle horse, meant to be ridden or driven. The horse must be a balanced, athletic individual. Priorities for judging the American Blazer Horse center on long term soundness and serviceability. Prioritizing these traits above all others is required.
2. The horse's top line should be level or slightly uphill. A compact appearance with a short, well coupled back is preferred. Weak, low, long, or slung backs should be penalized. Withers should be defined and appear capable

of stabilizing the saddle, while blending gracefully to neck, back, and the angulations of the shoulder.

3. The head and neck of the horse should complement the overall balance of the animal. The top line of the neck should appear longer than the bottom line and tie in cleanly to the chest and taper to a clean throatlatch. The neck is to be naturally carried level or above, often with an arch or bascule. The qualities of the head to be judged are: broad forehead; large prominent eyes; large, well defined nostril and nasal passages; shapely ears set wide and carried alertly. Size, style, or shape of the head will not be used in concerning a horse's placement in a class unless all other attributes are considered equal.
4. Shoulder should appear long, free moving, and with depths from the top of the withers to the point of the shoulder. Blending to a deep chest, well strung ribs and a free moving elbow.
5. Hips and hindquarters should be a balanced match to the shoulders. Excessive bulk or lack of strength is to be penalized.
6. Front legs should show substantial bone with the appearance of over-all substance. Joints and hoofs should be proportional and blended. Pasterns should have sufficient length and angulations to provide a light, easy to ride step. The horse's front legs should neither toe in or toe out when viewed from the front, and should be neither over nor back in the knee when viewed from the side.
7. Hind legs should be matched to the front in bone and style, and should be proportional in length. The hind leg should be an expression of strength, power, and soundness. The stifle and toe will follow the same angle of turn out, with the hind leg joints flowing evenly in between. The hock should fall beneath the point of the rump and show adequate distance between the hocks so as not to interfere with movement. The horse's stance should not narrow as he reaches the ground, nor should he appear bowlegged. A horse whose toes turn out slightly to match the angle of the stifle should not be penalized or confused

with a true cow hocked horse. A horse is to be considered "cow hocked" and faulted accordingly when the stifle joint rotates straight forward, and the hocks give the expression of pointing toward each other (often with a narrowed spread) and the toes face out exceeding the angle of the stifle.

By-law change log.

By-Law change Nov 2019 passed by majority of the membership vote to change 2.4 to increase the number of board members to eleven.

Classification of six board members even years, 5 board members odd years.

Minor bylaw changes to 2.2 Members, termination, reinstatement, and purpose 2.9 were passed by the Board of Directors on February 26, 2020.

Corporate Policy change dated 5/17/2019 to Suspend 4.11 for a ten year period effective 5/17/2019,- 5/16/2029. Purpose is to increase breed, Must still have one documented lineage back to Little Blaze F1 and meet all other conformation, disposition and height requirements,

***© All information, diagrams, and logos contained in this handbook are the property of the American Blazer Horse Association and are copyrighted. This handbook may not be duplicated, either in part or in whole, without the express written consent of the ABHA.***