

## **Rules Governing Club Charters**

*(as found in the ARBA Constitution and By-Laws, Article II, Sections 2 – 11)*

### **Section 2. General Rules Applying to all Chartered Clubs:**

(a) All chartered clubs and associations of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc., must operate within the basic framework of all rules and regulations of this association and are autonomous to the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc., by virtue of being governed by their own constitution and by-laws (self-governing).

(b) Chartered clubs and associations operating under their own constitution and by-laws within the basic framework of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc., shall be responsible for any and all problems arising that pertain to the operation of their own club or association.

(c) No club or association shall have rules or regulations that are in conflict with the constitution and by-laws of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.

(d) It shall be the duty of the officers and directors of all ARBA-chartered clubs and associations to see that its members abide by the constitution and by-laws of the club or association. Failure to do so may be cause for probation or loss of charter.

(e) A copy of the constitution and by-laws of all clubs or associations seeking an ARBA charter shall accompany the charter application and all amendments approved by the membership (after being chartered) shall be filed with the renewal fees.

(f) A charter, once issued, shall be in force forever unless revoked by this association for just cause, or being voided for failure to pay a renewal fee. Failure to pay the renewal fee within sixty (60) days of January 1 of each year shall result in the charter being declared null and void.

(g) All officers and directors of all clubs and associations, chartered with the American Rabbit Breeders Association Inc., must be members of this association or join before taking office. Delinquent membership of any officer or director, unless renewed or replaced by another member in good standing in this association within sixty (60) days after notification, may result in the forfeit of the charter of any club and association chartered with this association.

(h) A charter that has been forfeited cannot be renewed. Members of the club or association may make application for a new charter under a different name in accordance with the rules and regulations of this association.

(i) No charter shall be renewed unless all requirements of the original charter have been complied with.

(j) No charter will be issued without the specific type club's outlined procedures being adhered to, and any charter questioned must have the approval of the ARBA Board of Directors.

(k) No ARBA-chartered club shall issue charters.

(l) Any and all fees so stated in this article must be remitted in United States funds.

### **Section 3. Local All-Breed Clubs or Associations:**

(a) Any member of this association in good standing may organize a local all-breed association composed of breeders in his/her region for the purpose of creating interest and advancing the industry.

(b) Officers of all local all-breed associations shall include, but not be limited to, a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and three (3) or more directors. The office of secretary-treasurer may be combined if so desired.

(c) No charter will be granted any local all-breed association within any city where a chartered club exists without the approval of the ARBA Board of Directors, who shall make a thorough investigation before issuing approval. If any local all-breed association becomes inactive or has insufficient members to qualify for a charter, or the city has a need for an additional local all-breed association, the ARBA Board of Directors may grant an additional charter if deemed to be in the best interest of its members.

(d) Local all-breed associations shall pay a charter fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) and said fee must accompany application for a charter. An annual renewal fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) shall be paid each year. Local all-breed associations must pay an additional one dollar (\$1.00) for each non-member of the American Rabbit Breeders Association Inc., listed on the charter application or renewal form.

(e) Local all-breed associations may conduct ARBA sanctioned all-breed shows by payment of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for an Open sanction, twenty dollars (\$20.00) for a Youth sanction, or forty dollars (\$40.00) for a combination of Open and Youth if applied for at the same time. Such fee shall be remitted to the Executive Director of this association with the required sanction information. The Executive Director shall issue an all-breed sanction to the local all-breed association. An all-breed sanction shall cover all breeds recognized in the current standard. All breed show sponsors shall be required to employ an ARBA licensed cavy judge only when a cavy specialty club sanction is offered.

(f) Local all-breed associations may host a single-breed show or shows providing the show(s) are held in conjunction with, at the same place, and on the same date, or the day immediately preceding or following the all-breed show. Each single-breed show shall have a separate ARBA show sanction.

(g) Local all-breed associations chartered within a state may become a member of the state association, as a club, providing membership fee is paid on each club member, or as a club.

**Section 4. National Specialty Clubs:**

(a) There shall be only one (1) national specialty club chartered for each recognized breed of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc., except for breeds with similar genetic characteristics. These breeds may be represented by one (1) combined national specialty club, provided a majority of the club’s members approve, and with the approval of the ARBA Board of Directors. No charter shall be renewed if the national specialty club fails to abide by its ARBA-approved constitution and by-laws on file at the time of renewal.

(b) All national specialty clubs must have at least ten (10) members of this association in good standing to receive or renew its charter.

(c) All national specialty clubs except Belgian Hare and Cavy must have the word “rabbit” incorporated in the official name of the association.

(d) National specialty clubs chartered with this association shall pay membership and renewal fees according to the following scale:

Membership	Fees	Membership	Fees
100 or less	\$20.00 per year	751-1000	\$40.00 per year
101-250	\$25.00 per year	1001-1250	\$45.00 per year
251-500	\$30.00 per year	251-1500	\$50.00 per year
501-750	\$35.00 per year	over 1500 (Same pro-rated scale shall prevail.)	

(e) National specialty clubs may conduct ARBA sanctioned shows only for the breed(s) they are chartered for upon payment of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for an Open sanction, twenty dollars (\$20.00) for a Youth sanction, or forty dollars (\$40.00) for a combination of Open and Youth if applied for at the same time. Such fee shall be remitted to the Executive Director of this association with the required sanction information. The Executive Director shall issue the single-breed sanction(s) to the specialty club.

(f) Any national specialty club chartered with this association, holding its annual meeting other than in connection with the national meeting of this association, shall be represented at the annual meeting of this association, by an officer or duly appointed member who shall give a report of the activities of the club, number of club members and names of officers and directors, together with their addresses and a financial report. Any national specialty club failing to submit such a report shall be automatically deprived of all of the benefits as an associate member.

(g) The president shall appoint a breed standard(s) chairperson and committee consisting of five (5) members of the association to review the breed standard(s), receive and evaluate any and all suggested standard changes from the club membership, make recommendations to the president and secretary. The president shall be responsible for assuring that all recommended changes are voted upon by the full membership, by individual sections, by the end of the first quarter of the fourth year of any existing standard. All suggested breed changes to be considered by the ARBA Standards Committee must first be approved by a majority membership vote of the club and submitted by the Breed Standard Committee to the ARBA Standards Committee along with club vote record by June 30 of the fourth (4th) year of an existing standard.

(h) The secretary or otherwise designated official of a national specialty club shall be responsible for the timely and orderly issuing of the club's breed sanctions. Failure to issue sanctions in a timely fashion may result in the club's probation until the matter is corrected. Failure to respond to requests by the national office may result in the club's probation.

(i) A charter that has been placed on probation shall be released from probation only after a vote of the Board of Directors of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.

(j) Officers of all national specialty clubs shall include, but not be limited to, a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three (3) or more directors. The office of secretary and treasurer may be combined.

(k) National Performance Club

(1) There shall be only one (1) national specialty performance club chartered for rabbits and cavies with the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. No Charter shall be renewed if the national specialty club fails to abide by its ARBA-approved constitution and by-laws on file at the time of renewal.

(2) The national specialty club must have at least ten (10) members of this association in good standing to receive or renew its charter.

(3) The national performance club will promote rabbits and cavies through performance competitions and events.

(4) The national performance club will develop and maintain safe and reasonable expectations and rules for performance classes.

### **Section 5. State and/or Regional Specialty Clubs and Commercial Specialty Clubs:**

(a) A commercial specialty club shall be defined as a club with the commercial aspect of the rabbit industry as its primary interest. A charter application for a commercial specialty club must be approved by the ARBA Board of Directors.

(b) No charter will be issued unless there are eight (8) members (in good standing) of this association on the charter application.

(c) All state and/or regional specialty clubs and commercial specialty clubs shall pay a charter fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) and said fee must accompany application for a charter. An annual renewal fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) must be paid within sixty (60) days of January 1 of each year.

(d) State and/or regional specialty clubs may conduct ARBA-sanctioned shows only for the breed they are chartered for upon payment of the required sanction fees. Such fees are to be remitted to the Executive Director of this association with the required sanction information. The Executive Director shall issue a single-breed sanction to the specialty club. A commercial specialty club may conduct ARBA-sanctioned shows upon payment of the required sanction fees. Such fees are to be remitted to the Executive Director of this association with the required sanction information. The Executive Director shall issue a sanction to cover the following classes: single fryer, stewer, roaster, meat pen, commercial white fur, commercial colored fur, rex fur, satin fur, and wool classes. All fur and wool class animals must be entered in regular single fryer, stewer, roaster, or meat pen class in order to compete in their respective fur or wool class. Disqualified animals cannot compete in fur/wool classes.

(e) All state and/or regional specialty clubs and commercial specialty clubs may become members of the state association of the state wherein the original charter was issued upon payment of the required fees of the state association.

(f) Officers of a state and/or regional specialty club and commercial specialty club shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and three (3) or more directors. The office of secretary-treasurer may be combined.

### **Section 6. State Associations:**

(a) Members of three (3) local all-breed clubs, other than within the same county, may organize a state association.

(b) Officers shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and five (5) or more directors. The office of Secretary-Treasurer may be combined if so desired. All officers must be residents of the state in which the state association is chartered. No more than three (3) officers shall be from the same affiliated club.

(c) State associations may have individual members living within the borders of the state. Honorary membership may be offered to individuals outside of the state provided such membership does not include voting privileges.

(d) State and regional specialty clubs may become members of the state association provided that they are chartered in said state and pay the required fees

(e) A general meeting of the state association shall be held at least once a year at a location agreed upon by the association members, where members may assemble, conduct business and show their animals.

(f) Each member club of the state association may have delegates or representatives who have voting privileges on state business at the general meeting as set forth in their constitution and by-laws. All voting club delegates or representatives must be residents of the state in which the state association is chartered.

(g) A charter fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) shall be paid by each state association and a renewal fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) must be paid each year.

(h) State associations may conduct ARBA-sanctioned, all-breed shows upon payment of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for an Open sanction, twenty dollars (\$20.00) for a Youth sanction, or forty dollars (\$40.00) for a combination of Open and Youth if applied for at the same time. Such fees are to be remitted to the Executive Director of this association with the required sanction information. The Executive Director shall then issue an all-breed sanction to the state association.

#### **Section 7: Fairs, Agricultural Associations and Show Circuits:**

(a) Any county or state fair, agricultural association or show circuit, composed of ARBA-chartered clubs, may secure a charter by complying with the show rules and paying an annual fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for fairs and agricultural associations and twenty dollars (\$20.00) for show circuits without meeting the membership requirements of this association.

(b) Any county or state fair agricultural association or show circuit may conduct all-breed, ARBA sanctioned shows by remitting a sanction fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for an Open sanction, twenty dollars (\$20.00) for a Youth sanction, or forty dollars (\$40.00) for a combination of Open and Youth if applied for at the same time, to the Executive Director of this association.

(c) County or state fair charters may be paid for at the time of applying for a show sanction to allow them to work within their allotted budget.

(d) A show circuit must pay an annual renewal fee.

(e) County and state fairs, if dictated to by their governing bodies, may offer classes other than the official classes of the ARBA. No legs can be awarded to any class that is not recognized by the ARBA. Combining a number of varieties or breeds together for one class does not constitute a recognized class and is not eligible to receive legs.

(f) Show circuits shall elect officers to include, but not be limited to, a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and three (3) or more directors. The office of secretary and treasurer may be combined.

#### **Section 8. Youth Clubs:**

(a) Any member in good standing of this association may organize a local all breed youth club composed of youth breeders in his/her region for the purpose of creating interest and advancing the industry.

(b) All ARBA chartered youth clubs must be sponsored by an ARBA adult member or an ARBA chartered local club.

(c) Officers of an all breed youth club shall include, but not be limited to, a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) or more Directors. The office of Secretary/Treasurer may be combined if so desired.

(d) Local all breed youth clubs shall pay a charter fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and said fee must accompany application for charter. An annual renewal fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be paid each year. Local all breed youth clubs must pay an additional one dollar (\$1.00) for each non-member of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. listed on the charter application or renewal form.

(e) Local all breed youth clubs may conduct ARBA sanctioned youth shows by payment of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for an Open sanction, twenty dollars (\$20.00) for a Youth sanction, or forty dollars (\$40.00) for a combination of Open and Youth if applied for at the same time. Such fee shall be remitted to the Executive Director of this association with the required sanction information. The Executive Director shall issue an all breed

sanction to the local all breed youth club. An all breed sanction (open or youth) shall cover all breeds recognized in the current standard. All breed show sponsors shall be required to employ an ARBA licensed cavy judge only when any cavy specialty club sanction is offered.

(f) Local all breed youth clubs may host a single breed show or shows providing the show(s) are held in conjunction with, at the same place, and on the same date, or the day immediately preceding or following the all breed show. Each single breed show shall have a separate ARBA sanction.

(g) Local all breed youth clubs chartered within a state may become a member of the state association, as a club, providing membership fee is paid on each club member, or as a club.

**Section 9.** Any Club or association chartered by and affiliated with this Association may send one delegate to represent it at any annual or special meeting of this Association, which delegate may cast one vote on behalf of the club represented by the delegate. Such delegate must be a member of the affiliated organization which he or she represents, and must present to the Credentials Committee, at such annual or special meeting, a letter signed by the President and Secretary of his or her affiliated organization designating him or her as the authorized representative of such affiliated organization.

**Section 10.** Any organization chartered by this association may conduct ARBA sanctioned shows by payment of the required sanction fees in the same manner as is provided for local club shows as is here-in-above set out, except that no specialty club can sanction any breed other than the ones it sponsors.

**Section 11.** Any and all fees mentioned above shall be paid in United States funds.