

HCBC Summary of Bylaw Changes and Rational

PROPOSED CHANGES	RATIONALE FOR CHANGE
Updated Purposes	The purposes of the Society have been updated by reordering the objectives and reflecting the importance of our advocacy role and promotion of all equine sport, recreation and business and to align with more contemporary language.
Term limits set for all Directors	Currently the directors do not all have terms or term limits. The BC Societies Act will require all Societies to have terms so that there is flexibility in Board composition and periodic renewal of board expertise. The terms proposed are 3 years renewable to a maximum of 3 times (9 years) with the option to return for election after 1 term away.
Update the list of standing committees and add the Board's ability to create committees.	Previous bylaws specified only the Nominations Committee, whereas in practice HCBC also has Governance and Finance as standing committees. The bylaws change now specifies the Finance and Audit Committee and adds a Governance (including responsibility for nominations) Committee. It also adds flexibility for the Board to create and dissolve ad hoc committees through policy without additional changes to the bylaws.
Shifting to a Governance board vs Representative board (no longer have specifically designated regional or affiliate directors)	Members are better served if all directors on the board are elected by the membership as a whole rather than specific regions or interest groups and govern in the best interest of all members in all equine sectors and regions of the province. Nominations policies will ensure board candidates are drawn from a cross section of geographic areas and equine interests.
Reducing the size of the Board	The current board of up to 40 directors meeting only twice a year makes it very difficult to make decisions and be responsive to quickly changing circumstances. A smaller board (9 to 12 directors) is more cost effective, will be able to meet more often, be more responsive and reduce demands on staff.

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Dissolution of the Executive Committee	With a smaller board the need for a subset of directors to attend to the board’s priorities is removed. An Executive Committee is no longer considered a good governance practice as it risks becoming a “super board” or “board within a board”.
Reducing the number of Officers and clarifying method of appointment	<p>The number of Officers will be reduced by discontinuing the practice of having Officers with operational responsibilities that are now handled by staff.</p> <p>Officer positions will consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer and will serve one-year renewable terms.</p> <p>The Officers of the Society will all be elected by the Board from among its Directors, removing the practice of appointing Officers from the membership who are not Directors.</p>
Updating titles, definitions and language	Ensure the bylaws reflect commonly used and current terms and definitions. Removes specific content related to previous regional directors and affiliate representatives. Removes language that is gender specific.
Meeting protocols	Incorporate more efficient and clear meeting protocols including electronic meeting and voting, meeting notice periods, increased website notice period from 14 to 21 days, etc., to be consistent with current BC Societies Act regulations and best practices.