

**Florida White  
Rabbit Breeders  
Association  
Constitution**

**Revised 2016**

# **Florida White Rabbit Breeders Association Constitution**

## **Article I – Name**

Section 1 This organization shall be known as the Florida White Rabbit Breeders Association. Hereafter, in this document, it may be referred to as F.W.R.B.A.

## **Article 2 – Objectives**

Section 1 The object of this Association shall be to encourage and improve the breeding and exhibition of Florida White rabbits and to offer services to its members.

## **Article 3 – Affiliation**

Section 1 This Association shall be affiliated with the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.

Section 2 A local, state, or district Florida White Association, whose object is in agreement with that of this Association, may become affiliated with this Association.

## **Article 4 – Membership**

Section 1 Any person may become a member of the Florida White Rabbit Breeders Association by making application, in writing, and forwarding a minimum of one year's dues to the Association secretary.

Section 2 The Executive Board reserves the right to accept or reject, for just cause, any application for membership.

Section 3 The membership dues shall be as stated in the by-laws of the Association.

Section 4 Membership in the Association shall be acknowledged by a membership card issued by the secretary and dated from date of application and payment of at least one year's dues. All members shall be notified of their expiration date at least 30 days prior to that date via US Mail and/or email to the member. Dues must be received by the Secretary not later than 30 days following expiration date. If not received at the end of 45 days all sweepstakes points will be forfeited for that Sweepstakes Year. If an Election year, no ballots will be mailed to that Member.

Section 5 All adult members shall have the right to vote in person at regular or called membership meetings of the Association, provided that membership dues are current.

Section 6 All adult members shall also have the right to vote by mail in elections or upon any other matters submitted to the membership at the direction of the Executive Board, provided that membership dues are current.

Section 7 No Proxy voting is allowed.

## **Article 5 – Discipline**

Section 1 The Executive Board by a majority vote, with due cause, may expel any member or reject any application for membership. Actions detrimental to the objectives of this Association may be grounds for expulsion. If a member is disciplined by the ARBA, the FWRBA may also follow the same type of disciplinary action.

Section 2 Charges of misconduct may be filed by any member against any other member. The charges must be in writing and filed along with a \$50.00 non-refundable fee within three months of discovery of the incident to the secretary of the Association.

Section 3 Any member against whom charges have been filed shall be notified by certified mail by the secretary and given thirty days to reply before action is taken by the Executive Board.

Section 4 Any person expelled or rejected for membership may be eligible to reapply after a period of one year. This application must be accompanied by signatures of 10 current members of FWRBA. The Executive Board will then act on this application, either at the next scheduled Executive Board meeting, or via email poll of the

Executive Board.

- Section 5 If an Officer or Director becomes delinquent in their dues to this Association or to the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc., they shall be notified by certified mail by the secretary, and if their membership is not renewed within 30 days, the office shall be declared vacant.
- Section 6 If an Officer or Director does not fulfill their duties or shows a lack of interest in Association matters, they may be asked to resign by a two thirds majority of the other members of the Executive Board thus declaring the office vacant.
- Section 7 If an Officer or Director voluntarily discontinues the breeding of Florida White rabbits during their term, they shall resign the office they hold.
- Section 8 Mandatory Arbitration: Except as otherwise specified, all actions, disputes, claims and controversies under common law, statutory law or in equity of any type or nature whatsoever, and whether directly or indirectly relating to transaction or dealing between the parties (collectively the "Disputes"), will be subject to and resolved by binding arbitration pursuant to the Arbitration Rules of U.S. Arbitration & Mediation, ([www.usam.com](http://www.usam.com)). Any award or order rendered by the arbitrator may be confirmed as a judgment or order in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction, which includes within the federal judicial district of the residence of the party against whom such award or order was entered.

#### **Article 6 – Authority**

- Section 1 This Association shall have the authority to make such laws, establish rules and adopt such regulations as may be necessary for governing its members provided that its members are not required to commit any act which would make them amenable to the laws of the United States.
- Section 2 Robert's Rules of Order shall be the final authority for this Association in all matters not specifically covered by the Constitution and By-laws.

#### **Article 7 – Meetings**

- Section 1 There shall be two membership meetings of the Association each year when applicable. One at the American Rabbit Breeders Association National Convention and one at the National Florida White Show.
- Section 2 Notice of time and place of meetings to be published at least 30 days prior to the date of the meetings in the newsletter.

#### **Article 8 – Officers**

- Section 1 The Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and six (6) Directors.
- Section 2 Officers shall be elected annually, from and by the membership, by mail ballot. Vacancies in an office shall be filled by appointment of the president, with the approval of the majority of the executive board.
- Section 3 The president and vice president shall be elected annually on numerically odd years for a term of two years. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected bi-annually on numerically even years. Two Directors shall be elected annually for a term of three years. These officers constitute the Executive Board of the FWRBA.
- Section 4 No more than two members of the Executive Board shall be from the same state.
- Section 5 No individual may hold more than one position on the Executive Board.

#### **Article 9 – Officers Duties**

- Section 1 President: The president shall preside at all meetings of the Association, act as chairperson of the Executive Board, appoint all committees, fill all vacancies in office, subject to Board approval, call special meetings of the Executive Board or the Association.
- Section 2 Vice President: The vice president shall perform the duties of the president in his/her absence.
- Section 3 Secretary/Treasurer: The secretary/treasurer shall conduct the general correspondence of the Association, send out all required notices, keep a file of all letters received along with a copy of all letters sent out and keep the minutes of all meetings of the Association. The secretary/treasurer shall collect all monies due the Association, pay all claims that are authorized and approved by the Board of Directors. The Secretary/Treasurer shall furnish a bond in the amount necessary to cover the assets of the Association. Such bond to be paid for by the Association. Notify members at least 30 days before expiration of their membership via US Mail and/or personal email.
- Section 4 The Secretary/Treasurer shall receive the following compensation.
- (a) One dollar per year per membership paid annually.
  - (b) One dollar per sanction report completed, paid quarterly.
  - (c) Transportation costs to each ARBA National Convention and National Florida White Show with receipts up to \$250.00.

#### **Article 10 – Elections**

- Section 1 The secretary shall issue a request, through the appropriate newsletter, for nomination petitions, stating the offices up for election.
- Section 2 Any adult member, in good standing for at least one year, may submit a petition for the office they wish to occupy. This should be accompanied by a resume of their qualification.
- Section 3 The secretary shall publish the official ballot containing the names of the candidates for the various offices through the appropriate newsletter.
- Section 4 The candidate receiving the most votes for the petitioned office will be declared elected to office and shall assume the responsibilities of that office upon the opening of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. National Convention.
- Section 5 In the absence of an adequate number of petitions to fill the vacancies, the president shall appoint a qualified member to fill the vacant office.

#### **Article II – Voting Procedures**

- Section 1 All ballots shall be marked so that they are not able to be reproduced.
- Section 2 Ballots shall be mailed via the newsletter or by themselves as conditions may dictate. However, if they are mailed via the newsletter they must be inserted just inside the front cover.
- Section 3 All ballots shall be accompanied by a pre-addressed return envelope. The envelope **will** be addressed to the election committee chairperson.
- Section 4 The ballots shall be opened and counted only in the presence of the entire election committee.
- Section 5 All ballots must be postmarked by the date which will be printed on the ballot. This date is to be approximately 30 days from the date that the newsletter containing the ballots will be delivered to the post office.
- Section 6 After 40 days, but before 60 days from the date printed on the ballot, the appointed election committee shall open the valid ballots and tabulate the votes.

- Section 7 The election chairperson shall notify the president and secretary immediately with the results. The secretary shall then notify all candidates of the election results by mail/email. The election committee shall seal all ballots in an envelope and mail them to the secretary to be held for one year.
- Section 8 Any member of this Association, in good standing, may request a recount of the ballots by making a request for the recount to the secretary of the Association within 45 days of the publication of the results.
- Section 9 For a recount of the ballots, the secretary shall require a deposit of \$50.00 to defray the cost of the recount. A recount shall then be made by a committee of three. The contester shall select one member, the Executive Board shall select one member and the third member shall be chosen by the other two members. All three chosen shall be members in good standing of the Association.
- Section 10 The recount committee shall meet and count all valid ballots and report the results of the recount to the Executive Board by mail and this decision shall be final.
- Section 11 In the event of a tie, the Executive Board shall vote and the individual receiving the majority vote declared elected.
- Section 12 In the event that the contester is declared correct by the committee their deposit shall be returned.
- Section 13 The Executive Board shall carry out the instructions of the Association, shall give authorization for implementing, and handle any other matters for the Association between regular meetings.

**Article 12 – Florida White News**

- Section 1 The Florida White newsletter shall be the official organ of the Florida White Rabbit Breeders Association.
- Section 2 The editor shall be appointed annually by the President.

**Article 13 – Alterations and Amendments**

- Section 1 Any alteration of, or amendment to the Constitution shall be made by resolution, in writing, signed by fifteen (15) or more members in good standing of the Association and delivered to the Secretary. This may also be accomplished at the direction of the President and Executive Board to the Constitution and By Laws Committee.
- Section 2 Any amendment(s) presented by member resolution must be confined to one subject. Multiple amendments may only be presented through the Constitution and By Laws Committee.
- Section 3 All submitted resolutions shall be printed in the Association newsletter at least one issue prior to being voted upon.
- Section 4 Ballots will be mailed according to the voting procedure. The Constitution will be amended by an affirmative two thirds vote of all members casting valid ballots.
- Section 5 Any member of the Association in good standing may request a recount by making such a demand as described in the voting procedure.

**BY – LAWS**

**Article 1 – Membership**

- |           |                       |         |         |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Section 1 | Dues as follows       | 1 Year  | 3 Years |
|           | (1) Single Membership | \$ 7.00 | \$18.00 |
|           | (2) Husband & Wife    | 10.00   | 25.00   |

(3)	Youth (under 18 Yrs)	5.00	12.00
(4)	Family (max 2 adults)	15.00	40.00
(5)	Partner (2 people)	10.00	25.00
(6)	Single Life	100.00	
(7)	Husband/Wife Life	175.00	

Any FWRBA member who through active military duty, serves his country in an armed conflict or war outside the border of his country shall have his and his immediate family's annual FWRBA dues waived until such time that he no longer is required to serve his country outside of the parameters of his country's borders. During the temporary waiver of the FWRBA dues, active military members are not eligible to vote in FWRBA elections.

Eligibility of Life Memberships for FWRBA as per A.R.B.A. rules. Must be over 18 years of age and a member in good standing for 3 years prior to requesting Life membership.

Section 2 Youth shall have all rights and benefits as adults members including the right to vote providing they pay adult membership dues. Husband and wife allowed one vote each.

Section 3 The Executive Board may honor any member whom has distinguished themselves for exceptional merit in any manner pertaining to Florida White rabbits or the Florida White club.

### Article 2 – Meetings

Section 1 The order of business at all meetings shall be:

- (1) Call to order.
- (2) Roll Call-audible response by Officers and Directors. Signing of register by members and guests.
- (3) Reading and approving of the minutes from the prior meetings.
- (4) Report of the Executive Board to include the reading and approval of the minutes from all Executive Board meetings
- (5) Report of the Secretary/Treasurer
- (6) Report of standing and appointed committees.
- (7) Reading of communications.
- (8) Old Business
- (9) New Business
- (10) Installation of new officers.
- (11) Adjournment.

Section 2 At any meeting of the Association, ten (10) members, in good standing, plus two or more members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. If a meeting quorum is not present, the presiding officer shall adjourn the meeting.

### Article 3 – Committees

Section 1 **Auditing Committee:** An auditing committee composed of a chairperson and 2 members be appointed by the President each year to examine and certify all accounts and records of the Association at the end of the fiscal year or before a new Secretary/Treasurer takes office.

Section 2 **Election Committee:** An election committee consisting of a chairperson and at least two (2) or more members shall be appointed by the President. They shall receive and certify the results of the election to the President and Secretary/Treasurer according to the guidelines listed elsewhere in the Constitution and By-laws.

Section 3 **Standard Committee:** A standard committee composed of a chairperson and 4 members shall be appointed by the President. Members to be knowledgeable Florida White breeders.

(A) The committee shall be charged with the timely review of the Florida White standard and to assure that all of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. standards committee deadlines are met. They should respond to all issues raised by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. standard committee, the Executive Board of the Association and all members.

(B) The chairperson of this committee shall be responsible for preparing and submitting any and all proposed changes to the Executive Board prior to publication for the general membership consideration.

(C) All changes to the Florida White standard must be put to a full membership vote as described in the voting procedure.

(D) All proposed changes shall be voted on individually.

(E) If any change is approved by a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast, the committee shall submit them to the American Rabbit Breeders Association Inc. standard committee with recommendations for adoption.

Section 4 **Constitution Committee:** A constitution committee consisting of a chairperson and 3 members shall be appointed by the President.

(A) The committee shall complete a timely review of the Constitution and By-laws of this Association. They should respond to all issues raised by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc., the Executive Board of this Association and the Association members.

(B) The chairperson of this committee shall be responsible for preparing and submitting any proposed changes to the Executive Board prior to publication for the general membership to consider.

(C) All changes to the Constitution and By-laws must be done as described in the articles of amendments with the exception that any proposed resolutions coming out of this committee need not meet the requirements for membership signatures. They must only be signed off on by the entire Constitution & By Laws committee.

Section 5 **Publicity Committee:** A publicity committee consisting of a chairperson and 2 members shall be appointed by the President.

(A) The committee shall maintain and update all promotional material for this Association.

(B) The chairperson of this committee shall be responsible for preparing and submitting Association news to the editor of the Domestic Rabbits magazine for inclusion in each issue.

(C) This committee shall be responsible for submitting all desired advertising for inclusion in all of the pertinent American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. publications.

(D) The committee shall be responsible for preparing a new guide book every five years, if requested by the Executive Board, with the release to coincide with the release of the new American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. Standard of Perfection.

#### **Article 4 – Alterations and Amendments**

Section 1 Any alteration of, or amendment to the By-laws shall be made by a resolution, in writing and signed by fifteen (15) or more members in good standing of this Association and forwarded to the Secretary.

(A) All resolutions are to be confined to one subject.

(B) All submitted resolutions shall be printed in the Association newsletter at least one issue prior to being voted upon.

(C) Ballots will then be mailed according to the voting procedures. The By-laws will be amended by an affirmative majority vote of all members casting valid ballots.

(D) Any member, in good standing of this Association, may request a recount of the ballots by making such demand as described in the voting procedure.

### **Article 5 – Rules and Regulations**

Section 1 All rules and regulations governing the Florida White Newsletter, Auction, Sweepstakes, National show and Person of the Year shall be under the direct supervision of the Executive Board and are not subject to resolutions. Membership views and suggestions shall receive top priority in all reviews of these rules and regulations.

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

(A) The editor shall be responsible for preparing and publishing this Association's newsletter on a quarterly bases.

(B) The editor shall be responsible for establishing a fee schedule for all advertising with Executive Board approval.

(C) The editor shall request a decision by the Executive Board prior to publishing any material or articles considered to be controversial in nature. If the Executive Board decides the material or article is unfit for publication same shall be returned to the submitter.

(D) The name of a person submitting material or articles for publication in the newsletter shall accompany the material or article. No unsigned material or articles may be printed in the newsletter.

(E) The names and addresses of all committee members shall be printed every issue of the newsletter.

(F) The editor shall assist in the mailing of all ballots and return envelopes which are to be included in the newsletter when possible.

(G) The secretary shall furnish the news Editor a complete membership mailing list. It shall be updated each Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> showing all deletions and additions thus keeping the mailing list current for the Editor.

#### **National Florida White Show**

1. The National Florida White show must be sanctioned by the A.R.B.A. and the Florida White Breeders Association.

2. The Florida White sanction is to be furnished free to the sponsoring club.

3. Only one National show may be held during a show year.

4. All bids for hosting the National Florida White show shall be submitted to the secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the A.R.B.A. National Convention. The secretary shall present all bids to the Executive Board, the Executive Board will then vote. The hosting club receiving the majority vote shall be awarded the show for the coming year.

5 It is the responsibility of the Board members to try to select bids from alternating areas throughout the United States.

6 All bids should include the following information.

(A) Name of the hosting club.

(B) Location of the proposed show.

(C) Tentative dates of the proposed show.

(D) Cooping arrangements and availability of coops.

(E) Lodging and banquet costs.

- (F) The National Florida White Association accepts no responsibility in the payment of any specials guaranteed by the hosting club nor will it be responsible for any debts incurred by the hosting club.
- (G) The hosting club may choose and hire their own judges for the National Florida White show.
- (H) The Florida White Rabbit Association shall donate \$250.00 to be used for trophy or cash awards to the exhibitors for each National Florida White show to be divided equally with Open and Youth.
- (I) Within thirty (30) days after the National Florida White show the hosting club shall furnish the Florida White Rabbit club secretary a complete financial record of the show. This to be used as a guide for future National shows.
- (J) No shows will be sanctioned with the Florida White Rabbit Breeders Association on the same day as the national show that are within a 500 mile radius of the national show site.
- (K) The hosting club will need to provide meeting space for a membership meeting at the national show.

### **Florida White Sweepstakes.**

1. Sweepstakes is a program for the purpose of recognizing those members who promote the Florida White by showing and placing animals in sanctioned competition.
2. There will be unlimited sanctions issued as long as the sponsoring club complies with the following: A sanction fee of \$10.00 payable with the application and accompanied with the A.R.B.A. sanction number. A youth sanction will be issued with a fee of \$5.00 accompanied by the A.R.B.A. sanction number. (Youth sanction free if requested with a paid open sanction).
3. The sponsoring club must guarantee to pay at least \$5.00 in cash for Best of Breed and \$3.00 in cash for Best Opposite Sex of Breed for both open and youth or awards of equal or greater value. These payments are guaranteed only if there is at least ten (10) animals shown in the breed.
4. The sponsoring club must guarantee at least \$1.00 in cash for best fur in both open and youth provided there are five (5) or more shown in the fur classes.
5. The sponsoring club must submit to the Florida White club secretary a complete written report, listing all Florida White placements, plus name and addresses of all exhibitors.
6. Exhibitors to earn points in the sweepstakes must be current members of the Florida White Rabbit Breeders Association in good standing or join before the show.
7. The sweepstakes secretary of the Florida White Rabbit Breeders Association shall tabulate all sweepstakes points and keep records for all members. The secretary shall be paid \$1.00 per returned sanction.
8. A sweepstakes standing listing at least the first ten (10) contestants shall be updated in each club newsletter.
9. Sweepstakes points shall be awarded on the following point structure:  
Six (6) times the number in the class for first place, four (4) times the number in the class for second place, three (3) times the number in the class for third place, two (2) times the number in the class for fourth place and one (1) times the number in the class for fifth place. For the national convention and national Florida White show points shall be awarded on the following point structure: Twelve (12) times the number in the class for first place, ten (10) times the number in the class for second place, eight (8) times the number in the class for third place, seven (7) times the number in the class for fourth place, six (6) times the number in the class for fifth place, five (5) times the number in the class for sixth place, four (4) times the number in the class for seventh place, three (3) times the number in the class for eighth place, two (2) times the number in the class for ninth place, and one (1) times the number in the class for tenth place.

10. Best of Breed shall receive bonus points of two (2) times the number shown in the breed and Best Opposite Sex of Breed shall receive bonus points of one (1) times the number shown in the breed.

11. Plaques shall be awarded to both open and youth through 10<sup>th</sup> place. Plaques to also be awarded in both open and youth for quality points and fur. These awards will be presented at the General Membership Meeting at the ARBA Convention.

12. Clubs sponsoring a Florida White sweepstakes shall apply for a show sanction at least thirty (30) days in advance of their show date.

13. The following should be printed in the club show catalog:  
FLORIDA WHITE RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION  
Jane Meyer 1795 N 1800 E Rd Thawville, IL 60968 Phone (217) 387-2427. Membership (1 YR) Adult \$7.00 – H/W \$10.00 – Youth \$5.00 – Family \$15.00 –Partner \$10.00 - (3 YR) Adult \$18.00 – H/W \$25.00 – Youth \$12.00 –Family \$40.00 – Partner \$25.00 - Foreign \$7.00 plus \$8.00 postage (per year). Sanction fee: Open \$10.00 – Youth \$5.00 (free if requested with open).

14. The Sweepstakes shall run from August 1 through July 31 each year.

### **Florida White Person of the Year Guidelines**

1. Nomination for this award

(A) Be a member in good standing of the Association for at least the previous three (3) years.

(B) Have demonstrated a knowledge and understanding of the rabbit industry along with the desire to share and educate others.

(C) Have demonstrated the highest levels of good sportsmanship.

(D) Have demonstrated a profound interest in the breeding and improvement of the Florida White Rabbit.

2. Nomination and Selection Procedure.

(A) Any person who meets the guidelines may be nominated by a club or an individual.

(B) The name and letter of recommendation outlining the merits and accomplishments of the nominee should be sent to the secretary of the Association at least 90 days before the opening day of the ARBA Convention.

(C) Approval of all nominations shall be determined by a committee of three (3) former award winners, appointed by the president. Their recommendation shall be sent to the executive committee for the final selection.

(D) The award shall be made at either the National Florida White show or the A.R.B.A. National Convention.

3. The Person of the year shall be awarded a Life Membership.

### **Auction Committee**

A. An auction committee composed of a chairperson and 2 members shall be appointed by the president to handle an auction at both the National Florida White show and the A. R. B. A. National convention if an auction is held.

(1) The committee shall be responsible for establishing the guidelines for all Florida White auctions.

(2) The Committee shall seek the donation and release of quality Florida Whites for inclusion in the auction.

- (3) The Florida White secretary shall work closely with this committee and record and keep records of all donations, the selling price of all animals and the buyers name for inclusion in the Florida White Newsletter as soon as possible after the National show and auction.
- (4) Pedigrees to be furnished at time of sale for checking before bidding. Should the breeder not have a pedigree at the time of the sale, the breeder will not get any money until the pedigree is sent to the Secretary to be forwarded to the buyer.
- (5) Proceeds from each sale shall be split 50/50 with the donor and the Florida White Club