



Scope and Purpose:

To provide an outline of Supplemental Rules and Expectations for hosting and GHSA Sanctioned show in conjunction with an accredited rulebook, e.g. GVHS Rulebook.

GHSA Mission Statement

The purpose of this association is to provide education and promote equine and human athletics through:

- a) Promote youth and adult involvement in horse shows, exhibitions, educational events, and other equine-related activities associated with horsemanship, driving, and riding.
- b) Aid and encourage the breeding, exhibiting, use, perpetuation, and protection of Gypsy Vanners, Gypsy Horses, Gypsy Cobs, Tinkers, etc... by promoting the breeds through GHSA horse shows. To coordinate and cooperate in providing qualified judges for GHSA and other Gypsy horse shows and in devising and adopting GHSA show rules, regulations, and standards.
- c) To encourage the exhibition of purebred Gypsy's, regardless of breed registry.
- d) To cooperate with other organizations with similar interests in Gypsy horses.
- e) Provide publicity and educational programs and other activities in the interest of Gypsy horse associations, clubs, and enthusiasts for the purpose of stimulating interest in Gypsy horses.

Show Stewards/Technical Delegates:

GHSA rules requires that a Show Steward (Technical Delegate) be present at all events to ensure all rules and regulations are being followed and to be easily accessible to exhibitors with questions related to rules and regulations. Show stewards are an industry standard and help to ensure a level and safe playing field for all exhibitors.

The following are required responsibilities and duties of Show Stewards:

- a) Safeguard the welfare of the horses.
- b) Protect the interests of competitors, judges, and competition management.
- c) When they become aware of a potential violation of GHSA rules, without waiting for a protest, investigate and notify the appropriate individual or official, and, if not rectified, issue a warning and/or file a charge.
- d) Assist competition management to ensure that every effort is made to provide for safe competition including assisting in setting up practice equipment and competition courses.
- e) Report on the suitability of the competition facilities in all aspects, including stabling. The steward must commence his duties early enough to deal with these matters. The show steward should also evaluate potentially unsafe conditions related to the show (e.g., poor footing in the warm-up area and bring to attention of show management to correct).
- f) A steward should clearly understand that he/she has no authority in connection with the management or the judging of a competition.

Answer exhibitors' questions about rules.

- a) Stewards may be appointed by show management, and may be the show manager themselves, or a designated individual, which may or may not have another role as a competition official (such as the paddock master).
- b) No steward shall officiate in any competition in which any member of his family or any of his clients are judging, serving as the show manager or secretary, or creates a conflict of interest with the duties mentioned here in. Stewards may not take part as a trainer, coach, lessor, lessee, exhibitor, rider, driver, or handler at a competition where the steward is officiating.



- c) Stewards may not be the houseguest of a person who is exhibiting, or whose family is exhibiting, at the same competition.
- d) Stewards may not officiate unless their client who is showing terminates the relationship 60 days prior to the competition. A Steward may also not operate any business (i.e., tack shop, braiding business, etc.) at the same competition where he or she is officiating.
- e) No steward may officiate for more than three consecutive years at the same competition or at more than three consecutive competitions run by the same governing body, Board of Directors, or Licensee.
- f) The Steward's decision regarding practice equipment in the warm-up and/or schooling areas is final along with permissible tack & attire for the entire Competition. (Exception for Dressage: The final authority rests with Competition Management).
- g) Stewards may not officiate at more than one competition at the same time.
- h) Stewards should retain copies of steward/technical delegate reports, and supporting documentation, for a period of three years.

Special Duties of Steward:

In addition to the general responsibilities, a steward may:

- a) Help supervise the technical conduct of the competition, including after he has indicated to the show manager that he is satisfied with the arrangements. Until he has indicated to the show manager that he is satisfied with all the arrangements, the authority of the technical delegate shall be absolute.
- b) Inspect the courses and arenas to ensure that the technical details are in accordance with the rules and regulations.
- c) Instruct the show manager to make any alterations to the course(s) or arena(s) or to any technical detail associated with the conduct of the competition which he considers necessary.
- d) Be satisfied that the course is fair, and of the standard of the level offered and safe. Also ensure that the correct distances between obstacles are accurately measured while noting that knowledge of local conditions does not play any part.

Exhibitor Warnings by Show Management or the Steward:

- a) A warning may be issued by a Steward or Competition Official working in any of these capacities at the competition to any competitor, spectator, or participant for improper conduct, or for noncompliance with the rules, provided the issuer considers the conduct not severe enough to cause the issuer to file formal Charges.
- b) A warning may also be given to a competitor if it is found the offense is by a competitor's family member, friend, or staff of the competitor that is directly associated with the competitor while at the show.
- c) All warnings will be documented by the Show Manager.
- d) Show managers have the right to disqualify an exhibitor from competition from a warning that is considered severe or if there are multiple warnings (whether at the same show or multiple shows.) At which time, the National GHSA Board of Directors shall be notified.

GHSA Warm-up arena requirement:

- a) All GHSA Shows must have a warm-up arena, that is clear of obstacles. However, an obstacle may be set up in the warmup arena for a class such as Trail but the warmup obstacle must be taken down after the class is complete in the main show arena. (For example, a warmup arena used just prior to a trail class may have ground poles or an obstacle for competitors to warm up with, but the ground poles/obstacle must be removed promptly after the trail class in the show arena has completed.)
- b) GHSA utilizes these definitions according to the broader industry (USEF) Standards:



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- a. **Green Horse:** is a horse in their first competition year of showing in any performance discipline.
- b. **Maiden:** may apply to a horse or rider who has not yet won a first place ribbon in a specific division
- c. **Novice:** may apply to a horse or rider who has not yet won three first place ribbons in a specific division.
- d. **Limit:** may apply to a horse or rider who has not yet won six first place ribbons in a specific division.
 - i. Maiden, Novice, and Limit classes are open to those competitors and/or horses meeting the specifications defined above (see a, b and c). The status of competitors and horses in these divisions is as of the closing date of entries for any particular Competition. **Note that the current GVHS rule book offers no definition for Limit classes**

Eligibility

GHSA eligibility for admittance to an event (This offers unique protections for show managers and exhibitors from verbal and physical threats and other inappropriate conduct.) Participation in GHSA sanctioned events is a privilege, not a right, admittance to which may be offered by procedures prescribed by GHSA. Admittance, or application to an event, may be terminated or rejected by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors for cause detrimental to the interest of GHSA, its programs, policies, objectives and harmonious relationship of its members as determined by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors. Unless otherwise specified in GHSA rules, termination of a current membership under this rule shall be conducted under GHSA's disciplinary procedures for notice, hearing and temporary suspension. Rejection of an application shall not be grounds for or entitle an applicant to hearing. The effect of termination or rejection may be denial of the privileges of GHSA as set forth in GHSA's disciplinary procedure. GHSA rules allow for random drug testing utilizing industry standards (Pinto Horse Assn. & USEF). Non Members will be held to the same standards.

All horses are subject to random drug testing as deemed necessary by show management. An outline of permitted & forbidden substances is outlined in the Pinto Association Rulebook. Should results indicate a forbidden substance was used, or an owner refuses to have their horse tested, all placings & awards will be forfeited for that show.

Amateur Status

Amateur- Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, a person is considered an amateur for all competitions who after his/her 18th birthday, has **not engaged in any of the following** activities for the **current show year or year prior** which would make him/her a professional:

- a. Accepts remuneration for riding, driving, showing, training, schooling, or conducting clinics or seminars.
- b. Accepts remuneration for giving riding or driving lessons, lessons in showmanship, instructions in equitation or horse training, or judging any kind of horse shows.
- c. Accepts remuneration for employment in any other capacity (e.g. secretary, bookkeeper, veterinarian, groom, farrier) and gives instruction, rides, drives, shows, trains or schools horses, other than horses actually owned or leased by him/her, when his/her employer or a member of the family of said employer or a corporation which a member of his/her family controls, owns, boards or trains said horses.



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- d. Accepts remuneration for the use of his or her name, photograph, or other form of personal association as a horseman in connection with any advertisement or article to be sold.
- e. Accepts prize money except those won in any amateur or owner classes which does not affect amateur status of a person otherwise qualified.
- f. Advertises professional services such as training or giving lessons by any form of media.
- g. Cohabitates with a professional trainer that receives remuneration for the horse in which the amateur intends to show, e.g. cohabitating spouse of a trainer may not show client horse as an amateur

The following activities **do not affect amateur status** of a person who is otherwise qualified:

- h. Persons acting as counselors at summer camps, who are not hired in the exclusive capacity of riding instructors, and persons giving instructions and training to the handicapped
- i. The writing of books or articles pertaining to horses. Accepting remuneration for officiating as a steward, course designer, announcer, or participating as a TV commentator, social media influencer or accepting bona fide remuneration for services as a veterinarian, groom, farrier, tack shop operator or breeder, or for accepting bona fide remuneration for boarding services. Accepting reimbursement for any expenses directly related to the horse.
- j. Accepting a token of appreciation, other than money, for riding, driving, or showing in hand (prizes worth more than \$300 are considered remunerations).
- k. Prize money won in any amateur or owner class does not affect amateur status of a person otherwise qualified.
- l. Any person who is serving an internship for college credit through his/her respective accredited college program and who has never held professional status, can accept reimbursement for expenses without profit.

Show Management

For a show to be GHSA recognized the Show Manager must be familiar with and abide by the guidelines/rules above. There must be a Show Steward present at all GHSA recognized shows. Show premiums including class lists, facility information and judges must be submitted to the GHSA Board of Directors at least 60 days prior to the show. Upon receipt of the information the Board will ensure the show meets all expectations and aligns to the GHSA Mission Statement prior to sanctioning the show. The GHSA Board of Directors reserves the right to deny any show if they determine the show does not meet the expectations or align to the Mission Statement of the Organization.

GHSA Memberships must be validated with the GHSA Board of Directors before or during the show. All attendees of the show must be current GHSA Members in good standing, or if the show allows Non-Members to show then they must pay a flat \$100 fee to GHSA to allow the show to be sanctioned by GHSA. It is in the best interest of the competitor to become GHSA members and follow requirements of the year end high point program, the \$100 fee from the show DOES NOT include Non Members into the yearend high point program, individual memberships must be paid. For any Non-Members they will be held to the same standards of conduct as Members and must abide by the governing rules of the show and those in the GHSA Supplement.