

Connecticut Gymkhana Rules and By Laws

Name: The name of the association shall be:

Connecticut Gymkhana Association, Inc. (herein referred to as the CGA)

Web Site Address: thecgainc.com and follow us on facebook.

Purpose: The purpose of the association shall be:

1. To promote professionalism of Gymkhana and Pleasure shows in CT.
2. To promote the benefits of an organization to both the beginner and the experienced rider.
3. All disciplines are welcome to participate.
4. To promote camaraderie among all riders, members, and participants.
5. To promote family participation in equine events.

The Connecticut Gymkhana Association, Inc. is a non-profit family oriented horse club with members from various towns in Connecticut which promote sportsmanship, safety, and educated equine care.

Gymkhana shows are divided into (6) divisions: A, B, C, Novice, and Pee Wee (Pee Wee Riders/Leaders is for children 12 and under. Novice division has 6 classes and A, B, C divisions have 10 classes you can participate in. Each horse may only enter a maximum of 12 classes (excluding Pee Wee & Pleasure).

Pleasure shows will be made up of 4 divisions, with separate points for each division for all events listed. Junior Walk/Trot (14 and under), Junior Walk/Trot/Canter (16 and under), Senior Walk/Trot (15 and over), and Senior Walk/Trot/Canter (17 and over).

*Ribbons are given 1st through 6 place for both Gymkhana and Pleasure, there is a payback for Gymkhana riders placing in first, second, or third place.

*There is end of the day Champion and Reserve ribbons for all divisions and are tallied as follows: Points for all divisions will be totaled and the highest goes to the Champion and the second highest goes to Reserve Champion. *Division points do not include open events or 100% payback classes.*

*Overall Champion of the Day will be determined by counting all of the points won by one horse/rider combination in all classes, including Pleasure and open events held that day.

*In case of a tie in any classes 1st through 6th place, both participants will divide the proceeds if any, and each will get the earned points and a ribbon. Same goes for any ties for Champion/Reserve in each division or end of the day points, including end of the year awards.

The CGA holds up to 10 horse shows per year; including one benefit show for a charity, a play day show and a year end awards banquet. We encourage all club members to be involved in the club and welcome all participation/ideas in any events. Any one wanting to help plan events etc. is welcome to join us.

Rule Book Purpose

The rules and recommended general procedures are continuously being monitored by the Officer Board which consists of (6) board members, (1) chair person, and (1) alternate for possible improvements. If any changes or grievances are felt to be needed, recommendations and/or suggestions are to be made to the Officer Board by a dated letter and presented to the Chair Person and it will be brought to the board meeting and openly discussed and/or voted on. All members are encouraged to come to the monthly meetings, however only a qualifying member may vote.

(A qualifying voting club member must be at least 18 years old and have participated in no less than 50% of show functions e.g. shows, meetings, outside CGA activity).

All new members must participate in no less than (6) events to be eligible to vote.

The Officer Board has the power to make a change at any time if circumstances, such as safety, etc. warrant such change.

The Rule Book will be made available at all shows and will be on the CGA internet web set for your viewing.

The Officer Board

The duties and the powers of the Officer's Board shall be as follows:

1. The board will consist of (1) chair person, (6) board members, and (1) alternate. The board members will remain in office for (2) years, if any board member is not able to complete their term or simply wishes not to participate there will be a vote by the board to replace the seat. The alternate will then take the position, and that position will be open for an eligible member. If the alternate wants to stay the alternate then the position will be open to all qualifying CGA members. When the (2) year term is up, all current board members that want to continue and any qualifying CGA member, they must express their interest in becoming a board member and there will be a club vote.
2. The Officer Board are all volunteers and do not get paid, at the end of the year after all their hard work, the CGA pays for their ticket to the banquet.
3. All of the Officer Board is expected to assume all duties at the shows and through out the year, this will be appointed and discussed during club meetings. The Officer Board will work as a "Team" e.g. points, minutes, booking shows, treasurer, audits, and rosters, etc. We do encourage club members to volunteer through out the year, e.g. gate, ribbon runner, etc.
4. The officer board shall have the authority to make any decisions in regard to expenditures in the amount of \$500.00 or less without membership approval, expenditures greater than \$500.00 will be voted on at the regular scheduled monthly general membership meetings.

Elections

- In an election year it will be announced at the general club meetings and posted on the web site for all interested qualifying parties. The Officer Chair person accepts the requests for consideration to board

positions during the month of September. A request must consist of a short essay outlining your qualifications and what you can offer being on the board. A copy will be kept on file.

- The officer board elects the chairperson.
- If no qualifying members express interest in becoming a board member, the current board member will stay on board and will have one unanimous vote.
- Members must be 21 years of age to be eligible for office.
- Not more than 2 family members will sit on the Officer Board at any given time.
- To be eligible you must be a member in good standing and attend more than 50% of the CGA events.
- To be eligible to vote in any club issues/changes, members must be in good standing and 18 years of age or older.
- The voting for the board members will take place at the October General club meeting and you must attend to vote.
- The introduction of newly Board Officers will be at the year-end banquet
- Each family member (listed on the membership form) that meets all the above requirements is entitled to vote.

Employment

The CGA hires a ring crew consisting of one person, who is in charge of the equipment, getting the trailer to the shows, and show set up. If a person wishes to volunteer to do ring crew, the CGA will pay \$25.00 per show to cover the cost of gas. If a volunteer cannot be found and the position must be filled it pays \$125.00 at this time per show if anyone is interested in the position, please let the board know.

Meetings

- A meeting for the general membership will be held on the first Wednesday of each month for November, December, January, February, March, and April. In the months of May, June, July, August, September, and October the monthly meeting will be held at the first show of that month during the lunch break. *All members are encouraged to attend.*
- The Officer Board will meet separately, periodically throughout the year.
- At all meetings, each member in good standing will have one vote, with the exception of the chair person, who can only vote in the event of a tie.
- A majority count carries the vote.
- All issues to be voted on will be in the monthly minutes and voted on at the next general membership monthly meeting. **There is no absentee vote; you must attend the meeting to be able to vote.**

General Conduct

Discourteous behavior toward any member or non-member by any other member or non-member will not be tolerated at any CGA sponsored event or meeting. Rudeness, yelling, swearing, and/or failure to let another member speak or express their opinions will be asked to leave by an Officer Board member. The club meetings use Robert Rules of Order and will enforce these rules as needed.

Cruel or Inhumane Treatment of Horses

- Spurring, striking, or beating in any manner whatsoever forward of the cinch after entering the arena will result in immediate disqualification of the contestant. The contestant will likewise be disqualified if there is any indication of cruelty such as (but not exclusive to) welts, cuts, bleeding, or marks on the animal. Any subsequent violation may result in the disqualification of the contestant from the show.
- Contestants have no more than two warnings for the following and will be asked to leave by the board members:
 1. Excessive spurring or jerking of reins.
 2. Unusual construction or arrangement of equipment considered by the judge to be in-humane or unsafe.
 3. Excessive use of bats, whips, over n under, or any other type of device.

Membership

Membership is open to all riders, regardless of age, riding discipline, or breed of horse.

- Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st.
- Membership dues should be paid to the address provided at the appropriate time which will be posted on the CGA web site and should be mailed in by April 1st to avoid a \$10.00 late fee for renewing members. The check in one payment must accompany the completed membership form with the correct contact information.
- Membership is available for a single member, two family members, or family. Current prices and information is posted on the CGA web site.
- We encourage all members to sign up in advance before each show; this allows us to be prepared for the show. Any rider that does not sign up before the dead line will have to pay 1.00 extra for each class they ride in.

Horse Show Rules for both Gymkhana & Pleasure

- Original rabies and negative coggins within one year is required before entering the show grounds. A copy must be provided to the Officer Board to be kept on file throughout the year.
- No stallions permitted on show grounds.
- The use of alcohol and/or drugs on grounds that are part of or related to the property being used for shows is strictly prohibited.
- Class entries close at the start of the previous class.
- Please enter the gate in within one minute, excluding tack changes.
- Judges decisions are final. No one shall approach a judge or time keeper as to a decision or other matter unless they have first obtained permission from the chair person. Anyone disregarding this rule will be asked to cancel all entries, forfeit entry fees, and the points earned for that day will be revoked.
- The Officer Board reserves the right to combine and/or divide classes when deemed necessary to facilitate the smooth running of the show. If the Officer Board has to make a decision on ending a show early due to thunder/lightning storm approaching etc. the members will be refunded their class fees.

- Each horse/rider combination is evaluated at each show for divisions in Gymkhana and Pleasure. You will be notified prior to the next show if your division has changed. If you are moved to a new division, you will carry over no more points per class and no more total points than the high point rider in that division.
- When a horse is injured and a replacement horse is needed, proof of injury must be proved to the Officer Board e.g. personally known, death, vet paperwork. The Officer Board will then render a decision.
- A rider may ride as many different horses as they wish, each rider/horse combination will carry its own set of points.
- If a member or a horse becomes injured or ill during the course of a show and is unable to ride, you must let the Officer Board know and they will make a decision on a refund.

Horse Show Rules for Gymkhana & Pleasure Continued

- Cruelty of any kind toward the horse while on show grounds whether or not specifically mentioned. Any subsequent violation may result in disqualification of the contestant from the show.
- Every horse must enter the chute at a walk and in a calm manner.
- After each class is over rider must dismount off horse and walk out of the chute.
- The volunteer gatekeeper will be prepped before the show on how to operate the gate, proper safety and conduct.
- Any contestant under the age of 18 must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.
- Proper show attire is required in order to participate. This includes collared shirts, riding shoes with heels, (Polo shirts and jeans are acceptable, no T-shirts, shorts, or tank tops). In the event of extreme hot weather the Officer Board may call for no “collared shirts” that you may replace with a t-shirt or tank top.

Time Trials for Gymkhana

TIME TRIAL EVENTS: Dash, Cloverleaf, Pole Bending

- If rider/horse combination has not ridden in the previous show season at least once they must time trial again.
- A, B, and C division riders will be time trialed and placed accordingly, regardless of where a rider previously rode on another horse; with the exception of Novice division. No rider who has participated in A, B, or C division may ever go back to the Novice division.
- Penalties will not be included in the qualifying times for time trial events for A, B, C, or Novice divisions in Gymkhana.
- Non-Club members will be allowed to run at our shows for points in “A” division. A member of another club or organization is welcome to request permission from the Officer Board to observe the timer along with the time keeper.

Gymkhana Rules

- Gymkhana riders may use two hands on the reins. Batting the horse in front of the cinch is prohibited, hitting behind the girth and spurs is allowed.
- If there is an equipment failure during a run, the rider will be permitted to repair the equipment and is entitled to a re-run for that class. The rider will be able to run when all riders have finished.
- If there is a timer failure, the Board will ask the participant to stop and give them the option of re-running again or going after the last rider in that class.
- Gymkhana class penalties: 5 seconds added in all barrels and poles for each knockdown. NO TIME will be given in Dash, Key hole, Scurry, or Relay for knockdown, or stepping on/outside of a line. Off course is NO TIME in any event.
- All ribbons and pay backs for Gymkhana will be given out after Novice and/or break and at the end of the show. No one is to come up to the booth until that time. Thank you in advance.
- Points earned for both Gymkhana and Pleasure riders shall be available within 30 days of each show for each member and posted on the CGA web site to view.

Gymkhana Formula for Division Placement	Gymkhana Points/Ribbons
59.999 & below = A division	1 st Blue Ribbon 6 points
60 to 69.999 = B division	2 nd Red Ribbon 5 points
70 to 84.999 = C division	3 rd Yellow Ribbon 4 points
85 & above = Novice division	4 th White Ribbon 3 points
	5 th Pink Ribbon 2 points
	6 th Green Ribbon 1 point

Pee Wee Rules

- All Pee Wee classes will be run at the beginning of the Gymkhana shows. The events will be Dash, Straight Barrels, and Cloverleaf.
- A canter will receive a 5 second penalty. More than 3 strides at the canter will receive a No-Time.
- Specify the need for tack changes at time of signing up to establish a smooth running lineup.
- If a Pee Wee rider or leader wins the year end championship two years in a row, their ability to ride in that division a third year will be reviewed by the Officer Board.
- A current Pee Wee Rider does not have to time trial to go into the Novice division.
- Pee Wee leader riders must be led by someone 16 years or older.
- All Pee Wees must be 12 years old or younger.

Pleasure Rules

- Pleasure riders may use two hands on the reins when using a Bosal or Loose Ring Snaffle (non-shank, non-curb). Use of this equipment is allowed when the horse is 5 years old or younger. *No Hackamores or tie downs may used in the Pleasure Division.*
- Chaps are optional in all Pleasure Division Classes.

*Classes offered Showmanship, Pleasure, Horsemanship, Trail, Cross Rails, (2) foot, and Command

There will be a 15-minute time allotment will be given for competitors to tack up after showmanship before commencing the next class. Open Pleasure stakes will be offered if 5 or more riders enter.

*If not enough riders (3 minimum) sign up for a class the Officer Board reserves the right to make a decision to have the class, scratch the class, or combine classes but pin separately.

Pleasure Ribbons/Points		
1 st	Blue Ribbon	7
2 nd	Red Ribbon	5
3 rd	Yellow Ribbon	4
4 th	White Ribbon	3
5 th	Pink Ribbon	2
6 th	Green Ribbon	1

Ribbons/Paybacks/Points
Gymkhana

1. Divisions A, B, C, and Novice receive a 70% payback in each division; proceeds are paid out on the amount of riders in each division.
2. A, B, C, Novice, and Pee Wees receive ribbons 1st through 6th place.
3. 1st show and play day, no paybacks or ribbons.
4. The last show (play day) points will count only on Clover Leaf, Pole Bending, and Dash.
5. Extra day end classes such as relay does not receive any points, but does pay a 50/50 pay back with the 1st place winners taking all.

Gymkhana Events Line Up 2012

1	Dash	Pee Wee Leader/Rider
2	Straight Barrels	Pee Wee Leader/Rider
3	Clover Leaf	Pee Wee Leader/Rider

1.	Dash	A, B, C, Novice
2.	Scurry	A, B, C
3.	Cat's Cradle	A, B, C, Novice
4.	Clover Leaf	A, B, C, Novice
5.	Bleeding Heart	A, B, C, Novice
6.	Key Hole	A, B, C, Novice
7.	Pole Bending	A, B, C, Novice
8.	Quad Poles	A, B, C
9.	Big T	A, B, C
10	Straight Barrels	A, B, C

Pleasure Classes Line Up 2012

- See the Internet Web Site at thecgainc.com

Year End Awards

- Year-end awards will be given to the first place, second, and third place winners in each division for Gymkhana and all rider/horse must participate in 3 or more shows to be given an award.
- In the case of a tie for year-end awards, both parties will get an award.
- Pleasure rider/horse combination must do 2 or more shows to receive year-end awards; they will also have first, second, and third place winners.
- Specialty awards including outside points will be given out the night of the banquet. All riders in Gymkhana must do 3 or more shows and Pleasure must do 2 or more shows to be chosen for one of these awards.