

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**  
**OF THE NORTH WEST GEORGIA HORSEMEN'S**  
**ASSOCIATION**

**PREAMBLE**

To encourage and stimulate the love of horses and the outdoors, we unite to form the North West Georgia Horsemen's Association, Inc.

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I**

**Section 1**

The organization shall be known as the North West Georgia Horsemen's Association.

**Section 2**

The headquarters of the association shall be at the location of the president.

**Section 3**

The association shall be a non-profit organization operated for the purpose of promoting and standardizing horse shows and related activities sanctioned by the organization for the benefit and enjoyment of its members.

**Section 4**

In the event the association is dissolved and after discharge of its liabilities, the remaining assets shall be given to a charitable organization or other designated organizations at the discretion of the board of directors.

**ARTICLE II**

**MOTTO**

The association motto shall be "For the love of horses."

**ARTICLE III**

**COLORS**

The association colors shall be as follows: Red, White, and Blue.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Section 1**      **Membership and Dues**

1. Membership shall be open to individual clubs meeting the requirements for participation, paying their annual dues as set by the board of directors.
2. The annual dues for each member club shall be an equal share of the Federation Membership and shall include one sponsored show and normal voting privileges within the association. (2019)
3. The sanctioning fee for a show shall be \$65.00. Member club must perform work duties prior to sanctioned (club funded) show. (2019)

**Section 2**

1. N.W.G.H.A. will receive 100% of the proceeds from any N.W.G.H.A. sponsored shows.
2. Any show put on by a non-member club shall have a \$75.00 sanctioning fee and have a letter of guarantee on N.W.G.H.A. equipment for other than normal wear and tear.

### **Section 3      Payback and Entry Fees**

1. Entry fee to be set annually by club vote. (2001)
2. Show dates, locations, and fees will be determined at September meeting and will apply for the show season.
3. Sanctioning organizations must pay \$1.00 per entry from pointed classes to N.W.G.H.A.
4. An office fee will be charged per rider. Bartow County Saddle Club members will pay a reduced fee at the BCSC Arena.
5. Payback is optional at the discretion of the sanctioning organizations. (2002)
6. NWGHA payback is 70% Timed and 60% Pleasure (five entries constitutes a payback class): (2021)
  - a. Top 3 are paid 50/30/20
7. Grounds Fees / Gate Charges / Drag Fees may be charged at the discretion of the sanctioning organizations and must be announced at the preceding meeting.

### **Section 4      Club Responsibility**

1. Member clubs shall have a representative present at all scheduled or called N.W.G.H.A. meetings and shall be responsible for furnishing help as scheduled at all N.W.G.H.A. sponsored events.
2. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings or failure to perform the required work schedules, consisting of entry booth, concession, and arena duties at N.W.G.H.A. events shall result in forfeiture of all accumulated points for that club's certified riders.
3. Each club shall have a representative on each committee.
4. Each club shall vote on year end awards and by-law changes.

### **Section 5      Voting**

1. All saddle clubs shall turn in a list of officers and members eligible to vote to the President and Secretary.
  - a. This list exists for the purpose of voting and non-scheduled meetings.

### **Section 6      Representation**

1. An individual is allowed to represent one club only.

### **Section 7      Termination of Membership**

1. Membership in the Association shall be terminated for deliberate violation of Association rules and for conduct unbecoming a club, or for failure to meet the requirements of membership as stated in Section 4.

### **Section 8      Transfer of Membership**

1. If an individual/member decides to transfer points and membership to another club, the individual/member should contact an officer of both clubs about the transfer.
2. Both clubs have an obligation to contact each other and notify the N.W.G.H.A. points-keeper in regards to the person in question.
3. Individual/member must be in good standing to transfer points, and can only be done once within the current season

## **ARTICLE V** **N.W.G.H.A. OFFICERS**

### **Section 1      Officers**

1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Pleasure Vice President, Running Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain, Parliamentarian, and Points Keeper.

### **Section 2      Terms**

1. The officers shall serve for 12 month terms, from the start of new business at the first meeting September of each year.

- a. With the exception of the year N.W.G.H.A. is host to the Federation Show, when the preceding year's officers will remain for another 12 months.
2. Incoming officers shall be responsible to help/support the previous officers at the State Show to gain experience for the next State show they will be putting together.
3. Their term to take effect at new business of the September meeting.

**Section 3**      **Treasury Audit**

1. The President shall appoint an audit committee consisting of three members in good standing who shall audit and clear all financial records of the Association and the committee chairman will report to the full membership at the first meeting in September.

**Section 4**      **Board of Directors**

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of all of the Officers and one representative from each member club, and the President of N.W.G.H.A.

**Section 5**      **Date of Election**

1. N.W.G.H.A.'s fiscal year will be from September to August.
2. All officers shall be elected by secret ballot at the July meeting each year, proceeding the official date for taking office in September.
3. Nominations submitted by June.

**Section 6**      **N.W.G.H.A. Representative**

1. Each member club shall elect an official delegate who will become a member of the Board of Directors and will be above the officers from any member club. (i.e.: a club's N.W.G.H.A. Rep. has the voting authority over a club's other officers).
2. The N.W.G.H.A. Representatives are responsible for reading the N.W.G.H.A. minutes to their respective clubs.

## **ARTICLE VI** **MEETINGS**

**Section 1**

1. Association meetings shall be held the third Thursday of each month of the year at a place designated by the Board of Directors, unless canceled at the previous meeting.
2. Federation minutes to be read at the N.W.G.H.A. meeting following the Federation meeting.

**Section 2**

1. The Board of Directors shall have the option of changing the date and place for the monthly meeting.
2. Meetings shall be Smoke Free.

**Section 3**      **Quorum**

1. A quorum of more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the delegates from the member clubs in good standing is necessary for the transaction of any business. (2016)
2. A majority vote in the affirmative by the member delegates present shall be required for passage of any transaction by the Association (2016)

**Section 4**

1. Each member club shall have one vote and only one vote on any issue pertaining to the Association affairs.

**Section 5**      **Grievance Committee**

1. President and Board of Directors shall be the grievance committee, with the chairman appointed by the president.
2. The people and the persons involved in the grievance shall be the only ones present during grievance meetings and decisions.

Grievances – See “By-Laws”, Article V, Conduct, Section 2.

# **BY – LAWS**

## **ARTICLE I** **DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1**      **President**

1. The President shall perform duties customary to the office, such as presiding over all meetings of the Association.
2. The President shall be on the Board of Directors, shall appoint all committees, and shall be chairman, ex-officio chairman, or a member of all committees.
3. The President may call all meetings of the Board of Directors at his/her discretion, and shall call a Board of Directors meeting upon the request of three representatives in good standing.
4. The Presidential position shall be represented at all N.W.G.H.A. functions from beginning to end.
5. The President shall represent N.W.G.H.A. at all Federation meetings.

### **Section 2**      **Vice-President**

1. In the absence of the President, the Vice President (either Pleasure VP or Running VP) shall perform all said duties of the President.
2. The Vice President shall be the Show Chairman and shall perform any duties the President assigns.
3. The Running VP provides the drag for running shows.

### **Section 3**      **Secretary**

1. Shall keep the minutes of all proceedings, record the same, and mail a copy of each meeting to the official delegate of each member club and the President before the next meeting.
2. Maintain current roster of all officers of the member clubs, to include addresses and telephone numbers.
3. Discharge any other secretarial duties as directed by the President and the Board of Directors.
4. Maintain records and reports and correspondence for informing Association clubs.
5. Keep track of BOD votes where clarification is needed (2016)

### **Section 4**      **Treasurer**

1. Shall receive all moneys due the Association and disburse the same only on itemized demands and upon the order of the President and Board of Directors.
2. Shall automatically be a member of the Ways & Means Committee.
3. Shall account for all moneys received and disbursed at each monthly meeting.
4. Shall be responsible for filing the annual 990 (N,EZ) form with the IRS (2016)

### **Section 5**      **Public Relations Chairman**

1. Advise the President on matters of publicity and recommends methods by which the Association may be favorably brought to the attention of the public.
2. Shall insure that the activities of the Association as a whole are given maximum publicity in local newspapers, radio and television or other suitable means.

### **Section 6**      **Sergeant at Arms**

1. Maintains order at the Association meetings, horse shows and other places where the Association is concerned and is empowered to appoint as many assistants as needed.

### **Section 7**      **Chaplain**

1. Discharges the devotional at the meetings, horse shows and whenever called upon to perform his/her duty.

### **Section 8**      **Parliamentarian**

1. Advise the President on all parliamentary procedure and shall be the official interpreter of the Association's "Official Rule Book", Georgia Federation Rules and all other rules affecting the conduct of the Association and its members.

2. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible that all meetings follow proper procedure as per Robert's Rules of Order.

### **Section 9**      **Points Keeper**

1. Post a list of certified riders at the Kick-Off Show.
2. Receive Pre-Entry forms and Class Sheets at the end of each N.W.G.H.A. Sanctioned show and maintain them for the year-end audit.
3. Maintain current list of points for N.W.G.H.A. Certified Riders.
4. Post points at least at every other sanctioned show and have points available at all sanctioned shows.
5. Shall schedule a Points Audit prior to the last qualifying show.
6. Prepare all State Rider information required by Federation.

### **Section 10**      **Board of Directors**

1. Shall attend all scheduled and called meetings.
2. Have the authority to replace a resigning officer.
3. Required to be present at the rule change committee meeting.
4. Along with President, shall be the Grievance Committee.
5. Quorum of more than 2/3 required for any decision.
6. Shall have authority to replace an officer for violation of or failure to follow N.W.G.H.A. rules.
7. Shall set criteria for club membership.
8. Shall accept or reject new clubs petitioning for membership.
9. All decisions are final and irrevocable.
10. Has the authority to apply disciplinary action to an individual if their club fails to act.
  - a. If an individual needs disciplinary action, the Board of Directors has the right to approach their club to take action.
  - b. If the club's action is not satisfactory, the Board has the right to act against the individual with actions including, but not limited to, pulling points for the class, show or year, and putting person on probation.
11. The Board of Directors has the authority to set operational procedures regarding shows and meetings.

### **Section 11**

1. All duly elected officers shall hold the welfare of the Association uppermost at all times.

### **Section 12**

1. Any duly elected officer missing more than two regular meetings without acceptable excuse shall be automatically replaced.

### **Section 13**

1. Every officer and board of director is responsible for enforcement of N.W.G.H.A. rules at any sponsored horse show, meeting or event. (2018)

### **Section 14**

1. The acceptance of any official position in the Association shall automatically constitute an agreement on the part of that person to uphold, support and carry out the Constitution, By-Laws, and all other rules and policies of the Association.
  - a. Failure to do so shall result in the official being automatically resigned of duties unless his conduct is deemed excusable by a majority vote by secret ballot of the Board of Directors

## **ARTICLE II** **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

### **Section 1**

1. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority of all matters not covered by the Constitution or By-Laws.

- a. The N.W.G.H.A. Parliamentarian shall be the officer accountable that all business be conducted in this manner.

## **Section 2**      **Rule Changes**

1. All rule change proposals shall be made at the meeting in March to be voted on by the in April and effective in September.
  - a. All rule change proposals are voted on by the membership only by process of representation (2016)
  - b. A tie vote will be broken by majority vote of the BOD (2021)
2. A fee of \$100 shall be charged to anyone wanting to present changes, modifications, revisions, corrections, amendments, or additions to the By-Laws at any other time than the April meeting.
  - a. This fee is non-refundable.
3. Decision of the Board of Directors is irrevocable.

## **ARTICLE III** **EXPENSES**

### **Section 1**

1. The expenses incurred by the President, Treasurer, and Secretary conducting Association business shall be paid by the Association and limited to the following:
  - a. stationary, stamps, telephone, cards or anything approved by the Association for its promotion.

### **Section 2**

1. The Association will not send flowers for illness. This will be the responsibility of the member clubs. The Association will send flowers in the case of death.

### **Section 3**

1. Any expense legally incurred by a majority vote of a quorum present in regular meetings shall be the responsibility of N.W.G.H.A.

## **ARTICLE IV** **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Section 1**      **Show Schedule**

1. N.W.G.H.A. to select all show dates for the season at the September meeting.
  - a. N.W.G.H.A. will pick its dates first.
  - b. Then, each member club of the Association is to pick in order of seniority.
    - i. The club having been a member in good standing of the Association the longest, picking first.
  - c. After member clubs have picked their show dates, other clubs and organizations may pick their show dates.
2. N.W.G.H.A. funded show location will be picked by Board of Directors.
  - a. Member club funded shows may be picked by the clubs and must be approved by the board of directors.

### **Section 2**      **Show Season**

1. The authorized period for sanctioning horse shows and earning points toward State Qualification shall begin September 6, after the State Show, and end June 15, with the exception of the months of December, January, and February. A minimum of 1/3 of the scheduled shows may be held in the fall. There is no limit to the number of shows per season.
2. The show season will consist of State Qualifying Shows, a minimum of four (4).

### **Section 3**      **Shows**

1. Flags, both the United States and the N.W.G.H.A., may be present at every show with a Grand Entry.
2. Prayer before each show.

### **Section 4**      **Sanctioning**

1. The last date for requesting a sanctioned State qualifying show to be scheduled is the September BOD meeting. (2019)
  - a. Any show scheduled as of the March meeting that is not held when scheduled through current show season shall forfeit sanction fee.

## **ARTICLE V** **CONDUCT**

### **Section 1**

1. Association members are expected to conduct their clubs in an exemplary manner at all times.

### **Section 2**      **Grievances**

1. Any exhibitor who feels the rules of conduct or show regulations and/or rules are being violated shall have the right to file a formal grievance.
  - a. The first part of the Grievance shall be to notify the chairman of the show committee or the senior elected officer present immediately (verbally) of the violation and of their intention to file a grievance if such rule is not enforced or violation corrected.
    - i. The Show Committee shall consist of appointed members of the club putting on the show.
    - ii. The club will post a list of the show committee names at the entry booth along with a list of club officer's names.
    - iii. At N.W.G.H.A. State shows and Fund Raising events, the show committee shall consist of N.W.G.H.A. officers.
2. After this, if the exhibitor does not feel he/she has been justly treated or the rule enforced, he/she must file a written complaint, which shall be brought before their club.
  - a. If their saddle club feels the complaint is justifiable, they shall transmit it and a grievance fee of \$50 as soon as possible, but no later than the next scheduled N.W.G.H.A. meeting, to the Chairman of the Grievance Committee or President of N.W.G.H.A..
3. The Grievance Committee shall then make a proper investigation which shall include the privilege of the person filing the grievance and the person the grievance is against to be present at a meeting of the Grievance Committee.
4. After this, the grievance committee shall reach a decision and present it to both parties in writing.
5. If the committee rules in favor of the exhibitor filing the charges, the grievance fee of \$50 will be returned.
6. If the committee rules against the exhibitor filing the charges, then the \$50 will go to the treasury of N.W.G.H.A.
7. At the next N.W.G.H.A. meeting, the Grievance Committee will present their decision to the whole attendance.
8. This decision shall be final and irrevocable.

### **Section 3**      **Dogs**

1. Dogs must be on a six foot or less leash or rope and be restrained by hand or tied to a trailer, away from the arena.

### **Section 4**      **Inhumane Treatment**

1. Inhumane treatment of animals and/or persons will not be tolerated on the show grounds. This will be handled on an individual basis. The decision of inhumane treatment shall be made by the show committee. An individual will receive one warning. If the situation continues, he/she will not be allowed to show the rest of the day.
2. If a person strikes another person, the violator will be asked to leave the show grounds for the remainder of that day. For a second offense, the person will be barred for the remainder of the season, thereby forfeiting all accumulated points for the year.

## **ARTICLE VI** **JUDGES**

### **Section 1**

1. The President shall appoint a judges committee consisting of at least one member from each club and ensure Pleasure and Gaited are equally represented. (2020)
2. All judges must be on the approved list of judges or be approved by the judges committee.

3. The committee will establish and make available three qualified judge list. (2020)
  - a. Pleasure qualified judges
  - b. Gaited qualified judges
  - c. Judges qualified to judge both Pleasure and Gaited.
    1. A judge may only be added to the Pleasure and Gaited list by unanimous vote.
4. Judges can be added or deleted from the list anytime throughout the year. (2019)
5. The judges committee will make the final decision regarding the addition or deletion of judges from the list.
6. If the committee receives two (2); written complaints from two (2) different clubs to remove a judge from the list, the judge must be removed. (2019)

### **Section 2**

1. Any person who judges a N.W.G.H.A. sanctioned show may ride for points at following N.W.G.H.A. shows of the current season but may not return to judge for that season. (2021)

### **Section 3**

1. No person shall judge more than two (2) sanctioned shows per season, and these shows must be a minimum of 31 days apart.

### **Section 4**

1. A judge is obligated to judge each assigned class in conformity with the rules and specifications as they appear in the AQHA Rules and RHBAA Rules (Gaited).

### **Section 5**

1. The decisions of each judge constitute individual preference and are not a verdict by the Association. The decision of the judge shall be final.

### **Section 6**

1. No judge is to be approached by an exhibitor or spectator with regard to any decision he/she has made. If an exhibitor or other person questions a judge's decision, they may request a reply at a proper time and through the show chairman, ringmaster, or ring steward.

### **Section 7**

1. The judge's decision shall be final in respect to the soundness of a horse in competition if a veterinarian is not immediately available or not called on.

### **Section 8**

1. A judge is to place 10 places in all judged events. This is to allow points to be moved up as needed.

### **Section 9**

1. Clubs shall announce their judge 30 days prior to show date and include his/her name on the show sheet. Once a judge has been announced, that person must judge that show. In the event of a cancelation, the replacement judge will require approval by the President or N.W.G.H.A. Judges Committee. (2019)

### **Section 10**

1. A separate Pleasure and Gaited Judge or a Judge certified by the Judges Committee to be qualified in both Pleasure and Gaited as stated in Article VI, Section 3 is to be hired. (2019)

## **ARTICLE VII** **HORSE SHOWS**

### **Section 1**      **Drug Use and Coggins Test**

1. The use of any chemical, acid or tranquilizer to produce unnatural action will not be tolerated as per the AQHA and RHBAA rule book as applicable.



- a. Proof of violation of this section will result in suspension of the exhibitor in any N.W.G.H.A. sponsored or sanctioned event. (2019)
2. A negative Coggins Test is required by the State of Georgia and by N.W.G.H.A.
  - a. This will be officiated by the individual clubs sanctioning with N.W.G.H.A..
3. Any horse on the show grounds without a current negative Coggins will be asked to leave the show grounds area immediately.

## **Section 2**      **Class Sheets**

1. The type of classes required for N.W.G.H.A. sponsored horse shows of the current season in addition to those required by the Federation, shall be determined by a majority vote of the member clubs at the time the show sheet is approved. (2019)
2. All state point classes will fall within the following categories: Halter, Western, English, Gaited, Pony, & Timed Events.
3. The state qualifying classes may be combined where possible. The points shall be split according to age divisions for State Qualifying. (8/1999)
4. Sanction (club funded) shows will be required to adhere to the N.W.G.H.A. class requirements as detailed in Section 10 of Article VII (2019)

## **Section 3**      **Age Categories**

1. Age categories will be set by Federation Rule for all State Qualifying Classes (2020)
  - a. Adult will be any exhibitor over the age of 20
  - b. Youth will be any exhibitor under the age of 19

## **Section 4**      **General Rules**

### **1. Age of Exhibitor**

- a. Age of exhibitor is considered to be his/her age on the first day of January in the year of the approaching State Show.

### **2. Age of Horse**

- a. A horse shall automatically age one year on the first day of January of the current show season, regardless of when it was foaled. A horse will show in the age category at the age as of the first day of January in the year of the approaching State Show. (Example: a horse foaled in July 1999 will be considered 1 year old on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000.) Horses 5 and under are considered junior horses, horses 6 and over are considered senior horses.

### **3. Stallions**

- a. A stallion will be allowed on show grounds and the show committee is to be notified. A stallion may be exhibited in adult classes and any eligible open class by an exhibitor that is over the age of 18. (2019)

### **4. Ponies**

- a. Size of ponies for N.W.G.H.A. shows shall be 50" or under.
- b. Ponies are to be measured at each show (2021)
  - i. Ponies must be measured on a solid and level surface
  - ii. Ponies with a Federation issued permanent card are exempt.
  - iii. The BOD may implement operations to track measured ponies and exempt from measurement
- c. BOD members will be available for a period of 30 minutes 1 hour prior to the start of the show to measure ponies. (2021)
  - i. The show will not be delayed to measure a pony.
  - ii. The show Committee may add additional measurement times as needed.

### **5. Individual Workout Pattern**

- a. When an individual workout pattern is used, the judge must post pattern at least one hour prior to class, Equitation or Horsemanship, along with a notation on chaps to be permitted or prohibited for horsemanship.

## **6. Classes**

- a. N.W.G.H.A. has a no scratch policy. Entry fees will not be refunded unless injury/sickness to horse/rider is substantial.
- b. No entries allowed two classes prior to event. Payback classes exempted.
- c. Judged classes of more than 15 entries may be split upon the show committee's or judge's discretion.

## **7. Timer**

- a. Persons 16 years and older are to announce and write times in timed events. Timer and/or announcer are to be the only people in the booth.

## **8. Horses in Judged Events**

- a. One horse per rider per class in judged events. The rider may enter and exit only one time per entry in judged events. The exception would be in reining or trail events where individual patterns only are used to judge the competition.
- b. Exhibitors should attempt to keep their horses on the rail whenever possible unless the judge has specified differently. When passing another horse, a contestant should attempt to pass on the inside of the ring if possible and allow at least one horse length before attempting to get back on the rail.

## **9. Ring Steward Duties**

- a. Must know rules and regulations of N.W.G.H.A.
- b. Has charge of the activity in the ring or arena.
- c. Should act as mediator between judge and exhibitor, judge should ask ring steward to move horses.
- d. Has authority to ask exhibitor upon judge's command to remove horse for safety of other horses or exhibitors.
- e. Competently keep the classes progressing.
- f. Has the authority to remove unsportsmanlike exhibitors from the arena upon the judge's instruction.
- g. Upon hazardous/potentially hazardous situation, the ring steward has the authority to stop the class and notify the judge and/or wait for instruction.
- h. Split the class when requested by the judge.
- i. When arena is small or class entries are large, take every precaution to keep horses moving until judge is ready for them to be judged.
- j. Dress code – Neatly attired.
- k. It will be the ring steward's responsibility to assist the judge and control all phases of the show while in the ring. Ring Steward should refer to AQHA rules. Ring steward to be 16 years and older. (2017)
- l. Ring Steward will not converse with contestants in the line-up unless directed to do so by the judge and will not to converse with the judge regarding participants. Ring steward will be allowed to intervene in safety issues. Participant may not perform duty as Ring Steward prior to competing in class or classes in the show. Once the participant has competed in class(es) he/she may perform duty of Ring Steward (revised 07-16-2015).

## **10. Line Judge**

- a. Must stay at the end of the arena for cones and poles.
- b. Must report clean and broken patterns to the announcer.
- c. Unclear calls will be determined by the Show Committee.
  - i. If a determination cannot be made by the show committee the run goes to the rider.

## **11. Show Workers**

- a. Must be 16 years old to announce and work the gate. (2017)

## **Section 5 ENGLISH EVENTS**

1. Open show, Breed Specific, or AQHA. Refer to AQHA Rules.

## **Section 6 GAITED EVENTS**

1. Refer to RHBAA Rules

## **Section 7**      **TIMED EVENTS**

### **1. General Rules**

- a. An electric timer shall be used for all timed events at N.W.G.H.A. sanctioned shows. In an emergency, however, a stopwatch may be used in lieu of the electric timer. No re-rides will be allowed with the exception of timer failure.
- b. Horse may enter only once per class.
- c. A rider may enter and exit only once per entry except for re-rides because of timer failure
- d. No horse may have tied stirrups or tails (rule does not prohibit braiding or decoration that does not affect the natural position and movement of the tail) and only normal and humane equipment is allowed. A flat rubber band of ¼ inch or less will be allowed for use to hold feet in stirrups but must be a single strand and wrapped only one time. (2019)
- e. Disqualifications are:
  - i. Cone jumping.
  - ii. When a prop is run past, and the pattern is picked up on the next prop.
- f. Knocking over pole, cone or barrel results in a five (5) second penalty.
- g. Forward motion does not have to be maintained as long as long as the pattern is not broken.
- h. Attire: Boots, shirt with a two inch sleeve (sleeve consists of a sleeve sewn onto the shirt) and long pants. No Tube Tops, Halter Tops or Bathing Suits.
- i. While in a performance ride, if a horse falls down, you are not entitled to a re-ride. However, on a fall down or runaway, the rider is allowed to complete the current pattern and make a qualified run as long as no assistance is given.
- j. All prop colors are optional but must match. Barrels must be weighted equally.
- k. At least one (1) prop set worker will be positioned at the end of the arena to watch each run and will report faults to the announcer. (2019)

### **2. Cloverleaf Barrel Race Pattern:**

- a. It is recommended that the barrels be placed a minimum of 15 feet from the fence. The standard measurements are:
  - i. 35 yards between barrels 1 and 2
  - ii. 40 yards between barrels 1 & 3 and between 2 & 3
  - iii. The line between barrels 1 and 2 should be at least 20 yards from the starting line.
- b. Props: Three 55 gallon plastic barrels.

### **3. C. Texas Barrel Race Pattern:**

- a. Three barrels set 60 feet apart, back to back in a straight line. First barrel is 60 feet for starting line. Horse & rider weaves 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> barrel and then between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> barrel. Roll/turn around the third barrel and weave back through.
- b. Props: Three 55 gallon plastic barrels.

### **4. Pole Bending Pattern:**

- a. There shall be six poles with a common starting and finish line. The first pole shall be 21 feet from the starting line and the other poles shall be 21 feet apart. The horse & rider, after starting, will run along the right or left side of the course to the end of the poles and circle the left or right, and weave through the poles in the direction of the finish line. At the first pole, they will reverse to the left or right, bend back through the poles to the last one, circle to the left or right and race straight back to the starting/finish line.
- b. Props: Six(6) PVC poles (2 inch dia. X 6 feet high) in Martha Josey type bases.

### **5. Cone Weaving Pattern:**

- a. Five plastic/rubber cones set 21 feet apart from inside bottom rim with the first cone being placed 21 feet from the starting line. Horse & rider may go either right or left of the first cone, then weaves through the line of cones, turn around the end cone and weaves back through the cones.
- b. Props: Five plastic / rubber cones.
  - i. Cones will be 21" high. Diameter measures will be 4-1/2" at the top and 15-1/2" at the base, with the base portion of the cone being 10-1/2 wide.

6. **Arena Race Pattern:**

- a. One barrel place 55 yards from the starting line to the back of the barrel, ring permitting.
- b. If ring does not permit, the barrel will be placed a minimum of 15 feet for the closed end of the arena. Horse & rider may go around the barrel either left or right.
- c. Props: One 55 gallon plastic barrel.

**Section 7**      **WESTERN EVENTS**

1. REFER TO AQHA Rules
2. Prohibited Appointments:
  - a. Wire curbs, regardless of how padded or covered.
  - b. Chin straps narrower than ½ inch.
  - c. Martingales / draw reins
  - d. Nosebands
  - e. Tie-downs

**WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP**

1. REFER TO AQHA Rules

**REINING CLASS:**

1. Any one of the twelve (12) approved AQHA Reining Patterns may be used. See current year Official AQHA Rule Book.
2. To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The reined horse should be willfully guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviation from the exact written pattern must be faulted according to severity of deviation.
3. Credit will be given for smoothness, fitness, attitude, quickness and authority in performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed.
4. Faults resulting in No Score:
  - a. Failure to complete pattern as written
  - b. Performing maneuvers other than in specified order
  - c. Inclusion of maneuvers not specified
  - d. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern
  - e. Running away or failure to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether entry is on pattern
  - f. Jogging in excess of ½ circle or ½ length of arena while starting circle, circling or exiting rollback.
  - g. Overspins of more than 1/4 turn
  - h. Use of illegal equipment
  - i. Willful abuse of animal while in show arena
  - j. Using reins or romal as whip
  - k. More than one finger between reins
  - l. Changing hands
  - m. Two hands on rein, except junior horses ridden with snaffle/bosal
  - n. Fall to ground by horse or rider
5. Faults resulting in (5) Five Point Reduction
  - a. Spurring in front of cinch
  - b. Use of free hand to instill fear
  - c. Holding saddle or touching horse with free hand
6. Faults resulting in (2) Two Point Reduction:
  - a. Failure to go beyond markers on stops or rollbacks
  - b. Break of gait
7. Faults against horse
  - a. Opening mouth excessively
  - b. Excessive jawing, open mouth or head raising on stop
  - c. Lack of smooth, straight stop on haunches
  - d. Refusing to change leads

- e. Anticipating signals
  - f. Stumbling or falling
  - g. Backing sideways
  - h. Knocking over markers
8. Faults against rider
- a. Losing stirrup
  - b. Any unnecessary aid given
9. Attire and Tack: see Western Pleasure

**Section 9**      **HALTER EVENTS**

1. Refer to AQHA RULES, with the exception that all points go to rider, not horse.

**Section 10**    **RANCH PLEASURE**

1. Refer to ARHA as per GFSC Rules (2019)

**Section 11**    **SANCTIONED SHOWS** (2018)

1. Rights and responsibilities of clubs engaging in a sanctioned show:
- a. Class sheet must at a minimum contain all Federation Point Classes. These point classes will be ruled by NWGHA By-Laws in respect to:
    - i. Age categories, age of exhibitor, and age of horse
    - ii. Pony size
    - iii. English, Western, Showmanship, Halter, Reining, Ranch, and Gaited Events are to follow the rules as set in their specific section of the NWGHA By-Laws
    - iv. An electric timer must be used in all running events. A stop watch may be used in the event of electronic timer failure. No re-rides will be allowed with the exception of timer failure.
    - v. Disqualifications in Running Events are cone jumping and failure to run course.
    - vi. Knocking over pole, cone or barrel results in a five (5) second penalty
    - vii. Running props used will be as described in NWGHA By-Laws
  - b. A diagram with measurements is to be posted for each Running event. NWGHA By-Laws may be used as a guide for measurements.
  - c. NWGHA By-Laws in Article V Conduct and Article VI Judges will at a minimum apply to all sanctioned shows
  - d. A Double Point Show will be considered 2 separate shows as it relates to fees paid to NWGHA for sanctioned shows.
  - e. Ribbons, computer, printer, office equipment, entry forms, props, etc. are to be provided by the sanctioned club with the exception of point certification sheets.
    - i. Arrangements to use NWGHA equipment must be in writing.
    - ii. NWGHA Officers are authorized to provide supplies and equipment the day of the show should an unexpected need occur.
  - f. The use of the NWGHA pre registration system is at the discretion of the sanctioned club
    - i. The agreement between NWGHA and the sanctioned club for processing pre registrations will be in writing.
  - g. All point class sheets and corresponding judge cards are to be delivered to NWGHA by the next regularly scheduled meeting.
  - h. A minimum of one (1) NWGHA officer will be present at all sanctioned shows for the purpose of
    - i. Assisting the sanctioned club show committee with application of NWGHA By-Laws required in this section (NWGHA officer will have a copy of current By-Laws)

- ii. Will inform the sanctioned club show committee of any NWGHA By-Law violations. The sanctioned club show committee shall render a decision on the rule violation at that time. The decision of the sanctioned club show committee will be the final decision at that the show.
  1. At no time will a NWGHA officer address an exhibitor or spectator directly in regard to a rule violation at a sanctioned show.
- iii. The NWGHA officer will at the next regular meeting report on any by-law violations reported to the sanctioned club show committee and actions taken. At this time if NWGHA does not agree with the decision of the sanctioned show committee the issue will be presented to a committee consisting of the official representative of each member club.
  1. The member club committee will investigate and render a written decision within 30 days to the sanctioning club and NWGHA
- i. All disagreements between a sanctioned club and NWGHA will be heard by a committee consisting of the official representative of each member club. The committee will provide each party with a written decision within 30 days. The decision of the committee will be final.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **POINTS**

#### **Section 1**      **Point System**

1. Points are awarded on each class as follows:
  - a. First place – 7 points      Second place – 6 points
  - b. Third place – 5 points      Fourth place – 4 points
  - c. Fifth place – 3 points      Sixth place – 2 points
  - d. One (1) point is given to all certified riders in the class.
2. Board of Directors or Grievance Committee may disqualify points for a show or class for failure of exhibitor to meet N.W.G.H.A. rules or by-laws.
3. Points are to be moved up when a person not showing for points places above a person that is showing for points. This will involve ten (10) places only in both pleasure and timed events. The judge is to place ten (10) in all classes.

#### **Section 2**      **Certification**

1. Each member saddle club must certify in writing the effective date of membership of its point riders as well as the age and division in which each will be competing for points.
2. This form must be submitted to the official Points keeper of N.W.G.H.A. BY June 9<sup>th</sup> (2017)
3. Riders/exhibitors may not sign up to earn regular points after 50% of the sanctioned and scheduled shows have been held. Riders/exhibitors wishing to be considered under NWGHA By-Law Article IX, **N.W.G.H.A. RULES for qualification**, A may sign up for certification at the 50% show
4. Individual must be a member in good standing with member club. Member club may revoke certification for failure to maintain good standing.

#### **Section 3**      **Sign up sheets**

1. Before entering a class, each exhibitor shall see that his or her name, saddle club name and whether or not he/she is showing for points is correctly and properly recorded on the Official Pre-Entry Form.
2. IT SHALL BE THE EXHIBITOR'S SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT HE/SHE IS PROPERLY ENTERED IN EACH CLASS FOR WHICH HE/SHE WISHES TO RECEIVE POINTS.

#### **Section 4**

1. If rider is riding two or more horses in one class (timed event), the rider must designate which is the point horse before the class begins. This shall be the sole responsibility of the rider. If the point horse is not specified, the points will be given for the first horse ridden.

**Section 5**      **Divisions**

1. Excluding events and classes with no age division, an exhibitor may not compete for points in more than one age division as defined by Article VII, Section 3 (2019)
2. Within his/her age division, an exhibitor may compete for points in as many categories as he/she wishes – Western, English, Gaited and Timed Events.
3. Federation rules will apply to Walk-Trot point classes. (2022)

**ARTICLE IX**  
**STATE SHOW REQUIREMENTS**

**N.W.G.H.A. RULES for qualification**

1. In order to qualify to represent N.W.G.H.A. at the Federation State Show, exhibitors must have shown in **51%** of the N.W.G.H.A. State Qualifying shows. (2019)
  - a. A certified rider/participant that has met 50% of shows may be considered by the Board of Directors to fill an open or alternate position, if there is an available slot secondary to certified riders/participants who have completed 51% of shows.
  - b. There will be a \$50 fee collected from the participant that has only shown in 50% of the shows
2. If a rider does not work their time at the State Show, they will be fined \$100.00 per rider or they will not be allowed to compete in the next season.
3. In timed events at NWGHA State qualifying shows, failure to run course results in disqualification, and knocking over a prop (cone, pole, or barrel) is a 5 second penalty, per prop.
4. All riders representing N.W.G.H.A. at the Federation State Show are required to work at that show. Youth (under 18 years) riders are to have someone to work for them.
5. To determine a tiebreak for State Rider eligibility, both riders must first meet the criteria as stated above. The competitor attending the most N.W.G.H.A. shows is the winner of the tiebreak. If the number of shows attended is also a tie, the competitor with the higher number of first places shall win, continuing on through seconds, thirds, fourths, fifths, and sixths as needed. If the number of placings is the same, a flip of the coin will decide.

## **FEDERATION RULES FOR STATE SHOW**

This is only a general guide - the official Federation rules can be reviewed at [georgiafsc.com](http://georgiafsc.com)

1. The Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs holds its annual state show for three days each Labor Day weekend.
2. The place is determined by the Federation.
3. Riders must show in at least 50% of the association's qualifying shows
4. A horse may be exhibited in only one age group for each event, with the exception of immediate family members
5. or people living in the same household who may exhibit the same horse in different age groups in the same event.
  - a. Grandparents, living in or outside the household, are considered immediate family
6. Events for Pleasure;
  - a. Halter
  - b. Showmanship
  - c. Horsemanship
  - d. Walk Jog Horsemanship
  - e. Western Pleasure
  - f. Western Walk/Jog
  - g. Ranch Pleasure
  - h. Reining
  - i. Gaited Style
  - j. Gaited Flatshod
  - k. Gaited Country Pleasure
  - l. Gaited Trail Pleasure
  - m. English Equitation
  - n. English Equitation Walk Trot
  - o. English Pleasure Walk Trot
  - p. English Pleasure
7. Events for Running
  - a. Cones
  - b. Poles
  - c. Texas Barrels
  - d. Cloverleaf
  - e. Arena Race
8. The Federation State Show allows each association to bring the following:
  - a. Judged Events – the top six (6) exhibitors
  - b. Timed Events – the top six (6) exhibitors
9. One (1) Alternate per class will be allowed to attend the show. If for some reason one of the qualified riders cannot participate in the class, the alternate rider will be asked to fill in.
10. Any class of 20 or more will be split.
11. In timed events: failing to run course, knocking over a prop (Cone, Pole or Barrel), or cone jumping results in disqualification.
12. The Princess (12 & under) & Queen (13 thru 19) representative will be determined on horsemanship.
  - a. This can be done by either by holding separate classes or taking the top female horsemanship riders in that age group.
13. Per division, competitors may not show in a pony class and horse class.



**POLICY:**

It is the Policy of N.W.G.H.A. to pass the costs from the Federation on to the riders.