

Geauga Horse and Pony Association

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ALL SHOWS GOVERNED BY THE GEAUGA HORSE AND PONY ASSOCIATION SHOW RULES.

SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS 2025

- 1. EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEAL.** These rules and regulations become effective January 1, 2025. All previous rules are hereby repealed, except that the status of all records made under previous rules and regulations shall remain unchanged. Rules printed in the Geauga Horse & Pony Association Show Rules and Regulations shall be used at all GHPA shows.
- 2. ANIMAL WELFARE.**
 - A.** Every horse and pony shall at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion in keeping with the GHPA mission statement.
 - B.** The standard by which conduct, or treatment shall be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures or veterinary standards, would determine to be cruel, abusive, or inhumane.
- 3. MEMBERSHIP.** The GHPA membership year shall commence January 1st and run through December 31st of the same year and memberships shall be renewable annually. Members who meet GHPA's requirements are eligible to qualify for year-end awards at regular GHPA horse shows (See rule 3D) and to qualify for GHPA scholarships when available. Youth members who fulfill GHPA requirements are eligible to stable at the Great Geauga County Fair. An individual shall become a current member of GHPA effective the date that his/her membership dues are paid for the current year.
 - A.** Membership dues are to be set by the officers and membership in accordance with GHPA bylaws.
 - B.** The Corral, GHPA's website, emails and Facebook page will be GHPA's official forms of communication. Special communications by GHPA may include banquet reservations, notices of education events, reminders to membership of important deadlines, or information about GHPA sponsored events. There shall be no other communication unless it is deemed necessary by the board or approved by the officers.
 - C.** The GHPA website shall contain a copy of the Show Rules & Regulations for the current show season and a copy will be available in the entry booth. Cumulative show points will be available in the entry booth at each show.
 - D.** EXHIBITOR'S SHOW POINTS AND MEMBER SERVICE HOURS REQUIRED TO QUALIFY FOR YEAR-END AWARDS BEGIN TO ACCUMULATE FOR THE CURRENT

MEMBERSHIP YEAR COMMENCING ON THE DATE THAT A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED AND IS PAID. Show points earned and/or horse show service hours worked prior to the date of paid membership WILL NOT apply towards qualifying the member for year-end class or division high point awards (see section 12). It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain a paid membership BEFORE earning points at regular GHPA horse show for those points to count towards eligibility for year-end awards.

- E. In order to stable with GHPA at the Great Geauga County Fair, a youth must be a member by May 1st of the current membership year.
- F. Youth are only permitted to stable and show their named project horse during Junior Fair.

4. AFFILIATED CLUBS. Riding and/or pony clubs, which meet the following criteria, may affiliate with GHPA. The criteria are as follows:

- A. Clubs must have a mission statement, not in conflict with GHPA's mission statement, which embraces education and promotes the welfare of riders and equines.
- B. Club membership must be open to all GHPA members. Affiliated clubs may set requirements for membership and set dues and fees agreeable to the membership. These requirements cannot include any requirements that members board or train at a specific equine facility.
- C. Clubs may provide for the election or appointment of officers as they see fit. An officer or other representative of affiliated clubs should be in attendance at each regular GHPA meeting.
- D. Clubs must provide for monthly meetings.
- E. Affiliated clubs must actively participate in a minimum of two (2) educational clinics each year. These clinics must be open to all GHPA members. If the affiliated club has expenditures for these clinics, they may charge a reasonable fee to non-club members for participation.
- F. Adult advisors may be appointed or elected for the club and must be GHPA members in good standing. Up to two (2) adult advisors from each club will be considered the equivalent of GHPA committee chairs.
- G. There may be no commercial endorsements by affiliated clubs, including the use of a commercial name within the club's name.
- H. Clubs must request affiliation with GHPA and be approved by the board of directors.
- I. Affiliated clubs and their membership will receive the following benefits:
 - i. Preferential stalling with GHPA at the Great Geauga County Fair for all members who meet GHPA requirements for such preferential stalling. Clubs will be stalled together if possible.
 - ii. Affiliated clubs are to be determined by the officers as of January 1st of the current year.

5. GENERAL SHOW RULES.

- A. Shows are open to: (1) youth through 18 years of age and (2) adults 19 and over.
- B. All rider/handler show division ages are determined as of January 1st of the current year.
- C. Stallions *must* be handled by an adult (19 & over) at all times.
- D. The show chairperson, appointee, or the judge has the right to remove from any class an animal deemed unsafe or unruly.
- E. Any questions regarding rules should be addressed to the Show Chair. No participant should address the judge without permission from the Chair. JUDGE'S DECISION IS FINAL.
- F. Exhibitors must provide their own show numbers and register for a class using that number. Numbers must be worn on the riders' back or on the saddle pad and be clearly visible at all times when in competition. ONLY NUMBERS ARE ALLOWED – no number/letter combinations. No two exhibitors can have the same number.
- G. Proper attire and equipment are required for all English, Western, Ranch, and Contesting Classes. Safety helmets are permitted for any rider.
 - i. **ENGLISH:** Helmets, boots, breeches or jodhpurs, jacket (discretion of judge), no sleeveless shirts. When a judge's discretion permits removal of jackets in English classes, arms must be covered to the wrist when an exhibitor is in the ring.
 - ii. **WESTERN/RANCH:** Hat, boots, long sleeve shirt, pants. Chaps are optional in Western but may be required at the discretion of the judge. Chaps/chinks are optional in Ranch.
 - iii. **CONTESTING:** Western boots, Western hat or protective headgear for adult riders. Chaps/Chinks are optional. Shirts must have a collar and long sleeves, no tank tops and/or tee shirts. Jeans or any suitable long pants are allowed. Jackets/sweaters/raincoats are acceptable in inclement weather. Youth riders must wear protective headgear while riding horse/pony. Protective headgear is acceptable in any class, even if it is not of the style that goes with the particular class.
- H. **JUNIOR HORSE:** A horse aged 5 years and under may be shown with a hackamore (bosal), or "D" or "O" ring snaffle bit with both hands on the reins. Age determined as of January 1st of the current year.
- I. **DRUG RULE:** The use of drugs is strictly prohibited, except with a veterinarian's certificate. Any horse or pony may be subject to a spot check for drugs at any or all shows.
- J. **ENTRY FEES:** An entry fee may be charged and must be uniform to all exhibitors in the class. Entry fees shall be specified on the entry form.

- K. The Board of Directors can make modifications to the rules for the safety of the exhibitors, spectators, etc. at their discretion.

6. RIDER ABILITY. GHPA divisions are based on rider age and/or ability, NOT horse/pony age/ability. Rider ability divisions are: Leadline, Walk-Trot, Youth 18 & Under, Novice, Open, Beginner Youth, Advanced Youth, and Adult. Once a horse/rider combination has advanced in a division, they CANNOT go to a lower division. Riders of a higher division showing an inexperienced horse may show in Walk-Trot, but cannot accumulate points. No trainers are allowed in the Walk-Trot division regardless of the experience of the horse.

- A. **LEADLINE:** The division is for riders aged 6 years and under and for Equestrians with Disability (EWD) riders and is to be judged on equitation or horsemanship only. In order to participate, an EWD rider must have a medically diagnosed condition that causes a permanent impairment that can be measured objectively. Examples of conditions, diseases or disorders that may lead to permanent impairment are: paresis, amputation (partial to full joint), ankylosis, upper motor neuron lesions, vision impairment, and intellectual disability. Eligible conditions include: amputation, arthrogryposis, Asperger syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, Batten disease, cerebrovascular accident (stroke), cerebellar ataxia, cerebral palsy, Coffin-Lowry syndrome, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, dwarfism, fragile X syndrome, Friedreich's ataxia, Guillain-Barre syndrome, hearing impairment, Hunter syndrome, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, mental retardation, microcephaly, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Rett syndrome, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, Tourette syndrome, traumatic brain injury, trisomy disorders and visual impairment. Additional diagnosis will be considered upon request. Proper English or Western attire is required. Matching outfits for the rider and handler are not a requirement to be considered in judging. The rider is not eligible to show in any other riding class, unless otherwise stated on the show flyer. This rule does not apply to Contesting leadline class.
- B. **WALK-TROT:** This division is for: (1) beginner riders, or (2) riders who are riding an inexperienced horse that is new to showing. Trainers may not show in this division, even if they are riding an inexperienced horse that is new to showing. A Walk-trot rider may only show in classes designated as Walk-Trot. The ONLY exception to this rule is that Walk-Trot riders are eligible to participate in Halter, Trail-In-Hand, special and Generation Gap Classes. Walk-Trot Open Jackpot is open to any division rider, (no trainers allowed) and is to be shown/judged at the Walk-Trot only.
- C. **NOVICE:** The division is for a less experienced rider who can walk, jog or trot, and lope or canter (controlled) both ways of the ring. The Novice division is open to youth 18 & under. A Novice rider is eligible in any class labeled Novice, Contesting Beginner Youth (18 & under), Generation Gap, Special and Jackpot classes. Novice cannot cross enter into open classes or advanced youth.
- D. **WALK-TROT & NOVICE DIVISION ADVANCEMENT:** A rider is required to move up to the next divisional level of competition if any of the following apply:

- i. After receiving a year-end high point award in a single division in any two (2) show seasons.
 - ii. After accumulating 150 points or more in the following classes: Showmanship, Horsemanship, Equitation, English pleasure, Western pleasure, and Trail and/or Discipline rail classes. The points stay with the rider and carry over from one show season to the next beginning with the show year 2001 show points. After the rider moves up to a new division, the points start over at zero (0). If any of these conditions exist and the rider chooses to remain in the same division in which the points or awards were earned, the rider becomes ineligible to receive points.
 - iii. A parent or guardian may appeal on behalf of any rider required to advance from Walk-Trot to the Novice division due to accumulation of 150 or more points. An appeal must be made prior to the start of the show season. The Board of Directors will determine whether or not to allow the rider to continue in the Walk-Trot or Novice divisions for that show season and compete for high point awards.
- E. **OPEN DIVISION:** The Open division is for advanced riders who can walk, jog or trot, and lope or canter (controlled) both ways of the ring. The open division is open to all youth and adult exhibitors, as defined by the exhibitor's show age (See rule 5B).
 - F. **BEGINNER YOUTH:** The Beginner Youth contesting division is for less experienced riders who have been showing in canter classes for 2 years or less. Beginner youth riders may also show in the Novice division. See Rule 6C. This division is open to youth 18 & under.
 - G. **ADVANCED YOUTH:** The Advanced Youth contesting division is for experienced riders who may also show in the Open division. See Rule 6E. This division is open to youth 18 & under.
 - H. **ADULT:** The Adult contesting division is for experienced riders who may also show in the Open division. See Rule 6E. This division is open to adults 19 & over.
 - I. **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SHOW DIVISION:** It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to show in the division that best represents their ability. Exhibitors competing at other organizations should select the division that most closely represents that of the other organization per our code of conduct.

7. ENTRY RULES.

- A. All electronically submitted entry forms must be filled out completely in order to receive points (first and last name of the rider and the name of the animal). If the animal has two names, (such as a registered name & barn name,) use only one (same) name throughout the season. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor or their designee (adult/youth) and/or the exhibitor's guardian (youth) to complete the entry form correctly. Exhibitors must provide his/her own show number and must show with that number. Only numbers are allowed – no number/letter combination may be used. No two riders can use the same number, even if they are in different divisions.

- B. Entry fees are not transferable or refundable, unless a class is cancelled by the GHPA Board of Directors or the exhibitor's horse is unable to show due to medical reasons and the exhibitor notifies a GHPA Director before the end of the show and provides supporting certification from a veterinarian within one week of the show. If the judge excuses a horse for lameness, GHPA will refund the remaining classes without a vet note and the exhibitor may not enter ANY remaining classes.
- C. The Board of Directors shall have the right to refuse any application for entry that in their minds might be detrimental to the best interest of the show. The decision of the Board is final.
- D. All class entries must be made online and paid electronically. Class entries close when the first horse enters the ring two classes before. For example, when the first horse of Class 24 enters the ring, the entries for Class 26 close. If an exhibitor's payment is later returned for insufficient funds, that exhibitor will not be able to enter any classes until the amount due (including insufficient fees) is paid in full.

8. CLASS RULES AND POINTS.

- A. The Board of Directors reserves the right to change classes before or during the show.
- B. In case of cancellation of any of our regular shows, points earned in any class held fewer than three (3) times will not be tallied for year-end high point awards.
- C. Any Walk-Trot or Novice riding class with 12 horses or more entrants may be split with a call back and ride off with one set of placings being awarded.
- D. The entry gate will be closed two (2) minutes after the first horse enters the ring.
- E. If an exhibitor participates in a class which he/she has not entered, he/she will be charged for the class but will not be judged and may be excused from the ring.
- F. No horse/pony shall be entered more than once in any class even if entered with two or more different exhibitors.
- G. Requested tack changes will be allowed five (5) minutes beginning when the first exhibitor in class enters the ring. Requested tack changes must be requested at the announcer's booth at least three (3) classes before the needed class.
- H. All prizes as listed on the showbill will be awarded in Walk-Trot, Novice, Open, and Ranch classes. Daily high point show awards will be given in Walk-Trot, Novice, Ranch, and Open. All paybacks will be made as soon as possible after the show and can be made in the same form of payment used for entry or by a check. Jackpot payments may be made by a mailed check.

- I. Points for daily high point and year-end class and high point awards are awarded in all classes based on the following system: If there are 6 or more exhibitors in a class, 1st place will receive 6 points, 2nd-5, 3rd-4, 4th-3, 5th-2, 6th-1 point. If fewer than 6 horses are shown in a class, 1st place will receive as many points as the number of horses shown with each lower placing receiving 1 less point. Points are not awarded for jackpot or special event classes and are not included in daily high point or year-end class or high point awards. Double points shall be awarded in regular classes at double judged shows.
- J. **THE SHOW BILL** for regular GHPA shows will be determined by the Show Committee prior to the beginning of each show season. GHPA may include but is not limited to nor required to offer any of the following classes at the discretion of the Show Committee.
- i. **SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES:** To be judged on the ability of the exhibitor to properly show their horse/pony and upon the grooming, fitting & turn out of the animal. The confirmation of the horse/pony has no bearing on placing in the class. Credit should be given to properly braided/banded manes and tails. Grooming, fitting & turn out of the animal 40%, appearance of exhibitor & tack 10%, showing animal 50%. Patterns are required. Points earned in regular showmanship classes may be accumulated towards daily and year end high point.
 - ii. **HALTER CLASS:** Horses are to be judged English or Western on conformation, type, soundness, and way of going. Horse/pony to be shown in hand at the walk and trot and standing. Any headstall suitable to 1) the breed of horse shown 2) current breed association standards 3) consistent with handlers' attire (e.g., English or Western), may be used. Points earned in halter classes may be accumulated towards daily and year end high point awards. A "Stock" horse is considered a non-gaited breeds including: quarter horses, paint horses, appaloosa horses and thoroughbreds. "Non-Stock" horses are any other breed. Stock and Non-Stock horses may not cross enter with ranch halter.
 - iii. **HORSEMANSHIP & EQUITATION CLASSES:** Riders will be judged on seat, hands, and ability to position 35%, appointments 15%, performance 50%. Patterns are required. Rail work will be at the judge's discretion and will be judged at a walk, jog and/or trot, lope or canter. Riding in the opposite direction may be at the judge's discretion. Points earned in regular horsemanship and equitation classes are accumulated towards daily high point awards. Points earned in horsemanship and equitation classes in the Walk-trot and Novice divisions are maintained on the rider from year to year and count towards the Division Advancement requirement (See Rule 6D).
 - iv. **PLEASURE CLASSES:** To be judged on the performance and way of going, with emphasis on manners, appointments, equipment, neatness, and confirmation. Horses to be shown at a walk, jog or trot, lope or canter at the judge's request both ways of the ring. Entries shall be penalized for being on wrong lead at the lope or canter. Horses are required to back easily and to stand quietly. Junior horses aged 5 and under may be shown with a hackamore (bosal), or "D" or "O" ring snaffle bit with both hands on reins. Riders may be requested to drop their horses' bits at the judge's discretion. Points earned in regular pleasure classes are accumulated towards daily high point awards. Points

earned in all regular pleasure classes may be accumulated towards year-end class and high point awards. Points earned in English and Western pleasure classes in the Walk-trot and Novice divisions are maintained on the rider from year to year and count towards the Division Advancement requirement (See Rule 6D). No horse and rider combination may cross enter in Ranch Rail class and Western Pleasure regardless of division.

- v. **FANNY RACE CLASSES:** If offered, to be judged by elimination. All classes to be ridden with no saddles and no chaps.
- vi. **DISCIPLINE RAIL CLASSES:** To be judged English or Western on the ability of the highly trained horse or pony, with emphasis on performance and way of going, manners, appointments, equipment, neatness, and confirmation. Proper attire must be worn. Correct leads are required. Judge shall work the class adequately, but must not overwork the entries. Final judging shall be on the basis of the best overall discipline rail performance. The class routine shall be to perform on the rail, and may include but is not limited to: a walk, trot or jog, slow lope or controlled canter, hand gallop, flying or simple lead change each way of the ring, transition into lope or canter from halt, departing and traveling on the counter lead at the lope or canter, side pass right and left (once each way), turn on the forehand, either or both directions, turn on the hind, either or both directions, halt and stand quietly. The judge may ask for additional work. This is not a game or “fault and out” class and shall not be judged on an elimination basis. At all times the safety of horses and exhibitors is to be the first concern. Points earned in regular discipline rail classes are accumulated towards daily and year-end class high point awards. Additionally, points earned in disciplined rail classes in Walk-Trot and Novice divisions are maintained on the rider from year to year and count towards the Division advancement requirement (See Rule 6D).
- vii. **TRAIL CLASSES:** To be judged on performance and way of going, with emphasis on manners, appointments, equipment, neatness, and confirmation. Requires animals to work over and through obstacles. Tests which may be required are negotiating gate, carrying objects from one part of the ring to another, riding through water, over logs or simulated brush, crossing bridge, backing through obstacles, side passing, dismounting from either side and performing over any reasonable conditions encountered along the trail. Course to include a minimum of four (4) obstacles. Animals are to be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching obstacles. Judge may ask the rider to advance to the next obstacle after three (3) refusals. Refusals at three (3) separate obstacles will result in disqualification. Courses should be posted at least one (1) hour before the class is worked. Each horse/pony may enter only once, except exhibitors may cross-enter for in-hand trail. All trail classes may be shown English or Western. Proper attire is required.
- viii. **IN HAND TRAIL:** Follow trail class rules/obstacles
Tack: A halter (flat leather or nylon, or rope) with lead. A chain over or under the nose is allowed with leather/nylon halter. No nose knots on a rope halter is

permitted. The lead can be any material, but must be 12-25 feet long. A whip is optional. The exhibitor cannot touch or bait the horse/pony during an obstacle.

- ix. GENERATION GAP CLASSES:** There must be a minimum of 10 years difference in age of riders with both birth dates given. NO EXCEPTIONS. Walk-trot, Novice, and Open riders may enter the Generation Gap Classes. Classes will be run at the discretion of the judge and therefore both riders/exhibitors should be prepared to do the entire pattern, or the pattern may choose to split in half where each rider or exhibitor may be asked to do half the pattern and will follow the direction of the judge. Only one exhibitor of the pair needs to sign up for the class and there will be a spot to list the name and birthdate of each of the rider/exhibitors on the entry form. Each pair of riders/exhibitors shall use the same back number.

Pleasure and pattern classes. Judge will score each ride equally in determining the final placing of the class. Both riders should be dressed in appropriate riding attire including boots, long pants, long sleeved shirt/blouse, and western hat/helmet.

Showmanship class. Judge will score each pattern equally in determining the final placing of the class. Both exhibitors should be dressed accordingly for the discipline.

Barrels. Each first-place rider shall receive the number of points equaling the total number of riders with times and each subsequent placing receives one less point than the previous placing. Disqualified rides receive 0 points. The highest combined points for both riders will determine the final placing of the class. Both exhibitors should be dressed accordingly for the discipline.

- x. SPECIAL CLASS SHOWMANSHIP:** If offered, see rules at the show.
- xi. WESTERN RIDING:** If offered, western riding is an event where the horse is judged on quality of gaits, the ability to change leads smoothly, responsiveness to the rider, manners and disposition. The horse should maintain an even cadence of gait and change leads precisely and easily, front and rear simultaneously, at the center point between markers as indicated on the pattern. The horse should have a relaxed head carriage showing response to the rider's hands, with moderate flexion at the poll. The tail may lift with each lead change but should not show resistance by excessive use or wringing. The horse should cross the log at the jog; show gait and lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride. Tack, attire, and method of handling the reins are the same as for western horsemanship. Scoring is on a basis of 0 to 100, with 70 indicating an average performance. Each rider begins with a 70 score and has points added for excellence or deducted for poor performance for each maneuver. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.
- xii. BAREBACK EQUITATION:** If offered, open to English or Western riders. Judged on the ability of the rider to walk, jog/trot, and lope/canter while riding without a saddle.

English riders must be able to show a post at the trot, and western riders are not allowed to wear their chaps during this class. Class will be judged on the pattern only.

- xiii. SURPRISE EQUITATION (English or Western):** If offered, class is judged as a typical English Equitation class without the rail work. Riders will enter the arena and turn their horses around, so their backs are facing the center of the arena and area to be ridden. When the rider's number is called, they will turn around and walk to the 1st cone. Rider will then be given the printed equitation pattern to review for 45 seconds. After the time is up, the ring steward will take back the pattern and the rider will perform the pattern and then exit the arena. This shall continue for each rider until all riders have completed the pattern. All riders will be given the same pattern. Any rider that turns around and faces toward the arena during another rider's pattern will be disqualified.
- xiv. PAIRS PATTERN:** Open to English or Western riders. Attire and tack must meet the requirements for the discipline ridden. An entry will consist of 2 horses and 2 riders. This pair of riders will create their own 2-minute-long freestyle pattern that can be created before the show. Judging will be based on creativity, completion, body position, communication with the horse, ability for both riders and horses to be in sync and most overall alike. Judging will end two (2) minutes after the start of the pattern. Only one exhibitor needs to sign up for the class and list the 2nd rider and horse on entry form. Back number of the pair must be the same and match the back number used to sign up for the class.
- xv. RANCH CLASSES:** To be judged on the horse's versatility, attitude, and movement as a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Riders may be asked to extend their gaits at the trot and lope. Extended gaits should show an obvious lengthening of stride with an increased pace in a controlled manner. Light contact should be rewarded, and the horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. No horse and rider combination may cross enter in Ranch Rail class and Western Pleasure regardless of division. Points earned in Ranch classes will count towards daily and year-end Ranch high point awards.

Ranch Riding Requirements:

- a.** Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
- b.** The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope in both directions and an extended jog and lope in at least one direction; as well as stops, turn to change directions, and backing up.
- c.** Optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360° or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable

combination of maneuvers/obstacles that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

- d. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
- e. No time limit.

Apparel and Equipment:

- a. Hoof polish is permitted but discouraged.
- b. Braided or banded manes are permitted but discouraged.
- c. NO tail extensions
- d. Trimming of the ears, facial hair and bridle path is optional
- e. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
- f. Horses of any age may be ridden two handed in an approved snaffle or bosal. Horses ridden in a curb bit must be ridden one handed.
- g. Conservative western attire is recommended, long sleeve shirt/blouse, western hat/helmet and boots are required. Chaps/chinks are optional.

xvi. NOVICE RANCH CLASSES: Novice Ranch Classes should follow the rules of Open Ranch Classes, but only Novice ranch riders are eligible to participate in these classes. See section 6C.

xvii. RANCH HALTER: To be judged by selecting horses in the order of their resemblance to their individual breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling.

- a. All sexes will be shown together as one class.
- b. May not cross-enter in Stock or Non-Stock Halter.

xxi. RANCH REINING: The ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward-looking manner. The ideal ranch reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or approved by the show management and judge. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc. To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the degree of difficulty and makes the horse/rider team more exciting and pleasing to watch.

xxii. RANCH TRAIL: The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well broke, responsive and well-mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. The ideal ranch trail horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course (or if a Walk-Trot class, then only walking and trotting will be required during the course.) Walking can be part of an obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacle. Caution must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider. The show committee shall have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the arena conditions.

xxiii. CONTESTING CLASSES: To be judged as timed events. Timing shall begin as soon as the horse breaks the timing line and will be stopped when the horse breaks the timing line a second time. Knocking over an object on the course carries a 5 second time penalty. Touching an object on the course will not disqualify, nor carry a time penalty. Failure to follow the course shall result in a "no time." Failure of a contestant to cross the start and finish line will result in a "no time." Advanced riders are able to show in the Open classes and Walk-Trot and Novice riders are able to show in the Beginner and Advanced Youth classes.

- a. Contestant has one (1) minute to enter the ring.
- b. Contestant must stay behind the starting cone when warming up , 60 second time limit to break the timer after number is called.
- c. Proper western attire and tack is required , including western boots, shirt with collar and long sleeves (tucked and buttoned), or contestant will be disqualified. Jacket/sweater is acceptable in inclement weather. Adult exhibitors: western hat or safety helmet. All Youth Exhibitors (18 & under) are required to wear properly fitted protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards with the chin harness securely fastened at all times in accordance with GHPA's protective headgear rule.
- d. Excessive use of crops, bats, or spurs is strictly prohibited as defined by the judge.
- e. No horse/pony shall be entered more than once in any class.
- f. Only one (1) rerun will be allowed in the event of broken equipment.
- g. No contestant may enter or exit the ring at a run, and if done, will result in a disqualification. Forward motion must either be stopped or the rider is allowed to circle before starting the pattern.
- h. If a rider and/or horse falls during an event, the contestant will be disqualified unless he/she has completed and crossed the finish line astride his/her horse.
- i. Exhibitor numbers may be placed on either the back of the rider or on the saddle pad & must be completely visible to the judge. Any rider who does not wear a number will be charged for the class, but will not be judged.
- j. Times will be announced on all runs.

- k. There will be no practice or warmups between classes or during setup of equipment in the ring or contestant will be disqualified.
- l. The gate must be closed behind the horse/pony and not reopened until the course is finished and the horse is under control. No other horse may be in the ring until the previous entry exits.
- m. Timing a run begins when the timing line is broken and stops when it is crossed again.
- n. In the event of a tie, there will be a runoff.
- o. All contest classes are GHPA patterns, to be run as stated
- p. Any horse/pony off course is automatically disqualified.
- q. Walk-Trot participants may not show in any contesting classes not specifically designated as a Walk-Trot nor may show in any Contesting Jackpot classes. Points earned in regular contesting classes are included in year-end high point awards for contesting.
- r. Beginner and Advanced Youth classes are open to riders in the open and novice divisions that are 18 & under. Adult classes are open to riders in the open division that are 19 years and over. If a contester shows in an Walk-Trot Open show class and is age 19 or over, he/she is not eligible to show in a walk-trot contesting class.
- s. Flag Race: The exhibitor must inform the ring crew which side of the arena they would like the flag to be placed to start. Once the flag is set, the rider must pick up the flag out of the bucket on one side of the arena and continue around the arena to the empty bucket on the opposite side of the arena and place the flag in the bucket. Failure to pick up the flag, stopping forward motion to pick up the flag, turning back to pick up the flag or failure to remain on the outside of the middle barrel/cone at the top of the arena as you travel around the ring will result in a NO TIME. If the flag is picked up and is dropped or missed going into the second bucket, there will be a 10 second penalty.
- t. Keyhole: Knocking of a cone on the way in results in a no-time/DQ. A knocked cone on the way out results in a 5 second penalty.

9. TACK APPOINTMENTS.

- A. **SHOW (BACK) NUMBERS:** Each exhibitor shall provide their own show number and these numbers cannot be shared between exhibitors. The entry form must include the back number and that number must be easily visible on the exhibitor/horse. Back numbers may NOT include a letter. Exhibitors must have a different number for each horse/rider/handler combination.
- B. **ENGLISH/ JUMPING:** In all English classes, an English snaffle (no shank), Pelham (with two reins), Kimberwick and/or full bridle with cavesson noseband and plain leather bands must be used. Saddles must be of the saddle seat, hunt or forward seat type and may have a suede seat and/or suede insert on the skirt. Optional equipment includes spurs of the un-rowelled type, that are blunt, round and no longer than one inch, crops or bats (excessive use prohibited), braiding of mane and/or tail in hunt style. No running martingales are permitted. All exhibitors in jumping classes must wear an ASTM/SEI certified helmet with harness fastened.

- i. **GHPA PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR RULE:** All exhibitors participating in jumping classes are required to wear properly fitted protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards with the chin harness securely fastened at all times.

It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian of the youth exhibitor, to make sure that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use and is properly fitted and in good condition. The GHPA show chair, board of directors, and officers are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.

The GHPA show chair, board of directors, and officers make no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions exhibitors that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear, as no helmet can protect against unforeseeable injuries in equestrian activities.

The GHPA show chair, board of directors, and officers may, at his/her discretion, check an exhibitor's protective headgear for proper standards. If the exhibitor is found to be wearing unapproved, defective, or improperly fitted headgear, he/she will not be permitted to participate in jumping classes until proper headgear is acquired.

- C. **WESTERN:** Any western saddle that fits the horse and rider is acceptable. The horse/pony may be shown in any suitable bit. No wire, or other metal or rawhide may be used in conjunction with the flat leather chinstrap, which must be at least ½ inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb chains may be used but must be at least ½ inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Except for hackamore/snaffle bit classes or junior horses shown with a hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. In trail, it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. The exception is the Junior Horse which may show in a bosal or snaffle with two hands on the reins.

- i. Optional Western Equipment:
 - a. Rope or riata; if used, the rope or riata must be coiled and attached to the saddle.
 - b. Hobbles attached to the saddle.
 - c. Tapaderos

- D. **CONTESTING:** The hackamore or any other type of bit is permissible; however, the judge may prohibit the use of any equipment he considers too severe. Excessive use of bats, crops, or spurs prohibited.

E. HALTER:

- i. Any suitable halter may be used unless the exhibitor is showing in English attire in which an English bridle may be used.
- ii. Leads may have a chain end and chain can be placed under the chin. No lip chains that run through the mouth are permitted.

- iii. In Ranch Halter classes, horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Halters with silver are permitted but discouraged.
- iv. Leads may have a chain end and chain can be placed under the chin. No lip chains that run through the mouth are permitted.

F. SHOWMANSHIP:

- i. English may be shown in either a halter or English bridle (snaffle, Pelham, Kimberwick or full bridle).
- ii. No whip or crops allowed.
- iii. Western must be shown in a halter.

G. Whenever the rules refer to a hackamore, it means the use of a rawhide braided, leather braided, or rope bosal. It does not refer to a mechanical hackamore. Absolutely no iron will be permitted under the jaws regardless of how padded or covered.

H. Whenever the rules refer to snaffle bits in western performance classes, it means the use of a smooth snaffle bit with broken mouthpiece (conventional "O" ring, egg butt or "D" ring) and the ring is no larger than 4 inches. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage. The mouthpiece must be a minimum of 5/16 inch diameter one (1) inch from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. Optional curb strap attached below the reins is acceptable.

I. References to a suitable curb bit in western performance classes mean the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks, and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical devices and should be considered a standard western bit according to the breed association which represents the horse being shown.

J. Whenever the rules refer to Romal, it means an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension is to be allowed to be carried in the free hand with 16 inch spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the Romal. The Romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way.

K. In any class, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to require the inspection, removal, or alteration of any piece of equipment or accoutrement which is unsafe, or in his/her opinion, would tend to give a horse an unfair advantage of which he/she believes to be inhumane.

10. DAILY HIGH POINT AWARDS: GHPA may present daily high point awards to exhibitors who finish with the highest total number of points in qualifying classes for a show in any division. Divisions for daily high point awards will be determined by the show committee prior to the first show of the show season and may not be changed after the date of the first show of the season. A list of qualifying classes for each division will be determined by the show committee prior to the first show of the show season and will be posted on the website and available at the entry booth during the show.

- A. Exhibitors do not need to be GHPA members to win a daily high point award in any division at a regular GHPA show.
- B. Daily high point awards are not awarded in Lead line, Contesting, Jumping, Jackpot, Generation Gap, and Special Event classes.
- C. Same horse/pony must be shown by the same rider/handler in each qualifying class for the rider to be eligible for daily high point awards and year-end awards.
- D. In the event that multiple exhibitors in a division tie for a daily high point, the exhibitor with the greatest number of first places, second places, etc., will be declared the daily high point winner.

11. CODE OF CONDUCT: Unsportsmanlike conduct, falsifying the ability of the rider, and/or any other form of misconduct that is irresponsible, illegal, indecent, profane, intimidating, threatening, or abusive is prohibited, whether it is made toward an animal, a volunteer, or an attendee. This code applies to all GHPA members, non-members, exhibitors, trainers, owners, owner representatives, spectators, and all other persons on the grounds of or attending a GHPA approved event. When any individual is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and/or inhumane treatment of an animal as determined by the Board of Directors, certain rights of that individual, the exhibitor, owner and trainer of that animal may be suspended at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Immediate disciplinary action will be determined by the GHPA Directors present. Disciplinary action may include but will not be limited to forfeiture of points and awards earned, suspension of membership, and/or dismissal from the show grounds or event, without GHPA being held liable for damages. The right to participate in any remaining GHPA shows or events may be suspended for such a time as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

The standard by which conduct, or treatment will be measured is that which a responsible person, informed and experienced in the generally accepted equine training and exhibiting procedures, would determine to be cruel, abusive, or inhumane. Any unsportsmanlike conduct, inhumane treatment, or illegal drug use on a horse, should be reported immediately to the GHPA Show Office or any GHPA Director. Harassment of any exhibitor, judge, spectator, or volunteer on the grounds should be brought to the attention of the GHPA Show Office or any GHPA Director as soon as possible. Individuals found guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, inhumane treatment of animals or harassment of any type will be dealt with immediately by the GHPA Directors present. All current members of GHPA Board of Directors are empowered to enforce disciplinary action that they deem appropriate. GHPA sanctioned shows, clinic, and meetings are privately sponsored events; and as such, GHPA reserves the right to dismiss from the grounds, clinic, meeting or other event, any exhibitor, spectator, owner, or trainer that is found by the GHPA Directors to be in violation of the code of conduct.

Likewise, GHPA works very hard to provide a safe, fun, and professionally run series of events for its members and guests. Any behavior, whether written or spoken, that will damage the reputation of the organization will not be tolerated. The organization takes any interaction, including electronic and online communication seriously, and expects anyone, whether member or non-member, to work toward furthering the mission and goals of GHPA.

- 12. DISQUALIFICATION:** In the case of misconduct on the part of any exhibitor, whether the offense occurs on show grounds or in the show ring, or whether before, during, or after the show, it is within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors to disqualify an exhibitor and/or their entries and to require them to forfeit points and ribbons earned at that show, and for cause to have the horse removed from the grounds without being held liable for damages.
- 13. SERVICE HOURS:** Service hours may be earned on behalf of any current GHPA member by working in support of GHPA in a capacity recognized by the Board of Directors as beneficial to GHPA and supportive of its mission to educate.
- A. A current, paid membership is required for service hours and for points for year-end awards to count towards eligibility for year-end awards. Accumulation of points and service hours begins only *AFTER MEMBERSHIP IS PAID* and signed membership form is received. Any show points earned before membership is paid WILL NOT COUNT towards eligibility for year-end awards. Any service hours earned by a member who participated on a recognized committee (e.g. Show Committee, Sponsorship Committee, Banquet Committee, Education Committee, Scholarship Committee) before his/her membership was paid for the current year shall accumulate towards a member's eligibility for year-end awards provided the hours are submitted to the Membership Chair by a recognized Committee Chair during the first month of the regular GHPA show season for that membership year (See Rule 12D).
 - B. Individuals may earn service hours on behalf of themselves or an immediate family member by participating on a recognized committee or by working at a regular GHPA horse show. Membership of the exhibitor must be current for service hours to apply towards an exhibitor's eligibility for year-end awards. (See Rule 3D).
 - C. Non-member individuals may earn service hours on behalf of a current GHPA member by working at a regular GHPA horse show, provided he/she signs up prior to working. The person working must list the members name on the sign up log, time they begin working, job description, who they are working on behalf of, and then sign out at the completion of their time. An exhibitor's membership must be current for service hours to accrue towards the exhibitor's eligibility for year-end awards. (See Rule 3D)
 - D. Service hours accumulated from January 1st through September 30th of the current show season only apply towards qualifying a member exhibitor to be eligible for year-end awards. Committee and non-show service hours that are earned before the first regular GHPA horse show shall be submitted to the Membership Chair by the issuing committee chair during the first month of regular GHPA show season. (The regular GHPA show season begins with the first regular GHPA judged show and ends with the last regular GHPA judged show of the same calendar year.) A member may continue to accrue service hours after September 30th; however, the hours shall not apply towards qualification for year-end awards.
 - E. **SERVICE HOURS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE:** An individual earning service hours on behalf of a current member must designate the name of the member by signing the work log,

on whose behalf he/she is working at the time of service. Service hours cannot be transferred from one member to another after the day the service hours were earned.

- F. **RESPONSIBILITY:** It is the responsibility of the member/exhibitor (adult/youth) and/or the member/exhibitor's guardian (youth) to meet the service hour requirement to be eligible for year-end awards within the specified time period. (See Rule 13D). It is the responsibility of the member/exhibitor (adult/youth) and/or the member/exhibitor's guardian (youth) to maintain his/her own record of service hours worked towards meeting the requirements to be eligible for year-end awards. A member shall be asked to document the service hours that he/she worked in the event that a discrepancy exists in GHPA member service hour records.
- G. **COMMITTEE SERVICE HOURS:** A member may earn service hours for time worked on behalf of GHPA as an elected Officer, or as a committee chair or member of an established committee or sub-committee. Two (2) hours of committee work, including active participation in committee meetings, qualify for one (1) member service hour. A log of committee service hours shall be kept by the Committee Chairperson on behalf of participating members and submitted to the Membership Chairperson for GHPA records. Members may request a copy of their service hours on a committee from the Committee Chairperson. The Committee Chairperson is responsible for submitting service hours for their committee to the Membership Chairperson.
- i. Show Committee
 - ii. Banquet
 - iii. Membership
 - iv. Points
 - v. Sponsorship
 - vi. Education – Scholarships
 - vii. Food Booth
 - viii. Building and Grounds
 - ix. Newsletter/Corral
 - x. Website

The Officers, Show Committee, or Food Booth Committee may offer special member service programs with the approval of the general membership. Members shall be notified of special programs by publication in the minutes of a general membership meeting, the GHPA website, social media such as Facebook, and/or the Corral. It is the responsibility of a member to request clarification of special programs if he/she has a question about conditions of participation or rewards. Requests for clarification must be made to the sponsoring party (Officers, Show Committee, or Food Booth Committee) at a general membership meeting so that the details of the clarification may be entered into the minutes and made available to the membership by publication. If a special program includes presentation of an award or prize in addition to regular service hours a request for clarification must be made before the prize or award is presented.

- H. **HORSE SHOW SERVICE HOURS:** Any individual, member or non-member, may earn service hours on behalf of a current member, adult or youth, or member family for time worked at regular GHPA horse shows. The worker must designate which current member will receive credit for the service hour(s) on the day of the show worked by signing the log book stating the date of the show, name of the worker(s), type of service performed (Food Booth, Entry Booth, Ring, or Other, including which location), hours worked and member exhibitor's name. The logbooks must be reviewed and signed by a member of the Board of Directors who was in attendance at the show on the day of the show worked.
- i. Workers are needed in the entry booth and show ring for various lengths of shifts. Individuals are encouraged to sign up in advance on the website prior to the show. Positions not filled in advance will be available to sign up at the entry booth the day of the show. Show crew jobs include Announcer, Entry Booth, Ring steward, Ring Crew, Gates, Ribbons, "Go fer." Other jobs may be available at any regular GHPA horse show at the discretion of the show committee chair.
 - ii. **The Great Geauga County Fair Only:** See Rule 15
 - a. It is permissible for workers to share a four (4) hour shift on behalf of a single entrant. Example: Mother works for 2 hours in food booth and then father works 2 hours in food booth.
 - b. Youth must be 16 years of age or older to work in the food booth.
- I. **INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:** Service hours for year-end awards shall not be accumulated by any individual on behalf of any member for:
- i. Time worked during The Great Geauga County Fair, or any other county fair or similar function.
 - ii. Time spent in attendance at monthly GHPA general meetings.
 - iii. Time spent in attendance at horse related functions as an observer or participant, including but not limited to, youth groups, horse clubs, lectures and/or clinics, lessons, field trips, horse shows, or tack sales. Exception: A member may accrue service hours at the discretion of the Board, Officers, or Chairperson of a recognized committee if the member attends a function as an official representative of GHPA or coordinator of an event on behalf of GHPA (e.g., education committee events).
 - iv. Fair cleanup day work hours ARE NOT ABLE to be counted as work hours for year end awards.

14. YEAR-END AWARDS: GHPA may present year-end class awards to exhibitors who finish in the first through fifth places overall in classes offered during the horses show season. GHPA may present year-end high point awards to exhibitors who finish with the highest total number of points in qualifying classes for a show in each division. Divisions for year-end high point awards will be determined by the show committee prior to the first show of the show season and may not be changed after the date of the first show of that show season. A list of qualifying classes for each year-end high point division will be determined by the show committee prior to the first show of the show season and may not be changed after the date of the first show of that season and will be posted in the entry booth. In the event that fewer than 3 Open shows or 3 Contesting shows are held in a season, no year-end awards will be given for that show series. To qualify for year-end class and high point awards the exhibitor must meet the following criteria:

- A. The exhibitor must be a member in good standing of GHPA. Points and service hours towards year-end awards are accumulated from the date a paid membership is received for the current membership year.
- B. GHPA contesting exhibitors must show in at least three (3) or more GHPA contesting shows and likewise, GHPA open show exhibitors must show in at least three (3) or more GHPA shows during the current show season. Points for year end awards accumulate on the same horse/pony, exhibitor combination.
- C. A member must have earned a minimum of four (4) points in a class to be considered for year-end awards in that class. If any shows are cancelled the Board of Directors will determine if a minimum point change is required at that time.
- D. Each GHPA member is required to complete 8 work hours with a maximum of 16 work hours for a family. Service hours must be recorded on behalf of the exhibitor to be considered for year-end awards. The hours may be accumulated from January 1st through September 30th of the current show season. (See section 12)
- E. The Board of Directors may offer year-end awards. It is the responsibility of a member to request clarification of the criteria necessary to qualify for year-end awards if he/she has a question. Requests for clarification should be made to the sponsoring party (Officers or Board of Directors) at a general membership meeting so that the details of the clarification may be entered into the minutes and made available to the membership by publication.
- F. Year-end point standings shall be considered final following an audit of exhibitor eligibility requirements to verify that award winners have met those criteria outlined in § 13 A-D and that the record of those criteria is accurate and correct. Final year-end point standings shall be published on the GHPA website and/or in the Corral.
 - i. An exhibitor may challenge the final year-end point by filing a formal protest in writing with the Show Committee Chair or a Board Member by November 1st of the current show year. Such protest must follow the procedure outlined in Section 16.
 - ii. Challenges to the final year-end point will not be accepted after November 1st of the current show year and such standings will be deemed final and accepted by the membership at that time.

15. GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR STABLING REQUIREMENTS for youth wanting to stable with GHPA.

- A. MUST be a member of GHPA by MAY 1st.
- B. Must be between the ages of 5 and 18 as of January 1st of the current year.
- C. Youth's work hours MUST be completed by the date of the last GHPA show in August, whether it is an Open or Contesting show, to stable with GHPA at the fair.

D. GHPA Members who intend to stable with GHPA at the fair MUST:

- i. complete the GHPA project naming form,
- ii. complete the Geauga County Junior Fair Entry and Liability forms,
- iii. complete any additional forms as may be necessary.

These completed forms must be received by the Membership chair by July 1st.

- E. In the event that a horse becomes disabled, a request to exhibit another horse MUST be made in writing along with a veterinarian's note to either GHPA's President, First or Second Vice President. This GHPA officer will then turn this information over to the Membership Chair who will contact the Junior Fair coordinator for the final decision.
- F. Attend and complete the mandatory meetings, if required, as specified by GHPA, the Geauga County Agricultural Society and Junior Fair.

16. PROTEST. A protest must be made in writing, accompanied by a deposit of \$25.00 (cash only), signed by the protester, and given to any Board Member for any violation of the rules of the association.

- A. A Grievance Committee consisting of at least two (2) Board Members and three (3) adult members in good standing shall convene to review the protest within two (2) weeks of receipt of said protest. Grievance Committee members shall be selected by the current GHPA president.
- B. A judge's decision cannot be appealed. To file a formal protest against a judge, another exhibitor, member, participant, GHPA representative, or policy, relative to an occurrence at a regular GHPA show, such protest must be made in writing, signed by the protester, contain specific facts giving rise to the protest, be accompanied by a \$25.00 (cash only) filing deposit and be filed by the end of the show day of occurrence (See Section 5E).
- C. To challenge year-end point standings, a protest must be filed before November 1st of that show year. (See Section 13).
- D. The protestor shall be notified of the Committees decision. If the protest is found to be valid, the protester's deposit shall be returned.

17. PENALTIES. Any person or persons violating GHPA Rules will be subject to any or all of the following penalties to be determined by a Grievance Committee consisting of two (2) Board Members and three (3) adult members in good standing. Grievance Committee members shall be selected by the current GHPA president. If found guilty, the accused shall be subject to such penalty as the Grievance Committee may state including but not limited to:

- A. **CENSURE:** A vote of censure shall be reported to the board at their next meeting and listed under the defendant's name in the Secretary's record of Penalties. If found guilty of a further violation the defendant shall be subject to a heavier penalty than for a first offense.
- B. **SUSPENSION:** A suspended person is forbidden for the time specified to hold or exercise office or take any part whatsoever in any show. Likewise, any individual person, riders and/or representatives owing unpaid debts to the GHPA will be automatically placed under suspension by the Board. Those suspended will be ineligible to compete in the GHPA point system and subject to the penalties specified above.
- C. **FORFEITURE:** Of trophies, ribbons, and points won in conjunction with the offense committed.
- D. **EXPULSION:** From membership in the association.

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