



2010
Rule Book
and
By Laws

2010 Rule Book

- 1.** Contestants are responsible for determining the eligibility of themselves and their horses to enter any class. Any points earned by an ineligible horse or rider will automatically be revoked.
- 2.** Proof of ownership may be required at any time. A notarized bill of sale or bona fide registration papers constitute proof of ownership.
- 3.** All Gold Country Cutting Horse Association (GCCHA) shows will be judged by both National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) and GCCHA rules. If a conflict arises, GCCHA rules will take precedence. All horses are to be judged on performance only.
- 4.** A horse shall not enter the arena at any GCCHA contest with any abusive gimmick or training device, except help horses may use martingales. Futurity horses may use training devices during the futurity works. Horses must be ridden with a bridle having a bit in the mouth or with a hackamore. A bridle shall have no noseband or bosal and hackamores shall be of rope or braided rawhide with no metal parts. A judge must be able to freely pass two fingers between the hackamore and muzzle completely around the horse's nose. Choke ropes, tie downs, wire around the horse's neck, nose, or brow band, tight nose band, quirt, bat or mechanical device giving the rider undue control over a horse will not be permitted in the arena. Wire of any kind and on any part of the curb device is not permissible.
- 5.** Any abuse or inhumane treatment of animals on the show grounds will not be permitted.
- 6.** Western attire is required in the arena, arena warm up area, and practice pen while on horseback. Western attire is encouraged but not required in a warm-up area, which is distinctly separate from the arena. Western attire includes western hats (safety helmets are permitted) and western boots. Riders must wear long-sleeved shirts with collars with buttons or snaps completely down the shirtfront. Sweaters may be worn over an appropriate shirt. Waivers are permitted only per NCHA rules.
- 7.** A show representative will be appointed by the President to act as a liaison person between the Board of Directors, contestants, cattle supplier and spectators. It shall be his/her responsibility to settle any problems which may occur during the show. If said representative should have to leave before the conclusion of a show, it shall be his/her responsibility to appoint a replacement to carry on his/her duties until the conclusion of that show.
- 8.** The Board of Directors shall have final say on all matters.
- 9.** Any comment about the performance of horses working shall not be made within hearing distance of the judge. A contestant shall not talk with the judge(s), beyond the exchange of normal greetings, during a show.
- 10.** The Board of Directors has the right to disqualify or refuse entry to any contestant for any actions of misconduct, including harassing the judge(s), show management, or employees.
- 11.** Judge(s) shall present, in writing, any grievance¹ that he/she may have against contestants to any officer, board director, secretary, or representative of GCCHA. The Board of Directors shall review the grievance. The Board may enforce penalties, as it deems suitable.

12. All complaints must be made in writing by contestants and must be filed with a \$15.00 non-refundable fee, within one (1) week of the show involved. Such complaints will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and a decision rendered.
13. The show representative shall cancel any class that does not have two (2) or more horses entered, except Youth classes. Cancelled classes may be combined with another class and cattle from that class added to make a sizeable herd. When classes are combined, the entire combined class will be drawn in a single draw.
14. Once a horse is in the draw, no money will be refunded. If a horse is scratched before the draw, the cattle charge will not be refunded.
15. When time is called, a rider must quit at the earliest possible convenience. Failure to comply will result in a penalty to be determined by the Board of Directors. After the buzzer sounds, the contestant will discontinue working and ride his/her horse forward past the judge's stand before dismounting.
16. Both owners and riders must be members of GCCHA to compete. To comply with GCCHA insurance requirements anyone riding or showing a horse on the show grounds must be a member. If ownership is a partnership, only one partner must be a member.
17. Age of Senior Youth is fourteen (14) through eighteen (18) years of age and Junior Youth is thirteen (13) years of age or under. Age to be ascertained January 1, of that year and carry the entire year.
18. Any horse exhibited by a Non-Pro in a GCCHA cutting horse contest must be owned by the contestant showing the horse or by the contestant's spouse or child (maximum 29 years of age). Said child may ride a horse owned by either parent, grand parent or legal guardian.
19. There will be no alcoholic beverages or controlled substances allowed in the arena, warm up area, or practice pen. However, alcohol consumption in the parking area is contingent on the rules of the owner of the grounds on which the show is being held.
20. Entry fees shall be set by the Board and published in a timely manner.
21. The following chart illustrates the distribution of points:

Distribution of Points

<u>2 Places</u>	<u>3 Places</u>	<u>4 Places</u>	<u>5 Places</u>	<u>6 Places</u>
60%	50%	40%	30%	30%
40%	30%	30%	25%	24%
	20%	20%	20%	18%
		10%	15%	12%
			10%	9%
				7%

22. Points will be awarded first through sixth place in all classes, at all shows. In the event of a tie, points are combined for the places tied and divided equally among them. When there is a tie for an award, a coin will be flipped to decide the winner. Points will count in each separate class towards an award for that class only. Awards will be determined in each class by the number of points earned. Points will be determined based upon ten (10) points per horse in the draw for each class. Points will not be awarded for a score of zero (0).

23. A horse/rider must show in at least 50% of a class to qualify for year-end awards. Year-end awards include first through sixth place and Top Ten Horse Awards. Other awards may be established by the Board.

24. ***GCCHA CLASSES ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:***

OPEN AND NOVICE HORSE CLASSES (POINTS GO TO THE HORSE) -

- a. **Open** – Any horse ridden by any rider.
- b. **10,000 Novice Horse** - Any horse not having won more than 10,000 dollars/points. Any rider.
- c. **3,000 Novice Horse** - Any horse not having won more than 3,000 dollars/points. Any rider.
- d. **15,000 Novice Non-Pro** – Any horse not having won more than 15,000 dollars/points being ridden by a Non-Pro.
- e. **5,000 Novice Non-pro** – Any horse not having won more than 5,000 dollars/points being ridden by a Non- Pro.

NON-PRO CLASSES (POINTS GO TO THE RIDER) -

- a. **Non-Pro** - Any Non-Pro rider as defined by NCHA rules.
- b. **35,000 Non-Pro** Any Non-Pro rider whose lifetime earnings do not exceed 35,000 dollars/points.
- c. **2,000 Limit Rider** - Any rider whose lifetime earnings do not exceed 2,000 dollars/points.
- d. **50,000 Amateur** - Open to certain Non-Pro riders per NCHA rules whose lifetime earnings do not exceed 50,000 dollars/points.
- e. **15,000 Amateur** - Open to certain Non-Pro riders per NCHA rules whose lifetime earnings do not exceed 15,000 dollars/points.
- f. **500 Limit Rider** – Any Non-Pro rider whose lifetime earnings do not exceed 500 dollars/points. (See Rule 31)
- g. **Ranch Class** – Any Non-Pro rider whose lifetime earnings do not exceed 250 dollars/points riding a horse whose lifetime earnings do not exceed 250 dollars/points. Rider must use two hands throughout the run. Rider does not have to own horse. (See Rule 31)

- h. Youth** - Open to youths as defined by GCCHA Rule 17
 - i. Never Won A Buckle** - Any Non-Pro rider whose lifetime earnings do not exceed 2,000 dollars/ points and having never won a cutting horse association buckle. One entry per rider.
- 25.** Any horse receiving ROM or equivalent in any breed association may not show below the 3,000 class.
- 26.** Dollars earned by a horse or rider at any cutting club or association cutting will count as one dollar per point earned towards graduation in GCCHA. A horse's eligibility to enter novice cutting horse contests or a rider's eligibility to enter Non-Pro or Amateur cutting horse contests will be based on the lifetime earnings of said horse or Non-Pro on the first day of the year in which the contest is held. Money won in events restricted by age (Futurities, Derbies, Maturities, etc.) shall not be counted when determining eligibility for novice horses.
- 27.** Any professional as defined by NCHA rules may not show below the 3,000 class.
- 28.** A Non-Pro in GCCHA is a rider who has not shown, trained, or assisted in training a cutting horse for remuneration or trade per NCHA rules.
- 29.** All contestants will work at the appointed time designated by the show management. Horses arriving late may be allowed to show and receive a score if the herd drawn into is still in the arena. Under no circumstances will a horse be allowed to show and compete after its designated herd is finished.
- 30.** In all classes in which the points are earned by the rider, any rider that shows more than one horse in a class must declare, before the show, which horse will earn points for that class. This horse will be the only horse that said rider can earn points for that day in that class.
- 31.** GCCHA horse ownership rules shall conform to NCHA rules except that in the 500 Novice Rider, Never Won a Buckle, and Two-Handed Class the rider need not own the horse.
- 32.** Riders are required to establish entries on or before the published deadline. Riders will not be allowed to show again until all outstanding fees and/or penalties are paid to GCCHA. Late entries may be accepted after the deadline depending upon the availability of cattle. A \$25 late charge may be assessed.
- 33.** Checks returned by the bank will be assessed a \$25 charge and riders may be asked to pay in cash in the future. Members with outstanding checks will not be allowed to show until all assessments are paid.
- 34.** Vendors attending GGCHA activities will be required to pay a \$50 fee per activity. This fee will be waived for buckle or saddle sponsors.
- 35. Saddle Rules** – For all saddle awards the horse or rider must show in at least one-half of the shows for the points in the eligible class to count toward the saddle. All eligible classes meeting the show minimum are added for the year end point total.

2010 By Laws

GOLDCOUNTRY CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

updated 2-4-10

The Gold Country Cutting Horse Association (GCCHA) is an organization formed for the express purpose of promoting the cutting horse and sport of cutting for the enjoyment of its members.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERS AND DUES

Section 1: QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any individual of good character, or
- B. Any family, person, youth, partnership, association or corporation of good reputation interested in cutting horses may become a member of this association.
- C. A youth member I anyone under the age of 18 at the beginning of the point year.

Section 2: DUES

Each member shall pay an annual membership (fee) no later than February 10 or prior to participating in a club activity.

- A. Membership is not transferable.
- B. Honorary membership without charge may be granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Board of Directors will determine the single, adult, family and youth membership dues annually.
- D. Members joining the Association at the October show will have their dues carry forward to the next year.

Section 3: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- A. An Annual meeting of the membership of the Association shall be held at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors with sufficient notice to the membership.
- B. The President may call special meetings of the total membership at a time and place designated by the President with sufficient notice to all members.
- C. Any member who has paid his/her dues shall be considered a member in good standing and entitled to (1) vote at any meeting of members.
- D. A family membership shall be entitled to two votes. A youth member, not associated with

a family membership shall have no vote.

- E. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

Section 4: CONDUCT OF MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- A. In all meetings of the Association, Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure Revised, shall be used to conduct the meetings unless otherwise provided in these By-Laws.
- B. The order of business at any meeting of the members shall be as follows:
 - 1. Roll Call
 - 2. Reading of the minutes.
 - 3. Treasurer's Report
 - 4. Committee Reports
 - 5. Election/ Appointments (if any)
 - 6. Unfinished/ Old Business
 - 7. New Business
 - 8. Adjournment

Section 5: BY-LAWS CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

- A. These By-Laws may be amended by a majority of Board of Directors.

Section 6: DELINQUENT DUES

- A. Members' delinquent in their dues shall forfeit all rights and privileges to participate in any activities of this Association and shall not be listed as members until such time as any delinquent dues are paid in full.
- B. Points earned by a member while delinquent in dues shall not count toward year-end awards.

Section 7: REQUIRED MEMBERSHIP

- A. The rider of a horse must be a member of the Association to participate in any GCCHA event/ class.
- B. The owner of a horse participating in any GCCHA event/ class must be a member of the Association except for the 2000 Limit rider, and unapproved NCHA event/ classes.

Section 8: IMPROPER CONDUCT

- A. At the Board of Directors direction, any member may be dismissed as a member of the Association and all privileges of the Association shall thereafter be denied such member. Membership may be reinstated by action of the Board

ARTICLE II: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of 12 elected Directors, the President and the Vice President. These officers shall be members of the Board by virtue of their offices.

Section 2: TERM OF OFFICE FOR BOARD MEMBERS

- A. A member of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a two year term by the members of the Association.
- B. The membership shall elect six directors each year for a two year term. In addition, the Board shall be made up of the President and the Vice President making a total of 14 directors on the Board.

Section 3: DIRECTOR REQUIREMENTS

- A. All members of the Board of Directors must be members in good standing of the Association.
- B. Any director who fails to attend three successive meetings of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by a majority vote at a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

Section 4: BOARD MEETINGS

- A. The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly.
- B. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be held on the call of the President or a majority of the Board of Directors when deemed necessary for the competent management of the affairs of the Association.
- C. Each member of the Board of Directors shall possess one vote in matters coming before the Board.
- D. All voting at such meetings shall be in person and voting by proxy shall not be permitted.
- E. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, seven directors including officer shall constitute a quorum and a majority thereof shall decide on all questions that may come before the Board at the meeting.
- F. The order of business at all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:
 - 1. Roll Call
 - 2. Reading of minutes

3. Treasurer's Report
4. Committee Reports
5. Election/ Appointments (if any)
6. Unfinished / Old Business
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

Section 5: VACANCY ON THE BOARD

- A. The Board of Directors shall fill any vacancies arising on the Board of Directors by reason of death, resignation or removal of a director.
- B. Names of nominees shall be submitted and voted on by the Board Members. Such appointee shall serve the unexpired term of the Directors whose office has become vacated.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 1: OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the Association shall be President and Vice President.
- B. One year of the current Board of Directors is a prerequisite for election of office.
- C. The President and Vice President shall be elected each year for a term of office of one year.

Section 2: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT

- A. The President of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Association and the Board of Directors. He or she shall execute all instruments of behalf of the Association, appoint all special and standing committees, and be ex-officio member of such committees, and shall perform such other duties usually inherent to such office.

Section 3: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

- a. The Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in his or her absence and perform other duties as the President may direct.

Section 4: VACANCIES OF OFFICE

- A. The Board of Directors through an election process determined by the Board of Directors shall fill vacancies of the office of President and the Vice President.

Section 5: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The Board of Directors shall nominate two Directors for th office of President and two

Directors for the office of Vice President.

- B. A Nomination/ Election Committee shall be appointed by the President on or before July 1 of each year. The Nomination Committee will seek nominations for the Board of Directors from the membership. In addition, the Nomination / Election Committee will develop a ballot, with the approval of the Board and oversee the election and count the ballots.
- C. Election of Officers and Board of Directors shall be by ballot. A ballot with nominees shall be collected as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV: SHOWS/ EVENTS APPROVED BY THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1: SHOWS/ EVENTS

- A. All approved shows/ events of the Association shall be conducted under the rules of the National Cutting Horse Association. Limited and some restricted events may be conducted under modified rules of GCCHA.
- B. The Board of Directors of the Association shall, from time to time, establish and update the rules of the show/ events of the Association.

ARTICLE V: LIABILITY OF THE DIRECTORS

Section 1:

No Director of the GCCHA shall be liable to the GCCHA or its members for monetary damages for an act or omission to act in such capacity as a Director of the GCCHA, except that this Article shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a Director to the GCCHA for:

- A. A breach of such Director's duty to the GCCHA or its members.
- B. An act or omission not in good faith or that involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the By-Laws.
- C. A transaction from which a Director received an improper benefit, whether or not the benefit resulted from an action taken within the scope of the Director's office.