

2023-2024 Gymkhana Rules

It is the responsibility of the rider and/or parent/guardian to have read and understand all rules below prior to participating in any P&M Gymkhana. Rules are posted on the P&M Calendar for each Gymkhana, with each online sign-up, given to each participant the day of the 1st Gymkhana and available to view at each subsequent Gymkhana upon request at the Event Booth.

GENERAL RULES:

- Boots or shoes with a clearly defined heel and long pants must be worn while in the arena.
- Each participant and/or individual handling a horse should be listed on Membership or have paid Days Use Fee.
- A saddle or a speed saddle must be used while in the arena.
- NO REFUNDS will be given for any reason after entries are paid.
- Bad weather that prevents or occurs during and interrupts a Show will result in entry fee monies being carried over to the next Show, again NO REFUNDS will be issued.
- P&M Arena encourages the use of helmets for all riders. Helmets are highly recommended. **ASTM/SEI equestrian helmets are permitted. No other type of helmets are allowed.**
- Horse/Mounts
 1. No stallions allowed for safety reasons.
 2. Horses must be serviceably sound, in good overall health.
 3. Appropriate for the level of the rider and should be at a level of training to participate safely in the events.
 4. A horse must be excused from any activity if in the opinion of the P&M Event Chairman, Event Host/Co-Host, owner, instructor, judge, or appropriate authority, is unsafe to either its rider or to others.
- It is the responsibility of the rider to understand the pattern of each event ridden.
- At the first Show, the Event Host/Co-Host may request a Rider to move to a more appropriate division based on their demonstrated skill/speed levels.
- All general arena rules must be followed by any person on property and according to membership rules.

GYMKHANA RULES & REGULATIONS:

- If the rider is 17 years old or younger a legal guardian must sign all waivers before participants will be allowed to enter the arena; this will be verified upon sign-up.
- NO LATE SIGN-UPS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- A rider must compete on the same horse as a "rider/equine team" for the entire show season and provide description of horse on sign-up to include color/markings. If for any reason a rider needs to switch horses you must notify office/booth or Event Host before show/pattern starts.
- If your horse is hurt or injured during the show and a horse change is made, **at no time is the rider allowed to switch back to that original horse during the same show.** Please see the Host/Co-Host at the Booth for clarification if needed.
- The rider may ride more than one horse in the same division [and/or season], but points will only count for one of the horses. **Selection of the "point horse" for the season must be decided at the time of entry and remain the same throughout the season.**
- If a horse has multiple riders in the same division then responsible parties must notify the booth so that riders can be separated. **Tack changes must not delay the show.**

- The age of the rider as of January 1st will determine the age group the rider may enter for the season.
- Riders that want to switch divisions during the season may **NOT carry over points if the switch in divisions is made after the second show.**
- **TIME ONLIES:** Riders have only 1 minute in the arena per time only. Riders must make sure to give their time only tickets to the gate person before you go into the arena to run. If a rider is taking more than 1 minute (60 seconds) to run a time only they will be asked to exit the arena.
- Riders shall have one minute to enter the arena once their name is called. If a rider fails to enter the arena after their name is called they will be called again at the end of their division. **A second failure to enter the arena will result in disqualification from that event.**
- Riders should not start their run before their name is called and should not exit the arena before the time is announced.
- **WINGS USAGE:** If wings are in place then each division will gather into the wings when their division is called.
- There will be **NO** running into the arena from the alley. This is for the safety of all riders and horses. Doing so will result in a no time for that event pattern.
- If your horse “refuses” to enter the arena, PLEASE get off and walk them in or have someone assist you.
- If a Handler is to enter the arena with rider and goes through pattern with rider, the handler may walk with the rider but is not allowed to touch the rider, horse or tack except in case of safety such as a bolting horse. Handler **MUST** stay behind shoulder of the horse when passing the timer both starting and finishing the pattern. The horse is to be the mark that starts and ends the timer.
- After crossing the timer, a rider has a maximum of two minutes (120 seconds) to complete the event pattern and exit the arena.
- **Re-rides are ONLY allowed for timer malfunctions.** Should this occur, the Rider will get one re-run at the end of their division, they must exit the arena and move to the end of the line. Equipment failures, complaints about the gate, music or any other distraction blamed for a “bad or missed” run will result in a no time - NO EXCEPTIONS.
- At any time a rider breaks the timer during the pattern, it is considered a no time. The rider may immediately correct their horse to finish the pattern, but may not run it again if they break the timer and return to the gate area.
- If a rider falls off their horse it is considered a no time and they must vacate the arena.
- Any discrepancies in times or patterns must be brought to the attention of the Host/Co-Host in the booth immediately, prior to the end of a division for each event pattern.
- Any act of discourtesy or disorderly conduct toward any Arena/Event representative to include Host/Co-Host or Volunteer - in or out of the arena; will result in disqualification for the duration of the show day, potentially the season and will be brought to the attention of the Board for possible action.

DIVISIONS:

YOUTH SPECIFIC - Helmets are recommended for any rider 17 years old or younger and must be an ASTM/SEI certified helmet. NO other helmets are allowed.

- **LEAD LINE Division:**

- The Lead Line Class/Division is exclusively for those riders who are not able to ride independently without assistance due to age or skill level. For this reason, the following specific rules apply in addition to General and Gymkhana Rules and Requirements:

- A rider may be led through the course by a parent or responsible party provided the rider is not able to complete the course without assistance. Such assistance

is allowed to ensure the safety of the rider but does not extend to the horse leader touching the barrels, poles, flags or other obstacles. The Lead Line Team (horse, rider and leader) must properly complete the course together.

- The horse being led shall be in normal tack & reins with the addition of a halter and lead rope. Riders should hold reins while horse leaders lead by the lead rope. For safety reasons, leading by the bridle and/or reins is not allowed.
- Properly fitted stirrups are **STRONGLY** recommended for all lead line riders for safety and to avoid injury.
- Horse leaders must be at or behind the shoulder of the horse whenever crossing the timer line to prevent any timer malfunctions.

- **WALT/TROT Division:**

- For Walk/Trot, the handler may walk with the rider but is not allowed to touch the rider, horse, or tack except in case of safety such as a bolting horse.

- Any rider in the Walk/Trot division who breaks out of a trot for more than 5 steps will receive a +5 added to their time. All General and Gymkhana Rules and Requirements still apply.
- **AGE BASED divisions 10 and under, 11-14, 15-24:** no speed requirements. All General and Gymkhana Rules and Requirements still apply.
- **NOVICE:** A person new to or inexperienced in gymkhana. (Time will be based on the traditional clover barrel pattern. Speed not to exceed 23 seconds or faster. Will need to be in the open division if speed can be achieved.) If towards the end of 11 show series, a person/horse increases speed consistently will graduate to Open in the next series.
- **OPEN:** No speed restrictions. All General and Gymkhana Rules and Requirements still apply.

PENALTIES:

- Riders will receive a +5 for each downed prop.
- Broken patterns **MUST** be re-traced at the point of error to correct for points. For example, a Rider misses going around a prop in the correct direction, they must turn around, retrace their steps or back up to where they missed the direction in order to correct and still receive points. Riders may **NOT** simply circle around, do a big circle off to the side or start over. All broken patterns will result in a No Time.
- Riders with a +5 will be last in consideration for placing below those riders who may possibly have a slower time but clean run.
- Unnecessary spurring, whipping, pulling at a horse's head during or after a run will not be tolerated. Whipping, batting or spurring in front of the cinch is not allowed.
 - 1st offense will result in disqualification (DQ) from the Show
 - 2nd offense will result in disqualification (DQ) from the Season
 - 3rd offense will result in loss of P&M membership
- Switching horses at any time in during a Show or during the Season without advising the booth/office or Event Host/Co-Host and providing name and description of new horse will result in the following penalty:
 - 1st offense will result in disqualification (DQ) from the Show
 - 2nd offense will result in disqualification (DQ) from the Season
- If a disqualification happens for any reason during a Gymkhana the rider will not be able to count that day as a qualifying day for awards at the end of the season.

GYMKHANA POINT SYSTEM: A rider must ride in all point events (patterns) to get show credit and participation points.

- 1st place = 6 pts., 2nd place = 5 pts., 3rd place = 4 pts., 4th place = 3 pts., 5th place = 2 pts., 6th place = 1 pt. Participation Ribbons will be given for all Lead Line and Walk/Trot riders under the age of 10, and upon special request.

- Riders must compete in all three pattern events to qualify for points for that day and will be given 3 participation points.
- For each Gymkhana the total points for each of the event patterns plus the participation points will be added and recorded for final placings in the season.
- If a rider must withdraw from the event on a specific day for a confirmed injured horse or they themselves are injured/sick that rider will still receive the points earned
- There is no “paying for show credit” to count towards end of season qualifying.

Awards:

- Ribbons are awarded at each Show; up to 6 places for each division, for each pattern. Ribbons must be requested on the entry form at the time of registration.
- Points are earned by the Rider/Equine Team and the Rider must enter 8 of the 11 Shows to qualify for end of year awards.
- Participants must be listed on active annual P&M Membership to qualify for awards or have paid daily usage fee.
- A Champion and Reserve Champion award for each age group will be given based on the highest and second highest points earned by qualified riders during the season. Additional, smaller awards for additional placings shall be selected by the P&M Board subject to participation, and sponsorship collection.