

CGA Annual General Meeting

November 22, 2008
Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA

The meeting was called to order at 9:20am by President Skip Hofman with 64 members present.

Opening and Introductory Comments – President Skip Hofman

President Skip Hofman welcomed everyone to the 2008 Convention and asked President Conrad Fimbres to read aloud the CGA meeting rules of conduct. Conrad reminded everyone that all members have a right to speak and be respected during the meeting. Members should begin by stating their name and keep their comments to three minutes regarding each item. In addition members should speak in order and only when recognized, keeping all personal comments and side conversations to themselves.

I. Committee Reports

Item I. A: Rules and Judges Items – Shannon Rahn

Before beginning any discussion Rules Chairperson Shannon Rahn reminded all members of the new meeting format. Shannon explained that all items in the Rule and Judges meeting were open for discussion by all members, but only carded CGA Judges could vote on action items. All items that passed would immediately follow to the General Membership for final vote in Item B.

1. Flag Specifications (Figure 8 Flags) – Dianna Merrick

Dianna Merrick presented her idea of changing the fabric shape of the flag from a square to a ‘pendant.’ Dianna modeled her example and explained the dimensions would be 12 inches to the point and 12 inches on each edge at completion. Dianna reasoned that changing the shape to a ‘pendant’ would help prevent riders from stabbing the fabric while still maintaining the skill of the event.

MOTION by Dianna Merrick to alter the fabric construction of the flag to a ‘pendant’ measuring 12 inches at the point and 12 inches on each edge at completion. ***Seconded*** by Joanne Galbraith. ***Discussion followed.***

Several members spoke in favor of the change and several spoke against the change. Sally Rivera-Lingafeldt spoke in favor of the change, stating she felt this change would make the event a true ‘skill’ event instead of a ‘luck’ event. Joanne Galbraith liked the idea of changing the shape, stating it could help kids to get the flag in the bucket instead of stabbing the fabric. Dave Bach and Arlene Tsuji both argued to leave the flag alone. Janice Rowles spoke against the motion, arguing the square fabric can actually help riders because they grab the fabric and often at the very corners. While Mindy Sullivan was neither strongly for nor against the change, she questioned how altering the flag would affect records set using the traditional flag.

Call for the question by Christopher Rowles and *Seconded* by Patrick Hoffman.
Passed.

Above Motion FAILED (12 in favor / 24 opposed).

2. Rule Book Wording Change: Section 3.1 Clothing (Page 12) – Andy Krogh

Andy Krogh explained that in prior discussions/changes belts and boots have simply been items of the dress code. The only item truly implemented for safety reasons is the helmet for riders 18 and under. Andy felt that the wording in Section 3.1 Clothing should reflect this distinction by striking the word “safety” and replacing it with the word “comfort.”

MOTION by Andy Krogh to strike the word “safety” in Section 3.1 Clothing (page 12) and replace it with the word “comfort” (*All articles of clothing shall be properly worn, however buckles may be worn at the side or back for ~~safety~~ comfort reasons*). *Seconded* by Dave Bach. *Discussion followed.*

Meghan Abatti felt that wearing the buckle to the side could in fact cause a safety issue; if the belt was caught on the horn there would be nothing to break it away. Arlene Tsuji spoke against the change because she felt the potential for a belt to get caught on the horn is a safety concern to the rider. Sheri Herchkorn believed the wording should be changed strictly from a legal standpoint. Sheri explained CGA needs to be cautious about what is prescribed as “safety” and what is not and this may be something that our legal council advises to change in the future anyways. Rodger Odom reiterated Sheri’s thoughts, advising the wording change for legal purposes.

Motion PASSES to General Membership (25 in favor / 5 opposed).

3. Standardize the Hurry Scurry Block Color – Andy Krogh

Shannon Rahn explained that a district had previously asked if they could purchase blocks of different colors for Hurry Scurry. Because the MAC’s job is to interpret the rules, they felt the block color should be uniform and remain the same color however there is nothing in the rules saying what color.

Andy Krogh *MOVED* to standardize the color of the Hurry Scurry blocks to white.
Seconded by Randy Young. *No discussion followed.*

Motion PASSES to General Membership.

4. Lead Line Rules – Andy Krogh

Shannon Rahn explained this was again an issue brought to the MAC previously, however there was no general consensus of MAC to interpret the rule as written. The question is: in Lead Line does the ‘leader’ have to go around each obstacle or can they stop and allow the horse and rider to go around by themselves?

Andy Krogh felt the horse and rider should be the only ones required to go around each obstacle and complete the prescribed course as the leader is only there to facilitate the ride.

MOTION by Andy Krogh that in Lead Line the horse and rider must properly complete the course, but no necessarily the leader. Seconded by Dianna Wehrli.

Discussion followed.

Shannon Rahn clarified there is currently no wording one way or the other, it's open to interpretation but hopefully this meeting can help bring some clarification. Mindy Sullivan believed as soon as the leader stops and allows the horse and rider to go around an obstacle by themselves the leader can loose control of the horse should something unforeseen happen. Chris Rowles argued the leader is part of the horse and therefore a part of the team and should be required to complete the prescribed course. One member believed that lead line should help advance the riders' progress and if that meant allowing the rider to go around the obstacle by themselves then we should allow that discretion. Another member argued that if the rider is able to go around the obstacle by themselves then perhaps they aren't truly a lead liner. Sally Rivera-Lingafeldt believed that lead line is to help teach the rider and it should be at the discretion of the leader whether or not they need to go around the obstacle with the rider.

Sheri Herchkorn explained that the MAC really wants to get everyone on the same page because it seems the North and the South both have different interpretations of the rule. Because it is what she was originally taught, Sheri believed the leader was a part of the team and should be required to complete the course as part of the team. If the lead liner wasn't "safe" (stirrups, speed, ect) that is at the discretion of the judge.

Above Motion FAILED.

MOTION by Shannon Rahn that the Lead Line team (horse, rider and leader) must properly complete the course. Seconded by Robert Frates. ***No Discussion followed.***

Motion PASSES to General Membership.

5. Half Belts – Joanne Galbraith

Joanne Galbraith explained that a "half belt" loops back and fastens behind each front belt loop, leaving the front of the body free of any belt. Joanne felt this should be an option in the dress code for those riders who are concerned about getting their buckles caught on the horn. Joanne reiterated this would only be optional if passed and riders could still wear the traditional belt and buckle.

MOTION by Joanne Galbraith that "half belts" are optional. Seconded by Karen Bucks.

Discussion followed.

Chris Rowles spoke against the motion stating he felt the normal dress code and belt should prevail, if a rider needs to wear a special belt they can do so with a doctors note. Karen Bucks believed the membership should have the option to wear a half belt and those riders who wanted could and would wear the traditional belt. Dianna Merrick explained this was an issue that repeatedly comes up at meetings so it must be important enough for members to keep revisiting the idea. Dianna reasoned that if the membership

keeps bringing the item for vote then why not give those members who feel the belt is a safety issue the option to wear something different. Arlene Tsuji agreed with Dianna's reasoning, reiterating her point.

Motion PASSES to General Membership (25 in favor / 14 opposed).

6. Third Option when Course is Set Up Incorrectly – Shannon Rahn

Although this was not Shannon Rahn's item initially, as the Chairperson of the MAC Shannon agreed to represent the item. Shannon discussed that the question had been raised regarding whether or not a rider is entitled to a third option when the course is set incorrectly. Per the rules, if the course is set incorrectly every horse must re-ride and they take the time (or no time) they get, there is no third option. The course was initially an illegal course so the course must be reset and run from scratch. Shannon explained this was not the same as when a rider gets a third option due to a timer failure and the course was set correctly.

7. Triangulation of Events – Rodger Odom

In an effort to standardize measuring courses throughout the state, Rodger Odom questioned whether or not every event must be triangulated. Rodger explained that some judges triangulate the course and others do not and there is currently no clarification in the rules book if triangulation is a must or just an option. Shannon Rahn discussed that each event has a prescribed and standard measurement irregardless of the method of measurement, so triangulation is currently at the discretion of the judge. Further, few arenas are perfectly square so triangulating can make an event look skewed.

MOTION by Chris Rowles that every event has to be triangulated. Seconded by Patrick Hoffman. *Discussion followed.*

Conrad Fimbres explained that triangulation came about years ago because of Quadrangle and the desire to measure the course easily and accurately. Conrad stated there are events that should be triangulated for accuracy, but the straight events (Single Stake, Speed Barrels, ect) don't necessarily need this type of measuring. Randy Young argued against the motion saying the triangulate every event would be redundant and unnecessary. B.J. Hohman also argued against making triangulation mandatory, stating it is a measuring tool but not a necessity.

Above Motion FAILED.

The President called for a 5 minute break at 10:35 am.

The meeting was called back to order at 10:52 by President Skip Hofman. Vice President Conrad Fimbres reread the CGA meeting rules of conduct.

Item I. B: Rules and Judges Committee Items for Final Vote

Before proceeding, President Hofman reminded all members that the next items had been Passed in the prior Rules and Judges Meeting and were now left to the general membership for final vote. Secretary Meghan Abatti reminded all in attendance that members 12 and over could vote.

1. Rule Book Wording Change: Section 3.1 Clothing (Page 12)

Secretary Meghan Abatti reread the original motion: *Motion by Andy Krogh to strike the word "safety" in Section 3.1 Clothing (page 12) and replace it with the word "comfort" (All articles of clothing shall be properly worn, however buckles may be worn at the side or back for ~~safety~~ comfort reasons).* *Seconded by Dave Bach.*

Seeing no further discussion, President Skip Hofman called for the vote.

Motion PASSED.

2. Standardize the Hurry Scurry Block Color

Secretary Meghan Abatti reread the original motion: *Andy Krogh MOVED to standardize the color of the Hurry Scurry blocks to white. Seconded by Randy Young.*

Sue Engelhardt believed there was no need to keep the blocks all one color. Sue argued districts should be able to have colored blocks if they chose, especially if the colored blocks can be purchased at a discount. CGA is using barrels of all different colors and that does not matter. Chris Rowles felt the block color matters to some horses so all the color should be standardized to white. Ellen Car spoke against the motion, agreeing with Sue that other courses use multi colors with no standardization. Ellen also stated research has proven that horses don't see while all that well.

Above Motion PASSED.

3. Lead Line Rules

Secretary Meghan Abatti reread the original motion: *Motion by Shannon Rahn that the Lead Line team (horse, rider and leader) must properly complete the course. Seconded by Robert Frates.*

Due to earlier confusion Stacey Rivera clarified what passing the above motion would mean and what not passing the motion would mean. Stacey explained that a 'yes' vote would mean the leader, horse and rider must complete each course as one team. A 'no' vote means the rule stay as is, ambiguous, and left to the interpretation of the MAC and the judge. Shannon Rahn explained this item is only to clarify the rules already in place and bring a standard throughout the State.

Above Motion PASSED (50 in favor / 33 opposed).

4. Half Belts

Secretary Meghan Abatti reread the original motion: *Motion by Joanne Galbraith that "half belts" are optional. Seconded by Karen Bucks. XXXXXXXX*

Joanne Galbraith reiterated the reason for the 'half belt' is the prevent catching the belt on the horn and to provide the riders with the safety option. Karen Bucks believed this would not only provide riders with a safety option, but also additional comfort to some riders. Arlene Tsuji felt there was no harm in allowing the option to the riders. Rodger Odom spoke against the motion as he felt the half belt would dilute the CGA dress code. Dianna Merrick spoke strongly in favor of the motion, arguing that riders should have the option and this is an issue the membership truly cares about. Dianna believed the half belt would in no way dilute the dress code. Ellen Carr believed CGA was already well represented by its' dress code and the half belt would not affect this image. Rebekah Crill stated if this item is truly about the dress code and rider image, then perhaps CGA should be policing the dress code outside of the arena.

Above Motion PASSED (55 in favor / 21 opposed).

One member asked when the 'half belt' option would become effective – immediately or at the start of the next show season? Because the 'half belt' is a dress code item and does not affect any event or riders program this option is effective immediately.

Item I. C: Riders Program Items

1. Lead Line Year End Awards – Gayle Lewis

In the absence of Gayle Lewis, Rodger Odom agreed to represent her item and made the following motion:

MOTION by Rodger Odom that Lead Line year end awards can be accumulated on any combination of horses. Seconded by Bob Bucks. *Discussion followed.*

Rodger explained the reason for this motion was to allow families the option of using different horses, perhaps providing an economical choice to families. Lead Line is intended for the rider alone (to teach them about gymkhana and horses) and the mount truly makes no difference. Rodger assured the membership there would be no extra work for the State Office because the horses' name would be entered into the computer as the riders' first name. Sue Engelhardt cautioned this could result in more competition at districts (pony vs. horses) because the parents could easily switch the mount to make the horse and rider more competitive. Sheri Herchkorn pointed out that Lead Line should be doing no more than a trot anyways. Shannon Rahn reminded everyone this is for CGA Year End Awards only and did not see a problem with this for Lead Liners. However, Shannon did not want to see this progress into the other divisions. Shannon also believed if districts were having problems with Lead Line classes that were too competitive, the districts should be looking for ways to solve the problem. Mitchell Rowles felt Lead Line is for the experience of the rider and CGA should allow them to learn and earn their award irregardless of the horse.

Above Motion PASSED.

Phyllis Odom explained this change can take place immediately, but would require the following: the horses name must always be entered as the riders' first name for the State

Office and at the districts, those riders who have already entered and ridden need to notify the State Office of the change. Phyllis also said she would post the change on the internet and in the news paper. Sheri Herchkorn explained that typically changes to riders programs wait until the fall/ next show season to take effect, but this would only affect a very small percentage of the rider-ship so making the motion retroactive to the 2008-2009 show season should not create a problem.

Item I. D: By Laws Items

No Items submitted for discussion and vote.

Item II: Other Issues/Comments and Concerns

Jeff Larson presented the scoreboard/display he is currently developing for the districts. Jeff was looking for a way to enhance the gymkhana environment and believed the riders would appreciate a scrolling sign or scoreboard that posted their times. The scoreboard Jeff envisioned would hook into the timers and have a remote control for additional features. There are multiple colors on the scoreboard and they can be purchased in various sizes, however they are very costly. Any district interested in the scoreboard could visit with Jeff following meeting adjournment.

Item III: Convention Location for 2009

Motion by Rodger Odom to allow State Office to make appropriate accommodations for Convention 2009. *Seconded* by Joanne Galbratih. *Motion PASSED.*

IV. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Rebekah Crill and *Seconded* by Ellen Carr. *MOTION CARRIES.*

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Abatti
CGA Secretary