California Gymkhana Association
Bylaws/ Rules and Judges/ General Membership Meeting
November 14,2026

1. **Opening and introductory Comments**
2. **Bylaws Committee Meeting**
3. **Rules and Judges Committee Meeting (old and new business/ Voting)**

Old Business - None

New Business

A. Submitted by Marnie Nessen

Proposed changes to section 6.1 Requirements to Become a CGA Judge
The section currently reads:

Approved CGA shows must be judged by licensed CGA gymkhana judges. The judge must be physically in the arena during each and every rider's run. Apprentice judges must have a licensed judge in the arena with them at all times they are judging an event. Any CGA member may apply to become an apprentice judge at 16 years of age or an official CGA judge at 18 years of age. They must complete the entire process within 18 months of getting their apprentice card. If they fail to do so, the apprenticeship is cancelled and the candidate must start over from the beginning. An apprentice may not start judging or taking tests until the apprentice card is received from the CGA State Office.

I am proposing the following change (highlighted)

Approved CGA shows must be judged by licensed CGA gymkhana judges. The judge must be physically in the arena during each and every rider's run. Apprentice judges must have a licensed judge in the arena with them at all times they are judging an event. Any CGA member may apply to become an apprentice judge at 16 1/2 years of age or an official CGA judge at 18 years of age. They must complete the entire process within 18 months of getting their apprentice card. If they fail to do so, the apprenticeship is cancelled and the candidate must start over from the beginning. An apprentice may not start judging or taking tests until the apprentice card is received from the CGA State Office.

Why the change? If a member gets an apprentice packet before they are 16 1/2, they still only have 18 months to complete meaning they have to pass the judges test prior to becoming 18 and able to be a judge. That means someone has to keep track to ensure once they turn 18, they can be reflected as a judge. I don't feel the member, MJ or GM should have to track that. It would make more sense to have members wait until they are 16 1/2 and have the MJ and apprentice judge coordinate just before their 18th birthday to sign off and send in the judges card.

B. Submitted by Cadence Nessen

Proposed change to rule book section 4.7 (subsection of Section 4:General Procedures)

Currently reads:

4.7 Leave the Arena

The rider is requested to acknowledge the judge after bringing his/her horse under control. The rider should not dismount at any time while in the arena without permission of the judge. However, if the rider dismounts for reason of safety or reasons beyond their control, the judge's permission to dismount is implied.

The above noted procedures are normally considered a matter of courtesy towards horse show management and the judge, and normally there are no penalties associated with them. They may, however, be indicative of unsportsmanlike conduct or a safety issue as referred to in the penalty section, and as such could incur penalties as set forth in that section (Section 5).

Proposed change:

4.7 Leave the Arena

The rider must bring his/her horse under control once the course is complete. The rider should not dismount at any time while in the arena other than for reasons of safety or reasons beyond their control.

C. Submitted by Marnie Nessen

Proposes changes to information manual section 10.11 Approved Show Dates. The highlighted items are the proposed changes:

<u>Currently reads:</u>

10.11 Approved Show Dates

Each show district must submit all proposed show dates and start times to the CGA State Office in time for approval at least 15 days prior to the date of the proposed shows. This requirement is necessary for the following reasons:

1. It is required by our insurance carrier. Failure to properly notify the State Office will jeopardize our insurance.

2. To avoid conflict with show dates of neighboring show districts whenever possible.

3. To provide riders throughout the state an equal opportunity to attend any show.

4. No CGA approved shows may be held during the dates on which the Southern & Northern Spring Classics Shows, State Championship Show or CGA Convention are held. For Jamboree,

special rules apply depending on whether it is being held north or south of Bakersfield. Rain dates should be submitted with all proposed show dates if there is a possibility of rain and it is the policy of show management to postpone shows in the case of rain. In any event, the CGA State Office must be notified if the district intends to use a previously scheduled rain date at least 7 days prior to a show. The CGA State Office must be notified of all show cancellations within 5 days following the scheduled show date. This is also a requirement of our insurance carrier

Proposed change:

10.11 Approved Show Dates

Each show district must submit all proposed show dates and start times to the CGA State Office in time for approval at least five (5) business days prior to the date of the proposed shows. This requirement is necessary for the following reasons:

1. It is required by our insurance carrier. Failure to properly notify the State Office will jeopardize our insurance.

2. To avoid conflict with show dates of neighboring show districts whenever possible.

3. To provide riders throughout the state an equal opportunity to attend any show.

4. No CGA shows may be held during the dates on which the Southern & Northern Spring Classics Shows, Jamboree, State Championship Show or CGA Convention are held.

~~Rain dates should be submitted with all proposed show dates if there is a possibility of rain and it is the policy of show management to postpone shows in the case of rain. In any event, the CGA State Office must be notified if the district intends to use a previously scheduled rain date at least 7 days prior to a show.~~ The CGA State Office must be notified whenever a show date is added, canceled, postponed, or removed from the schedule. If a scheduled show is canceled on or near the event date, the district must notify the State Office within three (3) business days of the original show date. Failure to provide timely notice may result in the district being responsible for any insurance costs that could not be canceled with the insurance carrier.

D: Submitted by the MAC

A western hat is allowed but per RB 3.1 Clothing and Tack, 1. Clothing, 4th paragraph states “a western hat may also be worn but a means must be devised to keep it on while running the course.”

There is nothing about what would happen IF the cowboy hat comes off while running the course. Recommendation to remove the portion of keeping the hat on and the sentence would read: A western hat may also be worn.

E: Submitted by the MAC

Senior Judge. The MAC had a meeting regarding the whole Level 2 test and it being a part of a judge becoming Senior Judge. The test was quite old, and only given a couple of times. It was reviewed and found to be unusable as is. The MAC would like the whole section returned to how it was prior to the change of November 17, 2024.

Motion by the MAC, Information Book section 11.8 Senior Judge to read as follows:

“A Senior Judge is recognized by the Master Judge for his or her area as having the potential to become a Master Judge. They have broad knowledge and experience regarding CGA, its rules and the organization in general. A Master Judge may appoint a Senior Judge to help him or her with the duties of a Master Judge as a first step in training them to become a Master Judge in the future. Senior Judges are appointed by the Master Judge for their area, and have responsibility and authority only in the district(s) they are assigned to.

While a Senior Judge may be assigned to more than one district, no district may have more than one Senior Judge.”

The “duties of a Senior Judge are” to remain the same as well as sections 11.9 Criteria to become a Senior Judge and 11.10 Nomination procedure to become a senior Judge.

F: Submitted by Sheri Herchkorn

There is nothing in the Rule Book regarding the need to notify the judge of a riders intent to do a reverse ride in those events that can be done in reverse. But a rider could be disqualified if they passed the timing line without notifying the judge as it could be considered loss of control. The reverse ride and notifying the judge goes back to before wireless timers when the timers were on the fence and would have to be reset after a rider crossed it. We still use the timing line as one that cannot be crossed outside of the timers before a run is started.

My motion to add to RB 5.4 Entering the arena

“A rider who wishes to ride a reverse course, must notify the judge upon entering the arena. If the rider crosses the timing line without doing so, will result in a disqualification”.

4. **Riders Committee/ General Membership Meeting**

5. **Final vote for rule items if applicable**

6. **Other issues/ Concerns/ Comments**

7. **Adjournment**