



1. The By-Laws shall enforce and support the Punta Gorda Horseman's Association. The By-Laws are an incorporation of the Rules and Regulations and the Current Show Bills.
2. It is the responsibility of the entire membership to promote good sportsmanship among the competitors.
3. Any abusive, disrespectful and/or profane language or any type of unsportsmanlike conduct including violating rules on the show grounds is grounds for disqualification. These actions will result in the loss of points for that show and possible removal from the show grounds. Members are responsible for the actions of their guests. Any parent or guest of a member that is abusive, disrespectful or uses profane language may be asked to leave or be removed by police from the show grounds and may cause the member rider to lose points for the day.
4. Membership dues are due July 1st. They may be paid by mail, at the first regular meeting that the member attends or the first show of member's discipline whichever comes first. Membership dues must be paid before or at the first show of member's discipline to retain continuous eligibility. A copy of birth certificate is required for all members under 18 years of age.
5. Annual Membership dues are as follows:
 - Non Showing.....\$5.00
 - Single Riding Members\$45.00
 - Family Riding Members.....\$65.00
 - 4-H Members receive a \$20.00 Riding Discount (Limit of 1 discount per family membership)
6. Nominations: A current paid member may nominate an unlimited number of horses at \$25.00 for the first horse and \$20.00 for each additional horse. Nomination fee will be waived if your nomination paperwork and your \$50.00 advertising sponsor for each horse are submitted together. Owner/rider/handler must be a member and horse must be nominated before acquiring points toward year-end awards. A current Coggins test must be included with a nomination form (as required by state law). The horses name must be the same as the Coggins papers unless specifically marked (AKA) "barn name". Coggins will be checked at the facilities entry gate or registration before a horse is unloaded from the trailer .
7. Every Member is required to work a minimum of 10 hours in order to qualify for year-end awards. At least 5 hours must be worked by January 31 or within 3 months of joining, (whichever is longer). Ten hours can be purchased for \$200.00 by May 1. Any member who fails to meet the requirements, due to personal reasons, may appeal to the grievance committee.
8. Any member can work for another member for the 10 required hours. If working for another member those hours MUST be designated as such at the time they are worked and may not be later transferred. If working towards 40 hour award ALL hours must be worked by the individual going for the award. You must sign in & out at registration in order to receive credit for time worked.
9. No one under the age of 18 shall be permitted to handle money in registration without the supervision of an adult. Except for 50/50 or raffle sales.
10. Directors or their designated deputies will oversee their portion of the show. They will make sure all rules are followed, and that all patterns and courses are set up. If you have a grievance concerning horse show procedures you must bring that grievance to the Director of that show. During the show the Director's decision is Final. If the grievance is unsolved you may submit an appeal in writing to the Executive Board within seven (7) day.
11. The Executive Board or Director present at the show has the ability to cancel the show for lack of volunteers or inclement weather.
12. The judge's decision is **FINAL**. Parents, guardians, trainers, etc. who wish to discuss the judges decision must approach the Director only. The Director may then approach the judge if necessary. **No one, not showing in the called class, is allowed to enter the arena at any time, for any reason during the show and may only approach the judge when finished showing for the day.**

13. The Punta Gorda Horseman's Association strongly endorses the policy of humane treatment of horses. No person(s) on the show grounds (including but not limited to the parking area and show area) may treat a horse in an inhumane manner. This includes, but is not limited to, striking the legs with excessive force and showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores or any visible injury. Failure to comply will result in the immediate disqualification from the show and/or dismissal from the show grounds and may result in the suspension or revocation of membership. No horse will be permitted to enter the arena (to be judged, compete or do exhibition) more than 15 times a day in any PGHA sponsored event or show. If this rule is broken (whether intentionally or not) ALL points will be forfeited by ALL riders of that horse for that day. Lead line and in hand Classes do not count as part of the 15 classes.
14. Anyone who creates a safety hazard on the show grounds and is asked to stop by an authorized individual of PGHA, and does not will cause the rider to lose points for the show and may be asked to leave the show grounds for the duration of the show and possibly the show circuit year. Any horse determined by the Director or board as unsafe will be disqualified and not allowed at any PGHA events.
15. Alcohol or illegal drugs are not permitted at any PGHA show.
16. No Stallion may be shown by anyone under the age of 18 except current year colts and fillies class
17. All riders are reminded that they ride at their own risk. Properly fitted helmets are required for all Hunter/Jumper riders. Helmets are strongly recommended for all other riders. Florida Statutes 375.251 states an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities.
18. The Announcer and co-announcer's responsibility is to reflect good will and sportsmanship during the show as well as expedite the show in a reasonable manner. The Announcer must be 18 years of age or older, however substitutions may be made at the Director's discretion.
19. No rider will be allowed to register for a class after that class has begun. In Performance, Halter and Hunter/Jumper classes an exhibitor may not enter the arena after a class has been called, the gate has been closed and the class has begun unless approved by the Judge. Two minute gate call strictly enforced.
20. The registration booth and/or announcer is not responsible for errors made by contestants on the registration/entry forms.
21. Anyone whose check is returned due to insufficient funds will be notified to make it good on or before the next show **IN CASH**. Failure to make good on the check will permanently nullify membership and year-end awards. There will be a **\$25.00** fee for all returned checks.
22. All riders must enter and exit through the gate designated.
23. No free exhibition rides will be allowed at any show. In paid exhibition rides, no awards or points will be given. Rider must follow the direction and gait of the class.
24. No arena equipment shall be moved or changed after the first rider completes the course. Exceptions will be made for equipment that has been broken, damaged or deemed unserviceable.
25. A contestant will automatically be disqualified for breaking a pattern or tripping the timer light, once the timer has been started.
26. All competitors will be required to use and maintain reliable, appropriate tack, attire (No tube tops or spaghetti tops allowed while showing) and must wear boots when riding or performing in the arena. (This includes exhibition riders).
27. Leadline participants may NOT enter any other classes unless noted on showbill.

28. Each member or member's horse and/or horse & rider combination must show in front of a minimum of five judges or five shows in the same classes, during the show season to be eligible for Year End Awards.
29. Open classes have no age limits of rider and/or handler.
30. If a competitor chooses to move up (walk to walk/trot, walk/trot to canter/lope, 18" fences to higher fences) and is unable to perform at the higher level/division, the rider can go back down to the lower level/division providing they have not shown in more than two shows. Any points earned in the higher level/division will be forfeited.
31. All points earned must stay in the classes shown in.
32. Walk/Trot classes are open to any rider within the designated age group who has not shown at the canter/lope, in that same discipline, at any horse show (unless otherwise noted on the prize list/showbill). If rider has cantered in English but never shown in Western then the participant could show walk/trot Western and vice versa. See PERFORMANCE rule 7.
33. If a member's horse dies or becomes unsound during the show season, prior to the next show, the member must notify the President or any other Officer their intentions as to whether a substitute horse or the initial horse will be ridden. In the event of injury or death of the horse, the nomination will carry over from the initial horse. A Veterinarian or licensed farrier's certificate or letter must be presented to the President or Vice President in writing. In all cases mentioned above, the points will carry through towards year end awards, however, points will not be awarded until the proper paperwork is submitted.
34. Mares more than eight months into their pregnancy may not be shown.
35. Pets must be controlled by leashes at all times. Any pet not properly leashed will result in a \$50 fine to the pet's owner for each infraction. Exhibitors are responsible for the compliance of their guests and any unpaid fines levied against their guests. Owners of pets who interfere with the performance of a competitor(s) will be charged the entry fee of each exhibitor in the class in question.
36. Points will be awarded as follows:

1 st Place.....	6 Points.....	If 6 or more competitors, otherwise points reflect number of competitors.
2 nd Place.....	5 Points.....	If 6 or more competitors, otherwise points reflect number of competitors.
3 rd Place	4 Points.....	" "
4 th Place	3 Points.....	" "
5 th Place	2 Points.....	" "
6 th Place	1 Point	" "
37. The Board has the authority to make any changes to the show bills/prize list. Show prize list is contingent on funds of the organization.
38. For additional rules & regulations please consult each disciplines show-bill/prize-list and rules specific to that discipline.