

2012

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

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GENERAL RULES

1. Name of the Association: Heart of Georgia Saddle Clubs Association.
2. Current AQHA Official Handbook to be used as basic rules.
3. The cancellation of any show must be done with the approval of the host president and the show must be canceled no later than two hours before show time. The host president must contact the other club presidents. Show must be made up on rain date or consider show canceled with no refunds.
4. There will be no admission charge to any Association show.
5. A back-up clock is required at each Association point show.
6. Point shows will start at 10:00 AM.
7. The age of the rider on January 1 will determine the age group to be ridden in throughout the year.
8. In registering, the exhibitors must identify themselves by the name of their saddle club. No points if a club name isn't provided.
9. Members of an immediate family living in the same household may double on horses in different age groups for the same event. **PENALTY** for violating the rule of doubling on the same horse will be that all points earned by the involved horse on the day of the violation will be revoked. The horse and both riders will be disqualified for the rest of the show and entry fees will not be refunded.
10. If a person wants to change clubs during the year and both clubs agree that this person has been a member in good standing, there will not be a problem. If this person has been asked to leave one club, he/she will have to come before the Association before being accepted by another club.
11. Any horse having a known positive Coggins will not be permitted in the show ground area.
12. Drinking of alcoholic beverages at Heart of Georgia Association point shows is prohibited within 50 feet of the arena.
13. Non-Association members showing in Heart of Georgia Association point shows must abide by these rules.
14. *Dogs are allowed at the shows with a leash.*
15. Nobody, including ring crew, may assist a rider or horse in the ring by physical action towards the horse, ie: flapping arms or running towards horse, etc. (assisted rider classes are excepted).
16. No stud in youth class. (Federation Rule revised 2001)
17. Association will stand behind club ruling if every family doesn't help during home point show, then no points allowed for rider. (2012-2013)
18. The club presidents shall settle any differences not covered by these rules.

MEMBERSHIP

19. The Association membership shall not exceed ten (10) saddle clubs.
20. Membership and show season will run from October to September.
21. Membership dues for each club are \$175.00 annually and are due by the beginning of the show season. Association dues for all new clubs the first year will be \$225.00.
22. A new club can only join the Association between the ending of one season and the starting of the new season, usually between August and September. Each new club should have at least 20 active members. Also, they are to submit a letter in writing to the Association and not be present at the time of voting on them.

ENTRY FEES

23. Entry fees for Time Event events are \$4.00 per event for timed events with payback paid on \$2.00 and \$2.00 going to the Association.
24. Entry fees for Exhibition & Assisted Rider events are \$3.00 with no payback. All exhibition money and \$2.00 of assisted riders money will go to the host club. The remaining \$1.00 of assisted riders money will go to the association to cover the cost of their year-end trophies. (Exhibition events are unlimited to riders and unlimited to horses with no payback). (September 2013)
25. Entry fees can be refunded if either horse or rider is injured on all uncompleted classes.

HOSTING CLUBS REQUIREMENTS

26. Arena chutes must be arranged in such a way as to allow a minimum of fifty (50) foot stopping area. The end of the stopping area must be closed or overlapped by means of either a gate or an overlapping half moon with entry on each side of the chute, with the backstop detached on both sides. The backstop must be located at least 14 feet from the end of the chute to allow for safety.
27. A fresh water supply in the show ground area is required for the use of the exhibitors and their horses
28. All loud speakers must be a least ten (10) feet from the ground.
29. Each club is required to furnish adequate restroom facilities for association point shows. All arenas must have "real" restrooms. No port-a-potties unless a restroom has a plumbing emergency that cannot be avoided.
30. A reliable tractor must be available at each association point show. The arena will be dragged in the middle of an age group that has 14 or more riders or at the end of each age group if there are under 14 riders. (September 2013)
31. Each club can give either trophies (1-6 places) or money (1-3 places) at their own Association point shows for the pony and the 1-12 classes. Each club is responsible for their own trophies
32. The host club may add additional events after the regular Association events are completed.
33. The saddle club that is hosting the show is responsible for running and working their own show. The hosting club will be responsible for the tractor, working the arena, working the sign up, and the announcer. **(JULY 2011)**

PONIES

34. Ponies must be fifty, (50) inches or under to be eligible for pony classes (to be measured at the withers). Ponies will be measured at the first of the show season to be sure that they are eligible for showing.

POINTS

35. Points in each class will be given according to the number of horses in that class up to 6 points/class. If there are only three riders in the class 1st place receives 3 points, second receives 2 points and so on.
36. Points earned by the rider will be recorded in the name of the rider only.
37. In the event of a tie, the contestants both receive the points for that place. Ex: both placed 4th, give both 3 points and no one will receive 5th place points or both placed 2nd, give both 5 points plus split the money from 2nd & 3rd – giving no one 3rd place points or money.

AWARDS

38. End-of year awards will be given to as many riders as are eligible to go to State Show. There will be 6 places for all events.
39. A rider must participate in a least ½ the running or pleasure scheduled Association shows to qualify to receive year-end awards or go to State Show.
40. In the running events, places will be filled first with participants that ran in at least half the running shows. Then the people who meet half of Heart of Georgia shows requirement on the pleasure side gets considered second. (September 2013)
41. Exhibitors qualified for State who do not plan to show should let the Association Secretary know at least two weeks prior to the State Show or they will not receive their year end trophies.
42. The highest number of points will decide high point awards each year.
43. All kids should get awards at the banquet whether they made it to state or not. (September 2013)
44. Change up the end of the year awards from time to time.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

45. If someone represents a club at the Association meeting, he/she must be an active member of that club in order to vote.

STATE SHOW REQUIREMENTS

46. The Heart of Georgia Queen and Princess chosen to represent the Association at state will be the person who had the highest points in horsemanship during that show season and will receive an award at the end-of-the-year banquet. Both will have to show in at least ½ the scheduled Association shows to qualify for Queen and Princess. Queen and Princess will receive a crown and banner at the last Association show.
47. In the event of a tie for sixth place for **RUNNING EVENTS** going to State the decision will be made by choosing the rider who rode the fastest time during that show season instead of deciding by coin toss or run-off.

ANNOUNCER

48. The Announcer will not coach, teach, or instruct riders during the show. During the timed events, at the time the announcer calls the rider, he/she will also alert the next three (3) riders, in order.
49. The announcer cannot tell rider that the clock failed to start until the rider has completed a qualified ride. If the clock fails to start, the rider is entitled to two (2) re-rides provided he disqualifies on the first re-ride. If the rider is the last to ride in the class, he will be permitted a two (2) minute rest between runs, if desired.

GENERAL RULES JUDGED EVENTS

1. Only a judge and the ring master are allowed in the arena during judged events.
2. The ring steward must not interfere with the judge or contestants (including their horses). Ex: steward should not walk in and out of a halter class this could cause some horses to break setup.
3. When the first rider moves into the gate, the event is closed.
4. The judge's decision is always final.
5. In all classes, including walk-trot, the rider must be properly attired for the class. No shorts or Sleeveless shirts. Fail to do so will result in disqualification.
6. For the safety of other exhibitors, any horse that is unruly may be excused by the ring master on the Judge's instructions.
7. A yearling cannot be shown in the weanling/yearling halter class after the state show. (The Horse has to be a weanling after the state show)

JUDGES

All saddle clubs will furnish a competent judge. The judge is not to be a member of the Heart of Georgia Saddle Clubs Association. He/she may be chosen to judge only one (1) Association point show each year.

The judge must be on the show grounds thirty (30) minutes prior to show time and must have been furnished a copy of the Heart of Georgia Saddle Clubs Association rules prior to show date.

In the event the judge is not on time, three (3) people will be chosen by the Rules Committee to judge the show until the judge arrives.

The judge will be required to place eight (8) finalists in judged events if there are eight (8) available qualified contestants.

The judge will be required to wear a hat, boots and a long sleeved shirt.

HALTER CLASSES

Youth 12 & Under, Stallion, Gelding, Mare, Weanling/Yearling

In any halter event, it will be considered a fault for any exhibitor to touch the horse below the shoulder or stifle with either hand or foot. The effect of such fault in the placement of the class is left to the discretion of the judge.

Youth 12 & Under – Assisted or Non Assisted to be used for training purposes with young children. No points and no payback.

WALK TROT

Any rider can ride horses ridden in the walk trot class in any point class. There will be no payback for the class. This is an exhibition class.

WESTERN PLEASURE

Horses must work both ways of the arena at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads.

Horses are to be reversed to the inside of the arena.

Tie-downs, wire curb or chin straps narrower than one-half (1/2) inch is prohibited.

Horses five years old and older must be shown in bit (curb, snaffle, half breed or spade). Horses four years old and younger may be shown in bit or bosal at the discretion of the exhibitor. Contestants may be asked to show proof of age of horse wearing bosal. If no proof is available, horse may be ridden by judge and ring master.

Split reins or romal are required.

The judge shall have the right to ask for additional work from any horse.

Riders shall wear western hat and western boots.

The use of spurs, chaps, or similar gear and the carrying of a rope or riata are optional.

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

Same as Western Pleasure except rider will be judged instead of the horse.

The judge may ask each rider to work individually. These individual works may be any of the maneuvers necessary to determine the horsemanship ability of the rider.

Dismounting shall not be required at the 12 & under and 13-19 age groups.

RACKING

Horses shall be shown at a walk, slow rack, and fast rack.

Walk – flat-footed walk

Slow Rack – a slow, four-beat gait.

Fast Rack – is a fast, smooth gait in which each foot strikes the ground separately at intervals marking four distinct beats.

Dress Requirements: neatness is the first requisite regarding a rider's attire. A man wears a coat, tie and hat; women's dress shall include coat and tie.

Tack Requirements:

Bridle – Entries shall be shown in full bridles. Martingales or similar tie-downs are prohibited.

Saddle – Show, Cutback, or Park-Type are to be used. Web, cord, leather, or linen girths are permitted.

All tack is to be neat and clean. Action devices will be limited to bell boots.

The judge reserves the right to inspect equipment used.

A horse may be padded (built up) by exhibitor if desired.

A horse shown in the Racking classes may not be shown in English Pleasure, with the exception of the five-gaited horse.

ENGLISH PLEASURE

Horses are to shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Horses are required to back, but the judge may require, at his discretion, the backing of only the finalists in the class. Emphasis shall be placed on actual suitability of purpose.

- A. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or trot at the discretion of the judge. But shall not be asked to reverse at the center.
- B. Horses are to back easily and stand quietly.

Horses must be brought to a flat footed walk before changing gaits. Light contact with horse's mouth if recommended. At the option of the judge the top eight horses may be required to gallop collectively one way of the ring but never more than eight at a time. At the hand gallop the judge may ask the group to "halt" and stand quietly on a free rein (loosened rein).

- A. Walk: True and flat-footed for pleasure classes.
- B. Trot: Brisk, smart cadenced and balanced with loss of form. Smoothness more essential than extreme speed. Extreme speed shall be penalized.
- C. Canter: Smooth, collected and straight on both leads with the ability to push on if so required in a hand gallop.
- D. Hand Gallop: The hand gallop should be a brisk gallop with horses under control, after which horses will pull up (not a sliding stop) and stand quietly on the rail for a few moments, before being asked to line up for final inspection.

Personal appointments (required): Suitable show-hunter riding coat (tweed or solid wools and/or summer-weight solids or conservative patterns). Hard hunting hats (caps or derbies) mandatory, choice of britches and high English boots, or jodhpurs and jodhpur shoes. Stock, tie, or choker is required. Hair must be neat and contained (as in net or braid).

Tack Appointments (required): English snaffle (no shank), Pelham (with two reins), Kimberwick and/or bull bridle will cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands. Any deviation from regulation bits is prohibited. Saddles: Hunting or forward seat; may have suede seat and/or suede insert on skirt.

Optional Appointments: Spurs of the un-rowelled type, crops, bats, gloves or English breast plate, and braiding of mane and/or tail in hunt style are all optional.

Prohibited Appointments are boots of any description on the horse, draw reins, martingales or rowelled spurs.

Artificial appliances are prohibited, as are Western Saddles.

ENGLISH EQUITATION

The basic rules for English Equitation will be the same for English pleasure except that in Equitation the rider will be judged 90% while the horse is judged 10%.

The judge may ask the riders to drop their stirrups and ride without the stirrups.

A dismount is not required.

REINING

19 and Under

AQHA Pattern Number Two (2). All contestants will gather at the arena and upon call, perform the required pattern individually. Each horse will be judged on neatness, dispatch, ease, calmness and speed with which the horse performs.

20 and Over

AQHA Pattern Number 1, 2 or 5 (at judge's discretion). All contestants will gather at the arena and upon call, perform the required pattern individually. Each horse will be judged on neatness, dispatch, ease, calmness and speed with which the horse performs.

Reining Equipment:

- A. If a bit is used, it shall be a grazing, snaffle, curb, half-breed, bar or space bit.
- B. Chain curbs are permissible, but must meet with the approval of the judge; must be a least one-half inch in width; and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.
- C. No wire curbs, regardless of how padded or covered; no chin straps narrower than one-half inch; no nose bands or tie-downs will be permitted.

GENERAL RULES TIMED EVENTS

1. Dress Requirements: riders will be appropriately dressed. All riders must wear boots or shoes with heels. They cannot ride barefooted or with sandals.
2. Each club will be responsible for adequate arena personnel at its Association show. A minimum of two (2) people is required for prompt progression of the show.
3. Barrels used in the running events are to be made of cardboard or plastic and painted white with one pole base in each barrel. Barrels are to be the size nearest a 55 gallon drum and there is to be no exposed metal rim on any barrel used.
4. Have 8 Running Shows. (September 2013)
5. Start shows in the fall of the year instead of all the shows in the spring. (September 2013)
6. When setting Heart of Georgia show dates each year that the new officers try to work around big shows that would affect (our) members from showing with Heart of Georgia. Show dates to include GA 4-H, NBHA State, NBHA World, and etc. (September 2013)
7. Rotate arenas so no club has back to back shows. (September 2013)
8. The association is to have 3 rain dates allocated for a canceled point show. These dates should be decided at the same time as the original show dates. (September 2013)
9. Rider must sign up in person at all running shows. (2012-2013)
10. Rider must let announcer know if switching order of riders at running shows. (2012-2013)
11. In calling riders, the sequence of competition will be in order of registration.
12. All point horses/Nonmember first horses run first then other non-point horses. (2012-2013)
13. If a rider needs assistance to get to the running alley, help will be permitted if requested by the contestant.
14. In the event of a tie for sixth place to go to State the decision will be made by choosing the rider who rode the fastest time during that show season instead of deciding by a coin toss or run-off.
15. The ring judges are responsible for disqualifications.
16. A rider will be disqualified if they fail to run the correct or complete pattern even if there is only one rider in the event.
17. **All barrels should be at least 25 feet off the back fence for safety.**
18. If two or more cones are down, the tape will be brought out to re-measure.
19. Rerun due to pattern change: Option of the riders to accept the given time or rerun, if the overall length of the run has not changed. (Acceptable to all pattern events.)
20. A rider can run more than one horse in the point's class. The first horse ran will be for points (no exceptions). **(October 2010)**
21. Let children 12 years and younger ride in both ponies and 1-12 horses. If the child is riding in the pony class, the first pony ridden will be the point pony. He or she must notify the point keeper or sign up crew that the horse is not for points before he or she rides. He or she cannot ride in both classes in the same event for points. The point keeper shouldn't have a problem keeping this separate because he/she knows that the rider can't accumulate points in both ponies and 12 and under horses in the same event. **(July 2011)**
22. If a child in 1-12 rides horses, he can ride in the pony class for money. He/she must notify the point keeper or sign up crew that the pony is not for points before he/she rides. The 1st horse ridden in 12 and under will be the point horse. He/she cannot ride in both classes in the same event for points. The point keeper shouldn't have a problem keeping this separate because he/she knows that a rider can't accumulate points in both ponies and 12 and under horses in the same event. **(July 2011)**

ASSISTED RIDER CLASS

1. In the Assisted Rider Class the participant can be assisted inside the arena and in the chute. The participant can ride a horse or pony. Assistance is not limited to a leadline. Riders in the assisted rider class cannot compete in any other class, such as exhibition and point classes. Assisted riders can advance to a points class in any event any time during the season but cannot return to the assisted class once 'moved up'.

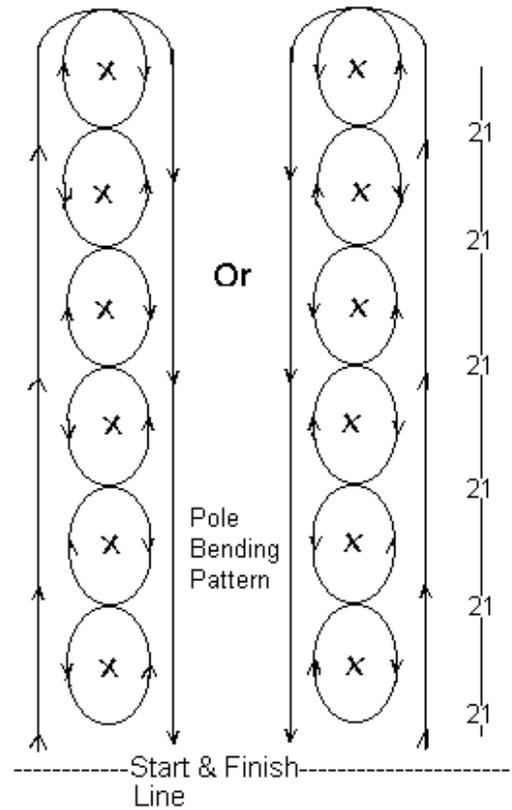
POLEBENDING

There shall be six poles six feet high, white, round 1 1/2" inside diameter PVC pipe. The poles will begin 21 feet from the starting line (clock) and 21 feet between poles on center. There shall be two judges at a reasonable distance behind the clock during this event to determine if dirt or dust breaks the clock. If there is a question of clock failure resulting from dirt or horse/rider, the rider will get a re-ride. Martha Josey pole bases will be used.

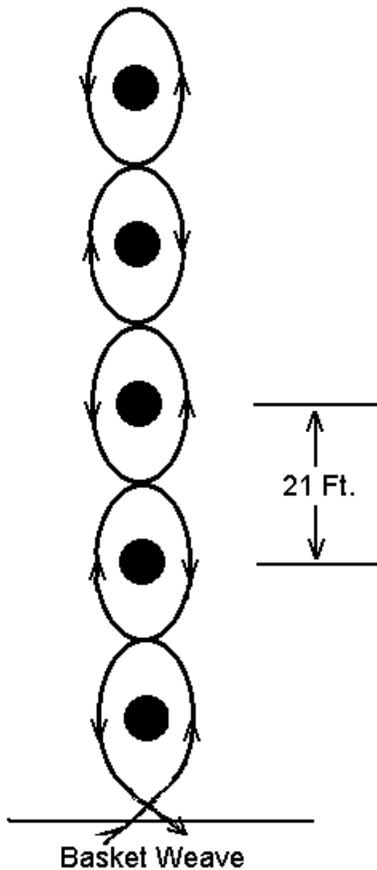
A horse may start either to the right or left of the first pole, and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.

Knocking over a pole or failure to follow the course will cause disqualification.

A diagram of the pole bending pattern is included.



Baskets are spaced 21' apart



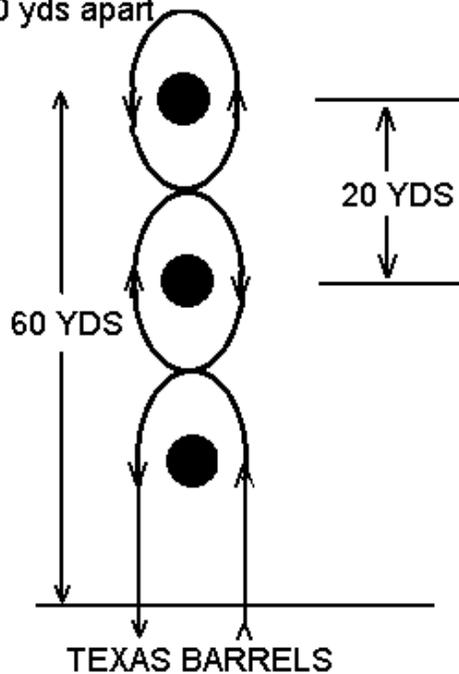
CONE WEAVE

The cone weave pattern is to be run around five cones with 4 inch tops, 21 inches in height with a 14 inch base. These cones are to be placed twenty-one (21) feet from the starting line (clock). There is to be twenty-one (21) feet between each cone at the bottom outside. A horse may start either to the left or to the right and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly. Knocking over a cone, jumping a cone, or failure to run course shall cause disqualification.

A judge **MUST** be standing at the end of the cone pattern in order to qualify riders. Should a horse jump a cone, he cannot be disqualified in the absence of a judge.

A diagram of the cone weave pattern is included.

Barrels are Spaced
20 yds apart



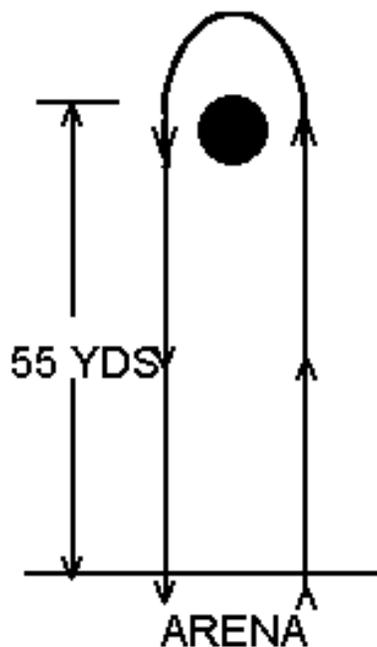
TEXAS BARREL WEAWE

The Texas Barrel Weave Pattern is to be run around three (3) barrels. Each barrel is to be twenty (20) yards apart (center to center), and the first barrel is to be twenty (20) yards from the starting line (chute).

A horse may start either to the right or to the left, and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.

Knocking over a barrel or failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification.

A diagram of the Texas barrel weave pattern is included.



ARENA RACE

The Arena Race is to be run around one barrel placed fifty-five (55) yards to the back of the barrel from the starting line (chute).

Knocking over a barrel or failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification.

A horse may run to the right or left of the barrel.

A diagram of the Arena Race Pattern is included.

CLOVERLEAF

The Cloverleaf barrel pattern is to be around three (3) barrels. The CLOCK will be set 30 feet into arena from chute. The pattern is to be set according the diagram below. If for any reason the arena will not permit these distances, all measurements will be reduced by five (5) yard increments.

The contestant will go to barrel number one, passing to the left of the barrel, complete a 36-degree turn, then on to barrel number two, this time passing to the right with another 360 degree turn, then on to barrel number three, passing to the right with another 360 degree turn around it, and then on to the finish line.

Horse can run to barrel number two first and complete the pattern in reverse to the above described pattern.

Knocking over a barrel or failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification.

A diagram of the cloverleaf pattern is included.

3-D CLOVERLEAF

There will be a \$5.00 entry fee with 70% payback divided among three divisions – no highpoint year end awards and no corresponding State Show class. Payback will be paid in three even pay-outs to each division.

