

GWGRA ROYALTY STANDING RULES
As revised 2/09/2010

Section 1: Pre-Registration

A. Royalty competition information/registration packets will be made available January 1 through January 31.

Packets shall include copies of Royalty Standing Rules, Competition Guidelines, Judges sheets, Horsemanship pattern, and tentative competition schedule.

B. Prospective candidates can obtain information from current Royalty, who are required to make themselves available for consultation, or from the GWGRA Vice President.

C. It is recommended candidates also collect information needed for competition by attending out of town rodeos, working the Gateway Regional Rodeo, IGRA convention, IGRA Finals Rodeo and Royalty Competition.

Section 2: Registration/Requirements

A. All prospective candidates must be active members of GWGRA for at least thirty (30) days and must reside within a 175 mile radius of the St. Louis Arch.

B. All entries must be submitted to a GWGRA Royalty Team Member or GWGRA Vice President by February 1st,

C. All entries must include a non-refundable entry fee of **\$50**. This can be paid by the candidate or a sponsor. This fee will be used toward expenses of sashes and event programs.

D. All entries must choose a 501c non-profit organization with no political or religious affiliation for their respective charity and may not duplicate another candidate's charity.

E. All candidates must raise **\$300, \$150** for their respective 501c non-profit organization charity and \$ 150 for GWGRA by the competition date in order to compete for a GWGRA title. Excess funds will be designated for GWGRA. All funds must be delivered to the GWGRA Vice President or Board designated official as they are raised or submitted within seven days and will be deposited into the GWGRA General Account. Dispersal of the \$150 to the respective charity will be done after the close of competition.

F. All candidates must attend at least two (2) out of town IGRA sanctioned rodeo as well as the Gateway Regional Rodeo (if scheduled) **AND**, by the date of the GWGRA Royalty Competition, all candidates must have competed or are scheduled to compete in at least one (1) Rodeo, **Or** must volunteer for a minimum of four (4) hours in (any capacity, excluding show performances) at an IGRA sanctioned rodeo, excluding the Gateway Regional Rodeo.

G. All contestants must attend a minimum of five (5) general membership meetings and a minimum of four (4) Royalty meetings prior to the competition. The Vice President will verify attendance with the official records of the association.

Section 3: Competition

A. Current Royalty or in the absence of Current Royalty, GWGRA Vice President, is required to set up competition date, location and schedule sometime between December 1 and December 30 of the calendar year, at that time current Royalty will step down.

Royalty reigning year will begin on January 1st and end on December 31st.

B. Royalty Competition expense will be covered by GWGRA. (i.e. location, advertising, etc.) Royalty Committee will submit a budget to GWGRA Board no less than forty five (45) days prior to the Competition.

Section 4: Judges

A. Judges' panel must consist of no less than five (5) and no more than nine (9) members (always an odd number). Consideration should be made to include both male and female, gay and straight if at all possible.

B. Recommended composition of judges' panel is as follows:

1. GWGRA Trustee.
2. Representative of a local AIDS organization.
3. Representative of IGRA (i.e., past/present IGRA Board, Royalty or Trustee).
4. Representative with knowledge and/or experience on horsemanship.
5. Representative with knowledge and/or experience in entertainment.

C. Judges orientation meeting must be set sometime prior to the competition.

Information at the meeting should include the following:

1. Review of judges' sheets and competition rules and guidelines.
2. Sharing of category information and knowledge.
3. Selection of interview questions.
 - a. Current Royalty or in the absence of current royalty, any IGRA member association royalty, GWGRA Board and Judges should submit questions.
 - b. Questions should consist of knowledge of GWGRA, IGRA, Rodeo events and personal commitment to the organization.

D. Judges shall use standardized scoring sheets. (Exhibits 2-7). Included for judges should also be a copy of the horsemanship pattern (Exhibit A), guidelines (Exhibit B) and a copy of judges' guidelines for each category.

E. Judges will not be allowed in the candidates dressing area.

F. Judges and candidates will have no interaction outside of competition events until competition is completed.

Section 5: Tabulation Guidelines

A. The Tabulation Committee will be made up of a minimum of two (2) individuals and a score sheet runner, appointed by the current Royalty or Board designated official. GWGRA Trustee or alternate will verify final results.

B. Each contestant's high and low scores in each category are dropped and the remaining scores added to decide the final score per category. The five category scores are added, per contestant, with the highest total score winning the title.

C. In the event of a tie, the high and low scores in each category are added in for those candidates involved breaking the tie, Should a tie still remain, the highest total interview score breaks the tie.

Section 6: Competition Guidelines

A. Categories and point values:

1. Personal Interview =50 points all candidates
2. Western Wear =25 points all candidates
3. Entertainment =25 points all candidates
4. Horsemanship =25 points all candidates
5. Public Presentation =25 points all candidates

**All contestants must receive 75% of over all score to win a position on the royalty team.
(minus the high and low scores)**

B. Interview will be set for the day of competition, and will be closed to the public. Western Wear, Entertainment, and Public Presentation are set for an evening show that is open to the public. Horsemanship competition will be judged from videotapes in a private viewing for judges. Tapes must be turned into the Competition Committee on the evening prior to the competition.

C. The Competition Committee shall be made up of the current Mr./Ms./Miss/Mster GWGRA or in the absence of current royalty, GWGRA Entertainment/Social/Dance Committee Chairperson, GWGRA Vice-President and GWGRA Trustee. If any of the individuals are candidates, the Board will appoint an alternate.

D. Each candidate must fully compete in all categories of competition. (i.e. must use a real horse in the horsemanship competition.) Failure to compete in all categories will result in disqualification from the entire competition.

E. Candidates must adhere to any special instructions regarding the competition given at any Candidates meetings, with no exceptions.

F. All contestants and competition officials shall neither consume nor be under the influence of intoxicating substances or drugs during any phase of the competition. The Competition Committee shall define the competition phases and ensure that notice is given to the affected individuals prior to the competition.

Section 7: Category Guidelines

A. Personal Interview – current Royalty must provide a list of a minimum of fifty (50) questions to Board forty five (45) days prior to competition for board selection.

1. Personality

2. Plan of Action. A one-page outline/resume type information sheet. It must include name(s), and an outline of plans for Royalty, Fund-raising and Public Outreach. It should also include any past or current Civic and Rodeo involvement. The Candidate must supply seven (7) copies at the interview.

3. Knowledge of IGRA, GWGRA, benefits to the gay community and individual's suitability and sincerity as a representative.

4. Casual Western Wear (Miss must appear in male attire).

5. Communication skills and content of answers.

B. Western Wear

1. Model contemporary western fashions such as could be found in today's western fashion catalogs or in a quality western store.

2. Miss must model female attire and Mster must model male attire, but not stage costumes.

3. Poise, modeling presentation, suitability, style and fit, and general appearance.

C. Entertainment - Talent competition will be a presentation of a "show" routine that is country western in nature.

1. Five (5) minute time limit.

2. Any recorded material used must be on CD (clearly marked with name and number of selection).

The material must be submitted to the Competition Committee on the evening prior to the competition and the contestant by doing so commits to use the material submitted for the entertainment portion of the competition.

3. Presentation shall be done solo.

4. Audience will be asked not to tip during presentation.

5. No props will be allowed, unless determined a necessity for the type of entertainment chosen. Props are any items not worn as part of the costume during the performance. Pre-approval of all questionable items must be obtained from the Competition Committee. Microphones can be used only if the performance is live singing or speaking.

D. Public Presentation:

1. Contestant will be asked one question on stage and will be judged on the following:
 - a. Poise
 - b. Stage presence
 - c. Content of answer
 - d. Confidence
 - e. General presentation
2. Question(s) will be related to gay rodeo, AIDS awareness/education or the gay community as a whole. Questions will be chosen by current royalty from GWGRA or in the event no current royalty exists, any IGRA member association royalty and judging panel. Questions must be submitted to the board forty five (45) days prior to competition for board selection.

E. Horsemanship:

1. These rules are basically the same rules governing the modified reining pattern of the American Quarter Horse Association as amended and approved by IGRA.
2. Judging is to be based generally on the modified reining pattern in the American Quarter Horse Association Handbook. A contestant's performance shall be submitted on a standard VHS tape and shall consist of one (1) unedited continuous performance from one (1) camera. Videotape must be cued at the start point of the performance and viewed one time only by the judges. It is the contestant's responsibility to insure his/her tape is properly cued.
3. The contestant rider will be judged on ability to control mount. Contestant must demonstrate poise, confidence, sportsmanship and showmanship.
4. The Miss contestants complete this portion of competition in male attire,
5. A hackamore, curb or snaffle bit is permissible. Chain curbs are permissible, but must be at least one-half inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") in width and must lie flat against the lower jaw of the horse with a two (2) finger allowance between jaw and chain. No wire curbs, regardless of how padded or covered, nor any chain strap narrower than one-half inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") will be permitted.
6. The following pattern and routine are prescribed. It is essential that judges and riders adhere to it. (Refer to Exhibit A for pattern.)
7. Begin pattern at the end of a defined area comparable to IGRA standard arena. The pattern begins with contestant mounted and walking horse to the first recommended change area.
8. At recommended change, mounted contestant should be in a trot until next recommended change area.
9. At recommended change, mounted contestant should change from trot to lope until the next recommended change area.
10. At recommended change, mounted contestant should break from a lope to a trot and turn toward center of arena.
11. Upon reaching center of arena, mounted contestant should stop and back their mount five (5) feet.
12. The rider may ride with reins in the style in which he/she has been taught. Rider may change hands as necessary.
13. Riders' hands shall be clear of horse and saddle while horse is in motion. Riders' free hand may be resting on riders' thigh while horse is in motion.
14. Romals, quirts, and crops, if worn or carried may not be used.
15. The contesting horse must be properly groomed and in sound condition. All equipment used must be in good and safe repair.

Section 8: Royalty Title Holder Responsibilities

- A.** Upon assuming their respective titles, Mr./Ms./Miss/Mster GWGRA will become co-chairs of the Entertainment/Social/Dance and Fundraising committees and members of the Gateway Regional Rodeo Roundtable committee, with runners-up serving as committee members.
- B.** To help organize and host the following years' Mr./Ms./Miss/Mster Contest, Gateway Regional Rodeo, GWGRA Dance Competition, and Royalty Competition, candidate and judges meetings.
- C.** Winners will represent GWGRA for one rodeo year (January 1st through December 31st). ***Winning represents a possible two (2) year commitment.***
- D.** Each title holder must raise a minimum of **\$600** for a 501c non-profit organization to retain title and remain eligible to compete at the IGRA Royalty Competition. In addition, a minimum of one (1) Fund-raising event **for** IGRA, raising the minimum amount of \$250 as stated in the IGRA standing rules, prior to IGRA application deadline is required. Monies in the royalty funds shall be retained in the GWGRA General Account.
- E.** In coordination with the Public Relations/Media Director, Royalty shall serve as spokesperson for GWGRA, always keeping the organization's image and best interest in his or her mind.
- F.** Royalty is required to attend a minimum of three (3) out of town rodeos, the Gateway Regional Rodeo (if scheduled) and IGRA Royalty Competition. Also, if possible, attend any other rodeo-related events and IGRA Convention.
- G.** Royalty must compete as GWGRA representative for the following year's IGRA Royalty Competition. The entry fee will be paid by GWGRA.
- H.** Royalty buckles and sashes are the financial responsibility of GWGRA.
- I.** Royalty title holders will be awarded a Royalty Buckle within the last quarter of their reign. Title holders and runners-up will have the honor of wearing the sash for that title. Sashes, crown and buckles are the property of GWGRA until completion of responsibilities and rodeo year, at which time Royalty will be awarded the sashes, crown and buckles. Financial responsibility for a replacement crown, sash or buckle if needed, is that of the title holder or runner-up.
- J.** All results of the Mr./Ms./Miss/Mster competition will become a matter of corporate record, and will be made available after announcement of winners. Results will also be distributed to candidates within 30 days after competition, if requested.
- K.** Cost incurred for travel, lodging, etc., with the exceptions approved by the GWGRA Board, are the sole responsibilities of the title holders and runners up.
- L.** Past royalty must make itself available to future royalty for guidance.
- M.** In the event a title holder is unable to complete all responsibilities of his/her title before IGRA competition deadline, then the title will then be passed to their runners-up. Runners-up should be prepared to accept all the responsibilities of his/her title or forfeit.
- N.** All candidates and title holders must reside within a 175 mile radius of the St. Louis Arch for the duration of their reign.

Failure to do so will result in candidate disqualification or revocation of their title. A candidate or title holder may petition the Board for a variance of this rule.

O. Mr./Ms/Miss/Mster GWGRA title holders may not seek, accept or hold any other titles in any other organization during their reign.

P. Failure to comply with rules governing Mr./Ms/Miss/Mster GWGRA can result in disqualification as a candidate or revocation of title and the sash, crown and buckle must be returned to GWGRA.

Q. A candidate or title holder must petition the Board for a variance to any Royalty Standing Rules.

Section 9: Revocation Procedures

A. Any member of current Royalty or current Board may initiate revocation procedures.

B. Revocation petition must be in writing indicating specific examples of failure to conform to obligations as set out in these standing rules.

C. Time and date is to be set by Board for examination of petition and presentation of rebuttal, if any.

D. A two-thirds vote of board members present (quorum) is required for revocation.

E. Royalty member(s) in question will not have a vote during revocation procedures.

F. Absentee ballots will not be allowed for revocation procedures.

G. Reasons for revocation:

1. Intoxication of alcohol or drugs while in sash.
2. Lewd and lascivious behavior while in sash.
3. Public displays of fighting, aggressive behavior, or verbal abuse.
4. Financial irresponsibility including failure to submit proper forms, inaccurate records and absence of receipts and funds.
5. Slanderous comments regarding officials and members of GWGRA, IGRA, and any other IGRA association.
6. Defacing sash, crown, buckle or any other GWGRA property.
7. Failure to comply with Standing Rules
8. Failure to follow board direction
9. If, for any reason, a current GWGRA titleholder does not demonstrate a good faith effort by the end of the sixth (6th) month toward the accomplishment of their duties according to the standing rules, the GWGRA Vice President shall mail a certified letter of reprimand, postmarked within ten (10) days after the first day of the seventh month of the royalty year, to said royalty member.
10. Must be in appropriate attire while in sash. i.e. western wear, no shirtless attire while wearing the sash.

Mr./Ms./Miss/Mster GWGRA. Candidate/Contestant Entry

Form

CATEGORY: Mr. Ms. Miss Mster (circle one)

[] MALE [] FEMALE

NAME: _____

DOB: ___/___/___ (required)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Entry Requirement Checklist:

_____ Name of 501c organization charity: _____

_____ A) Has competed or is scheduled to compete in a minimum of one (1)

sanctioned rodeo event, or

_____ B) Has volunteered or is scheduled to volunteer for a minimum of four (4)

hours (in any capacity) at any I.G.R.A. Sanctioned Rodeo

Rodeo location: _____.

(Check A or B)

_____ **\$50** contestant entry fee check (made payable to GWGRA) must accompany this form.

Association Confirmation to enter GWGRA Candidate program:

I, _____, as Trustee or Board designated official of GWGRA, do hereby verify that the above named contestant has been a member in good standing of GWGRA for at least 30 (thirty) days and is eligible to enter the GWGRA Royalty Candidate program. I confirm that all of the items listed above are complete and true.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

This section to be completed by the GWGRA Vice President or Board designated official.

___ Entry postmarked or hand delivered by deadline date

___ Registration Fee (**\$50**)

___ Plan of Action

___ **\$150** 501c donation completed

___ Western Wear Description

___ Horsemanship Tape

___ Entertainment Material

___ Competed or Volunteered

___ Has attended one (1) IGRA sanctioned rodeo and Gateway Regional Rodeo

___ Has attended three (3) General Membership Meetings

I certify that the above named contestant has met all requirements and is eligible to compete in the GWGRA Royalty Competition.

Signed: _____ Date: _____