GYMPIE COW HORSE CLUB RULE BOOK

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Version Release History

VERSION	DATE	BY	CHANGES
1.0	19/5/2014	J. Guest	Reformat document
1.1	19/5/2014	S. Gilchrist	Update – barrel racing rules
1.2	21/12/2016	S. Gilchrist	Update – all rules up to and including General Meeting 15/12/2016
1.3	6/01/2017	S. Gilchrist	Update – all rules as above and including review by Executive and Judge (Mark)
1.4	5/04/2018	S Gilchrist	Include Team Sorting rules.
1.5	10/01/2019	Tammy Quinlan	Timed Events Points Change & runs. Dress Code.
1.6	21/02/2019	Tammy Quinlan	Stallion, Ribbon & Rider Rule Changes.
1.7	26/02/2020	J.Johnston	No Whips TP arena & Beginner placings.
1.8	0705/2021	L.Urquhart	Update full version of rules
1.9	15/02/2022 09/03/2022	J.Johnston	Juniors age limit & Runs limit. Junior rules reverted back to 18&under.
2.0	10/02/24	H.Clatworthy	Updates
2.1	2026	H. Clatworthy	Updates with new name. Removal of Timed Events.

TEAM PENNING RULES

1. The herd will generally consist of 21 head of cattle. Cattle will wear coloured collars with numbers. There will be three beasts with each number, e.g. from 1 to 7.
2. The herd will be changed after every seven runs unless the decision has been made with remaining teams and the committee that the competition can be completed with those existing cattle.
3. A pen will be set up at one end of the arena. The pen will be set up at the committee's discretion.
4. A white line is drawn separating cattle and riders. This will be used as the cattle line.
5. After the team enters the arena, when the Judge is ready, he/she will give the team a designated colour/number once the front foot of the first horse of the team crosses the cattle line. At this point time will commence.
6. Team will have a designated time (Opens: 1 minute 30 seconds; Juniors, Junior Beginners, Adult Beginners: 2 minutes) in which the event is to be completed with three (3) or less head penned. A warning buzzer/whistle will be sounded when the team has thirty (30) seconds remaining.
7. The time limit for the Pairs competition is 1 minute; only 1 head needs to be penned. There is no warning buzzer/whistle.
8. No more than five (5) head of cattle shall be allowed at any time over the pen side of the cattle line. If there are more than five (5) head of cattle over this line, the team will be disqualified. This rule applies even if the cattle have re-crossed back to the herd side by the time the Judge rings the buzzer/bell.
9. Once all 3 head of designated cattle have crossed to the pen side of the line, all three riders **MUST** cross to pen side of line as soon as practical and pen the cattle. If a rider crosses back to the herd side of the line when all 3 head are on the pen side, the team will be disqualified.
10. Once all 3 riders have crossed to the pen side of the line, regardless of how many of their designated cattle are on the pen side, no rider can go back to the herd side of the line. If a rider crosses back to the herd side, the team will be disqualified.
11. At no stage are horse and rider permitted to enter the pen to remove any incorrect cattle or when claiming time. If you enter the pen, you will be disqualified. The line of the gate will be determined by the judge on the day and will be explained to the competitors before commencement of the competition. All horses must be under control when they reach the gate.
12. To call time, one of the riders must ride to the gateway of the pen in a controlled manner with one arm raised, after some or all of the assigned cattle have been penned. **No more than the neck of the horse should enter the pen. If you turn on the line and your horse's back legs or the back of your saddle cross the claim line, you will be disqualified, even after a time has been given. YOU MUST BACK OUT OF THE PEN.**
13. Time will be recorded when the Judge is satisfied the team has control over penned stock. No time shall be recorded unless all incorrect cattle have returned to herd side of the line.
14. In the event that all claimed cattle have been penned and one (1) or more breaks free, time will still be recorded with remaining penned cattle. The position of break-away cattle will be disregarded.
15. No blocking of cattle in pen by any team member(s) is allowed whilst other cattle are still being sought. This action will result in disqualification.
16. A competitor can compete three (3) times but not in the same team. No 3 riders may ride together more than once per event.
17. A team must compete as a whole team – same three (3) riders, for at least three (3) of the series rounds to qualify for a buckle.
18. No tie-downs or rings or martingales of any type are permitted whilst in the arena.
19. Riders must use split reins for safety reasons.
20. If a run is stopped by the Judge, clocks must be stopped, and a time recorded. A decision will be made at the end of the competition if a re-run is to be awarded. A re-run will not be given if there are placings

with faster times. **JUDGE'S DECISION IS FINAL.**

21. Any rough handling of stock as deemed by the Judge will result in disqualification.
22. No whips/riding crops allowed in the Team Penning Arena during the competition event.
23. The Buckle Series winners will be decided on an aggregate score calculated over the whole season. The winners of the buckles will be the combination which has the greatest number of cattle penned in the fastest time. If there are five rounds in the series, then the maximum number of cattle which a team could pen is 15.
24. Buckles will be awarded to the winning combinations in Open Team Penning; Adult Beginner Team Penning , Pairs Penning and Junior Team Penning. The Junior Beginner Team Penning is not a buckle series but the end of year winners and runners up will receive trophies and/or prizes.
25. If there are no more than 4 teams in a team penning buckle event, then this will not be classed as a buckle series.

At each round of the series, prize money and ribbons will be awarded in each event to 3rd place or 5th place, depending on the number of entries in each event. The amount of prize money is determined by the committee. Other prizes may be awarded depending on sponsorship.

GENERAL TEAM PENNING RULES

ADULT BEGINNERS TEAM PENNING COMPETITION

- This is a buckle series competition unless there are less than four teams in the competition.
- A team consists of two adult beginner riders plus an open rider.
- The same combination rides three times in an event.
- The open rider can be changed for a particular round, but the two beginner riders must stay in that combination to be eligible for end of year prizes. Normal substitution rules apply.
- The scores for each round will be calculated as an aggregate. The number of head and the times taken to pen those head will be added together. The winning team will be the one with the most head penned in the shortest time. The most head that could be penned in a single round of the series would be 9.
- The scores are aggregated over the whole competition to determine the end of year results.
- Ribbons and Prize money will usually be awarded to fifth place each round but the Committee may vary this depending on the number of nominations. Other prizes may be awarded depending on sponsorship.
- If you have won the Adult Beginner Team Penning Buckle, you are no longer a Beginner.
- If you win or place more than 3 times in a competition year, you are no longer a Beginner.
- Competitors who compete or have competed in Open Team Penning Competitions for more than 12 months and have won or placed cannot then compete back in Beginner Team Penning.
- If there are less than 30 runs at each round, only Buckle Series winners go up to Open in the next year.

JUNIOR BEGINNERS TEAM PENNING COMPETITION

- This is NOT a buckle series competition.

- Trophies and/or prizes will be awarded to the winners and runners-up at the end of the season. Other prizes will be at the discretion of the committee.
- A team consists of two junior beginner riders, aged 16 years and under as at the 1st of January of the competition year, plus an open rider.
- The same combination rides three times in an event.
- The open rider can be changed for a particular round, but the two junior beginner riders must stay in that combination to be eligible for end of year prizes. Normal substitution rules apply.
- The scores for each round will be calculated as an aggregate. The number of head and the times taken to pen those head will be added together. The winning team will be the one with the most head penned in the shortest time. The most head that could be penned in a single round of the competition would be 9.
- The scores are aggregated over the whole competition to determine the end of year results.
- Ribbons and Prize money will usually be awarded to third place each round but the Committee may vary this depending on the number of nominations. Other prizes may be awarded depending on sponsorship.

- **NORMAL TEAM PENNING RULES APPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS:**
- The Open rider cannot cut out a beast from the herd.
- The Open Rider can claim time.
- The Open rider does not pay a nomination fee and is not eligible for prizes.
- The maximum time allowed is 2 minutes.

JUNIOR TEAM PENNING COMPETITION

- A Junior rider is aged 18 years and under as at 1st January of the competition year.
- Juniors may ride in the Open Team Penning as a substitute.
- Juniors may ride in the Open Team Penning but must be in a different combination.
- Juniors are not permitted to ride and/or handle stallions within the perimeters of the grounds.
- A Junior team consists of a minimum of four riders. Each combination of three riders competes once per round.
- The maximum time allowed for Junior teams is 2 minutes.
- Prize money and ribbons will be awarded to third or fifth place, depending on the number of entries in the event. Other prizes may be awarded depending on sponsorship.
- The Junior Competition is a Buckle Series UNLESS there are only four teams or less in the competition. If it is decided that there are not enough teams for a buckle Series, other prizes will be awarded at the end of the year at the discretion of the Committee.
- All other general team penning rules apply to the Junior Competition.

OPEN TEAM PENNING COMPETITION

- Open Team Penning is open to any age
- Juniors can compete in Open Team Penning and Juniors BUT NOT IN THE SAME TEAMS
- Juniors competing in Open cannot compete/sub in Beginners or Junior Beginner (as Junior rider).

SUBSTITUTES:

- An Adult Beginner rider may substitute in the Open Competition (any person who has only had 3 runs over the weekend).
- A Junior Beginner rider who is 18 or under may substitute for the Junior Team Penning.
- Only 2 substitutes are allowed per team per series for the team to qualify for points. In this case, "team" refers to the whole group of 4 or more riders who ride in different combinations, not each combination. In a team of 4 riders, the combinations would be:
  Rider 1, Rider 2, Rider 3;
  Rider 4, Rider 1, Rider 2;
  Rider 3, Rider 4, Rider 1;
  Rider 2, Rider 3; Rider 4. There can only be 2 substitutes in total for the series.
- An Open rider cannot substitute in the Adult Beginners competition.

RANCH SORTING RULES

- A Ranch sorting team consists of two horses and riders.
- There will be eight head of cattle at one end of the sorting arena marked with numbers 1 to 7 and one cleanskin.
- When the team enters the arena and the gate has been shut, the judge will call the team up ready to start. The team will start on the empty side of the pen. The judge will call your number and when the nose of the first horse breaks the centre gate line, time will commence. You have a maximum of 60 seconds to sort the cattle. When the buzzer/whistle/bell sounds at the end of 60 seconds, your score will be the number of head which you have sorted at that time.
- The whole of the cow must cross the line into the second pen to be counted. If the final hooter rings and a cow is still crossing the line, that cow will not be counted.
- Your first cow will be the number which the judge has called and you will continue to sort in ascending numerical order. For example, if your number is 3 you must first sort 3, then 4,5,6,7,1,2.
- The run is deemed to be over when the 7th beast fully crosses the gate line and both riders are in the pen with the cleanskin. Riders do not have to raise their hands to claim time.
- Horses must not break the line of the gate after the last beast has crossed. If this happens, the team will be disqualified. Once a time has been given, riders may cross into the pen to move cattle back to the starting pen.
- If the cleanskin crosses the line at any time, the team will be disqualified.

- If any of the cattle cross the line in the wrong order, the team will be disqualified.
- If two head of cattle with sequential numbers cross the line close together, the judge will determine the order from when the nose of the first beast crosses. If the team needs 6 then 7 and the nose of 6 crosses first, followed closely by 7, the run continues. If 7 manages to get its nose past 6 at the gate, then the team will be disqualified.
- If any cattle which have been sorted cross back over the line into the original pen, the team will be disqualified.
- At 60 seconds, the number of cattle successfully sorted will be recorded.

NOVELTIES

- Age is at the 1st of January in the competition year.
- Lead liners must be led by a person who is 16 years and over.
- Riders must be in control of their horse at all times.
- All children under the age of 16 must be supervised at all times.
- Novelty events will be run at the discretion of the Novelties Co-Ordinator.
- All Novelties nominations must be completed online and payments made online.

FIRST AID

- It would be reasonable that a First Aid Officer at a GCHC event must hold either a current recognised Senior First Aid Certificate or Nursing qualification.
- At events, there should be present as a minimum requirement, a person holding a current senior first aid certificate.

DISPUTE

Disputes, in Judge's decision, **MUST** be handled through correct procedures, i.e.: a fee of $50 up front and complaint must be lodged with the committee. during competition. Judges may only be approached or questioned by a single team member in direct relation to their own team/s run. If this is breached, that team will receive a fine of $50 and will be disqualified from that competition with loss of series points.

CATTLE WELFARE

A cattle coordinator will be appointed for each cattle event. The role of the cattle coordinator is to supervise the cattle and to ensure their welfare at all times.

This supervision includes that all cattle:

-are to be fed, watered and transported in accordance with normal husbandry methods

-are to be inspected and any injured animals to be treated and placed in a situation to relieve stress as soon as practical

-are monitored to ensure that no rough handling occurs. If a person is involved in rough handling of cattle, if agreed by the management committee, the person will be given a first and final warning. If they are seen mishandling stock again they will be disqualified from events for the weekend.

- are not in distress at any time. If an animal is thought to be in distress, appropriate treatment will be sought immediately.

HORSE/LIVESTOCK WELFARE

-Any act of abuse or intent to abuse an animal whilst in the arena or on the grounds which could also endanger the safety of other persons or animals will not be tolerated at any time.
-Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner whilst in the arena or on the grounds is prohibited. Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to:

- Riding of a crippled, injured or lame animal
- Riding of a horse with a health abnormality which could result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress
- Abuse of an animal which includes excessive jerking, spurring, whipping or any other act intended to cause trauma or injury to the animal

-If any horse shows blood or signs of bleeding on its side which was caused by or may have been caused by the use of spurs, it must immediately be retired for the day from the competition, event or clinic. The horse must be immediately unsaddled and the scrape, cut or wound immediately attended to. The use of spurs in a cruel manner will result in immediate disqualification of the rider from the competition.

If an animal is injured, appropriate assistance will be provided. If a decision is made to put an animal down, it will be disposed of humanely and as quickly as possible.

GENERAL RULES

- Competitors will not tell Committee how to run the event.
- There can only be 1 person/rider upon a horse at any time within the GCHC grounds, (1Horse 1Rider).
- The Committee reserves the right to alter or change the program at any given time. Committee reserves the right to refuse or allow nominations on the day.
- No competitor shall conduct himself or herself in any way which in the opinion of the committee brings ill repute upon the committee.
- Any competitor considered being under the influence of alcohol or drugs may be suspended or disqualified.
- A competitor who refuses to obey the direction of any officiating steward may be refused the right of competing in any further events.
- If a child under the age of 18 has a fall off a horse or has an accident whilst on the GCHC grounds, final responsibility of the health and welfare of the child rests with the parent/guardian verified with a signed document by the parent/guardian and recorded in Incident Report Book.

- A RED RIBBON is to be worn in a horse's tail to warn other riders as follows:

- **To indicate that the horse is a STALLION.**
- **To indicate that the horse may kick or be aggressive with any other horse or person.**

This rule will be enforced.

STALLIONS:

- The owner must inform the committee if they wish to bring a stallion to a competition.
- The horse mut be double collared if it is tied up.
- The horse must wear a red tail ribbon.
- Must be allocated a yard which has been pre-approved by the management committee.

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BEHAVIOUR

- Any competitor found guilty of cheating, in any way, attempting to defraud a committee to promoter, abusing or threatening any judge or other office will be liable for suspension or disqualification depending on the nature and severity of the offence. Any competitor found guilty of an offence shall have his or her nominations refused by the committee for such a period as the Executive Committee may determine.
- Bad behaviour will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely. Suspensions will be given where deemed necessary.

DRESS

- General appearance to be neat and tidy – long sleeved shirt with collar (short sleeve not acceptable), brimmed hat or Helmet, long pants and riding boots. Should an Official deem a competitor to be wearing unsuitable attire he or she may be called from the arena and asked to change attire or be disqualified for non-compliance.
- All riders under 18 years old must wear a Helmet, with the chin strap fastened, whilst on a horse on GCHC grounds.

MEMBERSHIP

- Only full members of GHRA will receive points towards the series.
- Any teams with day members competing in the buckle series are not eligible for points to their end of year total.
- Junior members must have written permission from Parent/Guardian.
- Anyone over the age of 18 must take out their own single membership.
- A family membership is parent/s or legal guardian/s and children under 18
- Single members under 18 must have parent or guardian to sign membership form.
- GCHC reserves the right to cancel a membership at any time.

JUDGES

-There is to be one Judge at all times.

-Judges decision is final. This includes:

- No video or photo evidence will override the judge's decision. No one else's opinions will override the judge's decision.
- in the event of cattle being distressed, showing lameness, bleeding or attempting to horn a horse, the judge shall terminate the run and may agree to a re run at the end of the competition.
- any team exhibiting unnecessary rough handling or rushing into the mob at excessive speed, may result in disqualification at the judge's discretion.
- Cattle may not be shouldered or pushed by either horse or rider during their run. Abuse of cattle or horses will be the cause of immediate disqualification from the judge.
- Cattle are not to be illtreated at any time including unintentionally running the beast into the arena fence and team may be disqualified by the judge for ill treatment.
- If a run is stopped by the Judge, clocks must be stopped and a time recorded. A decision will be made at the end of the competition if a re-run is to be awarded. A re-run will not be given if there are placings with faster times.
- If a rider falls from horse in competition it will be the judge's decision whether the rider is in danger and if so the team will be disqualified. The Judge will decide whether the run is to continue or not.

There will be no blocking or chasing cattle on foot.

All Judges must be competent and conversant with the rules of GCHC.

COMPLAINTS

- All complaints are to be in writing and are to be accompanied by a fee of $50. This will be refunded if the complaint is found valid.
- Any complaints on competition days must be given within 1 hour of completion of that event by a competitor in that said event.
- If the issue does not involve or affect you, you must not enter into the discussion and you may be referred for disciplinary action.

NOMINATIONS

- Any preferences for your run should be asked for when you nominate, otherwise you will not be able to alter once nominations close.
- All nominations are to be completed online via the website and fees paid directly to the club's bank account.
- Any person who nominates and doesn't turn up without notifying the Nominations Secretary, will have their name recorded, after 3 times they will be suspended for one (1) month.
- Anyone who has not paid prior to the event will be taken out of the draw and charged a cancellation fee plus stock fee as determined by the committee.

REFUND

- Requests for withdrawal from an event or contest and the return of nomination fee will not be considered less than 72 hours before the event, except in the case of injury to competitor or animal. (Medical certificate required)
- Refunds will be made where the whole event is cancelled.
- Should rain fall during a scheduled day and the Committee decides that the grounds are not safe, the event or events are to be called off.

VOTING AT AGM

- No proxy votes allowed.
- All nominations for executive committee positions must be in writing
- All voting is carried out under the current constitution guidelines

GROUND USE

- Neither the organising committee of any contest held at the grounds, or the GCHC committee, accept any liability for any accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, ground, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever.
- Members may hire the grounds if they have public liability insurance. This must be provided when completing the grounds hire agreement. Hire fee & Bond payable at time of booking.
- Members may use the grounds with the approval of the management committee and payment of a fee which will be determined by the committee.
- You must leave a completed Horse Health Declaration each time you ride at the grounds.
- If you are under 18 you must wear a helmet ANYTIME YOU ARE ON A HORSE ON THE GROUNDS.
- If you are not a member you MUST NOT RIDE A HORSE ANYTIME ON THE GROUNDS.
- You may NOT use the grounds to conduct paid lessons or receive lessons that you are paying for either in money or kind.
- To gain permission for use the grounds you must email the committee at general@gympiehorseandrodeoassociation.com.au.
- Permission must be granted prior to entering the grounds.
- You must not pass the gate code on to anyone.

- You must follow the club's Bio Security Plan at all times.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT POINTS

- Manure is to be removed from yards and spread over the grassed areas as directed by the committee.
- Rubbish Bins are for RUBBISH ONLY. All rubbish must be picked up prior to leaving the grounds; this includes baling twine.
- The area behind the Judge's box, from the Shipping Container to the gate at the other end, is a **HORSE FREE ZONE**. The only exception is during presentations when horses may be in the presentation area.
- Social Media and Website Pages- ***Yearly sponsors are only allowed to advertise on the page; this must be approved by the committee or publicity officer.*** All other posts are to be approved prior to upload.
- Any child under the age of 16 must be supervised at all times by a person over the age of 18 years when they are on GCHC grounds, including the ablutions block and whilst the parent/guardian is riding.

YARDS/CAMPING

- Prior to an event yards may be reserved for the weekend at a cost of $10 per yard. The member must park immediately in front of this yard or as close as possible to the yard. The yard cannot be reserved then the member park elsewhere on the grounds.
- Camping must be nominated and paid with your event nomination otherwise you will not be allowed to camp on the grounds.
- If you park in front of yards that have been booked prior to the event then you will be asked to move to accommodate the member that booked the yards.
- Yards must be cleaned before you leave the grounds. If yards are not cleaned then the member will be charged an additional fee at their next competition.
- Members who purchased panels for their yards may only use these yards when attending an event.

- Any other members may not put a hold on or use the nominated members yard without reserving them for $10 for that weekend through GHRA.
- Yards are not held unless $10 reservation fee has been paid and accepted.
- If there is a dispute with the yard allocation, then the members must contact the executive committee to settle the dispute. The member must provide proof that they have paid for their yard.
- Yards that have not been paid for and allocated by the GCHC committee are available to all members at events. You may only park in front of these yards.