

EPSC General Rules

\In order to maintain a family atmosphere during all events sponsored by the Eastern Plains Saddle Club Inc. any events sanctioned by the Eastern Plains Saddle Club Inc., the following rules of conduct will be observed at all times. This is to include horse shows, gymkhanas, ride nights, clinics, community events, parades and membership meetings.

General Rules –

Article 1. Alcohol

No alcoholic beverages are allowed during the Eastern Plains Saddle Club events. Violators will forfeit awards and be excused from the grounds. Anyone found to be consuming alcohol on the grounds will not be permitted to compete or enter the grounds.

Article 2. Language

No vulgar language shall be used. Use of vulgar language may result in removal of the offending party and may further result in censorship of said party.

Article 3. Stallions

No member, guest, or contestant shall be allowed to ride or handle a stallion on the Eastern Plains Saddle Club Inc. grounds – NO EXCEPTIONS!!

Article 4. Dogs

At no time shall dogs be allowed on the arena grounds during club sponsored or sanctioned events, shows, roping practice, open roping, fun nights, BBQ's, etc. The only exception will be those of the landowner.

Article 5. Littering

No littering. All refuse must be placed in garbage receptacles located around the grounds.

Article 6. Code of Conduct

All participants and spectators are expected to treat fellow competitors, judges, stewards, and spectators with courtesy. No unsportsmanlike conduct such as yelling, intimidation, or harassment. Encourage and support others, especially youth and novice riders.

Membership –

Article 1. Dues

The annual dues for membership of this club shall be \$35.00 per family and \$15.00 for individual members and shall be due January 1 of each year. The dues will not be prorated.

Article 2. Awards Banquet

The annual Awards Banquet night will be held at a time and place to be determined at one of the regular meetings. It is to be held in conjunction with the annual yearend meeting.

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Year End High Point Awards –

Article 1 Requirements

In order for Eastern Plains Saddle Club members to be considered for year-end high point, they must;

- a. Attend at least 1 meeting through the qualifying period of January - November of the award year.
- b. Provide at least four hours of horse event help at any of the Eastern Plains Saddle Club events per family competing for highpoint. Hours may be obtained by family members.
- c. Compete in 2 shows for the Horse Show Year End High Point or 2 gymkhanas for the Gymkhana Year End High Point. The holiday fun shows do not qualify for the year end highpoint.
- d. Compete in at least two-thirds of the classes in their age group offered at the event.
- e. Have no outstanding debt owed to the Eastern Plains Saddle Club.
- f. Be a member in good standing at the time the points are earned.

Code of Conduct –

- a. No Eastern Plains Saddle Club member shall receive monetary payment for work performed at any Eastern Plains Saddle Club sponsored event except in the event that a member is hired as a Judge or Arena Director.
- b. No Eastern Plains Saddle Club member shall receive relief of payment for show and/or gymkhana entries for work performed at any Eastern Plains Saddle Club sponsored event.
- c. Mistreatment and neglect of any animal at any Eastern Plains Saddle Club sponsored event is prohibited.
 1. Mistreatment includes any and every act which causes or unreasonably permits unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering.
 2. Mistreatment includes overusing and/or working a horse to the point of exhaustion.
 3. Neglect includes failure to provide care which is normal or proper for an animal's well-being, ie... not providing proper rest time and hydration.
 4. Abuse includes using an animal with a visible lameness, bleeding, open wounds, broken bones, excessive drainage, visible injuries or excessive heat or swelling. All minor or recovering injuries must be preapproved by the show staff before the horse will be allowed to compete.

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d. Exhibitors/riders shall support the judges and the judging system. If there is cause for a legitimate protest, exhibitors/riders shall bring their protest to Show Management for resolution using the grievance procedure listed below.

e. Anyone paying with a check which is returned marked as “insufficient funds” will owe the Eastern Plains Saddle Club the monetary amount written on the check and will owe an additional \$50 above the written amount as an NSF charge. Anyone not fulfilling a debt owed to the Eastern Plains Saddle Club will be considered not in good standing and all services will cease until the debt and any additional charges are repaid.

Keep in mind that disregarding any of these rules listed above could result in disciplinary action being taken against the offenders by the Board of Directors. Said action could result in the loss of membership.

ALL JUDGING AND HIGHPOINT DECISIONS WILL BE VERIFIED BY THE SHOW STAFF AND ARE FINAL.

Memberships and code of conduct decisions can be appealed in writing to the Board of Directors - not less than 24 hours after the completion of the initial event.

Grievance Procedure

- **Submit a written appeal:** The appeal must be in writing and clearly state the protest matter being appealed, the date and time of the incident.
- **Pay the Fee:** Include the \$50 fee (cash or certified check) with the written appeal
- **Meet the Deadline:** Submit the appeal to EPSC Board of Directors no more than 24 hours after the protest resolution was announced.
- **Understand the Outcome:** The decision of the Board of Directors is final. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is resolved in your favor.

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Pleasure Horse Show Rules

Article 2. Rules and Attire

The pleasure events will be judged based on the 4-H Rule Book, unless otherwise statement in the General Rules, including tack and attire (helmets are not required for Western events but if worn will NOT be penalized). Dress attire must be appropriate for the class entered.

Article 3. Patterns

Reining, Western Riding, English Control and Hunter Hack patterns will be taken from the current 4-H Rule Book. Patterns for Showmanship, Trail, Walk-Trot, and Lead Line classes will be posted.

Article 4. Open (all ages) Leadline and PeeWee Classes

a. The Leadline classes are intended for children that are unable to ride and/or handle the horse alone in a safe manner. The child should be old enough to sit on the horse without assistance from a second person. The horse must be led with a lead attached to a halter by a person 12 years or older. The horse must be led by a person on foot. By definition, a Leadline participant is not controlling their mount.

b. 10 and under Classes are intended for riders who can ride alone, but need verbal guidance. The coach is allowed to enter the arena during the class and stand at the appointed cone.

c. Participants will be eligible to accumulate points towards Leadline or 10 and Under individually. Points earned in Leadline are non-transferable to Under or vice versa. Therefore, a Leadline participant can earn points in the Leadline class **OR** earn points in a 10 and Under class at the same show, however they must be officially entered at the office in the chosen Leadline or 10 and Under class **BEFORE** the class starts. Changes **CANNOT** be made at the gate or during the class. Class points do not combine between Leadline and 10 and Under highpoints.

Article 5. Equipment

Acceptable equipment is listed in the 4H Rule Book with the following exceptions:

- 93-1a - Helmets are optional, but not penalized.
- 91-b & c – Acceptable snaffles and bosals are permitted on horses of any age.
- 101-a – Reins can be one or two handed with a difficulty bonus given for one handed riders

Article 6. Green Horse Classes

The horse must be less than 5 years old and under saddle for less than a year. There will be a rail class and pattern class for the green horses, but neither of these classes will qualify for the daily or yearly highpoints.

Article 7. Class Conduct

a. Classes of three or less may be combined, but will be judged and placed off the age divisions of the exhibitors.

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- b. No stallions or uncontrollable horses are allowed at the shows. The Show management will determine and dismiss any horse deemed to be uncontrollable.
- c. The same horse may not be ridden by more than one exhibitor in the same class and age group. Family hardships must be approved by Show Management.
- d. All horses that kick must be flagged with a red ribbon. Ribbons can be obtained at the office if needed.
- e. The contestant's age is determined as of January 1st.
- f. All participants must wear boots with adequate heels. Long pants are mandatory.
- g. No riding double or bareback riding is allowed on the grounds unless being run as a class within the arena.
- h. All horses must be sound, with no visible lameness, bleeding, open wounds, broken bones, excessive drainage, visible injuries or excessive heat or swelling. Horses in obvious pain, even without any other visible signs will be assessed by the show staff and excused if deemed appropriate. All injuries must be preapproved by the show staff before the horse will be allowed to compete. The show staff reserves the right to require vet approval when deemed necessary.
- i. Contestants using excessive force, poor sportsmanship, abusive methods or neglecting the horse's needs will be excused from the grounds without a refund. **ALL WELFARE AND CONDUCT DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

Article 8. Daily Highpoint

All classes will have placings through 5 places. Daily High Points are open to members and non-members alike in each age group. To be eligible for the daily high point, contestants must enter at least three Western or three English events (excluding Green Horse, and Novice Rider). Points are awarded with first place receiving 5 points, second place 4 points, third place 3 points, and fourth place 2 points and fifth place 1 point. Any ties in point totals will be broken by the highest placing contestant in Showmanship.

Gymkhana Rules –

Article 1. Dates

May 9th – Gymkhana Series @ Livestock Exchange Sale Barn Arena

August 8th - Gymkhana Series @ Livestock Exchange Sale Barn Arena

Article 2. Rules and Attire

The Gymkhana events will be run using the 4-H Rule Book, including tack and attire with two exceptions. T-shirts may be worn in place of long sleeve western shirts and baseball caps or visors are allowed. No tank tops or string tops allowed (3 finger width is required at a minimum). Long pants are mandatory. Western hats are optional. The use of approved ASTM/SEI helmets is encouraged.

Article 3. Safety

For safety reasons, it is permissible and encouraged to dismount and lead your horse into the arena if there is any difficulty riding in. The Show Management will determine and dismiss any horse deemed uncontrollable. See above Article regarding use of helmets. No riding double or bareback riding is allowed on the grounds unless in the arena for a class.

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Article 4. Open (all ages) Leadline and 10 and Under Classes

a. The Leadline classes are intended for children that are unable to ride and/or handle the horse alone in a safe manner. The child should be old enough to sit on the horse without assistance from a second person. The horse must be led with a lead attached to a halter by a person 12 years or older. The horse must be led by a person on foot. By definition, a Leadline participant is not controlling their mount.

b. 10 and Under Classes are intended for riders who can ride alone, but need verbal guidance. The coach is allowed to enter the arena during the class and must remain behind the timer line.

c. Should the rider choose to participate in a 10 and Under class in which they have control over their mount, they will no longer be considered a Lead line participant for that class, and they will be ineligible to accumulate points towards the year end highpoint in Leadline for that class. However, these participants will be eligible to accumulate points toward the age division they are competing in. Points earned in Lead line are non-transferable to another age division. Therefore, a Leadline is a non-pointed class and cannot earn points, but a rider can earn points in a 10 and Under class, however they must be officially entered at the office in the proper age group BEFORE the class starts. The points do not combine Leadline and 10 and Under highpoints.

Article 5. Gymkhana Conduct

a. No stallions or uncontrollable horses are allowed at the gymkhana. The Show Management will determine and dismiss any horse deemed to be uncontrollable.

b. All horses that kick must be flagged with a red ribbon. Ribbons can be obtained at the office if needed.

c. The contestant's age is determined as of January 1st.

d. All participants must wear boots with adequate heels. Long pants are mandatory.

e. A 5-second penalty is assessed for any item dropped in the arena such as a cell phone, sunglasses, etc.

f. All horses must be sound, with no visible lameness, bleeding, open wounds, broken bones, excessive drainage, visible injuries or excessive heat or swelling. Horses in obvious pain, even without any other visible signs will be assessed by the show staff and excused if deemed appropriate. All injuries must be preapproved by the show staff before the horse will be allowed to compete. The show staff reserves the right to require vet approval when deemed necessary.

g. Contestants using excessive force, poor sportsmanship, abusive methods, not providing water or overworking the horse will be excused from the grounds without a refund.

Article 6. Daily Highpoint

All classes will have placings through 5 places. Daily High Points are open to members and non-members alike and will be given in each of the age groups, including Lead line. Points are awarded with first place receiving 5 points, second place 4 points, third place 3 points, fourth place 2 points and fifth place 1 point. Any ties in point totals will be broken by the fastest time in Barrels.