



GREATER HOUSTON QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Serving and Promoting the Horse Industry in Texas since 1962

[www.ghqha.org](http://www.ghqha.org)

# 2023 All Breed Open Show Rulebook

## Four Show Dates<sup>1</sup>

2 Day Performance and Ranch Show-January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
2 Day Performance and Ranch Show-May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
(Fall dates TBD)

Registration Opens at 7:00 a.m.  
Halter Registration closes at 7:30 a.m.  
Start Time: 8:00 a.m.

Please enter so that your registration is received by our Show Secretary by midnight the Wednesday before the show. If you do not make it to the show, you will not be charged.

Daily High Point and Reserve High Point awards will be given to GHQHA members in four divisions (Small fry, Walk/Trot, Walk/Trot/Lope, and Ranch) at each show!

Must show in Halter in Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Lope Divisions or Ranch Conformation in the Ranch Division and at least three (3) performance classes in your division at each show to qualify for Daily High Point.

## Show Locations:

Shows are at multiple locations. Check our website or Facebook page for locations and directions.

For more information about our club and shows, please go to our Website at [www.ghqha.com](http://www.ghqha.com). Please Like us on Facebook to receive the latest club news: Greater Houston Quarter Horse Association, or contact:

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<sup>1</sup> The Greater Houston Quarter Horse Associate reserves the right to reschedule, cancel, or relocate shows.

## **2023 GENERAL SHOW RULES AND POLICIES**

**The 2023 AQHA Official Handbook will govern all GHQHA shows with the exception of any rule stated in the 2023 GHQHA Rule Book. We want our shows to be fun, fair, competitive, and most importantly safe! Your cooperation in following the rules will be greatly appreciated.**

**Properly Executed Liability Releases for GHQHA Required** - All exhibitors must sign the attached Hold Harmless Agreement and Montgomery County Liability Release before entries will be accepted. Minors under the age of 18 must have a Hold Harmless Agreement signed by a parent or legal guardian. Hold Harmless Agreements will be kept on file in alphabetical order indefinitely.

### **WARNING**

**Under Texas Law (Chapter 87, Civil Practices And Remedies Code), a farm animal professional or livestock show sponsor is not liable for any injury to or the death of a participant in farm animal activities or livestock shows resulting from the inherent risks of farm animal activities and livestock shows. Definition of a "farm animal" includes an equine animal according to State law.**

**Early Entries** - Please enter early online or by mailing, emailing or faxing your entry form so it is received by our Show Secretary by midnight, Wednesday before the show. In the event you enter early and do not come to the show, you will NOT be charged.

**No Appeals** - The decision of the judge is final.

**Divisions** - There are three (3) divisions: Small Fry, Walk/Trot , and Walk/Trot/Lope-Canter. **No horse/exhibitor team may crossover between divisions.**

**Age Groups** - Exhibitor's age will be determined as of January 1, 2023. There are four(4) age groups for the purpose of High Point/Reserve High Point calculations in the Walk/Trot, Walk/Trot/Lope, and Ranch Divisions: Small Fry, 13 and Under, 14 - 18, and 19 and Over. Exhibitors in Youth Halter classes must be 18 years old or younger. Youth must show in YOUTH HALTER CLASS.

**Accuracy and Completeness of Entry Form** - Exhibitor is responsible for insuring the accuracy of the information filled out on the entry form. The complete registered name of any registered horse must be appear on the entry form.

**Current Negative Coggins Test** - Copy of current negative Coggins is required at time of entry. Grace period is not permitted. Please attach a copy to the entry form.

**Paint Alternative Competition (PAC)** - If you will be receiving PAC points for your participation, please attach a copy of your horse's APHA registration papers to the entry form. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to complete the breed association form and to pick it up from the show office before leaving the show. Combining Classes - GHQHA reserves the right to combine classes with less than three entries.

**Adds and Scratches** - Adds/Scratches should be done in the show office at least two (2) classes prior to the added/scratched class whenever possible. Adds/Scratches will be accepted at the gate if necessary. There will be no refunds for scratches unless the horse or exhibitor becomes ill or injured during the show.

**No horse may be shown by two or more exhibitors in the same class.**

**Dress Code** - Boots, hats or helmets, and collared shirts with short or long sleeves are required. No sleeveless shirts, no t-shirts, no tank tops, no shorts. Chaps are optional. Wearing jackets in Hunter Under Saddle and Hunt Seat Equitation is at the discretion of the judge. For the Ranch Division, AQHA rules will apply.

**Approved Equipment** - The current AQHA Handbook will be used to determine acceptable equipment for all classes. (continued on next page)

**Ponies and Miniature Horses, Donkeys, and Mules** - Ponies/Minis must not be taller than 14 hands at the withers. Donkeys and mules are welcome!

**Walk/Trot Ranch Riding Classes** - A modified pattern utilizing one-half of the arena may be used at the judge's discretion. Extended jog will be used where a lope is called for in the pattern.

**Walk/Trot Trail 13 and Under Class** - Exhibitor will be required to walk through the gate but will not be judged on working the gate.

**Judged Lead Line Class** - Lead Line class is for riders 8 years old and younger. 1st through 6th place ribbons will be awarded.

**Attire:** Riders and handlers may dress either English with English tack or Western with Western tack. A hat or helmet, boots, jeans and collared shirt with short or long sleeves must be worn by the rider and should be worn by the handler.

**Equipment:** A halter must be worn under the bridle. A lead line must be attached to the halter. Lead chains may not be attached under the chin, over the nose, or to the bit of the horse. Reins must be attached to the bit.

**Judging Criteria:** The class will be placed based on horsemanship and attire of the rider, showmanship and attire of the handler, and overall presentation.

**No Rail Work in Pattern Classes** - Due to time constraints, rail work will not be required in Horsemanship and Hunt Seat Equitation classes.

**Spectators and Children** - We respectfully ask that spectators stand back from the arena rails and gate and speak softly whenever an exhibitor passes by in the arena. Children must be closely supervised at all times. Please do not allow your children to run up and down the bleachers, stairs, or along the rail or to throw dirt or rocks.

**Please Treat Others as You Would Like to Be Treated** - All exhibitors and members are expected to be courteous, polite, and respectful at all shows and events.

**Inappropriate Behavior** - Our club is family-oriented. Vulgar language, loud/disruptive noise or language, and/or dangerous, rude, or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. GHQHA reserves the right to require anyone to leave the show grounds at any time. Law enforcement may be called if necessary.

**Control of Horses** - Horses must remain under control at all times. GHQHA reserves the right to ask that any unruly horse be removed from the show grounds at any time. Entry fees and office fees will NOT be refunded.

**Control of Pets** - All pets must be tied up or on a leash at all times while on the show grounds and parking lot. You are responsible for your dog's behavior, including bites to people or other dogs, excessive barking, and aggressive or any other disruptive behavior. GHQHA reserves the right to ask you to remove your dog from the arena/concession stand area.

**Animal Abuse** - Animal abuse will not be tolerated anywhere on the show grounds. Please refer to AQHA's Animal Welfare Statement on page 10 of this rule book. Any person seen abusing any animal will be told to leave the show grounds and will not be allowed to show at GHQHA shows for the remainder of the year.

**Respect for Show Property** - Horses may not be tied to any arena rail or fence as specified by signs on show grounds. Do not park on the asphalt lot near the ball fields. We are required by the County to pick up all trash before we leave. **Please discard all trash in a proper waste receptacle before you leave the show grounds.**

**Presentation of Daily High Point Awards** - Daily High Point Awards will be presented at the end of each show. Good Luck!

## ARENA ETIQUETTE

**Exhibitor Number** - Please be sure your exhibitor number is adequately fastened and completely visible. Numbers should be placed on both sides of the horse in riding classes. Please

**Be Ready to Show** - Exhibitors are expected to be ready at the gate for their classes. Each class will be called three (3) times. Exhibitors not at the gate when the class is entering the arena will be scratched, and class fee will not be refunded.

**Please Pay Attention** - Please follow the instructions of the ring steward, judge, and/or announcer in a timely manner.

**Unruly Horse in a Class** - Schooling your horse in the arena in a manner that could disrupt other exhibitors is not be permitted. If a horse becomes unruly, the rider should pull to the center of the arena and await instructions from the ring steward or judge.

**Passing** - Please help prevent accidents. Allow at least two (2) horse lengths between you and the horse in front of you in rail classes at all times. Should you need to pass, please allow two (2) horse lengths between you and the horse you are passing.

**Tack Changes** - If you will need a brief tack change, please notify the gatekeeper immediately.

**Exiting the Arena** - Ribbons will be available for pick-up by the concession stand. Please do not congregate in the alleyway when exiting the arena.

## DAILY SHOW AWARDS

**Class Awards** - 1st through 6th Place class ribbons will be awarded at each show.

**Halter Awards** - Grand and Reserve Champions at Halter for stallions, mares, and geldings, will be awarded at each show.

**Daily High Point** - You must be a GHQHA member in good standing. High point must be declared at time of registration. Daily High Point and Reserve High Point Awards will be presented to GHQHA members in each age division for Small Fry, Walk/Trot, and Walk, Trot, Lope. **IMPORTANT:** To be eligible for Daily High Point Awards, the exhibitor must show in Halter for the Small Fry, Walk/Trot, and Walk/Trot/Lope Divisions or Ranch Conformation in the Ranch Division and at least three performance classes at each show.

## CALCULATION OF POINTS

**Points Based on Horse/Exhibitor Teams** - Points are kept on one exhibitor/one horse team. Those participating in Daily High Point awards will use the same exhibitor number for all shows for the same horse. No crossovers between divisions.

**Qualifications for High Point** - For all divisions, an exhibitor must be a member and must show in halter (if competing in the Walk/ Trot or Walk/Trot/Lope division) or ranch conformation class (if competing in the Ranch division) and at least three performance classes in the division at each show to be eligible for Daily High Point Awards. Points are kept on a one horse/one exhibitor team basis. If showing in more than one halter class,

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halter class for High Point must be specified at time of registration. Showmanship DOES NOT COUNT as a halter class. Showmanship is a performance class.

**Classes that Do Not Count toward High Point** - Classes with an asterisk\* DO NOT COUNT toward High Point. These classes include the daily Grand Champion and Reserve Champion halter classes, the lunge line class, the judged lead line class, English Rail Warm Up, and Western Rail Warm-Up.

**Point System** - Points are calculated using a six (6) point system provided there are at least six (6) entries in the class. If there are less than six (6) horses in a class, points will be based on the number in the class. For example, if there are four (4) horses in the class, points will be 4-3-2-1. If there is only one entry in a class and it is not combined with another class, the exhibitor will receive one point. A horse that enters the arena and gets disqualified counts toward the total number in the class.

**Breaking a Tie** - In the event of a tie for High Point, places will be determined by the most firsts, seconds, etc., and then the most horses placed over. If there is still a tie, a toss of the coin will determine the winner. The loser of the coin toss will be declared Reserve High Point.

**Posting of Daily Show Points** - Points earned by exhibitors will be posted within one week of each show on our Facebook page (Greater Houston Quarter Horse Association) and/or on our website at [www.ghqha.com](http://www.ghqha.com). Exhibitors will have five (5) days after posting to contact GHQHA by email if he/she feels an error has been made.

## LIABILITY RELEASES

The GHQHA Assumption of Risk and Hold Harmless Agreement (see p. 9) and any applicable Authorization and Release of Liability Form from a show venue must be properly completed, signed, and turned in at the time of entry. Releases for minors (17 and under) must be signed by a parent or court-appointed legal guardian.

Liability Releases will be kept in alphabetical order in the show office.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

**GHQHA membership applications are available on our website at [www.ghqha.com](http://www.ghqha.com) or in the show office. All horse enthusiasts are invited to join! All breeds of horses, donkeys, and mules are welcome!**

**Membership dues are payable by cash or check or may be paid with any show entry. You must be a current member to qualify for Daily High Point Awards.** Membership dues are on a calendar year basis from January 1 - December 31 each year. Dues are not refundable.

### Membership Dues:

Youth Membership (per youth)	\$30.00
Adults Only	\$40.00
Family membership	\$50.00

## ENTRY FEES AND OTHER FEES

(Pay with cash or check in Show Office day of show)

**Requirement for Daily High Point Awards:** Members competing for Daily High Point Awards must be in good standing and have all dues paid before showing.

Business sponsorship forms are available on the website to download and print and in the show office.

<b>Office Fees:</b>	<b>Members</b>	\$10.00 per one horse/one rider per judge per show
	<b>Non-Members</b>	\$15.00 per one horse/one rider per judge per show

**Please register early by either online through our website ([www.ghqha.org](http://www.ghqha.org)), mailing, emailing, or faxing your completed entry form to our Show Secretary so that the entry is received by midnight on Wednesday before the show. Early entries are greatly appreciated. Don't worry! If you enter early and don't come to the show, you will NOT be charged for not coming!**

**Receive a \$15.00 discount off your total show fee when your entry form is received by midnight Wednesday before show!**

**Class Fee:** All classes are \$15.00 unless otherwise noted.

**All Day Fees:** For performance shows, \$100. For ranch shows, \$85. All divisions.

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**Warm-Up Class Fees:**     **English Rail Warm-Up Class** (English tack only) - \$ 5.00 each  
                                  **Western Rail Warm-Up Class** (Western tack only) - \$5.00 each.  
                                  Pay in cash at the gate or pay in the show office with show entry.

**Returned Check Fee:** \$30.00 per check

The amount of the returned check and the returned check fee must be paid in cash or by money order prior to or at the next show. GHQHA reserves the right to request payment in cash or by money order at any time.

**Refund Policy:** No refunds for class entry fees will be given unless the horse or exhibitor gets injured or becomes ill during the show. No refunds for disqualification in a class.

**Rescheduling or Canceling a Show:** The Board of Directors reserves the right to cancel a show or reschedule a show using a rain date at its discretion in the event of extenuating circumstances.

## Assumption of Risk and Hold Harmless Agreement for Horse Shows, Clinics, and Other Events and Photography Release

I/We (please print), \_\_\_\_\_, and/or my child/children named here (if applicable), \_\_\_\_\_, wish(es) to attend and/or voluntarily participate in horse shows, clinics, and other events sponsored by the Greater Houston Quarter Horse Association (GHQHA) at various locations on various dates.

I/We understand that during these shows, clinics, and other events, as either a participant or spectator, I or my child/ children (if applicable) will be in close proximity to horses under circumstances which may expose me or my child/ children (if applicable) to inherent risk of accident, injury or death because of the nature and unpredictability of horses, the condition of the grounds and the facility, the actions of others, and the activities in which I or my child/ children (if applicable) will be participating or watching as a spectator.

In consideration of the Greater Houston Quarter Horse Association allowing my or my child's attendance and participation in this show, on behalf of myself, my heirs, administrators, personal representatives, assigns, children and spouse, if any, I/we do hereby agree to hold harmless and not sue or bring any claims, demands, legal actions or cause of action, and any legal liability whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, for any reason against Greater Houston Quarter Horse Association and including, but not limited to, their officers, directors, members, agents, representatives, volunteers, employees, affiliates, and insurers, of and from all claims, demands, causes of action, and any legal liability whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, for any reason.

I/We understand and willingly agree that Greater Houston Quarter Horse Association, its officers, directors, members, agents, representatives, volunteers, employees, affiliates, and insurers are not responsible for any accident, damage, or loss, including but not limited to, bodily injury, death, injury or death to my horse(s), property damage, vandalism, or theft arising out of my or my child's attendance and/or participation, whether caused by the negligence of GHQHA or not.

By signing this release, I/we acknowledge and represent that I/we have read this Assumption of Risk and Hold Harmless Agreement, understand it, and sign it voluntarily as my/our own free act and will, and that no oral representations, statements, or inducements apart from the foregoing agreement have been made.

**Photography Release:** By signing this release, I/we give GHQHA permission to take photographs or videos of myself and/or my child(ren) at GHQHA events and to utilize such photographs and/or videos for promotional and educational purposes.

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SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT 18 YEARS OR OLDER OR PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18

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SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT 18 YEARS OR OLDER OR PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18

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DATE SIGNED

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DATE SIGNED

## AQHA'S STATEMENT OF POSITION ON ANIMAL WELFARE

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH AQHA'S OFFICIAL HANDBOOK, THE FOLLOWING RULES MUST BE ADHERED TO:**

**SHW205. ANIMAL WELFARE.** Every American Quarter Horse shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. This prohibition against inhumane treatment applies to AQHA members and non-members.

**SHW205.1** AQHA members may be held responsible for the actions of their trainers, agents, representatives and/or employees. For violation of this rule, an individual may be disciplined, suspended, fined, denied AQHA privileges, disqualified, expelled from show grounds and/or expelled from AQHA.

**SHW205.2** The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine care, training and exhibition procedures or veterinary standards, would determine to be cruel, abusive or inhumane.

**SHW128. SHOW MANAGERS shall:**

**SHW128.10** upon a report or discovery of inhumane treatment, immediately investigate the incident and report it to AQHA. Show management shall make every effort to obtain the concurrence of any AQHA-approved judge on the grounds or AQHA-authorized personnel, if available. Any verbal or written warning performed by the show manager at a show for inhumane treatment is to be reported in writing to AQHA. If an incident is later reported to AQHA and knowledge is gained that the show manager was present but did not report the incident, this could jeopardize their ability to manage an AQHA-approved show in the future.

**VIO200. INHUMANE TREATMENT.** No person shall treat any horse in an inhumane manner. This prohibition against inhumane treatment applies to AQHA members and non-members. Inhumane treatment shall include, but not be limited to, the prohibited conduct specified below. Inhumane treatment to horses other than American Quarter Horses and other animals used in competition is included in this prohibition as it indicates a general course of dealing with horses which is unacceptable to AQHA.

**VIO200.1** For purposes of this rule, a person responsible for the care of a horse is also responsible for and may be disciplined for the inhumane conduct of their trainers, agents, representatives and employees. For violation of this rule, an individual may be disciplined, suspended, fined, denied AQHA privileges, disqualified, expelled from show grounds and/or expelled from AQHA.

**VIO201.** Inhumane treatment of any horse or any other animal on show grounds is strictly prohibited. Treatment of any horse will be considered inhumane if a person, educated or experienced in accepted equine training techniques, would perceive the conduct of an individual to be inhumane.

**VIO202.** For purposes of this rule, a fines and penalty system has been established based on the severity of the offense. All offenses per VIO204 below will be assigned a minimum level of offense (level 1 = mild; level 2= moderate; level 3 = severe). Depending on the facts of a situation, the level of offense may be increased.

**VIO203.** Warning or Show Ground Removal cards will be issued based on the frequency and level of offense.

**VIO204.** Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to:

**VIO204.1** placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress (min. level 2);

**VIO204.2** leaving a bit in a horse's mouth for extended periods of time so as to cause undue discomfort or distress (min. level 1);

**VIO204.3** tying a horse up or around in a stall or anywhere at an AQHA event in the manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress (min. level 2);

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**VIO204.4** lounging or riding a horse in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress to the horse (min. level 1);

**VIO204.5** tying or fastening any foreign object onto a horse, halter, bridle and/or saddle in order to de-sensitize the horse (min. level 2);

**VIO204.6** use of training techniques or methods such as poling or striking a horse's legs with objects (min. level 2);

**VIO204.7** excessive spurring or whipping (min. level 1);

**VIO204.8** excessive jerking of reins (min. level 1);

**VIO204.9** excessive fencing (min. level 1);

**VIO204.10** excessive spinning (defined as no more than eight (8) consecutive turns in either direction) (min. level 1);

**VIO204.11** schooling over ramped oxers in reverse order (i.e., from highest to lowest instead of lowest to highest) (min. level 1);

**VIO204.12** schooling using rails higher than four (4) feet (min. level 1);

**VIO204.13** use of prohibited equipment, including, but not limited to: saw tooth bits; hock hobbles; tack collars; or tack hackamores; whips used for showmanship; war bridles or like devices; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits; metal bosals (no matter how padded); chambons; headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded), twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag bit); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops; draw reins attached between or around the front legs will not be allowed at AQHA approved events (min. level 2);

**VIO204.14** use of any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the horse's tail (min. level 3);

**VIO204.15** exhibiting a horse which appears to be sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired (min. level 1);

**VIO204.16** intentional or negligent treatment which results in any bleeding – intentional (min. level 3); negligent (min. level 1);

**VIO204.17** applying excessive pressure on or excessively jerking of a halter lead shank or an allowed lip chain (min. level 2);

**VIO204.18** Any other treatment or conduct deemed by a show official to be inhumane or abusive (min. level 1).

**VIO220. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT** or any other form of misconduct that is irresponsible, illegal, indecent, profane, intimidating, threatening or abusive is prohibited. This provision applies to:

**VIO220.1** AQHA members, non-members, exhibitors, trainers, owners, owner representatives, spectators and all other persons on the show grounds of an AQHA-approved event; and

**VIO220.2** AQHA members on the show grounds of an event held in conjunction with an AQHA-approved event; and

**VIO220.3** AQHA members on the show grounds of an event during which an AQHA-approved class is held, regardless of whether the conduct is associated with or occurs during an AQHA-approved class.

**VIO221.** Show management may immediately expel individuals exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct from show grounds and shall file a written report with AQHA concerning the conduct in question.

**VIO510. EXTENT OF SANCTION:** In regard to any violation of AQHA rules and regulations, the Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction to invoke sanction, including revocation or denial of membership privileges, revocation of participation privileges in all AQHA-approved events for a definite or indefinite period, denial of privilege of access or presence on show grounds of an AQHA-approved show, and in addition, assessment of fine not to exceed \$10,000. Executive Committee sanction may include denial of privilege to advertise in AQHA's official publications.