Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs Association

www.georgiafsc.com

Operational Rules and Manual

JUDGED/PLEASURE

Version Date

June 1, 2026

Coastal Empire Association
Coastal Plains Association
Deep Dixie Association
East Georgia Association
Flint River Association
Georgia Mountain Association
Heart of Georgia Association
Northwest Association
South Georgia Association
South Ogeechee Association

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Chapter I: Operational Rules

Article I
Organization Naming

Section 1: The name of the organization is the Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs (GFSC).

Section 2: The Federation was formed on January 29, 1967.

Section 3: The GFSC consist of 10 associations from the state of Georgia which are:

1. Coastal Empire
2. Coastal Plains
3. Deep Dixie
4. East Georgia
5. Flint River
6. Georgia Mountain
7. Heart of Georgia
8. Northwest
9. South Georgia
10. South Ogeechee

Article 2
Purpose and Objectives

Section 1: To promote the equine industry and cultivate cooperation and friendly relationships between statewide associations, their clubs, and communities.

Section 2: To hold an annual state show and enforce a uniform set of rules to be used in all events conducted and sponsored by GFSC's.

Section 3: The calendar of date will be Labor Day weekend to be held at the Georgia National Fair grounds in Perry, GA.

Section 4: The GFSC will be governed by their latest published rule revision during the state show event. The GFSC follows GFSC and AQHA rules.

Section 5: The Federation shall be limited to 10 Associations. If any Association drops out, it will stand at 9.

Section 6: Each Association must abide by the rules of the Federation and ensure their members and participants familiarize themselves with rules governing the Federation.

Section 7: Each Association must be in good standing with the Federation, which includes financial status and consist of enough members to successfully support the hosting of the state show to be eligible as an Association with the Federation.

Section 8: An Association wanting to join the Federation must be voted upon.

Section 9: No Association will be allowed to change dates with another Association.

Section 10: The Federation shall have the choice of sites to hold the state show, not the Host Association.

Section 11: If any changes are made within two weeks of the state show, the Host Association will call each Association's Secretary to inform them. NO EMAIL!

Section 12: Opening ceremonies will be at 7:30 am on Saturday in Reeves Arena with Timed Events starting at 8:00 am in Reaves Arena and with Judged Events starting in Southerland Arena 8:00 a.m. The show will begin at 8:00 am each day in the designated arenas.

Section 13: The Host Association has the option to hold a Memorial Service after opening ceremonies on Saturday or after Cowboy Church on Sunday with a maximum 30-minute time limit (will be included in the year 2019).

Article 3
Officers

Section 1: The officers of GFSC shall include Timed Event Co-Chairman, Judged Event Co-Chairman, Federation Secretary, Webmaster, Federation Treasurer, Federation Co-Treasurer, Grounds Keeper, President, Vice President, State Show Secretary, and a Board of Directors.

Section 2: The Officers of GFSC shall include the following, beginning with elected and permanent positions:

A- Judged/Pleasure Event Co-Chairman- Must be versed in discipline and work with the Chairman to help with clarifying rules and any concerns that arise at the pleasure arena. Also, serves on rules committee to help in assuring all passed proposals are understood and added to the rules as needed. Beginning in the year 2019, this position will be a 3-year term then fall back to a 2-year term in 2021.

B- Federation Secretary- Creates and handles written correspondence involving Federation business and functions. Works with incoming Host Secretary in maintaining forms for state show, program book sheet, updated rules and regulations, etc. This position is permanent until vacated by the current electee.

C- Federation Webmaster – Oversees and manages federation website. This position is permanent until vacated by the current electee.

D- Federation Treasurer- Keep financial records of Federation income and expenses, pay bills, and distribute funds as needed, prepares financial statements for meetings, and attends all meetings. This position shall not be a member of the same household of the Federation President and shall not be related in any way. Must be bonded in the amount of $60,000.00. This position is permanent until vacated by the current electee.

E- Federation Co-Treasurer- Assists with all duties of the treasurer. This position may not be a member of the same household of the Federation President and shall not be related in any way. Must be able to perform all duties of treasurer in the event of their absence. Must be bonded in the amount of $60,000.00. This position is permanent until vacated by an electee.

F- Grounds Keeper- Prepares all event and practice arenas to the satisfaction of GFSC for competition. Performs under the leadership of GFSC. This position is permanent until vacated by electee or terminated by GFSC.

G- President- Chosen annually from the Association hosting the state horse show. They shall have the responsibility of running the state show, which includes all aspects of the show, buying trophies, and securing a judge for the state horse show. Works closely with Chairman to manage the state show. Also, they will pass a complete set of current rules onto the incoming host Association along with all other Federation property.

H- Vice Presidents- The President from each association shall serve as Vice Presidents of the Federation. They will assist in all aspects of the show to ensure smooth running of the state show. If the President of the host Association is in service as Federation President, they have the right to appoint another to represent them in the office of Vice President.

I- State show Secretary- Annual position chosen from the host Association. Duties include keeping minutes, corresponding with member associations, and coordinating state horse show details. The Federation Secretary will serve as a contact and assistant to this position.

J- Board of Directors- shall be made up of one representative from each association as appointed by the President of that Association. They have the authority to set policy regarding the administration of GFSC pertaining to its finances and conduct. They will compile an operation manual to help the host Association with operations of the state show.

K- Public and Vendor Relations: Will be voted into office every three years. The duties of this position will be to promote the Federation through social media and other media outlets throughout the year. Duties for the state show will include organizing special events and obtaining vendors. This position will handle all vendor contracts for the state show. A budget item for PR and the extra events held at the state show will be included in the annual Federation budget presented by the host association.

Article 4
Meetings

Section 1: GFSC shall conduct a minimum of 3 annual meetings, the first to be scheduled in the fall, no later than November 30, the second scheduled late winter to early spring, and the third scheduled early August. The host President can schedule additional meetings as needed.

Section 2: No changes can be made at the fall meeting of the Federation. This meeting will be for discussion of proposed rule changes.

Section 3: Rule changes for next year's state show, not the current year's show, will be voted on at the late winter-early spring meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to have new rules decided upon and in effect prior to the new Federation show year so that associations may be showing in their qualifying shows under the same rules that apply to their classes at the next state show.

Section 4: The early August meeting will be held to confirm upcoming show season classes and finalize any issues that need to be addressed for the current state show.

Section 5: The host Association for the next year must notify each Association President and Secretary two weeks prior to the fall meeting by e-mail with receipt of confirmation required. The mailing must include a completed financial report. Rule change proposals must be brought to this meeting. The Associations making proposals shall provide ample copies so that each Association and Federation representative receives a copy during discussion. The proposals will be voted on at the late winter/early spring meeting after the first of the year.

Section 6: The State Show Secretary shall email copies of the previous meetings minutes to each Association President, Association Secretaries, Federation Secretary, and Federation Chairman within 30 days of each meeting. Also, within 30 days of the first meeting the State Show Secretary will provide a list of all Association representatives, including names, addresses, and phone numbers.

Section 7: Each Association shall have one vote. There must be 51% of the membership present before a business meeting is official and any ruling can be approved.

Section 8: A meeting will be held late afternoon the Friday prior to the state show. Officers of the Host Association must be present and introduced.

Article 5
Dues and Debts

Section 1: Each Association shall pay dues in the amount of $1,000.00 for the purpose of buying trophies, expenses of the judge, and cost of Queen and Princess contests.

Section 2: Dues are to be paid by June 30th each year and are payable to the Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs Association (GFSC).

Section 3: All debts of the Federation shall be settled by September 30.

Section 4: Any debt owed to the Federation by any Association shall be settled by September 30.

Section 5: After all of the bills are paid for the State show all profits be returned to the host club with the payout of profits being done at the August meeting the following year before the next State show.

Article 6
Website

Section 1: The Federation will fund the cost of the website.

Section 2: The responsibility for providing updated information on the website will rotate with each Association in the same order as state show host. Information will be forwarded to the Webmaster who will make appropriate changes.

Article 7
Rules for Entering State Show

Section 1: Each Association shall deliver a list of their eligible riders and all qualified alternates, along with the names of the horses to be ridden or shown for each event to the State Show Secretary by July 15. Information received after this date may not appear in the program book.

Section 2: The President of each Association must sign a statement verifying that their riders have shown in at least 50% of their Association's qualifying shows before the rider can ride or show at the State Show. This includes all alternates.

Section 3: A rider can only ride one horse per class.

Section 4: A rider can only ride in one Association for qualifying points for the state horse show. If their name appears on more than one Associations list, they will be disqualified from participating with either Association.

Section 5: There will be no lead in classes.

A- Individuals with special needs who participate and qualify at local shows can be assisted as needed with pre-approval of the Federation Board through a scheduled meeting prior to the state show.

Section 6: If a rider scratches from a class or event, that rider will not be allowed to change their mind and ride in that event for that show. This covers all classes and events.

Section 7: Each Association can send up to six participants in each class.

Section 8: The age of the rider as of January 1st of the current show season dictates the appropriate class they may ride in and is retained throughout the year. The Georgia Federation show season runs with the State Show. All Associations/Clubs are at liberty to begin their season immediately after the state show ends, however, the class a rider should participate in would be determined by their age as of January 1st following the end of the state show.

Section 9: Active-duty personnel who cannot show in 50% of their association shows will be allowed to show at the Federation show if they have enough points to qualify in the top 6 of their respective classes.

Section 10: Military competitors that received mandatory orders for deployment will be allowed to compete at the Federation show provided they;

A- Competed in local shows
B- Accumulated enough points to qualify for end of the year state show
C- Must provide proof they have mandatory, not voluntary orders, to deploy
D- Will be added to the end of each class they qualify in.

Article 8
Entry Fees

Section 1: An entry fee per class will be charged based on charges imposed by the Fairgrounds. The fee will be announced upon contract completion between Federation and Fairgrounds.

Section 2: An additional two dollars ($2.00) per class will be charged to cover the cost of an Ambulance and EMT on site during the entire state show.

Section 3: When a new class is added it will remain on the show schedule for a probationary period of two years with the cost of the entry fee will be doubled for this two-year period. Each new class must have at least fifty percent participation during the probationary period to remain on the Federation show schedule.

Article 9
Stalls and Rotation

Section 1: Do not take another Association's stalls.

Section 2: Rotations; The Host Association will occupy the stalls closest to the Southerland Arena at the north side of the pleasure barn.

Section 3: Each Association is responsible for providing the Host Association with the names of the rider's stalls and ground fees. Every rider will need one or the other. It is not the responsibility of the Host Association to be concerned with ground fees at the State Show.

Article 10
Vendors

Section1: No vendors will be allowed inside the arena areas or on the grounds outside of the arena areas that would obstruct the moving of horses in and out of gates.

Section 2: Vendors will be administered by the host association. Georgia National Fairgrounds will bill the Federation for all vendors secured by the host association. The vendor's fees are charged per vendor not per booth and includes one table, two chairs, and a drape.

Article 11
Announcer

Section 1: The Host Association is responsible for obtaining a qualified announcer who shall follow all Federation rules pertaining to announcing.

Section 2: The announcer will not cheer, advise of a qualified run, or show any bias toward any rider or event while announcing from the Secretary's table.

Section 3: At the beginning of each class, the announcer may announce for riders not to leave the premises until their class is completed. This will help in the event of a tie or class re-run.

Section 4: A second public address system must be set up so that the speakers are on during the entire show. Adjustments will be made as needed to endure both pleasure and running arenas and all barns have clear access to needed announcements.

Section 5: All barns need first call for pleasure classes everyday.

Section 6: There will be no announcements made during the judging of judged events except from the judge.

Article 12
In Case of Injury

Section 1: Medical assistance will be provided by on-site EMT's and Ambulance service during the entire show. In the event they are tied up with an emergency, 911 must be called for assistance.

Section 2: All available Association Presidents must try to keep people away from the scene of an accident until professional help arrives.

Section 3: Have a veterinarian on site or on call during the state show.

Article 13
Arena Safety

Section 1: The Fairgrounds will provide fourteen inches of dirt in the Southerland Arena for safety of horses and riders (this supersedes the Federation's requirement of 8-12 inches).

Section 2: Auxiliary ring personnel should be alert at all times on the safety of the crowd around the immediate area, i.e., those leaning or sitting directly on the arena fence or any barriers or attachments.

Section 3: Horses must be kept away from the rail on the outside of the arena.

Article 14
Ground Rules

Section 1: There will be no bicycles, 3 or 4 wheelers, Scooters, skates, skateboards, hover boards or any motorized vehicles, etc. allowed in the barns or any area within the perimeters of the arenas. All Association Officers along with Fairground Staff will be responsible for enforcing this rule. This will apply from Friday throughout the duration of the show. In other areas of the fairgrounds, such as parking lots, campgrounds, etc., the use of these types of vehicles will be under the authority of the Fairgrounds.

Section 2: Any dogs at the Federation State Show must be on a leash or stalled at all times. No dog is to be tied up or left unattended. No dogs are allowed in Southerland Arena. No dogs are to be left unattended in stalls in any of the barns.

Section 3: All members with horses in stalls must have an emergency contact number, preferably two, left on the stall door. It is the responsibility of each Association, not the Federation.

Article 15
Work and Grounds Crew

Section 1: Name badges will identify Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Stewards, Chairman, and Co-Chairman. If not furnished by the trophy vendor, they will need to be purchased.

Section 2: Workers on the work schedule shall be at least 17 years old and older and know the rules.

Section 3: Anyone working the arenas and back gates must have on closed toe shoes, no flip-flops or sandals.

Section 4: Two of the workers in the holding areas will keep a record of riders.

Section 5: Each Association will be given a different colored work vest in order to help workers know who they are relieving.

Section 6: The work schedule will be set in equal time increments from beginning to end.

Section 7: Each Association will be assigned a specific place in the arena to work and will be responsible for the location through the entire show. These assigned areas will rotate in the same order as hosting (see example in appendix).

Section 8: Each Association shall provide the secretary table with one contact person along with a working phone number.

Section 9: The secretary desk is not responsible for the actual individual; it is the responsibility of the Association.

Section 10: A list of member's names from each Association will be posted in central locations, in the Pleasure barns, stating their specific location and time that they are scheduled to work.

Section 11: The Associations who do not show up to their assigned work times will be responsible for paying an amount set by the Federation and then forwarded to the Association who covered for them. As of now the fine is $100.

Section 12: For judged events, there shall be three secretaries at the desk, one from the Host Association and two from other Associations, along with three gate workers. The practice gate worker shall assist the check-in gate worker.

Section 14: It is the Association President's responsibility to make sure their members know the responsibilities of the position they are working.

Article 16
Practice

Section 1: The practice schedule will be provided to each Association with the show packets mailed out in May. Arena drag times will be included on the practice schedule. The tractor may only be in the area at the scheduled times.

Section 2: There will be a separate practice time designated for ages pony, 1-12, and gaited only in the arenas.

Section 3: There will be a separate practice time designated for reining classes.

Section 4: Fencing by riders is prohibited in all arenas except during the reining practice time and one practice arena will be open to reiner's only 30 minutes before the reining class starts on Saturday and Sunday.

Section 5: There will be no horses on lunge lines in Southerland Arena, or either of their respective practice arenas. Horses can only be lunged in round pens and uncovered arenas.

Section 6: All pleasure/judged events and practice will be at Southerland Arena and the outside covered arena adjacent to Southerland Arena. No running horses are allowed in this area.

Article 17
Conduct

Section 1: No alcohol will be allowed within 50 feet of Southerland Arena. Each Association President is responsible for their member's compliance.

Section 2: Any participant or spectator who uses profanity in a verbal attack on an official officer or worker at the State Show will be removed from the grounds for the remainder of the State Show.

Section 3: Penalties for not following the Federation rules:

A- Individuals will be given a verbal warning by an officer of the Federation or an Association officer informing them of the rule violation.
B- If the warning is ignored, they will be asked to leave the premises.
C- If they do not leave peacefully, a Security Officer will escort them off the grounds.

Article 18
Points

Section 1: Points in judged/pleasure events will be given to each Association represented by each of the six riders who place in each class. Points will be awarded as follows; 1st place=6 points, 2nd place=5 points, 3rd place=4 points, 4th place=3 points, 5th place=2 points, and 6th place=1 point.

Section 2: This points system will be used uniformly regardless of the number of riders in the class.

Section 3: Points will be posted for everyone to see.

Article 19
Awards

Section 1: Awards for 1st through 6th place in a class shall be the same type of award but may be different sizes. A championship award may include but not limited to trophies, buckles, or custom tack appropriate to the event.

Section 2: Any class with less than six entries at the participant list deadline will only have awards purchased for the number of entries. Any exhibitor adding to a class with less than six entries does so with the understanding that their award will be received by their association at the November federation meeting.

Section 3: The host association will suggest three options for awards to be presented at the state show. The host association will bring these three options to the fall or spring meeting, and it will be voted on by the federation board.

Article 20
General Show Rules

Section 1: The show will not be stopped to look for lost jewelry, wallets, phones, etc. in the arena.

Section 2: There will be no weddings or similar events held during the state show.

Section 3: Communication devices such as Bluetooth, wireless earpieces, etc., shall not be worn by any participant in any class or event.

Section 4: Each Association President, whether they are a running or pleasure President, must make sure they have a counterpart at the state show. Example: If the President is a pleasure person the counterpart will be at the running arena to assist with issues that have to be taken care of during the state show.

Section 5: New rules that pertain to the production of the state show will go into effect at the first state show after the rule is approved. This rule will not affect the rule changes that pertain to qualifying for the state show.

Section 6: Youth participants under the age of twenty are prohibited from showing or riding a stallion.

Section 7: Rules cannot be changed or added at the state show.

Section 8: Selling items from the secretary desk is prohibited.

Section 9: The Fairgrounds require a copy of the current negative coggins, which must be taped to the door of the stalls. If a grounds fee is paid the current coggins copy must be placed somewhere visible where the horse is being tied. It must accompany every horse brought onto the Fairgrounds whether you paid for a stall or grounds fee.

Section 10: Specific rules pertaining judged/pleasure events are in Chapter III.

Section 11: All voting rights and budgets will be split between each discipline (judged and running). Federation treasurer will maintain records of how all monies are to be split between each discipline to allow for future budgeting planning.

Article 21
Pony Rules and Measuring

Section 1: Pony class is defined to include twelve and under riders only in all classes and events.

Section 2: Ponies are required to be fifty inches or less at the wither.

Section 3: There will be a minimum of two pony-measuring times at the state show. The host club can elect to have more scheduled times.

Section 4: It is recommended that there should be one representative from each Association present with a minimum of three representatives from three different Associations when measuring occurs.

Section 5: A current negative coggins test must be provided at the time of measuring.

Section 6: A measuring device of square channel design that is fifty and one quarter inches in height will be provided by the Federation and used to measure at the State Show.

A- 50 ¼ inch device is used because a 50-inch pony cannot fit under a 50-inch device.
B- The pony will pass the measuring process only if both legs of the measuring device sits solidly on the flat surface which must be either a ¾ inch ply wood sheet, a solid wood floor, or a concrete surface.
C- The surface must be checked with a level to assure its flatness.
D- There will be no more pre-measuring or pony cards issued at local shows.

Section 7: All that do not currently have a permanent pony card will be measured and photographed.

A- Ponies will be measured at the withers, standing as a horse is considered "squared up".
B- Ponies cannot be stretched out in any manner.
C- The handler of the pony will only present the pony, by holding the halter or lead line.
D- The handler can pet and calm the pony down.

Section 8: Ponies that currently have a "permanent card" will be required to bring the card and the pony along with other required information to a scheduled measuring time at the state show.

A- Ponies 8 years and older are eligible for a permanent card.
B- Young ponies will have to be re-measured each year until they meet the age requirement for a permanent card.

Section 9: During the measuring of ponies, only the official representatives from each Association, up to two handlers for the pony and the two Host Association measurers will be allowed at the measuring site. All others shall remain away from the measuring area.

A- Ag Center Security will remove any person, who is asked to leave the area by one of the official representatives and refuses to do so.

Section 10: At measuring times, the pony can have two handlers. The pony will be given time to settle down and the pony handler will tell the measuring person when they are ready. If the pony does not measure successfully the first time, the pony can be re-measured but cannot leave the measuring area.

A- There will be an appointed person to watch these ponies while they settle down and are re-measured.
B- The pony must be re-measured in the same condition as it was originally presented (Example: no shoes can be removed, feet trimmed, or medicines given to calm the pony).
C- Only one re-measure will be allowed.

Section 11: Fluorescent paint will be used to mark the measured ponies at the State Show. Ponies need to be painted up higher on the leg, at least to the knee, so that the paint is visible to the individual checking them for the show entry.

Section 12: Permanent cards for qualified ponies will be issued at the state show. Each pony owner will receive a laminated copy of the pony's card stating the pony's name, description, age, owner Association, and photograph.

A- The photograph taken will be from both sides with the pony's face showing in at least one of the photos.
B- The Association and current Federation Presidents will be required to sign the pony measuring card and the form from the Federation stating that the pony was measured of 50 inches or less.
C- All Presidents or those appointed must agree to the eligibility of the pony at the measurement time.
D- The Federation will provide all pony cards and forms.

Section 13: Ponies that are carded and have a copy of their cards can be protested at the state show under protest rules. If re-measured too high, the pony can run at the current state show but not any following state shows without being re-measured. The pony's card will be pulled.

Section 14: A list of ponies and their riders are to be given to the Federation Secretary by each Association Secretary and then furnished to the person overseeing the pony measuring. This will be in alphabetical order by the rider's names. After all ponies are measured, this list will be given to the Host Association President.

Section 15: A rider cannot qualify to ride in both pony and 1-12 classes in the same event. However, they can switch back and forth between classes in different events. The rider must declare by event and horse verses pony where points will count for the running year.

A- The judged events will have a change in pony pleasure and 1-12 pleasure to clarify Western and English (Refer to Chapter III).

Article 22
Rule Protest

Section 1: Association representatives must be individuals who are made to understand that it is their role to enforce rules. They shall only support their member's protest when there are no clear rules governing the protest or a clear violation of rules has occurred. All rules must be strictly enforced.

Section 2: Protest will be accepted up until the lapse of one hour beyond the last ride in the timed events.

Section 3: Every effort will be made to resolve protest during the course of the state show.

A- Efforts will be made to continue the show during the protest.
B- Any protest cannot delay the show for more than 30 minutes

Section 4: Any protest not resolved during the course of the State Show must be accompanied by a written full description of the protest including all parties involved and signed by the protesters Association President. The protest will be addressed at the next formal Federation meeting.

Section 5: If a protest is made at the State Show, the person making the protest must go through their Association President first. There will be a $100.00 non-refundable protest fee payable to the Federation Treasury.

Section 6: Any meeting with the President and delegates to resolve issues will be done in private closed quarters. Entry to the meeting room will only be open to those involved in the issue at hand.

Article 23

Photography

Section 1: The hiring of an official state show photographer no longer exists. Host association is encouraged to advertise for a photographer to pay vendor fee and sell said pictures. However, a backdrop will be furnished by the Host Association, which relates to the current state show for those who want a photo to take their own photograph.

Section 2: No protest or re-run will be allowed due to any flash photography.

Article 24
Audit

Section 1: The audit committee shall consist of the current Federation President, a representative of the incoming Host Association, and a representative of at least two other Associations.

A- This committee shall have full access to all books and information.

Section 2: Prior to submitting the financial statement to the Federation at the fall meeting, the outgoing Host Association must have performed an audit of the treasury.

Article 25
Champions

Section 1: Each year, the previous year's champions of each class will be listed in the State Show Program.

Chapter III: Rules Specific for Judged Events

Article I
General Rules

Section 1: All exhibitors, including alternates, will be assigned a number (in random order) and will wear this number.

Section 2: An Association may send up to six (6) entries in all Judged classes.

Section 3: All barns need first call for pleasure classes every day.

Section 4: Communication devices, such as Bluetooth, wireless ear pieces, etc., shall not be worn by rider/entrants during any class.

Section 5: During all performance events during the state show only horses, participants and workers are allowed in the back of the arena. Children participating in 12 and under classes may be assisted by one person when waiting for their event. All exhibitors will enter the arena single file. The gate crew at the holding area will check off the members as they enter the arena.

Section 6: The gate will be closed after the last exhibitor present (or the last exhibitor in a split) has entered the arena.

Section 7: A three-minute gate call will be enforced. No entering the arena will be permitted after the three-minute gate call has expired. The class is closed.

Section 8: The next performance class should be called by the announcer and exhibitors should be waiting closely in the outside practice arena to enter when called by the gate worker.

Section 9: Judged classes with 20 or more entries (except Halter and Reining classes) will be split into two or three groups of no more than 20 riders. Each group will be divided as evenly as possible. Each split will be labeled Group A, Group B, and Group C and will be published in the program book. The whole "pre-splitting" process will be completely random. Riders may not "trade" splits with any other rider without permission from the Federation President or Show manager.

Section 10: Associations who do not show up to their assigned work time will be responsible for paying the association forced to cover their shift at an amount of $100 which was set by the Federation. Working the State show is a requirement.

Section 11: Arena drag times will be included on the practice schedule. The tractor may only be in the arena at the scheduled times.

Section 12: The arena will be dragged first thing in the morning before the 8 am start of the show and then again before the reining starts.

Section 13: The practice arena drag will take place at the beginning of each scheduled break only and not prior to any classes.

Section 14: There will be a judges fee per rider to be set by the approved budget each year during the Spring federation meeting.

Section 15: The arena needs to be taped off so that golf carts cannot get to the walk-through area between the warm-up arena and the pleasure arena.

Section 16: There will be no bicycles, 3 or 4 wheelers, scooters etc. allowed in the barns or any area within the perimeter of the arenas, including the covered walkways.

Section 17: Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs will follow GFSC rules as well as AQHA, ARHA, and Gaited.

Section 18: Beginning with the 2020 State show English classes will be held first right after showmanship and Gaited classes to be scattered throughout the day and western will finish each day of events.

Article II
The Judge

Section 1: The judge, selected by the Federation (Host) President, must be from a state other than Georgia. A judge cannot judge the State show in two consecutive years.

Section 2: A judge may not judge the state show if that judge has participated in or judged during any state qualifying association shows.

Section 3: The identity of the judge shall be kept secret until the day of the show.

Section 4: The judge shall be an OHSA judge and should be notified that current Federation rules are used, and if the Federation does not have a rule pertaining to said issue AQHA, ARHA, and RHBAA rules will be adhered to.

Section 5: Placing on the scorecards in pleasure classes should be scored by the judge to a minimum of eight placing instead of six. This will prevent the need for a re-ride in classes due to disqualifications

from protests awarded after the class has been dismissed and judged. Six places will be announced and the other two are for internal office use only.

Section 6: The scorecards are to be taken to the Secretary's table immediately upon conclusion of each class for verification of the places by the secretaries.

Section 7: The score cards and results will be posted on back wall for participants to see upon conclusion of each class.

Section 8: In Reining classes, the judge shall use scorecards and submit them at the end of the class. Riders need to see what they did or did not do wrong.

Section 9: The judge shall refrain from any direct communication with anyone outside the arena except the hosting show officials or arena crew while the show is in session.

Section 10: Exhibitors and spectators shall refrain from initiating any direct communication with the judge while the show is in session.

Section 11: The hosting association shall provide a scribe or ring steward for the judge for the duration of the show. The ring steward shall be a highly qualified and experienced person at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Section 12: A separate judge for the Gaited classes may be hired by host association at their expense and discretion, that person shall be certified as a GFSC gaited judge and have the required knowledge and experience to judge the Gaited classes as described in Article III.

Section 13: Any contestant or representative of a contestant who harasses the judge will cause the contestant to lose any accumulated points and will be disqualified from all remaining classes.

Section 14: The judge doesn't have to be PAC approved only the event. The Federation Secretary will be responsible for obtaining PAC approval each year and update the website accordingly. The Federation is not responsible for securing the credits for the participants, only in assuring that the event is PAC approved and providing any needed information to the participant when asked.

Article III:
Judged Event Classes

Definition of events in pleasure are as follows:

1. **Halter**
2. **Showmanship**
3. **Western Pleasure**
4. **Western Horsemanship**
5. **English Pleasure**
6. **English Equitation**
7. **Ranch Riding**
8. **Reining**
9. **Style Gaited**
10. **Flatshod Gaited**
11. **Trail Pleasure Gaited**
12. **Country Pleasure Gaited**
13. **Walk/Jog Pleasure**
14. **Walk/Jog Horsemanship**
15. **Walk/Trot English Pleasure**

16. Walk/Trot English Equitation

Halter
Section 1: Classes
>Weanling/Yearling 20&Over
>Stallions 20&Over
>Geldings 20&Over
>Mares 20&Over
>Pony 1-12
>Youth Mares
>Youth Geldings

Section 2: A horse must be shown in its age group **(example: A weanling/yearling may not be shown in Stallion, Gelding, or Mare)**

Section 3: There will be no assistance from anyone to set up a horse in a halter class.

Section 4: Halter Stallion – All stallions exhibited shall be shown in a properly fitted halter equipped with an AQHA legal stud chain or lip chord.

Gaited:
Section 1: Classes
>Trail Pleasure Gaited 1-19 & 20&Over
>Country Pleasure Gaited 1-19 & 20&Over
>Style Gaited 1-19 & 20&Over
>Flat Shod Gaited 1-19 & 20&Over

Section 2: Guidelines for competition in all Gaited classes will be per current GFSC and Racking Horse Breeders Association rules.

Section 3: Style Gaited: Horses are to be shown at a show walk and style rack. Tack shall be bred-specific to the horse being ridden.

Section 4: Flat Shod Gaited: Horses are to be shown at a show walk, slow rack and fast rack or "rack on". Tack shall be bred specific to the horse being ridden. This class shall be for flat shod horses only.

Section 5: Country Pleasure Gaited: Horses are to be shown at a show walk, slow rack and fast rack. The Country Pleasure horses shall stand quietly and must back readily. No pads are allowed, light shod or bands may be used. Western or English attire may be used but not a combination of both on any one horse.

Section 6: Trail Pleasure Gaited: Horses shall not be required nor expected to maintain qualities such as a high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should show evidence of being collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily, and will be required to perform two gaits: (1) Trail Pleasure Walk and (2) Trail Pleasure Rack. In no instance will speed be considered a factor in judging. He will be flat shod and lightly bitted, but not loose.

Section 7: Communication devices, such as Bluetooth, wireless ear pieces, etc., shall not be worn by riders/entrants during any class.

Princess and Queen Contest:

Section 1: Each association may send one (1) Princess 1-12 and one (1) queen 13-19.

Section 2: The Princess and Queen contest will be judged on horsemanship with a posted pattern.

Section 3: Six places will be awarded for points but all 10 places will be announced. Awards presented to the top six winners are: Trophy, sash stating Georgia Federation Princess or Queen and the year, 1st will receive a dozen (12) red roses, 2nd will receive a half dozen (6) roses, and 3rd thru 6th will receive one (1) rose. Host association has the right to make the decision of giving buckles to the winners at the Host association's expense.

Section 4: The Princess and Queen who win State may not compete again for that title. A winning Princess may compete for Queen when of age.

Pony Pleasure – Western and English:
Section 1: Riders must be 1-12 years of age.

Section 2: Ponies must measure 50" or less at the withers.

Section 3: In their proper class and attire ponies can be shown in either Western or English.

Section 4: No ponies will be allowed to ride in Western Pleasure 1-12 or English Pleasure 1-12.

Section 5: Riders competing in Pony Pleasure may not compete in Western Pleasure 1-12 or English Pleasure 1-12.

Section 6: As there is no Pony horsemanship or Pony Equitation classes, these riders may compete in Western horsemanship 1-12 and English Equitation 1-12 if qualified by their association.

Western Classes:
Section 1: Classes
>Showmanship 1-12
>Showmanship 13-19
>Showmanship 20&Over
>Western Pleasure 1-12, 13-19, 20&Over
>Western Horsemanship 1-12, 13-19, 20&Over
>Ranch Pleasure 1-12, 13-19, 20&Over
>Western Horsemanship 1-12, 13-19, 20&Over

Section 2: The guidelines for this competition will be current GFSC and AQHA rules.

Section 3: In the Western Horsemanship classes, the gate entering the arena is left open. Contestants' line up according to the order listed in the program book. Contestants wait at the gate. When the contestant riding is approximately halfway finished with his/her pattern, the next contestant will move to the designated starting point and wait until the judge acknowledges the start of his/her pattern. Any contestant not in line in the appropriate slot will forfeit their ride.

Section 4: Ranch Pleasure classes will follow GFSC and ARHA (American Ranch Horse Association) rules. Horses are allowed to be shown in both western pleasure and ranch pleasure classes. The onus is on the judge and ring steward to excuse any horse or rider causing a disruption or safety issue effective with the 2022 state show.

DESCRIPTION: A superior ranch riding horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground as if he was going across the pasture to do a task on the ranch in a timely fashion. Horse should not be a runaway but move like "we have a lot to do today". Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm. The quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. Exhibitor should not be penalized for picking up reins or moving horse's body as long as the horse is soft, willing and free of resistance and should receive credit. Horse should be credited for softness when picking up through transitions, departures, stops, and back-ups. (This should not be confused with constant pulling and jerking around the arena as this shall be faulted according to severity). A willing horse will not ring their tail, or be blatantly disobedient to the rider's cues or demands. The horse should drive off his hind quarters using it as a driving force for his body. The horse should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance. He should have a bright expression with his ears alert, he should be mannerly without the appearance of a dull, sullen lethargic drawn or overly tired attitude. He should be shown on a reasonable loose rein, but with light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, he should extend out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be to given to the horse that has a flowing stride, is balanced, and that gives the appearance of being willing, fit, alert and a pleasure to ride while possessing great athletic ability and agility. This class will be judged on the performance, athletic ability, and condition of the horse.

A) Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend the walk and the jog, one or both ways of the ring. The extended jog is a definite two-beat lengthening of the stride, covering more ground. Cadence and balance with smoothness are more essential than speed. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.

B) Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

C) Judge may ask for additional and individual(s) work of the same nature from any horse.

D) Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment.

E) Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint. Judges, at their discretion may also ask for an extended trot.

F) Faults to be scored according to severity:

1) Excessive speed or excessive slowness at any gait.
2) Being on the wrong lead.
3) Breaking gait (including not walking when called for).
4) Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated and/or artificial gait at the lope).
5) Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized).
6) Over flexing or straining neck in carriage so that the nose is behind the vertical.
7) Excessive nosing out.
8) Opening/gapping mouth excessively.
9) Stumbling.
10) Use of spur in front of the cinch.
11) If horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired.
12) Quick, choppy or pony-strided.
13) Overly canted at the lope (Horses which lope with haunches in towards the center of arena).
14) Excessive head bobbing.
15) Excessive ringing of tail.

G) Credits:

1) Natural ground covering gaits.
2) Consistency at all gaits.
3) Smooth upward and downward transitions.
4) Work on reasonably loose rein without excessive cueing to maintain moderate pace.
5) Giving the appearance of being able to do a days work
6) Athletic Ability/Agile.
7) Softness of horses' chin, poll, neck, shoulder, body, hip. and being broke through thru the whole body.

H) Disqualifications

1) Grabbing the saddle horn or any other part of the saddle.
2) Illegal use of hands on reins.
3) Use of prohibited equipment

Western Walk/Jog:

Section 1: Classes

>Western Walk/Jog 1-12, 13-19, 20&Over
>Western Walk/Jog Horsemanship 1-12, 13-19, 20&Over

Section 2: Western Walk/Jog classes are restricted and contestants showing in the walk/jog classes may not enter the loping classes.

Section 3: Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship will be classified as a separate event than Western Walk/Jog Pleasure and Western Horsemanship Walk/Jog. Horses can be shared by **NON family members** in these classes.

Section 4: Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship will be classified as a separate event than Western Walk/Jog Pleasure and Western Horsemanship Walk/Jog. Horses can ben shared by NON family members in these classes.

English Classes:

Section 1: Classes

>Pony English Pleasure 1-12
>English Pleasure 1-12, 13-19, & 20&Over
>English Equitation 1-12, 13-19, & 20&Over

Section 2: The guidelines for this competition will be current GFSC and AQHA rules.

Section 3: AQHA rule as of January 1, 2015 passed that it is mandatory that all youth wear an ASTM/SEI approved hard hat with harness during all English classes.

Section 4: In English Equitation classes, the gate entering the area is left open. Contestants' line up according to the order listed in the program book. Contestants wait at the gate. When the contestant riding is approximately halfway finished with his/her pattern, the next contestant will move to the designated starting point and wait until the judge acknowledges the start of his/her pattern. Any contestant not in line in the appropriate slot will forfeit their ride.

English Walk/Trot:

Section 1: Classes

>English Walk/Trot 19&Under
>English Walk/Trot 20&Over
>English Walk/Trot Equitation 19&Under
>English Walk/Trot Equitation 20&Over

Section 2: English Pleasure and English Equitation will be classified as a separate event than English Walk/Trot Pleasure and English Walk/Trot Equitation. Horses can be shared by **NON family members** in these classes.

Section 3: English Pleasure and English Equitation will be classified as a separate event than English Walk/Trot Pleasure and English Walk/Trot Equitation. Horses can be shared by NON family members in these classes.

Reining Classes:
Section 1: Classes
>Reining 19&Under
>Reining 20&Over

Section 2: This event will be judged in proper rotation of Associations in host order.

Section 3: There will be a drag of arena after every 12 riders.

Section 4: The reining pattern will be chosen by the judge from the current AQHA rule book and will be used for both age groups.

Section 5: Judges shall use reining scorecards and submit them at the end of the class so that contestants can see their score.

Section 6: A practice slot will be made separate for the reining riders. This will prevent possible accidents during practice times.

Section 7: There will be no "Fencing" by riders in any warmup practice arenas. This is only during practice times on Friday evening.

Article 4
Dress Code

Section 1: All riders must be dressed appropriately for either western or English riding requirements.

Section 2: Western pleasure shall be a long sleeve collared shirt, riding pants, western boots, and a western hat. Chaps and chinks are optional.

Section 3: English pleasure shall be a collared button-down shirt, riding jacket, riding breeches, tall English boots, and a riding helmet. AQHA rule as of January 1, 2015 passed that it is mandatory that all youth wear an ASTM/SEI approved hard hat with harness during all English classes.

Section 4: In Flat Shod Racking and Style Racking classes tack and attire shall be breed specific to the horse being ridden.

Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs Association
www.gafsc.com

Operations Manual
Version
August 6, 2023

The purpose of the Operations Manual is to provide a timeline and checklist to assist the Host Club in the duties of hosting the state show. Refer to the Operations Rules for detailed information.

Fall Meeting

- will be held no later than November 30th
- Notice shall include an updated financial report *(furnished by Treasurer)*
- Roll Call by Association shall be completed
- Outgoing Host Association will call the meeting to order and handle Old Business
- Incoming Host Association will take charge after Old Business settled
- Incoming Host Association Secretary will serve as State Show Secretary for the current year
- Associations making proposals will provide enough copies for each Association (Judged and Running)
- Proposals will be read and assure everyone understands proposal

After the Fall meeting – the incoming Host Association will

- Complete minutes and include proposals on excel spreadsheet
- Copy will be emailed to all Associations

Recommend Host Association begin forming their internal committees with the following thoughts:

- Preparing Budget Proposal – I (Jenna will help you with this)
- Obtaining a show sponsor *(this is a Federation income)*
- Selling Ads
- Designing your Program Book Cover
- Printing of Program Books
- T'shirt and Trophy Vendors
- Judges. Judges are booked months in advance. Will need to get Judged patterns from confirmed Judge. Patterns will be published in Program Book and shared one week prior to the state show.
- Queen and Princess – Sash and Roses
- Pleasure Numbers and assignments
- Tractor
- Announcers
- Pony Cards, Pony Measuring Stick, Paint
- Laptop and Printer for use at State
- Obtain a local Vet and contact info. – this will be listed in the program book and posted at the show

Spring Meeting

- Will be held no later than March 30
- Host Association will present Budget Proposal / discuss and vote
- Host Association can present upcoming state show schedule and order of events
- Vote on proposals
- Start working with the Ag Center on contract *(may not be completed and signed at this time – Ashley Wynn will handle the signing of the contract. You will need to discuss the pricing on the contract with Ashley prior to preparing your budget for approval.)*
- Be sure to send Contract # to Treasurer so the deposit can be submitted

After Spring meeting – the incoming Host Association will

- Begin preparing forms for state show packet which will include:
  - Show Schedule
  - State Show Fees
  - Rider Verification
  - Participant List
  - Alternate Riders List
  - Early Arrival List
  - Stalls and Grounds Fee
  - Pony Measuring and Practice Schedule
  - Memorial Service
  - Medical Waiver Form
  - State Show Work Schedules for Pleasure and Running
  - Class Sponsor
  - Ad Form
  - List of pleasure participants from each association – to allow for easier numbering
  - Pre-Paid Program Book Order Form
- Blank forms or samples for the prior year will be furnished by the Federation Secretary if requested
- Begin updating the "blank program book forms" by rotating the Associations order in each event or whatever changes need to be made from proposals (ex: add or remove classes) This is normally handled by Federation Secretary but can be by Host Association if needed

Recommend that as Ads are received for the Program Book that Host Association be making a rough draft of the book. Experience has found it helpful to begin laying the Ads and needed forms in the book as it goes. If you have a printing company that will do that for you, it may not be a big deal, but if you are doing yourself it can be overwhelming if you wait till you have everything.

May

- Mail show packets for all Associations with a deadline of June 30th of current year for packet return
- Once all Associations are received and you know the # of stalls needed – this needs to be submitted back to the Federation so stall #'s can be received.
- Once stall #'s are received – the Host Association shall provide each Association with their number assignments. See Operational Rules, Chapter I, Article 9 for detailed instructions
- Once all Associations are received, Pleasure #'s will be assigned. Each pleasure rider will be assigned one # that shall be used for that rider in all events they participate

As packets are received, the Host Association will begin inputting Rider's and Horse's name in the Program Books sheets. Clarifying any questions with Associations as you go. *(Federation Secretary is available to help if needed)*

- Once all Associations have been entered into the Program Book sheets a copy will be emailed to the Federation Secretary for all Posting Sheets to be updated. Posting sheets will be provided to the Running and Judged Secretarial desk for State Show use.

June 30

All required paperwork from the Associations will be emailed by June 30. If not received in a timely manner, the names of the participants from that Association will not be listed in the program. The tardy Association will be fined $50.00 per day until receipt of the needed documents. A fine is payable to the Federation.

First of July

- Trophies will be confirmed and ordered, be sure to let Treasurer know if any deposits are needed
- T'Shirts will be confirmed
- Fidelity Bond due with Blanton and Griffin Insurance Agency, Catherine Gillis contact person. This covers the Treasurer and Co-Treasurer for $60,000 each. *(this is handled by Federation Secretary)*

First of August

- Programs will be ready to go to the printer. Approximately 600 to 800 programs will be needed. *(the last couple of years around 650 – 700 were sold)*
  - Program book will include, at no charge, a list of all champions of each class and the holder of the state record in timed events *(these will be provided by Federation Secretary)*
  - If sponsorship is obtained thru the Perry Area Convention and the GA Equine Commission as a result of Grant submission, a copy of their logo and/or advertisement will be included at no charge
- Make sure all Associations have received stall locations, meeting time for Friday, pony measuring times, practice schedule and time of Friday for representatives to be present for measuring props.

August Meeting

This meeting is held to confirm upcoming show season classes and finalize any issues that need to be addressed for the current state show.

Week before State Show

- Pick up programs and trophies or whatever agreement you made with vendor
- Laminate all needed postings *(see below to see what and where to post laminated documents)*
- Rope colors and assignments for props
- Check on Judges
- Follow up on EMT vendor and call Perry Hospital and make them aware of the show
- Follow up with Vet on Call

Friday before show starts on Saturday

- Post the prop rope colors at the Secretary's desk and around the arena walls. This will keep the Ring Crew from placing props at the wrong ropes during an event.
- Each event's prop (poles, cones, TB, AR, CL) will have a different color, size, texture, etc of rope for making locations
- A laminated copy of the holding pen / running pen rules must be posted at the back gate

- A laminated copy of the timed events dress code will be posted at the back gate.
- A laminated copy of the rider assistance/handler rule for time events will be posted at the back gate.
- A copy of the work schedule will be provided to both secretary desk and posted in both arenas visible for all. The Secretary desk is not responsible nor do they have each Association's individual workers by name, they are only looking for the Association responsible to work. Associations should assure their workers know their time slots.
- An entire set of the Federation rules will be available at the back gate for both the Judged and Timed Events.
- Provide the on call VET contact information to both Secretary Desk and post information in both arenas, barns and various places.

Friday night meeting before the show starts on Saturday

- Pleasure numbers will be given
- Any unpaid fees will be satisfied (ex: Early Arrivals, Added Stalls, etc)
- Update any rider changes and/or scratches
- Any additional updates or concerns will be addressed

After Show

All fines and penalties must be paid by September 30 or that Association's members will not be eligible to participate in the State show the following year.

Expenses and Responsibilities

Federation

1. Office supplies, postage, copies, telephone expense
2. Fidelity Bond
3. Secretary of State Dues
4. Checking account charges
5. Trophies
6. Queen and Princess costs
7. Judges fees, lodging, travel and meals
8. Ag Center Expense
9. Sponsorship money (The host association will be responsible for $2,000)
10. Tractors and Drivers
11. Website, Federation Secretary and Treasurer Cost

Host Association

1. Program Book
2. Announcers
3. Ring Steward – Judged Events
4. Tee Shirts
5. Meals
6. Travel Expenses
7. Diesel for Tractors
8. Obtaining and cost of music for Running Arena

Participants

1. Stalls – will include 2 bags of shavings
2. Extra shavings can be purchased from the Fairgrounds. If brought by an individual, the shavings must meet the Fairground Standards

3. Entry Fees
4. Early Arrival Fees

Updated June 1, 2026
Reference Georgia Federation Operational Rules