

Rules For the Connecticut Valley Fair Gymkhana

CONNECTICUT VALLEY FAIR GYMKHANA RULES

2010 Season

1. The shows will be held – Rain or Shine. The ONLY reason a show will be canceled will be due to severe thunder and lightening at the Connecticut Valley Fairgrounds.
2. A negative coggins and rabies certificate within the past twelve (12) months is required by the state of Vermont and the Fair Committee to enter the premises. Papers will be checked at registration. A copy can be kept by the Gymkhana Committee by request.
3. Approved riding helmets are required for riders under the age of 18 while mounted anywhere on the fairgrounds.
4. Class fees need to be paid before entering the arena. A fee of \$30 will be charged for any returned checks. The rider will not be allowed to compete again until the returned check fee is paid in cash along with the amount of the returned check.
5. The CVFG reserves the right to demand cash payment from individuals who have issued a check returned for insufficient funds. Please remember to be prompt as the committee will not hold classes for late arrivals.
6. The A&B divisions (for Youth and Adult) will be determined by the first class of the day. Each rider will be placed in the appropriate division. If the rider is seen to be holding back his/her horse, he/she will be placed in the A division. If a rider knocks over an obstacle while running this class, he/she will be asked to run it again at the end of the class.
7. Riders ride at their own risk and are responsible for any damages done by their horses or themselves.
8. Saddles and riding boots or shoes with 1 inch heels are required. No bareback or riding double is allowed on the fairgrounds.
9. No reruns are allowed due to faulty equipment so make sure you **check your tack** before you run.
10. Anyone whose horse can not be controlled in or out of the ring will be asked to leave with no refunds. **(There is NO CANTERING outside of the ring.)**
11. All stallions will display a visible yellow ribbon tied in their tail. All horses prone to kicking will display a visible red ribbon tied in their tail.
12. All contestants will enter the gate in a safe, controlled manner. **THE GATE WILL NOT BE USED AS A CHUTE.** This is for safety reasons. Contestants will not start their run until the gate is closed behind them and must be under control or come to a stop before exiting the arena after their run. The gate will not be opened until the horse is under control.
13. Excessive spurring, whipping, or beating the horse in any manner is not acceptable. Such or any type of abuse will be determined by the Gymkhana Committee and may result in being banned from activities for at least that year.

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14. Appropriate use of spurs, over and unders, and whips/crops is acceptable when encouraging speed. These will be used by encouraging the horse behind the front cinch of the saddle. Any intentional hitting of the horse in front of the cinch results in disqualification from that class.
15. The rider will be disqualified for breaking the pattern or knocking over any equipment. Please stop your run and exit the arena.
16. A contestant may use a hand or leg to right a falling piece of equipment. If successful, this will not count as a knock down.
17. No unsportsmanlike behavior is allowed including, but not limited to, excessive profanity, disorderly conduct, obnoxious behavior, disrespect for the CVFG Committee or Fair Personnel, or abusive treatment to an animal. These will not be tolerated. Any offender will be dismissed from the fairgrounds and all entry fees forfeited.
18. The Gymkhana Committee will make any final decision in all matters. If you have a disagreement, it must be discussed BEFORE the next event starts.
19. It is the responsibility of the rider to make sure the ring is ready and the ring crew is out of the ring before the rider starts his/her run.
20. All riders are expected to be on deck when they are called. Riders are to be at the gate by the third call or they will be disqualified from that event.
21. **Dogs, or other animals besides horses, are not allowed on the fairgrounds during the events. This is a safety issue concerning the Fair's insurance and you will be asked to take your animal home. No exceptions. Service animals are permitted.**
22. Walk/trotters and leadline riders will be ready to run at **9:00 am sharp**. They will run as many classes as the time limit allows. These riders will pay \$20.00 to run for the entire event.
23. The Connecticut Valley Fair prohibits alcohol on the fairgrounds.
24. The entry gate area will be kept clear for safety reasons. If you are asked a second time to move by the gatekeeper, you will be asked to leave the fairgrounds and forfeit all entry fees.
25. Each rider/horse combination must pay separate entry fees. Horses can be shared between riders, but each rider/horse combination must pay entry fees.
26. To be eligible for day end awards, you must compete with the same rider/horse combination. If there is an accident and the horse is not able to compete, the Gymkhana Committee will waive the same rider/horse combination for that show only. If you bring a written note from your vet stating the horse can not compete for the next show, this will be waived.
27. To be eligible for year end awards, you must compete in at least 4 of the shows with the same rider/horse combination unless you have a written note from your vet stating the horse is not able to compete.
28. **Failure to abide by the rules and regulations may result in temporary suspension to permanent banning from this and all equine activities held at the fairgrounds.**
29. Stallions will not be ridden/shown by anyone under the age of 18. There may be exceptions to this rule based on the decision of the CVFG Committee and the parent/guardian of the rider/handler.