

The UTAH GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION



ROYALTY HANDBOOK

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SECTION 1: PRE-REGISTRATION

1. The current royalty team will make royalty competition information/registration packets available
 - A. The packets shall include copies of the Royalty Handbook, Standing Rules, Competition Guidelines, Judges' Sheets, Horsemanship pattern and tentative competition schedule

SECTION 2: REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES

1. All candidates must be active members of UGRA and may reside in the State of Utah
2. All requirements must be met and verified by a member of the Royalty Committee at least thirty (30) days before the competition
3. All entries must include a non-refundable entry fee of \$100
 - A. This fee can be paid by the candidate or a sponsor as part of an independent fundraiser for the UGRA
 - B. It will be used towards the expenses of candidate sashes

SECTION 3: PARTICIPATION

1. The UGRA Royalty Competition is held in December of each year
2. Prior to competing, any potential candidate must complete the following
 - A. Attend both days of the Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo and volunteer or compete each day
 - B. Attend at least three (3) association meetings before the competition
 - C. Attend at least three (3) UGRA sponsored events during the current rodeo year to be completed after the prior year royalty competition
 - 1) Candidate can also attend an out of state rodeo as one of the 3 events
 - 2) Rodeo attendance must be approved by the chairperson in advance

SECTION 4: FUNDRAISING FOR THE UGRA

1. Once their candidacy is officially announced, Royalty candidates must host a minimum of two (2) UGRA approved events to be hosted no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Royalty Competition
2. If the event is to happen during the thirty (30) day window, it needs to be approved by the Vice President, Royalty Chairperson and the Board of Directors

SECTION 5: COMPETITION

1. Royalty candidates will be judged in the following categories:
 - A. Personal Interview
 - B. Entertainment or Horsemanship
 - C. Western Wear
 - D. On-Stage Question (Public Presentation)
2. Candidates may elect to participate in either Entertainment or Horsemanship
 - A. No later than thirty (30) days prior to the competition date, candidates must notify the Royalty Committee chairperson of which category they intend to compete in

3. Entertainment, Western Wear and On-Stage Questions will be open to the public
4. Personal interviews will be closed to the public

SECTION 6: POINT VALUES

1. Personal Interview – 100 Points
2. Entertainment or Horsemanship – 50 Points
3. Western Wear – 50 Points
4. On-Stage Question (Public Presentation) - 50 Points
5. Total Points Awarded - 250 Points

SECTION 7: QUALIFICATION FOR TITLE

1. A contestant must attain a minimum of 70% of the total overall points available from the four (4) categories in order to place on the Royalty Team
2. All judges' sheets will be tallied and reviewed by two (2) members of the UGRA Board of Directors who will serve as auditors for the entire competition
 - A. The royalty auditors will determine if each candidate has achieved the minimum of 70% to become part of the Royalty Team
 - B. This may be waived by the Royalty Committee Chairperson or Vice President with the approval of the board.
3. Final results will be given to the chair of the royalty competition and the host to be announced at the end of the competition
4. Individual results are not made public or shared with contestants during the competition but may be mailed to each contestant after the competition if requested in writing by the contestant to the Vice-President

SECTION 8: TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE

1. If multiple contestants receive the same total score, the tie is broken by which contestant received the highest score in the Personal Interview category
2. If the score in the Personal Interview category is also a tie, the auditors will review the scores of the remaining categories and the contestant who scored higher in the next category will be chosen as the winner
 - A. The review order of the remaining categories will be as follows:
 - 1) On-Stage Question (Public Presentation)
 - 2) Entertainment or Horsemanship
 - 3) Western Wear
3. If there is a tie in all categories, the Royalty Committee will break the tie via a secret ballot vote of those members present
4. If there is a tie following the secret ballot, the President of the Board of Directors will break that tie

SECTION 9: CONTESTANT MEETING

1. The Royalty Committee Chair or Vice President shall hold a contestant meeting prior to the start of the Royalty Competition and will include but not be limited to the following:
 - A. Collection of Western Wear descriptions and Entertainment tracks
 - B. Random draw of contestant numbers
 - C. Give general competition information and answer any questions
 - D. Contestant(s) must check in with the Royalty Committee or the Royalty Committee Chairperson one (1) hour prior to contest night starting time
 - 1) If any contestant(s) check in after the designated check in time, this will result in a 5-point penalty per judge

SECTION 10: JUDGES

1. The Royalty Committee will provide the names of 7 individuals who are willing to judge
2. Judges will be broken out as follows:
 - A. Personal Interviews
 - 1) Five (5) judges will be allocated for the daytime Personal Interview category
 - B. Remaining Categories
 - 1) The five (5) Personal Interview judges will be brought back to judge the remainder of the categories during the nighttime event
 - 2) The remaining two (2) judges will join the judging panel for the nighttime categories
3. Judges should be chosen by the following if possible:
 - A. Past UGRA Royalty
 - B. Out of State Rodeo Royalty
 - C. Current or past UGRA officers
 - D. Other community members or officers
4. Any vacancies occurring after a thirty (30) day deadline will be filled by the Royalty Committee

SECTION 11: COMPETITION GUIDELINES & RULES

1. PERSONAL INTERVIEW

- A. Judges will be looking for:
 - 1) Poise
 - 2) Confidence
 - 3) Familiarity of gay rodeo
 - 4) UGRA and its benefits to the gay community
 - 5) Casual western wear
 - a) Miss contestants will appear in male attire
- B. Submission of questions
 - 1) The Royalty Committee will put together a list of fifteen (15) questions
 - 2) Questions will then be submitted to the Board of Directors, and they will decide on the final ten (10) questions
 - 3) During the Personal Interview category, each of the five (5) judges will ask two (2) of the approved ten (10) questions to the contestant

- a) Questions will be the same for all contestants
- 4) Questions may be composed of the following:
 - a) IGRA History
 - b) UGRA History
 - c) UGRA Bylaws & Standing Rules
 - d) Rodeo Rules
 - e) Opinion Questions
- 5) Once questions are asked of each contestant, the contestant is escorted out of the venue by the Royalty Chairperson to ensure they are not talking to the other contestants
- 6) Any judge may ask for clarification of a contestant's response one-time during the interview

2. ENTERTAINMENT

- A. Talent competition will be a presentation of a "show" routine that is country western in nature
- B. There will be a five (5) minute time limit
- C. Any recorded material must be in one of the following formats:
 - 1) CD that is clearly marked with name and number of selection
 - 2) USB Thumb Drive
 - 3) Link that has been emailed to the Royalty Competition Chair
- D. All talent material must be submitted to the Competition Committee during the contestant meeting prior to competition and the contestant by doing so commits to use the material submitted for the entertainment portion of the competition
- E. Presentation shall be done solo
- F. Audience will be asked not to tip during presentation
- G. Contestants will not receive any assistance in setup or teardown of props in any way
 - 1) Any assistance will result in a penalty on each score sheet
- H. Setup and teardown, if needed, are included in the time allotted for performance
- I. If the talent number exceeds five (5) minutes, it will result in a two (2) point penalty per judge

3. HORSEMANSHIP

- A. These rules are basically the same rules governing the modified reining pattern of the American Quarter Horse Association as amended and approved by the IGRA
- B. Judging is to be based generally on the modified reining pattern in the American Quarter Horse Association Handbook
- C. A contestant's performance shall be submitted by electronic means and shall consist of one (1) unedited continuous performance from one (1) camera.
 - 1) Submissions must be cued at the start point of the performance and viewed one time only by the judges
 - 2) It is the contestant's responsibility to ensure his/her/their recording is properly cued
- D. The contestant rider will be judged on the ability to control the mount
 - 1) Contestants must demonstrate poise, confidence, sportsmanship and showmanship
- E. The Miss contestants complete this portion of the competition in male attire
- F. A hackamore, curb or snaffle bit is permissible

- 1) Chain curbs are permissible but must be at least one-half inch (1/2") in width and must lie flat against the lower jaw of the horse with a two (2) finger allowance between jaw and chain
- 2) No wire curbs, regardless of how padded or covered, nor any chain strap narrower than one-half inch (1/2") will be permitted
- G.** The following pattern and routine are prescribed
 - 1) It is essential that judges and riders adhere to it
 - 2) Refer to Exhibit A for pattern
- H.** Begin pattern at the end of a defined area comparable to an IGRA standard arena
- I.** The pattern begins with contestants mounted and walking horses to the first recommended change area
- J.** At recommended change area, mounted contestants should be in a trot until the next recommended change area
- K.** At recommended change area, mounted contestants should change from a trot to a lope until the next recommended change area
- L.** At recommended change area, mounted contestants should break from a lope to a trot and turn towards the center of the arena
- M.** Upon reaching the center of the arena, mounted contestants should stop and back their mount five (5) feet
- N.** The rider may ride with reins in the style in which he/she/they have been taught
 - 1) Riders may change hands as necessary
- O.** Riders' hands shall be clear of horse and saddle while horse is in motion
 - 1) Riders' free hand may be resting on riders' thighs while the horse is in motion
- P.** Romals, quirts crops, if worn or carried may not be used
- Q.** The contesting horse must be properly groomed and in sound condition
 - 1) All equipment used must be in good and safe repair
- 4. WESTERN WEAR**
 - A.** Each contestant will model contemporary formal or casual western fashion such as could be found in today's western wear catalogs or in quality western stores
 - 1) Any fashion that is non-western in nature or can be considered a "Talent Performance Outfit" will count against the contestant in final scoring
 - B.** A description of the contestant's western wear will be read during the contestant's modeling
 - C.** Modeling is limited to stage and/or designated area to be determined by the Royalty Committee Chairperson
 - 1) Failure to comply with this area will result in a two (2) point deduction per judge penalty
- 5. ON STAGE QUESTION (PUBLIC PRESENTATION)**
 - A.** Contestants will be asked one (1) question immediately following their Western Wear Category and will be judged on the following:
 - 1) Poise
 - 2) Stage presence
 - 3) Content of answer
 - 4) Confidence
 - B.** Questions may be related to gay rodeo and education or the community as a whole.

C. Questions will be chosen by the current Royalty and Vice President

SECTION 12: REQUIREMENTS OF ROYALTY TEAM

1. Upon assuming their respective titles, the UGRA Royalty team members will become co-chairpersons of the Entertainment and Fundraising Committee and members of the Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo Committee
 - A. Runners up will also serve as rodeo committee members
2. To help organize and host the following
 - A. Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo
 - B. UGRA Royalty Contest
 - C. Royalty Candidate and judge's meetings
 - 1) Royalty contest dates and contestant packets are to be announced no later than 6 months in advance by the current royalty team and are to take place in the month of November or December with respect to other area Royalty Competitions
3. Represent the UGRA for one rodeo year
 - A. Culminating with the following Royalty Competition
 - B. Winning represents a possible two-year commitment
4. Performance tips rules:
 - A. UGRA Royalty members are required to donate their tips back at all UGRA functions, and outside rodeo association functions & all IGRA Sponsored Events
 - B. UGRA Royalty is allowed to keep their tips from any non-rodeo related function and their step down
5. In coordination with the Public Relations / Media Director, Royalty shall serve as spokesperson for the UGRA, always keeping the association's best image and best interests in mind
6. Royalty is required to attend one (1) out of state rodeo and the Crossroads of the West Regional Rodeo
 - A. Royalty is encouraged to attend the following:
 - 1) Any other out of state rodeo events
 - 2) IGRA Finals
 - 3) IGRA Convention
7. Royalty is encouraged to run in the IGRA Royalty Competition
 - A. The one hundred (100) dollar entry fee will be paid by the UGRA
8. Crowning paraphernalia rules and responsibilities will be:
 - A. Royalty titleholders will be awarded the following:
 - 1) Miss UGRA
 - a) Crown, Sash & Buckle
 - 2) Mr., Ms., MsTer & Mx UGRA
 - a) Sash & Buckle
 - B. Runners up in all titles will be awarded a sash
 - C. Crowning paraphernalia are the property of the UGRA
 - D. Purchasing crowning paraphernalia is the financial responsibility of the UGRA
 - 1) Seeking sponsorship for the Crowning Paraphernalia is allowed

- E. At the completion of responsibilities and rodeo year, royalty will be allowed to keep their crowning paraphernalia
- F. If crowning paraphernalia is lost/stolen/damaged it will be responsibility of the titleholder to purchase replacement
 - 1) If the responsibility for the issue is not the titleholders, the board of directors may vote to have the UGRA replace the crowning paraphernalia for the titleholder.
- 9. UGRA titleholders may not seek, compete or accept any other titles in any other organization during their reign except for IGRA
 - A. Board of Directors may vote to waive this rule if necessary
- 10. All UGRA titleholders must submit a fundraising plan or guideline to the Board of Directors at the beginning of the reign
 - A. The plan can be for individual titleholders or as a team
 - B. This must be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval at the January Board meeting
 - C. All function information and advertising must be submitted to the Social Media director and the Webmaster upon board approval so that it can be put on Facebook, Instagram and the website.
- 11. Contestants for the IGRA competition must be familiar with the IGRA Royalty rules, as well as other IGRA requirements
 - A. This information can be found in the IGRA handbook

SECTION 13: REVOCATION PROCEDURES

- 1. Any member of the current Royalty or current Board of Directors may initiate probation up to revocation procedures
- 2. Probation Procedure will consist of the following:
 - A. Verbal warning from the Board of Directors
 - B. If issue continues, a written warning will be issued
- 3. Revocation Process
 - A. Revocation petition must be in writing indicating specific examples of failure to conform to obligations as set out in this handbook
 - B. Time and date is to be set by the Board of Directors for examination of petition and presentation of rebuttal, if any
 - C. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors present (quorum) is required for revocation
 - D. Royalty member(s) in question will not have a vote during revocation procedures
 - E. Absentee ballots will not be allowed for revocation procedures

SECTION 14: COMPETING IN THE IGRA ROYALTY COMPETITION

- 1. All contestants must be the current and official titleholder or 1st runner-up of a member association
 - A. Each association can send up to two representatives in each category
- 2. All contestants must complete the following requirements no later than 60 days prior to the competition:

- A.** Submit to the IGRA Vice President at least one (1) high resolution, professional quality portrait photograph in digital form
 - 1)** Cell phone pictures, point and shoot selfie pictures or poorly lit snapshots are not acceptable
 - B.** Submit to the IGRA Vice President a contestant biography of approximately 200-word narrative
 - 1)** A simple list of accomplishments or titles held is not acceptable
 - C.** Compete in a minimum of two (2) sanctioned rodeo events in different categories or volunteer under a certified official for two (2) rodeo days at a single rodeo
 - D.** Each titleholder must raise a minimum of \$500 for IGRA to retain title and remain eligible to compete at the IGRA Royalty Competition.
 - 1)** The UGRA Treasurer shall forward any monies raised with the IGRA Fundraiser Deposit Form to the IGRA Treasurer
 - E.** In addition, a \$250 minimum of one (1) fundraising event for a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for a non-profit entity under the laws of and in good standing with the State during their reign prior to the IGRA application deadline.
 - 1)** Monies in the Royalty Funds shall be retained in the UGRA General Account.
 - F.** Submit to the Vice President a completed and signed Royalty Entry form along with the \$100 entry fee.
- 3.** At contestant check-in before the competition, contestants must provide a written plan of action consisting of goals for the IGRA Royalty Team
- A.** Plans must be turned in along with a Western Wear description and either a Horsemanship video or Entertainment music to the Vice President
 - B.** The Vice President reviews the plans with the competition winners to build the team's final plan of action for the following year
 - C.** Failure to provide a plan of action will result in a two (2) point deduction from each judge's score sheet in the interview segment
- 4.** Contestants for the IGRA Competition must be familiar with the IGRA royalty rules, as well as the other IGRA Requirements