



Las Cruces Horseman's Association Gymkhana Rules Date: January, 2025; amended March 9th, 2026

2026 Gymkhana Division Board:	2 yr Members: Lance Heitz, Brandy Burks, Joshua Bryant & Dakota Heitz
Chairman: Victoria Murphy	
Secretary: Alysha "Ally" Lenderman	
Treasurer: Kathie Montoya	1 yr Members: Kay Lee, Sara Pierce, Lela Gooden & Jake Montoya
Arena Director: Jake Montoya	
Co-Arena Director: Lance Heitz	

The Gymkhana's will start at 9:00 am with Grand Entry, leadline, poles, goats, flag race, payback event (changed at each gymkhana), barrels, fun event (drawn randomly at each gymkhana). There are 7 Age Groups – **January 1st determines your age group for the 2026 season.** All Events will run in reverse order of age group beginning with 40 & over.

- Lead-line – children age 6 and under or youth who do not ride alone
- Novice
- 6 & under
- 7-9 years
- 10-12 years
- 13-17 years
- 18-39 years
- 40 years & over

1. **Memberships:** Memberships will be either Individual \$20 or family \$30.00 per year. Memberships shall be paid on or before contestants participation in their first gymkhana. Membership dues shall be paid prior to earning points. Once membership is paid, those points will count towards year-end awards. Members that are 18 years old and over that age is listed on the membership form will have voting privileges. For details on memberships see https://lchanm.us/?page_id=2782. Every contestant MUST have an entry/release form signed by parent or guardian if under age.
2. **Membership Changes:** It is your responsibility to notify the gymkhana secretary of any email, phone or address changes so that any notifications you need can be delivered/received in a timely manner.
3. **Non-Members:** Non-members may be eligible for day prizes only and until membership is paid no points will be awarded. Points can not be retroactively counted towards year-end awards. The placing / points from a non-member will be given to the next member / competitor in the age group.
4. **Entry Fees:** All entry fees must be paid in advance, before you will be allowed to compete. All returned or cancelled checks will incur a \$35.00 fee and must be paid for in cash within 2 weeks. Entries must then be



paid with a money order, cashiers check or cash for the remainder of the season.

- Goat tying \$6.00 entry plus \$12.00 stock fee
- Speed Events \$6.00 per entry
- Novice \$5.00 per entry with \$5.00 arena fee
- Exhibition Events \$7.00 per entry
- PayBack \$10.00 per contestant
- Leadline \$20 with \$5.00 arena fee
- \$10 arena fee per contestant, other than lead line and novice

5. **Pay back schedule** 50/50 (50% to LCHA 50% payout)

LCHA takes 50%, 1st takes 30%; 2nd takes 20%

Pay back checks will be issued and must be picked up from the treasurer each gymkhana; they will not be mailed out. All payback checks must be cashed within 90 days.

6. **Entry Forms & Late Fees:** If entry forms are not postmarked, emailed or texted at least 7 days prior to the gymkhana, a \$10.00 late fee will be applied each day for the weekend. Entry fees must be paid the morning of the gymkhana at the latest.
7. **Rules & By-laws:** Every contestant must sign a form stating they received a set of 2026 rules & Association by-laws. The rules will be available at the gymkhanas. Contestants must come up into the crow's nest to obtain their copy.
8. **Auction Item:** Each individual membership must bring a silent auction item, which must be in new condition or handmade valuing at least \$25.00. Each family membership must bring a silent auction item, which must be in new, excellent condition or handmade valuing at least \$50.00. If a silent auction item is not brought in by the third gymkhana, the contestant(s) will not qualify for awards. This is a fundraiser to aide in raising money for year end awards.
9. **Sponsor:** You may choose to be an awards sponsor of \$50 or more if you don't want to participate in the end of year Auction fundraising. Either way you choose it must be brought to the crow's nest by May 17th, 2026.
10. **Work Hours:** Each contestant will be assigned 8 hours to work for each division that they qualify for awards in. The morning of the gymkhana you would like to volunteer you must come up to the crow's nest to sign up for an event to work. You can opt out of working at the gymkhana by paying \$100 per contestant for the year. Family or friends can work hours for contestants. You are responsible for turning in your work hours (as stated in the by-laws) by the end of the gymkhana event day you are volunteering using provided work time cards. Work cards must be initialled by an authorized board member in the area that is worked. Arena Directors or assigned board member will record all work hours for time donated at the Gymkhana. Work hours may be done at any Division event and reported to that Division Chairman. The verification of those hours will then be reported to the Gymkhana Chairman by the respective Division Chairman.



11. **Year End Awards:** The Gymkhana Division will operate on a “best 7 out of 10” system. The best 7 out of 10 total points earned will be used to determine year-end awards. If the participant only enters 7 gymkhanas, those will all count. If the participant enters in more than 7 gymkhanas, the best 7 gymkhana’s day points will be taken for the year-end awards. Participants must participate in at least 7 gymkhanas’ to be eligible for year-end awards. This includes participation in at least 3 events (not counting exhibition runs) at each gymkhana.

Year-end awards will vary depending on year-end budget. There are no guarantees on year-end prizes as to what they will be as this is determined by an awards committee. Prizes WILL be awarded within each age group. All age groups will receive the same prizes in their placings regardless of the number of entries in the age group.

12. **Make up:** Contestants that can not make 7 gymkhanas, due to sickness, schedule, or hurt equine etc. may pay the total entry fees for 1 gymkhana, but not attend. No points will be earned by contestant, but could qualify contestant for year-end award, or possibly qualify for perfect attendance award if contestant competed in 9 gymkhanas and paid for 1 gymkhana, but not attend to make it total of 10 gymkhanas.

13. **Point System:** Points will be awarded on the following basis:

1 st Place = 6 points
2 nd Place = 5 points
3 rd Place = 4 points
4 th Place = 3 points
5 th Place = 2 points
6 th Place = 1 point

14. **Novice:** Novice participants can compete in all events. Novice participants will run at the end of their age group. Times will be given but points will not be calculated.

15. **Perfect Attendance:** There will be a perfect attendance award given for those participants that compete in all 10 gymkhanas. Contestants that can not make 10 gymkhanas, due to sickness, schedule, or hurt equine, etc. may pay the entry fees for 1 gymkhana, but not attend. No points will be earned by contestant, but could qualify contestant for perfect attendance if they have competed in 9 other gymkhanas in the qualifying year.

16. **Complaints:** Complaints shall be registered with the Arena Director, the complaint has to be made immediately after the run, before leaving the arena. The Arena Director may consult the Gymkhana Board and has the final say to a determination.

17. **Dress Code:** When competing, Long pants and a sleeved shirt are required for all riders. NO shorts, tank tops,



muscle shirts, or tube tops permitted. Over the ankle Cowboy boots with a ¼ “ riding heel are required (including leadline). No tennis shoes permitted. Riding helmets are encouraged but not required. Cowboy hats & ball caps are allowed. Failure to comply will result in a NO TIME! This will be enforced!

- 18. Volunteer Dress Code:** Long pants and a sleeved shirt are required for all volunteers. NO shorts, tank tops, muscle shirts, or tube tops permitted. Boots & tennis shoes permitted, but no open toed shoes. Cowboy hats & ball caps are allowed. Failure to comply will result in NO CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEER TIME! This will be enforced!
- 19. 3 Call Rule** Contestants must be prepared to compete when called upon by the announcer. Contestants will be called 3 times when it is their turn to enter the arena. Failure to be present and ready to compete when called the 3rd time may result in a disqualification in that event; this is determined by the arena director.
- 20. DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS RIDERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE STRAPPED TO THEIR SADDLES USING VELCRO OR ANY OTHER MEANS OF RESTRAINTS FOR ANY RIDING EVENTS.** The only exceptions is special needs, therapeutic saddles and/or equipment, and rubber bands around the feet. If any question, the Arena Director shall access safety and has final approval.
- 21. Running:** Contestants may not run horses near or around pedestrians. Contestants may use the arena prior to the beginning of the gymkhana to warm up horses, or in other designated area during the gymkhana. Contestants may not practice on the equipments or the patterns set up for lead line in the arena prior to the individual age group or exhibition being called.
- 22. Entry/Exit arena:** Contestants will enter the arena through an open gate. The gate will be closed & kept closed and will not be opened for exit until the equine is under control and a time is called.
- 23. Kicking:** Horses that are known or suspected kickers must always exhibit a red ribbon on their tails. Note: All horses can kick so be cautious of other riders and their horses and use caution in congested areas.
- 24. Unsafe Equines:** Stallions and proud cut equines are shown at the discretion of the gymkhana arena director. Stallions and proud cut equines must always exhibit a blue ribbon on their tails . If ANY equine is deemed unsafe or dangerous to themselves or others, horse and/or rider may be excused from the gymkhana event.
- 25. Inappropriate Behavior:** Any person, member or non-member displaying inappropriate behavior will be warned verbally. If the behavior continues or escalates, you will be asked by a board member to vacate the premises. The police may be called for more serious infractions.
- 26. Non-permitted activities:** Alcoholic beverages are not permitted during any event as stated in LCHA by-laws. Smoking or vaping will not be permitted in the common areas during any event. Smoking or vaping will only be permissible in contestants vehicles or at contestants trailer.



27. **Dogs:** No dogs are permitted in the alley or staging areas. Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6' long. Dog's are permitted in the crow's nest and bleacher areas as well as at competers trailers as long as properly restrained.
28. **Alley:** At Landmark, The southern back alley shall always remain clear. Contestants may congregate on horseback on the west side of south alley during their age group. Horses are not to be tied in the staging area and contestants are not to sit on the fence in the staging or alley area. Horses may only be tied at their trailer, outside of the arena on the south west corner or the Northwest side of Alley or can be stalled if a stall is paid for.
29. **Stalls:** Stalls may be available to rent for the day or overnight. The fee is \$10.00 per stall per day. If you write a check make it to Landmark Mercantile. That money does not go to LCHA. If you rent a stall(s) you are responsible for cleaning your stall(s) at the end of the day. If stall(s) are not cleaned you will be charged a \$15.00 fee per stall the first time, 2nd offence will ban you from renting stalls.
30. **Leadline:** Leadline is for contestants 6 & under and or other youth who do not ride alone. Leadline is one overall event that will have barrels, poles, goat ribbon pull and flags . Contestants may choose to move from lead line to 6 and under or from 6 and under to leadline (only after their first gymkhana). All contestants MUST be led by a lead rope at all times. Contestants will not be allowed to be ponied (led by another horse & rider). Leadline recieves day prizes and may also qualify for year-end award.
31. **Barrel racing rules**
- a) The cloverleaf pattern is the only approved pattern in this event.
 - b) The pattern to be run for the barrels is as follows (if arena conditions permit)
 - The barrels must be at least 20 feet from the arena fence.
 - The front two barrels shall be 20 yards (60 feet)from the starting line.
 - The distance between the two front barrels shall be 30 yards (90 feet) and the distance between the two front barrels and the back barrel shall be 35 yards (105 feet). There shall be a minimum of 75 feet allowed for stopping from the starting line back to the arena fence. This is subject to adjustment for arena conditions.
 - c) The contestant may start on either the right or the left barrel.
 - d) When starting on the right barrel there will be one right turn and two left turns.
 - e) When starting on the left barrel there will be one left turn and two right turns.
 - f) Barrels will be 55-gallon barrels with both ends in.
 - g) Knocking over a barrel or up ending a barrel is a five second penalty per barrel.
32. **Pole Bending rules:**
- a) The pole bending pattern is to be run around 6 poles.
 - b) The pattern can be run from right or left side.



- c) No flags can be attached to the poles.
- d) Poles can be solid colored or painted in a striped pattern
- e) The distance from the starting line to the first pole shall be 21 feet and the spacing between the poles shall be 21 feet apart.
- f) Poles must be in a straight line.
- g) Poles shall be set on top of the ground, 6 feet in height with a base no larger than 14 inches or less than 12 inches in diameter. PVC poles should be at least 1 inch in diameter and no larger than 2 inches in diameter.
- h) The pattern is considered broken if forward progress is not maintained, (i.e. if pole is passed on wrong side, you cannot stop and back up or change directions.)
- i) Knocking over a pole is a 5 second penalty per pole.
- j) Pole is considered knocked over when the top of pole hits the ground.

33. Flag Racing rules:

- a) Flags of the same size and color shall be used for all age groups.
- b) The bucket that holds the flag should be at least 6 inches high from the bottom of the bucket to the top. The bucket will be placed at the back of the barrel. The flag must protrude 5 inches above the bucket for all age groups.
- c) A contestant may start either to the right or the left of the barrel and then run down and around the barrel, grab the flag and return to the starting line. Contestants may circle the barrel but must return to the opposite side of the approach.
- d) Knocking over the can/bucket (only) is a 5 second penalty. Knocking over the can/bucket and the barrel is a 10 second penalty.
- e) If the contestant does not follow the pattern, he/she will receive a no time.
- f) Rider may not use the flag to whip their mount. Contestants will be disqualified for whipping their mount with the flag. The flag must be carried over the finish line.

34. Goat tying rules:

- a) Contestants in the 6 and under age group will tie around the neck. You cannot have a pre-established loop; you must tie when you get to the goat. Parents may assist on holding the horse when the child has come to a complete stop.
- b) In all other age groups the contestant must throw the goat by hand. If the goat is down when reached, the goat must be day-lighted and re-thrown. The contestant, can then cross and tie any three legs. The contestant can use a soft pigging string, leather tie or rope. There will be one or more wraps and a half hitch, hooey or knot. Contestants must step back a foot from the goat. The goats legs must remain crossed and secure for 6 seconds after the completion of the tie.
- c) Completion of the tie is when the contestant indicates by raising of arms that the tie is complete. After the tie is completed, the contestant must take two steps away from the goat.
- d) If the contestants mount runs over the goat or the rope there will be a no time given.
- e) Contestants will be disqualified if the judge feels that unnecessary roughness is used in throwing the



- goat. Contestant cannot touch the goat or string once tie is complete and contestant calls for time.
- f) Goat change out will be done at the discretion of the board and the stock contractor, usually after each 5 contestants and/or at the end of the age group.

35. Fun Event: A randomly drawn fun event will be pulled from a selection of fun events and will be announced and a diagram and rules of the fun event will be shared to all contestants at the beginning of each scheduled Gymkhana event.