



2018

New Mexico Gay Rodeo Association

Royalty Handbook

PRE-REGISTRATION

A. Royalty competition information/registration packets will be made available by the current royalty team. Packets shall include copies of Royalty Standing Rules, Competition Guidelines, Judges Sheets, Horsemanship pattern and tentative competition schedule.

B. Prospective candidates can obtain information from current Royalty, who are required to make themselves available for consultation.

C. It is recommended candidates also collect information needed for competition by attending out of town rodeos, working the Zia Regional Rodeo, IGRA convention and IGRA Finals Rodeo/Royalty Competition.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES

A. All candidates must be an active member of NMGRA and reside in the State of New Mexico for at least thirty (30) days before the competition.

B. All requirements must be met and verified by a member of the Royalty Committee not less than thirty (30) days before the competition.

C. All entries must include a non-refundable entry fee of \$25.00. This can be paid by the candidate or a sponsor as part of an independent fundraiser for NMGRA. This fee will be used toward expenses of candidate sashes.

D. Must be in good standing with all LGBT bars/nightclubs in New Mexico at the time of submitting the application and maintained throughout candidacy and reign. This is to be verified by the Royalty Committee.

PARTICIPATION

A: Attend both days of the Zia Regional Rodeo and either volunteer or compete each day.

B: Attend at least nine (9) association meetings prior to competition.

C: Attend a minimum of three (3) NMGRA Sponsored Events during the current rodeo year to be completed 30 days out from the first date of competition (in addition to the Zia Regional Rodeo). (*attending an out of state rodeo can substitute for one of the three events – must be approved by competition committee chair in advance).

FUNDRAISING

A: Must raise a minimum of \$500 via fundraising, sponsorship etc.

- \$400 will go to the New Mexico Gay Rodeo.
- \$100 will go to a 501c charity of their choice.
- Charity must be identified in the contestant form.
- Funds to be dispersed once contestant has completed all requirements.

B: Upon raising the contestants first \$100, a contestant sash will be presented by current royalty or Vice-President.

C: Fundraising requirements must be met no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Royalty Contest.

COMPETITION

Royalty Candidates will be judged in the following categories:

1. Personal Interview
2. Entertainment or Horsemanship
3. Western Wear
4. On Stage Question (Public Presentation)

Candidates may elect to participate in either Entertainment or Horsemanship. Candidate must notify the Royalty Committee Chair as to which category they intend to compete in, no later than (30) thirty days prior to competition date. Entertainment, Western Wear and On Stage Question will be open to the public. Personal Interview will be closed to the public.

POINT VALUES

Personal Interview 100 PTS

Entertainment or Horsemanship 50 PTS

Western Wear 50 PTS

On Stage Question (Public Presentation) 50 PTS

Total points awarded 250 PTS

QUALIFICATION FOR TITLE

A contestant must attain a minimum of 65% of the total overall points available from Four (4) categories consisting of Personal Interview, Western Wear, On Stage Question (Public Presentation) and Entertainment or Horsemanship, in order to place on the Royalty Team. The percentage will be calculated based on the number of judges in each category. This may be waived by the Royalty Committee Chair or Vice President with approval from Board.

TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE

In the Event of a Tie:

In the event that multiple contestants receive the same total score, the tie is broken by which contestant received the highest score in a specific competition. The competitions are checked in the following order to break a tie:

- Personal Interview
- Public Presentation
- Entertainment/Horsemanship
- Western Wear

In the event of a tie following the above tie breaking procedure, the royalty committee will break the tie via secret ballot vote of those members present. If there is a tie following that vote, the president of the board of directors will break that tie.

CONTESTANT MEETING

Royalty Committee Chair or Vice President shall hold a contestant meeting prior to the start of the Royalty Competition and will include but not limited to the following:

1. Collection of Western Wear Description and Entertainment CD.
2. Random Draw of Contestant numbers.
3. Give general competition information and answer any questions.
4. Contestant(s) must check in one (1) hour prior to contest night starting time with Royalty Committee or Royalty Committee Chair. If any contestant(s) check in after designated check in time this will result in 5 point penalty per judge.

JUDGES

Judge selection is as follows:

A: The Royalty Committee will also provide the names of 5 (five) judges and one (1) alternate for each specific competition, who are willing to judge. (Ex: 6 for horsemanship, 6 for western wear etc.)

B. Judges to be from past NMGRA Royalty, out of state Royalty, or other IGRA Sanctioned associations. If qualified judges cannot participate, alternative decisions on judges can be made by the Royalty Committee and Vice President.

C. The Royalty Committee shall obtain a commitment from the individuals willing to judge a competition and submit the names and qualifications to the Board for approval.

D. Any vacancies occurring after the thirty (30) day deadline will be filled by the Royalty Committee with the approval of the Board.

The following are the general rules for judging:

A. An individual judge may not judge more than one (1) competition, except for Public Presentation and Western Wear, which are scored by the same judges.

B. The judges will meet prior to the competition and select a presiding judge to act as the spokesperson for the judges.

C. The presiding judge coordinates with the representative of the Royalty competition Chair to insure that all contestants have adequate opportunity to compete.

D. If a judge does not attend the scheduled competition for any reason, the competition will continue and the missing judge will be replaced with the designated alternate judge.

E. The results of any competition will not be announced.

F. The judges are directly responsible to the Vice President or Royalty Committee Chair.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES & RULES

PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Judges will be looking for: Poise, Confidence, Familiarity of gay rodeo, NMGRA and its benefits to the gay community, Casual western wear (MISS will appear in male attire).

SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS

The Royalty Committee will put together a pool of 25 questions. Questions will be submitted by the current Royalty, Royalty Committee and any member of the NMGRA board. The NMGRA board will vote on fifteen (15) questions. From these fifteen questions the interview judges will select ten (10) questions for interview.

QUESTIONS ASKED

There are a total of ten (10) questions asked each contestant. All Contestants are asked the same questions. The judges for the competition will meet prior to the competition and review the questions to be asked. Each judge will select two questions from the pool of fifteen (15) selected by the NMGRA board to be asked during the interview competition. Questions will be asked by the current NMGRA Royalty.

Any judge may ask one time for a clarification of a contestant's response.

ENTERTAINMENT

Talent competition will be a presentation of a "show" routine that is country western in nature.

1. Five (5) minute time limit.
2. Any recorded material used must be on a CD (clearly marked with name and number of selection), USB Thumb Drive or email to Royalty Competition Chair. The 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.
3. Presentation shall be done solo.
4. Audience will be asked not to tip during presentation
5. Contestant will not receive any assistance in setup or teardown of props in any way. Any assistance will result in penalty on each score sheet.
6. Setup and teardown (in needed) are included in the time allotted for performance.
7. If the talent number exceeds 5 minutes, this will result in a two (2) point penalty per judge.

Horsemanship

1. These rules are basically the same rules governing the modified reining pattern of the American Quarter Horse Association as amended and approved by IGRA.

2. Judging is to be based generally on the modified reining pattern in the American Quarter Horse Association Handbook. A contestant's performance shall be submitted on a standard VHS tape or CD and shall consist of one (1) unedited continuous performance from one (1) camera. Video tape or CD must be cued at the start point of the performance and viewed one time only by the judges. It is the contestant's responsibility to insure his/her tape is properly cued.
3. The contestant rider will be judged on ability to control mount. Contestant must demonstrate poise, confidence, sportsmanship and showmanship.
4. The Miss contestants complete this portion of competition in male attire.
5. A hackamore, curb or snaffle bit is permissible. 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. No wire curbs, regardless of how padded or covered, nor any chain strap narrower than one-half inch (1/2") will be permitted.
6. The following pattern and routine are prescribed. It is essential that judges and riders adhere to it. (Refer to Exhibit A for pattern.)
7. Begin pattern at the end of a defined area comparable to IGRA, standard arena. The pattern begins with contestant mounted and walking horse to the first recommended change area.
8. At recommended change, mounted contestant should be in a trot until next recommended change area.
9. At recommended change, mounted contestant should change from trot to lope until the next recommended change area.
10. At recommended change, mounted contestant should break from a lope to a trot and turn towards center of arena.
11. Upon reaching center of arena, mounted contestant should stop and back their mount five (5) feet.
12. The rider may ride with reins in the style in which he/she has been taught. Rider may change hands as necessary.
13. Riders' hands shall be clear of horse and saddle while horse is in motion. Riders' free hand may be resting on riders' thigh while horse is in motion.
14. Romals, quirts crops, if worn or carried may not be used.
15. The contesting horse must be properly groomed and in sound condition. All equipment used must be in good and safe repair.

WESTERN WEAR

1. Each contestant will model contemporary formal or casual western fashion such as could be found in today's western wear catalogues or in quality western stores.
2. Miss may not wear stage costumes.

3. A western wear description will be read during modeling.
4. Modeling is limited to stage and/or designated area to be determined by the State Royalty Committee Chair. Failure to comply will result in a two (2) point deduction per judge penalty

PUBLIC PRESENTATION / ON STAGE QUESTION

Contestant will be asked one (1) question immediately following Western Wear Category and judged on Poise, Stage Presence, Content of answer, and Confidence.

Question(s) will be related to gay rodeo and education or the gay community as a whole.

Questions will be chosen by current royalty and judging panel.

REQUIREMENTS OF ROYALTY TEAM

Responsibilities

A. Upon assuming their respective titles, NMGRA Royalty team members will become co-chairs of the Entertainment and Fundraising committee and members of the Zia Regional Rodeo committee, with runners-up serving as committee members (as stated in NMGRA Bylaws [Article VIII, Section 1, B & D]).

B. To help organize and host the following years the Royalty Contest, Zia Regional Rodeo, NMGRA Dance Competition Royalty Competition, candidate and judges meetings.

1. Royalty Contest dates and packets are to be announced no later than 6 months in advance by the current royalty team and is to take place in the month of November or December with respect of other area Royalty competitions.

C. Winners will represent NMGRA for one rodeo year. (Culminating with the following Royalty Competition. Winning represents a possible two-year commitment.

D. Each title-holder must raise a minimum of \$500 dollars for a 501(C) non-profit organization to retain title and remain eligible to compete at the IGRA Royalty Competition. In addition, a minimum of one (1) fundraising event for IGRA prior to application deadline is required. Monies in the royalty funds shall be retained in the NMGRA General Account.

1. All monies, donations and tips raised at all NMGRA events and shows must be turned over to the Treasurer's possession within 48 hours of receipt of said monies and to be retained in the Royalty Fund of the NMGRA General Account. The following is the procedure for monies collection, retention and deposit.

- A. All funds collected after a number will be given to the NMGRA stage manager or their designee.
- B. After show concludes, the NMGRA fundraising tracking document must be completed, and all funds counted and certified by TWO people. One will be the NMGRA stage manager or designee, and the other a NMGRA board member (or designated by NMGRA stage manager.)
- C. After funds are counted, monies will be locked in NMGRA "lock bag" and retained by NMGRA stage manager, or if show occurs at Sidewinder's Ranch, money will be given (and recounted by NMGRA stage manager (or designee) and a member of

Sidewinder's Ranch management.) After counting, funds will be given to Sidewinder's Ranch management and an official check shall be written to NMGRA and given to NMGRA stage manager (or designee).

D. Money will be deposited within 48 hours. NMGRA fundraising tracking document and deposit receipt sent to NMGRA Treasurer.

2. Only time that royalty are allowed to keep their tips is at their step down.

E. In coordination with the public Relations/Media Director, Royalty shall serve as spokesperson for NMGRA, always keeping the organization's image and best interest in his or her mind.

F. Royalty are required to attend a minimum of two (2) out of state rodeos, the Zia Regional Rodeo and IGRA Finals. In addition, should if possible, attend any other rodeo related events and IGRA Convention.

G. Royalty must compete as NMGRA representative for the following IGRA Royalty Competition. The one-hundred dollar entry fee will be paid by NMGRA.

H. Royalty sashes are the financial responsibility of NMGRA, and buckles, if desired, are the full responsibility of the candidate. However, sponsorship is desired for sashes. In the event that there is not a sponsor for Royalty sashes, is the responsibility of NMGRA to provide those sashes.

I. If sponsored, Royalty title-holders will be awarded a Royalty Buckle. Title-holders and runners-up will have the honor of wearing the sash for that title. Sashes and Crown are the property of NMGRA. At the completion of responsibilities and rodeo year, Royalty will be awarded their sashes. The crown will be the responsibility of the current reigning Miss title holder. Financial responsibility for a replacement crown, if needed, is that of the Royalty Team.

J. Dependent on the number of candidates each category (Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer) will have a title-holder and first runner-up.

K. All results of the competition will become a matter of corporate record will be made available after announcement of winners. Results will also be distributed to candidates within thirty (30) days after competition.

L. Cost incurred for travel, lodging, etc., with the exceptions listed in standing rules, is the sole responsibilities of the title-holders.

M. Past royalty must make itself available to future royalty for guidance.

N. In the event a title-holder is unable to complete all responsibilities of his/her title before IGRA competition deadline, the title will then be passed to their runners-up. Runners-up should be prepared to accept all the responsibilities of his/her title or forfeit. In the event there is no representative for that title, at the board's discretion, the title can be passed to former royalty.

O. All title-holders must reside in the state of New Mexico for the duration of their reign. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of their title. A title-holder may petition the Board for a variance of this rule.

P. Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer NMGRA may not seek or accept any other titles in any other organization during their reign.

Q. All title-holders **MUST** be in sash at all NMGRA Events and IGRA events.

R. All title holders shall not be under the influence of alcohol and or drugs while wearing their sash.

S. Failure to comply with rules governing Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer can result in probation up to revocation of title.

Revocation Procedures

A. Any member of current Royalty or current Board may initiate probation up to revocation procedures.

B. Probation Procedure will consist of the following:

1. Verbal Warning from board.
2. If issue continues, a written warning will be issued
3. Revocation Process.

C. Revocation petition must be in writing indicating specific examples of failure to conform to obligations as set out in these standing rules.

D. Time and date is to be set by Board for examination of petition and presentation of rebuttal, if any.

E. A larger than two-thirds vote of board members present (quorum) is required for revocation.

F. Royalty member(s) in question will not have a vote during revocation procedures.

G. Absentee ballots will not be allowed for revocation procedures.