

GHJA Rule Change Proposal Instructions

Maintaining the integrity of the rules that govern the hunter/jumper equestrian competitions in the state of Georgia is a central responsibility to the mission of the GHJA. Requests to consider proposed rule changes are welcome from all members of the organization. While the Rules Committee will evaluate each rule change proposal submitted, a well-researched and carefully prepared proposal will be more likely to be presented to the GHJA Board of Directors for approval. The following documents the guidelines governing the processing of requests for rule changes.

Guidelines for GHJA Rule Changes

- Rule change proposals for the GHJA Rule Book will be evaluated once a year to be implemented effective December 1st of each year at the commencement of the new show year.
- Annual deadline for submitting requests for rule changes is July 1st of the current year.
- Rule Change Proposals are to be submitted to the GHJA Rules Committee by completing the GHJA Rule Change Proposal Form available on the GHJA web site www.ghja.org.
- All proposals for rule changes will first be reviewed and considered by the GHJA Rules Committee which will determine if the request will be presented to the GHJA Board of Directors for vote. In the case where the committee determines that a rule change proposal will not be presented to the Board for vote, the Committee will respond back to the originator of the request with the reasons why the Committee decided not to approve the request.
- The GHJA Board of Directors will vote on the current year Rule Change Proposals will be scheduled annually at the September meeting of the Board.
- A mailing of all proposed rule changes will be sent to the entire membership a minimum of 15 days prior to the date for the GHJA Board of Directors vote. Such mailing shall provide contact information for the general membership to provide feedback to the Board membership.
- If you believe a rule change proposal is urgent and should be considered outside of the annual rule change proposal timeline, you may request that the GHJA Rules Committee expedite consideration of the rule. You must clearly state the reasons for the expedited consideration of the rule on the Rule Change Request Form. In general, exceptions outside of the annual rule change proposal process will only be considered for urgent matters which may impact the health and safety of the memberships' riders and horses.

Instructions for Completing the GHJA Rule Change Proposal Form

- The official GHJA Rule Change Proposal Form is available online and can be completed and submitted online, completed and emailed to the GHJA Executive Secretary execsec@ghja.org or completed and mailed to the GHJA Executive Secretary at P.O. Box 28228, Atlanta, GA 30358.
- Determine the correct rule book reference section number for the rule that you are proposing to change – locate the current rule reference number in the current website version of the GHJA Rule Book.
- Rule Book Section: Choose whether the rule change proposal impacts either Regular Member Horse Show Rules or Local Member Horse Show Rules.
- Proposed Rule Change: Choose “Add” if this is a new rule, choose “Delete” if proposing that an existing rule be deleted, and “Change” if a content change is being proposed for an existing rule.
- Type or print neatly, stating the exact wording being proposed. If you are proposing changes to existing language, please ~~strike through~~ the words you propose to delete. Type in ***bold and italics*** the words you propose to add.
- Intent: Include a concise statement of what is intended to be accomplished with the proposed rule change. Again – while all proposals will be evaluated by the committee, a well-researched and carefully prepared proposal will be more likely to be presented to the GHJA board of Directors for approval. If applicable, inclusion of details around additional membership support of the proposed rule change would be helpful to the committee.
- Include Contact information – name, address, telephone number, email, etc. so that the Rules Committee can contact you if there are questions.