

# Kit Carson Riding Club, Inc.

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[www.KitCarsonRidingClub.com](http://www.KitCarsonRidingClub.com)



## 2025 GYMKHANA RULES

### Season

The summer gymkhana series runs from May through September and consists of nine (9) events with two reserved make-up dates. See club calendar for actual event dates. If additional make-up dates are needed, KCRC reserves the right to schedule additional dates as available.

- Gymkhana events are open to the public.
- Gates will open at 3:00pm.
- Registration will begin at 3:15pm. Online registration may be available.
- Start time will be at 4:00pm for LEADLINE followed by drill team (if performing) and opening ceremonies.
- After 4:45pm, the event registration will be moved to the announcer's booth.
- Age Group classes begin at 5pm.
- Registration for each event will close when the first rider for that class for that event enters the arena.

### Registration and Fees

The following prices are the same for all classes:

- \$5.00 per event per rider for club members
- \$10.00 per event per rider for non-members + \$10 office fee per registration
  - Example: If a single rider is running 2 horses: 1 horse in all events and a second horse just in barrels
    - Horse 1: \$10 (barrels)+\$10 (flags)+\$10 (75 up/back)+\$10 (poles)+\$10 (office) = \$50
    - Horse 2: \$10 (barrels)+\$10 (office) = \$20
- \$160 Season Pass (one per rider/horse combo) – This is a non-refundable and non-transferable pass. Any rider purchasing a Season Pass will still have to check in according to the registration requirements outlined above. If a rider chooses to run a 2<sup>nd</sup> horse on a given night they must pay for that horse the day of the event.
- Only two horses per rider will be allowed at an event. Non-members must complete a separate registration form for each horse.

### Classes, Age Groups, and Points

- Class age is based on the participant's age as of January 1st, 2025.
- For KCRC members, it is the rider's responsibility to specify at registration which horse is running for points for end of year awards. Non-Members will be responsible for specifying which horse is running for the ribbon points that night. The announcer MUST be notified of a change of horses before the event is run, or there will be no points awarded for that run. There will be arena helpers with radios available to contact the Event Director if needed.
- **Ribbons Only/Non-buckle classes:**
  - **Leadline:** No age designation. This class is for those that will be led through the patterns by using a lead rope attached to the horse.
  - **Walk/Trot:** No age designation. This class is for those who choose to walk and/or trot through the patterns. In the event the horse lopez, the first time there will be a warning issued. Each additional occurrence may result in a five (5) second penalty.

- **Buckle and Ribbon Classes:**

Ribbons will be awarded to first through sixth place to members or non-members. Points will only be awarded to members eligible for year-end buckle awards.

**Buckle Divisions:**

**10 and Under**  
**11 thru 14**  
**15 thru 18**  
**19 thru 39**  
**40 thru 59**  
**60 and up**

**Points Awarded:**

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

**Year End Awards**

To qualify for a Year End Award, all of the following criteria must be met:

- Must be an approved club member on or before the KCRC board meeting the month before the series begins of that competition year (Example: The first Gymkhana in 2025 is on May 24th. To be eligible for a buckle, a rider must be an approved member by April 7, 2025 — which is the first Monday of the month *before* the first Gymkhana (in this case, April is the month before May)).
- Must ride in the correct age group (age as of January 1 of current year).
- Year End High Point and High Point Reserve award(s) will be based on the 8 highest point events throughout the whole season.
- Must participate in at least 50% of the scheduled and/or makeup gymkhanas in that given season.
- Must volunteer for at least one KCRC sponsored event within the year between Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. This window allows time to order buckles for the year end awards. Volunteer must have a current (at the time of volunteering) board member vouch for volunteer activity. This can be done either through a paper sign-up sheet managed by a board member, or via an email that the board member initiates or explicitly states approval in writing.

**NO EXCEPTIONS**

**Run Forfeiture**

KCRC is a family-friendly and beginner focused club. We understand that new horses and new riders take time to learn and that things go differently on performance night than when practicing. However, to be fair to our volunteers and other riders we sometimes have to ask a rider to forfeit their run to keep the event running smoothly.

- Announcer will give 3 calls; if the rider fails to be at the gate within 30 seconds of the 3rd call, they will forfeit their run for that event.
- At any point during a run, if substantial forward motion is not achieved within 45 seconds, a rider will forfeit their run and be asked to exit the arena.
- If a horse substantially breaks the pattern, a rider is not permitted to start over again and rerun the pattern a second time.

**Events and Order**

1. Barrels
2. Flags
3. 75 Up & Back - Pole Bending (combo)

**New in 2025** - 75 Up & Back will be combined with Pole Bending. A rider will have the choice of which order to run these events in and will have 45 seconds between events to collect themselves and their mount before starting the second pattern.

### **Electronic Timer**

Electric eye timer is the official time and cannot be challenged. If the electric eye is not working, a manual timer(s) will be used.

### **Re-runs**

A re-run will be allowed in the case of electric eye failure. A re-run must take place before the end of the event being re-run or as Announcer/Event Direct deems appropriate.

### **Arena Area and Grounds**

Contestants must keep the alleyway and gate area clear at all times, unless they are up for their run. Horses must be kept clear of the storage shed and grandstands at all times. Do not tie horses to the arena fence. Horses must be kept a minimum of 15 feet from the East and West side arena fences, excluding the N/W corner of the arena.

### **Riding Horseback**

All persons on horseback MUST have a current Hold Harmless Agreement signed and on file with Kit Carson Riding Club.

Non-Members must sign this agreement at each event. KCRC Members need only the agreement that was signed on the membership application.

A non-member not competing in a gymkhana must complete a Non-Member Registration Sheet and must sign Hold Harmless portion. If not competing do not select any events and no payment is required.

### **Vehicles and Parking**

Trucks, trailers, and all other vehicles must be parked clear of all alleyways and gates. Leave a full vehicle length when parking behind a trailer and at least a full vehicle width when parking alongside a trailer. Remember even if a horse is not present at the time, there might be horse there later in the evening.

Obey posted speed limit (10mph) – no speeding, no revving engines, no honking, etc. when around horses.

### **Helmets**

Helmets and other protective equipment are not required but are highly recommended.

### **Weather/Temperature/Ground Conditions Policy:**

Starting earlier and finishing later in the season may have some temperature issues. Our events are family-oriented and there are a lot of young and old ones having fun, so we need to look out for everyone. Horse and rider safety is a priority.

Wunderground <https://www.wunderground.com/> will be the primary weather app used to gather the information.

#### **Main Principles:**

- Forecasted temperature at start time (4pm) must be a minimum of 50 degrees factoring in wind chill.
- Forecasted temperature 1 hour after sunset must be above freezing (33 degrees or higher) factoring in wind chill. Sunset times are listed on Wunderground as well as temperatures. Times will be rounded back to the nearest hour if 29 minutes or less or rounded up if 30 minutes or more as forecasted temperatures are based on hourly numbers.
  - Example, if sunset is 8:15pm—and you add the hour after sunset, that takes you to 9:15pm so the temperature at 9:00pm will be used. If sunset is 8:31 and then add the hour to make 9:31pm so the 10pm temperature will be used.

BOTH temperatures should be within the above stated ranges—the final decision will be that of the gymkhana chair and/or event director for that event if there are other considerations.

The forecasted temperatures will be reviewed using the closet station to KCRC which is KCOCOLOR1855.

<https://www.wunderground.com/.../colorado.../KCOCOLOR1855>

### **Ground Conditions**

Arena conditions and footing is the judgment call of the Board of Directors and gymkhana Event Director. If conditions are not suitable or expected to not be suitable in time for arena preparation and/or in time for the event to start as scheduled the event will be canceled.

### **Notifications**

Temperature review and ground conditions assessment will be at 11am on the dates of the event and a decision will be announced on the *Facebook* page and by email.

### **Rain Checks**

Rain checks will be given to participants if severe weather dictates cancellation of the evening's events. Rain checks will only be given out to those riders that did not have a chance to ride *in any events* that they registered for. Rain checks will not be issued if 3 "points" events have been finished. All rain checks will be honored at future events during the same season only.

### **Lightning**

If lightning is detected within 10 miles of KCRC grounds, there will be a 10-minute delay as soon as the current rider has completed their run. If additional strikes occur the timer will reset after each detected strike.

# **Event Rules**

## **Barrel Race**

Three barrels shall be placed approx. 75 feet apart in a triangle formation conforming to accepted standards. Rider will cross the timing eye and start the timer. Ride to the 1st barrel (left or right in the pattern) passing between 1st and 2nd barrels, circle away from the center of the arena towards the fence. Continue around the 1st barrel and ride to the 2nd barrel opposite of the 1st barrel making a "figure 8" pattern. Pass 2nd barrel and circle from center of arena towards fence, exit 2nd barrel towards 3rd barrel while crossing over the center of the arena. Circle around the 3rd barrel and return to the timing eye to stop the timer by passing between 1st and 2nd barrels.

### **Disqualifications:**

1. Crossing the start/finish line before the pattern is complete.
2. Loss of forward momentum.
3. Not passing between barrels #1 and #2 prior to stopping the timer.

### **Penalty:**

A five (5) second penalty will be added for each barrel knocked over. Contestants are allowed to touch barrels.

## **Flag Race**

Two barrels placed approx. 75 feet apart (same as barrel pattern spacing) and a pole placed on the centerline of the arena. A five-gallon bucket filled with sand, soft dirt, wood pellets, or similar material is placed on top of each barrel. A "flag" (usually a wooden dowel painted or with either wrapped or loose material) is placed in the center of one bucket. Typically the flag is placed in the left bucket but riders can request the flag be placed in the right bucket if desired. Rider approaches the bucket with the flag in place while riding on the outside of the barrel (between barrel and fence), picks the flag out of the bucket and carries it around the pole and to the 2nd bucket. Flag must be placed into the 2nd bucket so that it remains in place until the timer is stopped.

### **Disqualifications:**

1. Loss of forward motion, circling either of the barrels, or not passing beyond the pole.
2. Flag falls out of the bucket before the timer stops.
3. Rider does not pick flag out of the bucket.
4. Knocking over any of the following: either of the buckets, either of the barrels, or pole.
5. Not passing beyond the pole.

## **75 Up and Back**

One barrel will be placed approx. 105 feet from the start/finish line (same as third barrel in standard barrel pattern). Rider rides to the barrel, turns either to the right or left and rides back to the finish line. During the course of the evening the barrel may be moved left and right of center to allow for less grooming time.

### **Disqualifications:**

1. Loss of forward momentum.
2. Crossing the start/finish line before the pattern is complete.

### **Penalty:**

A five (5) second penalty will be added for each barrel knocked over. Contestants are allowed to touch barrels.

## **Pole Bending**

Six poles to be placed approx. 21 feet apart with the first pole set approx. 21 feet from the start/finish line. The rider crosses start line, rides along either side of series of poles, turns around pole #6 to the left or right and then weaves (bends) around the opposite side of each pole to pole #1, turns around pole #1 and weaves (bends) around the opposite side of each pole to pole #6, turns around pole #6 and rides across the finish line.

### **Disqualifications:**

1. Loss of forward momentum.
2. Riding across start/finish line when circling pole #1.

### **Penalty:**

A five (5) second penalty will be added for each pole knocked over.

## **Horsemanship and Safety**

- Any contestant who, through lack of control or poor sportsmanship, endangers the safety of other contestants will be penalized or disqualified for the event, at the Event Director's discretion.
- Abuse of one's mount, excessive whipping, jerking of the reins, excessive spurring or kicking, striking the horse with any object etc., is strictly prohibited. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification for that event. Repeat offenses may result in disqualification for the entire evening.
- Riding carelessly around the grounds is prohibited. Trotting, cantering, loping, or galloping is allowed in either of the two arenas and the round pen. Trotting outside an arena is allowed along the North fence line only.
- Footwear with an appropriate heel and full-length pants must be worn.
- When passing, pass well off to the side. In any event, warn the rider ahead and pass slowly.
- Check and tighten all tack before entering any arena.
- No bicycles will be allowed to be ridden in the vicinity of the horses or horse trailers.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times and are not allowed in the clubhouse. No exceptions.
- Members are to present themselves in a respectful and professional manner at all times pursuant to the KCRC Code of Conduct set forth by the Board of Directors for Kit Carson Riding Club. These rules can be obtained from the club by request to any board member.

Violations of the KCRC Code of Conduct, as set forth by the Board of Directors, per the decision of the Event Director or the announcer, can be grounds for disqualification from the event in question and /or dismissal from remaining events or removal from the KCRC grounds as a last resort.

Participants deemed to be riding under the influence of drugs or alcohol anywhere on KCRC grounds will not be allowed to ride their horses or participate in any KCRC-sponsored event scheduled for that day or evening. This decision is to be made by the Event Director or any available KCRC Board member.

Violent, aggressive or demeaning behavior will not be tolerated in any situation.

All rules and regulations as stated in this document or outlined in the KCRC Code of Conduct are at full discretion of the Event Director and/or Board Member. Final decisions are not negotiable and cannot be challenged.