

Kit Carson Riding Club, Inc.

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www.KitCarsonRidingClub.com



2026 GYMKHANA RULES

Season (NEW TIMES FOR 2026)

The summer gymkhana series runs from May through October and consists of ten (10) events with two POTENTIAL reserved make-up dates (to be used only if needed). See club calendar for 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 12:45PM.
- Registration opens at 1:00PM.
- Gymkhana start time is 2:00PM.
- In addition to in-person registration, another option will be online registration. Online registration will cut down lines and wait times. A link will be on the KCRC website. In person check-in may still be required.
- Registration will remain open until 3:30 PM to accommodate late entries. However, registration for each individual event will close once the first rider in that class enters the arena. After 3:30 PM, all registration will close for the evening, and no additional entries or payments will be accepted. Please **note** that this is a change from previous years.
- Please arrive early and be ready!!

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 2nd 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. A separate registration form for each horse must be completed.

Classes, Age Groups, and Points (NEW GROUPS FOR 2026)

- Class age groups are based on the participant's age as of January 1st, 2026. If an incorrect age is used, the member may be disqualified for the season.
- 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 Directors if needed.
- Ribbons will be awarded after each gymkhana to first through sixth place both to members and non-members.

- **Ribbons Only/Non-buckle class:**
 - **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.
- **Rosette Only/Non-buckle classes:**
 - **Walk/Trot (youth):** Up to 17 years of age as of January 1st, 2026. This class is for those who choose to walk and/or trot through the patterns. In the event the horse lopes, the first time there will be a warning issued. Each additional occurrence may result in a five (5) second penalty. ONLY horse and rider may cross the timer.
 - **Walk/Trot (adult):** 18 years of age and up as of January 1st, 2026. This class is for those who choose to walk and/or trot through the patterns. In the event the horse lopes, the first time there will be a warning issued. Each additional occurrence may result in a five (5) second penalty. ONLY horse and rider may cross the timer.
- **Open Classes:**
 - All 2025 Buckle Winners will be **automatically** entered into the open class in 2026 **unless:**
 - They qualify for a different age group based on the 2025 age group structure and choose to run in that age group rather than the open group.
 - They choose not to participate in the open class and ride in their age group but **will not** be eligible for earning points for a buckle in their age group (they may still get ribbons).
 - Open Class is open to all riders—youth and adult divisions apply. While this class does not award buckles, participants will compete for cash prize awards.
- **End-of-Year Points for Buckles and Prize Awards**
Points will only be awarded to members eligible for year-end buckle and prize awards.

<u>Divisions:</u>	<u>Points Awarded:</u>
Open (Youth up to 17 years of age)	1st place = 6 points
Open (Adult 18 years of age)	2nd place = 5 points
10 & Under	3rd place = 4 points
11 - 14	4th place = 3 points
15 - 18	5th place = 2 points
19 - 49	6th place = 1 point
50 - up	

Year End Awards (NEW FOR 2026)

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

- A rider must be an approved member by May 4, 2026 (all applications require board approval and must be received by 5/1/2026).
- A participant must ride in the correct age group (age as of January 1st, 2026).
- Year End High Point, High Point Reserve award(s) **AND** a 3rd place award will be based on the highest point total of events with a one low score drop to those that complete all held gymkhanas throughout the season.
- All divisions (open class and age groups) must have a **minimum** of 2 riders for a grand champion prize to be issued and 3 riders for a reserve champion for a prize to be issued for **at least 50%** of the ten gymkhanas.
- Riders must participate in at least 50% of the held gymkhanas in that given season.
- If a rider attends all held gymkhanas, the lowest score will be dropped.
- Must volunteer for at least **TWO** KCRC sponsored events within the year between Jan. 1st and Oct. 15th. This window allows time to order buckles for the year end awards. **Volunteer hours must be recorded in the KCRC Volunteer Tracker. Recorded hours must be validated by a board member.**
- **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 and will be disqualified from that event.
- If a horse substantially breaks the pattern, a rider is not permitted to start over again and rerun the pattern a second time and will be disqualified from that event.

Events and Order

1. Barrels
2. Flags
3. 75 Up & Back - Pole Bending (**combo**)
 - 75 Up & Back will **continue to be combined with Pole Bending**. A rider will have the choice of which order to run these events 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 the Announcer/Event Directors deem 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.

Any non-member on horseback who is not competing in a gymkhana must also complete a Non-Member Registration Sheet and must sign the 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 a 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:

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. Ultimately it is up to each owner to determine what is best for their animal given the weather/ground conditions.

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

Hot Weather Principles: US Equestrian Federation Recommendations/Guidelines for participants in hot weather competitions:

- If the total temperature plus humidity is below 130, competition proceeds without any warnings.
- If total temperature plus humidity falls between 130 and 150, it is suggested to monitor for potential signs of heat stress.
- When the total temperature plus humidity falls between 150 and 180, it is critical to monitor for signs of heat stress.
- If the total temperature plus humidity is above 180, alternative competition times should be utilized.

KCRC policy using these guidelines will be to suspend competition when total temperature plus humidity reaches 165.

Cold Weather Principles:

- Forecasted temperature at start time (2pm) 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 Event Directors 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 Directors. 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. The calendar entry will also be annotated with “canceled”.

Rain Checks

Rain checks will be given to participants if severe weather dictates cancellation of the evening's events. Rain checks will not be issued if 2 "points" events have been finished. All rain checks will be honored at future events during the same season only and are entirely at the discretion of the Event Directors.

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, kitty liter, 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. 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 or broken pattern.
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 or broken pattern.

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 Directors' 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 Directors 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 Directors 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 Directors and/or Board Member. Final decisions are not negotiable and cannot be challenged.

Points of Contact

The points of contact for any issues regarding gymkhanas should be directed to the committee chairs. The committee chairs for the 2026 Gymkhana season are board members Tony Ruggiero and SJ Morrone.