

FGRA ROYALTY BYLAWS

Article 1

General

- 1.1 Purpose: The purpose of the FGRA Royalty Team and Committee is to adhere to the mission statement of FGRA by expanding our presence throughout the territory of FGRA.
- 1.2 The FGRA Royalty Competition Committee (RCC) shall be overseen by the FGRA Vice President. RCC Chairperson shall be nominated by the FGRA Vice President and appointed by the FGRA President. Committee members shall include any current standing Royalty and individuals assigned by the FGRA President. The RCC will have the overall responsibility for holding the competition. The committee will prepare a file for each contestant, including the application form, judging forms for each competition and envelopes in which to seal judges forms.
- 1.3 **Transgender contestants.** For the purpose of competition within FGRA, any transgender contestant is eligible to compete under the gender classification with which the individual identifies and lives on a daily basis. Transgender contestants must present to the FGRA Vice President evidence of change from the gender at birth. This documentation will be kept on file at the FGRA administrative office and only needs to be evaluated one time. Evidence may be their legal driver's license or ID card if it indicates gender. If the transgender contestant is in the process of changing their gender, they must provide the FGRA Vice President adequate documentation, such as recommended by the "Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association" showing they are in the process. The terms Mr. Ms. Miss and MsTer and other gender identifying words used throughout these competition rules refer to the contestant's personal gender identification as indicated on the Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer FGRA Royalty Contestant Application (Exhibit A). For purposes of competition, a contestant cannot change their gender classification during their FGRA Royalty reign.
- 1.4 **Americans With Disabilities Act.** The FGRA Royalty Competition will not discriminate against anyone based on disability according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a contestant requires special accommodations or cannot compete in a certain category of the FGRA Royalty Competition because of their disability, that contestant must notify the Vice President ninety (90) days prior to the FGRA Royalty Competition. At that time, the FGRA RCC Chair, FGRA Executive Board will decide upon a fair and reasonable resolution with consideration of all contestants. The decision of this committee will be final only for that specific category.

- 1.5 **Budget.** The RCC shall provide a Royalty Competition budget at least sixty (60) days prior to the Royalty Competition. Upon Board approval of the competition budget, FGRA will provide all funding for the FGRA Royalty contest.
- 1.6 **Tabulation of Scores.** The RCC Chairperson shall appoint a tabulation committee consisting of two (2) individuals. These individuals shall be responsible for the tabulation of the judges scores following each segment of the competition and shall have no actual or perceived conflict of interest with contestants or competition officials. Two (2) FGRA Board appointed auditors who also shall have no actual or perceived conflict of interest with any contestant or competition official shall verify final tallies for accuracy. The RCC Chairperson will provide to the FGRA President the results of the competition in the form of a list of names of the winners and runners-up for each title. The actual score received by any contestant will not be announced.
- 1.7 **Scoring**
- A. Scoring will be done by all judges for respective categories with high and low scores from each category being thrown out and the remaining scores totaled.
 - B. All contestants must receive 75% of the overall score to win a position on the FGRA Royalty Team (minus the high and low scores).
- 1.8 **Ties.** In the event that two 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:
- Personal Interview
 - Public Presentation
 - Horsemanship
 - Entertainment
 - Western Wear
- 1.9 **Announcement of Winners.** The winners for each title are announced by the President at the conclusion of the competition.

Article II

Eligibility

- 2.1 Be a member in good standing of the association at least six (6) months prior to the submission of the application.

- A. Reside in the territory of FGRA at the time of application.
- B. Be at least 18 years of age.
- C. Legally male for the categories of Mr and Miss and female for the categories of Ms and MsTer.
- D. Must not currently hold a Royalty or similar title from any other organization.

Article III Application

- 3.1 Rules governing the FGRA Royalty Competition shall be available on the associations website.
- 3.2 **Application.** Any person wishing to compete in the FGRA Royalty Competition shall submit a signed application and any application requirements to the FGRA Vice President no earlier than 45 days prior to the competition and no later an 15 days prior to the competition. Approved FGRA Royalty application is attached as Exhibit A.
- 3.3 Fee: A non-refundable \$75 application fee shall accompany the application.

Article IV Requirements

- 4.1 **Commitment.** Any qualified individual who enters the FGRA Royalty competition by submitting their signed application agrees to represent the FGRA for a period of one year, Reign January 1 to December 31, in a manner listed on the application and further agrees to abide by the rules governing the competition and the Code of Conduct/Etiquette (exhibit G) governing the FGRA Royalty Team.
- 4.2 **Identification of Charity.** Within seventy-two (72) hours of being named a winner of runner up of the FGRA Royalty Title, the individual selected is required to submit in writing the name of the 501c3 charity that they are going to represent in the fundraising activities for FGRA Board approval.
- 4.3 **Fundraising**
 - 4.3.1 Mr Ms Miss MsTer FGRA and any and all runner ups each agree to fulfill the obligations set forth in Article XI

- 4.4 **Strategic Plan.** All candidates for Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer FGRA must submit a signed and sealed written, detailed Strategic Plan for their reigning year. Plans will be opened by the FGRA Vice President at the completion of the competition and entered into the records of the association.
- 4.5 **Rodeo Participation.** Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer FGRA and any and all runner ups are required to attend all FGRA Produced rodeos. Additionally, Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer FGRA are required to attend at least two IGRA Sanctioned Rodeos/Events during their reign.
- 4.6 **Residence.** Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer FGRA must reside in the territory of FGRA during their reign.

Article V Areas of Competition

- 5.1 **Competitions.** There are five (5) areas of competition. Contestants must compete in all five (5) competitions. Competitions and point values are:
- A. Personal Interview- 100 points
 - B. Horsemanship – 50 points
 - C. Western Wear – 50 points
 - D. Entertainment – 50 points
 - E. Public Presentation – 50 points
- 5.2 **Judges and Scoring.** The following paragraphs contain the general rules regarding judges and judging.
- 5.2.1 **Judge Selection.** Judge selection is as follows:
- A. The Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer FGRA Royalty Committee will provide the names of twenty five (25) individuals to serve as judges for the competition, five (5) for each specific competition and one alternate. The Public Presentation and Western Wear competitions shall be judged by the same set of judges.
 - B. The Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer FGRA Royalty Committee shall obtain a commitment form from the individuals willing to judge a competition no less than thirty (30) days prior to the competition and submit the names and qualifications to the FGRA Board.
 - C. Any vacancies occurring after the thirty (30) day deadline will be filled by members of the RCC and/or the FGRA Board.

- 5.2.2 **Judging.** The following are the general rules for judging
- A. An individual may not judge more than one (1) competition, except for Public Presentation and Western Wear, which are scored by the same judges.
 - B. Judging forms for each competition are contained in exhibits B through F respectively.
 - C. The judges will meet prior to the competition and select a presiding judge to act as the spokesperson for the judges.
 - D. The presiding judge coordinates with the FGRA RCC Chair to insure that all contestants have adequate opportunity to compete.
 - E. The judges review the rules of the specific competition prior to the commencement of the competition and make any announcement regarding the rules to the Royalty Committee and all contestants prior to the start of the competition.
 - F. 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.
 - G. The results of any competition will not be announced.
 - H. The judges are directly responsible to the FGRA Vice President or a representative selected by the FGRA President.

5.3 **Competition Rules.** The rules for each competition, the judging requirement and judging guidelines are listed in the following paragraphs.

- 5.3.1 **Personal Interview.** The Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer Royalty Committee is responsible for holding this competition.
- A. Purpose
 - 1. Purpose of the competition is to show poise, confidence and familiarity with gay rodeo, member associations, IGRA and FGRA and its benefit to the gay community at large.
 - B. Rules
 - 1. Personal Interview is NOT open to the public.
 - 2. Contestants will appear in casual western wear. Miss will appear in male attire, MsTer in female attire.
 - C. Submission of questions. The Royalty Committee will put together a pool of 25 questions. Questions will be submitted by the reigning Royalty, Royalty Committee, and any member of the FGRA Board. The FGRA Board will vote on fifteen (15) questions from these fifteen (15) questions, the interview judges will select ten (10) questions for the interview.
 - D. Questions Asked each Contestant. 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 FGRA Board to be asked during the interview competition. Questions will be asked by the current FGRA Royalty.

- E. **Judges.** There are a total of five (5) judges and one (1) alternate for this competition. The judges will review the questions to be asked to each contestant prior to the start of that competition. Any judge may ask one time for a clarification of a contestant's response. Each judge has a total of one hundred (100) points to evaluate the contestant. The judging is based upon items listed in the judging form contained in Exhibit B (Personal Interview)

5.3.2 **Horsemanship.** The Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer Royalty Committee is responsible for holding this competition. The ride to be judged must be recorded and unedited and submitted on a CD and provided to the committee prior to the start of the judging of this event.

A. Rules

1. The ride is to be performed in accordance with the IGRA Riding Rules. The pattern to be ridden and the judging guidelines are contained in Exhibit C (Horsemanship)
2. Judging is to be based on the Modified Reining Pattern in the American Quarter Horse Association Handbook. A contestant's performance shall be in recorded format on DVD or other approved media. Recording must be cued at the start point of the performance.
3. Judges will view the recording a minimum of one (1) time and a maximum of three (3) times in order to carefully examine each of the three required changes.
4. The contesting rider will be judged on ability to control mount. Contestant must demonstrate poise, confidence, sportsmanship, and showmanship.
5. The Miss contestants complete this portion of the competition in male attire. The MsTer contestants complete this portion of the competition in female attire.
6. Camera position shall be position on the inside of the pattern in between the start position and the first recommended change (Refer to Exhibit C for camera position) Failure to comply will result in a two (2) point deduction.
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. As the contesting horse approaches the camera, the camera operator must zoom in to identify the contesting rider and the condition of the contesting horse. Failure to comply will result in a two(2) point deduction per judge penalty.
8. At recommended change, mounted contestant should be in a trot until the next recommended change area.
9. During lope segment it is hopeful that contestants horse will make correct lead changes.

10. At recommended change mounted contestant should break from a lope to a trop 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 was taught. Rider may change hands as necessary (if neck reining). Neck reining (one handed) OR direct reining (two handed) is allowed, however, style must be predetermined and maintained throughout competition. Points will be deducted for riding style deviation.
13. Until recording is completed, riders hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle at all times. If neck reining, free hand may rest on riders thighs.
14. Romals, quirts, and crops (if worn or carried) may not be used.
15. The contestant's horse must be properly groomed and in sound condition. All equipment must be in good and safe repair.
16. Recommended guidelines to follow are in judging area included in Exhibit C (Horsemanship).
17. A major infraction shall result in zero (0) points for the corresponding category.

B. Judges. There are a total of five (5) judges and one (1) alternate for this competition. The judges will review the questions to be asked to each contestant prior to the start of that competition. Each judge has a total of fifty (50) points to evaluate the contestant. The judging is based upon items listed in the judging form contained in Exhibit C (Horsemanship)

5.3.3 **Western Wear.** The Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer Royalty Committee is responsible for holding this competition.

A. Rules.

1. The Western Wear competition will be open to the public.
2. The presentation takes place based upon the judging form contained in Exhibit D (Western Wear)
3. Miss may not wear state costume for the Western Wear competition.
4. Presentation/modeling is limited to stage and/or designated area to be determined by the competition committee. Failure to comply will result in a two (2) point per judge penalty.

B. Judges

1. There are a total of five (5) judges and one (1) alternate for this competition. Each judge has a total of fifty (50) points to evaluate the contestant.

5.3.4 **Entertainment.** The Mr, Ms, Miss, MsTer Royalty Committee is responsible for holding this competition.

A. Rules.

1. Entertainment Competition will be open to the public.
2. Tips cannot be accepted by the contestant.
3. Time Limit. There is a five (5) minute time limit for performance. Performance must be of country/western origin. Performances exceeding time limit will result in a five (5) point per judge deduction for each minute or portion of a minute exceeded. The Head Judge will record times on their score sheet.
4. Music selection, if any, shall be either on tape, CD, Stick/thumb drive, or live. If selection is taped, the tape must be cued with the selection being the only number on tape.
5. Performances are limited to stage and/or designated area to be determined by the royalty committee. Failure to comply will result in a two (2) point per judge penalty.
6. Presentation must be made solo.
7. Props may be used as long as the contestant carries them onto the performance area. If any set up is required it must be completed within the five (5) minute time allotment.
8. Presentation takes place based upon the judging from contained in Exhibit E (Entertainment)

B. Judges

1. There are a total of five (5) judges and one (1) alternate for this competition. Each judge has a total of fifty (50) points to evaluate the contestant.

5.3.5 **Public Presentation.** The Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer FGRA Royalty Committee is responsible for holding this competition.

A. Rules

1. Public Presentation Competition is open to the public.
2. The FGRA President prepares the questions to be asked.
3. The presentation takes place based upon the judging form contained in Exhibit F (Public Presentation)

B. Judges

1. There are a total of five (5) judges and one (1) alternate for this competition. Each judge has a total of fifty (50) points to evaluate the contestant.

Article VI Restrictions

6.1 **Drugs and Alcohol.** All contestants and competition officials shall neither consume nor be under the influence of intoxicating substances or drugs during any phase of the competition. The FGRA Royalty Committee shall define the competition phases and ensure that notice is given to the all affected individuals prior to the competition.

Article VII Contest

7.1 The Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer FGRA competition shall be held within 45 days of the Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer IGRA contest. Reign of FGRA Royalty shall be January 1 to December 31.

Article VII Sashes Buckles, and Crown

8.1 Sashes will be awarded to the winners of Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer FGRA and each first runner-up. The Miss FGRA will be awarded a tiara or crown. Upon completion of their financial requirements, Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer FGRA titleholders will receive an FGRA Buckle. This can coincide with the Sunshine Stampede Rodeo.

8.2 Sashes will be Black with Gold Lettering for Title holders and Garnet with Silver lettering for Runners Up.

Article IX Special Circumstances

9.1 In a case where there may be no Royalty competition or no person competing for a specific title, the FGRA Board of Directors may ask the current or past royalty titleholder to extend their term or enter a new term as a Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer FGRA.

Article X Duties and Responsibilities

10.1 **Duties and Responsibilities.** Upon assuming their respective title, Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer and all runners up are expected to:

- A. Titleholder will represent FGRA for one (1) year
- B. Be active members for fundraising
- C. Attend all rodeos sponsored by FGRA
- D. Attend two (2) additional IGRA sanctioned events or rodeos
- E. Communicate with other members of the FGRA Royalty Team, Royalty Chair, and FGRA Vice President
- F. Work with the FGRA Executive Board in Public Relations and fundraisers

- G. Submit monthly written reports to the FGRA Royalty Chair and FGRA Vice President including all individual and joint public relations and fundraising activities engaged in during the previous month and plans for activities for the coming month.
- H. Represent FGRA in a positive manner by attending as many FGRA functions as physically and financially able and being a visible member of the FGRA gay community by attending fundraisers and fundraisers of reciprocal organizations as possible while wearing a sash.
- I. Abide by the Rules of Conduct Etiquette (Exhibit G) governing Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer FGRA.
- J. Remain a resident of the territory of FGRA during their reign
- K. Serve on the Membership Committee and Royalty Committee
- L. Provide written articles for the newsletter when requested

Article XI Financial Requirements

11.1 Financial requirements are as follows:

- A. Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer FGRA must raise a minimum of \$750 each for a 501c(3) non-profit organization within the territory of FGRA, \$500 each for FGRA, and \$250 each for the FGRA Royalty Fund.
- B. Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer FGRA Runner Up must raise a minimum of \$500 each for a 501c(3) non-profit organization within the territory of FGRA, \$250 each for FGRA, and \$100 each for the FGRA Royalty Fund.

Article XII IGRA Royalty Contest

12.1 IGRA Royalty Contest

- A. Winners and Runners up of the Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer FGRA competition are encouraged to represent FGRA at the Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer IGRA Royalty Competition.
- B. IGRA Royalty Competition Entry Forms and a check or money order for \$100 must be postmarked no less than forty five (45) days prior to the scheduled IGRA Royalty Competition and sent to the IGRA Vice President. Upon Completion of all categories of the IGRA Royalty Competition, FGRA will reimburse the contestants for the \$100 entry fee if requested. All remaining costs are the responsibility of the contestants. IGRA Royalty Application must be signed by the FGRA Trustee prior to submission to the IGRA VP.

Article XIII Revocation

13.1 FGRA Royalty must comply with the signed contract and Rules of Conduct

13.2 Revocation Procedures

- A. Failure to comply with the rules governing FGRA Royalty or not meeting the minimum requirements outlined in these standing rules can result in revocation of title.
- B. Any member of the FGRA Royalty Team or Committee may initiate revocation procedures.
- C. Revocation petition must be in writing indicating specific examples of failure to conform to obligations as set forth in the FGRA Code of Conduct/Etiquette (Exhibit G) and must be submitted to the FGRA VP.
- D. Time and date is to be set by FGRA Board of Directors for examination of petition and presentation of rebuttal if any.
- E. Royalty member or members will be notified of meeting date and time and invited to answer charges.
- F. A larger than two thirds vote of the FGRA Board Members present is required for revocation.
- G. FGRA Vice President will send certified letter to member notifying them of FGRA Board's decision.
- H. If revocation takes place, sash, buckle, crown (if Miss) and all other property of FGRA will be returned to the FGRA Vice President within 30 days of revocation.
- I. Upon removal of a title, the runner-up for that title will advance. In the event there is/are no Runner Up, the title will remain vacant or assigned to a past royalty member.

Article XIV

Amendments to Royalty Bylaws

- 14.1 FGRA Royalty Bylaws shall be reviewed by the RCC on an annual basis at least 60 days prior to the opening of Royalty contestant registration
- 14.2 Proposed amendments shall be voted on by the RCC no less than 30 days prior to the Royalty contestant registration.
- 14.3 A vote of two thirds (2/3) of the RCC present at the time of the RCC Meeting shall be required for the amendment to be accepted.

Article XV

Policy and Procedures Manual

- 15.1 The FGRA RCC shall maintain a Royalty Policy Manual to provide direction on various procedural and business matters affecting the FGRA Royalty Team.
- 15.2 The FGRA Royalty Policy Manual is subordinate to the FGRA Royalty Bylaws

15.3 The FGRA Royalty Policy Manual is maintained and amended by the FGRA Rcc on an as needed basis.

Article XVI
Supersession

These FGRA Royalty Bylaws supersede any and all bylaws in effect heretofore and annul and supersede any and all resolution (s) inconsistent herewith.

FGRA Royalty Bylaws

Amended by RCC
August 13, 2014

Originally Approved
FGRA Board – May 2009
FGRA Membership – June 2009