

STANDING RULES OF ORDER
OF THE
MISSOURI GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION, INC



Adopted: March 19, 2011
Amended: March 24, 2013

ANNUAL ROYALTY COMPETITION

Section 1: Requirements for Participation in the Candidate Program

- A. Submit an application for candidacy, including a \$40.00 application fee. Applications may be obtained online at www.mgra.us, Royalty, Fundraising and Activities Officer.
- B. Raise Two-Hundred (\$200.00) for MGRA through the individual's personal efforts for fundraising.
 - a. Individuals who are regular members of a club show may not use that performance toward the personal fundraising requirements.
 - b. Individuals who do not perform in fundraising shows may use other means available to make money during such shows. For example: Selling jello shots or organizing a silent auction.
 - c. The development of new, unique fundraising ideas is encouraged.
 - d. The Two-Hundred (\$200.00) fundraising amount must be turned in no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Royalty Competition.
- C. Must volunteer for MGRA's Show-Me State Rodeo and must volunteer and/or compete in a minimum of two (2) events at one (1) additional IGRA sanctioned rodeo.
- D. No later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Royalty Competition, each applicant intending to enter the competition must submit a Twenty Dollar (\$20.00) entry fee along with a check list verification that all participation requirements have been met.

Section 2: Judges

- A. Judges shall be out-of-state members of IGRA who are knowledgeable in the areas of horsemanship, western apparel, male and female impersonation and interview processes. The panel of judges shall consist of a minimum of three (3) judges who are selected by the Board of Directors. Only under extreme circumstances will members of MGRA be used as judges. Such judges will be chosen by the Board of Directors in a special session which may be communicated online, via e-mail.
- B. In each contest category, each contestant's score will be determined by calculating the average of the scores recorded by the judges for that contestant.

Section 3: Competition

- A. All contestants must be a member, in good standing of MGRA by February 1st of the competition year.
- B. All contestants applications and all check lists to verify completion of candidate requirements will be reviewed by the MGRA Executive Board to determine validity. After the review, the Secretary of the Board of Directors will notify each contestant of the status of their entry. Notification will be in writing, to the contestant's home address of record, and will be mailed no later than 30 days prior to the Royalty Competition. If there is an issue with a candidate's eligibility, that candidate will have fourteen (14) days from the date on the notification letter to correct the situation and notify the Board of Directors.

- C. All Contestants must compete in the categories of entertainment, personal interview, western wear, public presentation and IGRA horsemanship. Contestants will not accept tips during any segment of the competition.
- D. All competition entertainment must be country-western in nature and is not to exceed five (5) minutes in length. There will be two (2) points deducted by each judge for going over the five (5) minute time limit.
- E. Interview and public presentation questions will be written for the judges by the Board of Directors members.
- F. MGRA by-laws and answers to the interview questions will be available at the competition.
- G. Before the beginning of personal interview competition, all contestants shall submit a sealed envelope containing a plan of action for the year of their reign. Failure to comply shall result in a two (2) point deduction from each judge in the personal interview category.
- H. All contestants must earn a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of the total points possible to be considered a title winner.
- I. The date and location of the MGRA Royalty Contest held in November of each year at a date and location to be determined.
- J. A crown, sash and buckle will be awarded to the appropriate title winners. The runners up will receive a sash only.

Section 4: Titleholder Responsibilities

- A. Each Titleholder will be a member of the following committees:
 - 1. Media/Public Relations
 - 2. Fundraising
 - 3. Rodeo Events/Entertainment and Dance
- B. Each Titleholder must fulfill the following obligations during the Title year:
 - 1. Title Winner:
 - a) Represent MGRA at two (2) IGRA sanctioned rodeos.
 - b) Participate in a majority of MGRA fundraisers with a minimum of five (5)
 - c) Raise a minimum of Five-Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for the Corporation
 - d) Fulfill IGRA obligations
 - e) Work at MGRA's Show-Me State Rodeo on the days immediately prior to, during, and immediately following Rodeo Weekend. This includes set-up day through clean up day.
 - f) Can not hold another title or candidacy that has requirements that conflict with their MGRA title duties, as described in Section 3 & 4, during the title year
 - 2. Title Runners Up:
 - a) Represent MGRA at one (1) IGRA sanctioned rodeo
 - b) Participate in a majority of MGRA fundraisers with a minimum of five (5)
 - c) First Runner up must raise a minimum of Two-Hundred (\$200.00) for the Corporation
 - d) Work at MGRA's Show-Me State Rodeo on the days immediately prior to, during, and immediately following Rodeo Weekend. This includes set-up day through clean-up day

- e) All current reigning title winners will represent MGRA in the International Royalty Competition. After IGRA prerequisites have been met, the International Royalty Competition entry fee will be paid by the Corporation. If the contestant then fails to compete, the amount of the entry fee will be reimbursed to the Corporation, by the contestant before December 31st of that year
- f) The term of representation will be from January 1st through December 31st.
- g) All current reigning titleholders shall be aware that all tips and donations raised while performing at any event produced by, or in support of MGRA, will be given to MGRA.
- h) All titleholders and candidates are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which demonstrates respect for their position and membership with MGRA
- i) Any titleholder not fulfilling their obligations or submitted plan of action will be subject to removal. If removal is necessary, or in the event a titleholder voluntarily steps down, the title will be passed on to the next runner-up. All appointments (i.e. buckles, tiaras, sashes) must be returned to an MGRA Board of Directors officer within thirty (30) days.

MGRA DANCE COMPETITION GENERAL RULES

Section 1: Couples/Line Dance Divisions

1. The couples contest will have four (4) divisions of competition. Divisions IV, III, and II will be a Classic format. The Classic format should demonstrate the basic character of the specified dance. Division I will be the Showcase format. The Showcase format should establish the basic character of the dance. Division I music is prereleased no later than six (6) months prior to the competition; this will allow for replanned choreography and embellishment of “signature” aspects of the song. Couples may enter the division of their choice within the following guidelines: Couples whose partner have different divisional levels may dance no lower than one (1) division below the highest “rated” partner. Any individual dancer who is the first place overall winner at MGRA competing against at least two (2) other couples (for a total of three (3) couples) must dance at the next higher level in future MGRA competition. Dancers are not required to progress to the next divisional level if they win overall with two (2) or fewer couples competing; however they may progress to the next level if they choose. If a dancer chooses to advance to the next divisional level, they may not go back to the previous division except under the conditions of Section 1. Part A, Item 1 above.
2. Couples Divisions
 - A. DIVISION IV- FIRST TIME
 - a. Cannot have taught country western couple dancing
 - b. Cannot be or have been a professional dancer (see section 2)
 - c. Cannot have been a judge in an IGRA qualifying couples dance competition more than three times
 - d. Prior MGRA competitors cannot compete in this division
 - B. DIVISION III-BEGINNER

- a. May not have taught anything above basic country western couple and/or line dancing. Basic is defined as beginning footwork or patterns.
 - b. Cannot be or have been a professional dance (see section 2)
 - c. Cannot have been a judge in an IGRA qualifying couples dance competition more than three times
 - C. DIVISION II-INTERMEDIATE
 - a. Cannot be or have been a professional dance (see section 2)
 - D. DIVISION I –ADVANCED
 - a. Division I will be a Showcase format
- 3. Individual Line Dance Division
 - A. BEGINNER DIVISION
 - a. Cannot have taught country western line dancing
 - b. Cannot be or have been a professional dancer (see section 2)
 - c. Cannot be or have been a judge in an IGRA qualifying line dance competition more than three times.
 - B. INTERMEDIATE DIVISION
 - a. May have taught country western line dancing
 - b. May be or have been a professional dancer (see section 2)
 - c. May have been a judge in an IGRA qualifying line dance competition more than three times
- 4. Dance teams

This category is to be considered “Open” for teams, consisting of at least three (3) members, desiring to perform routines. Teams will be judged based on originality, choreography, execution, and entertainment value.

Section 2:

A professional dancer shall be defined as an individual earning 50% or more of their income from dance.

Section 3: Awards

- 1. The total score of all judges will determine computation of scores in each dance category and for overall score
- 2. Ribbons will be presented to the first three (3) places in each division of competition. In the event of a tie, equal ribbons shall be presented, e.g. if there is a tie for first (1st) place, two (2) first places shall be awarded; second (2nd) place shall be dropped, and third (3rd) place shall be awarded. Likewise, for second (2nd) place, dropping third (3rd) place; if there is a tie for third (3rd) place, two (2) third places shall be presented. Buckles will be presented to each member of the couple for overall best score in each couples division. Buckles will be presented for overall best score in Individual Line Dance Divisions. One trophy will be presented to best scoring Dance Team and individual awards will be presented to each winning team member, i.e. certificates, ribbons,ect.
- 3. The presentation of awards shall be as soon as possible after the last dance of the contest.

Section 4:

A panel of five (5) judges consisting of either dance instructors, professional dancers, or dancers with competition experience shall be used. All judges agree to judge in an impartial manner. Any conflict of interest shall be reported to and resolved by the contest coordinator.

Section 5: Couples/LineDance Contest Format

1. There shall be a contestants meeting held prior to the beginning of the dance competition for the purpose of reviewing contest format and rules, drawing of running order, approval of dance floor, and announcement of music selections. Music selections shall be played at the contestants' meeting. A majority ruling of dance contestants shall validate use of the existing surface and the compliance to the rules, a suitable replacement will be located. The Dance Contest Coordinator shall have the final decision to continue the dance competition after all possible efforts on the part of the facility have been made to correct any/all objectionable portions of the surface and/or replace objectionable music. Warm up time shall be scheduled on the competition floor no later than the day of the contest.
2. The dance floor shall be made of wood with a size no less than 30' x 30'. If a dance floor of an appropriate size cannot be found, the Dance Coordinator may apply for a variance. All contestants will be informed of the variance upon application for the contest.
3. No more than three (3) couples at a time competing on the same floor.
4. Couples must dance a two-step, waltz, and free-style to qualify for placement overall. Competitors may enter fewer events; however, by doing so they will not be considered for replacement in the overall competition.
5. Two Step
Music for Division I will be selected by the MGRA Dance Committee and will be released no later than six (6) months prior to the competition. Music for Divisions II, III, and IV will be selected by the Dance Chair from a list of possible songs prepared in advance by the Dance Committee. The music for Division II, III, and IV will be released the day of the contest no later than the contestant meeting.
The style must be two-step, variations in the dance are allowed as long as the character of the dance remains intact. No lifts, drops, aerials, or acrobatic moves are allowed. The same selection of music shall be played for all heats of the same division. Judges' choice of music shall be of the appropriate music style and adhere to the following beats per minute (BPM) guidelines: 160-200 BPM. Music will be played for a maximum of 2 minutes, 30 seconds. Music may be faded out anytime after 2 minutes.
6. Waltz Music for Division I will be selected by the MGRA Dance Committee and will be released no later than six (6) months prior to the competition. Music for Divisions II, III, and IV will be selected by the Dance Chair from a list of possible songs prepared in advance by the Dance Committee. The music for Division II, III, and IV will be released the day of the contest no later than the contestant meeting. Variations in the dance are allowed as long as the character of the dance remains intact. No lifts, drops, aerials, or acrobatic moves are allowed. The same selection of music shall be played for all heats of the same division. Judges' choice of music for Divisions II, III, and IV shall be the appropriate music style and adhere to the following beats per minute (BPM) guidelines: 88-102 BPM. Music will be played for a maximum of 2 minutes, 30 seconds. Music may be faded out anytime after 2 minutes.
7. Free Style

- Each couple will dance to a free-style selection of their choice (any country western dance, anything goes). Examples, but not limited to, are two-step, waltz, swing, cha-cha, polka, schottische, one-step, triple-step and shuffle. Lifts, drops, aerials, and acrobatic moves are allowed in this routine.
 - Couples selection of chosen routines should be on a MP3 or compact disc (CD/CDR)
 - Couples selection maximum length is four (4) minutes. Couples will receive zero (0) points if selection length exceeds time limit.
8. Individual Line Dancers
- Line dancers shall be selected by the MGRA Dance Committee and will be released no later than six (6) months prior to the competition and said information shall be communicated to all Associations
9. Dance Team Division
- Each team shall have 4 to 10 minutes, entrance and exit inclusive, to execute their routine.
 - Neither alteration of house lights nor use of non-dance personnel is allowed.
 - While flirtatious moves are acceptable, overt sexual, vulgar or crude dance positions are inappropriate
 - Props are allowed. They are defined as small handheld or worn objects that can be appropriately revealed, utilized, and retained (e.g., tear-away skirt, guns, and holsters, hand-held flowers, spurs, parasols, canes, ropes, chairs suitcases, ect.). In other words, start with an empty floor, leave with an empty floor.
10. Country Western Dress Style
- Contestants will compete in western style fashions
 - Footwear will be western style boots.
 - A western style hat is required to be worn by at least one (1) partner of each couple in the two-step and waltz.
 - Loss of hat during competition shall result in no scoring until the hat is retrieved.
 - Other couples on the dance floor will not be penalized during the time the obstruction is on the floor.
 - If the obstruction severely affects the other couples, the judges may call a rerun of the heat.
11. Dance Style
- Universally understood Country Western dance floor etiquette should be adhered to at all times during the competition, respective to the particular dance category. Categories include the “smooth” dance of two-step and waltz, and the “rhythm” dances consisting of various types of swing. Progressive in “smooth” dances should be counterclockwise around the periphery of the specified “dance arena” strictly adhering to the rules of etiquette regarding the “fast-lane”, “slow-lane”, and “spotlight” areas of the competition floor. Progression in “rhythm” dances must be directed so as not to flagrantly interfere with the dance “space” of other couples, as determined by their starting positions within the “dance arena”. Each flagrant infraction of dance floor etiquette (one that causes a collision of couples or one that severely interferes with another couple’s performance) may be cause to be dropped one placement point on all judges’ ballots for the offending couple for that particular dance category in which the infraction occurs. Lifts, drops, aerials, and acrobatic moves are not allowed except in the free-style category. Any such move will be

cause for scoring one placement drop in all judges' ballots for the offending couple for that particular dance category.

- 1) A LIFT shall be described as any move where both feet of one partner are off the floor and the weight is supported by the other partner.
 - 2) A DROP will be described as any move where the head and torso of one partner is entirely below the waist level of the partner and weight is supported by the other partner.
 - 3) An AERIAL will be described as any move where one partner independently brings both feet off the floor and one foot is above either partner's shoulder level or both feet are above either partner's waist level.
 - 4) An ACROBATIC will be described as any move where one person independently passes his/her foot, leg, or body over and across the plane of one's own partner's head, or passes his/her body under or through the legs of the other partner.
- Exaggerated moves that marginally approach the parameters of the above criteria may be subject to sever point loss at the judge's discretion.
 - Allowable moves are defined as: Leans, dips, or leverage moves where one partner supports some, but not all of the partner and the partner is not "lifted" or "dropped". Develop leg lifts or kicks where one partner's foot raises above the level his/her partner's head.

12. Re-Runs

- Dance contestants will be allowed to begin their dance routine again in any category because of equipment failure, e.g. tape player failure, etc.
- It is the responsibility of the dance couple to ensure that their music tape or CD is not defective. No repeat performance will be allowed for a defective tape or CD
- In the event of a re-run, the re-run will occur at the end of that division heat. If there is only one couple competing in that heat, then the re-run will take place at the end of the next division heat.

Section 6: Dance Categories

- The following categories are intended to outline basic step patterns and do not include the many possible variations created by rhythm breaks and syncopations.
 - 1) A rhythm break or variation occurs when extending or changing the basic rhythm count alters basic rhythm pattern.
 - 2) Syncopation occurs when any step places the accent between beats of the music.
 - 3) Rhythm breaks and syncopations of appropriate duration will be allowed to accomplish turns and movements as long as basic styling, appropriate to the dance category, is maintained throughout all variations. All dancers, including rhythm breaks and syncopations, should include identifiable lead and follow technique with continuity of movement, variety of dance positions and appropriate footwork in joined partnership (except for a specific move such as a free spin) throughout the entire routine.

- 4) Two-Step. Must be two –step. Any two-step pattern using six counts of music (slow-hold-slow-hold-quick-quick, counted as 1-3-5-6; or quick –quick slow-hold-slow-hold, counted as 1-2-3-5)
- 5) Any waltz pattern (1,2,3,4,5,6) may be used that has a generally forward progression and accents counts 1 and 4; any move that temporarily slows forward motion will be performed toward the center of the floor. Proper rise and fall technique should be shown throughout the dance.
- 6) Free Style. Any country western dance, anything goes. Music selection, because it is done by the contestants, becomes a judgeable item. Couples using non-country western music will be subject to a drop in placement at the judges' discretion. Performance music that is country western in arrangement or theme and is performed by a country western artist or band is appropriate. Orchestrated music that is also country western in theme is appropriate. Top “40” pop music sung by a country western artist or band is generally accepted if it has passed from the pop charts the country western charts. Weekly national know country western music charts may be used as appropriate guides to music selection.

Section 7: Line Dance Contest Format

1. All dancers must dance all three dances
2. The MGRA Dance Committee will select dances, which will be released and posted to the MGRA website no later than six (6) months prior to the competition.
3. The song will be placed for six (6) rotations.
4. All dancers must dance with the line dance for two (2) rotations at the beginning with no variations. After that time, they may introduce variations, as long as the direction of the dance does not change.
5. A 5,6,7,8 (or 4,5,6 if applicable) audible countdown shall be made to count the start of the line dance.

Section 8: The following judging criteria will be used for each dance shall be scored as follows:

1. CONTENT
 - Variety of dance positions, dance movements, and/or combinations as appropriate to the specific dance.
 - Difficulty of dance movements and/or combinations from one dance position or alignment to another.
 - Uniqueness or originality of dance movements and/or combinations from one dance position or alignment to another, to include presentation of dance position.
 - Continuity of dance movements and /or combinations to either interpret dance theme and music, or to demonstrate dance control. This refers to exceptional phrasing, which includes spontaneous adjustments of dance pattern for irregularly phrased musical selections.
2. EXECUTION
 - Basic pattern, rhythm, timing, and initial phrasing between partners and to the selected music. For correctly phrased musical selections, phrasing may be shifted for

momentary variation, but generally should be maintained throughout the specific dance.

- Proper performance of footwork, hand, head, arm, and body movements through dance variations; to include balance and centering through executed movements.
- Alignment, framework, and proper presentation of dance positions; to include smoothness of follow-through from movement into position; to demonstrate properly initiated lead and follow technique from position into movement.

3. STYLE

- Artistic interpretation and choreography projected through dance movement as it relates to the selected music and the specified dance category.
- Attentiveness, enthusiasm, enjoyment of the dance, and general good partnership as perceived through appropriate presentation of lead and follow roles.
- Flair and accent of dance movement, generating an atmosphere and instilling a mood appropriate to the specific dance category.
- Coordinated appearance appropriate to country western competition attire and the specific dance category; posture; grooming, and use of costume as it compliments the contestants and their projected dance style.

Section 9:

Contestants must be ready to perform when scheduled and/or called or shall be scored no show with zero (0) placements for that category.

Section 10:

Judging Criteria Judging will be done on a “Relative Placement System”. Each judge will issue a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc placement. Final placement will be determined by absolute majority of placements. For example, with a panel of five(5) judges, the 1st place winner must have 3,4, or 5 1st place votes. If no couple has an absolute majority of 1st place votes, the number of 1st-2nd place votes for each couple is counted. If no couple has the absolute majority of 1st-2nd place votes, the 1st-3rd place votes are counted and so on until a first place winner is selected. 2nd place is done the same way beginning with counting the number of 2nd place votes and 3rd place the same.

Section 11:

All video recording equipment and photographic cameras shall be registered upon entry to the dance facility and are subject to any/all restrictions placed upon the owners of such equipment by Dance Contest Coordinator. Contestants, in conjunction with the contest coordinator, shall designate area(s) for use of such equipment. All possible efforts shall be made by the contest coordinator to announce if a couple requests not to be photographed.

MGRA APPROVED BOARD MEETING ABSENCES

Section 1: Approved MGRA Board Meeting Absence

A. Work

- B. Sick
- C. Family
- D. Rodeos
- E. Any other absence may be subject to discussion and approval at the Board Meeting.

Adopted
November 18, 2012

IGRA ANNUAL CONVENTION

- A. Delegates that attend ALL days of the IGRA Annual Convention, MGRA will pay all the delegate fees.
- B. Delegates that do not attend ALL days of the IGRA Annual Convention after fees have been paid; will be asked to repay delegate fees to MGRA.

MGRA ANNUAL ELECTIONS:

- A. In the event of unforeseen circumstances such as incimate weather, loss of meeting space or any other obstical arises that would prevent or impede the membership or the Board of Directors ability to attend, and all other requirements as outlined in ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS, Section 3 have been met; the Board may change the date of elections in the following manor:
 - 1. The membership should be given as much notice as practicable of the change once it becomes apparent that the election will need to be rescheduled.
 - 2. The Board must set a new date for elections in such a manner that provides at least fourteen (14) days advance notification to the membership
 - 3. The method of notification of the new date to the membership shall be via at least two of the following methods: the Association's website, newsletter via email, social media or U.S. Mail.