**Deep Dixie Association – Pleasure**

**Rules and Regulations**

**Updated 2020**

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**I. General**

**I.A. Affiliation.** The Deep Dixie Association – Pleasure (subsequently referred to as DDA-P or “Association”) is a member of the Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs (GFSC). In addition to DDP-A, the GFSC consists of the Coastal Empire, Coastal Plains, Flint River, Georgia Mountain, Heart of Georgia, Northwest, and South Georgia Associations. DDA-P shows feature halter, English, Western, racking, and reining classes.

**I.B. Open Showing.** All shows sanctioned by DDA-P are open shows, meaning that all shows will be advertised as open to the general public. Any horse and exhibitor may enter and show as long as they pay the required entry fee and exhibit according to the rules and regulations set forth by DDA-P.

**I.C. Governance.** All aspects of DDA-P shows are governed by the current editions of the following documents, in order of reference:

**I.C.1.** The Deep Dixie Association - Pleasure Rules and Regulations.

**I.C.2.** The Georgia Federation of Saddle Clubs Association Operational Rules.

**I.C.3.** The American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Official Handbook of Rules and

Regulations and The Bylaws of the Racking Horse Breeders Association of America (RHBAA).

**II. Membership**

**II.A. Eligibility.** Anyone is eligible to become a member of the DDA-P, provided they pay the appropriate membership fee and remain in good standing. Member entitlements and obligations are conferred starting with the first show at which a member joins. Good standing is characterized by:

**II.A.1.** Membership fee paid in full.

**II.A.2.** No outstanding class entry fees.

**II.A.3.** Adherence to DDA-P Rules and Regulations.

**II.B. Types of Memberships and Fees**

**II.B.1. Working Family Membership.** This category encompasses any and all members of a single household and requires that each exhibitor work at each show in which they participate. Anyone, regardless of membership, may work on behalf of an exhibitor. The

Working Family Membership fee is forty dollars ($40.00) per year.

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**II.B.2. Non-Working Family Membership.** This category encompasses any and all members of a single household. There is no DDA-P work requirement with this type of membership. The Non-Working Family Membership fee is seventy dollars ($70.00) per year.

**II.B.3. Working Individual Membership.** This category entitles membership to a single individual and is accompanied by a work requirement at each show in which the exhibitor participates. Anyone, regardless of membership, may work on behalf of that exhibitor. The Working Individual Membership fee is twenty dollars ($20.00) per year.

**II.B.2. Non-Working Individual Membership.** This category entitles membership to a single individual. There is no DDA-P work requirement with this type of membership. The Non- Working Individual Membership fee is sixty dollars ($60.00) per year.

**II.C. Member Entitlements**

**II.C.1. GFSC State Show.** Members who qualify are entitled to participate at the annual

GFSC State Show in the classes in which they qualified.

**II.C.2. Year-end Awards.** Members are eligible to receive year-end awards in applicable categories.

**II.C.3. Voting.** Members are eligible to make and vote on motions brought forth at general membership meetings.

**II.C.4. Officer Positions and Board Membership.** Members are eligible to be elected to Association Officer positions and to Board membership.

**II.D. Member Obligations**

**II.D.1. Good Standing.** All members must maintain good standing as defined in paragraph II.A. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of points of merit, expulsion, or other sanctions as determined by the Rules Committee.

**II.D.2. Adherence to DDA-P Rules and Regulations.** All members must adhere to the DDA-P Rule and Regulations. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of points of merit, expulsion, or other sanctions as determined by the Rules Committee.

**II.D.3. Work Requirements**

**II.D.3.a. Working Members.** Members who have purchased a working membership, either family or individual, incur a work requirement at each show in which they exhibit. Failure to complete the may result in forfeiture of points of merit. Initials that work time has been completed must go on sign up sheet.

**II.D.3.b. GFSC State Show Participating Members.** All members who participate in the GFSC State Show are required to work a time slot at the show, regardless of the type of DDA-P membership in force for the season. Any member who fails to work their allotted time slot will incur a $50.00 fine payable to the Association. This fine must be paid before good standing for the next season is accorded to that member. Members who arrange for another individual to work their time slot are still responsible for the completion of the work obligation.

**II.E. Meetings.** DDA-P holds general membership meetings during the course of a show season. Members are expected to attend, provide input on issues raised, and vote on motions brought forth.

**II.F. Courtesy and Sportsmanship**. All members are expected to display courtesy and sportsmanship at all Association sanctioned shows, events, meeting, and gatherings. This includes but is not limited to cleaning up after themselves at a show, treating other competitors and participants with respect, and treating judges and show officials with respect. Incidents of gross discourtesy and/or unsportsmanlike conduct may result in an immediate expulsion from the premises and a subsequent formal hearing of the Rules Committee, at which additional sanctions may be levied.

**II.G. Term of Membership.** Member entitlements and obligations are conferred starting with the first show at which a member joins and expire at the conclusion of the GFSC State Show. Points are accumulated starting with the first show as a member. Neither membership nor points are retroactive.

**III. DDA-P Officers, Board Members, and Committees**

**III.A. Officers**

**III.A.1. General.** Officers must be DDA-P members in good standing and are elected by the general membership prior to the beginning of a new season. Their term of office runs from 1 October to 31 September of a given show year.

**III.A.2. President.** In addition to serving as the DDP-A representative to the GFSC, the

Association President is responsible for the following:

**III.A.2.a.** Attending meetings called by the GFSC and providing feedback to the

DDA-P membership.

**III.A.2.b.** Scheduling, announcing, and chairing meetings of the general membership.

bookings.

**III.A.2.c.** Coordinating the following season’s schedule, to include arena and judge

**III.A.2.d.** Coordinating and managing all aspects of each show day, to include making a final inclement weather determination after consultation with the Board Members.

**III.A.2.e.** Chairing the Association Rules Committee. The President is also a voting member of the Association Rules Committee.

shows.

**III.A.2.f.** Ensuring adherence to all applicable rules and regulations at Association

**III.A.2.g.** Coordinating the activities of the other Association Officers, Board

Members, and Committees.

**III.A.3. Vice President.** The Vice President assists the President in the execution of their responsibilities and acts on the President’s behalf when the President is unavailable. In addition to being a member of the Rules Committee, the Vice President may be delegated specific responsibilities at the discretion of the President.

**III.A.4. Secretary.** The Secretary principally attends to the Association’s administration,

to include:

**III.A.4.a.** Maintaining an accurate membership roster (to include age as of

January 1st of the current show year) and ensuring exhibitor good standing and eligibility.

**III.A.4.b.** Ensuring that working members meet the volunteer requirements as outlined in the DDA-P Rules and Regulations, and advising the President of any non-

compliance.

meetings.

**III.A.4.c.** Keeping, maintaining, and publishing minutes from membership

**III.A.4.d.** Assuming the responsibilities of Association Points Keeper if this

officer’s position goes unfilled for any reason.

**III.A.5. Treasurer.** The Treasurer maintains the DDA-P bank account and is also responsible for:

**III.A.5.a.** Maintaining all Association financial and accounting records.

**III.A.5.b.** Ensuring that all membership dues, entry fees, and other credits are deposited in the DDA-P account in a timely manner.

**III.A.5.c.** Ensuring that all Association bills and fees are paid.

**III.A.5.d.** Ensuring that Officers and Board Members are reimbursed for approved expenditures.

**III.A.5.e.** Providing fiscal reports as appropriate.

**III.A.6. Points Keeper.** The Points Keeper’s responsibilities include:

members.

**III.A.6.a.** Maintaining a current tally of points of merit on all eligible Association

**III.A.6.b.** Maintaining all class sheets for the current show season. **III.A.6.c.** Posting updated points totals to the Association website. **III.A.6.d.** Posting updated points totals at each show.

**III.A.6.e.** Validating member eligibility for competition at the GFSC state show.

**III.A.6.f.** Validating year-end Association awards.

**III.A.6.g.** If directed by the President, coordinating a points audit with a certified public accountant in response to a written request from any member

**III.B. Board Members.** Board members are elected from the DDA-P general membership. The previous year’s Association President is always a member of the Board. The Board’s responsibilities include:

**III.B.1.** Serving as voting members of the Association Rules Committee.

**III.B.2.** Making points forfeiture determinations in the event of a member’s

unsportsmanlike conduct.

**III.B.3.** Approving reimbursements for Association Officer and Board member expenditures.

**III.B.4.** Approving all non-routine fees incurred by the Association.

**III.B.5.** Participating in adverse weather decisions.

**III.B.6.** Approving alternate Association representation in the event that the President and Vice President are unavailable.

**III.C. Rules Committee.** The Rules Committee is chaired by the Association President and consists of the Vice President and Board members. All Rules Committee meetings are closed,

although minutes may be kept at the discretion of the President. The Rules Committee’s

responsibilities include:

**III.C.1.** Determining and authorizing awards given at Association sanctioned shows.

**III.C.2.** Making rules determinations for situations not specifically covered by the current edition of The Deep Dixie Association - Pleasure Rules and Regulations.

**III.C.3.** Determining additional sanctions beyond points forfeiture in the event of a

member’s unsportsmanlike conduct.

**III.D. Miscellaneous Officers, Board Members, and Committees Information**

**III.D.1. Representation.** No individual may represent the Association in any capacity without the expressed consent of the Association President or Board of Directors.

**III.D.2. Association Functions.** The Association President or their designee shall be present at Association functions.

**III.D.3. Expenses.** The Association will reimburse Association Officers for expenses incurred, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**IV. Points of Merit**. Points of merit are awarded in each of the GFSC State Show qualifying classes. Points of merit shall be kept by the Association Points Keeper or Secretary on all qualified Association members who exhibit. Points shall be kept on the exhibitor only. An exhibitor may show the same or different horses in multiple events and accumulate points, subject to other DDA-P rules and regulations.

**IV.A.** The Association Points Keeper or Secretary shall transcribe and tally points of merit from the official class sheets used to keep score at each Association sanctioned show.

**IV.B.** Points of merit will be awarded from first through sixth places in all classes. Depending upon the number of member exhibitors, points will be allotted as shown in the table below:

**Place Point Value:**

**6 Exhibitors**

**Point Value:**

**5 Exhibitors**

**Point Value:**

**4 Exhibitors**

**Point Value:**

**3 Exhibitors**

**Point Value:**

**2 Exhibitors**

**Point Value:**

**1 Exhibitor**

**First** 6 5 4 3 2 1

**Second** 5 4 3 2 1 N/A **Third** 4 3 2 1 N/A N/A **Fourth** 3 2 1 N/A N/A N/A **Fifth** 2 1 N/A N/A N/A N/A **Sixth** 1 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A

**IV.C.** In the event that a non-Association exhibitor places above an Association exhibitor, the non-Association rider shall be entitled to the respective award for the earned place. However,

the non-Association rider will not affect the placement of points for the Association rider, with

Association riders being moved up in sequence and receiving points of merit accordingly.

**IV.D.** Points may be earned in either the GFSC State Show Walk/Trot/Jog classes OR the GFSC State Show Canter/Lope classes in both English and Western disciplines. NOT BOTH.

**IV.D.1.** During the regular season, exhibitors are strongly encouraged to show exclusively in either the Walk/Trot Jog or the Canter/Lope category in both disciplines in order to reduce the complexity of points keeping.

**IV.D.2.** In the event that an exhibitor does show in both categories in a single discipline,

at season’s end (or earlier) that rider must indicate to the Points Keeper the category in which

he wishes his points to count. The Points Keeper will adjust the points book to reflect this choice by negating all points in the non-requested category.

**IV.D.3.** Any exhibitor may compete in any non-GFSC State Show qualifying class, regardless of category or discipline, with no impact on GFSC State Show qualifying points.

**IV.D.** Points of merit are used to determine eligibility to compete at the GFSC State Show. The top six finishers for each GFSC State Show qualifying class, as determined by the total tally of points of merit for each exhibitor in that class, will represent DDA-P in that class at the GFSC State Show.

**IV.E.** Points and standings will be posted on the Association website as expeditiously as possible. Members requesting corrections may contact the Points Keeper directly.

**IV.F.** Any Association member shall have the right to request an audit of the recorded points of merit at the end of each show year. If so requested, the Association President shall arrange for the points to be fully audited by a Certified Public Accountant. The requesting member must:

**IV.F.1.** Make the request to the Association President in writing.

**IV.F.2.** Pay the cost of the audit and inform the Association President in the written request that the requester is aware of this monetary obligation.

**V. Awards.** Awards are given at the conclusion of a DDA-P season, usually after the GFSC State Show. Only members who have shown in at least half the season’s shows and are in good standing are eligible to receive awards.

**V.A. GFSC State Show Qualifiers.** Awards are given to top six exhibitors in each of the GFSC State Show qualifying classes. Only one award per exhibitor will be given if they are in the top six in more than one class. GFSC State Show qualifiers are eligible to receive awards in other applicable categories.

**V.B. GFSC Queen/King and Princess/Prince**

**V.B.1. Queen/King.** The highest point exhibitor in 13-19 Western Horsemanship will represent DDA-P at the GFSC State Show.

**V.B.2. Princess/Prince.** The highest point exhibitor in 12 and under Western

Horsemanship will represent DDA-P at the GFSC State Show.

**V.C. Division High Points.** Awards will be given to those riders accumulating the highest number of points in GFSC State Show qualifying classes in the following divisions across the applicable age groups

**V.C.1. Halter Division High Points.** All halter points for each exhibitor will be tabulated; there are no age groups in halter division.

**V.C.2. Western Division High Points.** All pleasure, horsemanship, showmanship, and reining points for each exhibitor will be tabulated in the following age categories:

**V.C.2.a.** 12 and under. **V.C.2.b.** 13 to 19. **V.C.2.c.** Ladies 20 & Up. **V.C.2.d.** Men 20 & Up.

**V.C.3. English Division High Points.** All pleasure and equitation points for each exhibitor will be tabulated in the following age categories:

**V.C.1.a**. 12 and under. **V.C.1.b.** 13 to 19. **V.C.1.c.** 20 and over.

**V.C.4. Racking Division High Points.** All gaited classes points for each exhibitor will be tabulated in the following age categories:

**V.C.4.a.** 19 and under.

**V.C.4.b.** 20 and over.

**V.D. Overall High Points Exhibitor.** The Overall High Points Exhibitor is that member who accumulates the highest number of points in all GFSC State Show qualifying classes shown over the course of a show season. The Overall High Points Exhibitor is still eligible to receive awards in any and all Division High Points categories. Overall High Points Exhibitors will be determined in the following age categories:

**V.D.1.** Pony

**V.D.2.** 12 and under

**V.D.3.** 13 to 19

**V.D.4.** Ladies 20 and over

**V.D.5.** Men 20 and over

**V.E. Ties.** In the event of a tie for one of the six state qualifying spots or any year end awards the tie will be broken in the following manner:

**V.E.1.** The exhibitor who has attended the most shows.

**V.E.2.** In the event they have attended the same number of shows the exhibitor with the most first place places (in the class in question or the classes that make up the award).

**V.E.3.** If neither have won a first place it will be the most of the highest placing finish.

**V.E.4.** In the event that is still a tie, it will be the exhibitor who has beaten the most horses for each first place.

**V.F. Miscellaneous Awards Information**

**V.F.1.** Any rider belonging to the Deep Dixie Association who shows for another association at the GFSC State Show will not be eligible for year-end awards with Deep Dixie.

**V.F.2.** Any exhibitor who qualifies for GFSC State Show in a particular event and does not show in that event at the GFSC State Show will forfeit all points in that class toward year- end awards unless waived by the Board of Directors.

**V.F.3.** Any exhibitor in the Association who qualifies for GFSC State Show and does not show will forfeit year-end awards. However, if an exhibitor is unable to participate in the GFSC State Show for a legitimate reason approved by the Board of Directors, they may be excused from the GFSC State Show participation and still receive year-end awards.

**V.F.3.** Exhibitors who qualify for the GFSC State Show must turn in paperwork and payment by the deadline given. The Association Points Keeper/President has the authority to place the next exhibitor in line to compete at the State Show if a qualified exhibitor fails to register or make other arrangements by the deadline given.

**VI. Show Rules**

**VI.A. Rules and Regulations**

**VI.A.1.** All sanctioned shows shall be conducted in accordance with DDA-P Rules and

Regulations.

**VI.A.2.** Any decision involving rules not specifically addressed by the DDA-P Rules and Regulations, the GFSC Operational Rules, the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations, and the Bylaws of the RHBAA shall be left to the judgment of the Rules Committee, headed by the President and Vice-President. All Rules Committee meetings shall be closed meetings.

**VI.B. Official Class Sheets.** All sanctioned shows shall require the use of a class sheet approved by the Association, the original of which shall be furnished to the Association Points Keeper at the immediate conclusion of each show.

**VI.C. Judging**

**VI.C.1. DDA-P Rules and Regulations.** The President, or their designee, shall be responsible for instructing the judge as to how DDA-P Rules and Regulations determine how a class should be judged. Current AQHA or RHBAA rules shall be guidelines for judged events where there are not specifications in either the GFSC Operational Rules or the DDA-P Rules and Regulations. Reining pattern shall be selected by the judge and used for both age groups.

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**VI.C.2. Judge Selection**

**VI.C.2.a**. Every effort will be made to retain judges with sufficient experience and temperament to judge Association shows fairly, accurately, and professionally.

**VI.C.2.b**. Except where approved by the Board in extreme cases, no judge shall be retained twice in the same season.

**VI.C.2.c**. To the greatest extent possible, no judge should be retained in consecutive show seasons.

**VI.C.2.d**. Prior to scheduling judges for an upcoming season, the President or their designee will submit a slate of potential judges for review and approval by the Board.

**VI.D Admission.** No admission to the club grounds shall be charged by any club at an

Association sanctioned show.

**VI.E. Alcohol.** No alcoholic beverages shall be allowed within fifty (50) feet of the arena fence during an Association sanctioned show. It shall be the responsibility of the officers and board to enforce this rule.

**VI.F. Unsportsmanlike Conduct.** Unsportsmanlike conduct or rowdiness of any kind will not be tolerated at any Association function and will be dealt with in the following manner:

**VI.F.1. Non-Members.** May be asked to leave the premises and forfeit any and all applicable entry fees.

**VI.F.2. Members.** May be asked to leave the premises and forfeit any and all applicable fees. May also forfeit any accumulated points pending a formal hearing before the Board of Directors. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the Rules Committee. Board must follow this too. Board and officers are held to a higher standard.

1**. First offense will be a disciplinary letter**

2. A second offense is suspension for 2-3 shows

3. A third offense is suspension for remainder of season

4. A fourth offense or extreme offense (i.e. abuse of a horse, fist fighting) will result in expulsion from Deep Dixie shows.

**VI.G. Entry Fees.** All entry fees must be paid at registration either in full or with an open, signed check. Payback may be picked up at the conclusion of each class or at the end of the show.

**VI.H. Show Awards.** All awards at Association sanctioned shows shall be governed by the

Association Rules Committee.

**VI.J. Show Days.** All Association shows will be held on Saturday. No judged and timed event shows may be scheduled at the same arena on the same day.

**VI.K. Miscellaneous Show Rules Information**

**VI.K.1.** In the event of postponement of an Association show, the makeup show will be held on the first available rain date. At least two rain dates will be set at the same time the regular show dates are set. In the event that the original arena scheduled will not be available for a makeup show, the show may be moved to another arena. However, the decision to move to another arena will be left up to the officers and board. The decision to postpone a show because of adverse conditions shall be left entirely to the discretion of the officers and board**.** 1st & 3rd Saturday. If not, following show will be double judged.

**VI.K.2.** All animals at Association sanctioned shows must be properly restrained at all times. Dogs must be on a leash and horses must be tied or held by a lead line. No animals should be allowed to roam free.

**VII. Exhibitor Rules**

**VII.A. Rules and Regulations.** All exhibitors, members and non-members alike, shall exhibit and compete at sanctioned shows under the full jurisdiction of the Association rules and regulations in effect on that date. A copy of these rules and regulations will be available at the registration/announcer’s booth.

**VII.B. Class Registration**

**V.II.B.1**. All exhibitors must fill out a show registration sheet and either pay all entry fees in full or leave an open, signed check with the registrar prior to showing. No exhibitor will be allowed into the arena without a completed registration sheet and fully paid entry fees or an open, signed check on file for that day’s show. No adds will be authorized without a completed registration sheet and fully paid entry fees or an open, signed check on file for that day’s show.

**V.II.B.2**. An exhibitor may register and enter the arena only once in their respective age group or class in each different class.

**VII.D. Household Members**

**VII.D.1.** Members, as clarified on page 7 of the GFSC Operational Rules, may exhibit the same horse in the same event in different age groups and both may earn points of merit. Events are defined as:

**VII.D.1.a**. Halter.

**VII.D.1.b**. Western Showmanship **VII.D.1.c**. Western Pleasure **VII.D.1.d**. English Equitation **VII.D.1.e**. English Pleasure

**VII.D.1.f**. Racking.

**VII.E. Ponies.** All members who exhibit ponies shall have a set of points compiled with the Association Points Keeper under the category of “Ponies”. The Ponies class shall be restricted to children 12 and under. Ponies must measure 50” or less at the withers.

**VII.F. Stallions.** No rider or exhibitor under the age of 18 will be allowed to ride or show a stallion at any Association sanctioned show.

**VII.G. Equipment.** Any exhibitor who breaks a piece of equipment while in the arena during a class will be allowed to finish the class or not at the discretion of the judge.

**VII.H. Readiness.** All exhibitors must be ready to show when their name or class is called. You will receive a 2-minute gate call or forfeit your money.

**VII.I. Illegal Drug Usage.** No illegal drugs, as outlined by AQHA rules, will be permitted to be used on any animal at an Association sanctioned show.

**VII.I.1.** If an Association member suspects that a horse has been drugged, they may put up a $150.00 bond and challenge the accused to a test. A veterinarian will be summoned and the horse tested. If the results are positive, the owner will be responsible for the vet bill. If the results of the test are negative, the accuser will forfeit the bond to pay the vet bill.

**VII.I.2.** If the results of the test are positive, the owner will be banned from the

Association and their name will be sent to the GFSC. The Humane Society will be notified.

**VII.J. Dress Code**

**VII.J.1.** DDA-P conforms to the dress code in the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations and the Bylaws of the RHBAA, with the following exception: for all racking classes at Association sanctioned shows any type of saddle is acceptable. (This applies to Association shows ONLY; at the GFSC State Show proper saddle and attire per breed of horse is mandatory).

**VII.J.2.** Additional exceptions to AQHA and RHBAA standards may be made at the discretion of the judge.