

**GYMKHANA DIVISION**

**Gymkhana Division**

Gymkhana Scorecard	Points
Time .....	90
Appointments of horse and rider .....	10
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>100</b>

All gymkhana equipment will be required.

**APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE (WESTERN)** – A standard western-type saddle must be used. The western saddle may have a slick or a swelled fork, with or without a horn, and either a high or low cantle. A rope or reata is prohibited. Use of any standard bit or conventional hackamore is optional. However, the judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment he or she considers severe. If someone other than the judge is checking equipment, that individual may make suggestions to the judge regarding severe equipment; however the judge makes the final decision. Running martingales, standing martingales or tiedowns are permitted. Bell boots, shin boots or skid boots are permitted. If split reins are used, they must be tied or fastened together. A single rein is recommended.

**APPOINTMENT OF HORSE (ENGLISH)** – Snaffles – with or without dropped nosebands, pelhams, kimberwicks and full bridles – are acceptable. A running martingale is permitted, as are standing martingales or tiedowns. McClellan or similar saddles are considered western when western bridles are used and English when English bridles are used. Any other type of English saddle is acceptable.

**APPOINTMENTS OF RIDER** – The rider’s appointments may be either English or western as described in the Fitting and Showing Division of this book (see pg. 4) depending on the tack being used, but cannot be a combination of both. Riders must wear protective headgear throughout the class (see General Rule 3 on pg. 1). If any appointments violate the rules, the rider will be permitted to make the necessary corrections during the time from the appointments check until the last entry has competed in that class. If the rider fails for any reason to make the necessary corrections or does not appear at the gate by the time the last entry has competed, he or she will be disqualified from that class. Once a competitor has been allowed to ride, he or she will not be disqualified because of the appointments and tack unless they have been altered. Spurs (roweled and unroweled) and bats are optional but must not harm the horse. Rubber bands or other items may not be used to secure any part of the rider to any part of the horse or tack. Protective equipment for the rider (such as shin guards) may be used.

**General Gymkhana Rules**

1. All gymkhana events will be timed.
2. Horsemanship and sportsmanship will be stressed.

**GYMKHANA DIVISION**

3. Judges’ decisions will be final.
  4. The use of spurs, bats or over-and-under bats is optional. Excessive or abusive use of these items may be penalized. Any unsportsmanlike behavior (such as arguing, yelling, hooting at the judge or show management) by contestants, volunteer leaders or family members – in or out of the arena – will result in disqualification.
  5. Horses must be under control at all times.
  6. There will be a 5-second penalty for knocking over pattern markers.
  7. Horses must be mounted when entering the ring. No assistance to either horse or rider is permitted past the arena gate.
  8. After completing the course a rider **must** dismount and lead the animal from the arena. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Mounted riders should stay clear of the exit gate to allow the dismounted rider to safely exit the arena.
- Disqualifications** – Any of the following infractions will disqualify an entry.
- Failure to begin the course within 1 minute after the ready signal is given.
  - Failure of the rider to enter the arena mounted.
  - A stop or willful refusal to move forward.
  - Riding the horse out of the arena.
  - Loss of course, which includes negotiating obstacles in other than the specified order or in the wrong direction. This includes circling, backing or reversing the direction of movement.
  - Horse behaving in an unruly manner or out of control.
  - Any kind of cruelty to the horse whether or not specifically mentioned in these rules, will disqualify the competitor.
  - Spurring, striking or beating the horse in any manner whatsoever forward of the cinch after entering the arena . Touching the horse will not be considered striking or beating the horse.
  - Fall of horse or rider while in the arena.
- Timing Procedure** – Electric timers are preferred over stopwatches. If an electric timer is used, at least one official should take the time using a stopwatch in case the electric timer fails. If an electric timer is not available, three stopwatches will be used. The median time of the three readings will be the official time. (The median time is the time indicated by two of the three stopwatches if two agree. If no two watches agree, the median time is the time indicated by the watch which indicated neither the fastest nor the slowest time.) All stopwatches must be calibrated to at least one-tenth of a second.
- The start/finish timing line must be a minimum of 30 feet from the end of the arena.
  - The timing line must be visibly marked in the arena.
  - Contestants are allowed running starts.

## GYMKHANA DIVISION

### GYMKHANA CLASSES

## Barrel Bending

The barrel bending pattern is run around six barrels. The barrels are placed in a straight line running perpendicular to the starting line and 24 feet apart from center to center. The first barrel is set 25 feet from the starting line. The barrels will be plastic 5-gallon containers with approximately 15 pounds of sand in each one.

Contestants may start on either side of the line of barrels. They will start at barrel one (see fig. 20) and bend in and out of all the barrels down and back. Jumping a barrel with either or both front or both hind legs will result in a 5-second penalty. Skipping a barrel will result in disqualification. Knocking over a barrel will result in a 5-second penalty. The judge will stand in line with the markers at the end of the row of barrels.

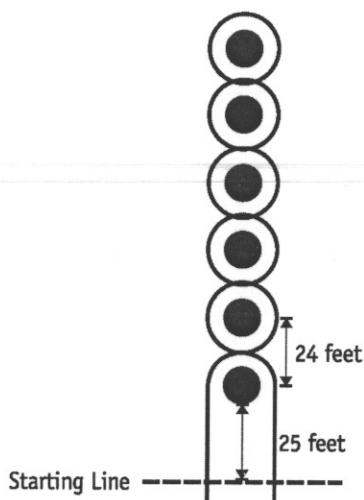


Figure 20. Barrel bending course.

## Cloverleaf Barrel Race

Barrels should be the size of a 55-gallon drum, with no sharp edges. Each barrel should be painted so that it can be easily distinguished from the background. Protective devices around steel barrel tops are required.

The size of the pattern (see fig. 21) should be 105 feet (35 yards) between barrels 1 and 2, 120 feet (40 yards) between barrels 2 and 3, 120 feet (40 yards) between barrels 1 and 3, and 75 feet (25 yards) from the timer to the first barrel. The course must be measured exactly.

If the course is too large for the available space, then each measurement of the pattern should be reduced 15 feet (3 yards) from the fence. If the course specified in this rule book is too big for the available space, the distance from

## GYMKHANA DIVISION

barrel 3 to the finish line need not be reduced 15 feet at a time, as long as there is enough room for the horse to stop safely.

Riders have the option of riding course A or B.

**Course A** – The entry must cross the timing line, circle barrel 1 clockwise, circle barrel 2 counterclockwise, circle barrel 3 counterclockwise and run between barrels 2 and 3 to cross the timing line.

**Course B** – The entry must cross the timing line, circle barrel 2 counterclockwise, circle barrel 1 clockwise, circle barrel 3 clockwise and run between barrels 2 and 3 to cross the timing line.

A 5-second penalty will be assessed for each barrel knocked down.

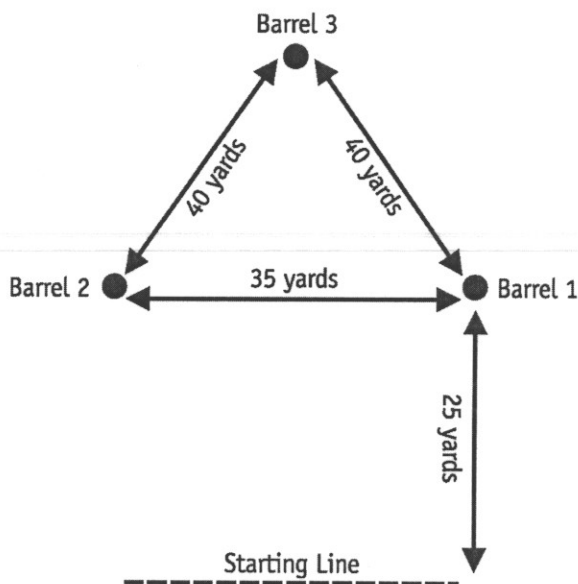


Figure 21. Cloverleaf barrel race (patterns A and B).

## Indiana Flag Race

The course (see fig. 22) is set up in the same manner as for the Cloverleaf Barrel Race. Two 5-gallon buckets filled with approximately 4 inches of sand should be placed on the centers of the 1st and 3rd barrels. The length of the flag sticks should be 12 inches to 16 inches above the edge of the bucket. Wooden doweling 3/4 inch in diameter, or other round suitable material, should be used for the flag.

The rider will pick up a flag at 1, ride behind 2 and place the flag in the bucket at barrel 3. Riders have the option of riding course A or B:

**Course A** – The entry will cross the starting line and begin following the pattern to the left.

## GYMKHANA DIVISION

**Course B** – The entry will cross the starting line and begin following the pattern to the right.

**Disqualifications** – Causes of disqualification include:

- Failing to pick up the flag on the first pass.
- Failing to place the flag in the bucket on the first pass.
- Hitting any part of the horse with the flag or stick.
- Dropping the flag.
- Knocking over any of the barrels or knocking the bucket off, or over, on the barrel.
- Dropping the flag into the bucket with the flag end down.

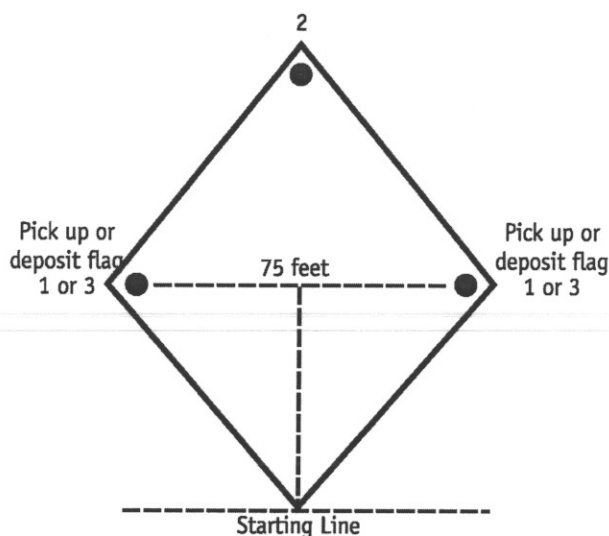


Figure 22. Indiana flag race course.

## Keyhole

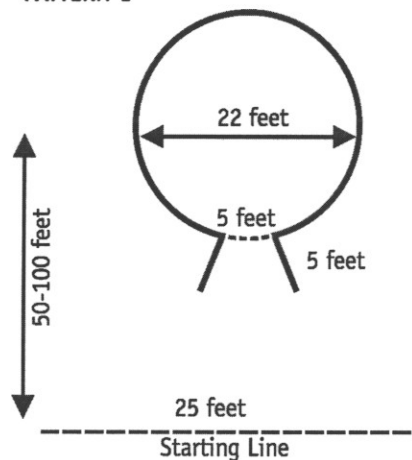
The course will be laid out with a limed keyhole on the ground with the opening of the keyhole facing the starting line (see fig. 23). The center of the circle should be 100 feet from the timing line. The keyhole will be in the form of a broken circle 22 feet in diameter with a throat 5 feet wide. The angled sides are 5 feet long. The horse will cross the timing line, enter the circle of the keyhole, turn around (in either direction) entirely within the circle of the keyhole, and recross the timing line.

**Disqualification** – Causes of disqualification include:

- The horse stepping over the chalk line at any point.
- The horse turning around in the throat of the keyhole rather than in the circle.
- Failing to complete the pattern.
- Failing to start or finish between the two markers.

## GYMKHANA DIVISION

### PATTERN 1



### PATTERN 2

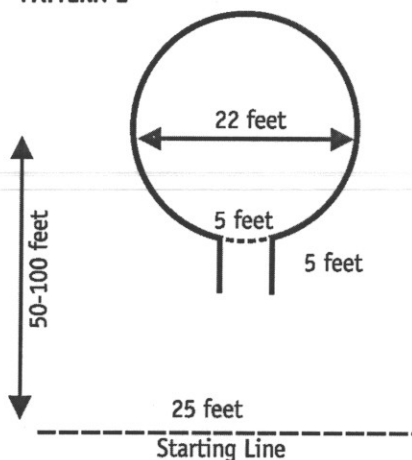


Figure 23. Keyhole race course.

## Pole Bending

The pole bending pattern (see fig. 24 on pg. 40) is run around six poles. The poles are placed in a straight line 21 feet apart, going away from the starting line. The first pole is to be 21 feet from the starting line. Poles are 6 feet high and set on top of the ground, with bases 10 inches to 14 inches in diameter.

Contestants may start on either side of the line of poles. They will cross the starting line, move in an approximately straight line to pole 6 (the farthest pole), make a 180-degree turn around pole 6, pass between pole 6 and pole 5, bend through the poles to pole 1, circle pole 1, bend through the poles to pole 6, make a 180-degree turn around pole 6, and cross the starting line by moving along the poles on the side opposite that on which they first approached pole 6.

A 5-second penalty will be assessed for each pole knocked down.

## GYMKHANA DIVISION

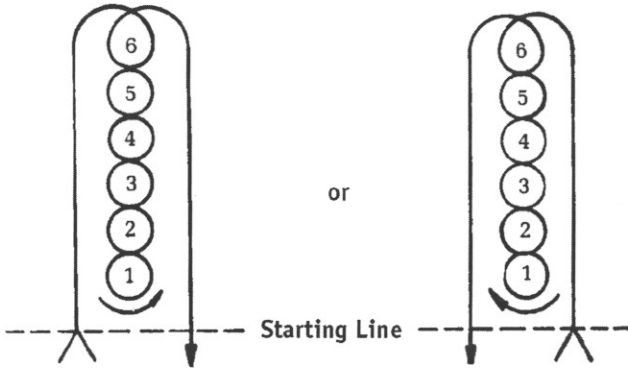


Figure 24. Pole bending course.

## Speed and Action

1. Seven kegs or markers are needed (see fig. 25). Using four of the kegs or markers, form a 12-foot by 24-foot box and mark lime lines between the kegs or markers on the 24-foot side. One 12-foot side will be on the starting line. The three remaining kegs or markers are to be placed at 7-foot intervals (from center to center) in a straight line parallel to and 200 feet from the starting line. These three kegs or markers must be at least 25 feet away from any fence.

2. The horse and rider are to start and end the course completely within the box. They may also start the course by entering through the top of the box (that is, by running through the box). Timing begins when the entry leaves the box and stops when the entry re-enters the box. The rider

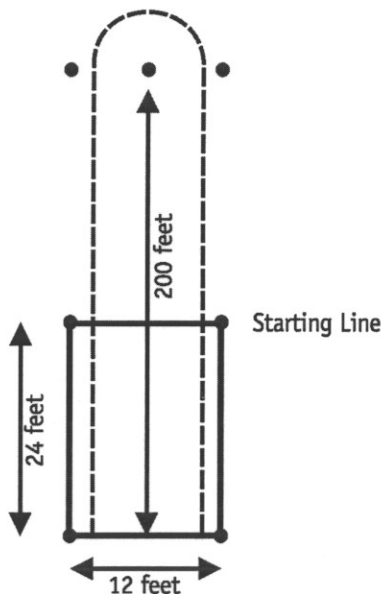


Figure 25. Speed and action course.

## GYMKHANA DIVISION

rides through the box to the kegs or markers 200 feet away, rides through two kegs or markers, circling the center one and returning to the box. The rider must stop within the square of four kegs or markers.

3. There will be a 5-second penalty for each keg or marker knocked over.

4. Spinning to a stop more than 90 degrees in the box, as determined by the judge, will result in disqualification.

**Disqualifications** – Causes of disqualification include:

- Stepping over the line of the box at the end of the pattern.
- Not stopping forward motion in the box.
- Spinning to a stop (see #4 above).