

# 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 state of Florida.
- 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 changing 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 **Budget.** The RCC 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.
- 1.5 **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.

#### 1.6 **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).

#### 1.7 **Ties.** In the event that two contestants receive the same total score, the 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

#### 1.8 **Announcement of Winners.** The winners for each title are announced by the President at the conclusion of the competition.

#### 1.9 Copies of the original score sheets shall be provided to each contestant once the competition has concluded and the scores have been entered into the records of the association. Judges names shall be removed from score sheets prior to contestants receiving copies. Copies of individuals score sheets will be mailed to contestants within 30 days of conclusion of the competition.

## **Article II Eligibility**

- 2.1 Any person wishing to be a contestant in the FGRA Royalty Competition must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Be a member in good standing of the association at least six (6) months prior to submission of the application.
  - b. Reside in the State of Florida at the time of application
  - c. Be at least 21 years of age.
  - d. Legally male for the categories of Mr. and Miss and female for the categories of Ms and MsTer.
  - e. 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 than 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 to be 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 or runner-ups of a FGRA Royalty Title, the individual selected is required to submit in writing the name of the 501-C3 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 the Article V.

- 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 with their application. 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 **Committees.** Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer FGRA and any and all runner ups shall serve on the Membership committee for their residing region and the RCC.
- 4.6 **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 (2) out-of-state IGRA sanctioned rodeos during their reign at which, they must either compete or volunteer a minimum of four (4) hours.
- 4.7 **Residence.** Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer FGRA must reside in the state of Florida 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
- 5.1.1 Competition categories may be changed by the FGRA Board of Directors pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 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 FGRA Royalty Committee is responsible for holding this competition.

**A. Purpose**

1. Purpose of the competition is to show poise, confidence, and familiarity with the 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 will appear 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) question 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 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 on upon items listed in the judging form contained in Exhibit B (Personal Interview).

5.3.2 **Horsemanship.** The Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer FGRA 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 generally on the Modified Reining Pattern in the American Quarter Horse Association

Handbook. A contestant's performance shall be submitted in recoded format on DVD or other approved media. Recording must be cued at the start point of the performance .

3. Judges will view the horsemanship recording three (3) times in order to carefully examine each of the three (3) required lead 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 per judge penalty.
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 contestant's horse must make the correct lead changes. Failure to correct leads will result in a lower score for the "CORRECT LEADS/CONTROL" portion on the judges' score sheet.
10. At recommended change mounted contestant should break from a lope to a trot 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 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 are included in Exhibit C (Horsemanship).
17. A major infraction shall result in zero (0) points for the for the corresponding category.

B. **Judges.** There are a total of five (5) judges for this competition. Each judge has a total of fifty (50) points to evaluate the contestant. The judging is based on upon items listed in the judging form contained in Exhibit C (Horsemanship).

5.3.3 **Western Wear.** The Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer FGRA 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. Mr/Ms/Miss/MsTer will model contemporary formal or casual Western fashions such as could be found in today's western wear catalogues or in quality western stores.

3. Miss may not wear stage 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 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 FGRA Royalty Committee is responsible for holding this competition.

**A. Rules.**

1. Entertainment Competition will be open to the public.
2. Tips can not 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 2 point per judge deduction for each minute exceeded.
4. Music selection, if any, shall be either on tape, CD, 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 committee. Failure to comply will result in a two(2) point per judge penalty.
6. Presentation must be made solo.
7. No props allowed. Any request for exception must be made in writing and receive approval from RCC 14 days in advance of competition.
8. Presentation takes place based upon the judging form contained in Exhibit E (Entertainment).

**B. Judges.**

1. There are a total of five (5) judges 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 question to be asked. Each contestant is asked the same question by the FGRA President or a person designated by the FGRA President. The presentation takes place based upon the judging form contained in Exhibit F

**B. Judges.**

1. There are a total of five (5) judges 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 VIII  
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 Red with White lettering for title holders; and White with Red lettering for 1<sup>st</sup> runner-ups.

**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 titleholders to extend their term as 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 rodeos at which they must either compete or volunteer a minimum of four (4)hours.
  - E. Communicate with other members of the FGRA Royalty Team and the FGRA Vice President.
  - F. Work with the FGRA Executive Board and FGRA Regional Director in planning participating in FGRA public relations event and fundraisers.
  - G. Submit monthly reports to the FGRA Vice President and FGRA Executive Board, verbally or in writing, 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 may 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 Florida during the entire term of their reign.
- K. Serve on the Membership committee for their residing region and the RCC.
- 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 \$1000 each for a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization within the territory of FGRA. Runners up for each category must raise a minimum of \$500 for a 501(c)(3) organization within the territory of FGRA.
- B. Mr./Ms/ Miss/MsTer FGRA must raise a minimum of \$500 each for the FGRA General Fund and \$200 towards the FGRA Royalty Fund. Runners up for each category must raise a minimum of \$250 for the FGRA General Fund.

## **ARTICLE XII IGRA Royalty Contest**

12.1 **IGRA Royalty Contest**

- A. Winners of the Mr./Ms/ Miss/MsTer FGRA competition are recommended 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 Vice President. Upon completion of all categories of the IGRA Royalty Competition, FGRA will reimburse the contestants for the entry fees. All remaining costs are the responsibility of the contestants. IGRA Royalty Application must be signed by FGRA Trustee prior to submission to the FGRA VP.

## **ARTICLE XIII Revocation**

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

13.2 Revocation procedure.

- 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 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 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 are no runners-up, the title will remain vacant or assigned to a past royalty member.

## **ARTICLE XIV Amendments to Royalty By-laws**

- 14.1 FGRA Royalty By-laws shall be reviewed on an annual basis at least 60 days prior to opening of Royalty Contestant Registration.
- 14.2 Proposed amendments shall be voted on by the RCC no less than 30 days prior to Royalty Contestant Registration.
- 14.3 A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the RCC present at the time of 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 By-laws.
- 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 By-laws supersede any and all by-laws in effect heretofore and annul and supersede any and all resolution(s) inconsistent herewith.