



GVHS MEMBER DECLARATION OF AMATEUR STATUS Show Year 2026

In order to compete in Amateur classes at shows, exhibitors may be required to provide proof of Amateur status. Amateur exhibitors must read the Amateur definition below and complete this form to declare their Amateur status and return to the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society. The Amateur will enter the GVHS High Points Program in the month their membership is paid and the Amateur Declaration is received at the GVHS office. A GVHS Amateur card will be provided for the Amateur to utilize as proof of Amateur status.

Remuneration. Remuneration is defined as compensation or payment in any form such as cash, goods, sponsorships, discounts or services; reimbursement of any expenses; trade or in-kind exchange of goods or services such as board or training.

Family. For the purpose of these rules, the term family includes spouse, parent, stepparent, child, brother, stepchild, sister, half brother and sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather, grandchildren, and in-laws of the same relation as stated above.

Cohabitant. The term cohabitant is defined as any individuals living together in a relationship, as would a married couple, but not legally married.

Amateurs are permitted to accept remuneration for the following activities:

- a) Accept remuneration for barn duties on or off competition grounds. Barn duties include but are not limited to grooming, tacking and un-tacking, bathing, clipping, lunging, braiding, and stall and tack cleaning.
- b) Accept remuneration for teaching or training disabled riders for therapeutic purposes.
- c) Accept reimbursement for expenses associated with conducting classroom seminars.
- d) Accept remuneration for serving as a camp counselor when not hired in the exclusive capacity as an equestrian instructor.
- e) Accept remuneration as a Social Media Influencer or Social Media Brand Ambassador.
- f) Accept remuneration for providing service in one's capacity as a: clinic manager or organizer (so long as they are not performing the activities of instructor or trainer), presenter or panelist at a clinic, competition manager, competition secretary, steward, technical delegate, course designer, announcer, TV commentator, groom, farrier, tack shop operator, breeder, or boarder, or horse transporter.
- g) Accept reimbursement for any expenses directly related to the horse (i.e. farrier/vet bills, entries). Travel, hotel, equipment, and room and board are not considered expenses related to the horse.

Other Permitted activities by Amateurs. An Amateur is permitted to do the following:

- a) Appear in advertisements and/or articles related to acknowledgement of one's own personal or business sponsorship of a competition and/or awards earned by one's owned horses.
- b) Accept prize money as the owner of a horse in any class.
- c) Accept a non-monetary token gift of appreciation valued less than \$1,000 annually.
- d) Serve as an intern for college credit or course requirements at an accredited institution provided one has never held professional status with an equestrian organization. In addition, one may accept reimbursement for expenses without profit, as prescribed by the educational institution's program, for the internship. At the request of the GVHS, an Amateur shall provide certification from the accredited educational institution under whose auspices a student is pursuing an internship that he/she is undertaking the internship to meet course or degree requirements.
- e) Write books or articles related to horses.
- f) Accept educational, competition, or training grant(s).
- g) Assist in setting schooling fences without remuneration.

Professional based on one's own activities. A person is a professional if they do not qualify as a youth and:

- a) Accepts remuneration AND rides, exercises, drives, shows, trains, assists in training, schools or conducts clinics or seminars.
- b) Accepts remuneration AND gives equestrian lessons, trains horses, or provides consultation services in riding, driving, showmanship, equitation, or training of horses.
- c) Accepts remuneration AND acts as an employee in a position such as a groom, farrier, bookkeeper, veterinarian or barn manager AND instructs, rides, drives, shows, trains or schools horses that are owned, boarded or trained by his/her employer, any member of his/her employer's family, or a business in which his/her employer has an ownership interest.
- d) Rides, drives or shows any horse that a cohabitant or family member or a cohabitant or family member's business receives remuneration for boarding, training, riding, driving or showing. A cohabitant or family member of a trainer may not absolve themselves of this rule by entering into a lease or any other agreement for a horse owned by a client of the trainer.
- e) Gives instruction to any person or rides, drives, or shows any horse, for which activity his/her cohabitant or another person in his/her family or business in which his/her cohabitant or that a family member controls will receive remuneration for the activity. A cohabitant or family member of a trainer may not absolve themselves of this rule by entering into a lease or any other agreement for a horse owned by a client of the trainer.



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f) Accepts remuneration for judging a horse show and/or holds the credentials of a horse show judge for any organization.

- g) Advertises one's equestrian services such as training or instruction.
- h) Accepts remuneration AND acts as an intern, apprentice, or working student whose responsibilities include, but are not limited to, riding, driving, showmanship, handling, showing, training, or assisting in training, giving lessons/coaching and/or schooling horses other than horses actually owned by him/her.
- i) Accepts remuneration for the use of commercially logoed items while on competition grounds, as a Sponsored Rider.
- j) Accepts remuneration for his/her spouse, family member, or cohabitant engaging in any activity enumerated above.

Violations of Amateur status. The holding of an amateur card does not preclude the question of amateur standing being raised. If an investigation as to proper status has been initiated, and upon request by the GVHS, an Amateur must submit verifiable proof of Amateur status. Failure to submit requested documentation to the GVHS may be deemed a violation of this rule. Any person(s) found to have violated these rules, may be subject to the penalties. Penalties will be removal from the GVHS points program and showing as an amateur in GVHS sponsored shows.

Amateur Name (Please Print Clearly): _____ **Date:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____

STATE/PROV: _____ **Zip/Postal Code:** _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

EMAIL: _____

My horse(s) _____ is owned by my business and I am the business owner. (documentation may be required)

I have read and understood the above definition for an Amateur competitor and hereby declare my Amateur status for the calendar year in which this form has been dated. By completing and signing this document, you are declaring that you qualify as an amateur and will comply with the rules of the GVHS.

Amateur Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Lease Information (only fill out if applicable)

A horse shown by an Amateur in GVHS classes must be owned and/or leased, with a current GVHS show lease on file by the Amateur or the family (see definition above) of that amateur.

Amateurs may show leased horses subject to the following:

- 1.) Prior to the amateur lessee showing the leased horse, GVHS must have received and recorded a show lease form on file;
- 2.) During the term of the showing lease, horse owner and owner's family, the lessee and lessee's family may show the horse. The lessee's trainer may also show the horse during the term, but only in Open division classes.
- 3.) The term of the lease must be for a minimum one-year period, and the lease must be to an individual only. If the lease is terminated for any reason before the minimum one-year period, the horse can then be shown by the owner or family or in the Open, or amateur if owner and/or family qualify for amateur per GVHS rules. The horse may not enter another lease contract for the same calendar year.
- 4.) A Show Lease may be terminated without restrictions before the minimum one-year requirement in the event of the death of the lessee.
- 5.) Only one showing lease at a time per horse will be recognized.
- 6.) A showing lease does not grant a lessee or lessee's agent authorization to sign breeder's certificate(s), stallion breeding reports, transfers or registration applications for the horse.
- 7.) During the term of a showing lease, if ownership changes, updated documentation will need to be submitted to GVHS with new owner and lessee information.

Lease Information:

Registered Name of Horse: _____ **Registration #:** _____

Lessor (GVHS owner of record): _____

Lessee (Name on Amateur Declaration above): _____

Date Lease term Year (January-December): _____

Signature of Lessor: _____ **Date:** _____



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Signature of Lessee: _____ Date: _____