

IGRA Bylaws and Standing Rules Proposals 2024

This document includes the Bylaws and Standing Rules advance proposals to be considered at the 2024 IGRA Annual Convention. In accordance with standard annual convention practice, deletions are underlined and additions are **bolded**. When deletions or additions result in a change to section or paragraph numbering, it is understood that the renumbering will be done during editing and is, therefore, not indicated in the proposal.

The following table designates which committee will consider each proposal. Committee assignments are subject to change and each committee may have additional proposals to be considered.

Proposal Prefix	Committee
BSR	Bylaws and Standing Rules
COFR	Community Outreach,
MEM	Membership
ROC	Rodeo Officials
RR	Rodeo Rules

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

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IGRA Bylaws Committee

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Proposal BSR-01

Page 2-4, Article IV, Section 4, Paragraph D

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 4. Current Member Associations.

Paragraph D. Member Associations must have twenty (20) members in good standing and at least of the legal age of majority to sign contracts according to Guidelines of the Nation or the superseding principality where that Member Association is located. Ten (10) of the required members must be legal residents of the Member Association's geographic area.

1. Individuals may join as many Member or Recognized Associations as they wish providing they are in compliance with the respective association's membership policies.
2. Removal of a member from “good standing” status could be for any specific reason considered detrimental to the Association.
3. If a member is removed from “good standing” status **and the association desires IGRA to review the action for eligibility to participate in IGRA related activities**, the following actions shall be taken:
 - a. The involved association will notify the Secretary within seven (7) days. Such notification will include documentation indicating removal from good standing and the reasons why.
 - b. The Secretary must notify the Board of Directors, the Membership Standing Committee, and all Member and Recognized Associations and individual within fifteen (15) days of receipt of said notification. The individual must be notified by First Class mail with delivery confirmation.
 - c. Within thirty (**30**) days, the Member or Recognized Association removing their member from good standing must do a presentation as to why and how long the Member or Recognized Association is requesting IGRA to honor the removal from good standing to the Membership Standing Committee. Electronic means such as E-mail, telephone, and video may be used to expedite the hearing. The Member or Recognized Association must provide the path back to member in good standing with the Association, if such a path exists.
 - d. The person removed from good standing shall be offered the right to present his or her position or rebuttal in writing or by making a presentation, in person or via written materials, at least five (5) days prior to any enforcement by IGRA.
 - e. The Membership Standing Committee will decide whether IGRA will honor the removal from good standing and determine the length of time the removal from good standing will be honored by IGRA. **Until this determination is made, the individual involved will remain eligible to participate in IGRA sponsored/sanctioned events/rodeos as long as they have membership in good standing with other IGRA member or recognized associations.**
 - f. Once IGRA honors the removal from good standing, the individual will become ineligible to participate in IGRA sponsored/sanctioned events/rodeos, **regardless of memberships with other associations in good standing**, until such time as the situation is rectified or the requisite time determined by the Membership Standing Committee expires.
 - g. The Membership Standing Committee will decide the length of time IGRA will honor the removal from good standing based on the severity of the infraction.
 - h. Immediate Removal.

- 1) In certain cases, IGRA may immediately honor the removal from good standing while the review process continues.
- 2) Cases that may be considered for this action include financial misdeeds, animal cruelty, violence, actions that damage IGRA or its' reputation, and actions that cause financial or legal liability for IGRA.
- 3) The Executive Board shall make this determination.
 - i. A Member or Recognized Association will not be required to return an individual to good standing with the Association or take the member back, regardless of any action by IGRA.
 - j. The involved association must notify the Secretary within seven (7) days of rectification of the problem, even if said association still does not wish the individual to rejoin their association.
 - k. Within seven (7) days, the Secretary must advise the Board of Directors and all Member and Recognized Associations of the rescinding of the earlier notice, thus allowing the individual and all associations to make further membership decisions as they might mutually desire.
 - l. Participation in IGRA sponsored/sanctioned events is defined as a person in the capacity of contestant, volunteer, official, delegate, instructor, or student at rodeos, university, convention and other events overseen by IGRA.
 - m. In the event the individual and Member or Recognized Association reach an agreement that places the individual back to member in good standing, the Membership Standing Committee shall consider the issue resolved.

Proposal BSR-02

Page 11, Article VII, Paragraph A

ARTICLE VII – DELEGATES

Section 1. Voting Delegates.

Paragraph A. Representation.

1. Each Member Association shall be entitled to representation at Annual Convention by four (4) voting delegates and four (4) alternate delegates.
2. A Member Association shall be entitled to two (2) bonus voting delegates by hosting one or more of the following during the current or previous rodeo year
 - a. at least one (1) rodeo within its geographical area
 - b. Approved rodeo school.
 - c. Annual Convention.
 - d. IGRA University
3. The number of delegates per association shall not exceed six (6).
4. **An association may register any number of alternate delegates.**

Proposal BSR-03

Page 36, Rule V, Section 4

RULE V ANNUAL CONVENTION

Section 4. Resolutions may be submitted by any delegate and should be submitted to the Secretary prior to midnight the night before the opening of Annual Convention.

Section 6. Convention floor rules shall be:

1. Discussion on any motion or business shall be limited to ten (10) minutes. A majority vote will be required for each ten (10) minute extension of the discussion.
2. The question cannot be called within the first ten (10) minutes of discussion/debate on any subject.
3. Anytime a representative group calls for a caucus, it will take preference over a vote. The maximum time allowed for a caucus will be ten (10) minutes.
4. All motions and/or committee recommendations **proposals and resolutions** must be submitted in writing to the Secretary.
5. Only delegates and/or committee chairs may address the convention floor.
6. Voting by voice vote, show of hands, **division**, roll call of the voting delegates **individually or by Association**, or written ballot shall be the option of the chair, or at the request of any delegate.
7. Each speaker may only speak once unless everyone desiring to speak has spoken.
8. Any proposed changes made on the committee recommendations on the convention floor may, at the Presiding Officer's discretion, be sent back to the committee for rewording and then brought back to the convention floor before it can be voted on.

Proposal BSR-04

Page 1, Article II

ARTICLE II – OBJECTS GOALS AND PURPOSES

Pursuant to its Articles of Incorporation, the mission of the International Gay Rodeo Association, “Supporting Associations that Support Communities” is carried out through the following goals:

1. Providing associations with the tools to produce quality events, and
2. Promoting the Country/Western lifestyle, and
3. Supporting amateur sportsmanship through education, participation, competition, and recognition, and
4. Engaging in charitable activities by volunteering the services of the Corporation itself and/or in cooperation with its Member Associations or by the raising of monies; with such activities and the proceeds derived therefrom being donated to those charitable organizations that the Member Associations of the Corporation may choose, and
5. Engaging in any business and/or activities in which a nonprofit corporation may engage within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

Proposal BSR-05

Page 4, Article IV, New Paragraph E

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 4. Current Member Associations.

Paragraph E. A Member Association (including Chapters within a Member Association), hereby known as Association, may not deny membership to any person(s) based on bias, discrimination, or without just cause. In the event that an applicant is denied membership to an Association, the denying Association must provide the applicant name and reason to the IGRA Secretary. The Secretary must notify the Board of Directors, the Membership Standing Committee, and all Member and Recognized Associations and individual within fifteen (15) days of receipt of said notification. The individual must be notified by First Class mail with delivery confirmation. The applicant may also provide this information to the IGRA Secretary if it has been provided to them.

Proposal COFR-01

Page 42, Rule VII, Section 4

RULE VII SELECTION OF MR/MS/MX/MISS/MSTER IGRA

Section 4. Submission and Selection of Interview Questions.

- A. The current IGRA Royalty team will compile a pool of 100 questions and submit them to the Vice President no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the competition.
- B. The Vice President will then recommend twenty (20) questions per category (Mr./Ms./Mx./Miss/MsTer) to the Executive Board no later than thirty (30) days prior to the start of the competition for review and approval.
- C. **The Vice President will then recommend twenty (20) questions total, from which a minimum of (10) questions will be used across all categories (Mr./Ms./Mx./Miss/MsTer), to the IGRA President no later than thirty (30) days prior to the start of the competition for review and approval.**
- D. The interview judges for the Royalty contest will meet immediately prior to the start of the interview and review questions with the Vice President.
- E. Questions must be comprised of the following: IGRA history, bylaws and standing rules, rodeo rules, and personal opinion.

Proposal COFR-02

Page 43, Rule VII, Section 7

RULE VII SELECTION OF MR/MS/MX/MISS/MSTER IGRA

- A. All contestants must be the current and official titleholder or 1st runner-up of a Member Association. Each association can send up to two representatives in each category.
- B. All contestants must complete the following requirements no later than 60 **45** days prior to competition. **A 3-day window following the deadline to receive funds and requirements may be used at the discretion of the Vice President due to extenuating issues (e.g., banking holidays, weekend mail or life circumstances).**
- C. Submit to the Vice President at least one high resolution, professional quality portrait photograph in digital form. Cell phone pictures point and shoot selfie pictures, or poorly lit snapshots are not acceptable.
- D. Submit to the Vice President a contestant biography of approximately 200 word narrative. A simple list of accomplishments or titles held is not acceptable.
- E. Compete in a minimum of two (s) sanctioned rodeo events in different categories or volunteer under a certified official for two (2) rodeo days at a single rodeo.
- F. Raise a minimum of \$500 for IGRA. The Member's Association's treasurer of each contestant shall forward any monies raised with the IGRA Fundraiser Deposit Form (exhibit C12 to the IGRA Treasurer.
- G. Raise a minimum of \$250 for a non-profit entity under the laws of and in good standing with the state, province, territory or other comparable territorial units of other nations during their regional reign.
- H. Submit to the Vice President a completed and signed Royalty Competition Entry Form (exhibit C2) along with a \$100 entry fee.
- I. At contestant check-in before the competition, contestants must provide a written plan of action consisting of goals for the IGRA Royalty Team. Plans must be turned in along with a Western Wear description and either a Horsemanship video or Entertainment music to the Vice President. The Vice President reviews the plans with the competition winners to build the team's final plan of action for the following year. Failure to provide a plan of action will result in a two (2) point deduction from each judge's score sheet in the interview segment.

Proposal MEM-01

Pages 2, Article IV, Section 4, Paragraph D

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 4. Current Member Associations.

Paragraph D. Member Associations must have twenty (20) ten (10) members in good standing and at least of the legal age of majority to sign contracts according to Guidelines of the Nation or the superseding principality where that Member Association is located. Ten (10) Five (5) of the required members must be legal residents of the Member Association's geographic area.

Pages 4, Article IV, Section 5, Paragraph A

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 5. New Member Associations.

Paragraph A. Any association wishing to apply for membership in IGRA shall:

1. Be in concurrence with the stated goals and purposes of IGRA.
2. Have twenty (20) ten (10) members in good standing and at least of the legal age of majority to sign contracts according to Guidelines of the Nation or the superseding principality where that association is located. Ten (10) Five (5) of the required members must be legal residents of the association's geographic area.
3. Choose a name and acronym that does not conflict with or duplicate IGRA's name and acronym or the name and acronym of any existing Member or Recognized Association.
4. Submit all documents required by Paragraph B, Application Requirements, below.

Pages 6-7, Article IV, Section 8, Paragraph A

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 8. Removal from Membership.

Paragraph A. Removal from membership shall occur only at Annual Convention by a majority vote of authorized delegates pursuant to Article VII Delegates, Section 1, Paragraph A, for any of the following reasons:

1. Member Association is no longer in concurrence with the stated goals and purposes of IGRA
2. Member Association is no longer incorporated as a not-for-profit or nonprofit corporation under the laws of, and in good standing, in the state, territory, or province (U.S. and Canada), or other comparable territorial units of other nations
3. Member Association no longer has twenty (20) ten (10) members in good standing

Pages 7, Article IV, Section 9, Paragraph A

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 9. Reclassification of a Member Association as a Recognized Association.

Paragraph A. A Member Association may be reclassified as a Recognized Association by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors for any of the following reasons:

1. Member Association is no longer concurrent with the stated goals and purposes of IGRA.
2. Member Association is no longer incorporated as a not-for-profit or nonprofit corporation under the laws of, and in good standing, in the state, territory, or province (U.S. and Canada), or other comparable territorial units of other nations.
3. Member Association no longer has twenty (20) **ten (10)** members in good standing.
4. Member Association has not completed the renewal process as specified in Article IV, Section 7.
5. Member Association has outstanding fees, fines, and/or other moneys owed to IGRA.

Proposal MEM-02

Page 5, Article IV, Section 6

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 6. Membership Renewals.

Paragraph A. The Membership Committee will consider a Member Association's renewal request when the Secretary has received all of the following:

1. Completed renewal application (Exhibit A1).
2. Copy of board resolution releasing geographic territory of existing Member or Recognized Association and corresponding letter, if applicable.
3. Provide proof of active or good standing from state or province.
4. Documentation proving not-for-profit or nonprofit corporation.
3. **Provide a copy of Articles of Incorporation and proof of active and in good standing as a not-for-profit or nonprofit from your state or province.**
5. Copy of current bylaws **indicating propose is in concurrence with the stated goals and purposes of IGRA.**
6. List of current officers.
7. Membership list dated within thirty (30) days prior to the renewal **submission** deadline.
8. Verified funds in the amount of six hundred dollars (\$600.00) paid to IGRA for annual dues.
9. Verified funds paid to IGRA for any outstanding fees, fines, assessments, or monies due.

Proposal MEM-03

Page 47, Rule IX

RULE IX MEMBERSHIP LISTS AND CARDS

Section 1. Membership Lists.

A. Submission.

1. In addition to the requirements for application and renewal, each Member and Recognized Association must send a current membership list to the IGRA office within fifteen (15) days prior to the beginning of each rodeo year.
2. Periodic updates will be sent at the discretion of each Member or Recognized Association.
1. **In addition to the requirements for application and renewal, each Member and Recognized Association must send a current membership list to the IGRA office after January 1 of the current rodeo year but no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the first rodeo of the rodeo year.**
2. **Periodic updates will be sent at the discretion of each Member or Recognized Association. Lists updated with new members or that have had members removed must be received no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the next scheduled rodeo. When an Association is unable to meet the (21) day requirement, the Trustee or alternate shall make every effort to have the membership book manually updated prior to the start of the next rodeo registration.**

B. Contents.

1. Association name on the top of each page.
2. Date of membership list.
3. Names of all active members in alphabetical order by last name, first name.
4. City and state or province where each member resides.
5. County or other comparable geographical unit of residence for each member where such units are identified as part of an association's geographical area.
6. **Expiration date of the membership for each listed member.**
6. Assigned 4-digit IGRA contestant number (optional).
7. Page number, including total number of pages, at the bottom of each page.
8. Total number of active members listed.

Section 2. Membership Cards.

- A. Member and Recognized Associations may provide their members with membership identification cards, which will be accepted by rodeo host association as proof of membership provided that the ID card indicates at least association name, contestant name, and membership expiration date.
- A. **Member and Recognized Associations may provide their members with membership identification cards, which will be accepted by rodeo host association as proof of membership provided that the ID card indicates at least:**
 - 1) Association name

- 2) Contestant name**
- 3) Membership expiration date**
- 4) Printed name and signature of Association President or Trustee**

Proposal ROC-01

Page 61-62, Rule XIX, Section 4

RULE XIX GENERAL RULES FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Section 4 Education and Training.

- A. A general information class for rodeo officials will be scheduled at each IGRA University, if held.
- B. Area specific seminars will be offered by the Lead Person to all officials program enrollees or current officials based on need and scheduling availability.
- C. Each certified official will work with the respective Lead Person to develop a recertification plan annually. This is to assure each official meets the requirements of recertification.
- D. Each Lead Person will schedule a meeting held in person or via electronic means a minimum of once per quarter with all certified personnel in the respective certification area. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. It is expected that these certified personnel will participate in the meeting. **Certified personnel shall be present at a minimum of three (3) of these quarterly meetings. Failure to do so could result in suspension of their certification at the discretion of the Board of Directors.**
- E. The Rodeo Officials Committee Chairperson will schedule a quarterly meeting held in person or via electronic means each calendar quarter with all committee members. It is expected that all committee members will participate in the meeting. **Committee members shall attend a minimum of three (3) of the quarterly meetings or 75% of the total meetings held. Failure to do so could result in removal from the committee and a replacement being assigned at the discretion of the Board of Directors.**

Proposal RR-01

Page 22, Article X, Section 9, Paragraph E

ARTICLE X – TRUSTEES

Section 9. Duties.

Paragraph E. Pre-Rodeo Meeting.

1. The Trustees present shall conduct a pre-rodeo meeting at each rodeo.
2. The Trustees present will designate a Trustee to complete the rodeo checklist and a Trustee to act as Rodeo Review Trustee. **An IGRA officer present at the rodeo will be allowed to fill or assist with these positions at the discretion of the Association Trustees present.** For specific responsibilities for these two (2) positions, refer to Exhibit A4.
3. The Rodeo Review Trustee will be assigned to complete the IGRA Voluntary Rodeo Injury Report during the running of the rodeo. This Trustee will give the Arena Director and/or Chute Coordinator the completed injury reports for their review and signature(s).
4. If an Association does not have a trustee or alternate trustee present for the pre-rodeo meeting they will not have a vote in any rodeo review meetings held during the rodeo and at the post rodeo meeting. If the trustee or alternate trustee is unable to attend the pre-rodeo meeting due to unforeseen circumstances, it is up to the discretion of the designated Trustee Chair for the rodeo to excuse their absence.

Proposal RR-02

Page 52, Rule XIV, Section 6

RULE XIV FINALS RODEO

Section 1 IGRA shall host Finals Rodeo and shall be responsible for its branding as World Gay Rodeo Finals.

Section 2 IGRA shall be responsible for all revenues and expenses of Finals Rodeo.

Section 3 Finals Rodeo may not be scheduled within seventeen (17) days of Annual Convention, IGRA University, or any other IGRA–sanctioned rodeo.

Section 4 Finals Rodeo Fund.

- A. There shall be an escrow fund funded from rodeo sanction fees (See Standing Rule XII Rodeos and Rodeo Approval) and contestant entry fees (see Rodeo Rule VIII Registration, Number 4).
- B. The Finals Rodeo Committee may draw upon this fund for the purpose of financing the production of Finals Rodeo.
- C. Excess funds in Finals Rodeo Fund at the end of rodeo year will roll over to the next year's fund.

Section 5 Finals Rodeo will be conducted in accordance with IGRA–sanctioned rodeo rules in all respects.

Section 6 Establish a Rookie of the Year award for contestants in their first year of IGRA competition. **A contestant's inaugural first year of competition will qualify them for Rookie of the Year.** Winners are determined by male and female contestants earning the most total points in IGRA rodeos for that **individual's inaugural** year including Finals Rodeo. Buckles will be awarded at Finals Rodeo.

Proposal RR-03

Page 52, Rule XIV, New Section 7

RULE XIV FINALS RODEO

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Section 7 Responsibilities of IGRA Executive Director's Office.

A. The Executive Director shall be responsible for:

- 1. Collaborating with the IGRA Board of Directors.**
- 2. Coordinating with the World Gay Rodeo Finals committee (WGRF) in the selection and ordering of all awards for the World Gay Rodeo Finals.**