

SGNC Rules of Wedding Programs:

1. Logistical Issues:
 - a. SGNC BOD must approve wedding
 - b. Gurdwara Granthi Singh must be part of ceremony (unless s/he excuses him/herself from the ceremony either voluntarily or at the behest of BOD)
 - c. Standard Bheta for programs should be paid to Gurdwara Saheb
 - d. Cannot arrange for wedding program on Sunday unless inclusive of all Sangat that comes on Sundays
 - e. Must set a date that does not conflict with another function already pre-arranged at SGNC
 - f. While wedding programs are “private” programs, the management of Gurdwara Saheb is obligated to uphold the sanctity of the house of Guru Granth Saheb Ji
2. Maryada
 - a. These rules are based on Sikh Reht Maryada of Akal Takhat
 - b. Bride and groom must be Sikhs (a form must be signed)
 - c. **There can be no dancing or non-Gurbani music as the wedding party (Barat) enters Gurdwara premises (Gurdwara premises include the fenced area)**
 - d. **There can be no consumption of alcohol or meat products within Gurdwara premises**
 - e. Persons who are part of wedding should not be intoxicated
 - f. All should cover their heads inside the Gurdwara building at all times (this includes both upper and lower halls of Gurdwara)
 - g. The shoes must be removed in the shoe area of Gurdwara and are not allowed in Langar Hall downstairs or Diwan Hall upstairs
 - h. Cell phones and other “beeping” devices should be set to vibrate in the Diwan Hall
 - i. Bride and groom are and should act and should be treated as regular members of Sangat in Diwan Hall.
 - j. Bride and groom are not to be seated on a special cushion or blanket or any other special seating that is different from the seating of Sangat.
 - k. **Groom should not wear a “kalgi” or “sehara” in Diwan Hall**
 - l. In the Diwan Hall there can only be Keertan or Katha of Gurbani. All speeches made should be kept within the context of Gurbani. No songs can be sung.
 - m. All guests, Sikh or non-Sikhs, should sit on the floor. Chairs are provided only for the handicapped individuals who cannot sit on the floor.
 - n. Program should begin with Keertan
 - o. After Keertan, an Ardas is performed to seek Guru’s permission to begin the Anand Karaj. For this Ardas, only the bride, the groom and their parents are required to stand. Rest of Sangat may or may not stand.
 - p. After the Ardas, Guru’s Hukam is read aloud.
 - q. A few words of advice may be shared which include that bride and groom should be Sikhs. After this advice is given, the bride and groom are asked if they both agree to the Anand Karaj. After their ascent, the Anand Karaj starts.
 - r. The father (or guardian) of the bride hands the “palla” from groom to the bride.
 - s. Both bride and groom are to bow (matha tek) to Guru, and rise. Granthi Singh reads the first Laav from Guru Granth Saheb Ji.

- t. After the Laav is read, both bride and groom bow to Guru Saheb and groom leads the bride in a circular walk (parikarma) around Guru while the Ragi Singh(s) sing the first Laav. This parikarma is walked with Guru Saheb on the right side of bride and groom.
 - u. During the parikarma, no one should stand to hold the bride or walk along the couple or throw flowers, etc on the couple.**
 - v. After the parikarma is finished, the bride and groom are to remain standing while Ragi Singh(s) finish singing the Laav. Then the bride and groom bow and rise again.
 - w. Then the second, third and fourth Laav are read and sung just like the first. Each time the Granthi Singh reads the Laav, the bride and groom are to stand and listen.
 - x. Once all four Parikarmas are done, the bride and groom may sit.
 - y. Keertan can continue after the Laavaa(n), or Anand Saheb may be done for the end of program.
 - z. After Anand Saheb an Ardas is done, and all Sangat should stand.
 - aa. A final Hukam is read aloud and Parshad is served.
 - bb. After the ceremony is complete, speeches of thanks, etc can be made keeping in mind the supremacy of Guru Granth Saheb Ji.
 - cc. **Other than Parshad there can be no other sweets or food served in the Diwan Hall**
3. During or around the ceremony
- a. SGNC does not permit fake flowers in Diwan Hall**
 - b. Decoration of Palki with flowers is also discouraged
 - c. While minor decorations, such as flower vases, are okay, elaborate displays are not permitted
 - d. No candles or other potentially fire hazard items are permitted
 - e. Also no ritualistic “jot,” “kumbh,” etc. are permitted.
 - f. No structural changes can be made to SGNC premises including putting tents outside on the parking lot**
 - g. Taking of pictures and making of movies is permitted; however, these devices should not take focus away from the sanctity of Guru Granth Saheb – therefore, only handheld or stationary (tri-pod) mounted cameras are permitted. No heavy duty, track mounted devices are allowed.
 - h. No placing the garlands around the necks of bride and groom in the Diwan Hall is permitted**
 - i. After the completion of the happy ceremony, please, do not allow children to run around in Diwan Hall
 - j. Family hosting the wedding should make arrangements clean up after the wedding which includes vacuuming the Diwan Hall**
 - k. Langar Hall
 - l. No shoes are allowed in Langar Hall, as it is not a banquet hall
 - m. Food served shall be in the form and spirit of Langar
 - n. It may be catered or prepared at Gurdwara Saheb
 - o. No meat, egg, alcohol or tobacco products can be served (please, be careful if catering cakes and deserts)**
 - p. Serving of Langar in the tradition Sikh way is encouraged
 - q. After Langar is finished, the family is responsible for cleanup arrangements. Gurudwara Saheb does employ a contractor for cleaning up after programs, and the family can simply pay the fee for this service. However, all dishes should be washed and put back in**

their place. Kitchen counters should be cleaned. Trash should be taken out to the dumpster. A dry mop of Langar Hall should be done.

- r. The above is in consideration of the other programs also scheduled at Gurdwara Sahebs over the weekends.
- 4. Any questions and concerns
 - a. can be directed to SGNC Bhai Saheb who can be a liaison between the families and the BOD or can be directly related to BOD members
 - b. The Bheta for Gurdwara facilities, Bhai Saheb, cleaning services, etc. If a family is unable to pay, please talk to the administration. Arrangements can be made.