



Official Show Rules

2009/2010

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PART 1. ADOPTION

A. The following rules were adopted by the Metropolitan Miniature Horse Club Inc. to apply to the judging of shows for Miniature Horses.

B. All approved rules are to be observed by everyone connected in any way with the exhibiting, setting up of shows, stewarding, or judging at MMHC shows.

PART 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR EXHIBITION AT MMHC SHOWS

A. All MMHC shows are open to horses registered with approved Miniature Horse registries. The approved registries are AMHA, AMHR, NZMHA, NMHSNZ, MHAA, WCMHR and BMHS. No animal will be allowed to show or be measured at a MMHC show unless the exhibitor can show the original registration paper or a photostatic copy of the same to the show management.

B. On any entry to be shown in any class, the exhibitor must use the complete name and registration number of the animal as it is shown on the horse's registration certificate. No substitutions or changes are acceptable. Horses shown under a false identity will be automatically and immediately disqualified by the show management.

C. No horse shall be given a number or allowed to show at a MMHC show unless the exhibitor can show proof of registration and current height verification to the show management.

PART 3. MINIMUM AGES OF HORSES

1. To be shown at any show - 3 Months
2. Halter Obstacle - 1 Year
3. Trotting Poles - 1 Year
4. Liberty/Movement to Music - 1 year
5. Long Reining - 2 Years
6. Introductory Hunter - 2 Years
7. All Other Jumping Classes - 3 Years
8. Harness Classes - 3 Years

All ages are as at the 1st of August of the current show season.

PART 4. DEFINITIONS

1. Novice - Horses are not to have won more than 3 first placings against competition.
2. Open - Horses who have won more than 3 first placings against competition.
3. Youth - A handler 17 years and under.
4. Junior Youth - A handler 12 years and under.
5. Adult - A handler 18 years and over
6. Lady - Female handler 18 years and over
7. Gentleman - Male handler 18 years and over
8. Masters - Handler 45 years and over

All ages are as at the 1st of August of the current show season.

PART 5. YOUTH AND STALLIONS

A. No youth 12 years or under may show a stallion of any age other than a weanling.

B. No youth 13 - 17 may show a stallion of any age other than a weanling or yearling.

PART 6. ARTIFICIAL IRRITANTS AND APPLIANCES

A. Any horse showing evidence of the use of ginger or other irritants to produce a higher tail carriage than normal shall be disqualified.

B. Switches, artificial tails or manes and high spoon cruppers are prohibited

C. No horse having had surgery for purely cosmetic purposes will be permitted to show. (example: ear trimming, ear wiring, docked tails etc.)

D. Ribbons, braids, glitter, all decorated appurtenances and stallion tack in halter conformation classes are not allowed unless otherwise specified in MMHC class description. Bits are allowed on stallions.

E. No pads, wedges, chains or ankle boots are allowed.

F. Appropriate protective leg gear is allowed in Jumping classes.

PART 7. RING PROCEDURE

A. Dress - It is the tradition of the show ring that handlers and drivers be correctly attired for their classes. T-shirts, shorts, clothes with logos or monograms are not correct attire and will not be allowed in the show ring. Horse and handler must look their best. No farm, individual or horses names may be displayed on exhibitor. In all showmanship classes boots, hats, gloves and long sleeve shirts or jackets are mandatory.

B. A horse must be handled and shown through an entire class by the same person. Should an additional handler be required due to physical limitation or emergency, approval must be obtained from the show management.

C. Names of horses being exhibited will not be made known to the Judge prior, or during, the class. Exhibitors will be issued one number for each horse to be displayed on the back of the handler or on the vehicle in a clearly visible position whenever the horse is in the ring.

D. Conduct designed to distract a horse or otherwise interfere with the showing of another exhibitor's horse will not be tolerated by the show management. Offenders will be asked to leave the show area. If the offender is also an exhibitor, he or she will be excused from the ring and barred from personally showing during that show. His or her horses, however, may compete.

E. For safety reasons an unruly horse may be excused from the ring by the Judge or Ring Steward.

F. Cruelty, abuse or any inhumane treatment in the show ring or show grounds will not be tolerated by the show management, and the offender will be barred from the show area for the duration of the show.

G. Conduct by an exhibitor, trainer, owner, or immediate family member of an unsportsmanlike, abusive, or detrimental nature will not be tolerated by the show management, including but not limited to threatening, abusive, or intimidating conduct, physical, verbal or written, toward any individual or show official. Any person(s) guilty of such conduct should be reported immediately to the show management. Any person accused of such unseemly behaviour may appeal his/her case to the show management, which shall render a decision. If found guilty, such a person may be barred from future participation in MMHC activities.

PART 8. PROTESTS

A. Any protest must be made in writing to the show manager or the ring steward not later than one hour after the alleged incident. The protest shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 deposit, which shall be returned to the protestor in the event the protest is sustained. If a protest is not sustained the \$50.00 protest fee shall go to the profits of the show.

B. Protests shall be adjudicated by a protest committee of three (3) show officials not involved in the dispute.

C. The Protest Committee shall promptly meet and adjudicate the issue, make effective its decision upon the parties in interest and report its determination to all parties. A show Protest Committee may disqualify a person and/or his/her entries for the duration of the show.

D. No protest of approved show rules or Show Rules Committee's previous interpretations of any rule will be allowed on show level.

E. Protests must be made by the owner or trainer of a horse who is in the same class where the protest occurred.

F. Protests concerning height

1: The horse shall be remeasured by an official designated by the show management or protest committee. This official must be someone other than the person/s named on the original height certificate.

2. All measurements must take place in direct view of the owner/trainer of protested animal, and the individual who filed the protest.

3. Any animal submitted for an official measurement must show no evidence of lameness. If lameness is determined, this shall result in disqualification of the animal for the balance of the competition, and the owner of the animal forfeits fees and winnings for the entire show for the protested animal.

PART 9. HEIGHT VERIFICATION

A. The MMHC shall recognise two height divisions in the show ring.

Category A

Horses aged 3 years and older - Must not exceed 34"

Horses aged 2 years - Must not exceed 33"

Yearlings - Must not exceed 32"

Weanlings - Must not exceed 30"

Category B

Horses aged 3 years and over - Must not exceed 38"

Horses aged 2 years - Must not exceed 37"

Yearlings - Must not exceed 36"

Weanlings - Must not exceed 33"

B. MMHC accepts both NZMHA and Royal Agricultural Society height certificates. If a horse has a height certificate from each organisation, they must show in the highest category they measure into.

C. Horses requiring a measurement at a show must be measured on a hard, level surface, preferably concrete, by an official designated by the show management and witnessed by a member of the show management or the organisation sponsoring the show.

PART 10. STANDARD OF PERFECTION

GENERAL IMPRESSION: A small, sound, well-balanced horse, possessing the correct conformation characteristics required of most breeds—refinement and femininity in the mare, boldness and masculinity in the stallion. The general impression should be one of symmetry, strength, agility and alertness.

SIZE: Must measure not more than 34 inches at the base of the last hairs of the mane for Category A, and must not measure more than 38 inches at the base of the last hairs of the mane for Category B. Since the breed objective is the smallest possible perfect horse, preference in judging shall be given the smaller horse, other characteristics being approximately equal. In no case shall a smaller horse be placed over a larger horse with better conformation.

HEAD: In proportion to length of neck and body. Broad forehead with large prominent eyes, set wide apart, with no discrimination in colour. Comparatively short distance between eyes and muzzle. Profile straight or slightly concave below the eyes. Large nostrils. Clean, refined muzzle.

EARS: Medium in size. Pointed. Carried alertly, with tips curving slightly inward.

THROAT-LATCH: Clean and well defined, allowing ample flexation at the poll.

NECK: Flexible, lengthy, in proportion to body and type and blending smoothly into the withers.

SHOULDERS: Long, sloping and well-angulated, allowing a free swinging stride and alert head/neck carriage. Well muscled forearm.

BODY: Well muscled, with ample bone and substance. Balanced and well proportioned. Short back and loins in relation to length of underline. Smooth and generally level topline. Deep girth and flank. Trim barrel.

HINDQUARTERS: Long, well-muscled hip, thigh and gaskin. Highest point of croup to be same height as withers. Tail set neither excessively high or low, but smoothly rounding at the rump.

LEGS: Set straight and parallel when viewed from front or back. Straight, true and squarely set, when viewed from side

horses are to be judged as to the best horse of all types to be the winner. They should not be prejudiced to the horse of his/her background.

H. Championship classes

Championship classes shall include first and second place winners from the appropriate classes. All first and second place winners must show in their respective championship classes, unless excused by show management. In Championship classes the horses must line up in the ring with the first place winner in front and the second place winner behind them. Showmanship and Halter/Driving Obstacle Championships are based on points scored in previous rounds.

I. Supreme Halter Champion

Horses that are eligible are Champion Youngstock Filly, Champion Youngstock Colt, Champion Youngstock Gelding, Champion Mare, Champion Gelding, Champion Stallion. Horses to enter the ring in that order and line up head to tail.

J. Multi Colour classes

Multi Colour classes are open to pinto and appaloosa horses only. In colour classes, horses are to be judged 80% on the natural colour of the horse, and conformation to count 20%. In colour classes, horses are to be circled both ways of the ring in order to judge the 80% colour Horses must be lined up, head to tail in the centre of the arena, to judge the 20% conformation.

K. Solid Colour classes

Solid Colour classes are open to all horses other than pinto and appaloosas. In colour classes, horses are to be judged 80% on the natural colour of the horse, and conformation to count 20%. In colour classes, horses are to be circled both ways of the ring in order to judge the 80% colour Horses must be lined up, head to tail in the centre of the arena, to judge the 20% conformation.

L. Other halter classes

These halter classes must not be judged in motion.

1. Produce of Dam - 2 produce, either sex to be shown, dam not to be shown. Judged on conformation and uniformity (excluding colour)
2. Get of sire- 2 or 3 get, either sex to be shown, sire not to be shown. Judged on conformation and uniformity (excluding colour)
3. Mare and Foal - must be current year foal.
4. Three by One Owner - 3 horses owned by the same person(s), or farm. Each horse in the group is to be judged individually.
6. Best Matched Pair - one handler per horse.
7. Breeders Award of Merit - One horse. Horse to be shown by its breeder.

M. Showmanship

1. In Showmanship classes, exhibitors are to show to the presiding Judge only. Below are points on which showmanship classes are to be judged. Only the handler is judged. The horse is merely a prop to show the showmanship ability of the handler. Show management must choose and post the showmanship patterns.

2. Appearance of exhibitor: 10 points – clothes and person neat and clean. Suitable clothes: hats, boots, long sleeve shirts and gloves are required.

3. Appearance of horse: 40 points – conformation not to be a factor.

3a. 15 Points – conditioning

3b. 15 points – grooming of horse

3c. 5 points – trimming

3d. 5 points – tack

4. Showing horse in ring: 50 points.

The Judge will use one of the three ring patterns in judging this class. Judge or Ring Steward will discuss the selected pattern with contestants prior to class. The selected pattern must be posted two hours before the start of the class.

4a. Leading: 15 points

Enter ring leading animal at an alert walk in a clockwise direction. Walk on animal's left side, holding lead shank in right hand near halter. The remaining portion of the lead is held neatly and safely in left hand. Animal should lead readily at a walk. After Judge has lined up the class, he or she will call on each exhibitor individually to execute the pattern. When carrying out the pattern, be sure that the Judge gets a clear, unobstructed view of the horse's action. Allow the horse sufficient lead to move freely the required distance, stop, and turn to the right around the horse. Exhibitor should perform the showmanship pattern as directed by the Judge or Ring Steward.

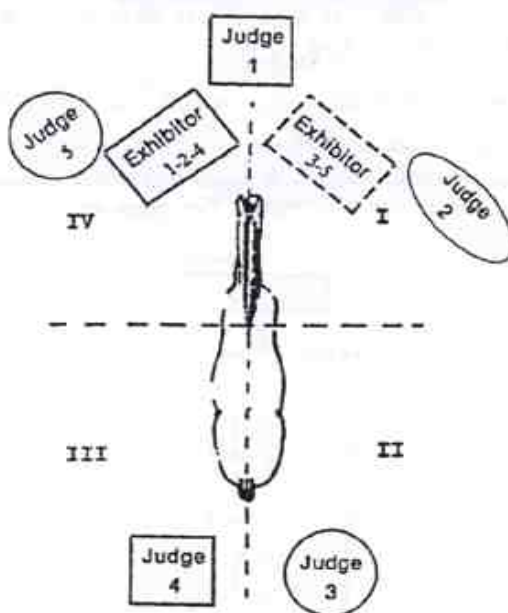
4b. Posing: 15 points

When posing your horse, stand toward the front facing the horse, but always in a position where you can keep your eye on the Judge. Pose your miniature with his feet squarely under him. Do most of your showing with the lead strap. Never touch or kick the horse's leg into position. Do not crowd the exhibitor next to you when in a side by side position, or in front of or behind you when lined up head to tail. When Judge is observing other animals, let yours stand if posed reasonably well. Be natural. Over showing, undue fussing, and manoeuvring are objectionable.

4c. Poise, alertness, and merits: 20 points

Keep alert and be aware of the position of the Judge at all times. Do not be distracted by persons or things outside the ring. Show the animal at all times. Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times. Recognize quickly and correct faults of your horse. Respond quickly to requests from Judges and officials. Keep showing until the entire class has been placed and excused from the ring. A Judge may ask an exhibitor questions (Example: exhibitor number, horse's age, body parts of horse, etc.) At his/her discretion a Judge may ask an exhibitor for an additional test after completion of one of the three set patterns.

5. The following Quarter System will be used whereby imaginary lines bisect the horse into four equal parts as seen in the illustration (Note: the quadrants are numbered I, II, III, and IV for ease of identification). One line runs across the horse just behind the withers. The other imaginary line runs from head to tail. The exhibitor should lead the horse straight to the judge so the judge can evaluate the horse's front leg movement. Once the horse is safely located in front of the judge, the horse should be squarely set up for inspection and the exhibitor then locates in the proper position in quadrant IV. As the judge moves to quadrant I the exhibitor should stay in quadrant IV. When the judge moves on to quadrant II the exhibitor then moves to the proper position in quadrant I. When the judge moves to quadrant III the exhibitor moves back to quadrant IV. As the judge moves to quadrant IV, the exhibitor once more moves to quadrant I. The exhibitor should never stop in the unsafe location directly in front of the horse. When the judge returns to his position in front of the horse, the exhibitor should return to quadrant IV and await instructions from the judge. When released by the judge the horse should be pivoted directly in front of the judge and moved away in a straight line so the judge can observe the horse's rear leg movement.



6. Showmanship Patterns

6a. Showmanship pattern #1

Walk to the Judge in a straight line. Stop and set up your horse. Quarter. Upon acknowledgement from the Judge, do a 180 degree turn. Trot in a straight line, past the line-up, stop. Do a 180 degree turn. Walk horse forward to the exact spot in the line-up (where you were when you started the pattern) and set your horse up.

6b. Showmanship pattern #2

Walk toward the Judge in a straight line. Stop ½ way between the line-up and the Judge and do a 360 degree pivot and stop. All pivots are to be to the right. Continue at a walk (in a straight line) toward the Judge. Stop and set up your horse. Quarter. Upon acknowledgement from the Judge, do a 180 degree pivot. Trot in a straight line, past the line-up and stop. Do a 180 degree pivot. Walk horse forward to the exact spot in the line-up (where you were when you started the pattern) and set up horse.

6c. Showmanship pattern #3

Walk (in a straight line) to the Judge, Stop and set up your horse. Quarter. Upon acknowledgement from the Judge, do a

180 degree pivot. All pivots are to be to the right. Trot (in a straight line) toward the line-up. Stop ½ way between the Judge and the line-up and do a 360 degree pivot and stop. Continue at a trot in a straight line, past the line-up and stop. Do a 180 degree pivot. Walk horse forward to the exact spot in the line-up (where you were when you started the pattern) and set up your horse.

7. Championship Showmanship Classes

Scores awarded in the previous classes will be used to determine Champion and Reserve Champion

N. Best Presented/Turn Out Classes

To be judged on the overall presentation of horse and handler. Judging criteria to include such things as cleanliness, condition of horse, grooming, appropriateness of attire and fit of tack.

O. Best Head Classes

To be judged on the head in relation to the breed standard, with allowances for sex of the horse (refinement and femininity in the mare, boldness and masculinity in the stallion)

P. Best Movement Classes

To be judged on the movement of the horse in relation to the breed standard (Smooth, straight, fluid gait in motion). Horses showing signs of lameness will be excused from the ring by the Judge or Ring Steward.

PART 12. DRIVING DIVISION

A. General Rules

1. The only person to handle the reins, under penalty of elimination, is the driver. No change of driver is permitted during any class. In Youth Driving, an attendant is allowed in the vehicle with the youth, age 17 and younger, but not required. The youth shall be in full control of the horse without assistance.
2. Dress Code: Headers, Drivers and their passengers should be dressed appropriately. Dress in the show ring is to complement the overall appearance of the unit, not take away from the appearance. No strapless dresses in any driving class. No sandals or open toed shoes to be worn by driver or header. No T-shirts or shorts. No farm, individual, or animal names may be displayed. Drivers and their passengers should conform to the type of turnout (i.e. formal, pleasure, obstacle, etc.), but should always be neat and clean. Suggested appropriate attire: Gentlemen to wear a hat, coat or jacket, shirt and pants, and tie; ladies to wear a dress, tailored suit, skirt or slacks with blouse, vest or jacket. Hats optional in all classes. Gloves and aprons or lap robes are optional in all classes.
3. Horses must be serviceably sound.
4. Boots, wraps etc. of any description are prohibited. Un-weighted bell boots are optional in Roadster classes.
5. An appropriate driving whip shall be carried (in hand or in vehicle) at all times while driving. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. The overall length of the whip for a single horse should be long enough to reach its shoulder. Excessive length beyond the shoulder is not allowed.
6. Bits must not be able to be pulled through the horses mouth (eg. Half Spoon Snaffle)
7. Exhibitor numbers must be worn on the back of the exhibitor or attached to the back of cart in an easily visible position for Pleasure Driving, Multi Hitch and Roadster.
8. Braids, one in the forelock and one immediately back off the bridle path as seen on the larger pleasure driving horses is optional.

B. Safety

1. Horses should never be left unattended while hitched to a vehicle.
2. A driver should never allow passengers to enter a vehicle until driver is seated with reins in hand and driver must never dismount while passengers are in the vehicle.
3. Headers (must be 16 years old or older) are optional in all driving classes. Headers are to enter the ring when the line-up is called, may assist in setting up the animal and then step back two paces where they are to remain, except in an emergency, until the Judge's card is turned in. Note: Judges are cautioned that this rule in no way negates the requirement in all classes that animals must display good manners, stand quietly in the line-up and back readily in Pleasure classes.
4. A Judge or Steward may excuse from competition an unsafe vehicle, unsafe equipment, unsafe hitching of horses or an unruly horse.

5. Excessively large classes may be divided by show management or Judge, as conditions warrant.
6. All driving horses shall show on the rail at all times except while passing. The Judge is to take this into consideration while judging and horses shown off the rail shall be penalized.
7. It is permissible to talk to your horse(s) in a subdued tone of voice. "Clucks" for starting, "walk on", "trot", "whoa" and "back" are the more accepted terms. Any tendency on the part of the driver to shout, whistle, or talk loudly to the horse should be curtailed. In the arena, the less said the better. The driver should strive to control the horse's movements with minimal vocal aids.
8. No entry may leave the ring after judging has begun without the permission of the Judge or ring steward.
9. During a class, minor adjustments to harness may be made upon permission from the judge. A groom may assist with the adjustment without penalty. After judging has begun, no attendant may enter the arena without the permission of the judge. Only one time out per class/per horse once horse has entered the ring. Maximum time not to exceed three (3) minutes. Official time outs must be declared by the judge or judges. More than one time out per exhibitor shall result in disqualification.

C. Cross Entering

1. Pleasure Driving horses can enter Roadster Division at the same show.
2. Horses in Long Reining classes may not enter other driving classes at the same show.

D. Division of Classes

1. Classes may be offered for:
 - 1a. Novice - Horses are not to have won more than 3 first placings against competition.
 - 1b. Open - Horses who have won more than 3 first placings against competition.
 - 1c. Youth - A handler 17 years and under.
 - 1d. Junior Youth - A handler 12 years and under.
 - 1e. Adult - A handler 18 years and over
 - 1f. Lady - Female handler 18 years and over
 - 1g. Gentleman - Male handler 18 years and over
 - 1h. Masters - Handler 45 years and over
 - 1i. Mares/Stallions/Geldings

E. Best Presented/Turn Out Classes

To be judged on the overall presentation of horse and handler. Judging criteria to include such things as cleanliness, condition of horse, grooming, appropriateness of attire, fit and safety of harness/vehicle.

F. Pleasure Driving

1. Contact should be maintained on reins at all times - complete loss of contact will be penalized. It is imperative that a horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to drive. Responsive mouth is paramount, and all gaits to be performed with willingness, obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness. Neck position should be that which is comfortable and natural to each particular horse. To be judged on quality of performance, way of going of horse, manners, attitude and overall impression IN THAT ORDER.
2. Gait requirements - Pleasure driving is to be shown both ways of the arena at a Walk, a Collected Trot, and a Working Trot. Horses will enter the ring clockwise at a Collected Trot. Horses will be required to stand quietly and to rein back a minimum of 4 paces.
 - 2a. WALK: A free, regular and forward moving 4-beat gait. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace.
 - 2b. COLLECTED TROT: The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The Trot is slower and more collected, but the horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
 - 2c. WORKING TROT: This is a clear but not excessive increase in pace and length of stride. The horse goes forward freely, engaging the hind legs, on a taunt but light rein, the position balanced and unconstrained. The hind feet touch the ground at least in the footprints of the fore feet. Should show good energy, impulsion and cadence. Excessive speed will be penalized.

G. Roadster

1. Roadsters shall be shown to a Bike (a two-wheeled cart with stirrups and no basket). Wheel covers are permitted.

Harness shall be appropriate to the vehicle.

2. Attire: Exhibitors are required to wear colours, trousers and helmet, to match the style found on the trotting tracks of New Zealand.

3. Gait requirements - The principal gait requirement for roadsters is the Trot. Horses shall be asked to Trot at three (3) different speeds - the slow Jog Trot, the Road Gait, and at a full extended Drive-On Trot. Horses must not be asked to rein back. A horse that has not demonstrated distinct gaits and smooth transitions (change of gaits) should not be placed over a horse that has demonstrated greater ability but has had a minor or incidental break in gait.

4. Judging procedure - Roadsters must enter the ring clockwise at a Jog Trot, then show at the Road Gait, turn counter-clockwise at the Jog Trot, show at the Road Gait and Drive-On Trot. Roadster horses should have animation, brilliance, and show ring presence. At all speeds they should work in form with head set and legs working beneath them. At speed the trot should be in balance with long reaching action in front with straight true movement. Pacey or mixed gaited horses that pace or rack will be penalized. Horses should be shown on the rail at all times except when passing. Performance at all three (3) gaits should be considered. When horses are lined up, driver shall not leave his/her vehicle except for necessary adjustments. The driver may, however, uncheck and stand at horse's head when left in centre of the ring while part of the class is on the rail for a workout.

5. Roadster to be judged on performance, speed, quality and manners IN THAT ORDER.

H. Multiple Hitches

1. Classes may be offered for pairs, tandems, unicorns, four-in-hands, six-in-hands, or more, and shall be shown to the appropriate vehicle.

2. Gait requirements - Hitches are to enter the show ring at a Trot going clockwise. The horses must be judged showing two (2) gaits, A Trot and a Flat Footed Walk, working both ways of the arena. All hitches must be required to stand quietly, back readily, and cut a figure eight at a trot. Prior to beginning the figure eight, each exhibitor/hitch must stop and properly address the judge(s). At all times hitches are to show an ability to work as a unit with evenness of tugs, and judged on performance, presence, quality, manners, and matching. In tandem, the traces/tugs between the leader and wheel horses should slightly dip. The lead horse is to demonstrate that it is not doing the work.

3. Instructions for Multi-Hitch

3a. Figure eight may begin in either direction unless specified by judge or judges.

3b. Back either in lineup or at end of figure eight in any other place in the ring that is appropriate.

3c. Line up may be at either end to accommodate spectators to view performance.

4. Description

4a. Draft Hitch-Horses must be harnessed in collar with full hames and be hitched to an appropriate draft wagon or vehicle, which may display owner and/or horses' name.

4b. Light Harness-Horses must be harnessed in fine harness with breast collar or full collar (no full hames) and show to an appropriate carriage or vehicle.

I. Long Reining

1. Horses may be judged either with class as a whole or more preferably as a individual freestyle workout

2. Gait requirements - Pleasure driving is to be shown both ways of the arena at a Walk, a Collected Trot, and a Working Trot. Horses will be required to stand quietly and to rein back a minimum of 4 paces.

2a. WALK: A free, regular and forward moving 4-beat gait. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace.

2b. COLLECTED TROT: The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The Trot is slower and more collected, but the horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.

2c. WORKING TROT: This is a clear but not excessive increase in pace and length of stride. The horse goes forward freely, engaging the hind legs with good hock action, on a taunt but light rein, the position balanced and unconstrained. The hind feet touch the ground at least in the footprints of the fore feet. Should show good energy, impulsion and cadence. Excessive speed will be penalized.

3. To be judged on quality of performance, way of going of horse, obedience, manners and overall impression IN THAT ORDER

4. Compulsory Equipment - Bridle (either with or without blinders) with bit that can not be pulled through the horses mouth (eg. Half spoon snaffle), reins, harness saddle OR roller with rings, crupper, whip suitable for driving.

5. Optional Equipment - Noseband, saddle pad
6. Any equipment not listed as compulsory or optional should be considered prohibited.

J. Whip Classes

1. The focus is to be on must be paid to the drivers handling of the horse(s). The horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the ability of the drivers.
2. Each competitor will be required to do an individual freestyle workout. The minimum workout shall entail a figure of eight at the trot and a rein back.
3. Any recognized method of holding the reins is acceptable.

PART 13. OBSTACLE HALTER/DRIVING

- A. The obstacle course must be posted at the Show Office not less than (2) two hours prior to the class. Horses must be not less than (1) one year of age for Halter Obstacle and no less than (3) three years of age for Obstacle Driving.
- B. Class to be judged on performance with emphasis on manners throughout course. Entries will be evaluated on responsiveness and willingness, plus general attitude.
- C. Maximum time 60 seconds per obstacle, judges are encouraged to advance on to the next obstacle any horse penalized for any unnecessary delay or excessive time at object. Refusals do not constitute class disqualifications.
- D. Cantering must be penalized in Obstacle Driving.

E. Obstacle requirements:

1. Must be a minimum of five (5) obstacles and a maximum of eight (8).
2. Care must be used to avoid setting any obstacle in a way so as to be hazardous to the horse or exhibitor.
3. Tires and stair steps are prohibited.
5. Course to be set to the widest cart for Obstacle Driving classes.

G. Baiting to encourage an animal to perform one of the obstacles is not allowed. Any Baiting in such class is a disqualification.

H. Obstacle Guidelines

The course designer should be readily available to answer questions regarding the course and be available for a walk through the course with exhibitors as well as the judge(s). Judge shall walk Halter/Driving course with designer and exhibitors. Ingenuity and originality in adapting and combining various obstacles both to demonstrate a horse's willingness and ability to please exhibitors and audience are encouraged. However, unnatural or "horror" obstacles should be avoided and all obstacles should be safe for exhibitors as well as horses. Judge has the right to alter the course for time and/or safety.

I. Suggested Obstacles

1. Back through or out of obstacle
2. Drive/Walk through water or simulated water
3. Put on and remove equipment (raincoat, saddle, etc.) from person or horse.
4. Drive/Walk through narrow passage
5. Pick up an object (letter, umbrella, bucket, flag, etc.) and place it at a designated location.
6. Drive/Walk across bridge or simulated bridge
7. Drive/Walk pattern created with poles, pylons, (figure 8, serpentine, cloverleaf, etc.)
8. Stand horse in circle, ground tie, walk around horse (Halter course only)
9. Put wheel in circle, turn complete circle with horse not stepping in circle (Driving course only)
10. Side-pass (either or both directions) halter course only

J. Off course is defined as:

1. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction
2. Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side
3. Skipping an obstacle unless directed by judge
4. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence

5. Off pattern

Off course will result in elimination.

K. Championship Classes

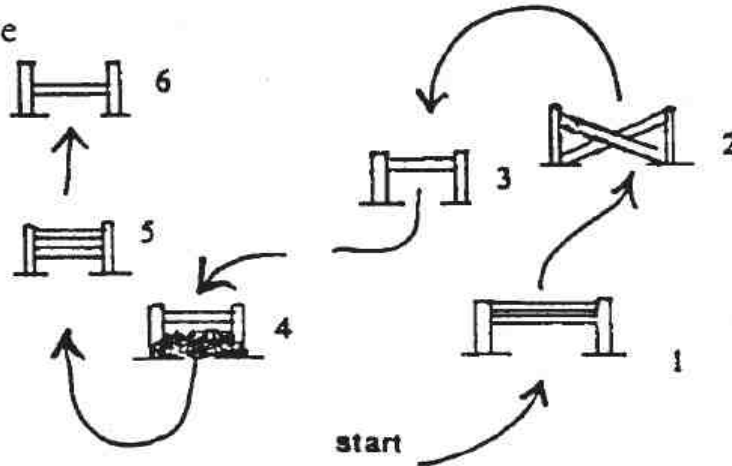
Scores awarded in the previous classes will be used to determine Champion and Reserve Champion

PART 14. JUMPER AND HUNTER

A. General Rules for both Divisions

1. The courses for hunter and jumper classes must be posted at least two hours prior to the scheduled time of the class. Course diagrams must show the direction each obstacle must be taken, and markers or a line must indicate the start and finish of the course.
2. The minimum age for a horse to enter a jumper or hunter class is 3 years old. For Introductory Hunter, the horse must be 2 years old.
3. The person showing a jumper or hunter cannot jump the course with the horse.
4. Hunters and jumpers may show with braided manes and tails in the manner of their larger counterparts.
5. Judge(s) and Steward shall walk Hunter/Jumper course with designer and exhibitors prior to start of class.
6. All jumps used in performance classes must be collapsible.
7. Whips may be carried in jumping classes.

Sample Jumper Course



B. Jumpers

1. Jumpers are judged on accumulated faults only, unless there is a tie, in which case there will be a jump-off. The jump-off is described in Part 3, below.

1a. Knockdowns – an obstacle is considered knocked down when in jumping an obstacle, a horse or handler, by contact, lowers the established height of the fence in any way – 4 faults.

1b. Refusals – stopping at an obstacle without knocking it down and without backing, followed by jumping from a standstill is not penalized. However, if the halt continues or if the horse backs even a single step, side steps or circles to retake the fence, a refusal is incurred:

- 1st refusal 4 faults
- 2nd refusal 4 faults
- 3rd refusal disqualification

c. Circling – any form of circle or circles whereby the horse crosses its original track between two consecutive obstacles, stops advancing toward the next obstacle, or turn away from the next obstacle, except to retake an obstacle after a disobedience. Crossing your own path (i.e. circling between fences, NOT retaking a fence from a refusal) – 3 faults.

2. Elimination:

- 2a. Three (3) refusals
- 2b. Off course
- 2c. Fall of horse and/or exhibitor

3. Jump-off:

All ties in a Jumper class must be jumped-off. The jump-off will be held over the original course. The height of the jumps shall be increased not less than one inch and not more than six inches in height. The jump-off will be timed by a stopwatch and the horse who has the fastest time and the fewest faults in the jump off round will be declared the winner. An elimination in a jump-off does not eliminate the horse from final placings.

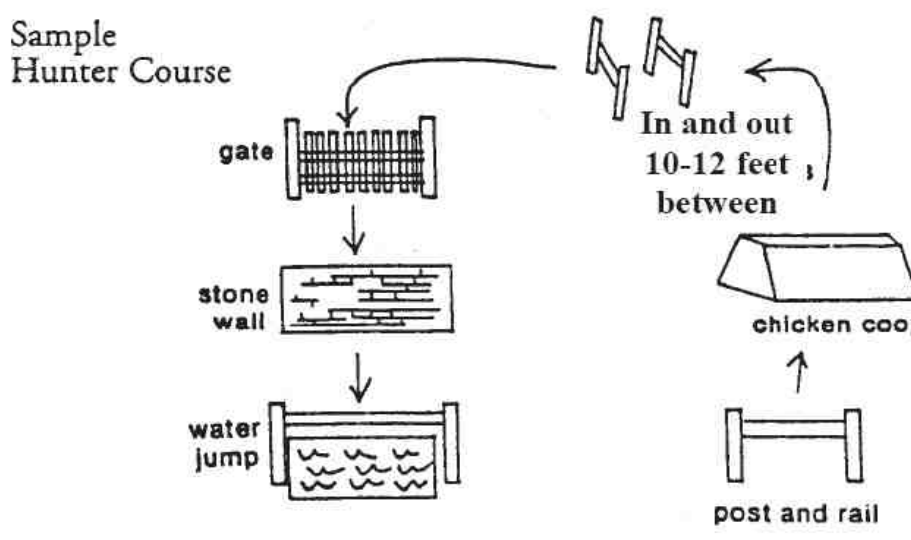
4. Jumps:

There will be a minimum of four fences and a maximum of six fences. Jumps should be of attractive design but constructed of a material so as not to cause danger to the horse. There should be a minimum of twenty feet between jumps before category A, and twenty three feet for category B - with the exceptions of an in and out. All jumps must have a ground pole. Jump standards may not be higher than 40".

5. An In and Out Jump is considered one obstacle and scored as such. Refusal of one element of an in and distance between the two jumps in an In and Out should be 10-12 feet. In and Out should never be the first jump in the course.

C. Hunters

1. Hunters are to be judged on style, manners, and way of going, with preference given to those horses who cover the course at an even pace, with free flowing strides, as in a brisk trot or canter, but must maintain same gait throughout the entire course. Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving the ring is permissible. Charging fences, or not maintaining the same gait throughout the entire class should be penalized.



2. The course design for hunters should follow the same requirements as the course for jumpers.

3. **Fences** – same size and height requirements as for Jumpers. Obstacles should simulate those found in hunting, such as natural post and rail, brush, stone wall, white board gate, hedge, oxer, etc.

4. Causes for elimination in Hunter classes:

- a. Three (3) refusals
- b. Off Course
- c. Crossing your own path (as in circling between fences, not as in retaking a fence from a refusal or when following a course design).
- d. Fall of horse or exhibitor
- e. Jumping of obstacle by exhibitor
- g. An unsound horse

5. Major faults to be scored:

- a. Knockdowns
- b. Touches
- c. Refusals
- d. Bucking or Kicking

- e. Spooking or shying
- f. Wringing of tail
- g. Showing an obstacle to horses
- h. Not maintaining an even pace

D. Introductory Hunter

1. Judged and scored the same as Hunter classes.
2. Horses entered in this class are not eligible for Champion Hunter.
3. Horses entered in this class may not enter any other jumping classes at the same show.
4. Maximum of 4 jumps. Only 1 change of direction on the course allowed.

E. Jump Heights

1. Hunter
Category A - 24 inches maximum
Category B - 28 inches maximum
2. Jumper
Category A - 32 inches maximum
Category B - 36 inches maximum
3. Introductory Hunter
Category A - 16 inches maximum
Category B - 18 inches maximum

PART 15. LIBERTY/MOVEMENT TO MUSIC

Liberty is demonstrating the natural beauty of the Miniature Horse. Horses are to be judged on style, grace, animation, gaits, presence, music and suitability and ease of catching.

- A. The Liberty class only may be offered at shows where facilities include a closed arena and where the conditions would not be hazardous to horse or exhibitor.
- B. Horses will be judged beginning when halter is removed by the exhibitor (the individual wearing the number) and until caught by the exhibitor. Time of Liberty shall be 1 1/2 minutes; time to catch shall be 1 1/2 minutes.
- C. Only the exhibitor and one handler will be allowed in the arena with horse. Whips and shaker bottles are allowed, but touching the horse during performance with aids or hands will result in disqualification.
- D. Horse must be caught and haltered by exhibitor within 1 1/2 minutes or be disqualified.
- E. Music is required and MUST be cued and ready to play. Suitability of horse's movement to the chosen music must be evaluated.
- F. No assistance from outside of the arena will be permitted. Elimination will result unless the judge feels that the outside action was taken in an attempt to cause the exhibitor's horse to be disqualified. Announcement is to be made prior to the class to specify that no outside assistance is allowed.
- G. All horses entered in the Liberty class must be at least one year old.
- H. Exhibitor and handler must be properly attired.
- I. The following point ratings must be used when judging Liberty:

Style and Grace- 30 points
Animation and Presence-30 points
Gaits-20 points
Music and Suitability-10 points
Catch-10 points.

A total of 100 possible points.
- J. Baiting of horses to encourage an animal to perform is not allowed. Baiting in such class is a disqualification.

PART 16. VERSATILITY CLASS

A. The horse will be shown as a driving horse, shown in halter, and shown as a hunter, in that order. Once the horses come in to their line up, grooms/headers are allowed in. Before competitors are allowed their 2 minute untacking and grooming prep, it shall be announced that HORSES ARE TO REMAIN IN THE SAME ORDER FOR THE REST OF THE CLASS AS THEY GO ON THE RAIL, BOTH FOR THE HALTER AND HUNTER PORTIONS. At the end of the two minute period, grooms shall leave the arena with the carts and all tack, and horses are then asked to follow the direction of the Ring Steward as they line up for inspection at halter. When their halter inspections are completed, they again follow the Ring Steward in the same order and proceed to the hunter course. The hunter requirements for judging, faults, elimination, and fences are to meet the same requirements as specified under the Hunter section. There shall be 2 to four fences. When all have completed the hunter course, they must trot for soundness before the Judges. Horses do not leave the arena between divisions. All three divisions to count equally. Horses must **complete all three divisions, without disqualification**, to be eligible for a ribbon.

B. Open to Single Pleasure and Country Pleasure horses.

PART 17. OTHER SPECIALITY CLASSES

Speciality classes may be offered at a show. If any of these classes are offered, a class description and/or rules should be provided in the schedule.