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**2019**

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## JUDGE'S CRITERIA

1. **No Judge shall judge more than one E.M.H.A. show per year.**
2. A Judge shall not attend an E.M.H.A. show within two weeks prior to an accepted judging date.
3. A Judge shall not appear on the grounds more than 15 minutes before show time.
4. A Judge shall not converse with owners, trainers, or exhibitors nor discuss any horse entered in the show before judging.
5. **A Judge may not judge a horse owned or exhibited by any member of his/her immediate family (son, daughter, mother, father, sister, brother, or spouse).**
6. **A Judge may not judge any horse that he/she has owned, trained, or managed in any capacity within the previous three months.**
7. Any person involved with the management of the show cannot act as judge of that show.
8. A Judge shall exhibit professionalism in attire and conduct.
9. All complaints regarding judges should be forwarded to the protest committee for review and possible action by the committee.
10. It is the responsibility of the show committee to make the judge aware of all judging criteria.
11. A Judge shall not consume alcoholic beverages during a show he/she is judging.
12. **A Judge shall know all E.M.H.A. rules and shall have a copy of the rulebook in his/her possession.**
13. The Judge must position him/herself properly to fairly evaluate each event.
14. The Judge must remain in the arena for the duration of each class.
15. **All judges must hold a valid judges card.**

## ASSOCIATION RULES

**To conduct an Eastern Michigan Horseman's Association approved show, an organization must be a member in good standing of the Eastern Michigan Horsemen's Association, and abide by the following association rules; dues will be levied by the governing body of E.M.H.A.**

1. There shall be a minimum of three (3) delegate meetings to be determined by the new board at the Awards Banquet/Annual Meeting.
2. All Non-Club E.M.H.A. members will have one vote collectively through the appropriate at-large delegate. The at-large delegates will be called the Pleasure Delegate and the Contesting Delegate. **(2016)**
3. The E.M.H.A. Contesting and Pleasure delegates and alternates and the Protest Committee and the alternate will be elected by the E.M.H.A. general membership at the Awards Banquet.
4. The Protest Committee delegates are members of the executive board and as such shall be elected rather than appointed. The executive board consists of all elected positions and the Point Secretary.
5. All officers of E.M.H.A. must be paid members of E.M.H.A. If a Current Non Member would like to run for an officer they may, however they shall sign up as a Member.
6. All rule book suggestions/Rule Changes must be submitted before the final horse show. Changes/Suggestions will be compiled and printed. If possible they will be posted on the E.M.H.A. web site. Changes will be voted on at the Awards Banquet/Annual Meeting and will become effective immediately. A suggestion/rule change box will be at all the E.M.H.A. shows.
7. Show dates will be given first to established clubs, provided the delegate or representative is present. Booking and insurance fee are due at this time.
8. The E.M.H.A. show season will not begin before the first Sunday in May and will end Labor Day weekend.
9. No two E.M.H.A. approved shows will be held on the same day.
10. An E.M.H.A. club may have more than one show date per year. Additional dates will be assigned after all clubs have been assigned their first show date.
11. All delegates must provide pertinent information about their show to the Point Secretary by February 1. A fee of \$15.00 will be charged to delinquent clubs. This information will be compiled into a membership packet, including an E.M.H.A. rulebook. Membership packets will be given out upon payment of dues. All approved classes will be offered in approved order. A club may elect to run contesting classes in the morning and pleasure classes in the afternoon. If contesting is offered in the morning both the approved pleasure and contesting orders will be followed. Afternoon classes will not start before 1:00 pm. Non-approved classes must be run after all approved classes.
12. If an E.M.H.A. approved show adds a class, substitutes a class, or excludes any horse from a class except as specified in this rule book, the points for those classes will not be accepted.
13. All shows begin at 8:00 a.m. Gymkhana Classes will not begin before 2:00 p.m.
14. All E.M.H.A. approved shows must be held in a permanent ring.

15. Each show will provide an appropriate new or used award and ribbons for 6 places in all pleasure classes. Contesting class participants will be awarded a ribbon for 6 places and paybacks for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for age groups 14-19 and 20 and Over. Used awards must be in new condition with the proper classes and/or dates on the plates. **EMHA's name must be on all awards, including trophies and ribbons. (2016)**
16. Speakers must be a minimum of 12 feet high or 12 feet back from the arena.
17. Active E.M.H.A. members and members currently showing may not judge an E.M.H.A. show.
18. Show delegates will compile show results and \$1.00 surcharge for pleasure and speed contestants. This will be collected at the end of each show. If no E.M.H.A. Board Member is present, the show delegate has 14 days from the show date to send all paperwork and surcharges to the Point Secretary. Failure to do so will result in a \$30.00 fine. After 30 days, a delegate will be appointed to get the show results and the surcharges at the delinquent hosts' expense. The fine must be paid before the hosts will be reinstated the following year.
19. Only paid members will collect E.M.H.A. points. The membership fee is \$35.00 per individual and \$50.00 per family. Memberships shall include a Sponsor in Membership fee. Point accumulation begins upon date of payment of membership fee and is not retroactive.
20. Membership fees, sponsor fees, and entry fees for approved shows paid with a worthless check, will result in suspension from E.M.H.A. until restitution is made.
21. Family memberships will include all unmarried immediate family members under the age of 22, living in the same household.
22. Applications for members 15 & Under must be accompanied by a **copy** of their birth certificate.
23. Age of rider will be determined as of January 1 of the current year.

24. *Points will be awarded in all classes as follows:*

*Classes have less than 6 participants will receive points per placing based on the number of riders in the class. Example: 1 rider – 1<sup>st</sup> place is 1 point, 2 riders – 1<sup>st</sup> place is 2 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place is 1 point, 3 riders – 1<sup>st</sup> place is 3 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place is 2 points and 3<sup>rd</sup> place is 1 point, etc. until you have reached 6 participants.*

*Once the class has 6 or more participants the placings will be as follows:*

|  |  |               |
|--|--|---------------|
| <i>1<sup>st</sup> place.....6 points</i> | <i>4<sup>th</sup> place.....3 points</i> |               |
| <i>2<sup>nd</sup> place....5 points</i>  | <i>5<sup>th</sup> place.....2 points</i> |               |
| <i>3<sup>rd</sup> place.....4 points</i> | <i>6<sup>th</sup> place.....1 point</i>  | <i>(2008)</i> |

25. Points will be awarded on the same horse and rider combination. In the event of a death or lameness of their horse, a member in good standing may continue accumulating points with a new horse. However, a certified Vet certificate is required. There shall be 1 switch over only. Once you have shown required certificate and switched horses you may NOT switch horses again. No other substitutions will be allowed and proof of the member's horse's death must be presented to the board.

26. Points will be awarded on qualified first-time rides only. If all riders disqualify, the event will not be rerun.
- 27. A member must show in a class at least 50% of the show season to qualify for year-end awards.**  
(2008)
28. No show will be held on July 4<sup>th</sup> or the Sunday closest to July 4<sup>th</sup>. When the 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Wednesday, only one Sunday, either the one before or the one after, can be used for a show date. Show committees can choose Labor Day weekend or Memorial Day weekend for an E.M.H.A. show, but both holidays cannot have a show date scheduled in the same show season.
29. All officials of E.M.H.A. must attend 50% of the shows each season. E.M.H.A. pleasure and contesting delegates should attend a minimum of 75% of the shows.
30. Ties for year end awards will be resolved using the following procedure: Ties will be broken in order by the number of shows attended, then by the most first places, second places, thirds, etc., until the tie is broken. If a tie remains through sixth place, both members will be awarded the higher placing, with the next lower placing remaining vacant. Ties will not be broken for 1-13 age divisions.
31. An E.M.H.A. show may be cancelled once it has begun if deemed unsafe for all. If inclement weather should occur during a show that would endanger lives, the show may be delayed for a period of approximately no more than one hour. In the event of lightning and/or thunder, the show will be stopped immediately. After approximately one hour, another decision will be made as to when the show will continue or if the show will be cancelled. There will be no refunds. If a cancellation occurs the last show of the season will count as double points for any Member whom signed up at the cancelled show. Any class that was ran will not receive points for the day. Gymkhana contestants whom signed up will get a re ran at the last show if the first ride is a DQ.
32. A twenty-minute tack change will be placed in all shows between the first English class. A thirty minute lunch break will follow English classes, before Western classes.
33. For year end awards, there will be 11 "over all" awards. Divisions will be for Pleasure 13 & Under, 14-19, 20 & Over, Walk Trot 12 & Under and Walk Trot 13 & Over, Novice Canter Rider, Halter and Showmanship. Contesting age divisions will be 13 & Under, 14-19, 20 & Over. The minimum award will be a trophy with additional being awarded if money is available as determined by the awards committee. The "over all" awards shall consist of the highest accumulative total for the age groups in Western, English and Gymkhana for the year, one horse and rider combination. The two Overall winners, for Pleasure (riding classes, Bareback is excluded) and Gymkhana shall be awarded a Proper trophy collaborating their win. **(2019)**
34. Riders must sign up at each show that offers high point, to be eligible for that day's high point award. There may be a fee to sign up. You must be signed up on the high point sign-up sheet before you can accumulate points towards that day's high point. This does not affect year end awards.
35. If an indoor arena is available, a.m. classes may be held indoors at the show committee's discretion. Classes will be split at the judge's discretion. An indoor arena may be used for riding classes if it is raining. Classes may be split.
36. Two day holiday shows may be held either Saturday/Sunday or Sunday/Monday at the show committee's discretion.
37. When paying with an open check, once the class number(s) are listed on the check there will be no refunds for scratches. The class(es) must be paid for.

38. Any show committee that wishes to separate the pleasure and the speed classes into a two day show may do so. Example – The pleasure classes on one day and the contesting classes on the next day.
39. In the event an E.M.H.A. show is cancelled by the executive board for, contract infractions, animal health issues or any other reason deemed necessary by the executive board, every effort will be made to notify the members. This may include signed posted at the show location. No points will be awarded for this show.
40. All checks issued by E.M.H.A. to the members, must be cashed within 30 days or the check is void. **(2016)**
41. At the Award Committee's discretion, awards and/or an EMHA award check will be offered as a year-end award.
42. E.M.H.A. has the right to sell 50/50 raffle tickets at any E.M.H.A. sanctioned show.
43. Year end point tabulation – If more than 10 shows (# of judges) are booked, 85% of approved shows/judges will count towards yearend awards. The point secretary will use any NS or lowest point classes to eliminate. The membership show(s) cannot be dropped. If 10 or less shows are booked (# of judges) then all shows will be counted for yearend standings.
44. There shall be an office fee collected at each show upon registering for classes. Office fee is per horse/ rider. Any persons registering more than 1 horse will pay office fee per horse. Office fee shall be \$ 3.00. Show hosts shall receive this office fee. EMHA shall receive office fee only upon Membership shows. At any EMHA show where double points are offered but not a double judged show, there shall be an increase in office fee, this fee shall be no more than \$15.00. **(2016)**
45. All regular classes are \$ 7.00. Sweepstakes classes are \$ 12.00. Sweepstakes receives 50% payback to 1<sup>st</sup> place winner only. No trophies or ribbons handed out. Points will not count in any sweepstakes class. Speed paybacks pays 1<sup>st</sup> place \$ 8.00 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$ 6.00 for age groups 14-19 and 20 & Over. 13 & Under DO NOT receive paybacks, but they will receive a trophy or ribbon. Ribbons for all classes 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> shall be awarded. **(2018)**

#### **RINGMASTER CRITERIA**

- 1. The ringmaster is responsible for the activity in the ring. He/she should act as a mediator between the judge and the exhibitor. It is necessary that only competent ringmasters be used, one who can keep the classes progressing and knows the E.M.H.A. rulebook. The ringmaster must keep in mind that he/she has been selected to assist the judge and not to advise the judge. He/she shall carefully refrain from discussing or appearing to discuss the horses or exhibitors with the judge. The ringmaster must wear appropriate English or western attire.**
- 2. The judge must know the E.M.H.A. rulebook and must possess thorough knowledge of horses. It is the responsibility of the ringmaster to see that the judge follows E.M.H.A. rules.**

## GENERAL PLEASURE RULES

1. One judge must judge all pleasure events. When two judges are contracted for one show, 2 sets of placings and points will be given. Entry fees will be doubled for these shows.
2. The judge's decision will be final, provided all E.M.H.A. rules have been followed.
3. All questions asked of the judge by an exhibitor must be in the presence of the ringmaster or other show official.
4. Judging will begin when the ringmaster states, "The class is complete".
5. In all pleasure classes, all exhibitors will show their horses both directions of the arena at a walk, trot, cantor, or breed equivalent gait. All horses must back before being dismissed from the ring. The entire ring must be used for all pleasure classes, except for lead-line. There shall be NO patterns for Equitation and Horsemanship classes, due to time. However, they may be a run off pattern for top 6 riders in all Equitation and Horsemanship classes. **(2016)**
6. When asking for a false lead, the judge must allow horses to start at least 15' from the rail.
7. If a horse leaves the ring without permission from the ringmaster after a class is declared complete, he/she will be disqualified from the class.
8. Horses and ponies 5 years and under ridden in snaffle bits or bosals with the use of two hands on the reins by the rider, will be given equal consideration by the judge with bitted horses.
9. If a horse falls and the rider must remount, the horse and rider will be disqualified from the class.
10. Horses must be serviceably sound, sound of wind, and can be completely blind. Blemishes that cause lameness are not allowed. **(2019)**
11. A lame horse may not place in any judged event.
12. At no time may spurs be used forward of the cinch. Excessive spurring (drawing of blood on horse) is not permissible. Spurring is only allowed while the feet are in the stirrups. Any of the above will result in disqualification of horse and rider. **(2016)**
13. Exhibitors under 18 years of age will not be permitted to show stallions.
14. Announcers are not to appear to be prejudging classes by careless remarks that might be construed as influencing the judge.
15. Disqualification from a class results in forfeiture of entry fee.
16. At an E.M.H.A. approved show, a horse entered in judged events may be entered in the same type of class, by a different rider at the same show. In reining, each horse may be entered only once.  
Example: all the children and two parents of a family arrive at the show with one horse. They may ride that horse in any class they wish, 1-13 Horsemanship, Rider Jane Doe, age 8 years; 14-19 Horsemanship, Rider Kathy Doe, Age 14 years; 20 + Horsemanship, Rider Mrs. Doe.
17. A Horse may be shown in both English and Western halter. Points may be earned in both classes. Points will count towards Year End Awards per horse/ rider combination.

18. Points may be earned on more than one horse in any event.
19. Entry fees for all regular classes will be \$7.00. Sweepstakes will be \$ 12.00. **(2018)**
20. The show committee may excuse any person from the show grounds for inhumane treatment of a horse. Entry fees will be forfeited.
21. Any person making himself/herself a nuisance by constant complaints or harassment of officials or judges may be denied entry to a class(es) by the show committee.
22. Any person using foul language or being drunk and disorderly will be banned from further classes in that show. A second offense will result in termination of that individual's E.M.H.A. membership.
23. Western attire, including hat and boots (no riding tennis shoes) will be required for all judged events. Tie or brooch will be optional.
24. Informal English attire is required in all English classes as defined under "English Halter"
25. Chaps, and spurs for pleasure, horsemanship and reining classes will be optional to the rider.
26. All horse and ponies 6 year and older must be bitted. Horses 5 years and under have the option of riding with a snaffle bit or bosal in any western class (including horsemanship). When a rider elects to use a bosal or snaffle bit, two hands on the reins are required.
27. Tie downs and martingales are prohibited in pleasure and horsemanship classes.
28. A flat chain chinstrap may be used in pleasure and horsemanship classes. It shall be checked periodically to insure that it remains flat.
29. All straps, chains, and bosals must be loose enough to insert 3 fingers between the horse's jaw and the equipment.
30. Showmanship classes will be run from the gate. Patterns are posted for all of the classes. Exhibitors (one at a time) enter the ring, complete the pattern and then exit the ring. There is no line up. A horse may not be shared within the same class by different exhibitors.
31. English Equitation and English Pleasure will follow English Halter to avoid tack changes.
32. Walk-Trot Class will be for any horse or rider unable to Canter.
33. A Novice Horse is one to be considered a horse that has less than 10 rides at a show. A novice horse **MUST** go in the Novice horse class **ONLY**.
34. Novice Canter Rider is a rider to be considered one who has less than 10 rides at a canter at a show.
35. Helmets must be worn at all times by any Walk Trot/ Pee Rider 18 & Under. Helmets must be worn during warm up times by all exhibitors 18 & Under. 18 & Under exhibitors will be allowed to remove helmets 15 minutes prior to entering a Pleasure class, except a Walk Trot/ Pee Wee rider 18 & Under.
36. No rider shall ride bareback prior to 15 minutes before each bareback class.



- 37. Sweepstake classes offer 50% payback to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner only. No other ribbons or trophies are awarded for the class.
- 38. Sweepstakes will require a minimum of two (2) entries for each class; If there are not two (2) entries the class will be cancelled and refunds will be issued. The pleasure sweepstakes classes are now patterns. **(2019)**

### HALTER

**WESTERN HALTER- MARES    OPEN**

**WESTERN HALTER- GELDINGS AND STALLIONS    OPEN**

In all western halter classes, western attire will be required, excluding tie or brooch. Western tack is required, with no bats allowed. Horse's ages are determined as of January 1 of the current year.

**ENGLISH HALTER- MARES    OPEN**

**ENGLISH HALTER- GELDINGS AND STALLIONS    OPEN**

The exhibitor in English halter must wear a jacket or must style coat, dress pants, or riding breeches, or jodhpurs, hunt seat or paddock boots, and a derby or soft hat or protective head gear. Men are to wear a tie and ladies are to wear a choker or tie. This class is not a breed class. It is a traditional conformation class. Horses must be exhibited in proper tack. An English halter or bridle must be used. Chains are prohibited through the mouth. Whips are optional. **(2016)**

### LUNGE LINE

Open to horses 3 years of age and younger. The exhibitor will enter the arena and await the signal from the judge. When the signal is given, the exhibitor will be allowed 2 minutes to present their animal. The animals are judged 80% on movement and 20%

On manners. The judge, at his or her discretion may penalize the animal for excessive bucking, running off or displaying attitudes uncomplimentary to pleasure horses/burros such as ear pinning or tail wringing. It is suggested that the animal walk, trot and lope in each direction but it is not mandatory. The exhibitor may begin the work in the direction of their choice. All animals are to remain in the arena after they have been judged and should stand quietly head to tail while other exhibitors are being judged. After each horse is presented, all exhibitors will line up, Halter style and be judged for halter. Halter rules will then apply.

Equipment: Animals are to be shown in a halter. The Lunge line attached to the halter may not exceed 30 feet and must hang free from the halter without touching any part of the horse. It is permissible to use a Lunge whip.

### FITTING AND SHOWING

**FITTING AND SHOWING-**

In judging fitting and showing classes, judges should emphasize the exhibitor's ability to handle and show the horse and to recognize breed customs.

## Tack

- Neat, clean and well-fitted tack is required
- Tack should complement, not detract from the horse
- Horses shown in Western fitting and showing classes are to be shown in a halter. Both leather and nylon show halters are permissible
- Horses shown in English fitting and showing classes may be shown in either a halter or a bridle. Show halters must have a throat latch. Horses shown in a double rein bridle should have the snaffle rein laid over the withers and be handled with the curb rein. If the exhibitor wishes, the snaffle rein, bit and cheek pieces may be removed from the full bridle and the horse handled only with the curb rein
- The use of a chain end lead shank with the chain under the horse's jaw or over the horse's nose is permitted for safety reasons.

## Showing the Horse

- When the class is called the exhibitor must be ready to enter the ring in a brisk, alert manner.
- Exhibitors should to any instructions from the ring steward or judge
- Showmanship must be practiced from the time the exhibitor enters the ring until they exit the ring
- Exhibitor and horse should demonstrate the ability to work calmly and quietly in the class
- The exhibitor should lead from the left side of the horse, holding the lead shank in the right hand about 8 to 12 inches from the halter. Smaller exhibitors may need a longer hold. Emphasis should be placed on light control of the horse with minimum pressure on the lead shank to allow the horse to hold its head naturally. A loose, flopping lead strap is objectionable.
- The horse should move readily and freely at a walk or trot (or second gait for gaited horses) with very little urging by the exhibitor. Those breeds which do not trot at halter, should be shown according to breed standards. The exhibitor should stay in position by the near side of the horse's neck, preferably halfway between the horse's head and shoulder. A well-trained horse will move rapidly at a gait and speed to equal to the speed at check the exhibitor is moving.
- The horse should set up quickly and squarely on all four feet (or according to breed standards)
- The exhibitor can pass between the judge and the horse as the judge moves around the animals, but the exhibitor should avoid blocking the judges view longer than the moment required to step between the horse and the judge. The exhibitor should step quickly and quietly
- The horse should be trained to pose using the lead strap. Touching the horse into position is prohibited. The horse should move backward and forward freely, executing a full step or just a slight shifting of weight.
- Patterns should executed as posted
- Showmanship classes will be run from the gate. Patterns are posted for all of the classes. Exhibitors (one at a time) enter the ring, complete the pattern and then exit the ring. There is no line up.

## ENGLISH EQUITATION/ BAREBACK

### ENGLISH EQUITATION-

POINTS: PERFORMANCE- 40% SEAT AND HANDS- 40% APPOINTMENTS-10% SUITABILITY- 10%

Riders will be judged on hands, seat, horse handling skill and ability, appointments of the horse and rider and suitability of horse and rider. Open to all stallions, mares and geldings suitable for English riding. However, children 17 and under will **not** be permitted to ride stallions. Horse must be serviceably sound and in good condition.

Horse is to shown under appropriate English tack. Martingales or similar tie-downs are prohibited. Saddle seat attire consists of a derby or soft hat, tie or choker, shirt, riding breeches or jodhpurs, jodhpur boots, and jacket. Spurs, gloves and ship are optional.

Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. The judge must, if asking for a false lead, allow the horse to start at least 15' from the rail. Any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate individual test. The order to reverse may be executed either towards or away from the rail.

In all horsemanship/equitation classes all exhibitors will show their horse both directions of the arena at a walk, trot and canter or breed equivalent gait unless a pattern is posted by the judge. All horses must back before being dismissed from the ring. If a pattern is posted the class will run only the pattern and no rail work, or the pattern and only one way of the ring. (Time will be taken into account when determining if patterns can be used or not.)

### **ENGLISH PLEASURE/ SWEEPSTAKES/ JR& SR CLASSES**

#### **ENGLISH PLEASURE/ SWEEPSTAKES-**

POINTS: PERFORMANCE- 70%      CONFORMATION- 20%      APPOINTMENTS- 10%

The horse will be judged on performance and apparent ability to give a good pleasure ride with emphasis on manner and gait. Open to all stallions, geldings and mares suitable for English riding. However children 17 and under will **not** be permitted to ride stallions. Horse must be serviceably sound and in good condition. Horse's trot should be square, collected and balanced. The canter smooth and straight on both leads.

Horses are to be shown under English tack. Saddle shall be of English type with leather or web girth. Bridle shall be English bit (Pelham or snaffle), sing curb, full bride. Double or single reins may be used with a flat conventional chain only. No martingales or tie-down are permitted. English attire must be worn. The use of spurs and a ship are optional.

All riders are to show their horses or ponies both ways of the arena at a walk, trot, or canter or breed equivalent gait, and back their horses before the judge may dismiss any horse or pony from the arena. The judge must, if asking for a false lead, allow the horse to start 15' from the rail. The judge may ask for added performance suitable to a pleasure horse. The order to reverse may be executed either towards or away from the rail.

All sweepstakes classes are now pattern. **(2019)**

### **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP/ BAREBACK**

#### **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP**

POINTS: PERFORMANCE- 40%      SEAT & HANDS- 40%      APPOINTMENTS- 10%      SUITABILITY- 10%

Riders will be judged on hands, seat, horse handling skill and ability, appointments of the horse and rider, suitability of horse and rider. Western attire, including hat, shirt and boots will be required. Tie or brooch is optional. The use of spurs is optional. The saddle must be western. Tie downs, martingales and tight nosebands are prohibited.

Classes are open to horses, ponies, mares, geldings and stallions. Children 17 and under are **not** permitted to ride stallions. Horses and ponies 6 years and older must be bitted. Only one hand may be used on the reins. Junior Horses (5 years and under) may be ridden with a snaffle bit or bosal. Riders of junior horses with a snaffle bit or bosal must use two hands on the reins.

Offering of money prizes is prohibited, since rule's governing international sports state a competitor accepting money prizes thereby becomes a professional. In horsemanship, the rider is the competitor and wins the award.

The judge must, if asking for a false lead, allow the horse to start at least 15' from the rail. The rider should be able to perform any maneuver requested by the judge to better enable him/her to assess the rider's ability.

In all horsemanship/equitation classes all exhibitors will show their horse both directions of the arena at a walk, trot and canter or breed equivalent gait and back their horses before the judge may dismiss any horse or pony from the arena

### **WESTERN PLEASURE/ SWEEPSTAKES/ JR & SR CLASSES**

#### **WESTERN PLEASURE / SWEEPSTAKES**

POINTS: CONFORMATION- 15% APPOINTMENTS- 15% SUITABILITY- 10% PERFORMANCE- 60%

It is to be remembered that a pleasure horse is alert and willing and gives an easy going pleasure ride. Classes are open to horses, ponies, mares, geldings and stallions normally used for pleasure. Children 17 and under are **not** permitted to ride stallions. Horses and ponies must be serviceably sound and in good condition. Horses and ponies should be shown with a reasonably loose rein, without undue restraint. Horses and ponies will be shown at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the arena to demonstrate their ability with different leads, and back their horses or ponies easily and stand quietly before the judge may dismiss any exhibitors from the arena. The judge must, if asking for a false lead, allow the horse to start at least 15' from the rail. The judge may ask for added performance suitable to a pleasure horse or pony.

All horse and ponies must be bitted. The term curb bit means a bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. One hand will be used on the reins, and it not to be changed. The hand is to be around the reins, index finger only between split reins is permitted. The free hand shall be used to support the rider by being placed on any part of the saddle or horse. An exception is made for junior horses. They can be shown with an acceptable bosal/snaffle bit. Western attire, including hat, shirt and boots will be required. Tie or brooch is optional. Chaps, rope, spurs and other suitable stock equipment are optional. Tie downs, martingales and tight hose bands are prohibited.

When a horse is shown with a hackamore/bosal or snaffle bit, the rider must have both hand on both reins. Split reins must be crossed. Rider's hand should be carried near the pommel and not further than 4" (10.16 cm) out on either side of the saddle horse with very limited movement.

All sweepstakes classes are now pattern. **(2019)**

### **LEAD- LINE**

**LEAD-LINE NOT TO RIDE IN ANY OTHER CLASS (AT THAT SHOW)**

POINTS: PERFORMANCE OF RIDER 100%

Riders will be judged on hands, seat, horse handling skill and ability. Western or English attire will be required. For western attire, tie or brooch is optional. Chaps are optional. Contestants will talk their horses or ponies.

They will reverse directions, line up and back up their horses or ponies before being dismissed from the arena. Riders feet must be in the stirrups upon entering the arena. Rider may not enter the arena until complying with this rule. Buddy stirrups are acceptable.

**Lead-line handler has to be 14 years or older. (2019)**

### **WALK-TROT/ PEE WEE**

**WALK-TROT (NOT TO RIDE IN ANY OTHER PLEASURE/HORSEMANSHIP CLASS).**

Western Horsemanship and English Equitation rules will apply with the following exception: All riders are to show their horses or ponies both ways of the arena at a walk and trot, line up and back their horses before the judge may dismiss any exhibitor from the arena.

**PEE WEE WALK-** Rules will apply from Equitation/ Horsemanship judging criteria. Performed at a Walk Only. A Pee Wee Walk rider may NOT enter in any other riding class.

**WALK-TROT NOVICE CANTER (*NOVICE RIDER ONLY – RIDER NOT TO RIDE IN ANY OTHER PLEASURE/HORSEMANSHIP CLASS*)**

Western horsemanship and English Equitation rules will apply with the following exception: All riders are to show their horses or ponies both ways of the arena at a walk and trot, line up and back their horses before the judge may dismiss any exhibitor from the arena.

**WALK-TROT NOVICE HORSE – Open (*NOVICE HORSE ONLY – HORSE IS NOT TO BE RIDDEN IN ANY OTHER CLASS*)**

### **GENERAL CONTESTING RULES**

1. Entry fees for contesting classes will be \$7.00. All contesting classes will be awarded a ribbon for 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> place and paybacks for 1<sup>st</sup> place shall be \$ 8.00 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place shall be \$ 6.00 for 14-19 and 20 & Over. 13 & Under shall not receive paybacks, but shall receive a trophy or ribbon instead of payback. **(2018)**
2. A judge must be present for all contesting classes.
3. One judge must judge all contesting events. When two judges are contracted, **2** sets of placings and points will be given. Entry fees will be doubled on for these shows. When a show is double judged, a rider will make his/her first run. If that run is clean, the time will count for both judges. If the rider has a DQ on his/her first run, they will be allowed to run at the end of that age group for a time for the second judge.
4. The judge and show committee may excuse from the arena any horse whose actions are deemed unsafe to either the contestant or others. The judge and show committee may refuse entry to a contestant whose horse is considered dangerous to the welfare of anyone.
5. Once the judge signals a good ride the rider has the option of dismounting in the ring.
6. The judge's decision will be final, provided all E.M.H.A. rules have been followed.
7. Announcers are not to appear to be prejudging classes by careless remarks that might be construed as influencing the judge.
8. The show committee may excuse any person from the show grounds for inhumane treatment of a horse. Entry fees will be forfeited.
9. Any person using foul language or being drunk and disorderly will be banned from further classes in that show. A second offense will result in termination of that individuals' E.M.H.A. membership.
10. Any contestant making him/herself a nuisance by constant complaints or harassment of officials or judges may be denied entry to a class(es) by the show committee.
11. Exhibitors under the age of 18 years of age will not be allowed to show stallions.
12. All paybacks are awarded to the horse.
13. Points may be earned on more than one horse in any event. A horse may be entered in each class once at each show.
14. Exhibition rides/runs will be same entry fee as the class, but without a placing or time given. Rules for that class must be followed.
15. The breaking of equipment shall not entitle a contestant to a rerun.
16. Bats and Over-and-Under must be of a manufactured type. Bats and Over-and-Under must be used behind the cinch in a proper manner.

17. The use of a curb chain is permitted. The contestant has his choice of equipment providing it is humane and in agreement with the rules governing each contest. Tie downs of chain or a bare metal device over the eyes, nose or poll are prohibited.
18. For contesting events, proper attire will be western clothing including boots (no riding tennis shoes), excluding hat and tie. A button down or snap down shirt with a collar is required, all shirts must have at least a 3 inch sleeve. No sleeveless shirts allowed. Anyone wishing to purchase an EMHA shirt may have option to wear shirt during Gymkhana classes. Proper English Attire will be allowed in Gymkhana. **(2019)**
19. The barrels used in cloverleaf and down and back will be 55 gallon plastic drums.
20. More than one contesting class may be set up at a time if enough space is available in the ring.
21. The order of contesting classes will be; Pole Bending, Barrel Bending, Cloverleaf, Indiana Flags, Down & Back, Speed & Action and Keyhole.
22. Horse must be serviceably sound and sound of wind.
23. Noticeably lame horses will not be allowed to run in contest events.
24. The starting line for all contesting events must be at least twenty five feet from the fence. The distance of barrels from the fence may be altered due to ring conditions.
25. Timing begins at the starting line and ends at return to the starting line. **(2016)**
26. After being signaled to start by the judge, the contestant has one minute to pass the starting line. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. It is the responsibility of the contestant to enter the arena when his name or number is called.
27. Contestants may not run their horses in or out of the arena gates.
- 28.** The contestant may have one person only to help the horse/rider to/through the gate. Rider may also choose to mount the horse inside the arena (60 seconds time limit). Any unruly horse will be asked to not enter the class and will be disqualified. **(2016)**
29. In contesting events, two hands may be used on the reins at any time.
30. Contestants may touch the barrels in cloverleaf and down and back.
31. Disqualifications from a class results in a forfeiture of entry fee.
32. A contestant causing his horse to bleed in any way will be disqualified.
33. At no time may spurs be used ahead of the cinch. Spurring is only allowed while the feet are in the stirrups. Either of the above will result in disqualification.
34. If a horse falls and the rider must remount, the horse and rider will be disqualified.
35. If any barrel or keg is moved by a contestant more than ½ of its width, in any event, the contestant is disqualified.

36. If a contestant tips over a barrel or keg used as part of the course or as markers, he/she will be disqualified. However, a contestant will not disqualify if he/she tips over a barrel or keg before his/her time starts. Everyone will be able to finish the pattern as long as they are not walking the pattern to finish. **(12/2016)**
37. A tie for first place must be resolved by a run-off. If a tie remains after the run-off, it will be resolved by a flip of a coin or other means agreeable to both parties. Ties for other placings may be resolved by means agreeable to both parties.
38. A rider running two horses may wear both back numbers at the same time, as long as both are visible.
39. All riders in the 13 & Under and 14-18 Classes must wear a helmet at ALL TIMES.
40. Age groups for gymkhana shall be 13 & Under, 14-19 and 20 & Over. 13 & Under division shall consist of any rider from the AM classes that showed in Walk Trot. That rider may ONLY do Walk Trot in this class. No cantering is allowed. **(2016)**
41. The arena must be kept in good running condition. Show hosts shall rake or Drag arena after no more than 10 runs. For Ex: If the class is Cloverleaf, around the barrels must be raked or dragged after each tenth horse runs. The entire arena does not need to be done. Only specific areas of footing that may be unsafe for the next run.
42. Once the rider and horse cross the timer that becomes the official time (2015)
43. Your cloverleaf time can be rolled over as your Cloverleaf Sweepstakes time. In an event that you DQ in your regular cloverleaf class it will count as a double DQ (**NO** additional run). **12/2016**



## Year End Awards – Pleasure

Halter Year End – English and Western Halter Classes

Showmanship Year End– Age Group

Age Group English Year End Awards -  
English Equation – Age Group  
English Pleasure – Age Group  
Jr/Senior Horse – All ages

Age Group Western Year End Awards -  
Western Horsemanship – Age Group  
Western Pleasure – Age Group  
Jr/Senior Horse – All ages

**Overall Pleasure Award – (see above) Include Both Halter Classes, Showmanship, English and Western Riding Classes**

## Year End Awards – Gymkhana

Age Group  
Pole Bending, Barrel Bending, Cloverleaf, Indiana Flags, Down and Back. Speed and Action, and Keyhole.

**Overall Gymkhana – include all gymkhana classes**