



2024 RULEBOOK

PURPOSE OF MWA

To create, stimulate, and promote interest in horses, horsemanship, and horseback riding as a recreational activity and to encourage and facilitate the training of show horses in the state of Maryland.

To establish uniform rules and recommendations for showing and judging horse show classes and to encourage adherence to them.

To bring about through the correct handling of horses at shows a greater appreciation of the many admirable qualities of horses by riders, owners, and spectators.

DUES Annual fees are set by the Board of Directors (BOD) in the following categories:

- Individual Senior Membership: Defined as any adult over 18, as determined by age on 01 January 2021
- Individual Junior Member: Defined as any minor 18 years and under, as determined by age on 01 January 2021
- Horse Registration
- Family Membership: Defined as immediate family, including unmarried children up to 21 years of age, living in the household.

SECTION ONE GENERAL RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. **AGE DIVISIONS**- The following divisions are available: Western Adult Walk-Jog-Lope, English Adult, Western Adult Novice Division, Western Adult Walk-Jog Division, Speed Adult, Western Youth 18 & Under, English Youth 18 & Under, Speed Youth 14-18, Speed Youth 13 & Under, Western Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot, English Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot, Speed Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot, Beginner Walk Trot 11 & Under, Lead-line (Performance/Equitation) and Lead-line Speed. Beginner Walk Trot 11 & Under Division will be on hiatus for 2021 and classes not offered for points. Class(es) may be offered as a non-point class at the Board of Director's discretion, if interest warrants. Any Special Needs rider in a certified therapeutic riding program can ride in any division appropriate to their skill level. They will be placed separately from the rest of the class. An exhibitor may ride in only one age-restricted division at a time, except where otherwise specified. The age division is not specific to riding discipline. Each rider must declare the division in which he/she will participate when applying for or renewing their membership. When an exhibitor moves up a division, they may no longer exhibit in the previous division, unless otherwise specified. An exhibitor may only receive a year end award for the age division into which they have moved. Anyone can school in their own division – turn number over (ex: to use two hands). Approved safety helmets are mandatory for all youth under 18 years of age when mounted. Approved helmets are recommended for all riders.
- A. Adult Western Division (Senior)** - exhibitors must have reached their 19th birthday on or before January 1st of the current year. This will be a three-gaited division, requiring a walk, trot/jog, and lope. Adult Western Division exhibitors may also participate in Western Adult Walk-Trot, Adult Speed, and Halter, In-Hand, All-Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, English Adult & any open classes. Cross-entry between Western Adult and Western Adult Novice and all age-restricted Youth divisions is prohibited.
- B. Adult Speed Division (Senior)** - exhibitors must have reached their 19th birthday on or before January 1st of the current year. Adult Division exhibitors may also participate in Halter, All-Age, English Adult & open classes. This will be an open gait division, allowing any gait including walk, trot/jog, lope, gallop and others. Adult Speed Division exhibitors may also participate in Western Adult Walk-Trot, Western Adult, and Halter, In-Hand, All-Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, English Adult & any open classes. Cross-entry between Adult Speed and Western Adult Novice and all age-restricted Youth divisions is prohibited. Adult Western Walk-Trot Division - exhibitors must have reached their 19th birthday on or before January 1st of the current year. This will be a two-gaited division, requiring a walk, and trot/jog only. Adult Western Walk-Trot Division exhibitors may also participate in Western Adult, Adult Speed, and Halter, In-Hand, All-Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, English Adult & any open classes. Cross-entry between Western Adult Walk-Trot and all age-restricted Youth divisions is prohibited.

- C. English Adult** - exhibitors must have reached their 19th birthday on or before January 1st of the current year. This will be a three-gaited division, requiring a walk, trot, and canter. A hand gallop can be requested. English Adult Division exhibitors may also participate in Western Adult, Western Adult Walk-Trot, Adult Speed, Halter, In-Hand, All-Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, & any open classes. Cross-entry between English Adult and all age-restricted Youth divisions is prohibited.
- D. Western Adult Novice Division** - exhibitors must meet and maintain certain criteria to be eligible for the Western Adult Novice Division. This will be a three-gaited division, requiring a walk, trot, and canter; however, the lope will not be required in all classes. An exhibitor is eligible if the following specifications are met:
1. Must have reached their 19th birthday on or before January 1st of the current year.
 2. Must have not shown in MWAHA's former "A - Division" classes within the past five years.
 3. Must not have shown, judged, trained or assisted in training a horse or rider for remuneration, monetary or otherwise, either directly or indirectly.
 4. An exhibitor who chooses to move up to Western Adult Division in mid-season will stop accumulating points in the Western Adult Novice Division and will begin accumulating points in the Western Adult Division from that date forward. Points from the two divisions may not be combined for awards. Once an exhibitor forfeits their Western Adult Novice status, they may not return to it.
 5. Western Adult Novice Division exhibitor may also participate in Halter, In-Hand, Western Adult Walk-Trot, and any open classes. Cross-entry between Western Adult Novice and Western Adult, Speed Adult and all age-restricted Youth divisions is prohibited.
- E. Youth 18 & Under Western Division** - must not have reached their 19th birthday of January 1 of the current year. This will be a three-gaited division, requiring a walk, trot/jog, and lope. Youth 18 & Under Western Division exhibitors may also participate in Youth 18 & Under English Division, and either Speed 14-18 Division or Speed 13 & Under Division, depending on exhibitor's applicable age for which they qualify. Youth 18 & Under Western Division exhibitors may also participate in Youth 18 & Under English Division, All-Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, and all halter, in-hand, all-age and open classes. Cross-entry between Youth 18 & Under Western and all adult-restricted divisions is prohibited. All youth 18 & Under participating in the Youth 18 & Under Division must wear an approved safety helmet.
- F. Youth 18 & Under English Division** - must not have reached their 19th birthday of January 1 of the current year. This will be a three-gaited division, requiring a walk, trot, and canter. A hand gallop can be requested. Youth 18 & Under Western Division exhibitors may also participate in Youth 18 & Under Western Division, and either Speed 14-18 Division or Speed 13 & Under Division, depending on exhibitor's applicable age for which they qualify. Youth 18 & Under English Division exhibitors may also participate in Youth 18 & Under Western Division, All-Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, and all halter, in-hand, all-age and open classes. Cross-entry between Youth 18 & Under Western and all adult-restricted divisions is prohibited. All youth 18 & Under participating in the Youth 18 & Under Division must wear an approved safety helmet.
- G. Speed Youth 14-18 Division** - must have reached their 14th but not their 19th birthday of January 1 of the current year. This will be an open gait division, allowing any gait including walk, trot/jog, lope, gallop and others. Youth 14-18 Speed Division exhibitors may also participate in Youth 18 & Under Western Division, Youth 18 & Under English Division, All-Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, and all halter, in-hand, all-age and open classes. Cross-entry between Youth 14-18 Speed and all adult-restricted divisions is prohibited. All youth 18 & Under participating in the Youth 14-18 Speed Division must wear an approved safety helmet.
- H. Speed Youth 13 & Under Division** - exhibitors must not have reached their 14th birthday as of January 1 of the current year. This will be an open gait division, allowing any gait including walk, trot/jog, lope, gallop and others. Youth 13 & Under Speed Division exhibitors may also participate in Youth 18 & Under Western Division, Youth 18 & Under English Division, All-Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, and all halter, in-hand, all-age and open classes. Cross-entry between Youth 13 & Under Speed and all adult-restricted divisions is prohibited. Speed Youth 13 & Under exhibitors may not compete in any Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot, Beginner Walk-Trot or Lead-line classes. An exhibitor may move up to the Youth 14-18 division. However, they will lose all points accumulated in Youth 13 & Under Division and will not be eligible for a year-end award in Youth 13 & Under Division. All Youth 13 & Under exhibitors participating in the Youth 13 & Under Division must wear an approved safety helmet.

- I. Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot Speed Division** - exhibitors must not have reached their 14th birthday as of January 1 of the current year. This will be a two-gait division, consisting of walk and jog/trot. Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot Speed Division exhibitors may also participate in 13 & Under Walk-Trot Western Division, 13 & Under Walk-Trot English Division, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, and all halter, in-hand, all-age walk-trot and open classes. Cross-entry between 13 & Under Walk-Trot Speed and all pointed three-gait or open-gait divisions and adult-restricted divisions is prohibited. 13 & Under Walk-Trot exhibitors may not compete in any Beginner Walk-Trot or Lead-line classes. An exhibitor may move up to the Youth 13 & Under Speed or 18 & Under Western or 18 & Under English Division. However, they will lose all points accumulated in 13 & Under Walk-Trot Speed Division and will not be eligible for a year-end award in 13 & Under Walk-Trot Division. All 13 & Under Walk-Trot exhibitors participating in the Youth 13 & Under Division must wear an approved safety helmet.
- J. Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot Western Division** - exhibitors must not have reached their 14th birthday as of January 1 of the current year. This will be a two-gait division, consisting of walk and jog/trot. Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot Western Division exhibitors may also participate in 13 & Under Walk-Trot Speed Division, 13 & Under Walk-Trot English Division, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, and all halter, in-hand, all-age walk-trot and open classes. Cross-entry between 13 & Under Walk-Trot Western and all pointed three-gait or open-gait divisions and adult-restricted divisions is prohibited. 13 & Under Walk-Trot exhibitors may not compete in any Beginner Walk-Trot or Lead-line classes. An exhibitor may move up to the Youth 13 & Under Speed or 18 & Under Western or 18 & Under English Division. However, they will lose all points accumulated in 13 & Under Walk-Trot Western Division and will not be eligible for a year-end award in 13 & Under Walk-Trot Division. All 13 & Under Walk-Trot exhibitors participating in the Youth 13 & Under Division must wear an approved safety helmet.
- K. Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot English Division** - exhibitors must not have reached their 14th birthday as of January 1 of the current year. This will be a two-gait division, consisting of walk and jog/trot. Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot English Division exhibitors may also participate in 13 & Under Walk-Trot Western Division, 13 & Under Walk-Trot Speed Division, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, and all halter, in-hand, all-age walk-trot and open classes. Cross-entry between 13 & Under Walk-Trot English and all pointed three-gait or open-gait divisions and adult-restricted divisions is prohibited. 13 & Under Walk-Trot exhibitors may not compete in any Beginner Walk-Trot or Lead-line classes. An exhibitor may move up to the Youth 13 & Under Speed or 18 & Under Western or 18 & Under English Division. However, they will lose all points accumulated in 13 & Under Walk-Trot English Division and will not be eligible for a year-end award in 13 & Under Walk-Trot Division. All 13 & Under Walk-Trot exhibitors participating in the Youth 13 & Under Division must wear an approved safety helmet.
- L. Beginner Walk Trot 11 & Under Division** - exhibitors must not have reached their 12th birthday as of January 1 of the current year. This division will have two gaits (walk and jog/trot). Only individual trot work will be asked of exhibitors. They may not compete in any Lead-line class or any other age-restricted Youth division, regardless of gait or discipline, with the sole exception of Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot Showmanship. They may compete in Halter, In-Hand, Showmanship Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot, and open classes. An exhibitor may move up to any Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot Division. However, they will lose all points accumulated in Beginner Walk Trot 11 & Under Division and will not be eligible for a year-end award in Beginner Walk Trot 11 & Under Division. Western and English exhibitors will participate in the same classes. All Beginner Walk/Trot 11 & Under exhibitors participating in the Beginner Walk/Trot 11 & Under Division must wear an approved safety helmet. This division is not offered for points in 2021.
- M. Lead-line Performance/Equitation Division** - exhibitors must not have reached their 9th birthday by January 1 of the current year. Lead-line exhibitors may also participate in Lead-line Speed, Halter, Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot Showmanship, In-Hand and Open classes which do not require any gait faster than a jog or trot. Lead-line Performance/Equitation exhibitors may be asked to walk, back and stop. They may not be asked for any gait faster than a walk. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, separate Lead-line classes may be offered in a given show season for specified age groups under 6 years of age, including pointed classes with year-end awards. All age classifications are based on child's age as of January 1 of the current year. An exhibitor may move up to another Division. However, they will lose all points accumulated in Lead-line Division and will not be eligible for a year-end award in Lead-line Division. Lead-line Division handler must be 14 years of age or older. If handler is under the age of 18, the handler must wear a helmet for Lead-Line purpose only. Exhibitors must have feet in stirrups. Western and English exhibitors will participate in the same classes. All Lead-line exhibitors participating in the Lead-line Division must wear an approved safety helmet.

N. Lead-line Speed Division - exhibitors must not have reached their 9th birthday by January 1 of the current year. Lead-line exhibitors may also participate in Lead-line Performance/Equitation Halter, Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot Showmanship, In-Hand and Open classes which do not require any gait faster than a jog or trot. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, separate Lead-line classes may be offered in a given show season for specified age groups under 6 years of age, including pointed classes with year-end awards. All age classifications are based on child's age as of January 1 of the current year. An exhibitor may move up to another Division. However, they will lose all points accumulated in Lead-line Division and will not be eligible for a year-end award in Lead-line Division. Lead-line Division handler must be 14 years of age or older. If handler is under the age of 18, the handler must wear a helmet for Lead-Line purpose only. Exhibitors must have feet in stirrups. Western and English exhibitors will participate in the same classes. All Lead-line exhibitors participating in the Lead-line Division must wear an approved safety helmet.

II. OTHER DIVISIONS - The following non-age-restricted divisions are available: Green Horse, All Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, and Miniature Horse, In-Hand Trail. Class(es) may be offered as a non-point class at the Board of Director's discretion, if interest warrants. Each rider must declare the division in which he/she will participate when applying for or renewing their membership. When an equine exhibitor moves up from restricted division, they may no longer exhibit in the in the previous division, unless otherwise specified. An exhibitor may only receive a year end award for the division into which they have moved. Anyone can school in their own division – turn number over (ex: to use two hands). Approved safety helmets are mandatory for all youth under 18 years of age when mounted. Approved helmets are recommended for all riders.

A. Green Horse Western/English Division - Horses, may be any age, but must be in their first two years of showing under saddle. Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility. Open to any age riders. Classes are to be Western/English Pleasure W/J-W/T, Western/English Pleasure W/J/L-W/T/C, Western/English Trail W/J-W/T, and English Pleasure Hack (English Only).

B. All Age Ranch Horse Division - Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility. Open to any age rider. Classes are to be Ranch Rail Pleasure W/T/L, Ranch Riding W/T/L, Ranch Trail W/T/L and Ranch Round Up W/T/L.

C. All Age Ranch Horse Walk-Trot Division - Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility. Open to any age rider. Classes are to be Ranch Rail Pleasure W/T, Ranch Riding W/T, Ranch Trail W/T and Ranch Round Up W/T.

D. Miniature Horse Division -Open to any age handler. Open to any miniature, registered or not, with a maximum height of 40 inches. Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility, and, if ridden, is ridden by a suitable rider. Classes are to be Mini Horse Showmanship, Mini Horse Halter and Mini Horse Trail.

E. All Age In-Hand Trail – Open to any age handler. Open to any horse, registered or not. Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility, and, if ridden, is ridden by a suitable rider

III. POINTED SHOWS

A. MWA pointed shows shall include all of the classes on the board's approved class list for western speed, western performance, ranch performance, and English performance classes in all divisions.

B. In the event the remainder of a show is cancelled due to inclement weather, exhibitors will be pointed in the classes that have already been completed and placed. Any remainder of classes will be forfeited and not made up. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to call the show chair or a board member if a cancellation is suspected due to inclement weather.

IV. REGISTRATION

Any horse or pony and its rider or handler must be registered with MWA to receive points for year-end awards.

V. **HORSES**

- A. There are no height restrictions for horses in any Division, except Mini Horse and Pony Halter.
- B. The only restriction on mane and tail is the prohibition of broken tails.
- C. The Pace cannot be substituted for the jog or trot and will be cause for disqualification from the class.
- D. All horses' ages are calculated as of January 1 of the current year.

VI. **TRANSFERS**

- A. Each award due the horse at the end of the season will be made to the person in whose name the MWA registration is recorded at the time the awards are made.
- B. In the event that the ownership of a horse changes during the show season, the new owner must re-register the horse in his/her name to be able to claim any awards due to the horse at the end of the show season.

VII. **ANNUAL AWARDS**

- A. Six (6) annual awards will be presented in each class that is eligible for annual awards.
IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A YEAR-END AWARD RIDER/HORSE COMBINATION MUST SHOW IN A MINIMUM OF 4 POINTED SHOWS AND SHOW IN EACH CLASS AT LEAST 3 TIMES AND VOLUNTEER A MINIMUM OF 4 HOURS FOR THE TOTAL SHOW SEASON AND DURING THE SHOW SEASON.
 The volunteer work may be done by an individual member, a family member or a pre-designated representative for the member.
IT IS THE MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY THAT VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE CORRECTLY RECORDED WITH THE SHOW CHAIR ON THE DAY THE WORK IS PERFORMED.
- B. Points are not based on entries and will be awarded as follows:

<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Fourth</u>	<u>Fifth</u>	<u>Sixth</u>
7 pts.	5 pts.	4 pts.	3 pts.	2 pts.	1 pt.
- C. Annual awards will be presented in all approved MWA point classes offered during the show season. In all classes, except horsemanship, equitation, showmanship, Lead-line, and Beginner Walk Trot; points will be credited to the mount, irrespective of the exhibitor, as long as the exhibitor is a member of MWA. In horsemanship, equitation, showmanship, Lead-line, and Beginner Walk Trot the points will be credited to the exhibitor, irrespective of the mount, as long as the mount is registered with MWA.
- D. Special annual achievement awards will be accumulated on a one mount/one exhibitor combination basis. This combination must be declared at the time of registration. Any change of mount or exhibitor will constitute a new combination. In order to qualify for annual awards the rider/horse combination must show at least 3 times in any pointed class. Refer back to Rule VI Annual Awards Letter A for exact wording.
- E. Team events, miscellaneous and open classes will not count as point classes.
- F. All class lists will include all pointed and open classes approved by the board. Additional open classes are to be at the discretion of the show chair. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to identify and participate in classes that will count for points for them.
- G. Any class judged by other than a MWA-approved judge will not count for points. (Exception: Speed classes monitored by the steward when the judge is otherwise occupied.) In the case of an

emergency (i.e. the judge is detained or unable to judge at the last minute), a "judge for the day" can be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors (BOD) present.

VIII. **SPECIAL AWARDS**

- A. Four (4) Divisional Championship Awards will be presented by MWA annually for adult-restricted divisions. One (1) will be presented to the mount/exhibitor combination with the highest number of points earned in all pointed western-performance (Western Adult) classes held during the show season. One (1) will be presented to the mount/exhibitor combination with the highest number of points earned in all pointed walk-trot western-performance (Western Adult Walk-Trot) classes held during the show season. One (1) will be presented to the mount/exhibitor combination with the highest number of points earned in all pointed western-timed event (Speed Adult) classes. One (1) will be presented to the mount/exhibitor combination with the highest number of points earned in all pointed English performance (English Adult) classes. The horse/rider combination must be declared when registering.
- B. One (1) Divisional Championship Award (Adult Novice Division) will be presented by MWA annually. One (1) will be presented to the mount/exhibitor combination with the highest number of points earned in all pointed western performance (Western Adult Novice) classes held during the show season. The horse/rider combination must be declared when registering.
- C. One (1) Division Championship Award (Green Horse Western/English Division) will be presented by MWA annually to the mount/exhibitor combination with the highest number of points earned in the division during the show season. The horse/rider combination must be declared when registering.
- D. Two (2) Division Championship Award for all Ranch divisions will be presented by MWA annually. One (1) will be presented to the mount/exhibitor combination with the highest number of points earned in the Ranch Horse Walk-Trot Lope Division and one (1) for the Ranch Horse Walk- Trot division during the show season. The horse/rider combination must be declared when registering.
- E. Four (4) Divisional Championships will be awarded by MWA annually in each of these age groups: Youth 18 & under Western Division, Youth 18 & under English Division, Speed Youth 14-18 Division, & Speed Youth 13 & Under Division. All rules in Section VII A apply. The horse/rider combination must be declared when registering.
- F. Three (3) Divisional Championships will be awarded by MWA annually in each of these groups: Youth 13 & Under Walk/Trot Western Division, Youth 13 & Under Walk/Trot English Division & Speed Youth 13 & Under Walk/Trot Division. All rules in Section VII A apply. The horse/rider combination must be declared when registering.
- G. Two (2) Divisional Championships will be awarded by MWA annually in the Lead-line (Performance/Equitation) and Lead-line Speed divisions. All rules in Section VII A apply.
- H. One (1) Division Championship Award (Miniature Horse Division) will be presented by MWA annually to the mount/exhibitor combination with the highest number of points earned in the division during the show season. The horse/rider combination must be declared when registering.
- I. The Board of Directors may determine any additional special awards for a given show season.

IX. **SCHEDULING OF SHOWS**

- A. All point shows will be conducted on Sundays except by special permission of the Board of Directors (BOD).
- B. MWA will keep a calendar of show dates.

X. PUBLICITY

All show chairs shall cause the following message to appear on show programs and all advertising pieces in connection with any show: "All MWAH classes are conducted under the Rules and Regulations of MWAH. MWAH, the show management, the Howard County Fair, or its agents will not be responsible for injury to exhibitors, spectators, horses etc. or for the loss/damage of property, trucks, trailers, etc. Valid Coggins must be available at every show. No alcoholic beverages permitted. All exhibitors are required to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement."

XI. RING SIZE

- A. The recommended size for a ring is 300 feet long and 150 feet wide with a 75 foot semi-circle forming each end.
- B. In no case shall the ring be less than the minimum length and width necessary to accommodate the distances specified in the diagrams shown in this handbook. One hundred (100) feet wide by two hundred (200) feet long is the minimum usable size.

XII. JUDGES

- A. A judge for a MWAH point show must be deemed knowledgeable and qualified to judge all classes within the show program. The judge is expected to dress in a professional manner. Carded judges are preferred.
- B. The judge's decision will be final in all cases affecting the merits of the horse and that decision cannot be protested unless it is alleged to be in violation of the MWAH rules.
- C. Neither the judge nor members of his/her immediate family (son, daughter, father, mother, sister, brother,) shall exhibit or act as agents or handlers of a horse in any approved class at a show or contest at which he/she is officiating, nor may any horse be shown under the judge if that judge has been owner, trainer, or conditioner within the previous three (3) months. No exhibitor may compete in a class before a judge by whom he/she has been instructed, coached, or tutored, with or without pay, within three (3) months prior to the show. However, they may enter to school and not be judged (numbers should be turned over). The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities, such as pony clubs where individual instruction is not given, will not be considered as instructing, coaching or tutoring. Approved judges will be allowed to show when not judging but will not be eligible for year-end awards during the year in which they have judged.
- D. It is the responsibility of the judge to prepare his/her score cards in such a way that no doubt exists about how any horse and/or rider placed in any event. Any question of clarity which cannot be made clear before the class is pinned will be cause for a review of that class.
- E. The judge will score at least seven horses in each class in order to provide a reserve should it become necessary to alter the placement of horses due to error.
- F. The show committee may send to MWAH any comments, either favorable or adverse, on the performance of the judge.
- G. The judge may order a horse removed from competition for bad conduct on the part of the horse or rider. The judge may also request the removal of any piece of equipment he/she feels is unsafe or inhumane. The judge may disqualify an exhibitor's mount from participation in a class based on the judgment of safety or health risk, or unsoundness. Failure to comply with his/her request will result in disqualification. Should the judge observe any abusive or inhumane treatment of mounts anywhere on the show grounds, he/she may take whatever action he/she deems necessary. This action should be consistent with the severity of the infraction and can range from requesting that the action stop to removal of the exhibitor and mount from the show grounds.

- H. The judge may order any individual removed from the proximity of the show ring for bad language, heckling, or other abuse if it is relative to the judge's performance. The Show Steward also has this authority; see Section One, XII –K.
- I. All questions regarding a judge's decision will be directed to the Show Steward first. The Show Steward will approach the judge. The judge may explain his/her decision, but he/she is not required to do so.
- J. The judge will place himself/herself in a position to see the entire performance in timed events. If he/she chooses to view the timer display, it will be made available to him. He/she may request the ringmaster to assist him/her if necessary. Also additional help may be necessary to enforce the rules in novelty classes (i.e. Musical chairs, Bareback on a Buck, etc.). However, these assistants must be selected for their integrity and knowledge.
- K. In events such as pleasure, horsemanship, and open classes where the entire class is performing at one time, the judge may be placed in an elevated position about four feet above ground level at ringside. They should place themselves so that they will have a reasonably good view of the entire ring.
- L. A judge may not socialize with exhibitors, owners, trainers, or anyone involved with the exhibition of horses or ponies. He/she may not comment about exhibitor performance to anyone except in his/her capacity as a judge until all judging for the show is over. Violation of this section will cause a judge to be suspended for a period of six months after which he/she may be put on probation for six months.
- M. A judge may not judge more than one MWA point show within any 30 day period.
- N. A judge must be at least 21 years of age.

XIII. **STEWARDS**

- A. The Board of Directors will appoint a Show Steward who is a member in good standing of the MWA and has a thorough knowledge of the rules and regulations as set forth in the MWA handbook.
- B. The Show Steward will have a comprehensive knowledge of general horse show procedures and will be available for clarification of the rules.
- C. The responsibility for settling disputes rests with the Show Steward and all complaints pertaining to MWA rules and procedures will be handled by him/her. He/she must be capable of making clear, unbiased decisions. He/she may confer with the judge and/or show committee as the case may require. Any complaint or charge made as the result of an infraction of MWA rules, which cannot be resolved immediately, must be filed in writing with the President of MWA or the Chief Steward within 3 days of the date of its occurrence. A hearing will then be granted in accordance with the rules as set forth in Section XIII Disputes.
- D. In classes where courses or patterns are prescribed, the Show Steward will, upon request, ascertain that they are regulation MWA courses or patterns.
- E. The Show Steward may function in the role of Ring Master, assistant to the judge, or another person may fulfill this function.
- F. No score may be altered nor placing of horses be changed, except for an infraction of MWA rules. Any infraction which is not detected before the exhibitors have left the ring will not be justification for changing the order of places but the points may be held upon an official complaint pending a hearing.
- G. The Show Steward may provide an exhibitor with information from the judge's score card, with the judge's permission, but on that exhibitor's performance only. **No exhibitor may see the entire score card for comparison of scores or performance.** The judge may be requested to explain his decision, but he/she is not required to do so.

- H. It shall be the responsibility of the Show Steward to advise the judge of the rules for judging as set forth in Section XI.
- I. The Show Steward is approved to judge timed events that are running concurrent with performance events that require the judge's presence. The decision of the Show Steward will be final and carry the same weight as the judge's decision.
- J. The Show Steward may order any individual removed from the proximity of the show ring for bad language, heckling, or other abuse if it is relative to the judge's performance, operation of the show, and the safety or well-being of other exhibitors. The judge has this same authority; see Section One, XI -H.
- K. Should the Show Steward observe any abusive or inhumane treatment of mounts anywhere on the show grounds, he/she may take whatever action he/she deems necessary. This action should be consistent with the severity of the infraction and can range from requesting that the action stop to removal of the exhibitor from the show grounds

XIV. **DISPUTES CONCERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- A. Disputes concerning an infraction of the rules and regulations of MWA will be brought to the attention of the Show Steward at any point show. Only an owner or exhibitor may lodge a protest or register a complaint. Correction of the infraction may be requested on the spot and the matter resolved.
- B. If the dispute is not resolved, the complainant may request a hearing before the Board of Directors. The complainant and the party/parties against whom the complaint is lodged will be present at this meeting. A 2/3 majority vote of those BOD members present shall be necessary to settle the dispute.
- C. Should the complainant be dissatisfied with the decision of the BOD, he/she may, upon posting a fee of \$25.00, request a hearing before a five-member, impartial committee appointed by the President and selected from the Board. A majority vote of the members of this committee will decide the dispute. The fee of \$25.00 is forfeited if the dispute is decided against the complainant.
- D. Validity of any disputed points will be decided by a majority vote of the BOD.

XV. **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE RULES**

Any member or organization who fails to follow the General Rules and Recommendations of MWA where they apply, will be subject to a warning and possible loss of membership in MWA. Any loss of membership shall be decided by a 2/3 majority vote of the BOD.

XVI. **CONDUCT AT MWA-APPROVED SHOWS**

- A. It is the responsibility of each member of MWA, whether he/she is an exhibitor or spectator, to conduct himself/herself in such a way as to create an image of the horse enthusiast which is in keeping with the objectives and purposes of this organization.
- B. It shall be the obligation of the horse show chair to report, within 3 days after the show date, to the Show Steward any instances of willful personal conduct on the part of owners and/or exhibitors of MWA-registered horses which jeopardize the safety of others or which are detrimental to the reputation of riders in general. It shall then be the duty of the BOD to provide a hearing for the persons involved and to take whatever action deemed necessary. This action may take the form of a warning, suspension, or revocation of horse registration and MWA membership privileges.

XVII. **ABUSE OF HORSES**

- A. Any rider striking, hitting or hazing his horse during a performance will be disqualified for that event, except in the case of timed events and over fences. In timed events, a crop, bat and/or spurs may be used; but if used, must be used humanely.

- B. Any tear in the flesh of the horse or bleeding as the result of the use of spurs, bat, crop, bits or any other piece of equipment shall be cause for the removal of the animal from competition for the remainder of that show.
- C. Any bit, strap, steel or wire used in conjunction with the bit, which causes bleeding from the mouth, around the mouth, or under the chin of the horse shall be cause for removal of that horse from competition for the remainder of that show.
- D. Any treatment deemed abusive by the judge, anywhere on the show grounds, will be cause for disqualification. The judge may require the removal of any piece of equipment deemed cruel or abusive. Failure to comply with the judge's request will result in disqualification.

XVIII. **FALLS**

- A. Any rider falling from his/her horse shall be disqualified from that event. Any part of the rider's body having touched the ground constitutes a fall.
- B. Any horse falling shall be disqualified from that event. The horse's haunches or shoulders touching the ground will constitute a fall. A horse is not to be considered fallen if his haunches touch the ground in a sliding stop.

XIX. **EXHIBITORS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to be ready and available for his/her classes. The judge shall have the right to eliminate any exhibitor who does not enter the ring within **one minute** after his/her number is called. The exhibitor, thus being eliminated, forfeits his/her entry fee.
- B. Upon call, an exhibitor must begin the performance of his/her pattern immediately.
- C. In all classes, entries will close when the first horse enters the ring.
- D. An exhibitor who withdraws from a class after judging begins forfeits his/her entry fees.
- E. Any rider may exhibit more than one horse in any individual performance class, but each horse may be shown only once in each class except in the case of a non-pointed schooling ride. In the latter instance, the exhibitor must turn their number over.
- F. When one rider is exhibiting more than one horse, the number displayed must be the number assigned to the horse being exhibited.
- G. There shall be no warm-up of horses in close proximity to the show ring and horses may not be tethered nor stood near the rail where they will distract the horses which are performing in the ring. All warm up will be done in the areas provided for that purpose.

XX. **IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS**

In all classes, failure to wear a correct number in a visible manner will result in disqualification. In rail classes numbers may be worn on either the back or BOTH sides of saddle pads.

XXI. **ATTIRE**

All exhibitors will be suitably attired for the class type. See specific rules under each type. Exhibitors will wear one number on their back or two numbers, one on each side of saddle pad. Speed riders may use one number on their saddle pad.

XXII. CONDITION OF TACK AND APPAREL

- A. Each exhibitor will be responsible for tack and apparel that is in good working condition. A breakage in equipment will not be excusable once the course is started, except in over fences portion of a class. However, if the horse is not on course, a period not to exceed 5 minutes will be allowed to make repairs.
- B. An accident or mishap affecting the exhibitor's apparel will be handled in the same manner as for other equipment.

XXIII. MINIMUM CLASS SIZE

One entry will constitute a class. Classes having less than 3 entries may be combined, to be run concurrently but placed separately, at the judge's discretion, providing class requirements and gaits are the same. For example: Horsemanship Youth 14-18 & Horsemanship Youth 13 & Under maybe run concurrently, but placing will remain within their respective divisions.

XXIV. TIE SCORES

- A. In the event of a tie scores for "Champion of the Day" or for "Reserve Champion" both exhibitors will receive a ribbon. The exhibitor who is not present forfeits his/her right to a ribbon. Lack of awareness of the points for the day is no excuse
- B. Tie scores for the annual awards at the end of the season shall remain tied. There will be no run off at the final show. However, no more than six (6) places will be given, unless two horses are tied for sixth place, in which case seven awards will be given.

XXV. TIMERS AND WATCHES

- A. Electronic timers may be used for all timed events. An alternative method is to have the events clocked by two persons other than the judge, using separate stop watches, using the average of the two as the official time.
- B. The MWA will provide professional-type stop watches or electric timers and experienced timers if called upon.

XXVI. STALLIONS

No Adult Novice or exhibitor under the age of 18 years may ride or handle a stallion in any class.

XXVII. COGGINS

Proof of a current (within 12 months) negative Coggins test must be available for each horse on the show grounds, for presentation to MWA show chairperson upon request. **The show chairperson will require any horse without such to be immediately removed from the grounds.**

XXVIII. HOLD HARMLESS

All exhibitors are required to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement.

SECTION TWO WESTERN PERFORMANCE CLASSES

I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- A. All general instructions and appointments apply to all age division riders in all western performance classes except where specifically stated otherwise.
- B. When riding a senior horse (6 years of age and older) one and the same hand only may be used on the reins. The hand will be around the reins. One finger between the reins is permitted. When riding with one hand using split reins, the hand not on the reins must be kept free of tack and horse at all times while the horse is performing. In the case of romel reins, the hand on the romel must be a minimum of 16" away from the rein hand.
- C. If the horse is 5 (five) years or under, or eligible for Green Horse Division, two hands shall be allowed on the reins provided the horse is outfitted using a western snaffle (no shank), or bosal. Proof of horse's age at time of registration is required. Horse's age is calculated as of January 1 of the current year.
- D. All exhibitors will be suitably attired according to the current trend in western show apparel, including long pants, and a shirt with long sleeves and a collar. Western boots must be worn. Spurs, chaps and rope may be worn at the option of the rider. Approved helmets are required for youth under 18 years of age. Adults must wear an approved helmet or western hat.
- E. Western saddles and western-style bridles are required. No rawhide or metal device will be allowed in conjunction with the bridle, bit, or curb strap. No tie down, martingale, draw reins or quirt are allowed. Type of bit is optional. No hackamores except bosals are allowed. (Bosals are allowed only on horses 5 or under, with the exception of green horses eligible for green horse division).
- F. Curb chains are permissible provided that two fingers can be placed between the chain and the horses chin, and that it is flat and at least 1/2 inch in width.
- G. The mount must be in acceptable condition, well-groomed and properly trimmed.
- H. During performance in a class on the rail, the horse is reversed by turning away from the rail towards the center of the ring. Horses may not cross over the ring when reversing.
- I. A judge may not call for reversing the ring at a lope or a hand gallop when there are more than 10 horses in the ring.
- J. MWA recommends that a judge consider splitting a western pleasure class into two sections if there are 22 entries or more. After each section has been worked and judged, the judge may ask for a final go-round consisting of entries from both sections.

II. WESTERN PERFORMANCE AND SCORING

- A. **Western Pleasure Class** – The horses will be shown on the rail and in a group at the gaits appropriate for the division and at each required gait in both directions of the ring on a reasonably-loose rein with light contact. Faults will be scored according to severity: being on the incorrect lead, excessive speed, breaking gait, excessive slowness at any gait and/or loss of forward momentum (especially when resulting in an artificial gait at the lope), excessive delay in taking up gaits as called for, touching horse or saddle with free hand, horse's head carried too high or too low (ex: the tip of the ear below the withers), over-flexing and/or nose behind the vertical, excessive nosing out, opening mouth excessively, stumbling, use of spurs in front of the girth, any horse appearing sullen, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly-tired, quick, choppy strides, and reins draped beyond the point where a light contact can be maintained. Horses can be asked to back easily, stand quietly, transition from any gait into any other gait, extend any gait, and reverse at any gait at the discretion of the judge. When asked for a reverse at a lope, a rider may use either a simple or flying lead change. This class is to be

judged on the performance, condition and ability of the horse. An “ideal” western pleasure horse is described as an animal with a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with its conformation. The horse should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. The horse should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct and true gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of gaits and consistency of movement are major considerations. The horse should carry the head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with its poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. The horse should not carry the head behind the vertical, giving an appearance of intimidation or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. The horse’ head should be level, or somewhat above, with his poll softly flexed, being lightly “on the bit”, his nose at or slightly in front of the vertical, with a bright expression and ears alert. The horse should be shown on a reasonably loose rein with light contact and control. The horse should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions as called. When asked to extend, the horse should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the quiet, relaxed, balanced and willing horse that gives an appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride. Consistency of gait, proper cadence, and willingness to perform in a quiet and relaxed manner are to be emphasized over beautiful movement.

- B. **Showmanship At Halter** - Exhibitor will enter the ring leading the horse at an alert walk and proceed around the ring as directed by the judge. Walk on the left side of the horse holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter. The remaining portion of the lead is held neatly and safely in the left hand. The horse shall lead readily at the walk and jog. Continue to walk until the judge requests that the horses to line up. Sufficient room shall be left between horses for the judge to move around with ease. The judge will call each exhibitor to perform individually and will judge on the ability to exhibit the horse with emphasis on alertness, condition and grooming. Horses will not be scored on conformation. The horse is considered a partner in displaying the ability of the handler. If a chain is used, it may only be under the chin. It may not be over the lip or nose.

- C. **Horsemanship** - The rider will be judged as the horse is shown at gaits appropriate for the division in which they are showing. The judge will request each exhibitor to execute a pattern individually. Rail work may not be required. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not considered more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them. Exhibitors may be requested to perform other movements at the discretion of the judge. Change of mounts among exhibitors may not be requested. The judge may ask questions of the riders on the anatomy of the horse, tack, or horsemanship. Replies will be considered in determining placements. Scoring will be on the performance of the rider only. The rider will be judged on hands, seat, and control of mount with emphasis on good hands. Consideration will be given to appointments of horse and rider and suitability of rider to the horse as these features are indicative of rider's knowledge of horsemanship.

- D. **Western Trail Class** – Horses will be worked individually at the all the gaits as required for the division. Only the walk will be used in the Lead-line division. A limited jog may be used in BWT as one task. In-hand Trail will be limited to walk and trot. See specific division rules. All divisions will back. There will be a clearly written description of the course using the numbers for each obstacle on the written pattern. Exhibitors may walk the trail pattern without their horse, prior to the beginning of the trail classes.

The following symbols will be used to represent each gait:

- Walk
- Jog
- _____ Lope
- >>>>>>>> Back

1. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider’s cues on more difficult obstacles.

2. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized.

3. Horses must not be required to work on the rail. The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, lope), or as appropriate for that division's requirements, somewhere between obstacles as a part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score. While on the line-of-travel between obstacles the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. Gait between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.
4. The course to be used must be posted at least one hour before scheduled starting time of the class.
5. **Deductions will result from the following:**
 - Second refusal
 - Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate
 - Use of either hand to instill fear or praise

 - Stepping outside the confines of, falling, or jumping off or out of an obstacle with more than one foot
 - Blatant disobedience (kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking)
 - Failure to complete obstacle
6. Management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. When the distances and spaces are measured between all obstacles, the inside base to inside base measurement of each obstacle considering the normal path of the horse, should be the measuring point. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog at least 30 feet and lope at least 50 feet for the judge to evaluate these gaits.
7. If disrupted, the course shall be reset after each horse has worked. In the case that a combination of obstacles is used, the course cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire course regardless of where any disruption occurs.
8. At least five obstacles must be used.
9. **Examples of Possible Trail Obstacles:**
 - a. Opening, passing through, and closing gate. Use a gate which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
 - b. Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trot-overs and lope-overs cannot be elevated in novice classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block, or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walk-overs, trot-over and lope-over should be as follows or increments thereof.
 - The spacing for walk-overs shall be 20" to 24" (50-60 cm) and may be elevated to 12" (30 cm).
 - Elevated walk-over should be at least 22" (55 cm).
 - The spacing for trot-overs shall be 3' to 3'6" (90 -107 cm) and may be elevated to 8" (20 cm).
 - The spacing for lope-overs shall be 6' to 7' (183-214 cm) or increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8" (20 cm).

- c. Backing Obstacle. Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28". If elevated, 30" spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.
 - d. Back through and around at least three markers.
 - e. Back through L, V, and U straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24".
 - f. Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom-boxes will be used.
 - g. Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be a minimum of 6' for jog.
 - h. Carry object from one part of arena to another. (Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used).
 - i. Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36" wide and at least 6' long). Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.
 - j. Put on and remove slicker.
 - k. Remove and replace materials from mailbox.
 - l. Sidepass (may be elevated to 12" maximum).
 - m. An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5' to 7' long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
 - n. Other safe and negotiable obstacles which should reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail and meets the approval of the judge may be used.
 - o. A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.
10. Unacceptable Obstacles:
- a. Tires
 - b. Animals
 - c. Hides
 - d. PVC Pipe
 - e. Dismounting
 - f. Jumps
 - g. Rocking or moving bridges
 - h. Water box with floating or moving parts
 - i. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
 - j. Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll
 - k. Ground ties
11. By-passing an obstacle does not eliminate the entry. A total of three (3) refusals at any obstacle will be cause for a zero score on that obstacle.

SECTION THREE RANCH HORSE CLASSES

I. RANCH HORSE DIVISION ALL AGES

RANCH HORSE ALL AGES will consists of two (2) separate divisions of four (4) classes each. The divisions are to be Walk-Trot All Ages and Walk-Trot-Lope All Ages. Cross-entering will be allowed. The following classes will be offered in each division: Ranch Trail, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Riding and Ranch Round Up. Exhibitors are allowed to cross enter in another division for which they are qualified. There will be NO penalty for exhibitors dismounting /mounting with a mounting block and assistance for people with a disability. **Hoof polishes, braided or banded manes, tail extensions, trimming inside of ears, silver on bridles and/or saddles are discouraged. However, these items will NOT be penalized.** Trimming bridle path, fetlocks, long facial hair and simple, workmanlike, (i.e. no-"bling") western attire is encouraged. **However, western attire with silver trim or other embellishments will NOT be penalized.** Holding the saddle horn with either hand will NOT be penalized in any class. Riders can post or stand at the extended trot.

- A. **Ranch Riding** – This class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another. The horse should be well-broke,

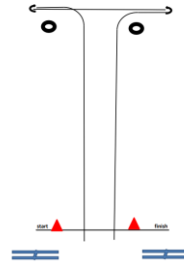
relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural and level head carriage at each gait. This class will be shown on an individual pattern. Horses will be asked to extend gaits. Horses may be asked to walk over logs, back, reverse, sidepass, or perform a turn-around. It will be offered both as 3-gait (walk-trot-lope) and 2-gait (walk-trot) class.

- B. **Ranch Horse Pleasure** – This class spotlights the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural and level head carriage at each gait. Horses may be asked to walk, extended walk, trot, extended trot, lope, extended lope, reverse, and back. Horses can be shown individually or as a group on the rail.
- C. **Ranch Trail** – This class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered in everyday riding. The horse is ridden through a pattern of obstacles which should nearly approximate those found during the course of everyday work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency, and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well-broke, responsive, and well-manned horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. No mandatory obstacles. All obstacles are optional and may include such items as walk overs, trot overs, lope overs, gate, bridge, backing through an L, V or U, sidepass, rope drag, daisy wheel, small jump, roping artificial bull, stepping in and out of an object, putting on slicker or coat, pick up horse's feet, walk through brush, ground tie, etc.

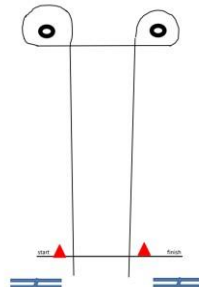
Examples of Ranch Obstacles:

- a. Ride over logs or poles at walk, jog, or lope. No more than 5 poles/logs and with a maximum 10 inches height.
- b. Walk-overs – 26-30 inches apart.
- c. Trot-overs – 36-42 inches apart. Formation can be straight, curved, or zigzagged.
- d. Lope-overs – 6-7 feet apart. Formation can be straight, curved, or zigzagged.
- e. Gate
- f. Bridge
- g. Backing – Obstacles are spaced a minimum of 28 inches apart, 30 inches if elevated. Back through and around at least three markers, back through L, V, U or straight or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 24 inches.
- h. Side-pass obstacle should not exceed 12 inches.
- i. Rope drag
- j. Jump between 14 – 25 inches, holding the saddle horn is permissible.
- k. Stuffed animals
- l. Carry an object.
- m. Mailbox
- n. Swing or throw rope at a dummy steer head. Only one try is allowed. Judge is looking to see how the horse handles the rider swinging and throwing the rope.
- o. Step in and out of an obstacle.
- p. Put on slicker or coat.
- q. Walk through water obstacle.
- r. Open gate on foot.
- s. Pick up feet.
- t. Walk through brush.
- u. Ground tie.
- v. Lead at the trot.
- w. Use of a step up will NOT be a penalty for any obstacle requiring a dismount.
- x. No penalty for assistance with dismount by anyone with a disability.

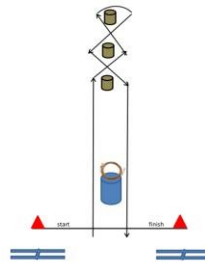
- D. **Ranch Round Up** – This class is a timed event which highlights the agility, versatility and the quickness of a ranch horse when asked. Exhibitors will perform a specific pattern as outlined in this rulebook. Exhibitors will be expected to follow rules under Section Six, Timed/Speed Events of this rulebook and will be under the direction and discretion of the Speed Show Steward.
- a. Scoring & Penalties: Exhibitors will be placed according to fastest times, including all penalty times.
 - i. Failure to follow the pattern exactly will result in disqualification.
 - ii. For Walk Trot entries, loping more than 3 strides in a course will result in disqualification.
 - iii. Dropping rope or hitting horse with rope will be automatic disqualification. Dropping any other accessory will be automatic disqualification.
 - iv. Any knock down (barrels, poles or markers) while on course will result in a 5 second penalty, for each occurrence.
 - v. The horse will come into the ring at a walk and under control or be disqualified.
 - vi. The horse and rider will begin the course from any point within the arena and be clocked as they pass through the starting line and again at the finish line. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
 - b. Timers: The horse will be clocked by an electric timer, or by two persons other than the judge, using separate stopwatches and the time averaged. Should the marker at either side of the start/finish line be hit, knocked over or broken by any part of the horse or rider, the horse will be disqualified. Should the horse fail to pass between the markers, the horse will be disqualified.
 - c. Patterns to be selected from the following:
 - i. Pattern 1: Two (2) 55 gallon unweighted barrels will placed 120 feet from the start/finish line, mid-line in the ring, 40 feet apart. Barrels will be set squarely and firmly so as not to lean or topple. Rider may start on the right. Run up turn the to the right, at Right Marker (barrel) go past marker, Left Rollback, run across the top side of the markers go past Left Marker (barrel), Right Rollback turn and run past finish line.



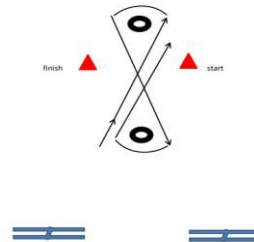
- ii. Pattern 2: Two (2) 55 gallon unweighted barrels will placed 120 feet from the start/finish line, mid-line in the ring, 60 feet apart. Barrels will be set squarely and firmly so as not to lean or topple. Rider may start on either side, run down between barrels, turn both the barrels as drawn and return on the opposite side.



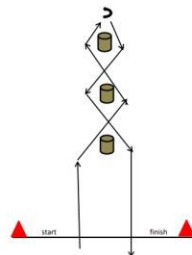
- iii. Pattern 3: Three (3) barrels placed in a straight line 21 feet apart and 42 feet from another barrel, with 21 feet to the start/finish line. Start on either side of the first barrel, at barrel pick up rope and weave in and out, circling the last barrel and weaving back, returning rope to opposite side of barrel from which it was retrieved, (as shown below):



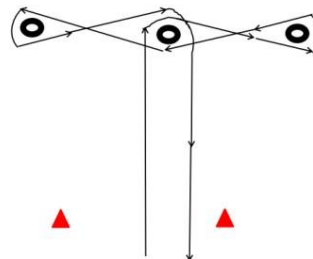
- iv. Pattern 4: Two (2) barrels in a straight line 30 feet from the start/finish line and 90 feet apart. Start on either side, cross the start line, turn left or right go back across the start finish line make a left or right turn to make a figure 8 and cross the start finish line to end your time.



- v. Pattern 5: Three (3) barrels placed in a straight line 21 feet apart and 21 feet from the start/finish line. Start on left side of the first barrel and weave in and out, after passing the last marker Roll Back Left and weaving back as shown below:



- vi. Pattern 6: One (1) pole will be placed 120 feet from the start/finish line. Two (2) poles will be placed 21 feet to either side of the center pole. The horse must run between the center and end pole and turn the pole (either direction) and weave the poles to returning to center pole then to the start/finish line. Turn around top side of middle center pole go to end pole and turn around bottom side. Weave the bottom side of middle pole and then turn around the top side of the other end pole. Go to middle and turn around top side of middle pole and run across the finish line. See diagram below.



SECTION FOUR MINIATURE HORSE CLASSES

I. **MINIATURE HORSE DIVISION**

MINIATURE HORSE DIVISION is open to all ages of handlers, regardless of eligibility for other level-restricted divisions. Handlers may cross enter into other divisions. Open exclusively to miniatures with a maximum height of 40 inches. Hats, boots, and long sleeved shirts/blouses or jackets are required in all classes. This division will consist of 3 classes. These will be Mini Horse Showmanship, Mini Horse Halter and Mini Horse Trail.

- A. **Mini Horse Showmanship**: This class is judged on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show in a halter class. A pattern will be required. Show the horse to his/her advantage and keep showing until the class is dismissed. Exhibitor will enter the ring leading the horse at an alert walk and proceed around the ring as directed by the judge. Walk on the left side of the horse holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter. The remaining portion of the lead is held neatly and safely in the left hand. The horse shall lead readily at the walk and jog. Continue to walk until the judge requests that the horses to line up. Sufficient room shall be left between horses for the judge to move around with ease. The judge will call each exhibitor to perform individually and will judge on the ability to exhibit the horse with emphasis on alertness, condition and grooming. Horses will not be scored on conformation. The horse is considered a partner in displaying the ability of the handler. If a chain is used, it may only be under the chin. It may not be over the lip or nose.
- B. **Mini Horse Halter**: This class is to be judged on conformation. Handler is not to be judged on ability. Any horse becoming loose from its handler will be disqualified. Horses will be led at a walk and jog. If all conformation factors are the same, judging preference will go to the smaller horse.
- C. **Mini Horse Trail**: The Mini Horse will be led over obstacles. The horse may be asked to walk and jog. Performance is judged over obstacles and response to handler and intelligence. Horses will not be scored on conformation. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the handler and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the handler's cues on more difficult obstacles. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Obstacles will be similar to that of the regular Trail classes.

SECTION FIVE IN-HAND CLASSES

I. **IN-HAND TRAIL**

Open to any age handler. Open to any horse, registered or not. This class is designed to provide handlers the opportunity to show and promote for a performance career without undue mental and physical stress.

A. GENERAL CLASS RULES. Western or English Attire and Tack to be used. Horses are to be exhibited in a halter or bridle. A chain may be used under the jaw or over the nose only with a halter only.

1. In-Hand Trail horses should exhibit calm, willing attitude while negotiating the course; demonstrate trust and confidence in the handler yet be cautious when approaching obstacles.
 - Judges should consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning and grooming, and the equipment in their overall scores.
 - Handler may not touch the horse.

- Horse should display free and natural gaits.
- Credit to be given to horses negotiating obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing carefulness is not sacrificed. Credit to be given to horses showing capability of picking their own way through course when obstacles warrant it

2. Horses shall be penalized for unnecessary delay, displays of aggression or resentment to handler, attempting to run off or pull away from handler or breaks free of handler.

3. COURSE REQUIREMENTS.

- Use care in setting up the course. Care must be exercised to avoid the setting up of any obstacles in a manner that may be hazardous to the horse or handler. Obstacles should be placed in such a manner that they flow from one to the other quickly and efficiently.
- Horses are to be exhibited over the same obstacles used in riding Western Trail classes. They will be shown only at a walk and jog. They will not be required to lope
- The course shall be reset, if disrupted, after the exhibitor finishes the entire obstacle.
- The judge (s) must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. They may remove or change any obstacle deemed unsafe or non-negotiable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If the obstacle cannot be repaired and horses have 64 completed the course, negotiating such unsafe or unrepairable obstacle, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous goes for that class.

4. SCORING SYSTEM. Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, -½ poor, 0 correct, + ½ good, + 1 very good and + 1 ½ excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:

a) Zero (0) Points ~ disqualification

- Performing the obstacles other than in specified order, failure to enter, exit or work obstacle in any manner other than how it's is described, failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles and working outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area.
- No attempts to perform an obstacle.
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
- Third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing over entire course.
- Failure to demonstrate correct gait between obstacles as designated.
- Horse gets loose from exhibitor. 65
- Handling of horse from the wrong side.
- Fall or horse or handler.
- Excessive schooling, pulling turning or backing anywhere on course.
- Failure to complete obstacles.

5. OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS. At least six obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three others selected from the list of optional obstacles.

a) MANDATORY IN-HAND TRAIL OBSTACLES.

- Opening, passing through, and closing a gate. Use a gate that will not endanger the horse or exhibitor. b. Exhibit over at least four logs or poles. These can be in
- Straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured, and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so that they cannot roll.

- The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers and trot-overs should be as follows or increments thereof. d. Walkovers shall be 20-24" and may be elevated up to 12". Elevated walkovers should be at least 22". e. Trot-overs shall be 36-42" and may be elevated up to 8".
- Backing an obstacle. Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28". If elevated, 30" spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar. g. Back through and around at least three markers.
 - Back through an I, V, U, straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24".
- b) OPTIONAL OBSTACLES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:
- Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes will be used.
 - Serpentine obstacles at a walk or jog. Spacing to be a minimum of 6' for jog.
 - Carry object from one part of arena to another. Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used.
 - Walk over a wooden bridge. Minimum width of 36" and at least 6' long. Bridge should be sturdy and safe and negotiated at a walk only.
 - Put on and remove a slicker.
 - Remove and replace materials in a mailbox.
 - An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, 6' to 8' long, laid in a square. Each exhibitor will enter the square by walking over the log/rail designated. When all four feet are inside the square, the exhibitor should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
 - Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be expected to encounter on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge, may be used.
 - A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.
- c) UNACCEPTABLE OBSTACLES FOR IN-HAND TRAIL.
- Tires
 - Animals
 - Hides
 - PVC Pipe
 - Rocking or moving bridges
 - Water box with floating or moving parts
 - Flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers, etc.
 - Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such items to roll
 - Ground ties

SECTION SIX ENGLISH PERFORMANCE CLASSES

I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- A. All general instructions and appointments apply to all age division riders in all English performance classes except where specifically stated otherwise.
- B. All exhibitors will be suitably attired according to the current trend in English show apparel, including breeches or jodhpurs, hunt coats, and stock tie or choker. English boots or Jodhpur boots, and approved helmets or hunt caps must be worn. Approved safety helmets are mandatory for youth under 18 years of age. In all jumping classes, an approved safety helmet with harness fastened in place must be worn. If the judge wishes, coats may be excused in hot weather, riders may partake provided they are wearing a proper English riding shirt.
- C. English saddles and English-style bridles are required. In all English classes an English snaffle (no shank), Kimberwick, Pelham or full bridle (with two reins) is allowed. All horses ridden in any English class must have a bit in its mouth. No martingales or polo wraps are allowed.

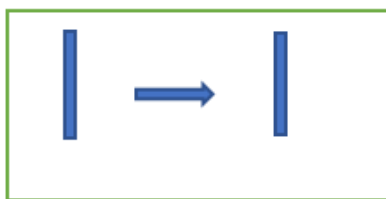
- D. A judge may not call for reversing the ring at a canter or a hand gallop when there are more than 10 horses in the ring.
- E. During performance in a class on the rail, the horse is reversed by turning away from the rail towards the center of the ring. Horses may not cross over the ring when reversing.
- F. MWA recommends that a judge consider splitting an English pleasure class into two sections if there are 22 entries or more. After each section has been worked and judged, the judge may ask for a final go-round consisting of entries from both sections.

II. **ENGLISH PERFORMANCE AND SCORING**

- A. **Hunter Under Saddle Class** – The horses will be shown on the rail and in a group at the gaits appropriate for the division and at each required gait in both directions of the ring with light contact. Faults to be scored according to severity include: the incorrect lead at a canter or diagonal at the posting trot, breaking gait, excessive speed, excessive slowness, lack of forward impulsion, failure to take appropriate gait when called for, head too low, head too high, over-flexion, excessive nosing out, consistently showing off the rail and/or consistently working on the inside track, failure to maintain consistent light contact, stumbling, excessive working of the horse's mouth by the rider, disobedient or exhibiting lack of control by the rider, and any horse appearing sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn, or overly tired. Horses can be asked to back easily, stand quietly, hand gallop, transition from any gait into any other gait, extend any gait, and reverse at any gait at the discretion of the judge. When asked for a reverse at a canter a rider may use either a simple or flying lead change. When asked for a reverse at a working trot (ex: posting) the exhibitors are expected to change their diagonals. This class is to be judged on the performance, condition, and ability of the horse. A Hunter Under Saddle horse is defined as a horse or pony suitable for riding as a hunter. The ideal Hunter Under Saddle mount will carry itself in a natural, balanced, and relaxed manner. Maximum credit is given to an animal that moves straight and correct with a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with its conformation, and that responds willingly, bends easily, has good manners and is obedient to the rider. The horse should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. The horse should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct and true gaits that are of the proper cadence. The maintenance of pace and cadence and consistency of gaits are major considerations. The horse should carry its head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with, or somewhat above, the level of the withers. The horse should not carry its head behind the vertical, giving an appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. The head should be level, or somewhat above, with his poll softly flexed, being lightly on the bit, his nose at or slightly in front of the vertical, with a bright expression and ears alert. The horse would be shown "on the bit" with a light contact and control. The horse would be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions as called. When asked to extend, the horse would move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the quiet, relaxed, balanced, and willing horse that gives an appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride on a hunt. Consistency of gait, proper cadence, and willingness to perform in a quiet and relaxed manner are to be emphasized over "brilliance" and extravagant movement.
- B. **Equitation** - The rider will be judged as the horse is shown either on the rail at the gait (s) appropriate for the division, both ways of the ring on light contact or individually, or both. The judge may request each exhibitor to execute a pattern individually, or other individual work, and may ask questions on the rider's knowledge of horsemanship. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not considered more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them. Exhibitors may be requested to perform other movements at the discretion of the judge. Change of mounts among exhibitors may not be requested. The judge may ask questions of the riders on the anatomy of the horse, tack, or horsemanship. Replies will be considered in determining placements. Scoring will be on the performance of the rider only. Rider will be judged on hands, seat, guidance and control of mount with emphasis on a secure leg and soft hands. Performance by the mount is considered in relation to the rider's ability to produce that performance through correct use of the rider's aids. Suitability of rider to horse will be considered as significant of the rider's ability to control the horse. Considerations will be given to appointments and turnout as an indication of the rider's knowledge of proper horsemanship.

- C. **Disciplined Rail** – This class will be judged, working class based on the horse’s promptness to perform to commands, rider’s abilities and equitation in completing maneuvers. At the judge’s discretion, the judge will require riders to perform dictated maneuvers on the rail. These can include: walk, trot, canter, change leads (flying or simple), hand gallop, and stop & stand quietly on loose or dropped rein. Walk-trot classes will not be asked to canter or gallop. (Note: this class is similar to command; however, there will be no eliminations in the class.)
- D. **English Pleasure Hack** – This English Pleasure Hack Horse shall move in the style of an English pleasure horse. Horses will be judged on style over fences, even pace, flat work, manners, and way of going. Horses Placement in the class will be judged with a minimum of 70% on performance over fences and a maximum of 30% of under saddle work. Horses will be required to jump before performing under saddle. Horses to be considered for an award must be shown on the rail at least one direction. *Also see Section “G”*
- E. **Green Horse English Pleasure Hack** – This English Pleasure Hack Horse shall move in the style of an English pleasure horse. Horses will be judged on style over fences, even pace, flat work, manners, and way of going. Horses Placement in the class will be judged with a minimum of 70% on performance over fences and a maximum of 30% of under saddle work. Horses will be required to jump before performing under saddle. Horses to be considered for an award must be shown on the rail at least one direction. *Also see Section “G”*
- F. **Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot English Pleasure Hack** – Horses are expected to be judged according to their suitability as a child’s English Pleasure mount, with the emphasis on manners and jumping style. Preference is to be given to horses with a safe and corrected jumping style, who maintain an even pace, meeting the jumps squarely and honestly jumping at the center of the jump. A courtesy circle is recommended but not required, and is not to be scored more. Constants may be asked to extend the trot, sit the trot, stop and back, and /or stop and stand quietly on a loose rein at the judge’s discretion. At no time are riders to be asked to canter. Loose form, as long as it is safe, is to be penalized only slightly as the jumps are small. *Also see Section “G”*
- G. **Hack Scoring and Rules (Applies to Sections “D” through “F”)**
- Fence Heights - Horses and ponies are first required to jump two (2) fences. Fence heights are as follows:
English Adult and Youth 18 & Under English Division – 2’ (feet)
Green Horse Division – 18” (inches)
Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot Division – 1’ (feet)
 - Jumps may be set up in a line or side by side. If jumps are set on a line, they should be set apart in increments of 12’ (feet) such as 36’ (feet), 48’ (feet), or 60’ (feet) apart. If jumps are set up side by side, a turn or half circle of any size will be required by the exhibitor (see diagram). A ground pole is recommended for each jump.

Example # 1



Example # 2



- c) The following are to be penalized harshly, in order of severity:
 1. Major disobedience: refusal, running out, loss of forward movement, unnecessary circling, bolting, bucking, rearing, etc.
 2. Off course
 3. Dangerous jumping form: hanging of legs, popping, and tripping over jump/unwillingness to pick up front legs.
 4. Lack of forward momentum or excessive speed.
 5. Canter between or after fences. (Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot Division)
 6. "Trotting" over the jump: i.e. horses who pick up legs INDIVIDUALLY, slightly higher than a normal with on change of pace, appearing to step over the jump.
 7. Excessive use of whip.
- d) Faults on the rail shall not be penalized more severely than faults over fences. Faults on the rail are the same as in an under saddle class, and should be scored accordingly
- e) Horses which are eliminated in the over fences portion of the class shall be disqualified, and not allowed to exhibit in the flat work portion of the class. Mounts may be eliminated in over fences portion of the class for:
 - Going off course (example: taking a jump the wrong direction)
 - A total of three (3) disobediences (either refusal or run outs)
 - Jumping an obstacle before it is reset
 - Fall of horse or rider
- f) Jumps a reset between exhibitors, as needed. Any broken poles or standards must be replaced between exhibitors. In the case of broken equipment on the horse or rider, the rider may either continue without penalty, or stop and correct the difficulty in a timely fashion.
- g) Equipment needed for these classes includes a minimum of: four (4) standards/wings, six (6) poles, six (6) jump cups, and six (6) pins.
- h) Either of the following will be made available for exhibitor(s) schooling:
 - A schooling area with one (1) jump (those practicing to exhibit may determine the heights of their schooling jump), or
 - Practice time in the show arena with jumps set up. Practice time is designated and announced by show management, at heights appropriate for each class.

**SECTION SEVEN
LEAD-LINE AND BEGINNER WALK TROT**

I. LEAD-LINE CLASSES

A. Instructions and Appointments

1. All exhibitors will be suitably attired according to the current trend in Western/English or Speed show apparel. For Speed riders, attire will be same as regular speed classes. Approved safety helmets are required for all riders under 18 years of age. (See specific rules for Western Performance or English Performance or Speed section.)
2. The handler must also be neatly and sensibly dressed in appropriate Western or English or Speed attire, to follow suit of rider, such as boots, cowboy or wide brim hats (no ball caps, although hats are not required), long or short-sleeved shirts, long skirt or dress, long pants. Tank tops, tee-shirts, flip flops or shorts are not acceptable show wear by the handler. This applies to all Lead-line classes.

3. The handler must be at least 14 years of age. If handler is under the age of 18, they must wear a helmet for lead line purpose only.
4. Lead-line is the only division that will allow an exhibitor to be led and earn points.
5. The exhibitors must have feet in stirrups.
6. For Western riders, split reins or romel reins may be used. If split reins are used, they may be fastened or knotted together to prevent the loss of a rein.
7. Points are accumulated on the rider only.

B. Performance and Scoring

1. To be judged on position of hands and feet, seat (posture and correctness in the saddle) and promise of rider (some beginning ability to cue and control the mount).
2. Classes will be offered in both performance/equitation and speed. All Lead-line classes are English/ Western and riders may show in either attire. There will be 3 classes offering in each section for each speed and performance/equitation.

A. Lead-line Performance Horsemanship /Equitation Division:

1. **Lead-line - Attached** class require that the mount be shown at a walk in both directions of the ring. The judge may request each rider to back his/her mount. A separate Lead-line, not the reins, must be used by the handler. The handler will keep the Lead-line attached at all times, and handler will lead the mount throughout the class. Lead-line Division handler must be 14 years of age or older. If handler is under the age of 18, the handler must wear a helmet for Lead-Line purpose only. Exhibitors This is to be considered a walk/trot class
2. **Lead-line - Detached** class are the same as Lead-line attached except lead will be detached from the mount. For safety reasons, the handler must remain with the rider & mount throughout the entire class. Lead-line Division handler must be 14 years of age or older. If handler is under the age of 18, the handler must wear a helmet for Lead-Line purpose only. Exhibitors
3. **Lead-line - Trail** class requires mounts and riders will be led over obstacles. The horse will only be asked to walk. Performance is judged over obstacles. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse & rider over obstacles, with emphasis on response to the rider and skill of rider. Riders should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and skill in responding to the challenge on more difficult obstacles. Credit will be given for effort of rider. Obstacles will be similar to that of the regular Trail. Lead-line Division handler must be 14 years of age or older. If handler is under the age of 18, the handler must wear a helmet for Lead-Line purpose only. Handlers/ exhibitors be responsible to review posted trail course prior to entering the arena. In the event that no course is posted in advance, the judge may review the course with handlers/exhibitors prior to the start of the class. The handler will keep the Lead-line attached at all times, and handler will lead mount through the trail course.

B. Lead-line Speed Division:

1. **Lead-line - Plug** class requires mounts and riders will be led around a shortened version of the Plug Race course. All regular speed rules & procedures apply with exception that there will be a handler leading the horse with the child and the distances are modified. (See specific rules for this pattern in Speed section.) The exhibitor will be timed. Parent/Handler must stay at horses shoulder when crossing the Start/Finish line. Lead-line Division handler must be 14 years of age or older. If handler is under the age of 18, the handler must wear a helmet for Lead-Line purpose only. This is to be considered a walk/trot class. Animals that lope/canter/gallop more than three (3) strides will be disqualified from class.

2. **Lead-line - Barrels** class requires mounts and riders will be led around a shortened version of the Barrel Race course. All regular speed rules & procedures apply with exception that there will be a handler leading the horse with the child and the distances are modified. (See specific rules for this pattern in Speed section.) The exhibitor will be timed. Lead-line Division handler must be 14 years of age or older. If handler is under the age of 18, the handler must wear a helmet for Lead-Line purpose only. Parent/Handler must stay at horses shoulder when crossing the Start/Finish line. This is to be considered a walk/trot class. Animals that lope/canter/gallop more than three (3) strides will be disqualified from class.
3. **Lead-line - Versatility** class requires mounts and riders will be led around a shortened version of the chosen Versatility course for that show. All regular speed rules & procedures apply with exception that there will be a handler leading the horse with the child and the distances are modified. (See specific rules for this pattern in Speed section.) The exhibitor will be timed. Lead-line Division handler must be 14 years of age or older. If handler is under the age of 18, the handler must wear a helmet for Lead-Line purpose only. Parent/Handler must stay at horses shoulder when crossing the Start/Finish line. This is to be considered a walk/trot class. Animals that lope/canter/gallop more than three (3) strides will be disqualified from class.

II. **BEGINNER WALK TROT CLASSES**

A. **Instructions and Appointments**

4. All exhibitors will be suitably attired according to the current trend in Western or English show apparel. Approved safety helmets are required for all riders under 18 years of age. (See specific rules for Western Performance and/or English Performance section).
5. Points are accumulated on the rider only.
6. All Beginner Walk Trot Classes are English/ Western and riders may show in either attire.
7. For Western riders, split reins or romel reins may be used. If split reins are used, they may be fastened or knotted together to prevent the loss of a rein.

B. **Performance and Scoring**

1. Riders will be judged on hands, seat, control of mount, general ability and other criteria suitable for the nature of the class. To be judged on position of hands and feet, seat (posture and correctness in the saddle) and promise of rider (some beginning ability to cue and control the mount).
2. Classes will be offered to be shown in either English or Western and riders may show either discipline.
3. A pace is not recognized as an acceptable gait and any entry pacing will be disqualified.
4. There will be 3 classes offered in performance/equitation.

1) **Beginner Walk Trot (Performance Horsemanship/Equitation) Division:**

1. **Beginner Walk Trot – Walk** class requires that the mount be shown at a walk in both directions of the ring. The judge may request each rider to back his/her mount. This class will be judged on the performance of the rider with emphasis on skill of rider & equitation.
2. **Beginner Walk Trot – With Individual Trot** class require that the mount be shown at a walk in both directions of the ring. The judge will request each rider to trot individually on direction of the Ring Steward. In the event that a rider should need assistance by the ring steward, that exhibitor will not be pinned above another exhibitor who performed without assistance. The judge may request each rider to back his/her mount.

3. **Beginner Walk Trot – Trail** class requires mounts and riders will be shown over obstacles. The horse will only be asked to walk. A small trot is an optional task. Performance is judged over obstacles. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse & rider over obstacles, with emphasis on response to the rider and skill of rider. Riders should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and skill in responding to the challenge on more difficult obstacles. Credit will be given for effort of rider. Obstacles will be similar to that of the regular Trail. Exhibitors be responsible to review posted trail course prior to entering the arena. In the event that no course is posted in advance, the judge may review the course with exhibitors (&/or parents/coaches) prior to the start of the class.

SECTION EIGHT HALTER CLASSES

I. CLASSES

- A. Halter - Ponies (under 14.2 hands)
Halter - 2 years old and under
Adult Halter- 3 & Over
Youth Halter- 3 & Over
- B. All horses' ages are calculated as of January 1 of the current year.
- C. General Instructions and Appointments: Handlers must be neatly and appropriately attired with regard to the horses breed or type. Horses may show in either a halter or a bridle as appropriate to breed or type.

II. PERFORMANCE AND SCORING

- A. Horses are scored on conformation, according to structural correctness and balance.
- B. Horses will be led at a walk and jog.
- C. The horse will be turned with the exhibitor staying on the opposite of the horse so the judge may have an unobstructed view as the horse performs.

SECTION NINE TIMED/ SPEED EVENTS

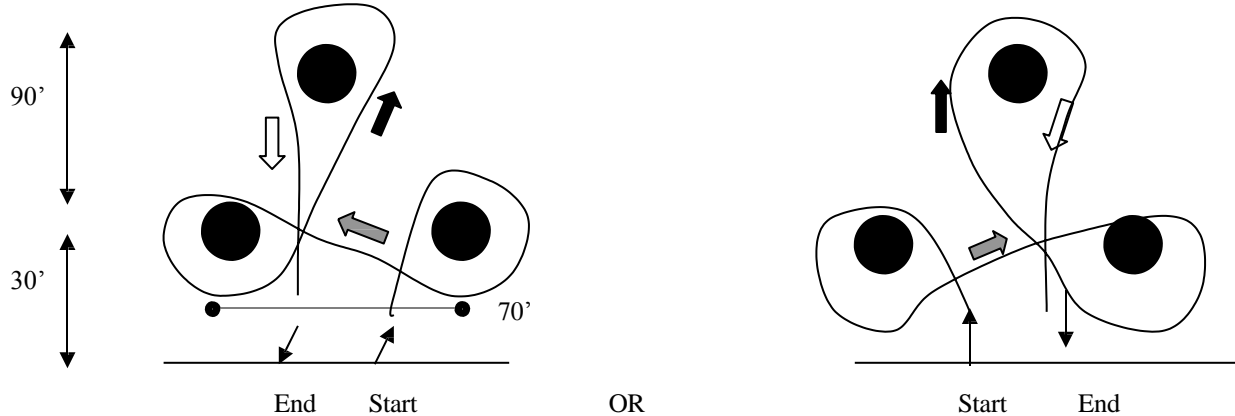
I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- A. Two hands may be used on the reins.
- B. Excessive hazing, striking, or whipping a horse will not be permitted.
- C. A crop, bat and spurs may be used, but if used must be used humanely.
- D. All exhibitors will be suitably attired according to the current trend in western or English show apparel. For western apparel this includes western boots, long pants, and a shirt with a collar must be worn. For English this includes breeches or jodhpurs, hunt coats, stock tie or choker and English boots or Jodhpur boots. A polo- type shirt is acceptable to wear as an alternative to a hunt coat. Headgear, if worn, must be western, approved helmet or hunting cap. Approved safety helmets are mandatory for youth under 18 years of age.

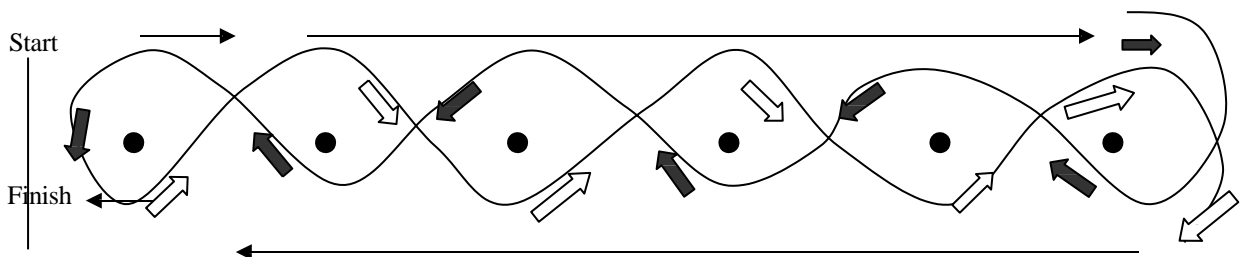
- E. A western or English saddle is required. A western or English bridle may be used. There is no restriction on the type of bit, chin strap, tie down or reins as long as they are judged humane. No quirt will be allowed. The rider may not use straps, or anything to attach the rider to the saddle, stirrups or horse in any way, except breakable rubber bands connecting boots to stirrups.
- F. **The horse will come into the ring at a walk and under control or be disqualified. The horse and rider will begin the course from any point within the arena and be clocked as they pass through the starting line and again at the finish line. Failure to comply will result in disqualification. "For the Walk/Trot and Lead-line classes only". This class is to be considered a walk/trot class. Animals that lope/canter/gallop more than three (3) strides will be disqualified from class.**
- G. The horse will be clocked by an electric timer, or by two persons other than the judge, using separate stopwatches and the time averaged.

II. PERFORMANCE AND SCORING

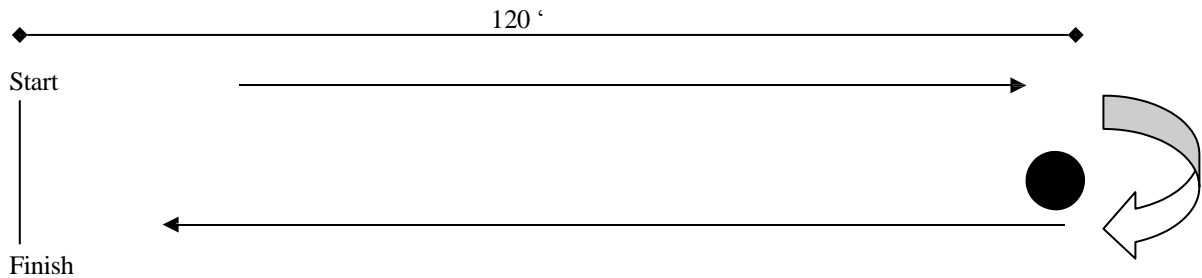
- 1) In all classes, failure to follow the pattern exactly will result in disqualification.
- 2) In all classes, any knock down (barrels, poles or markers) while on course will result in a 5 second penalty.
- A. **Barrels** - Three (3) 55 gallon unweighted barrels will be placed in the ring according to the specifications below. Barrels will be set squarely and firmly so as not to lean or topple. The position of the barrels will be spotted so that they may be replaced in the exact spot if knocked over. The horse may take either of the side barrels first.



- B. **Poles** - Poles will be placed upright on the surface or in the ground 21 feet apart in a straight line. Poles will be set squarely and firmly so as not to lean or topple. Start on the left or right side of the poles.

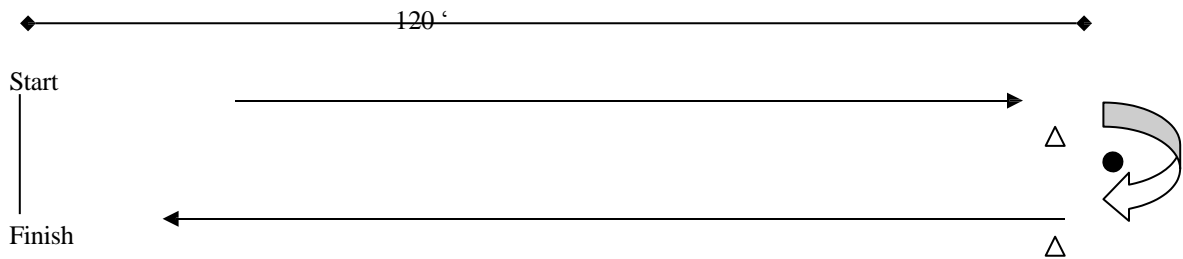


- C. **Plug Race** - One (1) 55 gallon unweighted barrel will placed 120 feet from the start/finish line, mid-line in the ring. Barrel will be set squarely and firmly so as not to lean or topple. Rider may start on either side, turn the barrel and return on the opposite side.

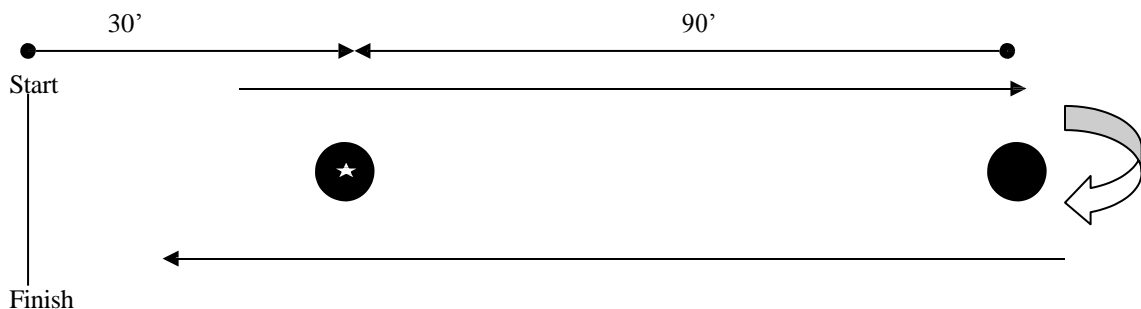


- D. **Versatility Speed Class** - The objective of this class is to find the most versatile horse and to provide a variety of speed events. Any of the following classes can be used as a versatility class. We recommend rotating the classes each show for a greater variety. Alternative versatility classes may be used by a show chairperson, but may not duplicate other speed classes offered in the show.

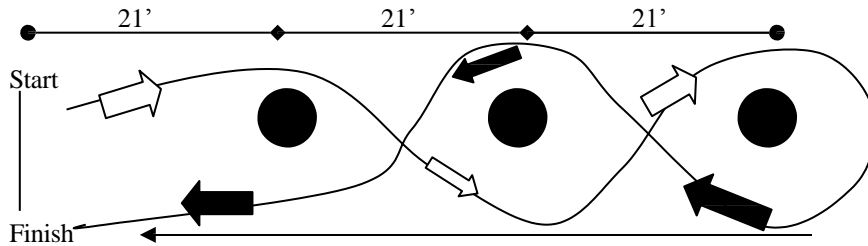
1. **Pick A Lock** - One (1) pole will be placed 120 feet from the start/finish line. Two (2) cones will be placed 21 feet apart, 10 feet in front of the pole. The horse must run between the cones and turn the pole (either direction) and return between the cones to the start/finish line.



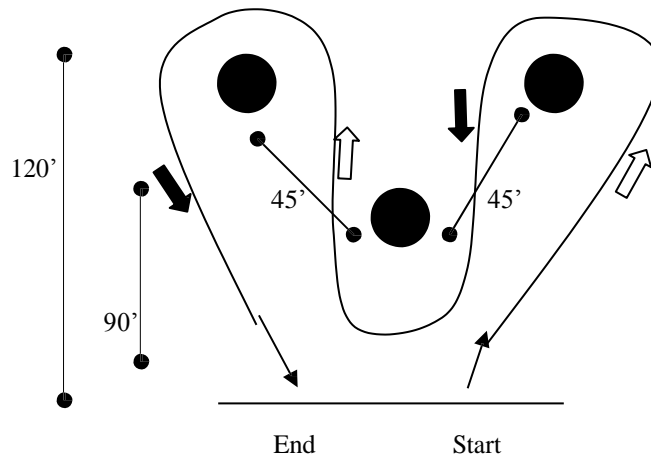
2. **Flag Race** - Two (2) barrels in a straight line 30 feet from the start/finish line and 90 feet apart. There will be a bucket (filled with sand) with a flag in it on the first barrel. The rider will grab the flag from the first barrel, circle the second barrel, and stick the flag back into the bucket on the first barrel. Horse is disqualified if the flag touches the ground.



3. **Texas Barrels** - Three (3) barrels placed in a straight line 21 feet apart and 21 feet from the start/finish line. Start on either side of the first barrel and weave in and out, circling the last barrel and weaving back as shown below:



4. **Bleeding Heart** - Three (3) barrels placed as shown in pattern below. Two placed 120 feet from the start/finish line on either side of the ring with the third barrel in the center 90 feet from the start/finish line. A distance of 45 feet between each barrel. Horse may start the pattern from either side.



SECTION TEN MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES

I. MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES

Should any miscellaneous classes be provided, general rules as prescribed in this rule book shall apply. The rules for these have been saved in a Miscellaneous Classes Rulebook and can be accessed through either the president or chief steward. These classes include: reining, western riding, western command, English trail, lunge line, and the following speed classes: Figure 8 Race, Seven Barrel Race, Tie Score Pattern, Barrel Pole Combination, and Quadrangle Stake Race.

Exhibition: (i.e Barrels, Poles, Plug): An exhibition is a run made to allow horse and rider to go through the pattern of rider's discretion (not necessarily the exact pattern of class entered) at any pace, when there is no opportunity of a class placing or ribbon. Age, division, and gait do not matter in these classes. A time limit of two minutes will be imposed.

**MWHA, INC.
BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1 - The full and corporate name of the association is: MWHA, Incorporated.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1 - The purpose of the MWHA is to create, stimulate and promote interest in horses, horsemanship and horseback riding as a recreational activity, and to encourage and facilitate the training of horses in shows in the state of Maryland, to establish and encourage the adherence to uniform rules and recommendations for showing and judging horse show classes; to bring about through the correct handling of horses at shows a greater appreciation of the many admirable qualities of the horse by riders, owners and spectators.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership in the MWHA is open to any person who agrees to conform to the purposes, Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations of the MWHA.

Section 2 - Types of Membership

- A. Family Annual Membership - Defined as immediate family, including unmarried children up to 21 years of age, living in the household.
- B. Individual Annual Senior Membership - Any person 19 years or older before January 1 of the current year.
- C. Individual Annual Junior Membership - Any person 18 years of age and younger (defined as not having reached their 19th birthday before January 1 of the current year).
- D. Life Membership - Approved by the Board of Directors. Current Life Members: Peggy Schultz, Sam Kern, and Heidi Kern.
- E. Charter Members – Members who belonged to the club at its inception.
- F. Horse/Pony Registration - Horses and ponies must be recorded annually with the MWHA to collect points toward annual awards.
- G. **One must have completed application for membership before entering classes for any accumulated points to count toward annual awards.**

Section 3 - Membership fees will be for the duration of one calendar year, from January 1st to December 31st. Applications for membership in MWHA may be made at any time during the year to any officer or member of the Board of Directors and must be accompanied by payment of yearly dues. Application and dues will be immediately turned over to the Membership Chair. The Membership Chair will give the money to the Treasurer and inform the Corresponding Secretary of the new member.

Section 4 - Membership in the MWHA may be revoked from any individual by a 2/3 majority vote of the BOD (total). Grounds for revoking membership must be a flagrant and/or deliberate violation of the Agreement of Article II, Section 1. The person must be notified in writing of the question of their membership revocation not less than fourteen (14) days preceding the BOD meeting in which the matter will be discussed. The members have the right to appear and appeal either in person or by counsel. Dues will not be refunded to the member. Re-application for membership will be considered after one (1) year and must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the BOD.

ARTICLE IV - DUES

Section 1 - Dues will be paid for the calendar year between January 1st and March 1st as required in the Rules and Regulations. After March 1st, the member's privileges will be suspended until re-application and payment of dues is made - except as stated in Article IV, Section 2.

Section 2 - Dues of elected officers and directors must be paid no later than the January meeting of the BOD.

ARTICLE V - VOTING

Section 1 - Members

At all meetings of the corporation, each member is entitled to one vote provided that he/she has paid his/her dues for not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting, and that he/she is otherwise a member in good standing. Votes must be cast in person.

Section 2 - Board of Directors

At all meetings of the BOD, each officer and director is to have one vote, irrespective of any number of members he/she claims to represent, except that the President shall vote only in the case of a tie vote. The act of a majority of the members of the BOD present at a meeting shall be the act of the BOD.

Section 3 - Proxy

There shall be no proxy vote except in case of an emergency as determined by a majority of the BOD.

ARTICLE VI - QUORUM

Section 1 - Membership

The membership will be notified of yearly scheduled BOD and general membership meetings. All members in good standing are welcome at BOD and general membership meetings.

Section 2 - Board of Directors

A majority of the directors and officers must be present to conduct a business meeting.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1 - General Membership Meetings

Members shall be notified not less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Section 2 - Board of Directors

Regular meetings of the BOD shall be held at such time and place as the BOD may determine. Special meetings of the BOD may be called by the President at any time or upon the written request to the President of four members of the BOD.

Section 3 - Annual Meetings

There will be three annual meetings designed for the general membership. **The JUBILEE POT LUCK MEETING** in March will feature highlights for the up-coming show season, give members an opportunity to ask questions, and include a time for socializing with fellow members. **The NOMINATIONS MEETING** will be held in September for the purpose of nominating board members and making motions for rulebook changes for the next show season. **The ELECTIONS MEETING** will be held within two months of the nominations meeting to elect board members and vote on motions made by MWHA members at the September nominations meeting. A notice of the date of the election meeting and a list of the current nominees shall be sent (e-mailed or mailed) to all members not less than ten (10) days before the election meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 1 - The officers of the MWHA shall consist of a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Steward and Membership Chair. These members shall serve on the Board of Directors during their term of office.

Section 2 - The Board of Directors (BOD) shall consist of the above named officers and five (5) directors elected at large. An officer position may be shared by two individuals; however, the number of directors at

large would be decreased by one. Three alternates for these positions will also be elected, any of which may be designated to attend meetings as a substitute for the directors elected at large. The alternates may attend any meetings, but unless the alternate is representing a director at large as a substitute, he/she shall not have a vote. The immediate Past President shall remain on the BOD for one year and in the event of the President being elected for another term, another director at large will be elected. An Equipment Manager will be appointed by the President and will sit on the BOD with full voting privileges.

Section 3 - The officers and directors at large shall be elected for a period of one (1) year and hold their positions from January 1st to December 31st (calendar year) or until a successor has been elected.

Section 4 - The officers and directors at large shall be elected to each respective office by a majority vote of a quorum of members in good standing at a meeting in November preceding their terms of office. Nominations of officers will be carried out in a regular meeting in September. Nominees must be present at the election meeting to be elected except in the case of emergency as determined by a majority of the BOD. A nominee who has an important event on the date of the election meeting may request to be excused from the meeting. The nominee must state that they are willing to accept the nomination, state why they cannot attend, and request to be excused by the BOD. It will be at the sole determination of the majority of the BOD as to whether to excuse the nominee. Notification of these nominees shall be included with the annual meeting notice e-mailed or mailed to all members in good standing at their last known mailing address immediately following the nominations meeting.

Section 5 - An equipment manager will be appointed by the President. This person must be a member in good standing and will be responsible for all club-owned equipment. In addition, it is the responsibility of the equipment manager to make all MWHHA equipment available at all shows and club events. If a piece of equipment needs replacing or repair it is his/her responsibility to advise the Board of Directors so that appropriate action can be taken. The equipment manager will also sit on the Board of Directors.

Section 6 - Only members in good standing whose dues are paid shall be eligible to vote, hold office, sit on the BOD or serve on a committee.

Section 7 - Any member of the BOD who misses three (3) consecutive meetings of the BOD and/or general membership meetings without just cause shall be replaced by the BOD. A roll call of the BOD will be made by the Recording Secretary.

Section 8 - In the event a vacancy shall occur in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the position of President for the unexpired portion of the term. All vacancies in any office, other than that of the President (i.e. Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.), shall be filled by the membership at its next regular meeting or at a meeting specifically called for that purpose. In the case of the absence of an officer of the corporation for any reason that the BOD may deem sufficient, the BOD may, except as specifically otherwise provided in these By-Laws, delegate the powers or duties of such officer to any other officer or director for the period of that officers absence, provided a majority of the entire BOD concurs.

ARTICLE IX - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1 - President

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the BOD and membership. He/she shall present at each regular monthly meeting of the membership and the BOD a report of the condition of the business of the corporation. He/she shall cause to be called regular and special meetings of the membership and the BOD in accordance with the By-Laws. He/she shall appoint and remove, employ and discharge, and fix the compensation of all servants, agents, employees, or clerks of the corporation, subject to the approval of the BOD.
- B. He/she shall sign, jointly with the Vice President or Recording Secretary, all contracts and agreements in the name of the corporation, provided they have been approved by the BOD.
- C. He/she shall see that the books, reports, statements, and certificates required by the statute are properly kept, made and filed according to law.
- D. He/she shall co-sign all notes, drafts or bills of exchange, warrants or other orders for the payment of money duly drawn and signed by the Treasurer.
- E. He/she shall enforce the By-Laws and perform all the duties incident to the position and office and which are required by law.

Section 2 - Vice President

During the absence or inability of the President to render and perform his/her duties or exercise his/her powers, as set forth in these By-Laws or in the acts under which this corporation is organized, the same shall be performed and exercised by the Vice President; and when so acting, he/she shall have all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities hereby given to or imposed upon such President. Either he/she or the Recording Secretary must sign all contracts and agreements jointly with the President after the approval of the BOD.

Section 3 - Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the BOD and of the membership and make them available at all times. He/she shall be the custodian for the safe keeping of all documents and records of the association. Either he/she or the Vice President must sign all contracts and agreements jointly with the President after the approval of the BOD. He/she shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the BOD.

Section 4 - Corresponding Secretary

- A. The Corresponding Secretary will assist the Recording Secretary and prepare routine correspondence including the newsletter; send out notices of all general and BOD meetings; maintain a file of records and materials pertinent to the office; and such other duties as may be prescribed by the BOD from time to time.
- B. The Corresponding Secretary shall present receipts to the BOD for miscellaneous purchases. His/her funds shall be replenished by the treasury.

Section 5 - Treasurer

- A. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of, and be responsible for, all the funds and securities of the corporation and deposit all such funds within five (5) days of receipt in the name of the corporation in such bank and banks as the BOD may designate.
- B. He/she shall co-sign with the President all checks issued for expenditures of the MWHA.
- C. He/she shall exhibit at all reasonable times his/her books and accounts to any officer or director or member in good standing of the corporation.
- D. He/she shall render a statement of the finances of the corporation at each regular meeting of the BOD and at such other times as shall be required of him/her and shall make a full financial report at the regular monthly meeting of the membership.
- E. He/she shall keep accurate books of account of its business transactions, and he/she shall keep a report of dues and payments and such other books of account as the BOD may require.
- F. A committee shall be appointed by the President to audit the books of account at the end of each calendar year or when deemed necessary by the BOD.

Section 6 - Membership Chair

He/she will keep a complete and accurate record of point standings for the show year and verify the eligibility of the winners of point classes. He/she will provide a report of point standings at all general meetings. He/she shall immediately forward to the Corresponding Secretary notification of names and addresses of all members and will notify the general membership of point standings in July and in the Fall after the last MWHA point show.

Section 7 – Chief Steward

The Chief Steward will observe classes to assure they are being run per the MWA rulebook. If the Chief Steward is exhibiting a horse in a class, the Show Chair will act as Chief Steward for the duration of that class. The Show Chair will act as Chief Steward for the day in the event that the Chief Steward is not able to attend a show. The Chief Steward will also verify that class lists are in accordance with MWA rules and requirements. See Section One, XII.

Section 8 - Youth Representative

A Youth Representative under 18 years of age shall be elected at large and will communicate the thinking of all MWA youth to the BOD and represent the youth in all matters of concern to them. He/she will be responsible for planning and executing the annual membership Jubilee and the annual youth show.

ARTICLE X - JUDGES

Section 1 - Selection of Judges

- A. Initial selection and recommendation of judges is the responsibility of individual horse show chairpersons. The retention and/or dismissal of judges is the responsibility of the officers and the BOD as specified herein.
- B. Selection Criteria - Minimum Qualifications
 1. An applicant must be 21 years of age or older.
 2. An applicant must have prior judging experience.
- C. Acceptance Criteria - Knowledge of MWA rules and regulations required. Acceptable conduct is required (i.e. how applicant has conducted himself in judging, handling of and attitude toward exhibitors).
- D. Judges are subject to continual BOD review.

Section 2 - Dismissal of Judges

- A. A 2/3 vote of the entire BOD is required to recommend a hearing, reject or dismiss a judge. The decision of the BOD will be final.
- B. Grounds for dismissal are failure to follow the rules or to abide by acceptance criteria. Evidence of misconduct or failure to follow rules must be presented to the BOD in writing with signature included. The BOD may dismiss a judge on that evidence or a hearing may be provided. The BOD is bound to consider any complaint. The complainant and/or the judge will be advised as the decision of the BOD. Comments concerning the judge will be kept confidential. The judge will be advised as to the nature of the complaint but not the source.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - The BOD may alter, amend, repeal or add to these By-Laws at a special meeting of the BOD called for that purpose. The general membership may also attend and participate. Vacant positions on the board may be filled at this time.

Section 2 – Members may nominate individuals for the BOD and recommend changes in the rules and regulations at the September general membership meeting.

Section 3 – Any motions for changes in the rules will be voted on at the general election meeting. The general election meeting will be scheduled within two months of the September nominations meeting. Potential board members may be nominated and added to the list of members seeking a position on the board at the general election membership meeting.

Section 4 - No changes to the rules and regulations for the calendar year may be made after the general election meeting.

Section 5 – DISPERSAL OF FUNDS- if MWHA ceases to sponsor equine activities for a period of 5 years, all funds supplies and equipment would be divided among an approved list of non-profit horse organizations which are designed for the benefit of horses in the state of Maryland. For example, organizations involved in rescues, therapeutic riding, or reach are to be considered. Members are encouraged to suggest worthwhile, honorable organizations that would benefit the well-being of horses. The list will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis. Each organizations percent of proceeds would be determined by the board based on the organization needs.

ARTICLE XII - CORPORATION SEAL

Section 1 - The seal of the corporation shall be in the form impressed immediately below:

INDEX

<u>Purpose of MWA</u>	Page 1
<u>Dues</u>	Page 1
SECTION ONE	
General Rules and Recommendations	
	Page 1
I. <u>AGE DIVISIONS</u>	Page 1
A. Adult Western Division (Senior)	Page 1
B. Adult Speed Division (Senior)	Page 1
C. English Adult	Page 2
D. Western Adult Novice Division	Page 2
E. Youth 18 & Under Western Division	Page 2
F. Youth 18 & Under English Division	Page 2
G. Speed Youth 14-18 Division	Page 2
H. Speed Youth 13 & Under Division	Page 2
I. Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot Speed Division	Page 3
J. Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot Western Division	Page 3
K. Youth 13 & Under Walk Trot English Division	Page 3
L. Beginner Walk Trot 11 & Under Division	Page 3
M. Lead-line Performance/Equitation Division	Page 3
N. Lead-line Speed Division	Page 4
II. <u>OTHER DIVISIONS</u>	Page 4
A. Green Horse Western/English Division	Page 4
B. All Age Ranch Horse Division	Page 4
C. All Age Ranch Horse Walk-Trot Division	Page 4
D. Miniature Horse Division	Page 4
E. In Hand Trail	Page 4
III. <u>POINTED SHOWS</u>	Page 4
IV. <u>REGISTRATION</u>	Page 4
V. <u>HORSES</u>	Page 5
VI. <u>TRANSEERS</u>	Page 5
VII. <u>ANNUAL AWARDS</u>	Page 5
VIII. <u>SPECIAL AWARDS</u>	Page 6
IX. <u>SCHEDULING OF SHOWS</u>	Page 6
X. <u>PUBLICITY</u>	Page 7

XI. **RING SIZE** Page 7

XII. **JUDGES** Page 7/8

XIII. **STEWARDS** Page 8/9

XIV. **DISPUTES CONCERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS** Page 9

XV. **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE RULES** Page 9

XVI. **CONDUCT AT MWHA-APPROVED SHOWS** Page 9

XVII. **ABUSE OF HORSES** Page 9/10

XVIII. **FALLS** Page 10

XIX. **EXHIBITORS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES** Page 10

XX. **IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS** Page 10

XXI. **ATTIRE** Page 10

XXII. **CONDITION OF TACK AND APPAREL** Page 11

XXIII. **MINIMUM CLASS SIZE** Page 11

XXIV. **TIE SCORES** Page 11

XXV. **TIMERS AND WATCHES** Page 11

XXVI. **STALLIONS** Page 11

XXVII. **COGGINS** Page 11

XXVIII. **HOLD HARMLESS** Page 11

SECTION TWO
Western Performance Classes Page 12

I. **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS** Page 12

II. **WESTERN PERFORMANCE AND SCORING** Page 12

A. Western Pleasure Class Page 12/13

B. Showmanship At Halter Page 13

C. Horsemanship Page 13

D. Western Trail Class Page 13/14/15

SECTION THREE Ranch Horses Classes

Page 15

- | | | |
|-----------|---|------------|
| I. | <u>RANCH HORSE DIVISION ALL AGES</u> | Page 15 |
| A. | Ranch Riding | Page 16 |
| B. | Ranch Horse Pleasure | Page 16 |
| C. | Ranch Trail | Page 16/17 |
| D. | Ranch Round Up | Page 17/18 |

SECTION FOUR Miniature Horse Classes

Page 19

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|
| I. | <u>MINIATURE HORSE DIVISION</u> | Page 19 |
| A. | Mini Horse Showmanship | Page 19 |
| B. | Mini Horse Halter | Page 19 |
| C. | Mini Horse Trail | Page 19 |

SECTION FIVE In-Hand Class

Page 19

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| I. | <u>IN-HAND TRAIL</u> | Page 19/20/21 |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------|

SECTION SIX English Performance Classes

Page 21

- | | | |
|------------|---|------------|
| I. | <u>GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS</u> | Page 21/22 |
| II. | <u>ENGLISH PERFORMANCE AND SCORING</u> | Page 22 |
| A. | Hunter Under Saddle Class | Page 22 |
| B. | Equitation | Page 23 |
| C. | Disciplined Rail | Page 23 |
| D. | English Pleasure Hack | Page 23 |
| E. | Green Horse English Pleasure Hack | Page 23 |
| F. | Youth 13& Under Walk Trot English Pleasure Hack | Page 23 |
| G. | Hack Scoring and Rules (Applies to Sections "D" through "F") | Page 23/24 |

SECTION SEVEN Lead-line and Beginner Walk Trot

Page 24

- | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|
| I. | <u>LEAD-LINE CLASSES</u> | Page 24/34 |
| A. | Instructions and Appointments | Page 25 |
| B. | Performance and Scoring | Page 25 |
| a. | Lead-line Performance Horsemanship /Equitation Division | Page 25 |
| 1. | Lead-line – Attached | Page 25 |
| 2. | Lead-line – Detached | Page 25 |
| 3. | Lead-line – Trail | Page 25 |

- b. **Lead-line Speed Division:** Page 25
 - 1. **Lead-line – Plug** Page 25
 - 2. **Lead-line – Barrels** Page 26
 - 3. **Lead-line – Versatility** Page 26

- 2. **BEGINNER WALK TROT CLASSES** Page 26
 - A. **Instructions and Appointments** Page 26
 - B. **Performance and Scoring** Page 26
 - 1) **Beginner Walk Trot (Performance Horsemanship/Equitation Division):** Page 26
 - 1. **Beginner Walk Trot – Walk** Page 26
 - 2. **Beginner Walk Trot – With Individual Trot** Page 26
 - 3. **Beginner Walk Trot – Trail** Page 27

**SECTION EIGHT
Halter Classes**

- I. **CLASSES** Page 27
- II. **PERFORMANCE AND SCORING** Page 27

**SECTION NINE
Timed/Speed Events**

- I. **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENT** Page 27/28
- II. **PERFORMANCE AND SCORING** Page 28
 - A. **Barrels** Page 28
 - B. **Poles** Page 29
 - C. **Plug Race** Page 29
 - D. **Versatility Speed Class** Page 29
 - 1. **Pick A Lock** Page 29
 - 2. **Flag Race** Page 29
 - 3. **Texas Barrels** Page 30
 - 4. **Bleeding Heart** Page 30

**SECTION TEN
Miscellaneous Classes**

- I. **Miscellaneous Classes** Page 30

**MWHA, INC.
By-Laws**

- ARTICLE I – NAME** Page 31
 - Section 1: Corporate Name Page 31
- ARTICLE II – PURPOSE** Page 31
 - Section 1: Membership Page 31
 - Section 2: Types of Membership Page 31

Section 3: Membership Fees and Payments	Page 31
Section 4: Revoked Membership	Page 31
ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP	
Section 1: Membership	Page 31
Section 2: Types of Membership	Page 31
Section 3: Membership Fees and Payments	Page 31
Section 4: Revoked Membership	Page 31
ARTICLE IV – DUES	Page 32
Section 1: Dues	Page 32
Section 2: Dues of Elected Officers and Directors	Page 32
ARTICLE V – VOTING	Page 32
Section 1: Members	Page 32
Section 2: Board of Directors	Page 32
Section 3: Proxy	Page 32
ARTICLE VI – QUORUM	Page 32
Section 1: Members	Page 32
Section 2: Board of Directors	Page 32
ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS	Page 32
Section 1: General Membership Meetings	Page 32
Section 2: Board of Directors	Page 32
Section 3: Annual Meetings	Page 32
ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTIONS	Page 32
Section 1: The Officers of the MWA	Page 32
Section 2: The Board of Directors (BOD)	Page 32/33
Section 3: The Officers and Directors Position Period of One (1) Year	Page 33
Section 4: Elections of Officers and Directors	Page 33
Section 5: Equipment Manager	Page 33
Section 6: Voting Eligibility	Page 33
Section 7: Replacement of Officers and BOD	Page 33
Section 8: Vacancy of Officers and BOD	Page 33
ARTICLE IX – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS	Page 33
Section 1: President	Page 33
Section 2: Vice President	Page 34
Section 3: Recording Secretary	Page 34
Section 4: Corresponding Secretary	Page 34
Section 5: Treasurer	Page 34
Section 6: Membership Chair	Page 34
Section 7: Chief Steward	Page 35
Section 8: Youth Representative	Page 35
ARTICLE X – JUDGES	Page 35
Section 1: Selection of Judges	Page 35
Section 2: Dismissal of Judges	Page 35

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS	Page 35
Section 1: Amend, Repeal or Add to By-Laws	Page 35
Section 2: Nomination for the BOD and Rule Changes	Page 35
Section 3: Voting of BOD and Rule Changes	Page 35
Section 4: No Changes After Elections Meeting	Page 35
Section 5: Dispersal of Funds	Page 36
 ARTICLE XII – CORPORATION SEAL	 Page 36