

**MID-AMERICA HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION**  
**HORSE SHOW RULES (Approved 4/16/13)**  
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Mid-America Horse Show Association will follow the competition rules of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) except as noted otherwise in the following:

**RULE NO. 1 – "A," "A/B" and "B" Rated Show Requirements**

Two "A" shows or an "A" show and an "A/B" show may be held on the same day providing there are at least 200 miles between them.

An "A" show and a "B" show or an "A/B" show and a "B" show may be held on the same day providing there are at least 100 miles between them.

Two "B" shows may be held on the same day providing there are at least 50 miles between them.

Recognized shows with conflicting dates existing prior to December 31, 1988, may retain comparable dates provided all other requirements are met. Show dates that conflict due to USEF rotation schedule are also exempt to the above mileage requirements.

"A" RATED SHOWS:

Member fee is \$150.00.

The prize list must include 16 of the classes on the following "A" Show Approved Classes list. Eleven classes are required; they are in bold print and noted. The other five classes are at the discretion of show management.

Classes may be divided if management desires. At multi-day shows, the Ladies, Gentlemen and Junior Exhibitor classes are not to be held on the same day as Amateur classes.

Results: A complete list of show results must be sent (electronically preferred) to the Association Point chairman within two weeks following the show.

"A" Show Approved Classes List

Classes are for registered American Saddlebreds unless noted otherwise. This list is of approved classes, not high point trophy classes. For the list of high point trophy classes, see High Point Trophy Competition Rules.

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### Five Gaited Division

Open, Stake, Championship

Junior – Horse 4 Years & Under

Three Year Old – Horse 3 Years & Under

Amateur

Ladies – Recommended age limit: 18 Years & Over

Junior Exhibitor – Rider 17 Years & Under

### Three Gaited Division

Open, Stake, Championship

Junior – Horse 4 Years & Under

Three Year Old – Horse 3 Years & Under

Amateur

Ladies – Recommended age limit: 18 Years & Over

Junior Exhibitor – Rider 17 Years & Under

### Fine Harness Division

Open, Stake, Championship

Junior – Horse 4 years and under

Three Year Old – Horse 3 Years & Under

Two Year Old – Horse 2 Years & Under

Amateur

Ladies – Recommended age limit: 18 years and over

### Park (full mane/tail) Division

Three Gaited Open, Stake, Championship

Three Gaited Amateur

Three Gaited Junior Exhibitor

### Park Pleasure Division

**Three Gaited Open (required)**

Three Gaited Junior Horse

Three Gaited Amateur

### Show Pleasure Division

**Three Gaited Championship (required; may be divided into age groups)**

**Three Gaited 18 Years & Over (required; may be divided into age groups)**

**Three Gaited 17 Years & Under (required; may be divided into age groups)**

Three Gaited Junior – Horse 4 Years & Under

Five Gaited

**Driving (required)**

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### Country Pleasure Division

**Three Gaited Championship (required; may be divided into age groups)**

**Three Gaited 18 Years & Over (required; may be divided into age groups)**

**Three Gaited 17 Years & Under (required; may be divided into age groups)**

Five Gaited

**Driving (required)**

Western

Hunter

Equitation (any horse suitable for saddle seat riding)

Shows may choose to have separate Saddle Seat (SS EQ) and Pleasure Equitation (PL EQ) classes (in which case must offer both, not one or other), or to combine them as SS/PL Equitation

**Championship (required; may be divided into age groups)**

**17 Years & Under (required; may be divided into age groups)**

14-17 Years

13 Years & Under

Walk & Trot 10 Years & Under

Adult 18 Years & Over

Hackney Pony (cob tail)

Open, Stake or Championship

Amateur

Hackney Harness Show Pony (long tail)

Open, Stake or Championship

Amateur

Hackney Show Pleasure Pony

Amateur

Junior Exhibitor

Hackney Road Pony

Open, Stake, Championship

Amateur

Junior Exhibitor

Exceptions to the above may be made after consideration by and approval of the Association board. In all other aspects, Class "A" shows will be governed by existing rules and regulations of the Association.

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#### "A/B" RATED SHOWS:

Member fee is \$175.00

Shows choosing the "A/B" rating are required to offer both "A" and "B" required classes, determine whether its exhibitors' wins receive either "A" or "B" points, and include the appropriate designation for each entry within the class results provided to the Association (from which high point trophy points are derived). If show results do not include a B designation for an entry, that entry will automatically be given "A" points.

#### "B" RATED SHOWS:

Member fee is \$25.00.

The prize list must include six of the classes on the following "B" Show Approved Classes list. Two classes are required; they are in bold print and noted. The other four classes are at the discretion of show management.

Show Results: A complete list of show results must be sent (electronically preferred) to the Association Point chairman within two weeks after the show.

#### "B" Show Approved Classes List

Classes are for registered American Saddlebreds unless noted otherwise. This list is of approved classes, not high point trophy classes. For the list of high point trophy classes, see High Point Trophy Competition Rules.

#### Five Gaited Division

Open  
Amateur

#### Three Gaited Division

Open  
Amateur

#### Park (full mane/tail) Division

Three Gaited Open  
Three Gaited Amateur

#### Park Pleasure Division

Three Gaited

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Show Pleasure Division

Three Gaited Championship

**Three Gaited (required)**

Three Gaited Junior

Three Gaited O/T/R

Five Gaited Championship

Five Gaited

Driving

Country Pleasure Division

Three Gaited Championship

**Three Gaited (required)**

Three Gaited Junior

Three Gaited O/T/R

Five Gaited Championship

Five Gaited

Driving

Western

Hunter

Classic Pleasure Division

Three Gaited

Driving

Equitation Division (Saddle Seat and Pleasure combined)

SS/PL EQ 18 Years & Over

**SS/PL EQ 17 Years & Under (required)**

Walk /Trot Only-rider 10 Years & Under

In-Hand and Model Division

Show Pleasure Halter

Show Pleasure Model

Country Pleasure Halter

Country Pleasure Model

Showmanship at Halter

17 Years & Under

Classes may be divided if management desires. Exceptions to the above may be made after consideration and by approval of the board. In all other aspects, Class "B" shows will be governed by existing rules and regulations of the Association.

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### **RULE NO. 2 – Governing Show Management - General**

**Stewards:** In the case of "A" and "A/B" shows not affiliated with USEF, it is recommended that the show designate a person or three-person committee to preform the duties of the show steward as described in the USEF Rule Book. Stewards are not required at "B" shows.

**Judge:** Each judge's name must be published in the prize list.

**Medical:** Each member show shall provide medical personnel and equipment as outlined in the current USEF Rule Book.

**Violation by Show:** In the event of gross violation of these rules by any member show, the Executive Board may, at its discretion, refuse to grant a membership for the following year. Any complaints in regard to violations made by any show management are to be filed in writing with the Administrative Manager of the Association not later than ten (10) days after the alleged violation.

**Interpretation of Rules:** Any question as to the interpretation of any Association rule arising at a show shall be decided by a meeting of at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors. Where Association rules do not cover a specific point, the latest USEF rules will be used for interpretation. At USEF affiliated shows, USEF rules take precedence unless specifically stated otherwise in the show prize list.

### **RULE NO. 3 – Governing Show Management - Prior to Show Date**

**Association Membership:** Every member show shall have the words "Mid-America Horse Show Association – \_\_ Rated" (show ratings are "A," "A/B" or "B") or similar wording printed on the front of the prize list and in the program.

**Show Dates:** Each member show shall retain the previous year's show dates until February 1 of the current year unless it wishes to release said dates before that time. Each show manager shall notify the Circuit Shows Coordinator in writing before February 1 as to his intention, whether to retain the same date as in the previous year, or to request another date that has not been retained by a member show. New membership and show dates are to be allowed according to subsequent requests.

**Prize List and Entry Blanks:** Prior to printing, the manager of each show MUST send to the Circuit Shows Coordinator of the Association one (1) copy of a complete draft of the proposed prize list and schedule of classes, so that the committee in charge may have ample time to approve it and to make any suggestions or corrections before it is printed in final form. Each judge's name shall be published in the prize list. Once printed, the show manager shall send two copies to the Circuit Shows Coordinator.

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**Membership Mailing List:** The Association Administrative Manager shall send each show manager a membership list at least two (2) months prior to the show date. The show manager shall send a prize list and entry blank to each member of the Association.

**Canceled and Combined Classes:** The show management has the right to cancel or combine any classes at the closing of entries when there are less than three (3) entries. An exhibitor who has entered a class, which later is cancelled, has the right to withdraw his entire entry list, providing that he does so immediately upon notice of the cancellation. In such case, he shall receive prompt refund of all entry fees, stall fees, ticket reservations, and any other payments made to the show.

### **RULE NO. 4 – Governing Show Management - During Shows**

**Split Classes:** It is required that under-saddle classes of 25 or more entries and driving classes of 16 or more entries be split into separate classes. Total premium should be divided. The class split should be accomplished by taking every other entry listed from the class sheet. Other splits may be made at the discretion of show management based on safety concerns. Notification of the class split must be publicly announced and posted at least one hour prior to the class time or be listed in the program.

**Judging:** To be based on the specifications listed in the USEF Rule Book.

**Control of Horse:** The presiding judge must excuse any horse from the ring if it is not under complete control of the rider or driver.

**Soundness:** See the current USEF Rule Book for the definition of soundness.

**Canceled Shows:** If a horse show is called off after once being started, all entry fees of non-shown classes must be returned to the exhibitor. All classes that were held shall be awarded points earned.

**Protests (non USEF Show):** Protests will not be considered unless in writing and accompanied by the fee of \$100.00 within forty-eight (48) hours after such class. If the protest is sustained or no decision is reached, the money will be returned. If the protest is denied, the money will be retained by the show. Protests will be heard by three (3) members of the Association board of directors and the show manager as soon as this group can be assembled.

**Protests to the Association:** In the event the decision reached at the show level is considered unjust by either party or parties involved, a further protest may be made to Mid-America Horse Show Association in writing with a fee of \$100.00 within five (5) days after the show. This protest will be heard by the Board of Directors and show manager at the next Board meeting. If the protest is sustained, the money will be returned. If the protest is denied, the money will be retained by the Association. In any

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event, show trophies and ribbons will not be affected, however, points towards season trophies may be affected.

### **RULE NO. 5 – Governing Show Management - After Shows**

Show Results: Each show shall provide the Association Point Coordinator with a complete list of class results within two weeks after the conclusion of the show.

### **RULE NO. 6 – Governing Exhibitors and Owners**

Age of Persons: For purposes of these rules, where there is a maximum age limit, the age of a person is determined on December 1 and remains the same for the next twelve months. Junior Exhibitors must be 17 years of age or under.

Amateur: See the current USEF Rule Book for the definition of an amateur.

Equitation Dress: Equitation riders shall dress in conservative solid colors.

Conduct: Any act of discourtesy or disobedience to the judges or officials on the part of the owner, driver, trainer or groom shall disqualify the horse and the owner shall forfeit his entrance fees. Any person reported for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be entitled to a hearing before the Association Board of Directors. Any person found guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, member or nonmember, will be barred from exhibiting at any Association affiliated show for such a period of time as the Board of Directors may determine. The Board of Directors shall set the time and dates of suspension. All show managers will be notified of the suspension and are expected to abide by the Board's decision.

Loss or Damage: The horse show management and/or Mid-America Horse Show Association will be in no case responsible or liable for any loss, damage or injury that may occur, and it shall be a condition of the entry that each exhibitor, owner, trainer, and groom shall hold the horse show management and/or the Association blameless for any loss or accident which may occur by fire or other acts beyond the control of horse show management and/or the Association.

Limited Liability: Under the Equine Activity Liability Act, each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities.

Other Horse Show rules pertaining specifically to the exhibitor:

Prize lists and entry blanks – Rule No. 3 (page 6)

Canceled and Combined classes – Rule No. 3 (page 7)

Protests – Rule No. 4 (page 7)

Canceled shows – Rule No. 4 (page 7)