

**Wolverine Morgan Horse Association
Rule Book 2008**

I. SHOW APPROVAL

- A. Any club, farm, individual etc., putting on a WMHA approved show the previous year has first option to that show date the following year and every consecutive year thereafter, unless it conflicts with a WMHA show.
- B. Upon tentative approval, a fee of \$35.00 shall be paid to WMHA to reserve a show date. This fee is non-refundable. All shows will be approved by March 1st in order to be included in our sponsorship book.
- C. Only the final show draft will be considered for approval. It must include the entire list of classes, location, map, and all judges' names including trail, jumping or dressage judge. Do not print or distribute showbills until approved.
- D. Upon final approval by WMHA, the showbill must be submitted in electronic format, either on CD or email.
- E. The WMHA Show Committee reserves the right to approve or deny any application.
- F. The WMHA Show Committee shall provide a copy of the current Rule Book.
- G. Any group hosting a WMHA approved show must retain the judge's cards and class sheets thru Dec. 31st of the current show year.
- H. Hardship Clause: Extenuating circumstances may afford cause to wave any rule in order to grant show approval as long as it does not conflict with the purpose, policies and intent of the WMHA.

II. SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. All shows will be held, rain or shine.
- B. If a judge stops a show, because of dangerous ring or weather conditions and then resumes the show, all classes will re-start where they left off, i.e., if a Hunt Seat Pleasure class has walked and trotted the first direction but did not canter before the show was stopped then the class will resume with cantering the first direction and complete the walk, trot and canter the second direction. Another example would be if three trail exhibitors had finished the pattern and three had not when the show was stopped, it would resume with the last three and be pinned as usual. If the show is stopped in the middle of a class and not re-started, that class will not be pinned.
- C. Awards are to be given through 6th place.
- D. Trail, jumping, dressage, and sport horse in-hand may be judged in a separate arena or area.

III. EXHIBITORS

- A. No exhibitor may show before a judge any horse under said judge's ownership or lease.
- B. An exhibitor may present to WMHA in writing any legitimate complaints concerning the judge, show committee, ringmaster, etc.
- C. No exhibitor may compete in a class before a judge (including trail, dressage and jumping) by whom within three months of the show:
 - i. Has been instructed, coached or tutored (with or without pay).
 - ii. He/she or parents, guardian, or instructor have had financial transactions relative to the sale, lease, board or training of any horse. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities will not be considered instruction or tutoring.
- D. Age of exhibitors to be determined as of January 1st.
- E. If an exhibitor or his representative wishes to speak to the judge, he/she must do so with the permission of and in the presence of a show official.
- F. Exhibitors may not speak with the judge pertaining to their performance until Exhibitor has completed their last class of the day.
- G. Exhibitors are notified that any act of discourtesy or disobedience to the judges, officials, or exhibitors on the part of the owner, rider, or groom shall disqualify the horse and exhibitor. The owner shall forfeit entry and other fees. No points or awards may be given to said exhibitor or horse. Such acts will be determined by the judge and/or show officials.

H. Novice Division

- i. Novice exhibitors may be any age. Youth exhibitors may stay in the Novice Division until the age of twelve (age determined as of Jan 1st). Novice exhibitors over the age of twelve may show in the Novice Division for 2 consecutive years.
- ii. Novice riders may ride in walk/trot classes only, except for the Novice Step-Up classes.
- iii. Novice Step-Up Classes provide the novice showmen a forum in which to canter. First through Sixth place ribbons will be awarded, although no year end points will accumulate from these two classes.
- iii. Novice riders can ride in any fun class that can be done as walk/trot only, i.e., trot through barrels, poles or down and back, but may not enter any other canter classes.
- iv. Novice exhibitors may enter appropriate halter classes.
- v. Novice exhibitors may enter driving classes.
- vi. Novice exhibitors are allowed to leave this division at any time but once they move into their respective age group they cannot move back to the Novice division.

IV. COMPLAINTS

- A. All formal complaints must be made in writing to a WMHA Officer within ten days of the incident.

V. JUDGE'S INFORMATION

- A. A judge shall not judge a show within 75 miles of his or her residence.
- B. A judge may judge only one WMHA show per year.
- C. The judge must be qualified to handle all judging assignments.
- D. Judges must be prompt and appropriately attired.
- E. The decision of the Judge is final (in all cases ending each class).
- F. No lame horses will be allowed to show. Lameness is to be determined by the judge.
- G. Exhibitors will be allowed 5 minutes to repair or replace broken equipment.
- H. Exhibitors will be allowed a 5-minute tack changes as long as the ringmaster is notified.
- I. A rider may not dismount, or in any way be separated from his horse at any time except at the discretion of the judge or under extenuating circumstances and the show delegate is contacted. If the rider is thrown off, falls off, etc., the rider will be disqualified from placing, but may continue to ride in the class at the discretion of the judge.
- J. The judge or ring steward shall have the obligation and authority to ask an exhibitor to remove his horse from the ring for the safety of the other horses or spectators.
- K. The judge or ring steward has the authority to remove unsportsmanlike exhibitors.
- L. Draft horses and ponies are allowed in open halter classes such as Stallions or 2 yr olds. They may show in either stock type or pleasure type Mares, Geldings, or Weanling/Yearling but must declare which type on their entry form. This includes championship classes.

VI. RING STEWARD INFORMATION

- A. Any reputable person who is familiar with the rules and is capable through ability or experience may act as ring steward.
- B. Duties are to assist the judge – not to advise him.
- C. Shall not discuss or seem to discuss the horses or exhibitors with the judge.
- D. Shall not take part or seem to take part in the judging.
- E. Shall not stand in a position that interferes with the judge's view of the exhibitors.
- F. May be asked by the judge to move and place horses as he or she advises.
- G. Is empowered to stop the class and alert the judge of any dangerous or unsportsmanlike conduct.

VII. GENERAL RULES

- A. Proper attire is to be worn in all classes.
 - i. English Attire
 - a. English style jacket, shirt with rat catcher or tie, appropriate-styled heeled English type boots, riding breeches, belt and helmet.
 - b. Helmets are considered proper attire and are required for youth 18 and under (age determined as of January 1st) in such classes as Hunt Seat, On the Flat or Over Fences, and Gymkhana classes.
 - c. Helmets are required in all jumping classes regardless of age and must be ASTM/SEI approved.
 - d. Slip-on spurs are not allowed, only securely buckled or strap-on spurs are allowed.
 - e. Crops and bats are optional.
 - i. Western Attire
 - a. Long sleeved shirts, Western hats, Western heeled boots and a belt.
 - b. Spurs and chaps are optional.
- B. Stallions
 - i. A stallion is an unaltered, (non-castrated) male horse 1 year of age or older.
 - ii. Stallions must be shown and handled by a person 19 years of age or older. Exceptions are colts foaled in the current year.
- C. Tie downs and martingales are prohibited except in Jumping, Gymkhana or Driving classes.
- D. Nosebands are prohibited in Western classes.
- E. Flat curb chains and leather curbs are allowed.
- F. A horse is determined to be one year of age as of January 1st the year following its foaling date.
- G. Bits
 - i. Senior horses (six years and older) must be bitted with a breed/discipline specific bit.
 - ii. Junior horses (five years and under) may be ridden with a bosal or non-shanked snaffle bit.
- H. Reins
 - i. Senior horse: One hand, no change of rein hand. Rein ends shall drape over the horse's shoulder on the same side as the rein hand.
 - ii. Junior horse: Two hands with split reins if using a non-shanked bit or mecate and bosal
 - iii. Romel reins: No finger between the reins. The free hand may be used to hold the Romel provided that it is in a relaxed position and is held at least 16" from the rein hand.
- I. Lameness
 - i. No lame horse will be allowed to show.
 - ii. Lameness is to be determined by the judge provided the lameness is consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances.
- J. All exhibitors conforming to WMHA rules will be allowed to show.
- K. Exhibitors will be allowed 5 minutes to repair or replace broken equipment and five-minute for tack changes provided the ringmaster is notified
- L. A rider may not dismount or in any way become separated from their horse at any time except at the discretion of the judge or under extenuating circumstances. If the exhibitor is separated from their horse (fall off, throw off etc.) they will be disqualified from placing but may finish the class at the discretion of the judge.
- M. Drugging horses for any reason is prohibited.

- N. Draft horses and ponies are allowed in open halter classes such as Stallions and 2 yr olds. They may show in either stock type or pleasure type Mares, Geldings, or Weanling/Yearling, but must declare which type on their entry form. This includes championship classes.

VIII. CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

A. Showmanship

- i. Horses are to be shown in-hand.
- ii. Exhibitors are judged on showmanship and fitness of horse and overall appearance.
 - a. Showmanship 50%
 - b. Fitness 40%
 - c. Overall appearance 10%
- iii. The exhibitor must wear proper, breed/discipline specific attire.

B. Halter or In-Hand

- i. Horses are to be shown in-hand.
- ii. Bats or whips or prohibited in stock type halter classes.
- iii. Horses age is determined on January 1st.
- iv. Horses are judged on type, conformation and way of going.
 - a. Type 30%
 - b. Conformation 60%
 - c. Way of going 10%
- v. The exhibitor must wear proper, breed/discipline specific attire.
- vi. Horses that are shown in stock type halter classes may be shown in a Western type halter or an English type halter or bridle. Stock type halter classes are open to breeds such as Quarter Horses, Paints, Appaloosas, etc.
- vii. Horses that are shown in pleasure type in-hand classes may be shown in a Western type halter or an English type halter or bridle. English in-hand classes are open to pleasure type breeds such as Morgans, Arabians, Saddlebreds, Tennessee Walkers, etc.
- viii. Draft horses and ponies must declare which type (stock or pleasure) they will show in on their entry form.

C. Justin Morgan Standards Class (from the American Morgan Horse Registry)

- i. Correct Morgan type and conformation should be considered not only during In-Hand classes but also in performance classes where rules indicate that type and conformation are to be considered. The Standard is also used to evaluate Morgan type and conformation outside of the show ring.
 - a. **Type** is the ideal or standard of perfection for the breed. A Morgan is distinctive for its stamina and vigor, personality and eagerness and strong natural way of moving.
 - b. **Conformation** is the degree of perfection of the component parts and their relationship to each other.
 - c. The **head** should be expressive with broad forehead; large prominent eyes; with straight or slightly dished short face; firm fine lips; large nostrils and well-rounded jowls. The ears should be short and shapely, set rather wide apart and carried alertly. Mares may have a slightly longer ear.
 - d. The **throatlatch** is slightly deeper than other breeds and should be refined sufficiently to allow proper flexion at the poll and normal respiration.
 - e. The **neck** should come out on top of an extremely well-angulated shoulder with depth from top of withers to point of shoulder. It should be relatively fine in relation to sex. It should be slightly arched and should blend with the withers and back. The top line of the neck should be considerably longer than the bottom line. The stallion should have more crest than the mare or gelding. An animal gelded late in life may resemble the stallion more closely.

- f. The **withers** should be well defined and extend into the back in proportion to the angulation of the shoulder.
- g. The **body** should be compact with a short back, close coupling, broad loins, deep flank, well-sprung ribs, croup long and well muscled with tail attached high, carried gracefully and straight. A weak, low, or long back is a severe fault. The Morgan horse should not be higher at the croup than at the withers.
- h. The **stifle** should be placed well forward and low in the flank area.
- i. The **legs** should be straight and sound with short cannons, flat bone, and an appearance of over-all substance with refinement. The forearm should be relatively long in proportion to the cannon. The pasterns should have sufficient length and angulation to provide a light, springy step.
- j. The structure of the **rear legs** is of extreme importance to the selection of a long-lasting equine athlete. Any sign of poor angulation of the hocks, sickle hocks or cow hocks must be considered a severe fault. Lack of proper flexion of the hock is cause for very close examination of the entire structure of the rear legs and should not be tolerated in breeding stock or show ring winners.
- k. The **feet** should be in proportion to the size of the horse, round, open at heel, with concave sole and hoof of dense structure.
- l. Viewed from the front, the **chest** should be well developed. The front legs should be perpendicular to the ground and closely attached to the body.
- m. Viewed from the side, the **top line** represents a gentle curve from the poll to the back, giving the impression of the neck sitting on top of the withers rather than in front of them, continuing to a short, straight back and a relatively level croup rounding into a well muscled thigh. The tail should be attached high and carried well-arched. At maturity the croup should NOT be higher than the withers. The under line should be long and the body deep through the heart girth and flanks. The extreme angulation of the shoulder results in the arm being a little more vertical than in other breeds, placing the front legs slightly farther forward on the body. The front legs should be straight and perpendicular to the ground. The rear cannons should be perpendicular to the ground when points of hocks and buttocks are in the same vertical lines.
- n. Viewed from the rear, the **croup** should be well rounded, thighs and gaskins well-muscled. Legs should be straight. The gaskin should be relatively long in relation to the cannon. The Morgan should portray good spring of rib and well-rounded buttocks. Slab-sided individuals should be faulted.
- o. The **height** ranges from 14.1 to 15.2 hands, with some individuals under or over.
- p. Horses must be **serviceably sound**- i.e. must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind or complete loss of sight in either eye.
- q. **Stallions two years old** and over must have all the fully developed physical characteristics of a stallion. Mature stallions must be masculine in appearance. Mares must be feminine in appearance.
- r. **Coat or eye color** shall have no bearing when judging Morgan horses.
- s. **Brands**, including freeze brands, shall not be discriminated against in any class.
- t. **Other distinctive attributes** of the Morgan horse are his presence and personality. These include:
 1. Animation
 2. Stamina
 3. Vigor
 4. Alertness
 5. Adaptability
 6. Attitude
 7. Tractability
- u. **Correct way of going for In-Hand classes:**
It is imperative that height of action should not take precedence over correct way of going. Emphasis shall be on type and conformation with consideration given to horse's ability to move correctly on the lead.

1. The **walk** should be rapid, flat-footed, with a four-beat cadence, and elastic, with the accent on flexion in the pastern.
2. The **trot** should be a two-beat, diagonal gait, animated, elastic, square, and collected. The rear action should be in balance with the front.
3. **Posing** horses must stand squarely on all four feet with the front legs perpendicular to the ground. Rear legs may be placed slightly back. Judge must ask exhibitor to move hind legs up under horse for inspection.

D. Sport Horse Suitability In-Hand

- i. To be ran like a regular in-hand class in the main arena.
- ii. Open to any age and breed of horse.
- iii. Any age handler is allowed.
- iv. Braiding is optional
- v. Bandages or leg wraps are forbidden.
- vi. Horses to be stood open to the judge (not stretched or squared)
- vii. Horses to be presented in a halter or snaffle bit (no curb bits).
- viii. A chain lead may be used instead of or in addition to reins.
- ix. Conservative sport attire is recommended.
- x. One (1) whip may be carried.

E. Sport Horse Suitability Under Saddle

- i. To be ran like a regular pleasure class in the main arena.
- ii. Horses to be judged on their potential to become a dressage mount.
- iii. Horses are to be judged on movement, conformation and general impression as follows:
 - a. Movement (60%)
 - b. Conformation (30%)
 - c. General Impression (10%)
- iv. To be shown at the walk, trot, and canter (in that order and both ways of the ring.)
- v. The judge may also require free walk on a loose reign.
- vi. Braiding is optional
- vii. Bandages, leg wraps, boots, etc. are forbidden.
- viii. Plain snaffle bit only (no curb bits).
- ix. Dressage, all purpose, or hunt saddle required.
- x. No draw reins, martingales, or any other types of training devises allowed.
- xi. Traditional dressage attire is recommended.
- xii. Spurs and whip optional.

F. Color Class

- i. Horses are to be shown in-hand.
- ii. Horses are to be judged on color, conformation, type and way of going.
 - a. Color 40%
 - b. Conformation 30%
 - c. Type 20%

- d. Way of going 10%
 - iii. The exhibitor must wear proper, breed/discipline specific attire.
- F. Lead-Line
- i. Riders may not ride in any other class
 - ii. Rider's age is to be six and under.
 - iii. Riders are to be judged on seat, legs and hands.
 - iv. Chaps are optional in Western attire.
 - v. Horses are to be shown at the walk only.
 - vi. Horses must be led by a handler.
 - vii. The back-up may be asked for at the judge's discretion.
- G. Walk-Trot
- i. Rider's age is to be ten (10) and under.
 - ii. The rider is judged on seat, hands, legs and skills of the horse.
 - iii. Chaps are optional in Western attire.
 - iv. Horses are shown at the walk and trot only.
 - v. The back-up may be asked for at the judge's discretion.
- H. Green-Horse Classes
- i. The Green horse English Pleasure (Saddleseat or Huntseat) and Western Pleasure classes are walk/trot only for any age horse or rider.
 - ii. These horses may also enter walk/trot/canter classes.
 - iii. This is not a novice class and novice riders may not enter green-horse classes.
 - iv. First through sixth place ribbons will be awarded, although no year end points will accumulate from these two classes.
- I. Pleasure Driving
- i. The horse or pony should be capable of giving a pleasurable drive with the emphasis on manners and gaits.
 - ii. All gaits will be asked for and performed in both directions.
 - a. Walk
 - b. Normal trot
 - c. Extended trot/road gait
 - iii. The reverse should be at the ringmaster's direction.
 - iv. In the line-up the horse or pony should:
 - a. Stand quietly
 - b. Stay checked at all times.
 - c. Back readily.
 - v. Attendants are permitted to assist in lining up the horses or ponies to ensure driver safety.
 - vi. The attendant should step back as the judge approaches.
 - vii. The class is open to rider/handlers from both the open age groups as well as those from the novice divisions.

J. English Equitation

- i. Tack must suit the style of English riding (Hunter Seat or Saddle Seat).
- ii. The rider is judged on hands, seat, legs, riding skills, suitability of horse and rider and appointments.
 - a. Rider's skills 60%
 - b. Performance 20%
 - c. Appointments 10%
 - d. Suitability 10%
- iii. The use of an equitation pattern is at the judge's discretion, but must be posted and announced before the start of the show.
- iv. The use of whip and spurs are optional.
- v. Chaps are not allowed.

K. English Pleasure

- i. The horse is judged on performance, conformation and appointments.
 - a. Performance 70%
 - b. Conformation 20%
 - c. Appointments 10%
- ii. Tack must suit the style of English riding (Hunter Seat or Saddle Seat).
- iii. Additional work suitable for English Pleasure horses may be asked for at the discretion of the judge, i.e., extended trot.

L. Junior Horse English Pleasure

- i. Horses must be five years old and under.
- ii. Horses may be ridden in a snaffle or a standard breed/discipline specific English bit.

M. Senior Horse English Pleasure

- i. Horses are six years old and over.
- ii. Horses may be ridden in a snaffle or a standard breed/discipline specific English bit.

N. Western Horsemanship

- i. Chaps and spurs are optional.
- ii. The rider is judged on hands, seat, legs, riding skills, suitability of horse and rider and appointments.
 - a. Rider skills 60%
 - b. Performance 20%
 - c. Appointments 10%
 - d. Suitability 10%
- iii. Horses five years and under may be ridden in a bosal or a snaffle with two hands on split reins.
- iv. Horses six years and over must be ridden one handed. The rein hand should not change and only one finger is allowed between the reins. Rein ends should drape over the horse's shoulder on the same side as the rein hand.
- v. The use of a horsemanship pattern is at the judge's discretion but must be posted and announced before the start of the show.

O. Western Pleasure

- i. The horse is judged on performance, conformation and appointments.
 - a. Performance 70%

- b. Conformation 20%
 - c. Appointments 10%
 - ii. Chaps and spurs are optional
- P. Junior Horse Western Pleasure
 - ii. Horses are to be five years old and under.
 - iii. Junior western horses may be ridden in a bosal, snaffle or standard breed/discipline specific bit.
 - iv. Two hands may be used if using a bosal or snaffle bit.
- Q. Senior Horse Western Pleasure
 - i. Horses are to be six years and over.
 - ii. Horses must be ridden in a standard breed/discipline specific shanked Western bit with proper use of reins.
- R. Trail
 - i. Trail pattern must be posted and announced.
 - ii. A minimum of six and no more than ten obstacles may be implemented.
 - iii. The trail pattern MUST be kept the same for each rider.
 - iv. Going off course or breaking the trail pattern will result in penalty or disqualification. The judge must decide the degree of the penalty to be given for being off course.
 - v. The judge may allow 3 chances for an exhibitor to complete an obstacle before asking the exhibitor to move on.
 - vi. If the exhibitor is taking an excessively long time to complete an obstacle, the judge may ask them to move on to the next obstacle. The rider should not score on the obstacle they did not complete, but should be scored on what parts of the course they did complete.
 - vii. The judge should ask the show committee to remove any obstacle from the trail course if they feel that it is unsafe, i.e., ground tie in an unfenced area.
 - viii. There should not be a tie; conformation can be used as a tiebreaker.
 - ix. Safety is a primary consideration. Horses executing the course in a quiet and alert manner will be awarded maximum points.
 - x. Riders may use two hands on the reins without penalty.
 - xi. All gaits must be implemented (walk, jog/trot, lope/canter) except Novice, which is walk/trot only, and In-Hand, which is walk/trot.
 - xii. May be ridden either English or Western with appropriate attire and appointments.
 - xiii. Exhibitors are not allowed access to the trail course prior to competing.
 - xiv. Trail class can be judged in a separate arena or area or in the main arena.
 - xv. An exhibitor is to be penalized or excused for excessive use of force in any part of the trail class.
- S. Bareback Equitation
 - i. The rider is to be judged on skills, performance and appointments.
 - a. Skills 70%
 - b. Performance 20%
 - c. Appointments 10%
 - ii. The class may be ridden in either Western or English attire.
 - iii. Chaps are not allowed.

T. Bareback Pleasure

- i. The horse is judged on performance, conformation and appointments.
 - a. Performance 70%
 - b. Conformation 20%
 - c. Appointments 10%
- ii. Tack and appointments must suit the style of riding (Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat or Western).
- iii. Chaps are not allowed.

U. English/Western Riding Pattern

- i. Pattern must be posted and announced before the start of the show.
- ii. Conformation will not be judged.
- iii. Horses will be judged on:
 - a. Quality of Gaits
 - b. Change of Leads
 - c. Response to the Rider
 - d. Manners
 - e. Disposition
- iv. Preference shall be given to complete flying lead changes performed midway between the markers throughout the course. This indicates the rider's control of the horse.
- v. It is suggested that in age divided classes, those 13 years and under, not be penalized for simple lead changes (dropping down to a jog/trot between lead changes) instead of executing flying lead changes.
- vi. The judge has the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment that, in their opinion, would give a horse or rider an unfair advantage.
- vii. Exhibitor Rules and Penalties
 - a. Riders should use proper equitation per riding style (English or Western).
 - b. Spurs or Romel reins may not be used in front of the cinch.
 - c. The rider's hands must be clear of the horse and saddle while the horse is in motion.
 - d. Penalties include:
 1. Loosing a stirrup.
 2. Touching any part of the saddle with free hand (Western).
 3. Use of two hands on the reins or changing rein hand (Western Senior Horse).
 4. Knocking down obstacles or markers.
 5. Disqualification: Breaking Pattern or the fall of either horse or rider. It is considered a fall when the horses shoulder or rider comes in contact with the ground.

V. Reining

- i. Pattern must be posted and announced before the start of the show.
- ii. To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reining horse should willfully be guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance.
- iii. Scores will be announced after each horse works.
- iv. Any ties for first place will be worked off by using the same pattern and order of go as was used during the event.
- v. A no score is not eligible to place. The following will result in a no score.

- a. Use of illegal equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains.
 - b. Use of illegal bits, bosals or curb chains.
 - c. Use of tack collars, tie downs or nose band.
 - d. Use of electric shockers, whips or bats.
 - e. Use of any attachments that alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.
 - f. Failure to provide horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection.
 - g. Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor.
- vi. A score of zero is eligible to place. The following would result in a score of zero.
- a. Use of more than an index finger or first finger between the reins.
 - b. Use of two hands or changing hands.
 - c. Improper use of Romel reins.
 - d. Failure to complete the pattern as written.
 - e. Performing the maneuvers other than in a specified order.
 - f. The inclusion of maneuvers not specified.
 - g. Equipment failure that delays completion of the pattern.
 - h. Baulking or refusal of a command where the pattern is delayed.
 - i. Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern or not.
 - j. Jogging in excess of one-half the length of the arena while starting a circle, circling or executing a rollback.
 - k. Overspins of more than a ¼ turn.
 - l. Use of free hand while holding the Romel rein to alter the length or tension of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand.
- vii. Penalties
- a. Severity of deviation will determine amount of mark down.
 - b. All deviations from the exact written pattern is considered a lack of or temporary loss of control.
 - c. Any movement the horse executes on his own shows lack of control.
- viii. Credits
- a. Smoothness of gait.
 - b. Finesse
 - c. Attitude
 - d. Quickness and authority of performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed (which raises the level of difficulty and makes it more exciting to watch).
- ix. Equipment
- a. Any type of bit free of mechanical devices may be used.
 - b. Ropes or leather bosals free of wire, iron or mechanical devices may be used.
 - c. Curb chains are permissible provided that:
 - 1. They are at least ½" in width.
 - 2. They are free of barbs, wire and/or twists.
 - 3. They lay flat against the horse's jaw.

- d. A rider may untangle excess rein where:
 - 1. Excess rein may prevent rider from continuing the pattern.
 - 2. Where rein excess can be straightened out without affecting the performance of the horse at an appropriate time in the pattern.

W. Jumping

- i. *Attire*: Appropriate English jacket, breeches, boots, approved helmet. Spurs and whip optional. Whip not to exceed 30 inches.
- ii. *Tack*: Appropriate English saddle, snaffle, Kimberwick, and Pelham bits, martingales and breastplates optional. Bell and splint boots optional, no wraps.
- iii. *Warm-up*: Warm-up jumps (vertical and X-rail) will be set up outside of the jump arena at the same time the course is set. Jumps taken with red marker on the right. Call your jump. Practice jumps to be used by jump class entrants only. Have a spotter for safety and to reset jumps. The warm-up jumps will remain available during the division classes.
- iv. *Course*: The jumping division may not be held in the main arena. Courses will be posted by the announcer's booth and at the jumping arena during the morning of the classes. Course may be walked (no horses in the arena after the course has been set) prior to the first class and before a class in which the jump placement has been changed. Obstacles over 2' will have at least two poles or a filler. Ground poles are required on the approach side of the obstacle. Courtesy circles are required before and after jumping the course. The course may be ridden at a trot or canter, emphasis is on consistency of gait. Knockdown will be penalized.
- v. *Rider Disqualification*: Rider and/or horse falls, rider goes off course, three refusals or at the judge's call.
- vi. Coaching from the rail is permitted.
- vii. Same rules apply for Equitation over Fences, however, judging emphasis is on the rider. Knockdowns may not be penalized.

X. Dressage

- i. *General*: Test readers are permitted. Rider has 60 seconds to enter the ring after the signal from the judge (bell or whistle). If off course, judge will sound the bell or whistle and inform you where to resume.
- ii. *Attire*: Traditional Dressage attire encouraged - Dressage or Hunt shirt, coat, breeches, tall or short boots, half-chaps permitted. Approved helmet required. Spurs and whip optional.
- iii. *Tack*: Plain snaffle or bouche required. No curb bits. Breastplates permitted, no draw reins, martingales, or other training aids permitted. Dressage, Hunt, or all-purpose saddles required.
 - a. Introductory Tests A & B: Tests to be ridden at a walk and trot. May be in large or small arena. USDF tests and score sheets available at www.usdf.org and posted at the show.
 - b. Training Level Tests 1-4: Tests to be ridden at a walk, trot and canter. May be in large or small arena. USDF tests and score sheets available at www.usdf.org and posted at the show.

Y. Road Hack

- i. Gaits shall be walk, collected walk, extended walk, trot, collected trot, extended trot, canter, collected canter, extended canter.
- ii. To be judged on controlled speed and style.

Z. Freedom Class

- i. Horse shall enter the arena with two handlers.
- ii. The horse is held at attention until music is started.
- iii. The music and timing begins when the halter is removed from the horse, thus allowing the horse to run free inside the arena.
- iv. Total use of the arena and exhibiting all gaits of the horse is encouraged.

- v. The program shall be 3 minutes in length including 1 minute allowed for catching the horse. If either time allocation is exceeded then the entry shall be declared disqualified.
- vi. Whips are allowed and other props such as streamers in manes and tails with handlers dressed in costume pursuant to theme of music, etc, is encouraged.
- vii. There is to be no assistance from exhibitors in catching the horse but treats may be used.
- viii. Show officials reserve the right to refuse any music they deem inappropriate.
- ix. Clearly identified CD or cassette is to be presented at the entry booth no later than 3 classes prior to the Freedom Class.
- x. By entering this class, the owner/exhibitor agrees that the Wolverine Morgan Horse Association/Wexford County Fairgrounds will be held harmless for any damage/injury to horse, person, CD or cassette resulting from this class.

AA. Gymkhana Classes

- i. Gymkhana classes are offered as fun-type classes.
- ii. Safety is a priority.
- iii. Exhibitors 18 & under are required and all others are encouraged to wear helmets in Gymkhana classes.

IX. AWARD PROGRAMS

A. "Makin' Tracks" Ride/Drive Program

- i. The Makin' Tracks Program is designed to recognize WMHA members for their time in the saddle or in a cart, for a fee of \$5.00 per year. This means you can ride multiple horses and your hours will build from year to year. Log sheets are available on the WMHA website or may be obtained by writing the WMHA. Log sheets must be turned in on or before September 30 to count toward merit awards to be presented at the WMHA Annual Banquet.
- ii. You must be a WMHA member for each year hours are logged. Hours will be lost with lapse of membership. The new calendar year for ride/drive time will begin on October 1 and end September 30. Payment is due prior to October 1. If payment is received after the due date, hours will begin accumulating from the date of payment.
- iii. Time that WILL count toward merit awards are: pleasure trail rides, arena or ring work, riding lesson hours; and saddle time spent on your horse or driving time sitting in the cart with the horse in motion. Time that WILL NOT count toward merit awards are: time spent in the show ring, on competitive endurance rides, grooming time.
- iv. MERIT AWARD LEVELS: 1st Merit: **75 Hours**, 2nd Merit: **150 Hours**, 3rd Merit: **300 Hours**, 4th Merit: **500 Hours**, 5th Merit: **1500 Hours**, 6th Merit: **2000 Hours**, 7th Merit: **3500 Hours**, 8th Merit: **5000 Hours**. Members accruing in excess of **5000 hours** will be accorded a Lifetime Membership in the Program.

B. Medallion Program

- i. The Medallion Program is designed to be a one-horse system whereby each nominated horse owned by a current WMHA member accumulates points according to the current High Point Program calculation system throughout the duration of its life for a fee of \$40.
- ii. Medallion points are earned in the following classes: Dressage, Driving, English Pleasure, Halter, Hunt Seat, Jumping, Saddle Seat, Trail, Western Pleasure. Jackpot and Championship classes do not count toward points for the Medallion Program.
- iii. Only WMHA-approved shows count for points.
- iv. Awards/prizes will be received at the year-end annual banquet for horses earning the following point accumulations: **1500, 3000, 4500, and 6000** points.

C. High Point Program

- i. General Rules

- a. Jackpot & Championship classes do not count.
 - b. You can only earn points in one age group. Your age is determined as of January 1 of the current year.
 - c. Points are calculated from WMHA approved shows only.
 - d. Must show at least one day of our annual WMHA show. Exception: any foal born after April 1st of the current year.
 - e. Owner/lessee of horse and all exhibitors must be current members of WMHA to qualify for year-end high point awards.
 - f. All classes listed on the current-year High Point form count towards points.
 - g. Classes from all approved shows will be reviewed annually to determine which classes will qualify for our Year-end High Points Program and recommendations brought to the general membership.
 - h. The High Point and Show Committees will review the entire High Points Program, including Makin' Tracks and the Medallion Program, on an annual basis.
- ii. Point Accumulation
- a. All points will accumulate from the time WMHA dues are paid and will be awarded as follows:
 - 1st place = **7 points** + a point for each horse you place in front of.
 - 2nd place = **6 points** + a point for each horse you place in front of.
 - 3rd place = **5 points** + a point for each horse you place in front of.
 - 4th place = **4 points** + a point for each horse you place in front of.
 - 5th place = **3 points** + a point for each horse you place in front of.
 - 6th place = **2 points** + a point for each horse you place in front of.

1 point for participation if you don't place in a class of 6 or more horses.
 - b. **Rider/Handler Points** are earned in classes where the judging is based on the rider/handler performance.
 - 1. Showmanship
 - 2. Huntseat Equitation
 - 3. Saddleseat Equitation
 - 4. Western Horsemanship
 - 5. Bareback Equitation
 - c. **Horse points** are earned in classes where judging is based on the performance of the horse.
 - 1. In-hand/Halter
 - 2. Pleasure Driving
 - 3. Saddleseat Pleasure
 - 4. Huntseat Pleasure
 - 5. Western Pleasure
 - 6. Trail
 - 7. Gymkhana
 - 8. Dressage/Jumping
- iii. Award Categories
- a. Year-end Awards for 2008 will be given in the following divisions: ****This is subject to change and will be reviewed after the 2008 WMHA showbill has been approved.**

1. Rider/Handler Novice 18 & Under
2. Rider/Handler Novice 19 & Over
3. Rider/Handler 13 & Under
4. Rider/Handler 14-18
5. Rider/Handler 19-34
6. Rider/Handler 35 & Over
7. Sport Horse Suitability
8. Pony/Mini
9. Pleasure Type Weanling/Yearling
10. Weanling/Yearling Open
11. 2 Year Olds
12. Pleasure Mares
13. Stock Mares
14. Pleasure Geldings
15. Stock Geldings
16. Color Class
17. Registered Stallions
18. Pleasure Driving
19. Lead-Line 6 & Under
20. Walk/Trot 10 & Under
21. Novice English Pleasure 18 & Under
22. Novice English Pleasure 19 & Over
23. Huntseat Pleasure 13 & Under
24. Huntseat Pleasure 14-18
25. Huntseat Pleasure 19-34
26. Huntseat Pleasure 35 & Over
27. Huntseat Pleasure/Pleasure Horse - NEW
28. Saddleseat Pleasure
29. Sport Horse Under Saddle
30. Jr Horse English Pleasure - NEW
31. Sr. Horse English Pleasure - NEW
32. Western Pleasure Novice 18 & Under
33. Western Pleasure Novice 19 & Over
34. Western Pleasure 13 & Under
35. Western Pleasure 14-18
36. Western Pleasure 19-34
37. Western Pleasure 35 & Over
38. Western Pleasure/Pleasure Type
39. Jr Horse Western Pleasure - NEW

- 40. Sr Horse Western Pleasure - NEW
- 41. Trail Novice 18 & Under
- 42. Trail Novice 19 & Over
- 43. Trail 13 & Under
- 44. Trail 14-18
- 45. Trail 19-34
- 46. Trail 35 & Over
- 47. Trail In-Hand - NEW
- 48. Gymkhana

Each class above will consist of 4 awards as follows:

- Grand
- Reserve
- 1st Merit
- 2nd Merit

These 4 awards will be calculated equally across classes, i.e., every Grand award is valued the same and so on. In the case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given.

iv. Special Awards

- a. **Performance Morgan.** The registered Morgan horse accumulating the most horse points in the following classes:

- 1. Justin Morgan In-Hand
- 2. Morgan Pleasure Driving
- 3. Morgan Huntseat
- 4. Morgan Saddleseat
- 5. Morgan Western Pleasure

Performance Morgan will consist of 4 awards as follows:

- Grand
- Reserve
- 1st Merit
- 2nd Merit

In the case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given.

- b. **Outstanding Morgan Horse.** The registered Morgan Horse accumulating the most points in all non-breed specific classes. In the case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given. Outstanding Morgan Horse consists of 4 awards as follows:

- Grand
- Reserve
- 1st Merit
- 2nd Merit

- c. **Overall Horse.** The horse accumulating the most horse points in all non-breed specific classes. In the case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given. Overall Horse consists of 4 awards as follows:

- Grand
- Reserve

1st Merit

2nd Merit

- d. **Versatility Perpetual Trophy.** The Versatility Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to one horse/rider team earning the most points in approved open classes. To qualify for the Versatility Perpetual Trophy a horse/rider team must show and place in at least 5 of the 7 classes listed below:

1. In-hand/Halter
2. Pleasure Driving
3. Huntseat Pleasure
4. Saddleseat Pleasure
5. Western Pleasure
6. Trail
7. Gymkhana

Points qualify from WMHA approved shows only.

Points will be awarded in only one class per division per day.

The highest placing in any like classes will be used.

- e. **Volunteer of the Year Award.** This award goes to the person that is always willing to lend a hand for WMHA, with a smile on their face, and encouraging words to other members of the club. This person goes above and beyond for the good of the club. This person helps you get your horse ready when you are running late, and helps you load up at the end of a long, hot day. The WMHA members will vote in the annual elections to determine the winner of this award.
- f. **Sportsman of the Year Award.** You know this person by their ethics. It's the person that lets you go first in line, the person that holds the gate, and the person that stops to pick up your hat when you lose it. This person never cuts you off in the showring, is always happy with whatever placing or award they get (or don't get). This person encourages other exhibitors and assists them. The WMHA members will vote in the annual elections to determine the winner of this award.

v. Guidelines and Calculations for Awards

- a. Two members of the High Point Committee will prepare show results listing class name, number of horses in class, name of rider/handler and horse and points for each placing. Results will be mailed to each participant no later than 2 weeks after the last WMHA approved show date. Exhibitors will have 14 days to dispute the results from the date of postmark, at which point, results become final.
- b. After the WMHA Awards Banquet the High Point Committee will provide a list of all winners to be published in the next newsletter. This list should include all exhibitor names, horses names and points earned in each division.
- c. When the budget has been determined by the membership a dollar amount needs to be assigned to each award being presented. The first step will be to list all special awards and what is required.
- d. **Volunteer of the Year.** A new nameplate, listing the year and name of the recipient, needs to be ordered to update the perpetual plaque. A dollar amount needs to be determined to purchase an award for the recipient.
- e. **Sportsman of the Year.** A new nameplate, listing the year and name of the recipient, needs to be ordered to update the perpetual plaque. A dollar amount needs to be determined to purchase an award for the recipient.
- f. **Versatility Perpetual Trophy.** A new nameplate, listing the year and name of the recipient, needs to be ordered to update the perpetual trophy. A dollar amount needs to be determined to purchase an award for the recipient.
- g. **Performance Morgan.** Award dollar amounts are needed for: Grand, Reserve, 1st Merit and 2nd Merit.

- h. **Outstanding Morgan.** Award dollar amounts are needed for: Grand, Reserve, 1st Merit and 2nd Merit.
- i. **Overall Horse.** A new nameplate, listing the year and name of horse, needs to be ordered to update the perpetual plaque. Award dollar amounts are needed for: Grand, Reserve, 1st Merit, and 2nd Merit.
- j. **All Other Divisions.** It will need to be determined how many winners for Grand, Reserve, 1st Merit and 2nd Merit. A dollar amount will need to be assigned to each placing. There will be 4 awards: Grand, Reserve, 1st Merit and 2nd Merit. Calculations to be as follows: Budgeted amount, less fixed expenses, divided by number of awards, equals dollar value per award.