



# Mason-Dixon Miniature Horse Association



## Class Descriptions and Rules

(revised January 2021)

### EXHIBITOR, HORSE, AND CLASS DIVISIONS

**Performance Division classes:** Hunter, Jumper, and Trail Obstacle.

**Driving Division classes:** Pleasure Driving, Driving Obstacle, and Versatility.

**Open classes (non-driving):** Multi-Color, Solid Color, Costume, Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, and Lead Line. These classes are open to all adult, youth, and green horse exhibitors.

**Adult Exhibitor:** age 18 or over

**Golden Age:** age 50 and over

**Youth Exhibitor:** Division A – up to 12, Division B – age 13 to 17. Age division determined by age of exhibitor as of the first show of the season. Performance classes are divided by A and B, however driving classes are combined. attendants for youth drivers are optional as long as the youth driver has positive control of the horse(s) at all times and that attendants (attendants must be 16 years of age or older) may dismount the cart in order to become a header for their cart. Additionally, any MDMHA Officer or Board Member has the right to require an attendant and/or header at any time on the day of the show. All youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI protective headgear in all driving classes. This will be strictly enforced!

**Green Horse:** MDMHA defines a green horse as being in his/her first year of showing in performance OR driving. They must be age 1 or older to compete in trail obstacle, and age 3 or older to compete in hunter, jumper, or driving. The exhibitor may be adult or youth. Once a horse has participated in the green division for one show season, it will not be eligible to show in this division thereafter.

- 1) Once a horse is entered as green, it must show in the green horse performance classes, and can't cross-enter into any adult or youth performance classes during the show season.
- 2) Once a driving horse is entered as a green, it must show in the green horse driving classes during the show season and can't cross-enter into any adult or youth driving classes during the show season.
- 3) All green horses may cross-enter into any open classes.
- 4) Green horses are ineligible if they hold any grand, reserve, top ten, or HOF points in any local, regional, or national clubs prior to the show season in which they are showing in the Green Horse Division (includes AMHA, AMHR, World Class, and PtHA). MDMHA reserves the right to disqualify any green horse and his/her exhibitor(s) and revoke all ribbons, awards, and points earned for failure to disclose this information.
- 5) Green horses may have grand, reserve, top ten, or HOF points from Halter classes.

**Day End Awards** will be given to the high point winner after each show in the following divisions: Adult

Performance, Youth Performance A, Youth Performance B, Green Horse, Driving, and Green Horse Driving.

## **CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

### **SHOWMANSHIP**

Only the handler is judged. The horse is merely a prop to show the showmanship ability of the handler. The following things are judged: appearance of exhibitor, appearance of horse, and showing horse in ring (leading, posing, poise, alertness, and merits). The half system will be used in exhibiting the horse. AMHR only patterns will be used and posted before the start of the show. Refer to the AMHR Rulebook for further class details and to review various patterns. Proper attire is required, which includes boots, gloves, hats, jackets or long sleeved rail shirts.

### **HALTER**

Horses are judged on soundness, balance, and conformity to the standard of perfection. Exhibitors will show horses in hand at a walk and trot. Classes are divided according to gender (stallion, gelding, mare) and (2) age groups (2-year-old and under, senior-age 3 and over). Horses are to be shown in the appropriate gender and age classes.

- 1) Weanlings must be weaned in order to show and suckling foals are not eligible to be shown.
- 2) Mares 3 years and older with a foal at side (wet) may be shown in Senior Mares class, however the foal will not be allowed in the ring while the mare is being exhibited (per AMHR rules)
- 3) In the event a horse's gender (stallion vs gelding) or age is being questioned, MDMHA reserves the right to request proof and the owner will be responsible to provide a copy of a registration certificate or any other acceptable form of documentation (current Coggins, health certificate, etc.) that shows the requested information. Failure to provide the proper proof and information OR intentional misrepresentation of the horse will result in disqualification from all classes, and all ribbons, awards, and points will be revoked. Further disciplinary action may be taken by the Show Committee/Executive Board if deemed necessary.

### **STOCK HALTER**

The stock halter horse will be shown in equipment and appointments of the traditional Wester Stock show ring.

- The horse will be asked to stand square with all four feet flat on the ground.
- Horse to be shown cleaned and well-groomed body clipped or not
- Horse to be shown with full mane and tail.
- Stretching, baiting, excessive jerking or harsh use of the lead line will result in a lower presentation score.
- No shaving/razoring of muzzle, eyes or face.
- No banding or braiding of manes.
- Manes should be natural looking and of moderate length.
- Tails should be off the ground.
- The Stock horse will be shown in a traditional wester style halter.
- Arabian cable style halters are prohibited.
- The lead may have a chain or not, however chains can only be used under the chin. No chain over the nose.
- Western attire is required and hats are optional but must be of the Western type if worn.

## **MULTI-COLOR**

Open to Pintos, Appaloosas, and Pintaloosas. Horses to enter ring and walk in a circle, then reverse to the opposite direction so the Judge may see both sides of the horse. Horses are to remain in a circle to be judged. Judged 100% on color.

## **SOLID COLOR**

Open to all variations of solid color and other horses who are not Pinto, Appaloosa, or Pintaloosa. Horses to enter the ring and walk in a circle, then reverse to the opposite direction so the Judge may see both sides of the horse. Horses are to remain in a circle to be judged. Judged 100% on color.

## **COSTUME**

May be held in or outside the show ring. Exhibitors and horses are to be walked in a circle in each direction. To be judged on creativity and originality. Any riders must wear protective headgear in this class!

## **HUNTER**

Horses must be age 3 or older. Hunters will be judged on style, manners, and way of going. Preference will be given to those horses who cover the course at an even pace, with free flowing strides while maintaining the same gait throughout the course. Jumps will be placed a minimum of 20 feet apart, and will not exceed 24 inches in height. Patterns will be posted before the start of the show. Course jumps will simulate those found in the hunting field and will vary in size, color and shape. Hunters must start at the designated start cone, follow the course diagram and finish at the designated finish cone. There will be no disqualifications, however any knockdowns, refusals, touches, spooking, or off course will be penalized. Horses may be asked to do a trot by for the judge for a soundness check at the end of the class.

## **JUMPER**

Horses must be age 3 or older. Jumpers will be judged on accumulated faults only, unless there is a tie, in which case there will be a jump-off. Jumps will be placed a minimum of 20 feet apart and can range in height from 12-24 inches. Patterns will be posted before the start of the show. Jumpers must start at the designated start cone, follow the course diagram and finish at the designated finish cone. **Those horses completing a clean first round, will be called back for a jump-off.** The jump-off will be held on the original course and timed by a stop-watch, and 2 jumps will be raised a minimum of 1 inch and not more than 6 inches in height. The horse that has the fastest time and the fewest faults in the jump-off round will be declared the first place winner. There will be no disqualifications, however any refusals, knockdowns, fall of exhibitor or horse, or being off course will counts as faults.

## **TRAIL OBSTACLE**

Horses must be at least one year of age. Class will be judged 100% on the manner of horse's performance through the course. Patterns will be posted before the start of the show. There will be a minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 obstacles. Any horse/exhibitor taking excessive time to negotiate an obstacle will be instructed to advance to the next obstacle. Physically moving or coercing the horse by touching is prohibited and will be penalized. Negotiating an obstacle on the wrong side, skipping an obstacle (unless directed by judge), or negotiating an obstacle in the wrong sequence will be considered off course and will be penalized.

### **BARREL RACING**

Three barrels are set up in a triangle formation. Pattern typically will be a clover leaf pattern and will be posted before the start of the show. This is a timed event and horse/exhibitor will be judged on fastest time and no faults. Knockdowns and being off course will be penalized. Contestants must start and end at the start/finish cone in order to complete their course.

### **POLE BENDING**

Poles will be set up in a line and horse/exhibitor must weave up and back through the poles. Pattern will be posted before the start of the show. This is a timed event and horse/exhibitor will be judged on fastest time and no faults. Knockdowns, passing a pole or being off course will be penalized. Contestants must start and end at the start/finish cone in order to complete their course.

### **PLEASURE DRIVING**

Horses must be 3 years or older and serviceably sound. To be shown both ways of the ring at a **walk, pleasure trot, and extended trot**. Must stand quietly and rein back. To be judged 60% on performance, manners, and way of going; judged 30% on the condition, fit, and appropriateness of harness and vehicle; and judged 10% on neatness, appropriateness of attire, and overall impression. Excessive speed will be penalized. Exhibitors must maintain control of their horses at all times. The Judge reserves the right to dismiss any horse/exhibitor from the ring if the horse, equipment, or vehicle for safety reasons. Headers age 16 years or older are recommended, but not required for adult classes. Headers are required for youth and green horse classes. Driving whips are required to be carried in hand and should be of suitable style and the tip of the lash must not reach past the shoulder of the horse.

### **OPEN DRIVING STAKE**

This is a non-pointed, single hitch class open to all driving horses. Must have shown in (1) other driving class to enter (excludes Driving Obstacle). Grand and reserve places only, with special ribbons awarded.

### **DRIVING OBSTACLE**

Horses must be at least 3 years of age. Class will be judged 100% on the manner of horse's performance through the course. Patterns will be posted before the start of the show. There will be a minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 obstacles. Horses shall be shown in any suitable two wheeled cart. Any horse/exhibitor taking excessive time to negotiate an obstacle will be instructed to advance to the next obstacle. Negotiating an obstacle on the wrong side, skipping an obstacle (unless directed by judge), or negotiating an obstacle in the wrong sequence will be considered off course and will be penalized. Cantering is penalized in this class.

### **VERSATILITY**

To show the versatility of the Miniature Horse, the horse will be shown as a driving horse, as a halter horse, and as a hunter, in that order. Horses must be at least 3 years of age. A groom/handler is needed for this class. At the end of the driving portion grooms/headers will be allowed in the ring. You will have a 2 minute un-tack, grooming period after which the grooms will leave the arena with the carts and tack. For safety purposes, the cart must be removed from the horse before the horse is unbridled or you will be disqualified. Horses will remain in the same order for the rest of the class for the Halter and Hunter portions. Horses will line up for inspection at Halter, once Halter is complete exhibitors will proceed to the Hunter course. There will be 2 jumps for the Hunter course. For the Halter and Hunter portion you can use either a Arabian cable style halter or performance halter.