

MID-MICHIGAN OPEN HORSE SHOW CIRCUIT

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

12/08/2010

This organization shall be known as the Mid-Michigan Open Horse Show Circuit and shall be operated at all times as a non-profit organization.

Should the organization ever dissolve all assets and real and personal property will revert to another 501©3 organization.

OBJECTIVES

To help promote all-breed horse shows in the Mid-Michigan area and to provide a system whereby members may compete for *awards* at the end of the show year from points accumulated in participating shows.

MEMBERSHIP RULES

1. Memberships are payable at any time during the year. Points for year-end awards begin to accumulate only after membership has been paid, not before. Membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year.
2. Memberships consist of two different types:
 - a. Individual - Each individual has one vote.
 - b. Family - The term family, when used, may include: husband, wife, and children living at home. Each family has two votes.
3. Dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families.
4. Once membership is paid, it cannot be refunded for any reason.
5. A \$25 fee shall be charged for any checks issued to the association and returned due to non-sufficient funds. ***Anyone paying entry fees, stall fees, camping fees or any other expenses with a non-sufficient fund check shall be required to pay all fees in cash in order to show at future shows.***

6. Membership may be refused until all outstanding bills from the previous year(s) are paid.
7. There will be a newsletter sent at least quarterly to the general membership.
8. Exhibitors will be responsible for any loss, damage, or injury caused by his or her animal. MMOHSC and affiliated show members will not be responsible for the loss, damage or injury to persons, horses, or property incurred in connection with any show.
9. All protests must be submitted in writing to the circuit secretary or show delegate within 10 (ten) days following the show or incident along with a \$25.00 fee. If the protest is sustained, then a refund will be given. If not sustained, then the money will go to MMOHSC. Protests will be reviewed at the next scheduled board meeting or at any special meeting called for such purpose.
10. Issues arising at shows needing the boards immediate decision, board members will be called together to deal with the issue as soon as possible.

MEETINGS

1. The MMOHSC Board shall meet monthly. All meetings shall be open to the membership with date and location to be announced in the newsletter. The annual membership meeting is to be held at the awards banquet.
2. A quorum shall consist of 60% of the current Board. Without a quorum of the Board present a meeting shall be canceled and rescheduled at a later date.

CHANGES IN BY-LAWS

The By-Laws of the Association may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the annual meeting of the membership or at any special meeting of the membership called for such purpose. Amendments to the By-Laws shall become effective at the adjournment of the meeting of the membership at which they are adopted. The membership shall receive a copy of any proposed change 30 days prior to any vote.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

1. Officers of the MMOHSC shall include: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Point Secretary, Publicity Chairperson, at least 2 (two) additional directors and 2 (two) youth members who must be between ages 12 and 18 when elected. All terms will be 2 (two) years.

2. Duties of the President: The President shall preside over all meetings and shall appoint all committees.
3. Duties of the Vice President: The Vice President shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President and shall be a member of all committees. The Vice President shall assume the President's duties until the next election should that vacancy occur.
4. Duties of the Secretary: The Secretary shall accept and take minutes at all meetings and shall be responsible for MMOHSC correspondence. The secretary notes from all previous meetings will be present at each monthly meeting and at the banquet.
5. Duties of the Treasurer: The Treasurer shall accept and keep account of all MMOHSC monies and pay all MMOHSC bills.
6. Duties of the Point Secretary: The Point Secretary shall collect and record points from all shows. The Point Secretary or representative shall be available at each show with point standings. Points will be available at all shows and at the banquet.
7. Duties of the Publicity Chairperson: The Publicity Chairperson shall advertise MMOHSC events and publish the newsletter.
8. Duties of Additional Directors: These Directors shall attend MMOHSC meetings and serve on committees as needed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Prior to the August membership show, a slate of *perspective board members* shall be prepared by a nomination committee made up of 3 (three) members.
2. The election of *board members* shall be by written secret ballot at the November Awards Banquet. No absentee or proxy votes will be accepted.
3. New board members will be announced and begin their term immediately following the November Awards Banquet.
4. If a Board member has 3 (three) or more unexcused absences in 1 (one) year, the President will *appoint a new board member to finish out the term of the replaced board member*, with Board approval. Board members must call or e-mail the President to be excused.
5. Vacancies of officials or directors positions shall be filled by appointment of the President with majority approval of the current Board.

6. New board members will be voted into director positions by the membership with specific board position being voted on by the board members at the first official board meeting.

SHOW APPROVALS

1. Upon tentative MMOHSC approval, a non-refundable fee of \$150.00 (\$300 per weekend) shall be paid on or before the meeting in February each year to hold the show date. This is not refundable.
2. Show committees **MUST** send a current and official show bill to their Judge, along with a copy of the constitution and by-laws from MMOHSC, at least 30 days prior to the show.
3. A representative from each show committee must attend the MMOHSC February meeting with their sanction fee and a finalized copy of their show bill if they are creating their own to advertise the show. Failure to do so may result in loss of sanction by MMOHSC.
4. The show committee representative will be asked to sign a contract at the February meeting outlining the responsibilities of both the show committee and MMOHSC as they relate to the management of the show.

JUDGES REQUIREMENTS

1. Can judge only judge 1 (one) MMOHSC approved show per season.
2. May judge at MMOHSC horse shows on a yearly basis but cannot judge two (2) consecutive years for the same show committee.
3. For reining classes the judge will position him/herself on the left side.
4. For Western Riding classes the judge will position him/herself on the side where the log is positioned.
5. If the judge brings an apprentice, ***it must be announced before the show begins***, there will be no conversation between the two until after the class has been placed.

SHOW RULES

1. All MMOHSC point approved classes must be on the show bill in the same terms used on the list of approved classes. They also must be the same number on all show bills. For example, if approved class #1 is Stallion Halter it will always be class #1.
2. If the show committee for a sanctioned show wants to add classes, such as jackpot or special needs classes, approval must be obtained by the board prior to the first show of the season. Approved classes can not be combined.

3. A current board member shall serve as show delegate at each show to answer questions and witness to any disputes and define rules. ***If fees are to be collected at the entrance of the show grounds it must be posted on the show bill for that show and MMOHSC must be notified before the February Meeting.***
4. Shows will start promptly at 9:00 a.m.
5. Individuals must ride in their approved age group. Age will be as of January 1st of the current year.
6. Lead line and Pee-Wee classes must be held before lunch break, ***no other riding class may start before the lunch break.***
7. If gate admission is charged it must be stated on the show bill.
8. No entry over \$4.00 for approved point classes will be allowed.
9. ***An award (trophy, tack, etc.) valued at \$5.00 or more will be given out for first place for each class at each show.***
10. ***High Point Awards must be stated on the show bill as daily or weekend and will be given for all age divisions except leadline. Daily high point awards for age divisions will be at least \$25.00(weekend \$50.00), Novice and PeeWee will be at least \$15.00 per day (weekend \$30.00).***
11. Entry fees for jackpot classes will be at least \$6.00 per class. ***No less than 90% of fees collected will be paid back and added money at 100%.***
12. ***All divisions, with the exception of leadline will receive a daily or weekend high-point. Ties will be broken by determining who has the most firsts, then seconds if still tied, etc.***
13. **ALL SHOW BILLS MUST INCLUDE: MID MICHIGAN OPEN HORSE SHOW CIRCUIT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY OR DAMAGE TO ANY PARTICIPANT, ANIMAL, OR SPECTATORS, NOR FOR ANY LOST OR STOLEN ARTICLES OF SAME.**
14. Each show will receive duplicate class sheets to be turned into the point secretary at the end of the show day. These class sheets will be the only sheets excepted by the point secretary or the representative. A \$25 fee may be charged to any show committee not following this procedure.
15. Judge's cards are to be stapled to the front of the class sheet provided. Judges shall place horses 1st thru 7th in each class with the 7th place horse as honorable mention for disqualification reasons. Seventh place does not need to be announced. A \$25 fee may be charged to any show committee not following this procedure.
16. All Judges' cards and class sheets will be picked up following the last MMOHSC approved class by the point secretary or his/her appointed representative.

17. Only back numbers purchased through MMOHSC or provided by the show committee can be used.
18. The Judge or show delegate shall have the obligation and authority to ask an exhibitor to remove his/her horse from the ring for safety of other horses or spectators or for unsportsmanlike behavior.
19. Show results must be held by the MMOHSC Point Secretary or President for 1 (one) calendar year.
20. Exhibitors in the novice rider showmanship class may not enter any other showmanship class regardless of the horse being used.
21. Patterns for Western Riding and Reining are included as Appendix A.
22. Attire suitable to riding style must be worn for all approved classes, ***exceptions being made for the non-show clothes shows. However, long pants and boots are still required in ALL classes.***
23. The following rules apply to all Showmanship classes:
 - a. Exhibitor shall be judged on execution of pattern (60%)
 - b. Presentation of horse and rider (40%)
 - c. Patterns to be used must be posted 15 minutes before the start of the show.
24. The following rules apply to all Equitation and Horsemanship classes:
 - a. Rider judged on hands, seat, legs, riding skills, suitability of the horse and rider.
 - b. Required gaits shall include walk, jog or trot, lope or canter, and back.
 - c. If patterns are to be used they must be posted 15 minutes before the start of the show. If a pattern is used exhibitors may only be asked to work one direction of the arena provided all gaits have been displayed.
25. The following rules apply to all English and Western Pleasure classes:
 - a. Class judged on performance of horse.
 - b. Required gaits shall include walk, jog/trot or second gait, lope/canter or third gait, and back.
 - c. All gaits must be displayed both directions of the arena.
26. Color Class rules:

Not eligible for Grand and Reserve Halter

 - a. Horses not eligible to show: Bay, Sorrel, and Chestnut.
27. Except horses foaled in the current calendar year, an exhibitor must be 18 years or older to show a stallion.

28. A lame horse shall be excused at the judge's discretion. Lame horses are not to be awarded placing, even if the class has less than six entries. Lameness of horses to be determined by the Judge.
29. Five minute tack changes will be allowed between classes if needed.
30. The class is closed to any further entries when the class immediately preceding enters the ring.
31. For Novice Horse/Novice Rider Walk/Trot class a novice horse is defined as an inexperienced horse. A novice horse is a horse that has not shown in any MMOHSC walk, trot, canter class. A novice rider is defined as either a beginning or inexperienced rider. A novice rider is an individual that has not shown in any MMOHSC walk, trot, canter class. An individual may request from the Board a waiver of this rule for physical handicap, injury, etc.
32. Once paid, class entry fees cannot be refunded for any reason. ***Open checks constitute payment when entry cards are turned in.***
33. Classes with 18 or more entries maybe split at the boards' discursion.

POINTS & YEAR-END AWARDS

1. For year-end point accumulation the point system will be as follows: 6 (six) points for first; 5 (five) points for second; 4 (four) points for third; 3 (three) points for fourth; 2 (two) points for fifth; 1 (one) point for sixth if the class has 6 (six) or more horses in it. If less than 6 (six), the points will be adjusted; the first place horse will not receive any more points than the number in the class, i.e. - if there are 5 (five) horses in the class, 5 (five) points are the most the first place rider can earn.
2. There will be 1 (one) OVER ALL HIGH-POINT performance horse and 1 (one) reserve horse for year-end awards.
3. All points earned on a single horse will count toward the championship, reserve.
4. All MMOHSC approved classes except halter, color, junior/*senior* western, pleasure, junior/senior Hunter Under Seat and jackpot classes will count toward *all the* OVER ALL HIGH-POINT AWARDS. ***ALL points earned in the qualifying classes at all approved shows will count toward these awards. These awards*** will be presented at the Awards Banquet.
5. For year-end awards, the 4 halter divisions, Jr. and Sr. horse classes will have an award given for the top horse in each division.
6. Lead-Line and Pee-Wee classes will be accumulated on the exhibitor. These individuals do not have to exhibit the same horse at each show. Participants in these classes may not exhibit in any other performance point-accumulated classes for the day.

7. Ties for awards will not be broken. They will receive the same award.
8. In order to receive a year-end award for any particular class, a person must ride the same horse 3 (three) times in the same class at 3 (three) different shows during the season with the exception of Halter, Lead-Line and Pee Wee Walk/Trot.
9. Point awards will be given to members earning points for each class where the one horse one rider requirement has been met as defined in #8.
10. Year-end points for all halter classes will be awarded to the horse or pony, regardless of handler. The exhibitor must be a member for a horse to receive points.
11. Exhibitors may show more than one horse if separate entry fees are paid for each animal; however, daily highpoint and year-end awards will be based on a same-horse/same-rider combination.
12. The same horse may be used in different age groups and receive points keeping in mind the same-horse, same-rider rule regarding point accumulation.
13. There will be an Awards Banquet in November. Year-end awards will be given for all MMOHSC approved classes at the Awards Banquet held in November of each year.