

MID-MICHIGAN OPEN HORSE SHOW CIRCUIT

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

3/15/2012

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.

Section I - 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.

Section II - 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 \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for families, effective May 13th, 2012. (Amended 3/15/12)
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.

Section III - 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.

Section IV - 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.

Section V - 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 MMOHSC member 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 online at the MMOHSC website. (Updated Dec 2011)
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.

Section VI - 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.

Section VII - SHOW APPROVALS

1. Upon tentative MMOHSC approval, a non-refundable fee of \$250.00 (\$500 per weekend) shall be paid on or before the meeting in February each year to hold the show date for sanctioned shows. This is not refundable. (Amended 3/15/12)

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.

Section VIII - 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.

Section IX - 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. Class fees will be determined annually at the discretion of the board. The class fees will be communicated to sanction committees at the February sanction committee approval meeting. (Amended 3/15/12)
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. Class sheets are available on the MMOHSC website. Original class sheets with attached and signed judge's cards will be submitted to MMOHSC point secretary or the representative at the end of the show. A \$25 fee may be charged to any show committee not following this procedure. (Amended 3/15/12)
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:
 - a. Not eligible for Grand and Reserve Halter
 - b. 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' discretion.
34. The age of horses is determined by the January 1st rule. Horses foaled in 2011 are one year old on January 1st, 2012. For example, a horse foaled in May 2006 would be considered six years old in 2012. (Updated Dec 2011)
35. If trail classes are offered at shows, then any points earned count towards a daily or weekend highpoint award. (Updated Dec 2011)

Section X - 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. The points will only be accumulated for year end awards and prizes if you place in the top six of point approved classes at year end. For example, if you place 7th in showmanship with 10 points at year end those 10 points do not count for year end prizes or awards. (Amended 3/15/12)
2. Points earned in MMOHSC point approved classes at MMOHSC sanctioned shows which meet the requirements of Rule 8 in the Points & Year End Awards section will count toward Year End Awards. Year End Awards are earned by all MMOHSC members in good standing who accumulate MMOHSC points. These awards are presented at the year end banquet, and are only awarded to MMOHSC members who place in the top six in each division. (Amended 3/15/12)
3. The MMOHSC point approved classes by divisions are

Leadline Division

Leadline (Class # 15)

Pee Wee Division

Pee Wee Showmanship (Class # 5)

Pee Wee Horsemanship (Class # 14)

Pee Wee Pleasure (Class # 16)

Novice Horse Division

Novice Showmanship – Horse (Class # 6)

Novice Horse Walk – Trot Horsemanship/Equitation (Class # 29)
Novice Horse Walk – Trot Pleasure (Class # 36)

Novice Rider Division

Novice Showmanship – Rider (Class # 7)
Novice Rider Walk – Trot Horsemanship/Equitation (Class # 30)
Novice Rider Walk – Trot Pleasure (Class # 37)

50 & Over Age Division

Showmanship 50 & Over (Class # 8)
English Equitation 50 & Over (Class # 17)
English Pleasure 50 & Over (Class # 24)
Horsemanship 50 & Over (Class # 31)
Western Pleasure 50 & Over (Class # 40)
English/Western Riding 19 & Over (Class # 45)
Reining 19 & Over (Class # 47)
Bareback Open (Class # 49)

35 to 49 Age Division

Showmanship 35 to 49 (Class # 9)
English Equitation 35 to 49 (Class # 18)
English Pleasure 35 to 49 (Class # 25)
Horsemanship 35 to 49 (Class # 32)
Western Pleasure 35 to 49 (Class # 41)
English/Western Riding 19 & Over (Class # 45)
Reining 19 & Over (Class # 47)
Bareback Open (Class # 49)

19 to 34 Age Division

Showmanship 19 to 34 (Class # 10)
English Equitation 19 to 34 (Class # 19)
English Pleasure 19 to 34 (Class # 26)
Horsemanship 19 to 34 (Class # 33)
Western Pleasure 19 to 34 (Class # 42)
English/Western Riding 19 & Over (Class # 45)
Reining 19 & Over (Class # 47)
Bareback Open (Class # 49)

14 to 18 Age Division

Showmanship 14 to 18 (Class # 11)
English Equitation 14 to 18 (Class # 20)
English Pleasure 14 to 18 (Class # 27)
Horsemanship 14 to 18 (Class # 34)
Western Pleasure 14 to 18 (Class # 43)
English/Western Riding 18 & Under (Class # 46)
Reining 18 & Under (Class # 48)
Bareback Open (Class # 49)

13 & Under Age Division

Showmanship 13 & Under (Class # 12)

English Equitation 13 & Under (Class # 21)
English Pleasure 13 & Under (Class # 28)
Horsemanship 13 & Under (Class # 35)
Western Pleasure 13 & Under (Class # 44)
English/Western Riding 18 & Under (Class # 46)
Reining 18 & Under (Class # 48)
Bareback Open (Class # 49)

4. The MMOHSC member accumulating the highest amount of MMOHSC points in MMOHSC point approved classes regardless of division will be given the title Overall High Point Champion. The MMOHSC member accumulating the second highest amount of MMOHSC points in MMOHSC point approved classes regardless of division will be given the title Overall High Point Reserve Champion. Year End Awards will be presented to the Overall High Point Champion and Reserve Champion. (Updated Dec 2011)
5. The MMOHSC member accumulating the highest amount of MMOHSC points in MMOHSC point approved classes will be given the title Grand Champion. The MMOHSC member accumulating the second highest amount of MMOHSC points in MMOHSC point approved classes will be given the title Reserve Champion. The Divisions which will be given these titles are Leadline, Pee Wee, Novice Horse, Novice Rider, 13 & Under, 14-18, 19-34, 35-49, 50 & Over. Year End Awards will be presented to the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion in each division. (Updated Dec 2011)
6. Horses which are entered appropriately in the following classes; Two Year Old & Under (Class # 1), Mares 3 & Over (Class # 2), Geldings 3 & Over (Class # 3 and Color Class (Class # 4) will accumulate MMOHSC year end points if exhibited by an MMOHSC member. The horse in each of these four divisions that accumulates the most MMOHSC points will be given the title Champion. Year End Awards will be presented to the Champion. (Updated Dec 2011)
7. Horses which are entered appropriately in the following classes; Junior Horse English & Western Pleasure (Classes 22 & 38) and Senior Horse English & Western Pleasure (Classes 23 and 39) will accumulate MMOHSC year end points if exhibited by an MMOHSC member. There will be two divisions, which are Junior and Senior Horse. The horse accumulating the highest amount of MMOHSC points in each division will be given the title Champion Junior Horse and Champion Senior Horse. Year End Awards will be presented to the Champion in both divisions. (Updated Dec 2011)
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. 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.

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. Ties for awards will not be broken. They will receive the same award.
16. MMOHSC board members will receive five points for each regularly scheduled board meeting he/she attends. The points accumulated at each board meeting only count towards catalog prizes. (Updated Dec 2011)