

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **By-Laws**

### **Article 1: Name**

**Section 1:** The name of this association shall be: Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit (a non-profit organization).

### **Article 2: Objects**

**Section 1:** The objectives of this association are as follows:

- a. To sponsor and hold horse shows for the benefit of the horse people and public.
- b. To promote the horse industry in the State of Michigan.
- c. To encourage and promote the interest of individuals in better horsemanship, showmanship, and sportsmanship.
- d. To work with youth and adults interested in horses.
- e. To achieve a better understanding among those holding competitions and exhibitions.
- f. To make and endorse uniform rules and regulations governing such competitions and exhibitions.
- g. To adjust disputes which may arise between horse show committees and exhibitors or spectators at such exhibitions and as otherwise stated in this document.

### **Article 3: Memberships**

**Section 1:** The membership is to consist of any organized body of people united by a common interest in horses (that have paid their dues). Family or individual memberships are eligible to vote on all regular and special ballots. Single membership is one person and receives one vote. Family membership is all the immediate family members under 19 years of age for children and receives two adult votes (husband and wife). Membership consists of individual or family memberships.

**Section 2:** All members in good standing shall be entitled to privileges not available to non-members, including the following:

- a. Eligible to serve as director, committee member of the officer.
- b. Eligible to serve as steward.
- c. Eligible for association awards.
- d. Rule book and show listings.
- e. Eligible to elect or remove directors.
- f. May request to meet with the Board of Directors at a scheduled meeting.

**Section 3:** Membership may be obtained by making proper application and remittance of dues to the MMOHSC Point Secretary.

**Section 4:** Any single person who has reached the age of 19 is no longer considered a youth and therefore is required to have his/her own membership and will not be covered under family membership.

**Section 5:** This non-profit organization does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, veteran status, pregnancy, age, or disability.

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **By-Laws**

### **Article 4: Officers**

**Section 1:** The officers of this association shall be: President, Vice- President, Treasurer, Secretary and Point Secretary.

### **Article 5: President**

**Section 1:** The president shall preside at all meetings of the association and of the Board of Directors, and shall, with the secretary sign all contracts and obligations of the association and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Directors. The president may delegate these duties as appropriate.

**Section 2:** The President may at any time call a meeting of the Board of Directors and shall do so at the request of three directors.

**Section 3:** The President shall have authority to make modifications in the application of the rules under special or emergency circumstances. He/ She shall report any such modifications to the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

**Section 4:** The President will schedule the general membership meeting by the first of October of the current year. There shall be one general membership meeting per year.

**Section 5:** The President shall be the Master of Ceremonies at the year-end awards banquet.

### **Article 6: Vice President**

**Section 1:** In absence of the President, the Vice President may be designated by the directors to exercise any power or duty of the President.

### **Article 7: Secretary**

**Section 1:** The Secretary shall give notice of all meetings of the members and of the directors and shall be custodian of the Seal of the Association and perform such other duties as the directors may from time to time assign to him/her.

**Section 2:** The duties of the Secretary shall be:

- a. Take the minutes of the general membership meeting, the board of directors' meetings and any other special meetings.
- b. Be responsible for typing the rule book.

### **Article 8: Treasurer**

**Section 1:** The Treasurer shall collect all monies due to the association, shall have the care and custody of, and be responsible for the funds of the association which he/she shall deposit in the name of the association in the bank or place of deposit, and shall have the custody of all the securities of the associations, which he/she shall deposit in safe deposit boxes and shall keep proper books of account showing the disposition of all funds that may pass through his/her hands. He/she shall make a full report in writing covering the financial condition of the association at the general membership meeting of

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **By-Laws**

the association and at other times as requested by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be bonded, and the bonding fee shall be paid by the association.

**Section 2:** In the event Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit should be dissolved, all remaining funds will be donated to the Isabella County 4-H Horse Barn.

### **Article 9:** Point Secretary

**Section 1:** The Point Secretary shall maintain points earned by the association members from all MMOHSC approved shows throughout the year. These points will be for year-end awards.

**Section 2:** The Point Secretary shall have the following duties:

- a. Be responsible for keeping points.
- b. Shall prepare point standings at least three (3) times a year and shall prepare the final point standings at the conclusion of the show season.

**Section 3:** The Point Secretary shall inform exhibitors of only their individual points upon written request accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope or a telephone call at the expense of the exhibitor.

### **Article 10:** Directors

**Section 1:** The Board of Directors shall be composed of five (5) officers, and an additional six (6) members and two (2) youth members.

**Section 2:** General membership will elect the Boards of Directors by ballot. The Board of Directors will elect its officers following the general membership meeting each year.

**Section 3:** The Board of Directors will serve a two-year term.

**Section 4:** Any vacancies that may occur on the board shall be filled by appointment. The Board of Directors will make an appointment by majority vote within 30 days of such a vacancy. The person appointed will fill this vacancy until the fall general membership meeting.

**Section 5:** All board members, adult and youth are to provide receipts and data records all pertinent and financial information pertaining to the position description (committees/officers). This information is to be provided at all board meetings.

### **Article 11:** Elections

**Section 1:** The general membership shall elect the Board of Directors. Nominations shall be made at the fall general membership meeting and election shall be made by ballot.

**Section 2:** The Board of Directors shall elect its officers each year.

**Section 3:** To be eligible to serve on the board, a person must be a paid member in good standing and must be a participating member.

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **By-Laws**

**Section 4:** The Board of Directors, adult and youth shall be required to attend a majority of the MMOHSC approved shows and be a paid member by the first Board of Directors meeting in January of the New Year.

**Section 5:** The directors shall manage all affairs. The directors shall make and enforce the rules and regulations governing the holding of horse shows, the adjustment of deputies among exhibitors and such other rules and regulations as they may deem expedient for the promotion of the objects of this association. They shall have the full authority to enforce the By-Laws and Regulations and decide all matters in relation thereto.

**Section 6:** The President may at any time call a meeting of the Board of Directors or shall do so at the request of three (3) directors.

**Section 7:** At all meetings the Board of Directors,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of its members shall continue a quorum.

**Section 8:** Directors shall be elected or removed by a simple majority vote of the association members.

**Section 9:** The directors may remove from office any director who has accumulated three (3) absences per year of planned meetings, excused or unexcused.

### **Article 12:** Committees

**Section 1:** Committees, as required, to be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2:** No two members from an immediate family (husband, wife, sister, brother, etc.) may serve on a committee at the same time.

### **Article 13:** Meetings

**Section 1:** The general membership meetings shall be held during the month of February. The Board of Directors shall give at least 30 days' notice to all members of the meeting. The fiscal year shall end December 31st.

**Section 2:** The agenda of the general membership meeting shall be:

- a. The qualifying of members present.
- b. Report of the Treasurer
- c. Old business
- d. Nominations for new members to serve on the Board of Directors
- e. New business

**Section 3:** Emergency meetings may be called by the President or three directors but only in total emergencies (Must comply with Article 11, Section 7).

**Section 4:** All MMOHSC meetings should be held in a central location for all board members.

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **By-Laws**

**Section 5:** The MMOHSC board shall meet monthly or as deemed necessary by the President. All meetings shall be open to the membership with a date and to be announced on the MMOHSC website.

### **Article 14:** Disciplinary Action

**Section 1:** All disciplinary actions shall be handled by the Board of Directors. All action deemed necessary up to and including suspension may be taken. Defendant is subject to a hearing.

**Section 2:** Code of Conduct - Good sportsmanship is to be always displayed by all exhibitors, their families and spectators. Good sportsmanship is defined as respectful treatment of judges, show management, other competitors, and all horses and other animals involved. In addition, respect for the tradition of the sport and spirit of showing horses is paramount. Any discretion of the judge, show chairperson or governing body of the event.

### **Article 15:** By-Law Amendments

**Section 1:** All amendments require a petition of the Board of Directors consisting of signatures and membership numbers of 25% of the current year memberships as of August 1st of the current year. Petitions are to be turned into the point secretary by September 15th.

### **Article 16:** Youth Advisory Council

**Section 1:** The duties of the council are as follows:

- a. Represent the views and opinions of the youth members of the MMOHSC.
- b. To take part in the discussions and decisions of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2:** Election of Members of the Youth Council:

- a. A person must be at least ten years of age and not over eighteen years of age to become a member of the council. A person may serve from the time he/she is elected until he/she is no longer qualified as a youth. A new member is to be added when a current member resigns, is removed, or is no longer classified as a youth.
- b. A new member will be added to replace any outgoing members.
- c. When there is a vacancy on the council, a replacement shall be appointed by the remaining members of the council to serve until the general membership meeting, at which time a nomination will be accepted for that position on the council.
- d. Nominations will be accepted at the general membership meeting to replace outgoing members. These nominations will be placed on the ballot to be voted on by the general membership.

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

### **Section 1 - Show Approval**

1. Any club, farm, individual, etc, putting on a MMOHSC show the previous year has the first option to that show date every year, thereafter, unless otherwise deemed by the MMOHSC Board of Directors.
2. Show committees MUST send a current and official show bill with that particular show committee's information on it to their judge(s), along with a copy of the constitution and by-laws from MMOHSC which includes the rules and class descriptions, 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 final 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.
5. A current board member shall serve as the show delegate at each show to answer questions and witness any disputes and define rules.
6. Judges may not reside within a 50-mile radius from where the proposed show is going to be held. A judge must hold at least one breed card, i.e., AQHA, APHA, Arabian, etc. or be listed on the approved 4-H judges list published each year by Michigan State University, regular list not the tentative one. All judges are subject to the following: Must have judged at least 3 shows the previous year.
7. The judge's name must appear on the show bill.
8. The judge's name, phone number, email address and complete address must be sent to the appointed secretary on or before March 30th of each year. (SEE RULE #4)
9. MMOHSC will furnish a show kit to each committee consisting of:
  - a. Entry cards
  - b. Judges' cards are available on our website for the show committees to print.
10. MMOHSC will, upon request, print extra show bills (for a fee) for show committees to use on the day of the show or placed in tack shops, etc.
11. 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 approved meeting.
12. Shows must include all MMOHSC point approved classes and must be designated on the show bill in the same terms used on the list approved classes.
13. Additional events may be added as long as they are judged events. Like classes may be added with like classes, but all classes must be run after the approved classes. All classes must be listed on the show bill. Stakes pleasure classes must run prior to the like pleasure classes, i.e., Stakes English Pleasure before 40 and over English Pleasure. Stakes classes are NOT point approved.
14. All shows are to begin at 9:00 a.m.
15. MMOHSC representatives (QUORUM) have the right to cancel a show forthwith due to circumstances beyond control. Examples: weather (flooding, lightning strikes,

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

tornadoes, wind, extreme hot weather), pandemics, quarantine, the hired judge absent, poor show ring footing which may cause hazardous conditions for both rider and horse.

16. Halter and showmanship classes must be run in that order before any performance classes begin.
17. The lunch break will follow the lead line or pee wee classes and should be a minimum of 30 minutes with performance classes not starting before 11:00 a.m.
18. A class is considered closed to any further entries when the class immediately preceding enters the ring.
19. Admission charges will be stated on the show bill.
20. All entry cards will be picked up following the last MMOHSC approved class by the show delegate or point secretary.
21. MMOHSC will hold point approved show(s) each year with the proceeds going toward year end awards, a banquet, and a \$100.00 scholarship.
22. Sweepstakes or jackpot classes MAY be offered at MMOHSC approved shows. These classes will be offered as open classes. 10% of the total entry fees collected will be the sanction shows. Payback to participants will be as follows: First will receive 50%, second 30%, and third 20% of entries. The entry fee will be \$10 per class.
23. The warm-up class MAY be offered at MMOHSC approved shows with 50% of entry fees going to the show committee and 50-% going to one exhibitor in the class by way of a random drawing at the conclusion of the class. Warm-up class is not a point approved class.
24. An award (trophy, tack, etc.) valued at \$5.00 or more will be given out for first place for each regular class at each show.
25. It shall be the announcer's responsibility to count the number of entrants in each class along with the judge and ringmaster.
26. Judges may be hired for consecutive years but not by the same show committee. No judges may judge more than one MMOHSC show a year.
27. 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 and open walk/trot will be at least \$25.00 (weekend \$50.00), novice horse, novice rider and peewee will be at least \$15.00 (weekend \$30.00).
28. All divisions, except for leadline, will receive daily or weekend high point. Ties will be broken by determining who has the most firsts, then seconds if still tied, etc. In case of an infinite tie, an equal high point award will be provided by MMOHSC.
29. ALL SHOW BILLS MUST INCLUDE: ***MID-MICHIGAN OPEN HORSE SHOWS 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.***
30. Class sheets are available on the MMOHSC website. Original class sheets with attached/ signed judge's cards will be submitted to MMOHSC point secretary or the representative at the end of the show. A \$25.00 fee may be charged to any show committee not following this procedure.

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

31. Judge's cards are to be stapled to the back of the class sheet provided. Judges shall place horse's 1st through 7th in each class with the 7th place horse as honorable mention for disqualification reasons. Seventh place does not need to be announced. A \$25.00 fee may be charged to any show committee not following this procedure.

### **Section 2 - Judges**

#### **JUDGES SHALL JUDGE EACH CLASS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. In conformity with the rules and regulations set forth for each class in the MMOHSC rulebook and those rules only.
2. With promptness and dispatch and not appear indecisive. Any questions asked of the Judge must be asked in the presence of the ringmaster and show delegate. Judges are not allowed to use any electronic devices during the duration of the show unless supervised by a member of the show committee.
3. The judges shall place seven horses on his/ her card in the event of a disqualification of one of the top six placings.
4. If the judge brings an apprentice, it must be approved by the MMOHSC President and his/her delegate before the show begins. There will be no conversation between the two during the show except at appropriate breaks.
5. The Judge's decision will be final in all cases, thereby ending each class, in accordance with MMOHSC rules.
6. Under no condition are lame horses to be placed even if the class is not filled.
7. If a judge does not show up to judge the show, the Board of Directors present at this show may designate a qualified individual to judge the show.
8. The judge and/ or ringmaster shall have the obligation and authority to ask an exhibitor to remove his/her horse from the ring for the safety of the other exhibitors, horses and/or spectators. An exhibition may also be excused from the ring for unsportsmanlike conduct.
9. THE USE OF PATTERNS
  - a. Patterns are required for all 3 gaited jackpot equitation and jackpot horsemanship classes, if offered. Rail work will be at the judge's discretion.
  - b. All patterns (showmanship, horsemanship, equitation, green English/ Western riding, and Reining) must be posted at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.
  - c. The judge or the show committee shall email the patterns to the MMOHSC President five days prior to the commencement of the show for review.
  - d. In the case of inclement weather, MMOHSC may choose only rail work in lieu of patterns in horsemanship and equitation classes.
10. It is the judge's decision as to when a class will be dismissed.
11. All judges must have a signed contract with the MMOHSC or the sponsoring show committee in which all charges are itemized, including their fee and whenever applicable, mileage, meals and lodging. The show committee shall provide lunch away from the show ring viewing area. Judges shall not be able to view riders during any warm-up or break period.



# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

12. It shall be the judge's responsibility to count the number of entrants in each class along with the announcer and ringmaster and shall note the same on the judge's card.
13. A judge may not collect MMOHSC points in the same calendar year in which he/she judges a MMOHSC point approved show.
14. There may only be one judge permitted in the show ring at one time except in the event of a double judged show in which case two judges will be allowed together in the ring, However, they must not communicate in any way with each other while in the ring.
15. A judge is expected to be prompt, courteous, and appropriately attired.
16. A judge must be qualified and knowledgeable in relation to all MMOHSC approved classes.
17. Tie downs and martingales are prohibited in the ring during exhibition.
18. Only flat curb chains or leather curbs are allowed in bitted horses.
19. Horses six years and older must be bitted. Mechanical hackamore, easy stop, slip or gag bit, doughnut and flat polo mouthpieces are NOT ACCEPTABLE. Bosals or standard snaffle bit refers to a smooth snaffle bit with a broken mouthpiece, conventional O ring, eggbutt or D ring, cheekpiece ring no larger than 4" in diameter. One inch in from gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. If a curb strap is used, it must be attached below the reins.
20. Riding classes with 18 or more horses may be split.
21. Lameness will not be allowed to show or to be placed. The lameness of horses will be determined by the judge.
22. If false lead is asked for, the horse must be at least 15 feet off the trail.
23. All horses/ponies are to be shown at a walk, trot/jog, canter/ lope in both directions of the whole arena in all performance classes except leadline, walk/trot, and equitation/horsemanship classes using patterns. Horses/ ponies must be backed. The judge may ask for a back in either line-up or on the rail.
24. Any breakage or malfunction of equipment that results in an interruption of the continuation of the class shall be considered a disqualification.
25. Tack changes will be allowed provided the ringmaster is notified in five-minute increments.
26. A rider may not dismount (fall off, be thrown off, or in any way be separated from his/her horse etc.) at any time at the direction of the judge or under extenuating circumstances (where in the show delegate is contacted).
27. Awards will be given for six places in each class. A seventh placing will be selected by the judge in the event of a disqualification of one of the top six placings.
28. Side saddles will not be permitted in point approved classes.
29. One horse can be ridden in as many classes as the rules permit.
30. No objects will be allowed in the arena except those objects needed for class work and chairs for the judges and ring stewards. This includes but is not limited to tents and umbrellas.

## **Section 3 - Ringmaster and Delegates**

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

1. Only one ringmaster is allowed in the ring during the class except in the event of a double judged show at which time there may be a ringmaster assigned to each judge.
2. The judge and/or ringmaster shall have the obligation and authority to ask an exhibitor to remove him/her horse from the ring for the safety of the other exhibitors, horses and/or spectators. An exhibitor may also be excused from the ring for unsportsmanlike conduct.
3. It shall be the ringmaster's responsibility to count the number of entrants in each class along with the announcer and judge.
4. Ringmasters are expected to be helpful and courteous to both exhibitor and judge and are expected to be appropriately attired and limit his/her conversation during ring time.
5. Ringmasters should be familiar with proper show ring etiquette in relation to both judges and exhibitors and should conduct themselves accordingly.
6. Each show will have 1(one) MMOHSC delegate present.
7. The show delegate has the authority because of safety infractions and/or improprieties of the show committee to administer changes on the day of the show. Example: Splitting of classes, optional dress, safety infractions, etc.
8. The show delegate and/ or his/her designee will be responsible to pick up the points at the end of the day and deliver them to the points secretary.
9. Show delegates are responsible for seeing that patterns, if used, are posted 30 minutes before the show begins.

### **Section 4 - Exhibitors/Members**

1. The term "EXHIBITOR" when used here to refers to:
  - a. The handler of a horse entered in a class in which the merits of the horse are to be considered.
  - b. The rider of a horse in any horsemanship, equitation, western riding, reining or pleasure class.
2. An exhibitor may not serve as a judge at any show in which he/she exhibits unless he/she as well as members of his/her family have finished exhibiting for that day and an emergency situation exists whereby the hired judge cannot continue judging, thereby, requiring the Board of Directors to appoint an individual as the most qualified person present to complete the judging for the day and it is deemed by the board that the exhibitor in question is the most qualified.
3. An exhibitor may not serve as ringmaster at any show in which he/she exhibits unless he/she has finished exhibiting for the day.
4. An exhibitor may not show a horse before a judge that is under said judge's ownership or lease.
5. An exhibitor or his/her parents may be present in writing and legitimate complaints concerning the judge, the show committee, the ringmaster, etc. to the Board of Directors. Such a protest must be accompanied by a \$25.00 fee. If the protest is upheld by the Board of Directors, this fee will be refunded to the complainant.

## **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

### **Rules**

6. No exhibitor may compete in an approved class by a judge whom, within three months of the show:
  - a. Has been instructed, coached, or tutored, with or without pay.
  - b. Whose parent, guardian, or instructor has 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 as instruction, coaching, or tutoring.
7. Proper footwear and headgear and tack must be worn in all classes. This includes a western hat, long pants and boots if shown in the western style. Helmet, hunt cap or derby, jodhpurs, or breeches and boots if showing in the English style. Shows that are classified as show clothes optional must follow the same guidelines. No Tank Tops are allowed.
8. An exhibitor entering the ring, not wearing a back number and or incorrect back number will be disqualified from that class.
9. Any exhibitor leaving the ring after entering it will be disqualified from that class.
10. A person must be 19 years of age or older to show a stallion except for a foal foaled in the current year.
11. At no time while the class is being judged may a trainer, parent, friend, etc. be in the arena with an exhibitor helping, with the exception of leadline and pee wee classes.
12. To accumulate MMOHSC points, the exhibitor must be a paid-up member for the current year.
13. Exhibitors will be awarded points in all point-approved classes at MMOHSC sanctioned shows.
14. Exhibitors must show in each class a minimum of three times to accumulate points towards year end awards. Double judged shows count for two times.
15. Exhibitors must be a MMOHSC member in good standing to accumulate points towards year-end awards.
16. Entry cards are taken as they are written in their entirety, if you have wrong information on it, it must be changed at the show it occurred at.
17. All classes must be paid for before they are entered, if not paid for or have an open check in advance; you are automatically disqualified for points for that class.
18. All exhibitors MUST show in their chronological age group as is determined by the exhibitor's age as of January 1st of the current year. MMOHSC reserves the right to request proof of an exhibitor's age, and any member breaking the age rule will be considered a member in bad standing and lose points for that show.
19. If any member is found breaking any MMOHSC rule more than once will be found a member in bad standing.
20. The term "FAMILY" when used herein refers to husband, wife and any unmarried children who are eighteen years of age or under and are living at home.
21. Youth's birthdates are to accompany membership enrollment forms when dues are paid each year.
22. Individual membership (one person only) Dues: \$20.00 receives one vote. Family membership (immediate family) Dues: \$30.00 receives two adult votes (husband and wife).

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

23. Membership dues are payable at the beginning of each year and covers one full calendar year. Receipt of "Non-Sufficient Funds" check does not constitute payment of dues or payment for any MMOHSC sanctioned function. Therefore, that person/family will not be entitled to receive points. There will be a \$25.00 fee for any check returned as non-sufficient funds.
24. Once membership dues are submitted to the points secretary it cannot be refunded for any reason.
25. Membership may be refused until all outstanding bills from the previous year(s) are paid.
26. For points to count, members must include their back number on their entry card/cards, except if you just paid your membership that day.
27. 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 the same-horse/ same-rider combination.
28. 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.

### **Section 5 - General Rules**

1. A rules committee has been formed; the committee's official duties are:
  - a. Making rule change proposals.
  - b. Accepting rule change proposals in writing by September 15th, current year. Rule change proposals must be submitted on MMOHSC's rule change form available on the website.
  - c. Researching and reviewing all proposals for advantages and or disadvantages.
  - d. Making recommendations to be voted on at the fall general membership meeting (the recommendations must be in writing and distributed to the membership as early as possible).
  - e. At the fall membership meeting all proposals will be discussed, corrected as membership sees fit and voted upon.

### **Section 5 - 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 six or more horses in it. If less than 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 horses in the class, 5 points is 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 your respective division for 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.
2. Points earned in MMOHSC point approved classes at MMOHSC sanctioned shows which meet the requirements of RULE 9 in the Points and Year End Awards section

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

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. Members will not receive year end points or awards unless he/she places in the top six in his/ her division.

3. The MMOHSC point approved classes by division are:

### **Leadline Division**

Leadline Showmanship

Leadline

### **Pee Wee Division**

Pee Wee W/T Showmanship

Pee Wee W/T Horsemanship and or Equitation

Pee Wee W/T Pleasure Western and or English

### **Novice Horse Division**

Novice Horse Showmanship

Novice Horse W/T Horsemanship/ Equitation

Novice Horse W/T Pleasure Western or English

### **Novice Rider Division**

Novice Rider Showmanship

Novice Rider W/T Horsemanship/ Equitation

Novice Rider W/T Pleasure Western or English

### **Current Year Age Division Classes**

Showmanship

English Equitation

English Pleasure

English Disciplined Rail

Western Horsemanship

Western Pleasure

Western Disciplined Rail

Green English/Western riding (Open age division class)

Reining (Open age division class)

Ranch Riding (Open age division class)

Bareback (Open age division class)

### **Walk/trot Open 18 and Under Division, 19 and Over Division**

Walk/ Trot Showmanship 18 and Under & 19 and Over

Walk/ Trot English Equitation 18 and Under & 19 and Over

Walk/ Trot English Pleasure 18 and Under & 19 and Over

Walk/ Trot Horsemanship 18 and Under & 19 and Over

Walk/ Trot Western Pleasure 18 and Under & 19 and Over

Walk/ Trot Bareback (Open age division class)

## **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

### **Rules**

4. The MMOHSC member accumulating the highest number 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 of OVERALL HIGH POINT RESERVE CHAMPION. Year-end awards will be presented to the overall high point champion and reserve champion. Included in the overall highpoint calculations are junior English horse, junior western horse, senior English horse, and senior western horse.
5. The MMOHSC member accumulating the highest number 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, walk/ trot open 18 and under, walk/trot open 19 and over, all age group divisions for that calendar year. Year-end awards will be presented to the grand and reserve grand champion in each division.
6. Horses which are entered appropriately in the following classes: halter mares-open, halter geldings- open, and color class will accumulate MMOHSC year end points if exhibited by an MMOHSC member in good standing (points follow the horse). The horse in each of these three divisions that accumulates the most MMOHSC points will be given the title Champion. Year-end awards will be presented to the Champion. Halter points will not count towards overall high point awards or divisional high point.
7. Horses which are entered appropriately in the following classes: junior horse english and western pleasure and senior horse english and western pleasure will accumulate MMOHSC year end points if exhibited by an MMOHSC member. There will be four divisions; which are junior english pleasure horse, senior English pleasure horse, junior western pleasure horse and senior western pleasure horse. The horse accumulating the highest amount of MMOHSC points in each division will be given the title champion junior english pleasure and champion senior english pleasure, champion junior western pleasure and champion senior western pleasure. Year-end awards will be presented to the champion in all four divisions.
8. The MMOHSC board can approve additional year end awards.
9. 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 under 3 (three) different judges during the season. Horses shown in halter classes (by any current MMOHSC member) must show at 3 (three shows) under 3 (three) different judges points accumulated on the horse only. Lead-line and pee wee must show at 3 (three) different shows under 3 (three) different judges. Points accumulate on the rider only.
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 rule #9.
11. Points for the current year are to be issued at least three times a year and again at the completion of the season when final standings will be issued.

## **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

### **Rules**

12. There will be an awards banquet in February. Year-end awards will be given for MMOHSC approved classes at the awards banquet.
13. Ties for year-end awards will not be broken, they will receive the same award. In case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given, only six awards total will be given unless there is a tie for sixth, in which case all contestants tied for sixth will receive the same award. Example: there is a tie for third place; the awards given are; 1 Grand Champion award, 1 Reserve Champion Award, 2 third place awards, 1 fifth place awards and 1 6th place award.
14. 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.

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

### **Section 7 - Classes**

#### **Division A - Halter**

Type = 30%, Conformation = 60% Way of Going = 10%

1. The judge shall check the action of both the walk and trot and shall make an individual close-up inspection of each entry. The profile must be clean in the throat latch with good balance, correct in the conformation of each individual breed.
2. All halter classes must be profiled.
3. Any entry noted to be lame shall be disqualified even if the class is not filled.
4. Horses' ages are determined by the January 1st rule. Horses born in 1995 are one year old on January 1st, 1996. All horses may be required to provide proof of age. All horses shown in the five and under classes will be required to show proof of age.
5. Horses are to be judged on breed type, conformation, and way of going,
6. Horses shown in western halter classes must be shown in a western halter.
7. Horses shown in english in halter classes must be shown in an english halter or bridle that is appropriate for the breed of the horse and the discipline that it is being presented in. A horse being presented as a hunt seat horse may be shown in a hunt seat bridle or a plain leather halter. The halter must be suitable to the breed of the horse being shown. Example: A stock horse breed, such as a quarter horse, appaloosa, paint, pinto, etc. should be shown in a stock type halter. An arabian or morgan, etc. should be shown in a halter that is appropriate for their breed. At no time should a stock breed have an arabian type halter on or an arabian type horse have a stock type halter on. A horse being presented as a saddleseat horse may use a plain leather halter, that is appropriate for breed type, a full bridle, (weymouth and snaffle), with or without the snaffle, or a pelham bridle with or without a snaffle rein. If snaffle rein hasn't been removed, it should be placed over the horse's withers. The horse is led and presented with the curb rein only. All show haters, regardless of breed shown, must have a throat latch and be acceptable to breed standards.
8. Bats and whips are prohibited in western type halter but are optional in english type halter.
9. The exhibitor must wear proper attire including hat and boots if fitting with the style of showing in all halter classes.
10. Hoof black is optional.

#### **Division B - Showmanship**

Showmanship = 70%, Fitness = 20%, Overall Appearance = 10%

1. The exhibitor is to be judged on showmanship and fitness of the animal as well as overall appearance.
2. The exhibitor must wear proper attire including hat and boots in keeping with the style of showing.
3. The animal may be presented in either english or western tack with the showman addressed accordingly.



# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

4. The showman must be alert and natural. "Over showing" is objectionable and should be discouraged.
5. Patterns for showmanship are to be posted at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.
6. Lead line is to be WALK only.

### **Division C - Lead Line**

1. Riders (ages determined by current year's show committee) may participate in this class.
2. Lead line exhibitors may not ride in any other class but may show in the halter and lead line showmanship class.
3. The riders are to be judged on their seat, hands, and legs.
4. Chaps are optional in this class.
5. The horse is to be shown at the walk only in each direction of the ring.
6. The horse is to be led by a handler.
7. The riders will back their horses at the judge's discretion.
8. Points for this class follow the rider.
9. All lead line exhibitors must have appropriate length stirrups (for example buddy stirrups).

### **Division D - Pee Wee Walk Trot (English and or Western)**

1. Pee wee walk/ trot exhibitors may not ride in any 3 gaited classes but may ride in warm-up class and walk/trot OPEN. They may also show in halter, pee wee showmanship, and walk/trot OPEN showmanship. (See show bill).
2. Judging will be in accordance with the regular age divisions with exclusion of the third gate and cannot change hands at any time during judging. Horses are to be shown at the walk and jog/ trot ONLY, in both directions of the ring.
3. Chaps are optional.
4. Points for this class follow the rider.

### **Division E - Walk Trot Novice (English or Western)**

1. A novice horse is defined as an inexperienced horse which has never competed in a MMOHSC class which requires a third gate. Novice horses may not compete in any age division class which requires a third gate. A horse who acquires 200 MMOHSC points in the Novice Horse Division will no longer qualify as a novice horse beginning the following show season in which the 200 MMOHSC points were reached. Example: If you reach your 200 points at the 3rd show into a show season you may continue to show the novice horse division for that show season, but the horse would no longer qualify as a novice horse the following show season or thereafter. Points will begin accumulation at the start of the MMOHSC season.
2. A novice horse being shown in novice horse showmanship may not enter any other age division showmanship class but would be allowed to participate in the walk/ trot OPEN showmanship class.

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

3. A novice rider is defined as an inexperienced exhibitor which has never competed in a MMOHSC class which requires a third gate. Novice riders may not compete in any age division class which requires a third gate. Novice riders are only eligible for this division for two show seasons beginning with the 2017 show season.
4. Exhibitors in the novice rider showmanship class may not enter any other age division showmanship class regardless of the horse being used but would be allowed to participate in the walk/trot OPEN showmanship class.

### **Division F- Junior & Senior Western Pleasure**

1. Horses in the junior class must be five years of age and under. Horses in the senior class must be six years of age and over. Proof of age is required for horses five years and under.
2. The riders may be of any age. Chaps and spurs are optional.
3. An exhibitor may ride the same horse in both his/her age division and in the junior or senior western pleasure classes. Points that are earned in these classes will count for "Overall High Point Only" and junior/ senior year end awards, not to age group high point.
4. A junior horse may be ridden in this class either bitted, in a bosal, or in an acceptable snaffle bit and hand usage shall be determined by the style of the bit worn. Equal consideration will be given to all entries by the judge regardless of the style of bit.
5. A senior horse must be bitted.
6. The way of going shall be described in the western pleasure division.

### **Division G - Western Pleasure**

Performance = 70%, Conformation = 20%, Appointments = 10%

1. The horses are to be judged on performance, conformation, and appointments.
2. The horses are to be worked on the rail at a walk, jog, and lope in both directions and backed.
3. The horse should move out willingly, in a fluid, consistent manner in all three gaits. Excessive speed or slowness is considered objectionable and is to be discriminated against. The walk is to be natural, flat footed, four beat gait with reasonable length of stride in keeping with the size of the horse. The jog is a smooth, ground covering two beat diagonal gait. Horses walking in the back and jogging in the front are to be discriminated against. The lope is an easy rhythmical three beat gait. Horses noted to be "four beating" are to be discriminated against. The horse should carry its head in a natural way consistent with its conformation. Exaggerated head carriage is objectionable.
4. Junior horses (5 and under) ridden in bosals or snaffle bits with the use of two hands by the rider are to be given equal consideration by the judge along with bitted horses.

### **Division H - Western Horsemanship**

Ability = 60%, Performance = 20%, Appointments & Suitability = 20%

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

1. The riders are to be judged on riding skills, hands, seat, legs, ring deportment, appointments, and suitability of the horse and rider.
2. Riders mounted on bitted horses must have only one hand on the reins and may not change hands.
3. Riders mounted on junior horses wearing bosals or snaffle bits may use two hands. The bight of the reins must be crossed. The rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than 4 inches out on either side of the saddle horn. Hands must be steady with very limited movement.
4. With the use of romal reins, the riders off hand shall be around the romal with at least 16 inches of slack.
5. Chaps are optional in all horsemanship classes.
6. Horsemanship patterns must be posted at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.

### **Division I - Junior and Senior Hunter Under Saddle**

Performance = 70%, Conformation = 20%, Appointments = 10%

1. Horses in junior class must be five years of age and under. Horses in the senior class must be six years of age and over. Proof of age is required for the horses in the five and under class.
2. The rider may be any age.
3. An exhibitor may ride the same horse in both his/her age division and the junior or senior english pleasure classes. Points earned in these classes will count for "Overall High Point Only", not to age group high point.
4. The way of going shall be described in the english pleasure division.
5. Junior horses will be allowed splint boots at the rider's discretion.

### **Division J - English Pleasure**

Performance = 70%, Conformation = 20%, Appointments = 10%

1. The horses are to be judged on their performance, conformation, and appointments. The style of appointments must fit the style of riding. (See English equitation)
2. The horses are to be worked on the rail at the walk, trot, and canter in both directions of the ring and backed. The extended trot is optional at the judge's discretion. Horses should back easily and stand quietly.
3. In the event of the use of a hand gallop, only eight horses may be worked on the rail at one time.
4. The horses should move out willingly in a smooth, consistent, free-moving manner at all three gaits. Over-flexing and/or over collection should be penalized. They should move in a long low frame and be able to lengthen their stride and cover ground. They should be obedient, alert and responsive to their riders. Quick, short strides should be penalized. Judges should emphasize free movement and manners.

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

5. In all english classes, an english snaffle (no shank), pelham (with two reins), kimberwick and or full bridle, all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands, must be used.
6. The use of crops and or unrowelled spurs are optional.

### **Division K - English Equitation**

Ability = 60%, Performance = 20%, Appointments and Suitability = 20%

1. The riders are to be judged on the correct use of riding skills, hands, seat, legs, ring deportment, appointments and suitability of the horse and rider.
2. Equitation patterns must be posted at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.
3. The use of crops and unrowelled spurs are optional.
4. In the event a hand gallop is used, only eight horses may be worked on the rail at one time.
5. English tack must suit the style of riding.
6. When riding hunt seat in the english classes, riders must use hunt seat, jumping or dressage saddles.
7. When riding saddle seat in the english classes, the rider must use a flat cut back 4" saddle. Dressage and forward saddles are prohibited.

### **Division L - Green English/ Western Riding**

Horse performance and manners:

Horses will be judged on the riding quality of gaits, changes of leads, response to the rider, manners, and disposition. SIMPLE LEAD CHANGES are acceptable; flying lead changes will be given higher marks for difficulty. A rider will be penalized for losing a stirrup, using two hands on the reins (except where two hands are permitted), changing hands on the reins or touching any part of the saddle with the free hand.

1. The horse will be judged on quality of gaits, changes of lead, response to the rider, manners, disposition, and intelligence.
2. The horse should maintain an even cadence and change leads precisely and easily, front and rear, at the center point between markers as indicated by the shaded areas on the pattern. The horse should have a relaxed head carriage showing its response to the rider's hands, with moderate flexion at the poll. The tail should remain quiet throughout the pattern. The horse should cress the log at the jog or pleasure gait and lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride.
3. Additional information about the pattern follows:
  - a. The log should be at least 8 feet long and laid on the ground.
  - b. The markers should be pylons. In the row of five markers, the markers are separated by equal distances of 30 to 50 feet. The markers in the row of three are aligned with the first, third and fifth markers in the row of five.
  - c. After stopping and backing at least 10 feet at the end of the pattern the rider will report to the judge and be excused.

# Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit

## Rules

4. A horse going off pattern is disqualified. Off pattern is any of the following: an incomplete pattern, incorrect order of maneuvers, knocking over markers, passing on the wrong side of the markers, making extra loops in the pattern, missing the log, and failure to change leads.
5. Each rider will enter the ring with a score of 70, which represents an average performance. Final scores will generally fall in a range from 40-80 points.

SCORING GUIDELINES: Points will be added or subtracted from the eight maneuvers on the following basis.

- 1 = very poor
- ½ = poor
- 0 = average
- +½ = good
- +1 = excellent

The eight maneuvers are:

1. Gate (recommended but optional)
2. Trot over log
3. Trot and transition to lope
4. Line (side) lead changes (plus or minus 1 point per change)
5. First two crossing lead changes (plus or minus 1 point per change)
6. Lope over the log
7. Second two crossing lead changes (plus or minus 1 point per change)
8. Lope, stop and back a minimum of 10 feet.

An additional score of plus or minus 1 point will be given for pattern accuracy and smoothness.

Contestants will be penalized as follows:

**5 Points** - Failure to change leads where indicated in pattern.

**3-5 Points** - Using the free hand to instill fear in the horse.

**3 Points** - a) Making extra lead changes anywhere on the course.

b) Breaking gait at a walk or jog for two or more strides.

c) Failure to begin lope within 30 feet after crossing log.

**2 Points** - a) Failing to take a prescribed gait at the designated point in the pattern.

b) Failing to change lead behind until the next change point.

**1 Point** - a) Breaking gait at the walk or trot up to two strides.

b) Hitting the log.

**½ Point** - a) Touching the log lightly.

b) Failing to change lead behind from one-half stride up to a cone.

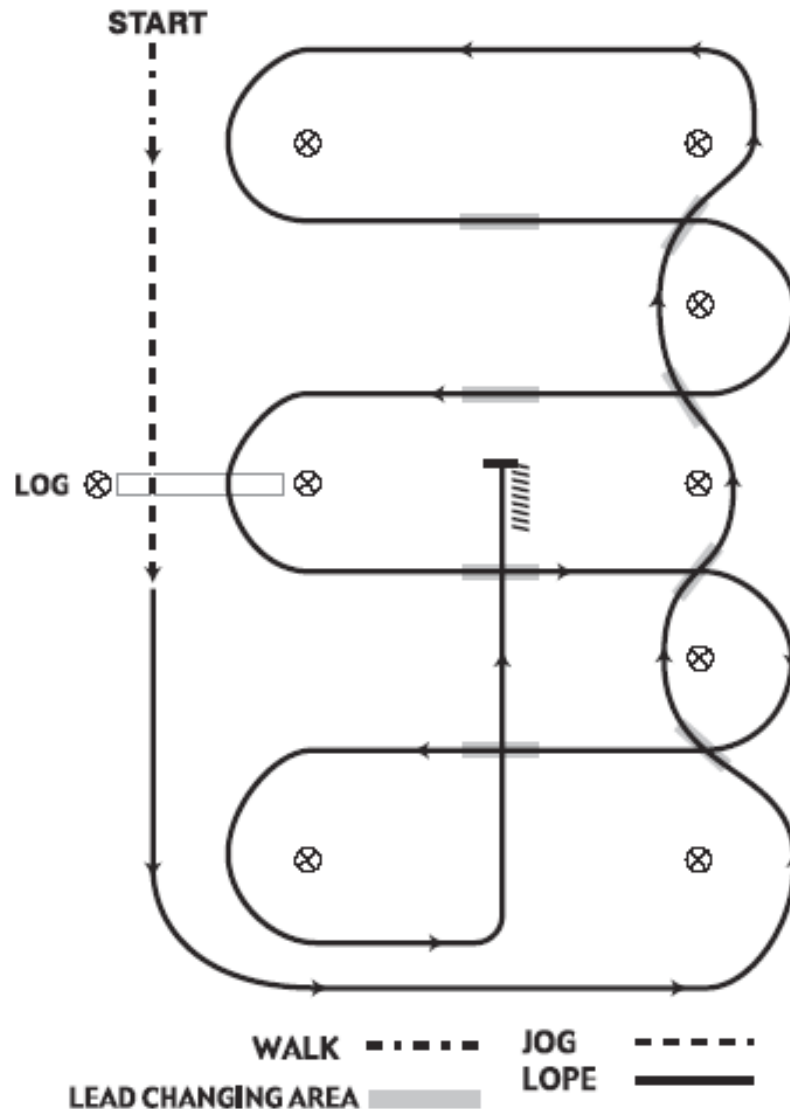
**Disqualifications** - Failing to perform at least four lead changes will result in disqualification.

## Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit

### Rules

The following are considered faults and should be penalized at the judge's discretion:

1. Opening mouth excessively or throwing head on maneuvers
2. Anticipating signals or early lead changes
3. Stumbling
4. Losing a stirrup or holding on
5. Any unnecessary aid given by the rider, such as talking, petting, spurring, or jerking the reins.



1. Walk at least 15' and trot/jog over log
2. Transition to left lead and canter/lope around end
3. First lead change
4. Second lead change
5. Third lead change
6. Fourth lead change, canter/lope around end of arena
7. First crossing lead change

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

8. Second crossing lead change
9. Canter/lope over log
10. Third crossing lead change
11. Fourth crossing lead change
12. Canter/lope up to the center, stop and back

### **Division M - Reining**

#### **Criteria Explanation**

Judges are encouraged to score reining classes according to the NRHA scoring system, which states that all riders will enter the class with a score of 70, which represents an average run. That score is added to or subtracted from as maneuvers are performed and penalties are added. Each maneuver should be scored according to the following scale.

- 1 ½ = extremely poor
- 1 = very poor
- ½ = poor
- 0 = average
- +½ = good
- +1 = very good
- +1 ½ = excellent

Scoring will be on the basis of 60-80, with 70 representing an average performance.

#### **The following will result in a no score or disqualification from the class:**

1. Failure to complete the pattern as written.
2. Equipment failure that delays completion of the pattern
3. Performing maneuvers other than in the specified order
4. Including maneuvers not specified, including but not limited to backing more than two strides (two strides meaning four steps with the front feet)
5. A turn or more than 90 degrees where one is not specified.
6. Running away or failure to guide where it becomes impossible to discern where the entry is on pattern.
7. Jogging more than one - half circle or one - half the arena while starting a circle, circling, or exiting a roll back
8. Overspins of more than ¼ turn.
9. Use of illegal equipment.
10. Willful abuse of the horse
11. Using the reins or romal as a whip
12. Using more than one finger between reins
13. Changing hands on the reins
14. Using two hands on the reins (except with junior horses that are ridden two-handed, or that are shown in a bosal or snaffle bit)
15. Fall to the ground by horse or rider.
16. Balking or refusing a command

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

### **The following will result in a 5-point reduction:**

1. Spurring in front of the cinch
2. Use of the free hand to instill fear.
3. Holding the saddle or touching the horse with the free hand
4. Blatant disobedience of the horse, including kicking, biting, bucking, or rearing.

### **The following will result in a 2-point reduction.**

1. Failure to go beyond markers on steps or rollbacks when it is called for in the pattern.
2. Break of gait
3. Freeze up in spin or rollbacks.
4. On walk-in patterns, failure to stop or walk before executing a center departure.
5. On run-in patterns, failure to be in a canter before the first marker.

### **Starting or performing circles out of lead will be judged as follows:**

Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to deduct 1 point, which is cumulative. The judge will deduct 1 point for each quarter of the circumferences of the circles or any part thereof that the horse is out of lead. The judge is required to deduct ½ point for a delayed change of lead by one stride.

### **Other faults and their penalties include:**

1. Starting a circle at a jog or exiting rollbacks at a jog up two strides (½ point)
2. Over or under spinning up to one-eighth of a turn (½ point)
3. Jogging beyond two strides, but less than one-half or one-half the length of the arena (2 points)
4. When a change of lead is specified immediately before a run at the end of the arena failure to change leads will be penalized as follows:
  - a. Failure to change leads by one stride (½ point)
  - b. Lead is not changed before next maneuver (1 point)
  - c. In patterns requiring a run-around, failure to be on the correct lead when rounding at the end of the arena (1 point)
  - d. Lead is not changed before next maneuver (2 points)
  - e. Failure to end on the correct lead pivot to the center point of the arena (2 points)

### **Faults against the horse to be scored at the judge's discretion, but not to cause disqualification:**

1. Opening the mouth excessively (when shown in a bit)
2. Lack of smooth, straight stop on haunches, bouncing on sideways stop
3. Refusing to change leads
4. Anticipating signals
5. Stumbling



## **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

### **Rules**

6. Backing sideways
7. Knocking over markers

#### **Faults against the rider to be scored accordingly, but not to cause disqualifications:**

1. Losing a stirrup
2. Any unnecessary aid given by the other rider such as talking, petting, spurring or jerking of reins.
3. Failure to go beyond markers on rollbacks and stops is considered a fault.
4. Failure to run circles or figure eights within the markers is not considered a fault, depending on the arena conditions and size.

## Rules

The diagram shows a figure-eight track layout. A central vertical line runs through the middle. At the bottom, a horizontal line is labeled "START". At the top, a horizontal line is labeled "FINISH". The track consists of two large loops, one on the left and one on the right, connected by a narrow section in the middle. Arrows indicate the direction of travel: clockwise for the left loop and counter-clockwise for the right loop. There are several rectangular boxes with an 'X' inside, positioned along the outer edges of the loops. A wavy line is drawn across the central narrow section of the track.

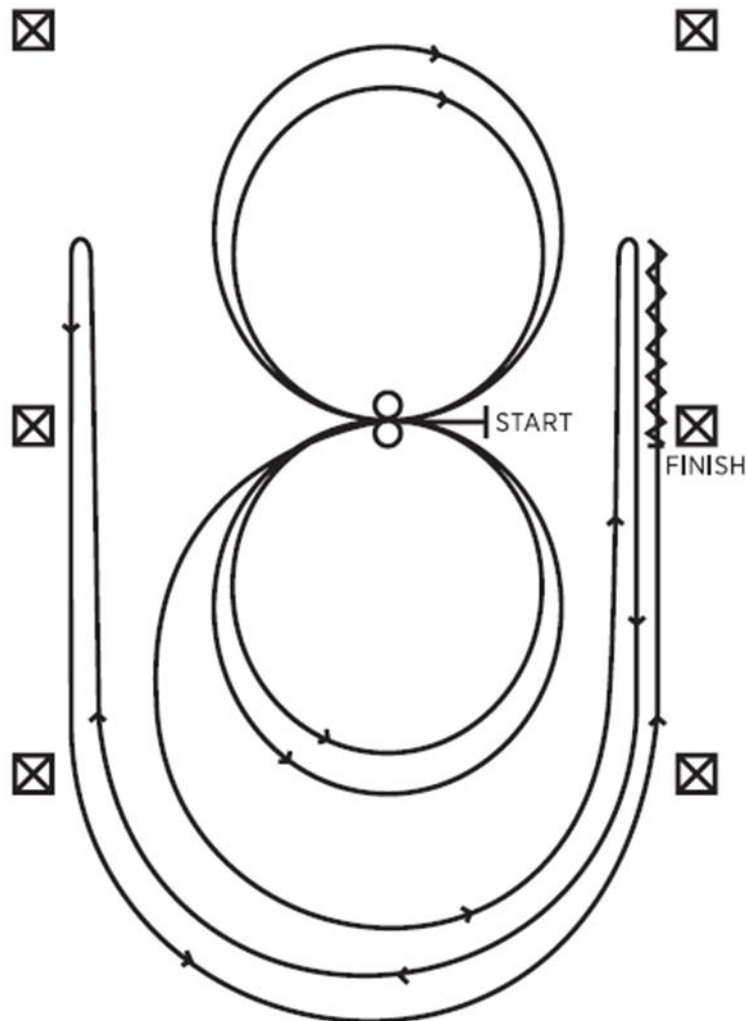
1. Run with speed to the far end of the arena past the end marker and do a left rollback - no hesitation.
2. Run to the opposite end of the arena past the end marker and do a right rollback - no hesitation.
3. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back up to the center of the arena or at least 10 feet (3 meters). Hesitate
4. Complete one spin to the right. Hesitate
5. Complete one and one-quarter spins to the left so that the horse is facing the left wall or fence.

## Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit

### Rules

6. Beginning on the left lead, complete two circles to the left, with the first circle large and fast, and the second circle small and slow. Change leads at the center of the arena.
7. Complete two circles to the right, with the first circle large and fast, and the second circle small and slow. Change leads at the center of the arena.
8. Begin a large, fast circle to the left but do not close this circle. Run straight up to the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence. Hesitate to demonstrate you have completed the pattern.
9. Dismount and drop the bridle to the designated judge.

### Reining Pattern 2:



*Figure 19. Reining pattern 2.*

## **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

### **Rules**

Exhibitors may walk or trot their horses to the center of the arena. Horses must walk or stop before starting the pattern. Begin at the center of the arena facing the left wall or fence.

1. Complete one spin to the right. Hesitate.
2. Complete one spin to the left. Hesitate.
3. Beginning on the left lead, complete two circles to the left, with the first circle large and fast, and the second circle small and slow. Change leads at the center of the arena.
4. Complete two circles to the right, with the first circle large and fast, and the second circle small and slow. Change leads at the center of the arena.
5. Begin a large fast circle to the left but do not close the circle. Run up the left side of the arena past the center marker and do a right rollback at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence - no hesitation.
6. Continue back around the previous circle but do not close this circle. Run up the left side of the arena past the center marker and do a left rollback at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence - no hesitation.
7. Continue back around the previous circle but do not close this circle. Run up the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence, back up at least 10 feet (3 meters). Hesitate to demonstrate you have completed the pattern.
8. Dismount and drop the bridle to the designated judge.

### **Division N - Ranch Riding**

Horse performance and manners: The ranch riding horse should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The class is judged on the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while performing the required and optional maneuvers. The required maneuvers are the walk, jog, and lope (both directions), the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction as well as stops, back and one change of direction. The optional maneuvers are side pass; turns of 360 degrees or more; change of lead (simple or flying); walk, jog or lope over poles or other reasonable maneuvers a ranch horse could perform. Scoring is on a 0-100 point scale with 70 denoting an average performance.

Ranch Riding Pattern will be posted at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the show.

### **Division O - Lunge Line**

1. Even though appropriate levels of training will be recognized; these horses are not expected to demonstrate behavior or performance beyond what is necessary for a reasonable presentation to the judge.
  - a. Lunge line will be open to any horse, but that horse will not be eligible for any riding class other than warm-up.
2. **Equipment:** Horses are to be shown in a halter, regular or show type is acceptable. For the lunging demonstration, the only attachment allowed to the halter is the lunge line. The lunge line must hang free from the halter without touching any part of the

## **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

### **Rules**

horse. It is permissible to use a lunge whip. No other equipment is allowed on the horse during the class. Mechanical or retractable lunge lines are not allowed.

3. **Attire:** Conventional Western or English attire is mandatory.

4. **Judging:**

- a. Judging will be outside the lunge line circle. The exhibitor will enter the arena and await the start whistle. When the whistle is blown the exhibitor will be allowed 1 ½ minutes to present their horse. At the end of 1 ½ minutes a whistle will blow again to signify the end of the run. Show management has the option of adding a “halfway” whistle if they choose.
- b. The horse will be scored at the walk, jog or long trot and lope or canter in both directions. Any horse that does not exhibit these gaits in each direction will be disqualified from the class. The exhibitor may begin work in the direction of their choice (counter or clockwise)
- c. The horses are judged 70% on movement and 30% on conformation.
- d. If the horse’s nose, mouth or jaw show signs of broken skin, rawness, or bleeding the horse will be eliminated from competition.
- e. If the horse is playing on the lunge line, it shall not count against the horse. The horse should be judged as though the pleasure prospect was playing in the field. The judge may at her/his discretion, penalize the horse for excessive bucking or running off or displaying attitudes that are complementary to the pleasure horses such as excessive ear pinning and tail wringing.
- f. After the lunging competition is complete, the horses will line up in halter fashion in their order of go and prepare for the final conformation judging. The judge may not discriminate for or against bulk, rather look for a total picture, emphasizing balance and athletic capability, and should use this opportunity to review preliminary scores.
- g. For confirmation judging, the exhibitor may change to a lead shank in place of the lunge line. The lead shank or lunge line chain may only be used under the chin, over the nose or hanging from the halter.
- h. An exhibitor may only show one horse in each lunge line class. The same exhibitor must show both segments of the class.
- i. Any horse that takes the wrong lead for more than one full circle will be disqualified.
- j. Touching the horse with the whip will result in disqualification.
- k. The use of a chain in any fashion will result in disqualification.
- l. Stepping over the lunge line will result in disqualification.
- m. Definition of disqualification is to mean not placing in the points. If the class is not full, it is the judge’s discretion to place them at the bottom of the class.

### **Section P - Trail**

1. Same trail pattern cannot be used twice in a row.
2. The trail will be closed one hour prior to judging.
3. The trail course will be closed two classes prior to the start of all trail classes.

## **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

### **Rules**

4. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed. Proving correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it. And willingly responding to their rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.
5. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized.
6. Horses must not be required to work on the rail. The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show three gaits (walk, jog, lope) somewhere between obstacles as part of its work, and quality of movements and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score. While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying its head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. Gait between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.
7. The course to be used must be posted at least one hour before the scheduled starting time for the class.
8. The score is based on 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from +1 ½ to -1 ½ = extremely poor, minus 1 very poor, -½=poor, 0= correct, +½= good, +1= very good, +1 ½= excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

### **Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:**

9. The following deductions will result:
  - (½) Point each
    - Tick of log, pole, cone, plant, or any component of the obstacle.
  - (1) Point each
    - Each bite of or hit of or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle.
    - Incorrect break of gate at walk or jog for two strides or less
    - Both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space
    - Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
    - Split pole in lope-over
  - (3) Points each
    - Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides.
    - Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)

## **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

### **Rules**

- Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle.
- Stepping outside of the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with one foot since the foot has entered an obstacle; including missing one element of an obstacle on a line of travel with one foot.
- (5) Points each
  - Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
  - First or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
  - Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.
  - Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.
  - Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with more than one foot once the foot has entered obstacles; including missing one element of an obstacle on a line of travel with more than one foot.
  - Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking)
  - Faults, which occur on the line of travel between obstacles, scored according to severity.
    - Head carried too high
    - Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
    - Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
    - Excessive nosing out
    - Opening mouth excessively

### **10. Disqualified 0-Score**

- a. Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle as outlined in 443.
- b. Use of romal reins other than outlined in 443.
- c. Performing the obstacles incorrectly or other than in specified order.
- d. No attempt to perform an obstacle.
- e. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern
- f. Excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head.
- g. Entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction.
- h. Working an obstacle in the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than ¼ turn
- i. Riding outside the designated boundary marker of the arena or course area
- j. Third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
- k. Failure to ever demonstrate correct gait between obstacle as designated.

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

- l. Faults that occur on the line of travel between obstacles, which will be cause for disqualifications, except in novice/ pee wee classes, which shall be faults scored according to severity.
  - m. Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers consistently)
  - n. Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently.
1. Management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind to eliminate any accidents. If difficult courses are set, the novice trail should be less difficult. When the distances and spaces are measured between all obstacles, the inside base to inside base measurement of each obstacle considering the normal path of the horse, should be the measuring point. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog (at least 30 feet/ 9 meters) and lope (at least 50 feet/15 meters) for the judges to evaluate these gaits.
  2. If disrupted, the course shall be reset. In the case that an obstacle is used in combination, the obstacle cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire obstacle.
  3. At least six obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three others selected from the list of optional obstacles.
  4. Mandatory Obstacles:
    - a. Opening, passing through and closing the gate (losing control of the gate is to be penalized) Use a gate which will not endanger the horse rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
    - b. Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trot overs and lope overs cannot be elevated in novice/ pee wee classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trot overs, and lope overs should be as follows or increments thereof.
      - i. The spacing for walkovers shall be 20" to 24" and may be elevated to 12". Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22" apart.
      - ii. The spacing for trot lovers shall be 3' to 3'6" and may be elevated to 8"
      - iii. The spacing for lope overs shall be 6' to 7' or increments thereof and may be elevated to 8".
    - c. Backing obstacles. Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28". If elevated, 30" spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.



# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## **Rules**

- i. Back through and around at least three markers
- ii. Back through L, V, U, straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 23".

### **5. Optional obstacles, but not limited to:**

- a. Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be minimum of 6' for jog
- b. Carry objects from one part of the arena to another. (Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used).
- c. Ride over a wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36" wide and at least six feet long). Bridge should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only.
- d. Put on and remove the slicker.
- e. Remove and replace materials from the mailbox.
- f. Side pass (may be elevated to 12")
- g. An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5' to 7' long, and laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, the rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
- h. Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge may be used.
- i. A combination of two or more of any obstacles is acceptable.

### **6. Unacceptable obstacles**

- a. Tires
- b. Animals
- c. Hides
- d. PVC pipe
- e. Dismounting
- f. Jumps
- g. Rocking or moving bridges
- h. Water box with floating or moving parts
- i. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
- j. Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll
- k. Ground ties

### **7. The judge may walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle they deem unsafe or non-negotiable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.**

# **Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit**

## History

### Document Change History

Date	Change	Author
04-Oct-2023	Converted from PDF to MSWord document.	Gerry Hanson
06-Oct-2023	Changed annual meeting (Banquet) from November to February. Approved November 2022 awards banquet. Article 13 Section 1 page 4. Rules - Section 5 Item 12, page 15.	Kelly Davis
26-Feb-2024	Added Section 2 to Article 8 Treasurer (page 3). In the event Mid-Michigan Open Horse Shows Circuit should be dissolved, all remaining funds will be donated to the Isabella County 4-H Horse Barn.	Kelly Davis