



SHOW RULES

Including the Performance Horse Registry Criteria

Of

The Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc

To take effect from 1 August, 2024 and replace all previous Show Rules

SHOW RULES OF THE MINIATURE HORSE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

PRESENTATION FOR SHOWING:

RULE I:

The permissible methods of presentation for showing the registered Miniature Horse are:

- (a) In a natural condition; or
- (b) Clipped with the new coat established; or
- (c) Freshly clipped, as long as in all of the above, the horse is neat, healthy and well presented;
- (d) Alteration of markings and natural body colour – No person shall alter, in any way change, or attempt to hide or alter the natural markings or natural body colour (e.g. bay to black etc.) of a horse, by surgery, dye, or any other manner.

General preparation and presentation will be at the discretion of the owner, but the Association states that the horse must be shown to its best possible visual and health advantage, in order to promote the Miniature Horse as one of beauty, intelligence and gentleness.

DRUGS AND ARTIFICIAL APPLIANCES AND IRRITANTS:

RULE II:

- A. The use of stimulants or depressants or any drug affecting the showing of a horse in halter or performance is strictly forbidden. Penalties for positive evidence of such drugging will include barring of the Exhibitor, Owner or Trainer from showing at said show and will include barring of all horses exhibited, owned, or trained by them. All points received at said show will be forfeited for any horses shown, owned or trained by them.
- B. Any horse showing evidence of the use of ginger or other irritants to produce a higher tail carriage than normal shall be disqualified.
- C. No horse having had surgery for purely cosmetic purposes will be permitted to show. Similarly, no horse having had surgery to correct faults will be permitted to show.
- D. No pads, wedges, chains, nor weighted ankle boots are allowed.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SHOWING:

RULE III:

A. Shows with classes for registered Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc horses will be open to horses holding current registration certificates that are to be available for viewing. All Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc Shows and classes put on by Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc Promotional Groups must incorporate classes that enable ALL horses registered with the Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc the option to compete. Events are open to Registered Miniature or Small Horses owned by financial Members only.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SHOWING: (Contd.,)

RULE III:

B. (a) To enter a show, the Exhibitor must use the complete name and number of the animal as it is shown on the horse's registration certificate. No substitutions or changes are acceptable. Horses shown under false identity will be automatically and immediately disqualified by the Show Management.

(b) If a protest is lodged and is upheld, then the protest fee is waived.

(c) Entry forms must be completely filled out for all shows and must not be accepted by the Show Management until all information has been listed, copies of the registration papers must be made available if requested, and the entry form signed by the Exhibitor.

C. Animals with both Miniature or Small Horse and Miniature Pony Registration/s can only be shown in either the Miniature or Small Horse ring or Miniature Pony ring, not both, in any one season.

D. At shows conducted by the Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc or conducted under its rules a registered Miniature horse and a registered Small horse shall not compete against each other for any prize or award, in either halter or performance without the prior permission of the National Committee, which National Committee shall not be bound to give, but shall in any event be given only where there is no obvious advantage to one category over the other in competition.

E. Young foals in the show ring. Foals under the age of 4 months must be accompanied to the show by their Dam and must be trained to lead on a halter.

F. Any Member or Member's agent who either knowingly or inadvertently shows an unregistered horse in a Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc. event at any shows will result in:

(a) the horse being stripped of any awards and High Points earned at that show.

(b) the Member being suspended from showing at the next Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc. Feature Show in that State.

(c) the said horse being ineligible for showing at the next Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc. Feature Show in that State.

G. Any Multiple or repeat breach by the same Member or Member's agent will result in a suspension from showing for a period to be determined by National Committee.

H. AGES:

For showing purposes the following age groups are suggested:

JUNIORS:

Weanling

Yearling

Two year old (actual age)

Three year old (actual age)

SENIORS:

4 - 6 years old (actual age)

7 - 9 years old (actual age)

VETERANS:

10 years (actual age) and over

ELIGIBILITY FOR SHOWING: (Contd.,)

RULE III:

H. AGES: (Contd.,)

Therefore, Performance Classes should be:

Yearlings: Trot Poles only

Junior Hunter: 2 - 3 years (actual age)

No Show Jumping etc until 4 years actual age

HEIGHT VERIFICATION:

RULE IV:

A. There shall be Miniature Horses and Small Horses:

MINIATURE HORSE height requirements are:

- (i) Horses up to and not including 12 months of age shall not exceed 30" in height.
- (ii) Horses 12 months up to and not including 24 months of age shall not exceed 32" in height.
- (iii) Horses 24 months up to and not including 36 months of age shall not exceed 33" in height.
- (iv) Horses 36 months and over shall not exceed 34" in height.

SMALL HORSE height requirements are:

- (i) Horses up to but not including 12 months of age shall not exceed 34" in height.
- (ii) Horses 12 months up to and not including 24 months of age shall not exceed 36" in height.
- (iii) Horses 24 months up to and not including 36 months of age shall not exceed 37" in height.
- (iv) Horses 36 months and over shall not exceed 38" in height.

Definition: A 'qualified' Miniature or Small horse is one which meets the requirements of Rule 21 Paragraph (1).

B. Where required, a horse's height must be verified on a hard level surface, preferably concrete or paved, by a show steward and witnessed by a Member of the Horse Show Committee.

The measuring device used to measure the first horse must be used to measure all of the horses.

The Official Measurer's decision is final unless a protest is lodged in writing accompanied by the appropriate fee within 30 minutes of measuring.

C. The Horse Show Committee shall announce the time and place for height verification.

D. All MHAA® Permanent Adult registered Miniature or Small Horses are eligible to hold a Permanent Height Card. Permanent Height Card Applications can only be issued by the National Committee and the Horse measured for a Permanent Height Card by a State Representative or an Official Measurer (being someone nominated by the National Committee for that purpose).

Permanent Height Cards may be validly used at all Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc Shows, including the National Show.

E. Where height splits to classes occur, or are contemplated, the Show Committees at both State and National level must adhere to:

- (a) At no time may a split be greater than 2" in height difference.
- (b) These splits are to start at the top of the height range and move lower by two inches at a time, as there is no minimum heights set down.

HEIGHT VERIFICATION: (Contd.,)

RULE IV:

F. Any Miniature Horse officially measuring over 34" in height at a Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc show will have the horse's registration papers recalled and altered to Small Horse immediately following that show. (If the horse in question has measured under 34" in height and is subject to purely a height for age requirement then this does not apply as any adjustment will be made at the horse's next official upgrade).

G. Any Small Horse officially measuring over 38" in height at a Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc show will have the horse's registration papers recalled and the horse will be removed from the Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc Register.

JUDGES:

RULE V:

A. Where possible, Miniature and Small Horses in-hand and halter events, will be judged by recognized or accredited Horse Judges, who will be invited to actively learn about Miniature Horses.

B. Approved Judges may be nominated by a Member, however any Liaising with, or hiring of Judges should not be undertaken by anyone who is entered in, or has Horses entered in a Show, where the said Judge would be hired to judge.

C. All Judges hired to Judge MHAA® Shows or Miniature Horse Classes that are run under MHAA® Rules, should be provided with a copy of the MHAA® Show Rules, Appendix 1 (Code of Ethics) and Appendix 2, (The Breed Standard of Excellence of the Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc) and must comply, where relevant or appropriate, with those Rules.

D. Judges may be asked to give fair and reasonable commentary on placings and decisions after each Class.

E. A Judge shall not attend a Show, Exhibitor's party, or any other activity connected with a Show on the day previous to the Show at which he/she is officiating, where that party or activity may cause the said Judge to have contact with a Breeder, Owner or Exhibitor of a Miniature Horse entered in the following day's Show.

F. A Judge shall not visit the Horse's stall area, nor speak with Owners, their representatives, Trainers or Exhibitors, nor inspect or discuss any horse entered in the Show before judging, nor shall he/she review the programme until after judging has been completed.

G. Owners, their representatives, Trainers or Exhibitors shall not contact Judges prior to a Show at which the said Judge will be officiating.

H. Members of the Association shall not be hired to judge an MHAA® Show, or a Show where Miniature Horse Classes, run under MHAA® Rules, are to be judged by the said Judge.

I. Persons who have had financial dealings with any exhibitors, either directly themselves or via their employers, within a period of one year prior to the Show, shall not be hired to Judge.

J. No Horse may be shown before a Judge that has been sold by said Judge or by his/her employer within a period of one year prior to the Show.

JUDGES: (Contd.,)**RULE V:**

K. No horse may be shown before a Judge that has been trained by, or shown by said Judge, within a period of one year prior to the Show.

L. No Horses owned by the Family Members of the Judge may be shown and Family Members of the Judge are ineligible to be Exhibitors at that Show.

M. Owners or Exhibitors shall not exhibit a Horse under a Judge with whom they have had financial dealings with, either directly with, or with his/her employer within a period of one year prior to the Show.

N. Owners or Exhibitors shall not exhibit a Horse under a Judge, whom they have instructed, trained for, or shown the said Judge's Horses, within a period of one year prior to the Show.

STEWARDS AND OFFICIALS:**RULE VI:**

A. Any reputable person may act in the capacity of ring steward. The ring stewards must help the Judge, not advise him/her.

B. The Steward shall carefully refrain from discussing, or seeming to discuss, the horses or Exhibitors with the Judge.

C. It is mandatory that Show Managers, ring Stewards and any paid employees of that show and their immediate family or entities refrain from showing or having horses shown that are registered in the above persons' names, where they are officiating or employed.

RING PROCEDURE:**RULE VII:**

A. Dress - it is a tradition of the show ring that all handlers and drivers be correctly attired for the classes. Management may bar any entry or person from entering the ring if not suitably attired to appear before an audience. No farm, individual, or horse names may be displayed on an Exhibitor, horse or vehicle, except where the class demands. (e.g.: harness - authentic- type turnout).

Western style turnout is allowed, as are quality, dress slacks or trousers, when worn in combination with the following - plain short or long sleeved blouse (with collar), or a plain short or long-sleeved shirt. Ties, hats, and jackets or coats are to be worn at the discretion of the Exhibitor, in accordance with the particular show entered into. Suitable footwear is a necessity - only boots or closed-in flat shoes will be allowed.

Alternate dress would allow for smart trousers, or skirts. At all times, the Exhibitor of a registered miniature horse must be aware that both horse and handler are on display, and hence present themselves in a neat, appropriate manner, in order to promote the Breed and the Association in an appealing and proper way.

B. All horses should be handled and shown through an entire class by the same person. Should additional handlers be required due to physical limitations or emergencies, approval must be obtained from the ring steward. At no time will a handler let a horse stand unattended, except when the class calls for it.

RING PROCEDURE: (Contd.,)

RULE VII:

- C. Names of Horses being exhibited will not be made known to the Judge prior to the show.
- D. Conduct designed to distract a horse or otherwise interfere with the showing of an Exhibitor's horse will not be tolerated. Offenders will be asked to leave the show area. If the offender is an Exhibitor, he/she will be excused from the ring and barred from the show area for the duration of the show. His/her horses, however, may compete.
- E. An unruly horse may be excused from the ring by the Judge or ring steward for safety reasons.
- F. Cruelty, abuse or inhumane treatment of any horse in the show ring or in the stable area will not be tolerated by the show management, and the offender will be barred from the show area for the duration of the show.
- G. Conduct by an Exhibitor, Trainer, Owner, or immediate family member of an unsportsmanlike, abusive, or detrimental nature will not be tolerated by the Show Management, including but not limited to threatening, abusive, or intimidating conduct, physical, verbal or written, toward any show official or fellow Exhibitor. Any person(s) guilty of such conduct should be reported immediately to Management by the Judge, Steward or Show Committee Member.
The Show Management must suspend the offender for the duration of that show. Any person accused of such unseemly behavior may appeal his/her case to the Committee of the Association, which shall render a decision. If found guilty, such a person may be barred from future participation in Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc show activities. This decision will be published in the official publication of the Association.
- H. Exhibitors and/or Owners may not protest to the Judge directly or by inference, the placing of any horse. Any person(s) guilty of such conduct will be excused from the show and forfeit any awards received at that show, and the right to show in any additional classes at the show. No entry fees will be refunded.
- I. Horses eligible and entered must show unless excused by the Manager or Judge.
- J. All stallions/colts to be handled by a Member 18 years and over. No stallions/colts to be used in any Youth classes.
- K. Owners are at all times, responsible for the conduct of their Agents, Handlers and employees.
- L. No whips of any description to be allowed in Halter Classes.

HARNESS & PERFORMANCE CLASSES:

RULE VIII:

- A. For Harness and Driving Classes the Association has adopted the guidelines set by the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc.
- B. Rules for Performance Classes including Trail, Hunter, Jumping and Harness do not form part of our Constitution.
- C. The National Committee of Management of the Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc is required to publish General Rules on Performance Classes, including Trail, Hunter, Jumping, Harness. The Handbook should be updated by National Committee from time to time.

PROTESTS:**RULE IX:**

A. All protests shall be handled according to the procedure laid down in the Conditions of Entry to the particular Show and in accordance with Rule III B (2); or those conditions set by the Royal Agricultural Society in the State concerned, whichever is relevant.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (INC.):**RULE X:**

A. The Association recognizes the position, rulings and directives of the Royal Agricultural Society (Inc.) in all matters relating to Society Shows and will follow their guidelines in situations where no rule has been provided for in the above Rules of the Association.

PERFORMANCE HORSE REGISTRY

PERFORMANCE HORSE CRITERIA:**RULE I:**

A. The Performance Horse Registry is open to non-breeding Mares and Geldings.

B. All Performance Horses must measure a maximum height of 34" for Miniature Horse and a maximum height of 38" for Small Horse and comply with MHAA® Height for Age requirements, in accordance with Show Rules, Height Verification Rule IV.

C. Performance Horses must be sound and have the fitness level, suitability and vigor required for performance events.

D. Performance Horses will not be included in the MHAA® Stud Book, they will be in a completely separate Registry.

E. Mares who are registered as Performance Horses, must be non-breeding Mares and while in this Registry cannot have any Foals registered as their progeny.

F. If a Member who owns a Mare registered as an MHAA® Performance Horse, wishes the Mare to have a Foal, the Mare would need to be transferred to the MHAA® Stud Book Registry at the appropriate fee.

G. If a Member owns a Horse that is currently registered with MHAA®, this can be transferred to the Performance Registry at no fee.

H. Performance Horses will have their own Halter Classes at Shows and will not compete against Stud Book Horses in Halter Breed Classes.

PERFORMANCE HORSE CRITERIA: (Contd.,)

PRESENTATION FOR SHOWING:

RULE II: In accordance with Show Rules, Rule I.

DRUGS AND ARTIFICIAL APPLIANCES AND IRRITANTS:

RULE III: In accordance with Show Rules, Rule II.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SHOWING:

RULE IV: In accordance with Show Rules, Rule III.

HEIGHT VERIFICATION:

RULE V: In accordance with Performance Horse Criteria Rule I B and Show Rules Height Verification Rule IV.

JUDGES:

RULE VI: In accordance with Show Rules, Rule V, in addition to which Judges will be given a specific Standard of Excellence and Criteria for Performance Horse Judging for Halter Classes.

STEWARDS AND OFFICIALS:

RULE VII: In accordance with Show Rules, Rule VI.

RING PROCEDURE:

RULE VIII: In accordance with Show Rules, Rule VII.

HARNESS & PERFORMANCE CLASSES:

RULE IX: In accordance with Show Rules, Rule VIII.

PROTESTS:

RULE X: In accordance with Show Rules, Rule IX.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (INC.):

RULE XI: In accordance with Show Rules, Rule X.