

2008 MINIATURE HORSE DIVISION

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**All 4-Hers riding or driving horses at 4-H events or activities
are required to wear an ASTM-SEI Equestrian
Helmet at all times.**

MINIATURE HORSE DIVISION GENERAL RULES

Exhibitors may enter the same horse in both the Open Invitational classes and the Division classes in the same year. If entries in class number 9 (OI Pleasure Driving) and 10 (Pleasure Driving) are *identical*, the class may be combined into one class to be judged with 2 sets of awards to be distributed.

Height Verification-No Miniature Horse shall exceed thirty-eight (38) inches in height. The show age of the horse is determined from January 1 preceding its birthday. Horse's height must be verified on a hard, level surface, preferably concrete or paved, in a public place, by a show official. The measuring device used to measure the first horse must be used to measure all the horses. A standard measurement stick is a straight, stiff, unbendable stick (metal) that is equipped with a bullseye, plumb bob or a spirit level to make sure that the standard is perpendicular to the ground and that the cross piece or arm is parallel with the ground surface. Management shall announce the time and place for height verification. The height verification of the Miniature Horse shall be determined by measuring the vertical distance from the base of the last hairs of the mane to the ground with the front two (2) legs vertical and in line or parallel to the measuring device, and the back of the hocks in a vertical line with the horse's buttocks. The last hairs on the mane refers to the last coarse (longer) hair of the horse's mane. Any softer body hair, left longer so as to be considered as an extension of the mane, should be differentiated from the mane hair and should not be included as part of the mane when measuring. The horse's head and neck shall be in a natural position. The animal must stand squarely on all four (4) feet. No height allowance will be made for excessive foot. After the horse is set up for measuring by the handler, said handler may not touch the horse, i.e. stretching the head up forward, moving the feet, touching the back or pressing down on any part of the back until the measurer removes the measuring stick.

Drugs, Artificial Appliances and Irritants-The use of stimulants or depressants or any drug affecting the showing of a horse in halter or performance is strictly forbidden. **EXCEPTION:** Therapeutic medication necessary for treatment of an illness or injury. Any horse showing evidence of the use of ginger or other irritants to produce a higher tail carriage than normal shall be disqualified for that class. Use of switches, artificial tails or manes, and high spoon cruppers are prohibited and shall result in disqualification of the horse for that class. Nor horse having had surgery for purely cosmetic purposes will be permitted to show. No ribbons, braids, glitter, or any decorative appurtenances (excluding tack) are allowed in halter conformation or performance classes. Only braiding of the forelock for driving is allowed. Judges will disqualify horses in violation of this rule for the class in which the violation occurred. **EXCEPTION:** Braiding of the manes and tails is permitted in Hunter and Halter Obstacle.

Horses must not be shod. Use of pads, wedges, chains, weights, weighted ankle boots, elastic bands, shackles or any other artificial appliances that enhance a horse's action will not be allowed. Unweighted bell boots, splint boots, or quarter boots for protection may be used in warm up areas only. Evidence of any inhumane treatment to a horse including but not limited to blood, whip marks that raise welts or abusive whipping, in or out of the show ring, shall result in

disqualification of that horse and that exhibitor for the balance of that show and shall result in the forfeiture of all ribbons, awards and points won by that horse. No person shall alter, change, or attempt to hide or enhance the natural color of the body including legs of the horse by dye, bleach or paint. This rule does not preclude a person from enhancing the natural color of the horse's mane and tail by artificial coloring. Hoofs may be colored. Color enhancements may be used on the head of any horse. Any horse that has been color enhanced beyond the above guidelines must be disqualified for the entire show and all previous ribbons and points will be disallowed for that show.

Ring Procedure

- Dress-It is the tradition of the show ring that all handlers and drivers be correctly attired for the classes. Hats, boots, gloves, and long sleeved shirts/blouses or jackets are **REQUIRED** in all **SHOWMANSHIP** classes only. Failure to do so will result in disqualification in that class.
- No farm, individual, or horse names or logo may be displayed on exhibitor, horse or vehicle. In halter classes, hats, boots, and gloves are optional.
- Names of the horses being exhibited will not be made known to the judge prior to the show. Exhibitors will be issued a number for each horse to be displayed on the back of the handler or on the back of the cart whenever the horse is in the ring. This number will stand for the entire show.
- Conduct or coaching 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.
- An unruly horse must be excused from the ring by the judge for safety reasons.
- 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.
- Conduct by the exhibitor, parent, or other 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 individual or show official(s). 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 the show.

Standard of Perfection-

- General Impression-A small, sound, well-balanced horse, possessing the correct conformation characteristics required of most breeds, such as refinement and femininity in the mare. The general impression should be one of symmetry, strength, agility and alertness. Since the breed objective is the smallest possible perfect horse, preference in judging shall be given to the smaller horse, other characteristics being approximately equal.
- Size-Must measure not more than 38 inches at the base of the last hairs of the mane.
- Head-In proportion to length of neck and body. Broad forehead with large prominent

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eyes, set wide apart. Comparatively short distance between eyes and muzzle. Profile

straight or slightly concave below the eyes. Large nostrils. Clean, refined muzzle. Even bite.

- Ears-Medium in size. Pointed. Carried alertly, with tips curving slightly inward.
- Throat-latch-Clean and well defined, allowing ample flexation at the poll.
- Neck-Flexible, lengthy, in proportion to body and type and blending smoothly into the withers.
- Shoulders-Long, sloping and well-angulated, allowing a free swinging stride and alert head/neck carriage. Well muscled forearm.
- Body-Well muscled, with ample bone and substance. Balanced and well proportioned. Short back and loins in relation to length of underline. Smooth and generally level topline. Deep girth and flank. Trim barrel.
- Hindquarters-Long, well-muscled hip, thigh and gaskin. Highest point of croup to be same height as withers. Tail set neither excessively high or low, but smoothly rounding at the rump.
- Legs-Set straight and parallel when viewed from the front or back. Straight, true and squarely set, when viewed from the side with hooves pointing directly ahead. Pasterns sloping about 45 degrees and blending smoothly, with no change of angle, from the hooves to the ground. Hooves to be round and compact, trimmed as short as practical for an unshod horse. Smooth, fluid gait in motion.
- Color-Any color or marking pattern, and any eye color, is equally acceptable. The hair should be lustrous and silky.

2008 MINIATURE HORSE CLASSES

***OI - MINIATURE HORSE HALTER** - Horses to be shown in hand at the walk and trot. Horses must also be viewed in motion from the side, and judged on the priority of: conformation, quality, presence, way of going, type. Horses to be shown not stretched, which means all four(4) feet are flat on the ground and at least one front and one rear cannon bone remain perpendicular to the ground. Stretched horses to be penalized after the initial warning by the judge in each class. It is permissible to hand set the horse. Horses may be clipped or shown in full coat. Horses must be serviceably sound or be disqualified for that class, in good condition and well groomed. In the case of two (2) animals being judged equal, the higher placement shall be awarded to the smaller animal. In no case, however, shall a smaller horse be placed over a larger horse with better conformation. No whips, lighters, crops or any other device(s) detrimental to the well-being of the horse shall be allowed in the halter class. It is of utmost importance that judges realize that here are several types of Miniature Horses and that in each class the horses are to be judged as to the best horse of all types to be the winner. They should not be prejudiced to the horse of his/her background.

It is the tradition of the show ring that handlers be correctly attired for the classes. Appropriate dress shall not include shorts, t-shirts or open-toed shoes. Western or English

attire is appropriate.

SHOWMANSHIP - Exhibitors must be at least 9 years of age by January 1st of the current year. Class judged on appointments, fitting and grooming and method of showing (See Standards for Showmanship).

HUNTER - Exhibitors must be at least 9 years of age by January 1st of the current year. Horses are required to be a minimum of three (3) years of age to compete. Hunter course must be posted at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled time of the class. Judge shall walk Hunter course with exhibitors. Course diagrams must show with arrows the direction each obstacle must be taken. A start and finish line must be established at least twenty-four (24) feet from the first and last obstacle if possible, indicated by two (2) markers at least four (4) feet apart. Horses (exhibitors optional) must cross the line in the proper direction to start and complete the course. Horses must stay within the course boundaries as outlined by the start and finish cones. The start and/or finish cones outline the portion of the course in the immediate areas of the starting (first) and finishing (last) obstacles only, not the entire course. Baiting of horses to encourage an animal to perform any of the jumps is not allowed. Baiting in such class is a disqualification.

Jumps for Hunters will be made of 1-1 ½ inch schedule 40 PVC piping or other suitable lightweight material with jump cups, not to include pegs, nails, bolts, etc. All jumps must be a minimum of five (5) feet wide, with a minimum of twenty (20) feet between jumps, with the exception of an in and out. In and outs should be set approximately twelve (12) feet apart. All post and rail jumps must have a ground pole. Uprights to be a maximum of forty-eight (48) inches in height. Any decorations must not protrude more than twenty-four (24) inches from the uprights. Jumps must be a minimum height of twelve (12) inches and maximum of twenty-four (24) inches. There will be a minimum of four (4) obstacles, and horses are to make a minimum of six (6) jumps and a maximum of eight (8) jumps. Jumps must simulate those found in the hunting field, such as brush, stone wall, gate, white fence, chicken coop, over, and in and out. In and out is considered one obstacle and scored as such. Refusal of one element of an in and out required the retaking of both elements. In and out must never be placed at the beginning of the course.

Hunters are to be judged on a style, manners, and way of going with preference given to those horses who cover the course at an even pace, with free flowing strides, as in a brisk trot or canter, but must maintain same gait throughout course. Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving the ring is permissible. Hunters must demonstrate at least one, but no more than four (4) changes of direction. Charging fences, or not maintaining the same gait throughout the entire course shall be penalized. Upon completion of the entire class over jumps, finalists may be trotted past the judge for soundness check. Horses shall not be required to rejump the course. Appropriate footwear is required of the exhibitor (boots, tennis shoes, or other closed-toed shoes).

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Major faults to be considered are: knockdowns, touches, refusals, bucking or kicking, spooking or shying, showing obstacle to horse, or wringing tail excessively. Causes for elimination include: 3 refusals, off course, crossing your own path, fall of horse or exhibitor, jumping of

obstacle by exhibitor, carrying of whip, an unsound horse, jumping of obstacle before being reset, failure to pass through the start and/or finish cones and/or knocking such cones over.

HALTER OBSTACLE - Open to exhibitors at least 9 years of age by January 1st of the current year. Horses must be not less than two (2) years of age for Halter Obstacle. The obstacle course must be posted at least one hour prior to the class. Class to be judged on performance and way of going with emphasis on manners throughout course. Entries will be evaluated on responsiveness and willingness, plus general attitude. Maximum time 60 seconds per obstacle, judges are encouraged to advance on to the next obstacle any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle. Horse to be penalized for an unnecessary delay or excessive time at object. Refusals do not constitute class disqualifications.

The course designer/judge should be available for a walk through the course with exhibitors. Ingenuity and originality in adapting and combining various obstacles both to demonstrate a horse's willingness and ability to please exhibitors and audiences are encouraged. However, unnatural or "horror" obstacles should be avoided and all obstacles should be safe for exhibitors as well as horses. Judge has the right to alter the course for time and/or safety. Obstacles must be a minimum of five (5) obstacles and a maximum of eight (8). Care must be used to avoid setting any obstacle in a way so as to be hazardous to the horse or exhibitor. Tires and stairs are prohibited. Jumps, if used, must be a maximum of twelve (12) inches high and a minimum length of five (5) feet. Jumps must include ground poles. Suggested obstacles include: backing through or out of obstacle, walking through water or simulated water (over a blue tarp), putting on and removing equipment (raincoat, saddle, etc.) from person or horse, walking through narrow passage, picking up an object (letter, umbrella, bucket, flag, etc.) and placing it at a designated location, walking across a bridge or simulated bridge, walking pattern created with poles, pylons (figure 8, serpentine, cloverleaf, etc.), side-pass (either or both directions).

Baiting to encourage an animal to perform one of the obstacles is not allowed. Any baiting in such class is a disqualification. Off course will result in elimination and is defined as: taking an obstacle in the wrong direction, negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side, skipping an obstacle unless directed by judge, negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence, off pattern.

***OI – MINIATURE HORSE PLEASURE DRIVING** – Open to horses that are 3 years of age or older. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, collected trot and working trot, to stand quietly and rein back, to be judged 60 percent on performance, manners and way of going, 30 percent on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, and 10 percent on neatness, appropriateness of attire and overall impression. Excessive speed will be penalized. See Class #26 description for more details. An ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet required.

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PLEASURE DRIVING - Open to exhibitors at least 9 years of age by January 1st of the current year. Horses must be serviceably sound and must be three (3) years of age or older. Drivers are required to wear an ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet during the class. Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout indicated by the balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse to vehicle. All vehicles must have a basket or safe

suitable floor. Factors determining the above include compatibility, size, type of horse, and vehicle. The way of going of a horse may also affect the overall appearance (i.e., a high action horse is more suitable to a formal vehicle, with the lower going, ground covering horse presenting a more pleasing appearance with a suitable pleasure, or country, type vehicle). The horses number should be worn on the back of the driver or on the back of the cart. The only person to handle the reins is the driver, under penalty of disqualification. No change of driver is permitted during any class.

Drivers should conform to the type of turnout (i.e., viceroy, formal, pleasure, obstacle, etc.), but should always be neat and clean. Suggested appropriate attire include: gentlemen to wear a coat or jacket, shirt and pants, and tie; ladies to wear a dress, tailored suit, skirt or slacks with blouse, vest or jacket. Gloves and aprons or lap robes are optional in all classes. Boots or wraps of any description and ear plugs shall not be used on any horse in the show ring. An appropriate driving whip shall be carried (in hand or in vehicle) at all times while driving. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. The overall length of the whip for a single horse should be long enough to reach its shoulder. Excessive length beyond the shoulder is not allowed.

Safety-All persons driving must have safety foremost in their minds. No horse shall be left unattended while put to a vehicle. Disqualification for the balance of the show may result at the show manager's discretion. All rules of the road should be observed unless officials direct otherwise. Drivers must drive on the rail at a safe distance behind horse and cart in front. Passing is permissible but the driver should return to the rail as soon as possible. A judge must excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle, equipment, or horse for that class. Adult (18 years of age or older) headers are mandatory for all youth drivers. This attendant shall take no action that will affect the performance of the horse. Only one header is allowed per horse. The header must not have a whip and shall remain at least two (2) paces distant from the head of the horse when the judge is inspecting the horse, and at all other times unless assistance in controlling the horse is needed. Blinders and overchecks or sidechecks are required. No entry may leave the ring after judging has begun without permission from the judge. During a class, minor adjustments to harness may be made upon permission from the judge. An adult may assist with the adjustment without penalty. After judging has begun, no attendant may enter the arena without the permission of the judge. Only one time out once the horse has entered the ring with a maximum time not to exceed three (3) minutes. It is permissible to talk to your horse in a subdued tone of voice. "Clucks" for starting, "walk on", "trot", "whoa", and "back" are the more accepted terms. Any tendency on the part of the driver to shout, whistle, or talk loudly to the horse should be curtailed. In the arena, the less said the better. The driver should strive to control the horse's movements with minimal vocal aids. In the absence of a suitable warm-up arena, it is mandatory that a warm-up period

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of at least ten (10) minutes be offered before the driving class.

When using a leverage bit (Gig, Liverpool, Buxton, etc.) shown below are the acceptable rein positions. Unacceptable rein position is a disqualification for the class. Martingales are prohibited with leverage bits. Contact should be maintained on the reins at all times. Horse

should give the appearance of a pleasurable drive, and though animated, should not be shown with exaggerated high action in front. Gaits should be natural and not artificially enhanced. To be judged on quality of performance, manners, way of going of the horse, conformation, appropriateness, condition and fit of vehicle and harness, and neatness of attire in that order. Pleasure driving is to be shown both ways of the arena at the walk, collected trot, and working trot. Horses will enter the ring counter clockwise at a collected trot. The walk is a free, regular and forward moving 4-beat gait. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. During the collected trot, the horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but the horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence. The working trot is a clear but not excessive increase in pace and length of stride. The horse goes forward freely, engaging the hind legs with good hock action, on a taunt but light rein, the position balanced and unconstrained. The hind feet touch the ground at least in the footprint of the fore feet. Should show good energy, impulsion, and cadence. Excessive speed will be penalized. Horses will be required to stand quietly and to rein back.