



Independent Miniature Horse Registry Inc.

SHOW RULES

Presentation for Showing

1. The permissible methods of presentation for showing Miniature, Small and Little Horses are:
(a) in natural condition; or
(b) clipped with the new coat established; or
(c) freshly clipped; the horse is neat, healthy and well presented.
2. Mane and tail are to be shown free flowing in halter and in-hand events. The mane and tail may be trimmed and thinned to improve the appearance of the horse. No artificial application of hair is permitted.
3. Hooves are to be unshod in halter and in-hand events.
4. Plaiting, braiding and suitable decorative trim is permissible in performance events (i.e. hunter/jumper)
5. General preparation and presentation shall 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.
6. Circus type presentation including the handler using excessive movements and actions is not relevant for any event other than costume classes.

Eligibility For Showing

1. Shows with classes exclusively for IMHR Inc. registered horses will be open to horses holding current registration and shown by financial members of IMHR Inc. Certificates must be available for viewing.
2. To enter a show, the exhibitor must use the complete name and registration number of the horse as it is shown on the registration certificate. No substitutions or changes are acceptable. Horses shown under false identity will be automatically and immediately

disqualified by the show management.

3. Horses to be shown as miniature, small or little horses may compete only in miniature, small or little horse breed classes at any single show. Miniature, small or little horses may not compete as any other breed. Competing in colour classes is permissible.
4. Horses under the age of 12 months may be shown registration pending providing the owner holds a standard letter from the Secretary stating registration has been received and all is in order.
5. At shows conducted by IMHR Inc. or other shows run under IMHR Inc. rules, a miniature horse shall not compete against small or little horses for any prize or award in either halter or performance without the prior consent of the Committee which they are not bound to give. Miniature horses may compete against small or little horses only in classes where there is no obvious height advantage to one category over the other in competition.
6. Classes for Little Horse will not be provided at State, National or Feature shows runs by IMHR Inc. The purpose of the category is for foundation breeding only. However, these horses may compete as a registered horse at other open shows where the height category allows.
7. For the purposes of these show rules, a Youth is defined as aged 17 years (actual) or under.

Minimum Ages - Horses

To qualify for participation in an event/class, the horse must meet the minimum age standard or entry will be refused.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Minimum ACTUAL age</u>
Halter Classes	2 months*
Trail	12 months
Hunter	12 months
Long Rein	24 months
Show Jumper	36 months
Six Bar	36 months



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Harness 36 months

*Foals under 4 months old must show with dam.

Minimum Ages - Handlers

<u>Event</u>	<u>Minimum ACTUAL age</u>
Halter Classes	**
Youth Trail	Five years
Open Trail	Nine years
Hunter	Nine years
Long Rein	Nine years
Show Jumper	Nine years
Six Bar	Nine years
Harness	Nine years

** Handlers 8 years and under may have an adult supervisor in the arena without penalty.

Special Consideration for Handling Stallions

- NO youth may drive a stallion.
- Youth 12 years and under may handle a current seasons foal or weanling except in Youth classes.
- Youth over 12 years and up to 16 years and under may handle a current seasons foal, weanling or yearling except in Youth classes.
- Fancy dress and novelty events are not exempt from these rules.
- In all cases, Show Management/Judges may revoke permission if safety of horse or handler is deemed to be compromised.

Height Verification

1. Height requirements for showing are as per IMHR Inc Constitution Rule 55 and shall be measured as per Rule 54.
2. All horses competing at IMHR Inc feature shows shall be measured by an IMHR Committee member or a person appointed by the IMHR Committee for that purpose.
3. The show age of the horse is determined by 1st August.
4. Horses holding permanent registration may hold a valid height recording card to be valid for a maximum period of one year. Only IMHR Committee members or a person appointed by

the IMHR Committee for that purpose may issue height recording cards.

Judges

1. Where possible, Miniature, Small and Little Horse in hand and halter events must be judged by officially licensed IMHR judges or currently licensed horse judges accredited by recognized horse organizations. Only if a horse judge is unavailable will a pony judge be utilised.
 2. Approved judges may be nominated by a member, whereby the judge will be invited to actively learn about miniature and small horses as a distinct and identifiable breed. Any judges hired to judge a miniature horse show or class are required to acquaint themselves with the breed standards and the official show rules and must comply with those rules.
 3. A n officiating 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 horse entered in the following days show.
 4. A judge shall not visit the horses stall area nor speak with owners, trainers, exhibitors or owners representatives nor inspect or discuss any horse entered in the show before judging nor shall he/she review the program until after judging has been completed.
- The judge is expected to be professional in their conduct and respectful of the competitors and greet all with minimum discussion.
5. Judges may be asked to give fair and reasonable public commentary on placings and decisions after each class.
 6. 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.



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7. No horse may be shown before a judge that has been trained by said judge within one year period prior to the show.
8. 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 a show the judge is officiating.
9. To become a licensed IMHR judge, the judge must make official application to the IMHR, successfully participate in an IMHR approved seminar, receive sufficient scores on written and practical examinations and demonstrate ongoing professional conduct and behavior. Once every three years, the licensed judge must attend an IMHR approved judges seminar to maintain their status as a licensed judge.
10. Conversation with an exhibitor about a horse may be done so at the completion of a class preferably in the presence of Show Management.
11. All IMHR licensed judges must remain familiar with the current rules and regulations as from time to time amended by the IMHR.
12. All IMHR licensed judges remember they are serving the interests of the breed and the competition in their decisions.
13. The actions of a licensed IMHR judge are subject to review by the IMHR Committee.

Stewards and Officials

1. Any reputable person may act in the capacity of ring steward. The ring stewards must help the judge, not advise him/her. The steward shall carefully refrain from discussing or seeming to discuss the horses or exhibitors with the judge. 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.

Drugs and Artificial Appliances and Irritants

1. The use of stimulants or depressants or any drug affecting the showing of a horse in a 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 show, owned or trained by them.
2. Any horse showing evidence of the use of ginger or other irritants to produce a higher tail carriage than normal shall be disqualified.
3. Switches, artificial tails or manes and high spoon cruppers are prohibited.
4. 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.
5. Ribbons, braids, all decorative appurtenances and stallion tack (excluding bits) are not allowed in halter and conformation classes.
6. No pads, wedges chains, nor weighted ankle boots are allowed.

Ring Procedure

1. All handlers and drivers shall 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 turnout).

English and 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/shirt (with collar).



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Ties, hats and jackets or coats are to be worn at the discretion of the exhibitor in accordance with the particular show entered .

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 or small 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.

2. All horses shall 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 Judge or ring steward. At no time will handler let horse stand unattended except when class calls for it.

3. Names of 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 (or arm) of the handler whenever the horse is in the ring. This number will stand for the entire show.

4. 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.

5. An unruly horse may be excused from the ring by the judge or ring steward for safety reasons.

6. 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.

7. 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 exhibitor, 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 behaviour may appeal her/his case to the Committee of the Association which shall render a decision. If found guilty such a person may be barred from future participation as defined by the decision of the Associations Committee. This decision will be published in the official publication of the Association.

8. 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.

9. Horses eligible and entered must show unless excused by the manager or judge.

Pleasure Harness and Pleasure Driving Classes

1. Rules and regulations for harness and driving classes are as the guidelines of the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc (ACDS), and those supplemented by IMHR as follows:

2. A Pleasure **Harness** horse is a horse being shown with animation and balanced action of the knee and hock while performing the gaits. The horse will be up-in the bridle, flexed at the poll, with the balanced appearance and ability to move well off the hocks, with forward ground covering strides - not vertical Hackney style action, yet a proud image.



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A. The gaits/paces of the class are: walk collected trot and working trot, each with a proper foot-fall sequence for the gait. The gaits/paces will be performed in both directions of the ring. All horses required to rein-back once reaching the final line-up. Distinct lengthening of stride is the measure of the transition to advancing the gait, not solely moving faster.

B. The horses are judged on performance, manners, way of going, conformation and quality of turn-out.

C. Ill-mannered horses must be excused from the show ring.

D. Improper fitting equipment or unsafe equipment on horses must be excused from the show ring.

E. Headers/Attendants are required for all Youth driving classes.

F. Other Miniature Horse societies may refer to this style of movement and overall image as Country Pleasure Driving.

3. A Pleasure **Driving** Horse is a horse being shown with less animation and action of knee and hock and is definitely a pleasure to drive, comfortable in attitude and gait. The horse must be willing and easily guided to perform the gaits required.

A. The Pleasure Driving horse will show at the following gaits: walk, pleasure trot and road trot, each with a proper foot-fall sequence for the gait. A definite lengthening of stride must be seen between the pleasure and road trot. The gaits/paces will be performed in both directions of the ring. All horses will be required to rein-back once reaching the final line-up. Distinct lengthening of stride is the measure of the transition to advancing the gait, not solely moving faster.

B. The horses are judged on performance, manners, way of going, conformation and quality of turn-out.

C. Ill-mannered horses must be excused from the show ring.

D. Improper fitting equipment or unsafe equipment on horses must be excused from the show ring.

E. Headers/Attendants are required for all Youth driving classes.

F. Other Miniature Horse societies may refer to this style of movement and overall image as Country Pleasure Driving.

Protests

1. In the case of RAS shows, all protests should be handled according to the procedure laid down by the Royal Agricultural Society in the state concerned.

2. 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 from in the above Rules of the Association.

3. In the case of IMHR approved and managed shows, all protests shall be handled according to the due process procedures within the rules and regulations.