

Class Descriptions

MINIATURE HORSE CLASSES – Under 34”

MIDI HORSE CLASSES – Over 34” and up to 42”

FOALS/WEANLINGS – Foals can be clipped but must be rugged appropriately. Foals are excluded from the evening Gala and Supreme of Show championships.

Breed Classes

PART BRED- Must be 50% or more.

FALABELLA CLASSES: Falabella horses are any height but must be registered in accordance with the rules of the Falabella Society.

BRITISH BRED CLASSES: For miniature horses that have pure English heritage. No American or Falabella bloodlines.

AMHA CLASSES: For horses registered with the American Miniature Horse Association.

AMHR CLASSES: For horses registered with the American Miniature Horse Registry.

ASPC CLASSES: For horses registered with the American Shetland Pony Club.

OPEN & COLOUR SHETLAND CLASSES: For registered or unregistered native Shetland ponies.

SPSBS CLASSES: For SPSBS registered Shetland ponies only.

Exclusive Section

EXCLUSIVE SECTION- The exclusive sections are for horses that are owned, produced, and shown by the exhibitor. Horse must NOT have been in a training yard since the 1st January 2025. Horse must be trained, conditioned, clipped, groomed, and shown by owner or immediate family member. No one with a professional trainer in the household or on premises may compete. If you have won overall supreme at MHOYS you are not eligible to compete, if you have won a supreme but feel that you are still considered an amateur/non-professional please contact the show committee to clarify your status.

Handler Classes

NEWCOMER CLASS- Open to exhibitors in their first three years of showing miniature horses and have NOT won Supreme or reserve supreme at MHOYS, MHCGB, UKAMHS or BMHS Breed Shows. Horses entered in this section MUST be owned by the exhibitor or direct family member and MUST NOT be in training with a producer. The horses that qualify for the supreme of show by this section alone, MUST be shown in the supreme by the newcomer.

YOUTH CLASSES- For handlers under 18 years of age. The youth section of classes is only for mares and geldings. Youth under 14 years of age are not allowed to show a colt/stallion.

S.E.N.D CLASS- For competitors who have disabilities and/or special educational needs.

GOLDEN AGED HANDLER- For handlers aged 50 years or older.

Other Classes

OWNED, BRED & EXHIBITED: Open to horses & ponies which are owned, trained, conditioned, clipped, groomed, and shown by their breeder or direct family member. Foals that were purchased in utero are ineligible.

BORN & BRED IN THE UK: Open to horses & ponies which were born and bred in the UK.

ULTRA MINI CLASSES – For miniature horse under 30” at maturity. Yearlings under 28” and two year olds under 29”.

VETERAN CLASSES – Horses aged 15 years or older are eligible for these classes.

ELITE GRADING- Grades the suitability of your horse for breeding. If your horse passes the grading, the horse is given lifetime qualification to Miniature Horse of the Year Show and into the Studbook. Once your horse is qualified you do not have to do the grading again.

ELITE SECTION: For miniature horses that have been elite graded.

CONDITION & TURNOUT- the emphasis is on the appearance and tidiness of the horse and handler, not on conformation or type. To compete in the condition & turnout championship you must receive one of the best condition & turnout rosettes.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS – For horses that have been awarded IMHPS champion at MHOYS Qualifiers in 2025.

Performance Classes

DRIVING/RIDING/OBSTACLE/JUMPING CLASSES – Horses competing in driving, riding or jumping classes must be over three years of age.

CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE- Concours d'Elegance is a costume competition (not fancy dress or 'cosplay') and it is judged on the overall picture of elegance, perhaps depicting a film, painting or period drama. Costume, tack, handler and horse will be taken into consideration.

FANCY DRESS- Is a class to get yourself and your horse dressed up for. Fancy dress is all about getting imaginative, creative, and having fun. Examples: TV characters, historical figures, mythical creatures, etc.

HALTER OBSTACLE- In this class, you lead your horse, though, around, over and under obstacles.

LIBERTY – The Liberty class is a demonstration of the natural beauty of the Miniature Horse. Horses are to be judged on style, grace, animation, gaits, presence, music suitability and ease of catching. Movement, action, carriage, charisma, boldness, enthusiasm, and exuberance will be the basis for judging the class. Horses will be judged beginning when halter is removed by the exhibitor (the individual wearing the number) and until caught by the exhibitor. Time of Liberty shall be 1 1/2 minutes; time to catch shall be 1 1/2 minutes. Only the exhibitor and one handler will be allowed in the arena with horse. Whips and shaker bottles are allowed but touching the horse during performance with aids or hands will result in disqualification. Horse must be caught and haltered by exhibitor within 1 1/2 minutes or be disqualified. Music is required. Suitability of horse's movement to the chosen music must be evaluated. No assistance from outside of the arena will be permitted. Elimination will result unless the judge feels that the outside action was taken to cause the exhibitor's horse to be disqualified. Announcement is to be made prior to the class to specify that no outside assistance is allowed. All horses entered in the Liberty class must be at least one year old. Exhibitor and handler must be properly attired. Horses should work both directions of the arena, use the entire arena and demonstrate an ANIMATED gallop and elevated trot. The duration (time frame) of either gait is not critical as long as both gaits are well demonstrated. Horses which perform without encouragement, other than a signal to change direction, are highly preferred. Baiting of horses to encourage an animal to perform/to catch is not allowed. Baiting in such class is a disqualification.