

Class Descriptions

MINIATURE HORSE CLASSES – Under 34”

MIDI HORSE CLASSES – Over 34” and up to 38”

MAXI HORSE CLASSES – Over 38” and up to 42”

FOALS/WEANLINGS – Foals under the age of six months must be accompanied by their dam. Foals are excluded from the evening Gala Supreme of Show classes.

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.

SHETLAND CLASSES: For registered or unregistered native Shetland ponies.

Handler Classes

EXCLUSIVE SECTION- The exclusive classes are for Horses and Handlers who have never won a championship or reserve championship at MHOYS/MHCGB/UKAMHS. Should an entered exhibitor be fortunate enough to win such an award at MHOYS prior to the Exclusive class they must withdraw their entry and will be fully refunded.

NEWCOMER CLASSES- Open to exhibitors in their first three years of showing miniature horses and have NOT won Supreme or reserve supreme at any miniature only show or qualified at HOYS or RIHS. Horses entered in this section MUST be owned by the exhibitor 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.

AMATEUR CLASSES – Are for competitors that are non-professionals. You must not have shown, trained or assisted in training a horse for remuneration either directly or indirectly during the previous five calendar years.

NOVICE CLASSES– Are for competitors in their first three years of showing equine.

HOME PRODUCED CLASSES- 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 2023. 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 in the home-produced classes.

YOUTH CLASSES- For handlers under 18 years of age. Youth under 14 years of age are not allowed to show a colt/stallion.

S.E.N.D CLASSES- Are for competitors who have disabilities and/or special educational needs.

Other Classes

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

VETERAN CLASSES – Horses of 13 years+ 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.

GET OF SIRE – 2 or 3 offspring of a stallion to be shown as a group. Either sex to be shown, sire not to be shown.

PRODUCE OF DAM- 2 or 3 offspring of a mare to be shown as a group. Either sex to be shown, dam not to be shown.

CONDITION & TURNOUT- the emphasis is on the appearance and tidiness of the horse and handler, not on conformation or type.

Performance Classes

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

TRICK HORSE- You have a maximum of 5 minutes to display your horse’s skills and tricks, best performance/horsemanship wins.

DRESSAGE HORSE- You have a maximum of 5 minutes to display freestyle dressage to music specifically chosen by you.

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.

PUISSANCE HIGH JUMP- The puissance high jump is all about the horse that can jump the highest. The class is for horses measuring under 38”.

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

ALL AROUND BEST MINIATURE HORSE AWARD- Goes to the horse that has scored the most points in the listed classes. Score cards will be available at the show desk.

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.

American Miniature Horse Association Classes

AMHA APPROVED SECTION (DAY 2) - Classes open to all AMHA Registered Horses and owners who are in good standing with the AMHA. Classes will be judged following the AMHA Rule Book. You can find a full copy at www.amha.org.

Horses over the age of three are required to be made to permanent status with AMHA before being able to compete.

Senior Stallions require a veterinary certificate, form can be downloaded from AMHA website. A horse may not show in more than one halter division.

Gelding status must be reflected on registration papers (or a show letter).

Any exhibitor with Special Needs is welcome to participate in all AMHA shows.

Stock horses should wear stock type/western show halters.

Rosettes will be given to 6th place.

Judges Evaluation cards available in show office and may be completed on a voluntary basis.

Copies of AMHA registration paperwork are required with entry and produced at time of measuring.

AMHA Height Limits:

No Miniature Horse shall exceed 34 inches in height.

Weanlings must not exceed 30 inches.

Yearlings must not exceed 32 inches.

Two-year-olds must not exceed 33 inches.

The show age of the horse is determined from January 1 preceding its birthday.

The measuring of AMHA horses for Day 2 affiliated classes will take place between 08.00-09.00am on Sunday 15th October 2023.