

# MHCGB Performance Rules 2020



MHCGB performance classes, which include Halter Obstacle, Jumper, Hunter Jumper, Dressage (In-hand, Long Reined, Driven), Puissance and Liberty are open to any equine eligible to be over stamped by or hold a passport issued by the Miniature Horse Club of Great Britain.

To take part in performance classes, animals must be

- 2yrs+ for halter obstacle, liberty and in-hand dressage
- 3yrs+ for jumping, any long reined classes and all driving classes.

(The show age of the horse is determined from January 1st preceding its birthday)

## General Rules

Dress code: burgundy club polo shirt or show shirt, with smart trousers or jeans. All exhibitors must wear gloves and suitable footwear.

All junior exhibitors (16 years and under) are to wear an approved British Standard hardhat.

Any exhibitor displaying inappropriate or rough handling of any horse in any discipline will be eliminated at the judge's discretion.

The judge's decision is final.

There will be no requirement for the horses to be let off their lead in either Novice or Open sections.

## Equipment required

American performance halter or normal head collar, a lead rein between 8ft and 12ft long, a normal bitted bridle or a bit-less bridle, roller and long reins. A dressage whip is permitted in the dressage section should you wish to carry one.

## Discipline Specific Details

### Halter Obstacle

The obstacles will be set for the season and differ in difficulty between the Novice and Open classes. All horses should be worked in an American performance halter / head collar with NO BIT (NOT a show halter) and on a lead between 8 and 12 feet long. The handler is not allowed to carry a whip of any sort.

The judge will mark the horse and handler on the following at each obstacle:

- 1) Calmness of Horse
- 2) Completion of Obstacle

A maximum of 10points per obstacle can be gained.

There will also be a mark out of 20 given for Competence of Handler throughout the course.

Maximum time per obstacle is 60 seconds, horses are then asked to advance to the next obstacle.

You should only move onto the next obstacle after either completion of the previous obstacle or with the judge's permission. Abandoning an incomplete obstacle without the judge's approval will result in a zero score for that obstacle.

### Liberty Obstacle

The course will be set as per the Novice Halter Obstacle course and scored in the same manner mentioned above.

The horse will be expected to be let off the lead, it is not a requirement that the halter is removed.

Maximum time per obstacle is 60 seconds, horses are then asked to advance to the next obstacle –

You should only move onto the next obstacle after either completion of the previous obstacle or with

the judge's permission. Abandoning an incomplete obstacle without the judge's approval will result in a zero score for that obstacle.

### **Long Reined Obstacle**

The course will be set for the season. All horses should be in a bridle (bit-less bridles are permitted, head collars ARE NOT a bit-less bridle), roller and long reins. Cruppers are allowed, Overchecks / Sidechecks are not permitted. The handler may carry a dressage whip

The judge will mark the horse and handler on the following at each obstacle:

- 1) Calmness of Horse
- 2) Completion of Obstacle

A maximum of 10 points per obstacle can be gained.

There will also be a mark out of 20 given for Competence of Handler throughout the course.

Maximum time per obstacle is 60 seconds, horses are then asked to advance to the next obstacle – You should only move onto the next obstacle after either completion of the previous obstacle or with the judge's permission. Abandoning an incomplete obstacle without the judge's approval will result in a zero score for that obstacle.

### **Jumper**

Courses will have between 6 and 8 jumps.

A course is considered set once a horse has started the course.

Novice classes will be set no higher than 18 inches in the first round.

Open classes will be between 18 and 28 inches in the first round.

Jumps will increase between 1 and 6 inches per round.

After reaching maximum height (44 inches), clear competitors keep jumping until tie is broken – this may be over a shorter course.

Horse can compete in either a bitted bridle or an American performance halter / head collar. The handler is not allowed to carry a whip of any sort.

Refusals, circling or path crossing will incur a 3-point penalty per occurrence and knock downs will incur a 4 point penalty per fault.

An "In" & "Out" is two jumps (if they refuse the second fence, they cannot jump the first one again).

A course is considered set once a horse has started the course.

Elimination:

3 Refusals. Off course. Baiting. Chain over nose or in mouth. Failure to pass between start and finish cones. Loss of control. Carrying a whip.

### **Hunter Jumper**

Courses will have between 6 and 8 jumps.

A course is considered set once a horse has started the course.

Novice classes will be set no higher than 18 inches.

Open classes will be between 18 and 24 inches.

An "In" & "Out" is one jump (if they refuse the second fence, they must jump the first one again).

Course is only covered once by each animal; they are then required to do a trot past for the judge to consider movement and soundness. The horse's performance is then scored out of 100:

- **90 - 100** - an excellent performer and good mover that jumps the entire course with cadence, balance and style
- **80 - 89** - a good performer that jumps all fences reasonably well or an excellent performer that commits one or two minor faults
- **70 - 79** - average fair mover that makes no serious faults but lacks the style, cadence & good balance of the scopier horses or good performer that makes a few minor faults
- **60 - 69** - poor movers that make minor mistakes or fair to average movers that have one or two poor fences but no major faults or disobediences
- **50 - 59** - a horse that commits one major fault such as a hind knockdown, refusal, break of gait, cross-canter or drops a leg

- **30 - 49** - a horse that commits two or more major faults, including front knockdowns, refusals, or jumps in a manner that otherwise endangers the horse and/or handler
- **10 - 29** - a horse that avoids elimination but jumps in such an unsafe and dangerous manner so achieves a minimal score

Elimination:

3 refusals. Off course. Crossing own path. Baiting. Chain over nose or in mouth. Unsound horse. Failure to pass between start and finish cones. Loss of control. Carrying a whip.

### **Dressage**

The set tests for 2020 are available under the Performance Section of the club website – [www.MHCGB.co.uk](http://www.MHCGB.co.uk).

The Novice test will be split into an in-hand class and a long-reined class - both will do the same test; these will be judged and placed as individual classes.

Competitors will only be allowed to enter EITHER the Novice In-hand OR the Novice Long-reined dressage at each show. However, as you progress or maybe forget kit(!), you will be able to swap between them during the season - so just because you choose in-hand at one show does not mean you cannot do long-reined at the next, or vice-versa.

The Open test must be done on the long reins.

Novice competitors can have a caller; Open competitors will be expected to learn the test.

All horses should be in a bridle (bit-less bridles are permitted, head collars ARE NOT a bit-less bridle). In-hand novice competitors require a single lead; all long reined competitors must be in a roller and long reins. Cruppers are allowed; Overchecks / Sidechecks are not. The handler may carry a dressage whip.

In-hand / Long reined test judging will take place as per a ridden competition.

For Driven Dressage, you may have a caller. Horses should be in a suitable cart for their style of driving.

Driven dressage will only take place at some of our larger venues, however this will require a minimum of 3 pre-entries at each show it is offered, or it will be removed from the schedule for that show - this will be notified in advance to any competitor who has pre-entered.

Drivers must have insurance, a copy of which must be sent with entries.

### **Puissance**

A single jump which will increase in height with every round.

Elimination - refusal or knockdown.

If you go clear, you go through to the next round.

Handler must not go over the jump.

If on the final round there are only two competitors - one knocks down and one refuses, the knock down will place higher than the refusal.

### **Liberty**

Horses are to be judged on style, grace, animation, gaits, presence, music and suitability, ease of catching. Judging begins when the halter is removed.

Time of liberty is 1 ½ minutes, time to catch, 1 ½ minutes. (If not caught until after the 1½ minutes the horse is disqualified).

One exhibitor (wearing the number) and one handler are allowed in the ring. Horses are to be caught by the exhibitor only.

Touching of the horse during 1 ½ minutes at liberty will count for disqualification.

The following assessment can be made.

- Style and Grace 30 points
- Animation and Presence 30 points
- Gaits 30 points

- Music and Suitability 10 points
- Catch 10 points

**Mini Driving Trial – NEW for 2020**

This outdoor event will be held on the field in the afternoon of Day 1 at our Grand Championship Show.

You will be asked to do a short dressage test followed by a combined cone and obstacle section.

Drivers must have insurance, a copy of which must be sent with entries.

Hard hats must be worn by ALL competitors.

Grooms must be in ring, wearing gloves and hard hat.

All animals 4 years and over.

Horses may wear boots or bandages.

Any harness allowed provided safe and appropriate.

**Please note**

**ALL AMHA classes will run under AMHA rules.**

**Please ensure you read the relevant section of the AMHA rule book.**