



Official Rule Book of the Miniature Horse Club Of Great Britian





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Sonoita Mysterious Mardi Gras

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Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

American Miniature Horse Club GB
Defra Approved Passport Issuing Office 826078

Proudly holding the Breeding Book of
American Miniature Horse and Partbreds thereof

Approved by



American Miniature
Horse Association since 2002

MHCGB Proud to be members of:-



the **showing council**

BREED STANDARD OF PERFECTION

BREED OBJECTIVE: To produce the smallest possible perfect horse.

GENERAL IMPRESSION: The Miniature Horse is a beautiful, small well balanced horse that if all reference to size were eliminated, would have the same conformational proportions of other full sized light breeds. The mares demonstrate refinement and feminine qualities. The mature stallions show boldness and masculinity. The general impression is to be a balanced individual regardless of size with symmetry, strength, agility and alertness. Movement is strong, natural and athletic. In motion the horse will exude athleticism as demonstrated by suppleness of the shoulders and engaged hocks. In judging when characteristics are equal, preference must be given to the smaller horse.

TEMPERAMENT: Temperament is reflected in its personality. The Miniature Horse is intelligent, curious, gentle, sensible, willing to cooperate and easy to train.

SIZE: Measuring at base of the last hair of the mane, the mature animal must not exceed 34 inches. Horses two years old or younger conform to the height for age requirements as stated in the show rules.

COLOUR: Any coat colour, pattern, white markings and eye colour are equally acceptable.

HEAD: The head is beautiful, triangular in shape and comparatively small in proportion to the length of neck and body. The forehead is broad with large, prominent eyes. The eyes are set well apart and are placed approximately 1/3 the distance from the poll to muzzle. The distance between the muzzle and eyes is comparatively short. A profile may be straight or slightly dished below the eyes, blending into large nostrils on a small, refined muzzle.

BITE: When viewed from the side, the meeting point of the centre incisor teeth should be equal and even. A slight deviation no more than half the width of the tooth's surface is permissible without fault. The accuracy of the bite may vary according to age. As the premolars and molars move into location, the alignment of the jaw could vary during this process.

EARS: The ears are set on top of the head and carried alertly. They are medium in size, well shaped with pointed tips curving slightly inward.

NECK: The neck is set on the top of a well-angulated shoulder, departing well above the point of the shoulder and blending into the withers, giving the impression of the neck sitting on top of the withers rather than in front of them. The slender neck is slightly arched forming a gentle curve from the poll to the back. Its length is in proportion to body with the top line being considerably longer than the bottom line. The throatlatch is clean and well defined, allowing flexion at the poll and normal respiration.

SHOULDERS: The shoulders are muscular, long, sloping, well angulated (45-50 degrees), allowing for a free swinging stride and alert head/neck carriage.

BODY: The body is compact with a short back, close coupling, broad loins, deep flank and well sprung ribs. The back has a long, level, well muscled croup and is smoothly rounding at the

hip. The tail is well set. The underline of the body should be long but not tucked up at the flank. At maturity, the top of the hip must not be higher than the withers. The chest is medium width with defined muscular development.

LEGS: The legs appear longer than the body is deep. They possess flat bone, and an appearance of over-all substance with refinement. Legs are structurally straight and parallel when viewed from the front and back with hooves pointing directly ahead. The pasterns have sufficient length and angulations to provide a light, springy step. The front legs possess a well muscled forearm, relatively long in proportion to a short cannon. Front pasterns slope 45 to 48 degrees and blend smoothly with no change of angle from the hooves to the ground. The rear leg structure must demonstrate good angulations and proper flexion of the hocks for athletic movement; have the stifle placed well forward and low in the flank area with thighs and gaskins well muscled. The gaskin is relatively long in relation to the cannon. The rear cannons are perpendicular to the ground when points of hocks and buttocks are in the same vertical lines. Back pasterns slope 40 to 50 degrees and blend smoothly with no change of angle from the hooves to the ground. The hooves are trimmed to a practical length and have sufficient toe length and angle with spread of the heels for the size and proportions of the animal.

MOVEMENT: The walk is a natural free flowing, four beat gait with length of stride proportional to the height and length of leg. The trot is a natural forward, free flowing two beat diagonal gait where the knee and hock are synchronized in their elevated, flexed and extension movement. When viewed at a walk and trot from the front, the horse will replicate the structural correctness of its stance. The Miniature Horses' conformation allows them to trot willingly and freely at liberty or pulling a pleasure cart.

JUVENILE CONSIDERATIONS: The body of the junior horse demonstrates stretch and frame to be filled in with muscling appropriate for its age. A mature adult look is not desirable.



SHOW RULES.

It is the MHCGB members responsibility to know, understand and adhere to the Rule Book.

In becoming a member/exhibiting horses at an affiliated MHCGB show you are agreeing to abide by the Rule Book.

1. Horses must be entered in the correct class, observing the correct age. Category A Miniature Horses must not exceed 34" in height at maturity*, Category B Horses exceed 34" and not exceed 38" at maturity*. Category C exceeding 38" not to exceed 42". All horses are measured from the last hairs of the mane at the base of the neck. (*see measuring rules)
2. All horses are to be measured and details recorded as per the MHCGB Height Record Document. (* See measuring Rules). **2023 amendment. All entered horses are measured at National shows (unless carrying an MHCGB completed measurement card. Horses may be measured at area shows.**
3. Handlers must be suitably turned out. Hats (optional), gloves, boots and jackets are required in Halter Classes. Training shoes are optional for performance classes. It is advised that 12years and under handlers wear an approved British Standard hardhat. **2023 amendment. American attire is appropriate for American classes.**
4. The judges' decision is final.
5. Exhibitors are required to withdraw from a class if the judge has an interest in his or her exhibit. For the purposes of this rule, a judge has an interest in an exhibit if he/she has bred, owned, trained or has a financial interest in it. **2023 amendment. A horse must be withdrawn if the judge has exhibited or handled the exhibit.**
6. Any method used to discipline a horse should be proportionate and applied at the correct time. The following actions are not acceptable and will result in disqualification for the remainder of the show.
 - Disciplining the horse for its behaviour in the show ring after it has left the ring.
 - Use of a whip around the horse's head, kicking of a horse in the belly or rib area.
 - The competitor venting their anger and frustration by hitting or rough handling of the horse
7. No child under twelve years old is permitted to exhibit a Stallion. **2023 Amendment or be in charge of a stallion outside the ring.**
8. Any horse acting in an unruly/unsafe manner may be disqualified from a class by the judge or steward for safety reasons.
9. The names of exhibits will not be made known to the judge until after the class. Exhibitors will be issued with a number for each horse that must be displayed whilst that horse is in the ring. Failure to display your number may result in your horse being unplaced due to judges giving numbers to stewards to place a class.
10. Conduct by an exhibitor, producer/ trainer or owner deemed unsportsmanlike, abusive or detrimental will not be tolerated the MHCGB, including but not limited to, threatening, abusive or intimidating conduct (physical, verbal or written) toward any show official or fellow exhibitor. Any person guilty of such conduct should be reported immediately to the show manager. The management committee will hear evidence from other parties and may suspend the offender for the duration of the show. Any person accused of unseemly behaviour may appeal his/her case to the Directors of MHCGB who will conduct a hearing within twenty 28 days of the incident will render a decision in writing to the concerned parties within fourteen days of the hearing. If it is upheld by the Directors such a person may be

banned from further participation in Club events and a decision may be published in an official publication of the Club.

11. Exhibitors are requested not to converse with the judge unless initiated by the judge.
12. It is the owner/handler/exhibitor's responsibility to be on time for classes. Late arrivals will not be admitted to the ring once the gate has closed or the class has commenced.
13. No horse may be shown before a judge that has been trained by that Judge within a two year period. **2023 Amendment nor exhibited by that judge.**
14. No one may show before a judge who has remunerated that judge for livery within a two year periods. Stud fees and broodmare fees are excluded.
15. No one may show before a judge from whom he has leased a horse unless the lease is terminated one year prior to the competition. **2023 amendment two years**
16. No one shall approach a judge during the show in any fashion (e-mail, text, phone, etc.) with regard to a decision unless he/she first obtains permission from the show official.
17. It is considered unsportsman like to request a judge's opinion of an exhibiting horse in the weeks prior to the show. Any exhibitor found in violation of this rule will be asked to not show this horse and any prizes will be forfeited. **2023 Judges will be asked not to accept friend requests from exhibitors leading up to a show nor should exhibitors send friend requests.**
18. All exhibitors, owners and handlers must be a fully paid up members of MHCGB to compete at MHCGB Spring Nationals and National Championship Show. Membership runs from 1st January to 31st December.
 - i) All exhibitors, owners and handlers must be eligible to become fully paid up members of MHCGB to compete at MHCGB Area Shows and in Affiliated Classes at third party shows holding MHCGB Qualifiers
MHCGB Directors reserve the right to refuse membership without providing reasons.
19. Objections must be made in writing with a £50 cash fee to the show Management Team no later than half an hour after the alleged incident. The fee shall be returned to the protester in the event the protest is sustained.
 - i) If the protest is not sustained the fee shall be forfeited.
 - ii) Any protests shall be adjudicated by a protest committee of three show officials not involved with the incident/dispute.
 - iii) The Show Protest committee shall meet promptly and adjudicate the issue, make effective its decision upon the parties in interest and report its determination to all parties.
 - iv) A Show Protest Committee may disqualify a competitor and or his/her entries for the duration of the show.
 - v) The Show Protest Committees' decision is FINAL.
20. Any member/exhibitor issuing a dishonoured cheque or failing to pay any obligation owed to the MHCGB or an MHCGB approved show shall be withdrawn all member privileges and shall be barred from further MHCGB events until the debt is discharged in full. All debts owing to the MHCGB, along with a bank charge of £10, shall be paid within 15 days. Any suspensions/denial of privileges shall terminate upon full payment of the obligation due.
21. The MHCGB Show Management Team may not exhibit horses at a competition where they are acting as such.
22. The MHCGB Show Management Team reserves the right to refuse any entry to an MHCGB show without providing reasons.

23. The MHCGB Show Management Team reserves the right to ask any individual/s to leave a showground holding an MHCGB approved show without providing reasons.

Trading Wares At The National Spring Show and National Grand Championship Shows

The selling / trading of goods unless via an authorised trade stand is **NOT PERMITTED**. Anyone found to be selling / trading from their horsebox or car will be asked to leave the venue. Such unauthorised trading is unfair on the legitimate Trade Stands who have paid for their space. A 30% commission charge will be added to any items found to have changed hands. This will be charged to the purchaser.

MHCGB Code of Conduct.

The Miniature Horse Club of Great Britain would like to remind members and competitors of the following;-

1. Participants should conduct themselves at all times in an appropriate fashion and should display good manners and respect towards other participants, show officials and to the judge(s).
2. An exhibitor always loses with grace, always considers fair play, honesty, and shows all other exhibitor's courtesy.
3. An exhibitor will never use personal behaviour for receiving advantages from a judge.
4. No person is permitted to enter the ring and challenge a judge's decision.

THINK BEFORE YOU POST! Use of Social Media

- Be Aware of Liability,
- Be Accurate,
- Respect Others,
- Respect Your Audience

Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites are popular with both members and non-members for communicating and sharing information and pictures. MHCGB encourages the use of such platforms in a positive, inclusive and respectful manner.

5. Please be aware MHCGB may from time to time carry out internet searches to identify posting regarding MHCGB or its members.
 - i. Inappropriate and offensive comments, whether named or implied, of any nature will not be tolerated under any circumstances - this includes inappropriate or disrespectful remarks about MHCGB, Directors, Judges, and MHCGB members this will include comments about placings or horses.
 - ii. Any person associated with MHCGB, judge, competitor or otherwise, found to be making any such remarks in a MHCGB owned or associated group will be removed from the group without warning and
 - iii. any member found to be making such remarks will be subject to the MHCGB disciplinary procedure which could result in membership or association being revoked. The MHCGB is a family orientated organisation and as such, full respect should be shown at all times.

Please remember.....Do not use personal insults, obscenity, also show proper consideration for others' privacy and for topics that may be considered sensitive. Users are free to discuss topics and disagree with one another, but be respectful of others' opinions.

6. No-one should be subject to intimidation or made to feel alarmed or distressed or put in fear of reprisal.

- i. Harassment is a criminal offence. To that end the MHCGB adopts a zero tolerance towards all type of harassment activity.
- ii. Harassment may be defined as causing alarm, distress and anxiety and fear of physical violence or other threat, offensive statements, verbal abuse and threats. Conduct may include speech, obstruction and so on.
- iii. As such conduct may involve a criminal offence the police may be involved and it may be that the MHCGB will defer any action pending the outcome of such investigation and/or prosecution.

It goes without saying that the Club expects courtesy and co-operation to be shown towards all staff and organisers at any MHCGB event. Whilst the pressures and tensions which arise at competitive level are understood, any aggression or abuse towards those who are simply undertaking their jobs for the benefit and interest of the exhibitor/competitor and the audience cannot be tolerated.

7. Anyone who is reported to a MHCGB Director or show official, and is found to have shown any form of harassment; aggression, verbal abuse, threats, at an MHCGB event, will be required to leave the venue, forfeit any prizes won, and entry fees standing, and be issued with a written warning regarding such conduct.

CONDUCT & COMPLAINTS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE.

1. A complaint may be forwarded to the MHCGB Office, in writing (no electronic communication, e.g. email, text, etc), by recorded delivery, within 10 (ten) days of the alleged incident.
2. Admin will send a written confirmation of receipt of complaint by return. Additionally, written notification will be sent of how the complaint is going to be dealt with [within 15 days of receipt of complaint] (this may be included with the confirmation of receipt); and, will also send written confirmation of the outcome of the complaint.
3. Any complaint so submitted shall be investigated by The Disciplinary Committee. If the complaint can be settled to the satisfaction of all parties concerned that will be the end of the matter.
4. If the complaint cannot be settled satisfactorily then it will be referred to:

The Disciplinary Committee will deal with any complaint by way of written submissions only and no party shall be entitled to attend in person or be represented.

- i) The Disciplinary Committee shall determine whether there has been a breach of the rules of this Society and, if, in its opinion, there has been such a breach, it will decide to: admonish such person and caution him/her as to his/her behaviour;
 - ii) fine such person up to a maximum of £1,000;
 - iii) direct that such person shall be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of MHCGB for such period as it shall determine;
5. Disciplined members shall not enter any MHCGB affiliated show or event, or otherwise take part in any MHCGB affiliated show/event for such period as it shall determine;

- i) nor direct that any horse belonging to such person at the time of the offence shall be disqualified from the class from which it was taking part;
 - ii) direct that any horse belonging to such person at the time of the offence, or at any time during any suspension, shall (whether or not still belonging to that person) be suspended from entering, showing or otherwise taking part in any MHCGB affiliated show or event for such period as may be determined; even if the owner ceases to be a member of MHCGB, or the horse ceases to be a registered (from the perspective of competition, not passport registration)
- 5.1. In the case of a complaint against a Judge, the Disciplinary Committee may decide:
 - a) to admonish such person and caution him/her as to his/her future conduct;
 - b) demote the said Judge to a lower panel;
 - c) suspend the said Judge for a period of time to be determined.
6. Any person who fails to pay a fine imposed pursuant to these regulations, within 28 days of notification, of such fine shall:
 - i) if a member, be suspended automatically from all or any rights and privileges of membership;
 - b)
 - ii) if not a member, any horse belonging to such person at the time the fine is imposed, or at any time thereafter, during the period of non-payment of the fine (whether or not still belonging to such person) be suspended from being entered or shown or taking part in any MHCGB affiliated show/event until such time as the fine has been paid.
7. Any person upon whom a penalty is imposed may, by notice in writing (sent recorded delivery), appeal to the Secretary of the Society within 10 (ten) days of the decision, together with a deposit of £300 which shall be forfeit unless the Appeal is successful.
8. The Appeals Committee shall consist of a minimum of three persons and a maximum of four persons appointed by any 2 of the following: the MHCGB President, MHCGB Vice President, MHCGB Secretary. The Appeals Committee shall proceed by way of written submissions only and no party shall be entitled to attend in person or be represented. The Appeals Committee may increase, decrease, or leave the same, the penalties imposed by the Disciplinary Committee and the findings of and penalties imposed by the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties in every case.
9. Any decision of the Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee may be published in any newspaper or periodical; and/or on the MHCGB website/Facebook pages.

Note: Malicious complaints made solely with the intent to discredit another will not be tolerated. If made and discovered, the complainant will then be subject to disciplinary investigation themselves and may face expulsion – if a member then no refund of membership will be paid.

MEASURING RULES.

Category A.

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.

Category B.

Exceeding 34 inches but not 38 inches in height.

- Weanlings must not exceed 34 inches.
- Yearlings must not exceed 36 inches.
- Two-year-olds must not exceed 37 inches.

Category C.

Exceeding 38" but not exceeding 42"

- Weanlings shall not exceed 38"
- Yearlings must not exceed 39"
- Two year olds must not exceed 40".

1. The show age of the horse is determined from January 1 preceding its birthday.
2. Horses are presented for measuring with their passport, microchips may be scanned to verify identity.
3. The Horse's height must be verified on a hard, level surface, preferably concrete or paved, in a public place, by a show official and witnessed by a recording official of the show.
4. No person with horses being shown competing in the show may be a measuring official at the show.
5. The measuring device used to measure the first horse must be used to measure all the horses, (Category C shall have a different measuring device due to the limitations of the A & B device). 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.
6. Show Management shall announce the time and place for height verification.
7. To receive an exhibitor's number, the horse must be measured and have height recorded on the entry sheet by the person measuring horses or by his designee.
8. 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 with or parallel to the measuring device, and the back of the hocks in a vertical line with the horse's buttocks.
9. The last hairs of 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 mane hair and should not be included as part of the mane when measuring.
10. The horse's head and neck shall be in a natural position, facing forward, with the nostrils lower than the eyes.
11. The animal must stand squarely on all four feet. No height allowance will be made for excessive foot.
12. After the horse is set up for measuring by the handler, the 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.

13. If an animal does not meet the desired height, the handler has the right to request a second measurement. Upon repositioning the animal and the measuring stick a second measurement will be made. If the second measurement is still not acceptable a third measurement is allowed. Note: Only one reading is permitted with each measurement. The third measurement is final and will be recorded as the official height. If after the first or second measurement, it is obvious the animal needs to be trimmed, the handler should be advised that the third measurement is final and that any alteration to the animal's feet should be made prior to that measurement.
14. A horse that has to be remeasured must be sound.
15. The Official Show Measurer will not attempt to measure the horse until the handler has set the horse and is positioned near the horse, in a kneeling or standing position, not touching the horse with any part of his/her body, and advises the measurer the horse is ready to be measured. The Official Measurer will then attempt to measure the horse. During the measuring process, if the handler touches the horse, the attempt to measure will be stopped, and the handler will be advised the horse cannot be touched during the measuring process.
16. The Show Management Team reserve the right to video the measuring of horses.

Protest concerning height:

The measurement of a horse may be protested at any time prior to the end of the show so long as the horse is present on the show ground.

1. The protest must be made in writing accompanied by a £100 deposit.
2. The horse shall be re measured by a show official other than the show official that measured all animals at the show, and in the presence of the original measurer and at least two (2) other show officials.
3. If there is no discrepancy in measurements from the first measurement to the measurement after protest, the original measurement stands as official.
4. All measurements must take place in direct view of the owner/handler of protested animal, and the individual who filed the protest.
5. Any animal submitted for an official measurement must show no evidence of lameness. If lameness is determined this shall result in disqualification of the animal for the balance of the show, and the owner of the animal forfeits fees and winnings for the entire show for the protested animal.

Clarification: The rule above is clarifying that if a horse measures out of the show, it is not considered in the show; therefore it can not be protested.

PRESENTATION FOR SHOWING.

The permissible methods for showing are:

- Freshly clipped
- Clipped with new coat established
- Foals exceeding 8 weeks may be shown.
- Weanlings exceeding 5 months may be shown clipped/partly clipped.

Manes and tails are natural & unplaited (with the exception of performance classes or costume classes). Pulling or shortening of the mane is permissible). A bridle path may be clipped into the mane to enhance the outline of the horse. Tails are to be trimmed clear of the ground.

Alteration of the natural colour of the horse is not allowed, however, subtle use of makeup to enhance a natural colour is allowed.



Horses are to be shown not stretched, which means all four 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 penalised after the initial warning by the judge in each class. It is permissible to hand set the horse.
(See Diagram)

General preparation and presentation is at the discretion of the owner, but the MHCGB wishes to promote the horse as being shown at its best visual and health advantage to portray the breed as one of beauty, intelligence and gentleness.

Whiskers may be trimmed at the discretion of owners, with the exception of broodmares and foals who may not be trimmed. Horses with whiskers remaining shall not be penalised by judges.
(Amendment as of 16/11/2021).

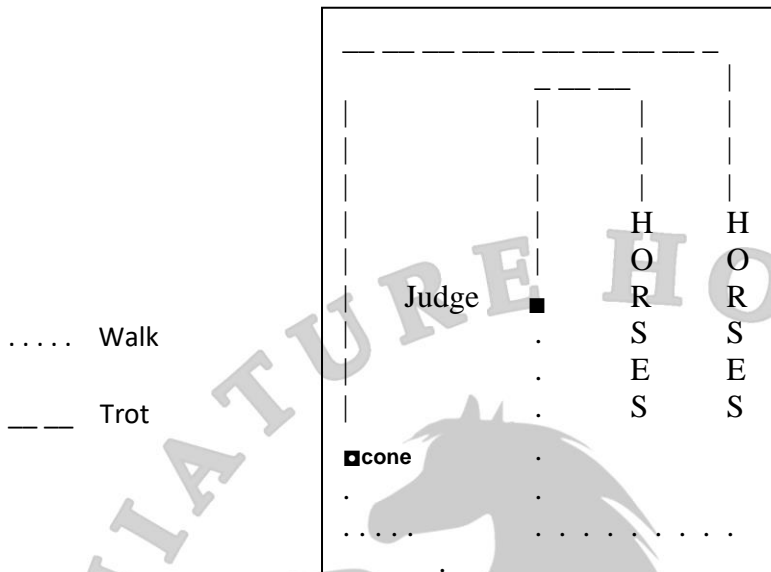
NOTE: 'circus' or 'cute' type presentation is not relevant in any class other than the costume/fancy dress class.

MHCGB Showing Style.

Preliminary Judging Halter Classes

Horses are to enter the ring, individually in catalogue order, at a walk clockwise on a loose lead to a designated point marked by a cone approximately 20 feet from the gate and then proceed at a trot past the judge/s. Judging will begin at the cone. Line up horses head to tail along the ringside, teeth and testicles are checked for correctness. The judge then re takes his/her position in the centre of the ring. From line-up, competitors walk to judge and trot past, back to the end of line, to assess straightness of movement. Horse are then posed nose to tail approx. 15 feet from the edge of the ring and with sufficient distance between to allow judges to assess horses from all sides. **2023 amendment at the National Shows the judge may only require a walk towards and a trot past to**

complete the individual show. Horses are assessed individually in the nose to tail line up. (See diagram). The final line up is then called in and Rosettes are awarded.



Championship Classes.

The first and second places from the applicable classes are called to the championship. First placed horses form the front line, second placed horses stand behind the winner of their class. Horses are asked to walk/trot out at the discretion of the judge.

The horses are posed for the judge to reassess.

Champion and Reserve champion are selected.

Judges are asked to discourage exhibitors from sitting, squatting, kneeling in front of horses (with the exception of showing weanlings). If after a warning is given, exhibitors may be penalised

The horses are judged on:-

1. TYPE – The horse must possess horse like qualities in a smaller size and proportion. Pony-like traits are not desirable in the modern miniature horse.
2. CONFORMATION – Consider the correctness of structure and conformation. Identify any faults and weaknesses.
3. QUALITY – Includes the harmony and balance of body parts, the refinement and density of bone in the legs and the smoothness of muscling.
4. WAY OF GOING – Perhaps meriting a higher consideration. Not just the quality of movement but the technical correctness of the stride, articulation of the joints, elevation and impulsion.
5. PRESCENSE

MHCGB CLASSES; RULES & GUIDANCE.

Halter Classes

Refined type classes will be split into Category A, B & C sections

Middleweight type classes will be split into Category A, B & C sections

Draft type classes will be split into Category A, B & C sections

Scaled down show horse section is split into Show Hack, Riding Horse, Show Hunter, Show Cob, TB/Arabian type and is judged on the horse most resembling that specified type in miniature. These classes will be split into Category A, B & C height sections

Guidance:

Hack type



An animal of beauty, refinement and elegance with extravagant daisy cutting action. The typical show hack will be thoroughbred, some have a percentage of Arabian bloodlines.

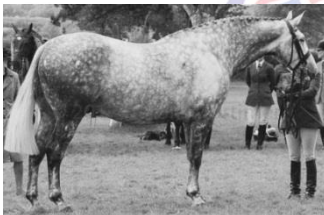
Riding horse type

An animal that does not require the refinement of the hack nor the substance of the hunter. This horse fits between the hack and the hunter type. Elegant, well moving with good length of rein.

(Photo Tiger Attack owned and bred by Billy Moran)



Hunter type



A horse of quality and substance that fills the eye, powerfully built, well proportioned in body and limb.

Cob type

A quality head, well set on shoulder, short back, deep girth, short cannons and plenty of bone. Workman like. Note.. no need to hog the mane.



Arabian type

Probably the easiest to recognise of all. The Arabian has a dished head, flat croup, well set on neck, quality limbs and extravagant floating, straight action.



Falabella classes are open to Registered FBS purebred horses not exceeding 38" at maturity (measured at the last hairs of the mane).

Partbred Falabella classes are open to horses with either parent registered with a FBS Society and not exceeding 38".

AMHCGB classes are open to Miniature Horses not exceeding 42" and will be offered in height/studbook sections.

- Studbook A - Full American issued with a MHCGB/AMHCGB Passport (both parents are AMHA, AMHR or ASPC)
- Studbook B - Part American issued with a MHCGB/AMHCGB Passport (one parent is AMHA, AMHR or ASPC)
- Studbook C - Any horse which holds a MHCGB/AMHCGB Basic Identity Passport
- Overstamped - Passport is issued by EU society but overstamped by MHCGB. Overstamped horses entering the AMHCGB breeding book.
- (NB Horses overstamped for the Showing Register ONLY are not eligible for AMHCGB classes).

AMHA sanctioned classes are run strictly under AMHA rules. All exhibitors are therefore asked to acquaint themselves with the current AMHA rule book (www.amha.org). The section is open to horses registered with the AMHA owned and exhibited by AMHA members only. Please send copy front and back of registration papers with entry.

AMHA/ASPC & AMHR Partbred classes are open to horses registered or eligible to be registered in Studbook B of The AMHCGB studbook ie with only one parent registered with AMHA/ASPC or AMHR studbooks please put sire and/or dam registration numbers on entry form.

Born & Bred In The UK classes are open to horses not exc 38" who have been Born and Bred in the UK carrying a UK registered prefix.

British Bred classes are open to horses with neither parent registered with AMHA or FBS or of unknown breeding not exceeding 34" at maturity.

British Shetland open to both SPSBS registered and non-registered British Shetlands. Miniature classes not to exceed 34", Standards not to exceed 42" (measured to the withers). The pony's ears may be trimmed flat but there must be no trimming inside the ear. Trimming of whiskers on the jaw line is acceptable. Manes and tails must not be pulled but tails may be rough trimmed to clear the ground if dragging. Leg feathers must not be trimmed. No false hair, artificial colouring or make-up should be used. Working ponies of four years old or over only may be clipped in the interest of welfare. Under no circumstances should foals be clipped. Ponies should always be shown in a clean condition.

Gelding Incentive class is open to gelded horses not exceeding 38".

Veteran class is open to horses not exceeding 38" and aged 12yrs +. **(Amendment as of 26/06/2022)**

Ultra Mini class is open to any horse not to exceed 30" at maturity.

Restricted classes are open to handlers and or horses that have never been placed Supreme, Reserve or Res Res at our National Spring Show or Grand Champs Show or at MHOYS, BMHS or Any Other Miniature Only Show.

Colour classes are judged on 80% colour, 20% conformation. Horses not to exceed 42" and available in height sections.

Horses are walked into the arena and then asked to turn and walk in the opposite direction. Horses are then lined nose to tail in rows, allowing space for the judge to pass between each horse to assess. The horses are trotted at the discretion of the judge.

The following classes are available:-

- Spotted ie; appaloosa, pinto, skewbald
- Broken Colour ie; pinto, piebald, skewbald
- Solid Colour ie; bay, chestnut, grey, black, brown.
- Any Other Colour ie; silvers, dilutes, palominos, buckskin, grulla, roan etc.

Amateur Owner

Amateur Definition - An amateur is a person who does not derive income from working with horses/ponies. You are NOT an Amateur if :-

- You obtain income from working with horses or ponies either as a self employed person or as an employee
- You engage in breeding, livery, buying, selling or dealing in a commercial capacity.
- Receive remuneration for employment in the connection with horses in racing, showing, livery or riding school.
- Show a horse owned or sponsored by a company or commercial firm.
- The horse/pony is stabled in a professional show producer's yard during the current season.

You may keep your horse or pony at part livery or DIY Livery as long as the owner of the yard does not fall under the definition of Professional Show Producer and you may receive lessons / training in either a clinic or one to one basis.

On the day when an exhibit is competing in an Amateur class, Professionals are not allowed to work in/show prep the relevant animal.

The definition by MHCGB of a Professional Show Producer/Trainer is a person who derives income from keeping and training horses and ponies for the show ring even if this is not their sole or main source of income. Current Season - The season starts 1st January of each year

Restricted Classes open to horses and or handlers who have not won a Supreme or Reserve Supreme at ANY Miniature Horse Show.

The MHCGB Breeder of the Year is open to Miniature Horse breeders who are members of MHCGB who register their horses in the AMHCGB Breeding Book. Points will be accumulated from the two National Shows. (Spring & National Grand Championship show). Awarded at the National Grand Championship Show.

Progeny / Breeding classes horses enter the ring and are lined up nose to tail in groups. The judge, at his discretion, may ask to see horses' movement.

- **Produce Of Dam** are judged with emphasis on the reproductive likeness, uniformity, quality of breed characteristics and confirmation. The minimum of two offspring and a

maximum of 4 per entry. Any sex of offspring may be shown. One number is issued per group of horses.

- **Get Of Sire** class is be judged with emphasis on the reproductive likeness, uniformity, quality of breed characteristics and confirmation. The minimum of two progeny and a maximum of 4 per entry. Any sex may be shown. One number is issued per group of horses.
- **Two, Three Horses By The Same Owner** any two/three horses owned by the same owner. Judged on quality of conformation and breed type.
- **Horses By The Same Breeder** judged on quality of conformation, breed type and similarity.
- **Pairs** class is judged on likeness of both horses.

Handler classes are judged on the way the handler presents and works with the horse and include:

- **Newcomer** Open to any exhibitor not having won a 1st to 3rd place at any miniature horse show. Rosettes to all exhibitors; basic help will be offered
- **Young Handler** Open to exhibitors not exceeding 12yrs
- **Intermediate Handler** Open To exhibitors 12yrs to 18yrs
- **Golden Handler** Open to Exhibitors 50yrs plus

Costume classes include Fancy dress and Concours d'Elegance. These can contain both Junior, halter and driven entrants, and classes may be split accordingly.

Concours d'elegance includes

- **Traditional Edwardian / Victorian** style classes in which arms must be covered and a high-necked jacket worn.
- **Open** style classes in which any style of elegant costume can be worn.

All costumes must be fit for purpose and not cause a trip hazard.

Driving

All Exhibitors competing in the Driving classes must have Third Party Liability Insurance, a copy of which must be included with entries.

Horses are to be serviceably sound and must be three years old or older.

Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout that conforms to the class entered. Suggested attire:-

- Gentlemen - hat, jacket, tie, trousers, gloves.
- Ladies - tailored suit, skirt and blouse or evening dress (where appropriate) hat and gloves.

Whips must be carried at all times; failure will result in disqualification.

No child under twelve years may drive a stallion.

In the absence of an adequate warm-up arena, it is required that a warm-up period of at least five minutes be provided before the first driving class of each grouping of driving classes in the schedule, each day of the show.

A judge MUST excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle, equipment, or horse for that class.

Headers: A header is an appropriately attired (show attire or unlettered jacket with suitable footwear) capable person 13 years of age or over. This attendant shall take NO action that will affect the performance of any Miniature Horse. Only one header is allowed per horse. The header must not have a whip and shall remain at least two 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. Adult (18 years of age or older) headers are required for all youth drivers and optional for all other drivers.

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.

No entry may leave the ring after judging has begun without permission from the judge. If an accident or equipment failure occurs which needs medical attention or repair, those involved shall remain in position and all other entries shall move to the centre of the arena.

During a class, adjustments /repairs to equipment may be made upon permission from the judge. A groom 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 per class/per horse once horse has entered the ring. Maximum time not to exceed three minutes.

Official time outs must be declared by the judge or judges. More than one time out per exhibitor shall result in disqualification.

Ear plugs shall not be used on any horse in the show ring. Boots shall not be used on any horse except obstacle/jumping classes.

Novice Driven

The class is open to horse/handler combinations which have not been placed 1st at our Grand Championship Show in any driving class (with the exception of Concours D' Elegance Driven) or taken Driven Champion or Reserve Driven Champion at ANY horse show. There will be rosettes to the highest-placed Novice Driver and the highest-placed Novice Horse.

British Show Driving

All classes are judged similarly, with the cleanliness of the complete turnout top priority. The way of going, including fit and suitability of the harness and vehicle are also always included in the judging process. All turnouts should have a spares kit, this should consist of, spare rein and trace, a halter, hoof pick, knife, hole punch, a length of string, and a mobile phone.

Exercise classes show how the turnout in a 2 or 4 wheel vehicle, that is suitable to exercise the horse or pony.

Pleasure classes allow the horse or pony to be in a 2 or 4 wheel vehicle, that is suitable for carrying passengers across varied terrain, this class the judge can ask for a specific movement i.e. reversing into a space.

Private Driving classes shows the horse or pony is in a vintage vehicle, and the turnout will be far more elegant than that of a pleasure turnout.

Breed Specific classes the judge will be looking for the best stamp of the breed, showing its natural characteristics whilst in harness.

Multiple Hitch classes horses should be well matched in movement and work well together.

American Driving

Single Pleasure Driving

The depiction, balance line and descriptive paragraph are to be used to define the "ideal" pleasure horse and are in no way intended to eliminate horses not capable of the ideal. Balance should be 70% to rear The IDEAL Single Pleasure Horse shall be shown with contact on the reins at all times. The horse should be animated and exhibit presence, while in the bridle, demonstrating a "bold" stride with freedom of movement. The neck carriage should be "up" with the poll being the highest point and flexion to fit horse's conformation.

To be judged on the following criteria, in the listed order:

PERFORMANCE PARAMOUNT Presence and elevation with forward impulsion, steady in each gait with definite gait changes.

QUALITY A bold picture, demonstrating freedom of movement, while in the bridle, in a collected manner displaying the horse's athletic ability with forward impulsion at a collected trot. At the working trot, the horse exhibits more power, speed and motion. It is performed with a lengthening of stride but no decrease of collection or loss of form.

MANNERS Horse should appear willing to work with a quiet mouth.

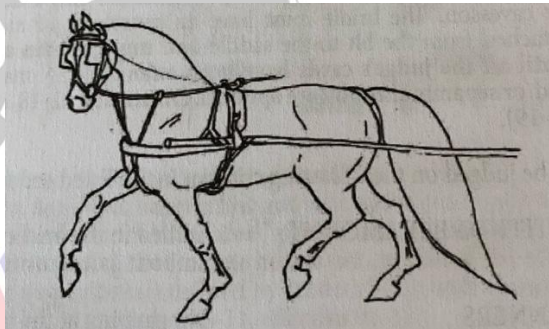
ATTITUDE Settled in the bridle with, smooth gait transitions.

CONFORMATION Form to function.

APPEARANCE Of both equipment and driver's attire.

Class requirements: Horse must be shown both directions in the arena at the Walk, Collected Trot and Working Trot. Horse will enter counter clockwise at the Collected Trot. Horse will be required to stand quietly and back readily.

Gait requirements: The horse should give an appearance of being a pleasure to drive. Though animated, the horse should be natural and balanced in all gaits. 1. Walk: A four beat gait demonstrating collection. 2. Collected Trot: A two beat diagonal gait. Overall balance as shown above. Horse must demonstrate freedom of movement, while remaining in the bridle. It is executed in a collected manner and should display the horse's athletic ability with forward impulsion. 3. Working Trot: At the Working Trot the horse exhibits more power, speed and motion. It is performed with a lengthened stride.



Country Pleasure Driving

The IDEAL Country Pleasure Horse shall be shown with contact on the reins at all times. Stride should be "flowing", exhibiting knee action and/or reach with hock action while not showing excessive motion (as described in gaits). The horse should be in the bridle with neck carriage comfortable with poll being the highest point and flexion to fit horse's conformation.

ATTITUDE PARAMOUNT Settled in the bridle, with smooth gait transitions.

MANNERS Horse should appear willing to work with a quiet mouth.

PERFORMANCE Steady in each gait with definite gait changes.

QUALITY A "pleasant" picture demonstrating freedom of movement, in the bridle, with impulsion while relaxed and easy going at the pleasure trot. Excessively high action (defined as breaking at the knee level or above) must be penalized. At the working trot the horse exhibits a lengthening of stride resulting in an increase of speed without loss of collection or form.

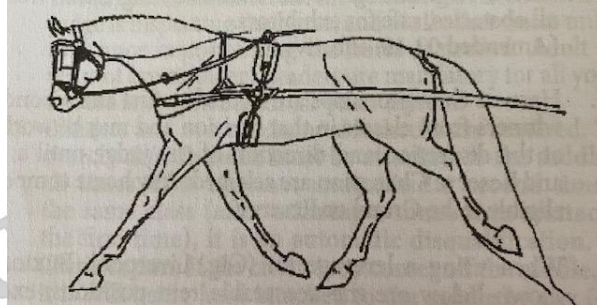
CONFORMATION Form to function.

APPEARANCE Of both equipment and drivers attire.

Class requirements: Horses must be shown both directions in the arena at the Walk, Pleasure Trot, and the Working Trot.

Horses will enter counter clockwise at the Pleasure Trot. They will be required to stand quietly and back readily. **Gait requirements:** It is imperative that the horse give the appearance of being a pleasure to drive. A quiet responsive mouth is paramount. All gaits to be performed with willingness, balance and smoothness as per each gait description. 1. Walk: A four beat, flat-footed and ground covering gait. 2. Pleasure Trot: A two beat diagonal gait. Overall balance as

shown above. Horse must demonstrate freedom of movement, be relaxed and easy going, demonstration impulsion. Excessively high action (defined as breaking at the knee level or above) must be penalized. 3. Working Trot: Lengthening of stride from the Pleasure Trot resulting in an increase of speed without loss of form. Horse must demonstrate freedom of movement.



HORSES MAY ENTER EITHER COUNTRY PLEASURE OR SINGLE PLEASURE

Carriage Driving is similar to the driving classes seen at AMHA shows except that overchecks and martingales are prohibited, whip must always be carried in your hand and breeching is required for turnouts without brakes. You have working trot and trot on, walk and rein back. This division will also include draft turnouts.

Getting started, you can use your pleasure cart with the vinyl boot removed. While the current proposal would like to see wood wheels, you can use your wire wheels. It is recommended that you make your basket match the rest of your vehicle.

Attire: - The driver must wear a hat, lap robe (apron) and gloves (recommended brown)

Carriage Driving Pleasure

To be judged 70% on manners, movement and style; 30% on conformation. To be judged both ways of the ring at a walk, working trot and trot on. To stand quietly and attentively while in the lineup and to rein back. Entries chosen for a workout may be worked on both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure of eight and / or perform other appropriate tests.

Carriage Driving Turnout

To be judged 70% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of the harness and vehicle, neatness and appropriateness of attire and overall impression; 30% on performance, manners and way of going. To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk working trot and trot on. To stand quietly and attentively while in the lineup and rein back. Entries chosen for a workout may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure of eight and / or perform other appropriate tests.

Carriage Driving Working

A pleasure driving class in which the entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the horse to provide a pleasant drive. To be judged 80% on performance, manners and way of going and 20% on condition and for of harness, vehicle and neatness of attire. To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, working trout, and trot on. To stand quietly and attentively while in the lineup and to rein back. Entries chosen for a workout may be worked on both

ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure of eight and/or perform other appropriate tests.

Carriage Driving Reinsmanship

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver. To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, working trot and trot on. To stand quietly and attentively while in the lineup and rein back. Entries chosen for a workout may be worked both ways of the area at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure of eight and/or perform other appropriate tests. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so to be relaxed and effective. Either the one or two-handed method of driving is acceptable. Comment both methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent 'feel' with the animals mouth. Drivers should not be penalised or rewarded for using one general style over another. In order to evaluate the driver's versatility, the judge may request a test involving driving with one hand. To be judged 75% on the handling of reins and whip, control, posture and overall appearance of the driver. 25% on the condition of the harness and vehicle and neatness of attire.

Technical Driving

Cones Driving

All animals 4 years and over.

Horses complete a timed coned course incurring time penalties of 2 seconds when lowing balls from the cones.

A judge may dismiss from the ring any unsafe horse, vehicle or equipment.

Up to 10 gates

Width between cones 145cm.

Course will be made at the venue and to fit space available, course walks will be required by competitors prior to the class starting.

There is no optimum time set, but the course is timed from crossing start to crossing finish.

Drivers may take whatever line they wish, crossing own line between gates will not endure a penalty. You must take each gate in sequence, driving any gate out of sequence will result in elimination.

The entire turnout must pass between the cones. **(Amendment as of 16/02/2022)**

Driven Dressage

All animals 4 years and over.

Horses should be in a suitable cart for their style of driving. You may have a caller.

Arena size will be 20 x 40 meters

Each movement marked out of 10.

It is an 'error of course' when a competitor performs the wrong movement or when a movement is omitted altogether.

If a competitor makes an error of course, the judge will stop the competitor. The competitor must then resume the test from beginning of the movement where the error was made; competitor may check with judge. **(Amendment as of 16/02/2022)**

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.

Driven Obstacle (Amendment as of 16/02/2022)

All animals 4 years and over.

Horses complete a timed coned course being scored per obstacle.

A judge may dismiss from the ring any unsafe horse, vehicle or equipment.

Up to 10 obstacles will be set.

Course will be made at the venue and to fit space available, course walks will be required by competitors prior to the class starting.

There is no optimum time set, but the course is timed from crossing start to crossing finish.

Maximum time per obstacle is 60 seconds, drivers 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.

Each obstacle is scored out of 5,

0 - incomplete obstacle and moved on without judge's permission.

1 - attempted but did not manage to complete in 60 seconds. Asked to move on by judge.

2 - completed with major faults (going off line, restarting obstacle, spook, backing off)

3 - completed with minor faults (pause in movement, slight realignment to complete)

4 - completed with no faults, horse showed tension.

5 - completed smoothly, with no faults. Horse relaxed and responding.

Drivers may take whatever line they wish, crossing own line between obstacles will not endure a penalty. You must take each obstacle in sequence, driving any obstacle out of sequence will result in elimination.

Obstacles will be taken from the below list :

- bending cones
- tarpaulin
- reverse park
- square halt 10 seconds
- single hand drive
- pivot turn
- wheel alignment
- driver to create noise while horse stands at marker
- figure of 8 in trot
- single side raised wheel

Mini Driving Trial

All animals 4 years and over.

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

Hard hats must be worn by ALL competitors.

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

Horses may wear boots or bandages.

Any harness or cart allowed provided safe and appropriate to the horse.

Versatility

The horse will perform three disciplines in one class. Harness Driving, Halter, Hunter All three disciplines to be judged equally and combined for final placing. Any horse disqualified from one division is disqualified from the class.

Horses must be three years of age or older.

One Assistant or Header will be allowed in the arena only for the heading and unharnessing of the horse. Exhibitor and assistant must be properly attired.

Class Procedure: Horses will enter the arena at a pleasure trot or a collected trot then perform a working trot and walk in both directions of the arena. Headers will be asked to enter the arena. Horses will be asked to rein back. The judge will signal the driver and header, as a team, to remove cart and harness from horse and do any grooming or halter changes. Two minute time limit. Each horse and handler will go to the rail in order of completion. Any horse not removed from cart or harness will be disqualified. Headers will be asked to exit the arena with cart and harness, in an orderly manner. HORSES ARE TO REMAIN IN THE SAME ORDER.

Horses will be judged at halter. No teeth will be checked. Horses will line up head to tail for inspection. Horses will not be asked to move.

Horses will jump a course of three jumps to demonstrate horses' style, manner and way of going

Performance Classes

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 entered on the MHCGB Show Register 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 issue kit (to include any club branded kit purchased through MHCGB) or show attire, with smart trousers or jeans. All exhibitors must wear gloves and suitable footwear.

(Amendment as of 16/02/2022)

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.

Circling or path crossing will incur a 3-point penalty per occurrence, knock downs will incur a 4-point penalty per fault. 1st refusal will incur 5-points, 2nd refusal 10-points and a 3rd refusal results in elimination. **(Amendment as of 13/01/2022)**

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 scoper 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 the current year are available under the Performance Section of the club website.

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 by adult handlers, junior handlers (16 years and under) may compete in-hand (**Amendment as of 02/09/2022**).

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

MHCGB PERFORMANCE TRIO.

Eligibility for the MHCGB Performance Trio;

- 1) Take part in all three disciplines at MHCGB or Affiliated shows
 - A) Dressage
 - B) In-hand Halter Obstacles
 - C) In-hand Jumping
- 2) Open to MHCGB members only and take part in these three disciplines on Performance Day at the National Grand Championship Show.
- 3) The equine must be over 3 years old or over to take part due to the jumping aspect.
- 4) Open to any equine eligible to be over stamped to the Show Register of MHCGB or hold a passport from AMHCGB.
- 5) Same horse / handler combination for the whole season. You can compete multiple animals if you wish.
- 6) If four or more Junior (16yrs or under) competitors compete an additional Junior Trio Championship will be offered.

Over the course of the season, the above three disciplines will be offered at MHCGB area shows, some of our affiliated shows and also at the two National Shows.

You may take part at as many shows as you wish, but must compete at a minimum of three shows - one of which MUST be the National Grand Championship Show - to qualify for a chance of achieving the prestigious title. Scores from three shows only to count for awards.

THE ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE TRIO HORSE AND HANDLER SUPREME AWARD.

All three events must be completed at a show for that show's placings to count.

- 1st place 10 points
- 2nd 8 points,
- 3rd 6 points,

- 4th 4 points,
- 5th 2 points
- 6th 1 point.

(Points are awarded on a horse / handler combination)

You may compete in either Novice or Open section for the season. You only need to move into the Open section if you have been crowned Novice Performance Trio Champion at a past MHCGB National Championship Show, or if you choose to move into the Open section. Once you have moved into Open you should no longer compete in the Novice classes.

Dressage specific information:

Novice will be split into an in-hand class and a long-reined class - both will complete the same test. These will be judged and placed as individual classes however, when it comes to allocating points to the Performance Trio leaderboard, the scores from the classes will be amalgamated, and Trio points awarded based on the percentage scores ranked from highest to lowest across the two classes.

Competitors are allowed to enter EITHER the Novice In-hand OR the Novice Long-reined dressage at each show.

Open dressage will remain long-reined only.

Equipment required

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

**ALL AMHA Performance classes will run under AMHA rules.
Please ensure you read the relevant section of the AMHA rule book.**

JUDGES RULES & GUIDELINES.

Judge Applications.

Judge applicants are required to complete the MHCGB application form available at www.mhcgb.co.uk and may be subject to assessment.

Judge Levels.

A judge will enter at Probationer Level (3)* see Probationer Judge rules.

Level 2 judges may judge Area Shows and can progress to level one after attending an MHCGB judges/educational seminar.

A level 1 Judge is eligible to judge National/County/Champion Show/Assess Gradings, mentor probationer judges and will have attended an MHCGB judges/educational seminar.

Probationary Judges On being accepted, are required to apprentice judge, with a Level 1 judge, who will report on the suitability of the probationer, at two shows and steward at one of the National Shows. It is the responsibility of the Probationary Judge to make the necessary arrangements. Probationary Judges must not apprentice with any judge related to or are friends/acquainted with.

Junior Judges Programme.

MHCGB offer a junior Judges Programme open to 14 to 24 year olds by way of a progression to the MHCGB Judge Panel in the future.

Applicants are required to complete an application form available at www.mhcgb.co.uk. The programme will entail ring stewarding, attending training days and learner judging with mentor judges to gain valuable experience.

From 2021 all judges will be expected to sit a rule book test biannually, sent via email. Failure to complete will result in removal from the panel.

Regulations.

1. Judges are required to acquaint themselves with the MHCGB show rules and it is advisable to have a copy of the MHCGB Rule Book with you during your judges appointment.
2. Judges are required to acquaint themselves with the Breed Standard of Perfection.
3. Judges shall appear for their assignment suitably attired to appear before an audience.
4. Judges must not knowingly judge a horse that he or she has owned, trained or has had a financial gain or interest in.
5. A judge may be hired by the Show Manager/Show secretary only who will be their only point of contact.
6. Any judge suspended from the judge's panel will require to reapply after a two year period and will be subject to reassessment.
7. A judge shall not attend an exhibitor's party or any other activity connected with the exhibitors on the day previous to the show at which he is officiating, with the exception of carrying out an official MHCGB group training clinic prior to commencement of classes, and will arrive no earlier than 60 minutes prior to his/her class commencing.
8. A judge shall not visit the stabling area, nor speak with owners, exhibitors nor their representatives nor discuss any horse entered in the show before the judging.
9. A judge shall not review the show catalogue until judging has been completed.
10. A judge may not exhibit nor have animals owned or trained by him at any competition in which he or she is adjudicating.

11. Each horse shall be given equal and careful consideration.
12. Judges are asked not to officiate at more than two MHCGB affiliated shows per year.
13. A judge may officiate at one only MHCGB National Championship qualifying show per year.
14. National Championship show judges are asked to not officiate at any MHCGB National Championship qualifying shows in that same year.
15. All rosettes must be awarded placing first to sixth.
16. Any horse that presents in unruly/dangerous manner may be disqualified from the ring. Similarly if the judge feels a competitor cannot control their horse in an acceptable/safe manner they must be disqualified.
17. Horses are to be shown not stretched, which means all four 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 PENALISED (See diagram), after the initial warning by the judge in each class. It is permissible to hand set the horse.
18. Judges are asked to discourage exhibitors for sitting, squatting, kneeling in front of horses (with the exception of weanlings). If after a warning is given, exhibitors may be penalised
19. Horses may be clipped or shown in full coat.
20. Horses must be serviceably sound or be disqualified for that class, in good condition, and well groomed. Transmissible weakness will be penalised.
21. Overbites/underbites that exceed 1/2 depth (thickness) of the teeth will be severely penalised, with the exception of geldings. Judges MUST check teeth on all stallions and mares.
22. Whiskers may be trimmed at the discretion of owners, with the exception of broodmares and foals who may not be trimmed. Horses with whiskers remaining shall not be penalised by judges. **(Amendment as of 16/11/2021)**
23. Judges are required not to accept Social Media Friend Requests from Miniature Horse Owners prior to an advertised judging appointment.
24. Judges are required not to make assessments in any manner (email, private message, text) of any horse he may suspect of competing at a show he is booked to officiate. Judges are requested to inform Show Management of any offenders.
25. MHCGB does not welcome nor approve of unsportsmanlike behaviour at ringside by competitors including but not limited to; detrimental remarks regarding the judging process, horse's placings and horses/handlers in said class will not be tolerated. Judges are required to report any such incidents to Show Management for further action.
26. Exhibitors are requested not to approach a judge for comments on their placing after a class unless initiated by the judge. Any such requests from exhibitors are required to go through Show Management.

Horses are judged on:-

TYPE – The horse must possess horse like qualities in a smaller size and proportion. Pony-like traits are not desirable in the modern miniature horse.

CONFORMATION – Consider the correctness of structure and conformation. Identify any faults and weaknesses.

QUALITY – Includes the harmony and balance of body parts, the refinement and density of bone in the legs and the smoothness of muscling.

WAY OF GOING – Perhaps meriting a higher consideration. Not just the quality of movement but the technical correctness of the stride, articulation of the joints, elevation and impulsion.

PRESCENSE

RING STEWARDS GUIDELINES

Stewarding is an excellent way to learn more about how classes are judged and to gain invaluable ring experience, it can be a very rewarding experience and will impart much knowledge from experienced judges. Anyone who would like to undertake any stewarding duties should contact any of the Directors for details.

It is a condition of appointment that all probationary level judges and those who have been newly appointed to the MHCGB Judges Panel (at whatever level) must undertake at least one day's stewarding at an MHCGB National Show in the year(s) in which they serve as either probationary judges or newly appointed judges.

Stewards are expected to present themselves in a smart appearance, wearing either smart casual trousers and suitable shirt, or suit with shirt and tie for men; or skirt, smart casual trousers or suit for ladies with suitable top. Jackets/coats may be worn in cold or inclement weather. Suitable footwear. Hat. Stewards are expected to wear evening wear when applicable.

Stewards must carry a copy of this Rule Book during all stewarding appointments and carry a spare pen.

Stewards should make themselves fully conversant with all rules pertaining to the classes they are covering.

Stewards should be polite at all times to both their judge and to competitors.

Stewards will, when requested by the judge, instruct competitors as to what they are required to do - i.e. they will instruct them when to perform and how to form the line-up. All classes using the MHCGB showing format.

Stewards should not stand so close to the judge as to obscure their view of any competitor. They should pay particular attention when being given any marks to write onto score sheets. Ring stewards are responsible for having the awards ready for the judge to present in the correct order on completion of the class. All results sheets must be returned to the show secretary by the steward, or where a runner has been officially appointed, to the runner on completion of the class.

Stewards are not expected to claim monetary expenses however, they will receive refreshments throughout the day.

REGISTRATION AND PASSPORTS

American Miniature Horse Club GB is the DEFRA approved passport issuing Office of MHCGB.

We hold the only approved breeding book for American Miniature Horses and horses with American bloodlines applying the following criteria:- We offer three sections within our Studbook

Studbook A Registration criteria

- a) the Foal's parents meet the Main Studbook Breeding criteria both parents are purebred horses registered in a recognised Studbook for pedigree horses ie. AMHA, AMHR, ASPC.
- b) the Foal is DNA typed and parentage tested if any of the following criteria have not been met:-
 - i) the Stallion Report must have been submitted to the AMHCGB Registry Office within the year of covering. Or,
 - ii) In the case of outside coverings. A covering certificate must accompany application.
 - iii) the Foal must be 5 months old or less when the Registration application form is completed by the Vet.
 - iv) the Foal must be at Foot with its mother when identified by a veterinary surgeon.
- c) Pure bred American Miniature Horses imported from the USA with current papers.
- d) Horses hardshipped into the AMHA studbook following the current AMHA ruling.

Studbook B Registration criteria Open to horses with a minimum of 25% American bloodlines. I.e., one grandparent and meeting the following criteria:-

- i) the Stallion Report must have been submitted to the AMHCGB Registry Office within the year of covering, or,
- ii) In the case of outside coverings. A covering certificate must accompany application.
- iii) the Foal must be 5 months old or less when the Registration application form is completed by the Vet.
- iv) the Foal must be at Foot with its mother when identified by a veterinary surgeon.

Studbook C Registration criteria Open to horses which comply with the breed characteristics laid down in the breeding programme but do not comply with parentage criteria rules

AMHCGB will not enter into ownership disputes.

All passports must be applied for in the current year of birth (excepting imported horses).

A veterinary surgeon must implant the microchip and complete the AMHCGB silhouette page.

Information must be correct to the best of owner's knowledge and will be checked with the appropriate studbook online.

All prefixes used must be registered with Central Prefix Register and shall be a minimum of two letters, no hyphens, spaces, numerals or apostrophes.

Registrations are available to both members and non members of MHCGB, the former paying a lesser fee as a benefit of membership.

The correct fee must accompany all Registrations

AMHCGB will enter into the breeding book, animals of the same breed, line or cross that are eligible for entry under the Society's breed criteria, without discrimination on account of their country of origin."

It is strongly recommended that when posting any registration passports/documentation, that this is done by recorded delivery using a padded envelope.

Your legal obligations

Due to the new Minimum Operating Standards for PIOs that came into force in October 2018 we are obliged to inform you of your responsibilities regarding the passporting of your horse. It is a legal requirement for all horses and ponies to be issued with a passport. Horse Passport law is governed by the commission Regulation (EU) 2015/262, and in England by the Horse Passport Regulations 2009, and where applicable, any subsequent amendments or successors to these regulations.

- A horse's passport must be kept with him at all times.
- It is illegal to travel a horse without their passport
- No animal may have more than **one** passport.

Passports are the property of the Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) and the passport must be returned to the issuing PIO for the following reasons:

- If the animal changes ownership (within 30 days), with transfer of ownership form and correct fee.
- If any alterations are required (for update of adult colour, castration etc)
- If extra pages are required for vaccination records etc
- If the document is damaged
- When the animal dies (within 30 days), with correct form and fee.
- Part II Section II (or pre-2016 Section IX) has been signed to permanently exclude the horse from the human food chain, within 14 days

Late Passports are still available and will be marked as 'Duplicate' Duplicate Passports

If the passport is lost, a duplicate may be applied for with correct fee. See www.mhcg.co.uk

It is mandatory from October 2020 that all horses are microchipped. Please ensure to complete the form from MHCGB website and return to the office. It is your responsibility to inform AMHCGB the microchip has been implanted in order for the transponder number to be recorded on your horses data and uploaded to Central Equine Database.

Transfers of Ownership

A horse passport does not constitute proof of ownership of the horse. Return passport with appropriate form downloadable from mhcg.co.uk and correct fee **within 30 days** of acquiring a horse in order to update owner records.

All horses are required to be entered on the MHCGB Show Register to be eligible to compete. A one off registration.

Overstamping

A horses passport may be overstamped by AMHCGB to enter The Show Register and/or AMHCGB Breeding Book.

All Horses by law holding an EU passport must have this passport overstamped with the relevant breed society to ensure this horse now has data records held in the UK.

Overstamping form to be found at www.mhcgb.co.uk

Naming of your Horse

MHCGB is affiliated to the Central Prefix Register (CPR), an organisation set up in 1978 by the British Palomino Society in order to prevent the duplication of breeders' prefixes by different breed societies. Using a registered prefix, a breeder may derive credit and advertisement from winning stock. Registered prefixes are protected from duplication. If you are a breeder, and wish to register a prefix/suffix the application form available at www.mhcgb.co.uk.

The owner of the mare at time of foaling may use his/her prefix on the foal or with the agreement of the owner of the mare at time of covering their prefix.

To clarify the prefix used to name/register a foal is the choice of the owner of the mare at time of foaling.

SUPERIOR TITLE AWARDS RECOGNITION. (STAR)

STAR awards acknowledge and give a permanent and lifetime championship status to our breeding programmes greatest horses and producers. Your horse will have his STAR status added to his/her unique reference page in our studbook. His/her name will be suffixed with the abbreviation (STAR) which will be reflected on all future generation pedigrees. Identifying him as a STAR horse to those interested in studying pedigrees and breeding from superior horses.

Open to all Horses passported with AMHCGB in Studbook A, B or C. STAR points are earned at all MHCGB affiliated shows.

Points credited to each animal take into consideration not only the actual placing in a class, but the number of entries in the class. The points are cumulative and stay with the horse throughout his/her entire life.

To achieve STAR status horses must score 70 points in Halter or Performance together with five Championship wins (one must be one as a two year old or older), or five performance Championships. A horse could achieve Star recognition in both Halter and Performance if requirements are met.

Points will not be awarded for Colour, costume, handler or turnout related classes.

STAR Recipients for the year will be posted by the end of November.

A mare can also be designated as a STAR Dam when she has produced two STAR offspring and a stallion becomes a STAR Sire when he has six STAR offspring.

STAR Point System - Halter and Performance Classes

# of Horses in Class	POINTS FOR PLACING					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1-3	1					
4-6	2	1	0			
7-9	3	2	1	0		
10-12	4	3	2	1	0	
13-15	5	4	3	2	1	0
over 15	6	5	4	3	2	1

Supreme Champion: 2 points
Reserve Supreme Champion: 1 point

A special Silver Star will be awarded to horses attaining 140 points & 10 championships. A special gold Star will be awarded to horses attaining 240 points and 20 championships.

IMPORTANT In order to be eligible you must obtain a points card which must be signed/completed in the ring by the judge stating placing and number of competitors forward for class. Any unsigned placings/competitor numbers will not be counted.

Points cards must be returned to the passport Head office by 20th September each year. Any shows after this will be carried forward to the following year. If you sell your horse please pass on his/her points card.

STALLION LICENSING.

It is advisable that all stallions should be licensed in order to breed. Please check www.mhcg.co.uk for stallion license application forms.

Licensing will be carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon to determine that horse to be free from inheritable deformity.

Applications can be made with the appropriate fee.

STALLION & MARE GRADING.

AMHCGB promote the grading of stallion and mare grading for breeding horses registered in their book. Grading is an indication of breeding from the best. Graded horses are recognised as being superior breeding animals to maintain a high standard within the breed, free from hereditary disease, poor confirmation and possessing excellent breed type.

Benefits of Grading.

- Improvement of the Miniature Horse breed.
- The horse is recognised as being of an extremely high standard; an aid for advertising stud services and selling offspring.
- Recognition in the AMHCGB studbook.
- Promotion of all Graded animals via the MHCGB website and the Societies trade stand which attends events around the country.
- Eligibility for mature stallions to compete as an entire with other Societies such as CHAPS.

General Rules

Please refer to our website Stallion & Mare Grading page for all the necessary application forms.

1. Complete the Grading entry form and return to Head office with the appropriate fee.
2. Print off the Veterinary Inspection form which must be completed, signed and stamped by your Veterinary upon inspection.
3. Return the Veterinary Inspection form to Head office ten days prior to a National Show date.
4. You will be informed of a decision and invited for assessment at a National Show.
5. Animals must be 3 years old or over.
6. Must hold an AMHCGB passport or overstamped passport.
7. Be owned by a current member of MHCGB
8. Horses will be measured for grading.

Marks

To be awarded **Premium** status horses must achieve an average mark of 7.5 or above

To be awarded **Graded** status horses must achieve an average mark of 7.0 for conformation assessment and receive an overall mark of 6.5 or above.

Should an animal receive a mark of 5 or below at any point in assessment it will automatically fail

ALL MARKS OF SUCCESSFUL STALLIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED.

ELITE Breeding Horses

Premium or grades animals will be granted **elite** when they fulfil the following criteria

1. Place Supreme at an MHCGB National Show and also have progeny who have been placed Supreme at an MHCGB National Show.

Veterinary Inspection

The first part of the process is a veterinary inspection of your horse, including measuring by the vet. Please refer to the Stallion Veterinary Inspection document available at www.mhcg.co.uk. No horse will be invited for assessment without the signed and stamped Veterinary document. Please ensure this document is brought to the attention of your Veterinary Surgeon before grading.

Assessment Procedure

All horses will be assessed on conformation, movement in hand and breed type as per the AMHCGB Standard of perfection. Form available at www.mhcgb.co.uk

The grading will be undertaken by MHCGB Level 1 judge/AMHA judge and/or Stallion Assessment Committee.

All animals will be measured at presentation for grading.

Performance horses

Please notify on the application form if your stallion is for performance assessment only.

The stallion Committee reserve the right to alter or amend these rules and regulations from time to time as they see fit. The stallion Committee also reserves the right to assess individual cases on their merit and in exceptional circumstances certain dispensations may be granted.

Disputes pertaining to Passport Issuing.

Should a dispute arise from passport issuing or misuse of the Studbook the following procedure will be adhered to:-

1. A formal, signed and dated letter should be received by the Registrar at the registered office address outlining the issue.
2. The Registrar will send acknowledgement of receipt of this letter within fourteen days.
3. The Registrar will forward copies to the President and Vice President of MHCGB.
4. A closed meeting will take place. This will be treated as sensitive information and will only be discussed between the President, Vice President and Registrar. If it is found a rule has been breached, the individual who the complaint is against will be asked to file their response within a thirty day period.
5. Upon receipt of this response or with no response within the thirty day time frame, a second closed meeting will take place between the Registrar, President and the Directors of MHCGB. The findings of this meeting will be forwarded to the complainant and the individual.
6. Either party may then ask for a date for a hearing between the parties, the Registrar and the MHCGB Directors, (The Hearing Board) within a maximum of thirty days.
7. A date will be set giving all parties a thirty day notice period.
8. During this hearing every effort will be made to protect individual rights and satisfactorily resolve the dispute between the parties.
9. All parties will be notified of the Hearing Board's decision by registered mail, within thirty days of the Hearing.
10. The Society upon the findings of the Hearing Board may suspend any member from the Society and any deny member privileges to non members if it is found by satisfactory evidence that a rule or regulation has been violated. The society may additionally fine a member or non member, at the Final Hearing Board's discretion, a sum up to £500.
11. Appeal - Within a maximum of thirty days of a hearing a final hearing can be sought. Two further MHCGB members of good standing with a minimum of ten years membership will be appointed to the Hearing Board. All information that has been gathered during the initial investigation will be forwarded to the Final Hearing Board. The Hearing board will designate the time, place and date of the Final Hearing.
12. All parties will be given 30 days notice of the Final Hearing.
13. All parties will be asked to appear in person (with counsel if desired) to hear and refute evidence offered against them Without Prejudice. The common law will not apply at the Hearing, but the Final

Hearing Board will determine the admissibility of evidence and weight to be given to the evidence submitted.

14. The decision and action of the Final Hearing Board will be final and binding on all parties.

15. Notice of Charge – MHCGB will be responsible for notification of the Final Hearing Boards decision by promptly mailing, by registered mail, a copy thereof to the charged person with thirty days of the final Hearing. Right to take Disciplinary action. The Society upon the findings of the Final Hearing may suspend any member from the Society and deny member privileges to non members, if it is found by satisfactory evidence that a rule or regulation has been violated. The society may additionally fine a member or non member, at the Final Hearing Boards discretion, a sum up to £1000.



Notes





Code of Practice for the Welfare of Equines at Events

Last reviewed: November 2022

Adapted by



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Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Shows or Events

1	Preface
2	General Conditions
3	Health and Hygiene
4	Transport
5	Equine Identification
6	Welfare of Horses
7	Conduct and Responsibilities
8	Provisions for Veterinary Treatment

1 Preface

- 1.1 In this code of practice 'horse/pony' refers to all equines and should, where the context allows, be taken to mean 'horse or horses, pony or ponies, donkeys or other equidae'.

2 General Conditions

- 2.1 This guidance has been developed by The British Horse Society (BHS) who have advised The Showing Council (TSC) in developing bespoke guidance for competitors/members/exhibitors competing in Member Body classes.
- 2.2 These guidelines have been produced to provide advice and support to members, competitors, show organisers, stewards, judges, volunteer assistants and spectators.
- 2.3 Under the Animal Welfare Act (2006), the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, (hereafter referred to as *The Welfare Acts*) every horse owner or those responsible for a horse have a duty of care to ensure the animal's well-being. Thus, causing suffering and ill treatment are no longer the only grounds for prosecution under animal welfare law. It is now an offence to fail to take adequate steps to ensure a horse's welfare, even if the animal is not yet at the point of suffering.
- 2.4 At all stages during the preparation and training of show horses, welfare must be absolutely paramount. This includes, but is not limited to, good horse management, training methods, farriery, use and fitting of tack and transportation.
- 2.5 Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health and condition before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that compromises welfare or safety and the use of aids. All Member Bodies are advised to have an anti-doping policy.

3 Health and Hygiene

- 3.1 The spread of equine disease is a perpetual risk when attending shows. Horse owners should act responsibly and not attend a show if there is a disease outbreak at their yard, even if the horse taken to the show does not appear ill. This is because some diseases have an incubation period of 14 days. For more information and guidance, please refer to the extensive information available on the BHS website and British Equestrian website.

www.bhs.org.uk

www.britishequestrian.org.uk

British Equestrian - Equine Infectious Disease Advisory Group: [Advice Notes for Member Bodies and Organisers of Equine Gatherings](#)

- 3.2 As a minimum, we advise keeping up to date with equine influenza and tetanus vaccines. Check what the specific vaccination requirements are with the event organisers or relevant governing body. If your horse doesn't meet these requirements, you are unlikely to be allowed to attend and may be asked to leave the showground. Remember to check the vaccination rules of the venue if you are hiring equestrian facilities. Shows reserve the right to conduct spot-checks to check compliance with vaccination regulations set by the show organiser.
- 3.3 To prevent the spread of disease, horses should not share water buckets or be allowed to drink from shared troughs. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to provide their own feed and water equipment.
- 3.4 Competitors must be mindful of an increased disease risk when stabling horses away from home. Best practice would be to remove any pre-existing bedding.

4 Transport

- 4.1 Competitors must be aware of The Welfare of Animals During Transport Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. You must have the necessary Transport Authorisation (and associated Certificate of Competence for horses) if you transport animals as part of an economic activity (a business or trade), for a distance over 65km.

You will need a:

- type 1 transporter authorisation for journeys over 65km and up to 8 hours
- type 2 transporter authorisation for journeys over 8 hours

You will need to contact APHA's Welfare in Transport team for an application pack:

APHA Website: www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha

Contact email for Welfare In Transport Team: WIT@apha.gov.uk

- 4.2 Economic activity is not defined in the regulations but would include anyone transporting horses for hire or reward or in the course of business or trade. This

would therefore include those paid to transport horses to a show, and professional riders as this is part of a business.

- 4.3 General animal welfare provisions apply on **all** journeys. The horse must travel with its passport, be fit to travel, provided with feed, water and rest stops as needed. The vehicle and loading/unloading facilities must be safe and designed to avoid injury and those handling the horse must be competent and not cause the animal fear or distress.
- 4.4 In adverse weather conditions, i.e., very hot temperatures or very cold temperature, those travelling horses must give consideration as to what time of day to travel horses and to minimise travel when temperatures are excessively high or excessively low.

5 **Equine Identification**

- 5.1 Horses being transported to a show must be accompanied by their up-to-date passport in accordance with Equine Identification regulations.

6 **Welfare of Horses**

6.1 **Responsibilities of Owners/Keepers/Competitors**

Overall responsibility for the horse lies with the individual who has charge of the horse on the day of the show. All those responsible for horses have a duty of care to take reasonable steps in all circumstances to meet the welfare needs to the extent required by good practice in terms of:

- need for a suitable environment
- need for a suitable diet
- need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- need to be housed with, or apart, from other animals
- need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

6.2 **Welfare Considerations**

6.2.1 **Sensory Whiskers**

Sensory hairs are the hard hairs located on the horse's muzzle and around the eyes, also known as 'whiskers' that are used for sensation. It is recommended that horses should not have whiskers trimmed or removed (other than for veterinary purposes or with a vet's certificate). **Mares and Foals should present with no evidence of whiskers or sensory hairs removed.**

6.2.2 **Blood**

On rare occasions a horse may injure itself traveling, being worked in or competing, or blood may be noticed from the mouth or nostrils or other parts of the horse's body. In these circumstances the competitor should not compete or cease competing and get their horse checked as soon as possible once blood has been noticed. The horse should be treated and where necessary the person

responsible for the horse should seek veterinary advice and attention to ensure the animal can travel home or continue to compete in further classes on the day.

6.2.3 Obesity

Obesity in horses and ponies must be avoided and all horses exhibited should be fit for purpose for the event or class they are competing in. Having a horse which is obese is extremely detrimental to its welfare and horses carrying too much fat are at a significantly increased risk of developing serious health and welfare issues such as:

- Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS)
- Laminitis
- Arthritis
- Increase stress on the heart and lungs
- Increased risk of developmental orthopaedic (bone and joint) problems in young and growing horses
- More strain on feet, joint and limbs
- Less efficient cooling of body temperatures

Members of the Showing Council are committed to working with The Horse Trust Body Condition Awards and promoting the Equine Weight Forum Statement and Actions including education by body scoring horses and ponies at events.

6.3 Welfare of the horse while not competing

- 6.3.1 No horse should be left unattended unless they are in a stable, horsebox/trailer and, known to behave sensibly when ordinarily left in such a situation.
- 6.3.2 For safety reasons horses should not be left unattended tied to a horsebox/trailer.
- 6.3.4 The weather conditions will affect the welfare requirements of the horse. Those responsible for horses should make the necessary adjustments to safeguard welfare in adverse weather conditions. For example, limiting the horse's time in direct sunlight in very high temperatures and using rugs in very cold temperatures.
- 6.3.5 During wet weather, waterproof sheets can be worn while warming the horse up and kept over the horse's hindquarters until they enter the class. At the discretion of the judge, grooms may enter the ring to provide a waterproof sheet in inclement weather.
- 6.3.6 During hot weather, horseboxes and trailers can get very hot. If the horse is kept in the horsebox/trailer ensure any windows and roof vents are left open and the ramps are left down to maximise air flow.
- 6.3.7 No horse should be ridden or lunged for an extended period without sufficient breaks for rest, watering and feeding. Children or those less experienced should be supervised by a responsible adult to ensure that the horse receives adequate rest time.

6.4 Stabling

- 6.4.1 It is the responsibility of the person caring for the horse to ensure overnight provisions and stabling – in loose boxes where they have freedom of movement and availability of water - are in place on arrival at a show to avoid any horse being kept overnight on a trailer/horsebox. Pull out stables on lorries, temporary pens, corrals etc are not permitted.

6.5 Age and Gender of Horses

- 6.5.1 Horses under four years of age should not be ridden on the showground at any Show.
- 6.5.2 Where stallions are being exhibited, a stallion disc must be worn on the bridle and the rider/handler must be the correct age to compete or strip the horse in the ring and or lunge in accordance with the current and relevant Member Body Rule and Handbooks.
- 6.5.3 Pregnant mares are not permitted to compete under saddle without the prior agreement of a veterinary surgeon. No mare should be ridden under any circumstances after six months of gestation.
- 6.5.4 Mares with a living foal at foot, born during the current year may not be shown in ridden classes.

6.6 Control of Horses

- 6.6.1 Young and/or inexperienced horses require quiet, confident handling and should be appropriately handled.
- 6.6.2 Stallions and colts should be handled and ridden by competent people only. The temperament of the stallion must be taken into consideration, and he should not be taken to a showground if he is likely to be a danger to anyone present. When being led, stallions must be led from a bit with reins or with a lead rein. If it is the opinion of the relevant Member Body that the stallion may cause an accident to any person or horse at the showground, the stallion will be disqualified and asked to leave the showground.

7 Conduct and Responsibilities

7.1 Conduct and Responsibilities of Competitors

- 7.1.1 Competitors must consider the Health and Safety of other competitors, spectators and those working or assisting at the show.
- 7.1.2 It is necessary for all exhibitors to carry Public Liability Insurance for an adequate indemnity to protect against their negligence including any injury caused by their animals or property.

7.1.3 When riding outside of the warm-up arena and show arena, competitors should remain in walk or trot. Where available, horses/ponies must be ridden in designated 'horse walks'; grooms and spectators must use the designated pedestrian walkway.

7.1.4 No competitor should behave in an inappropriate manner to their horse, event staff, members of the public or other competitors.

7.1.5 Under the Welfare Acts the parents/guardians of those under 16-years-old are responsible for the welfare of their children's horses/ponies.

7.2 *Conduct and Responsibilities of Competitors in the Warm-up Arena*

7.2.1 Riders and handlers should adhere to the rules of working in an arena while warming up, for example passing left-hand to left-hand.

7.2.2 Riders and handlers should recognise potential problems and keep a good distance from any individual having difficulties with their horse.

7.2.3 When jumping, in either the warm-up and show arenas no horse should jump a fence in the wrong direction.

7.2.4 Any horse that falls in the warm-up arena should only compete after the agreement of a veterinary surgeon.

7.3 *Conduct and Responsibilities of Competitors in the Show Ring*

7.3.1 Every competitor should behave in a safe and respectable manner at all times.

7.3.2 Competitors should follow instructions from the Show Steward and Judge.

7.3.3 The amount of work the horse undertakes should be in accordance with its age, experience, and fitness. All riders should be a suitable size for their horse whether in the ring, or working in. Riders working in ponies for other competitors or children must also be a suitable size for the pony and suitably mounted.

7.3.4 No one under the age of 12 years of age may enter the ring to groom, strip or handle the pony/horse. Those entering the ring must be suitably dressed

7.4 *Conduct and Responsibilities of Spectators with regards to Horse Welfare*

7.4.1 All children must be fully supervised.

7.4.2 If dogs are allowed on the showground, they must be kept on a lead, away from horses and appropriately controlled.

7.4.3 Spectators should not run, shout or cause excessive noise around the horses or arenas.

7.5 Use of the Whip

7.5.1 A rider/handler may carry a whip for safety and guidance purposes and limited to the backhand position only.

7.5.2 Legal action could be taken under the Welfare Acts should whip misuse occur.

7.6 Use of Spurs

7.6.1 Spurs may only be worn for safety and guidance purposes if permitted within the rules of the class – this includes the prior working in period.

7.6.2 Legal action could be taken under the Welfare Acts should spurs misuse occur.

7.7 Use of Tack and Equipment

7.7.1 Tack should always be fitted and used in a way that protects and safeguards welfare and safety of both horse and rider/handler. This applies at all times whilst on the event venue.

7.7.2 Legal Action could be taken under the Welfare Acts should tack misuse occur.

8 Provisions for Veterinary Treatment

8.1 The relevant Member Body carries out a risk assessment with specific regard to the provision of veterinary care.

8.2 At some events a veterinary surgeon may not actually be in attendance, the show organiser should ensure that a veterinary surgeon is available 'on-call' and within a reasonable driving time (suggested 20-30 minutes maximum).

Most Championship Shows have:

- Emergency lines of communication.
- Ensure proper access to the site and the ability to bring in equipment directly to the patient as efficiently as possible.
- Facilities available for dealing with simple injuries, for example a clean stable or other covered well-lit area and availability of clean water.
- Have ambulance for horses/ponies to be transported to a referral facility if necessary and where and how euthanasia is to be carried out if necessary.

8.3 Under the provisions of the Welfare Acts there is a degree of joint responsibility with organisers, but the owner or keeper of a horse/pony has prime responsibility for its welfare. It follows that the owner or keeper of a horse/pony:

- Should be clearly identified on the entry form.
- Should provide details of how they may be easily contacted in an emergency on the day of the event and if being stabled overnight.

- Should provide information on who has responsibility for making decisions about that horse/pony with regard to provision of emergency treatment, removal to a surgical facility and euthanasia.

8.4 It is recommended that Member Bodies should provide appropriate farriery provisions.

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