

# AMERICAN MINIATURE HORSE REGISTRY

## Standards and Halter Division Rules

### 3.1 Standard of Perfection

- A. General Impression: A small, sound, well-balanced horse which gives the impression of strength, agility and alertness. The disposition should be eager and friendly, not skittish.
- B. Size: The American Miniature Horse must measure not more than 34 inches at the base of the last hair on the mane for Under Division, and not more than 38 inches for Over Division.

Priority in judging shall be in this order:

1. Soundness
  2. Balance and conformity to the standard of perfection
  3. Size
- C. Head: In proportion to the body; neither excessively long nor short. The eyes should be large, alert, and prominent with no discrimination in color. The ears open toward the front and carried erect. The teeth should show no signs of parrot mouth or undershot jaw.
  - D. Neck: Strong and muscular, proportionate to body and the type of horse represented.
  - E. Body: Well-muscled with good bone and substance, well sprung ribs, level topline, as nearly as possible of equal height in withers and rump, fore and hind quarters well angulated, so that the horse in movement shows a smooth gait.
  - F. Legs: Straight, clean and sound.
  - G. Hooves: Round and compact, trimmed as short as practical for an unshod horse, and in good condition.
  - H. Color: Any color, eye color and/or marking pattern are equally acceptable.

- I. Throat-Latch: Clean and well defined, allowing ample flexion at the poll.
- J. Shoulder: Long, sloping and well-angulated, allowing a free swinging stride and alert head/neck carriage. Well-muscled forearm.
- K. Hindquarters: Long, well-muscled hip, thigh and gaskin. Highest point of croup to be same height as withers. Tail-set neither excessively high nor low, but smoothly rounding off rump.
- L. Disqualifications: Height in excess of 34 inches for Under Division and 38 inches for Over Division miniatures. Dwarfism, unsoundness; or cryptorchidism in aged stallions. Complete or partial loss of sight in either eye will not be a disqualification if the loss of sight results from traumatic injury. A licensed veterinarian must verify the etiology of the sight loss as traumatic and such copy must accompany the horse's papers.
- M. Horse may be shown with full mane or mane with bridle path clipped and full tail.

**3.2 Eligibility** for Exhibition in AMHR Classes - All AMHR shows, including the AMHR National Show, are open only to horses registered with the AMHR.

### **3.3 Artificial Appliances and Irritants**

- A. Any horse showing evidence of the use of ginger or other irritants to produce a higher tail carriage than normal shall be disqualified by the judge.
- B. Switches, artificial tails (except in Park Harness where they are optional), or manes and high spoon cruppers are prohibited.
- C. No horse having had surgery for purely cosmetic purposes will be permitted to show, (example: ear trimming, ear wiring, docked tails, etc.)
- D. Ribbons, braids, all decorative appurtenances and stallion tack in halter conformation classes are not allowed unless otherwise specified in AMHR official class description. Bits are allowed on stallions.

- E. Shod horses are not allowed on the show grounds of AMHR. No pads, wedges, chains, or ankle boots are allowed to be used on the grounds of an AMHR show.
  - 1. Exceptions - Horses Shown in:
    - a. Draft harness classes may be shown with light plate shoes or draft type shoes, with toe and heel caulks.
    - b. Roadster classes only: un-weighted bell type boots are optional.
    - c. Roman Chariot Event classes may be shown with light plate shoes.
- F. Appropriate protective leg gear is allowed in Hunter and Jumper classes.

### **3.4 Ring Procedure**

- A. Dress: It is the tradition of the show ring that handlers and drivers be correctly attired for their classes. T-shirts, shorts, clothes with logos or monograms are not correct attire and will not be allowed in the show ring. Horse and handler must look their best. No farm, individual or horses names may be displayed on exhibitor.
- B. A horse must be handled and shown through an entire class by the same person. Should an additional handler be required due to physical limitation or emergency, approval must be obtained from the Show Steward.
- C. Names of horses being exhibited will not be made known to the Judge prior to the class. Exhibitors will be issued one number for each horse to be displayed on the back of the handler or on the vehicle in a clearly visible position whenever the horse is in the ring. This number will stand for the entire show.
- D. Conduct designed to distract a horse or otherwise interfere with the showing of another exhibitor's horse will not be tolerated by the show management. Offenders will be asked to leave the show area. If the offender is also an exhibitor, he or she will be excused from the ring and barred from personally showing during that show. His or

her horses, however, may compete. The offense shall be reported to the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Office by the Show Steward for review by the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Board.

### 3.5 Height Divisions

- A. The AMHR shall recognize two height divisions in the show ring.

#### Under Division

Horses age 3 and older – 34” & Under  
 2 Year Old – 33” & Under  
 Yearling – 32” & Under  
 Foal of Current Year – 30” & Under

#### Over Division

Horses age 3 and older – over 34” to 38”  
 2 Year Old – Over 33” to 37”  
 Yearling – Over 32” to 36”  
 Foal of Current Year – Over 30” to 32”

- B. Classes for mares, stallions, and geldings may be divided as follows:

#### Under Division

Three Years Old and Older – Over 32” – 34”  
 Three Years Old and Older – Over 30” – 32”  
 Three Years Old and Older – Over 28” – 30”  
 Three Years Old and Older – 28” and under  
 Two Years Old – Over 31” to 33”  
 Two Years Old – 31” and Under  
 Yearling – Over 30” to 32”  
 Yearling – 30” & Under  
 Foal of Current Year – Over 28” – 30”  
 Foal of Current Year – 28” & Under

#### Over Division

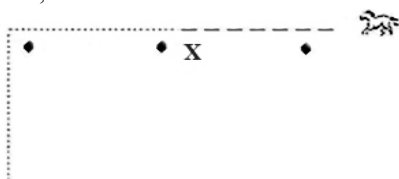
Three Years Old and Older – Over 36” – 38”  
 Three Years Old and Older – Over 34” – 36”  
 Two Years Old – Over 35” to 37”  
 Two Years Old – Over 33” to 35”  
 Yearling – Over 34” to 36”  
 Yearling – Over 32” to 34”

Foal of current year – over 30” to 32”

- C. Only in 38” and Under Combination Classes shall an Under Division miniature horse compete against an Over Division miniature horse. Classes such as: leadline, costume, group or any class which specifically allows combining in their class descriptions.

### 3.6 Halter Division

- A. Horses to be shown in halter at a walk and trot. Judge to ask for horse to walk past them and trot away; horse to turn 90 degrees making an “L” and continue to trot into line up. This allows the judge to view the movement from the front, back and side.



**X Judge**  
**Walk** - - - - -  
**Trot** .....

- B. The Miniature Horse is to be shown to its best advantage. It is preferred that the horse stand square. The Judge at his or her discretion may ask to have the horse stand square, which means all four feet are flat on the ground and at least one front and one rear cannon bone perpendicular to the ground.
- C. Horses may be clipped or shown in full coat.
- D. Horses may be shown with or without polished hooves.
- E. Horses must be serviceably sound, in good condition, and well-groomed. Transmissible weakness and unsoundness to be penalized.
- F. Championship classes: shall include first and second place winners from appropriate class.

1. All first and second place winners must show in their respective championship class or forfeit their winnings; unless excused by show management or Steward.
  2. Championship classes to be divided by junior and senior classes.
  3. Junior and senior champions and reserves will compete for Grand Champion honors.
  4. All Championship classes must be reworked and judged as a new class.
- G. In breeding halter classes combined sexes in the same class is forbidden.
- H. If a Champion of Champions award is given, those eligible will be the Grand Champion Stallion, Mare and Gelding. No All-Star or Hall of Fame points are given for Champion of Champions.
- I. No whips and/or crops are allowed in halter classes.
- J. The biting of stallions is permitted, but no stallion tack is allowed.
- K. In halter division any type halter is permissible.
- L. Changing the coat color of a horse is not permitted but highlighting the mane and tail, eyes, ears, muzzle, etc., is permissible.
- M. **Multi-color** classes are open to pinto and appaloosa horses only. Judged 100% on color. Horses to enter the ring counter-clockwise (to the right), and walk in a circle; then reverse to the opposite direction so the Judge may see both sides of the horse. The horses are to remain in a circle to be judged.
- N. **Solid-color** classes are open to all horses other than pinto and appaloosas. Judged 100% on color. Horses to enter the ring counter-clockwise (to the right), and walk in a circle; then reverse to the opposite direction so the Judge may see both sides of the horse. The horses are to remain in a circle to be judged.

- O. **Group Classes:** Get of Sire, Produce of Dam, and Mare and foal.
1. Horses to be judged standing still. These horses are never asked to move.
  2. Judged 100% on conformation and uniformity.
  3. **Get of Sire** is three offspring, any age, any sex, by the same stallion. The sire is not shown. More than one set of Get may be entered at the same show. Single or combined ownership of the get is allowed. The entry is made in the name of the sire
  4. **Produce of Dam** is two offspring, any age, any sex, out of the same dam. The dam is not required to show. More than one set of Produce may be entered at the same show. Single or combined ownership of the produce is allowed. The entry is made in the name of the dam.
  5. **Mare and Foal** class shall be a mare and her current year foal. (Foal must be registered or proof of registration in process).
  6. **Herd of Four**, 38" & Under, Any Age, Any Sex. One owner and entry is made in the name of the owner.
- P. The **Model** class for each sex shall be the first class shown for that sex. It is judged 100% on conformation and the horses are never asked to move. Horses entered in a model class must be at least two years old.
- Q. **Broodmares** 3 years old and older, foal at side (wet), maybe shown in either Aged class or Broodmare class. First and second place Broodmares are eligible for the Senior Mare Championship class. If a mare goes Senior Champion or Reserve, it then is qualified for the Grand Champion and Reserve class.
- R. Geldings may not be shown unless their AMHR papers have been changed from Stallion to Gelding.
- S. Except in Mare and Foal class a broodmare shall not be allowed in the show ring when her foal is being exhibited

and a foal shall not be allowed in the show ring when his/her dam is being exhibited.

- T. **Owned, Bred, and Shown by Exhibitor** class: The exhibitor must be listed as the owner and breeder on the registration papers in order to show a horse in this class.
- U. **Youth Halter:**
1. All youth classes may be split:
    - a. 7 years and under, 8-12 years, and 13-17 years;  
or
    - b. 12 years and under, and 13-17 years.
  2. Open to miniature mare or gelding, any age, shown by a youth.
  3. To be judged on breed, character, conformation, performance, quality, and manners. The exhibitor is to have complete control of the horse throughout the class.
  4. For Youth age 7 & under division, an attendant/spotter 16 years of age or older is permitted, but are there only for a safety factor and must stand back from the child and horse two paces.

### 3.7 AMHR Draft Halter

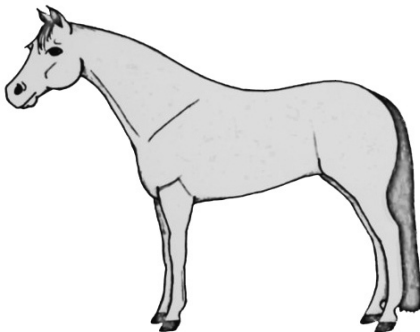
- A. Standard: The AMHR Miniature Horse showing in Draft Halter should have more bone and substance compared to an open halter entry. They should have broad, short backs with powerful hindquarters and more of an upright shoulder and muscular build to help them pull.
- B. In order to show in the Draft Halter class the horse must be shown in a Draft Harness class.
1. Razoring or balding should be discouraged.
  2. Horses showing in Draft Halter may be shown with or without polished hooves and a draft type shoe is optional.
  3. Braiding of manes and tails is a mandatory.



4. Draft Halter horses must be shown in a white or silver halter (no cable halter).
- C. All first and second place winners to compete back in the Grand Champion & Reserve Class.
- D. Optional at Area Shows and Local Level; Mandatory at AMHR Nationals.

### 3.8 AMHR Western Stock Halter

- A. General Impression: The appearance of the AMHR Miniature Horse exhibited in the Western Stock Halter classes will be that of a small, attractive, durable athlete exhibiting usability, a willing temperament and good manners. The Western Stock Halter horse will be a balanced athlete with a smooth, fit, well-muscled body. The gait of the Western Stock Halter horse will be purposeful and ground-covering with straight, low strides that have little flexion of the knees and hocks. The head and neck will be carried in a level, relaxed position extending out from the body. The Western Stock Halter horse will have adequate bone and substance for its sex, it will not be fine or delicate which are negative traits for a Western Stock Halter horse who should exhibit usability.
- B. Judging Criteria: Shall be judged using the Standard of Style of the Western Stock Halter horse and the required Presentation and Appointments specified for this division, judged 75% on conformation and 25% on presentation and appointments.
- C. Conformation:



- Standard of Style
  1. Head: The head to be attractive, dished or not and in correct proportion to the body with small, erect ears opening forward. The eyes to be large and wide-set over well opened nostrils. A short muzzle and well-formed mouth showing neither parrot mouth nor undershot jaw are desirable.
  2. Neck: The neck to be medium length, slightly arched and smooth with a clean cut throat latch allowing for proper air intake when at work. The neck should join the body at an approximate 45-degree angle just above the shoulder and should be faulted when the neck joins the body too low. Neck carriage should be relaxed and natural extending out from the body instead of up.
  3. Shoulders: The well sloped shoulder, approximately 45-degrees, in conjunction with a short, strong back, allows the horse to move with a long smooth stride.
  4. Chest and Forelegs: As shown by a deep heart girth and wide-set forelegs, the horse is broad chested and set atop straight legs originating from the corners of the body, narrow chest should be faulted. The legs to be smooth jointed with short cannon bones, clean ankles and moderately angled fetlocks of medium length.
  5. Body: Round, full ribbed with nicely defined musculing and well-sprung ribs; back and loin short and well-muscled, underline long.
  6. Hindquarters: Muscular, rounded croup and the well-angled hip of a performance horse; the hindquarters and gaskin to be deep and fully muscled through the thigh, stifle, gaskin and down to the hock indicating strength and usability. Hocks wide set, deep and straight.
  7. Gait: Purposeful and ground-covering with straight, low strides that have little flexion of the

knees and hocks and looks suitable to a horse whose work could be outside of the show ring.

- D. Presentation and Appointments: Class Procedure: The Western Stock Halter horse will be shown in equipment and appointments of the traditional Western Stock show ring. It will exhibit good manners and responsiveness to its handler, it will stand quiet and square for inspection.
1. Presentation: The Western Stock Halter horse will be asked to perform a flat-footed four-beat walk past the judge(s) and a two-beat jog away from the judge(s) making a 90 degree turn. The exhibitor will primarily present and work from the horse's left-hand side as is the custom of the Western Stock halter ring although other positions are also allowed. The horse will be asked to stand square with all four feet flat on the ground and at least one front and one rear cannon bone perpendicular to the ground, judge may instruct exhibitor to stand horse square if needed. Exhibitor may use an empty hand or the hand holding the lead only to engage the horse's interest or enhance their expression. Stretching, baiting (enticing horse with any body part, equipment or material) and excessive jerking or harsh use of the lead line to be viewed as a negative toward the presentation score. Horse to be shown clean and well groomed, body clipped or not, with full mane and tail with the length left to the discretion of the exhibitor. In the tradition of the Western Stock show ring, excessive clipping, any razoring or balding of the face, muzzle and eyes or grooming to simulate razoring or balding is to be viewed as a negative toward the presentation score.
  2. Equipment: The Western Stock Halter horse will be shown in a leather, biothane or nylon halter and lead of the traditional western style, halter may be adorned or not. Arabian cable style halters are prohibited. The lead may have a chain or not, chains

will be used under the chin; chains over the nose or lip chains are prohibited.



Western Stock Halter approved equipment

3. Attire: Ladies should wear jackets and blouses with slacks, skirts or dresses of the Western type. No bare shoulders. Hats are optional but should be of the Western type if worn. Gentlemen should wear Western attire with or without a Western hat.
- E. Height: The height of the Western Stock Halter horse will conform to those in the AMHR Standard and Halter Division Rules (AMHR Halter Division Rules, 3.1 B.) For show purposes the Western Stock Halter horse will conform to those in the AMHR Standard and Halter Division Rules (AMHR Halter Division Rules, 3.5)
  - F. Eligibility: The Western Stock Halter horse will conform to the eligibility rules in the AMHR Standard and Halter Division Rules (AMHR Halter Division rules, 3.2). Entry in a driving or performance class is not required to participate in Western Stock Halter.
  - G. Disqualifications: The Western Stock Halter horse will be disqualified for showing in incorrect equipment or for violation of rules in the AMHR Standard and Halter Division Rules (AMHR Halter Division rules, 3.1 L)
  - H. Artificial Appliances and Irritants: The Western Stock Halter horse will conform to the rules on Artificial Appliances and Irritants in the AMHR Standard and

Halter Division Rules (AMHR Halter Division rules, 3.3)

- I. Cross-Entering: No cross entering at a show between Halter Divisions with the exception of Amateur, Youth, Solid Color, Multi-Color classes when separate classes are not offered for the Western Stock Halter horse.
- J. Hall of Fame and All Star Points: Points earned in other Halter divisions do not transfer to Western Stock Halter. Points earned in Western Stock Halter do not transfer to other Halter divisions.