INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN HORSE SHOW ASSOCATION "IMHSA"

Rule Book

Effective Date

April 1, 2017

SECTION 1 – GENERAL RULES

1.1. Effective Date: April 1st, 2017

1.2. Participant Responsibility: Knowledge of the rules that govern IMHSA show events is the responsibility of all participating exhibitors, owners, and trainers

SECTION 2 – GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Horse Registration – All mountain horses shall carry RMHA registration papers
   2.1.a   Horse must carry certification papers at the age of 4 or older
   2.1.b   Horses with certification paperwork in process at time of show will be accepted
   2.1.c   Grade Mare RMHA papers will be accepted

2.2 Age & Certification – A horse is deemed to be born as of January 1st of the actual calendar year of its birth or in the case of horses born between October 1st and December 31st, then as of January 1 of the following year following its birth.

2.3 Rider Status
   2.3.a   Professional: Anyone who is paid to ride or train horses within the mountain horse breed who is over the age of 17.
   2.3.b   Amateur: Anyone who is not paid to ride or train horses in the mountain horse industry and hasn't done so within the last 5 years. Also should be over the age of 17.
   2.3.c   Novice: Anyone who hasn't won three or more ribbons in the Amateur or Professional division and is over the age of 17. Also has not been paid to train/ride in the mountain horse industry at no period of time. Each division is considered a new division. (example. if you won three blue ribbons in the amateur Trail class you can still be considered novice Classic.   if you haven't won three or more in that division.)
   2.3.d   Juvenile- Follows the age listed with the class. January 1st will determine the age of the individual for the entire year.   If the individual turns 18 during the year, they are able to show in the open classes as well as the Juvenile classes through the end of the year.
   2.3.e   You & Me: Any 2 riders can participate in the You and Me class.   Professional, Amateur, Novice and Juvenile.

2.4 Championships
   2.4.a   Age division championships: Horse must show in an age division class to participate
   2.4.b   Open championship: HORSE must show in age division, gender, or men/ladies class to qualify in their division.   Amateur, juvenile, trail obstacle, conformation classes will NOT qualify horse.
   2.4.c   Amateur Championship: RIDER must show in the amateur or novice class to qualify for that particular division championship. A different horse may be used
   2.4.d   Juvenile Championship: RIDER must show in the regular class to show in the specified division championship. Horse may change
2.5 Cross Entry
   2.5.a   No cross entry will be allowed no matter the riders status.

2.6 Juvenile Classes
    2.6.a   No Stallions are permitted in any Juvenile Class
    2.6.b   Must be 18 years to show a Stallion in an open class

SECTION 3 – BITTING AND SHOEING

3.1 BITTING

    3.1.a   Shanks must be 9 inches or less from end to end, including any rings or loops

    3.1.b   No saw type bits allowed

3.2 SHOEING
    3.2.a   Shoes must be factory stamped (kerckhaert, st croix, diamond etc)
    3.2.b   No handmade shoes
    3.2.c   No turned heels
    3.2.d   Weight of shoe must not exceed 25 ounces
    3.2.e   Shoe must not be wider than ¾ inch
    3.2.f   Shoe must not be thicker than 3/8 inch
    3.2.g   5 inch max toe length
    3.2.h   Equilox or any other type on bonding material only allowed on one hoof

SECTION 4 – GENERAL JUDGING STANDARDS & RING PROTOCOL

2.2 Ring Protocol

    4.1.a   Country Trail: Horse enters at show gait, walks, (halts if asked), reverses toward the rail and continues at show gait, back down to a trial walk and halts if asked.

    4.1.b   Trail-Performance classes: Horse enters at show gait, then goes to pleasure gait, walks, reverses toward the rail then back to a show gait, pleasure gait, walk.

    4.2   Way of Going

    4.2.a   Trail Walk - walk should be relaxed, calm, smooth and reins should be loose
    4.2.b   Show Gait – collected, even 4 beat gait performed at moderate speed and action for the appropriate division
    4.2.c   Pleasure Gait – evenly timed 4 beat gait, with collection with forward movement, speed and action for the appropriate division