

# 2016 Official Handbook



**Mission: To Support Family Oriented Activities in the Equine Arena, promoting interest in all breeds of horses, by having the highest ethical standards and promoting good sportsmanship thru competition.**

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**LMHA Board of Directors reserves the right to interpret all rules as well as the right to resolve any issues or questions which may not covered specifically in this handbook.**

**NO REFUNDS, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Article I. SAFTEY AND SPORTSMANSHIP:** The primary responsibility for safety rest with the exhibitor, member or spectator and with the exhibitor, member or spectator's parent or legal guardian if person under the age of 19.

**Section 1.01** When Protective Gear is worn, entrants will not be judged against if the head gear style does not match the riding style.

**Section 1.02** Use of nails, tacks, wire curbs, wire in the mouth, or other external irritants are prohibited and will result in dismissal from grounds.

**Section 1.03** Any other inhumane treatment, as deemed by an LMHA Director, will result in dismissal from the grounds.

**Section 1.04** Any unsportsmanlike conduct, including but not limited to use of derogatory language, alcohol or drugs, either by an exhibitor, representative or spectator may result in dismissal from the grounds.

**Section 1.05** The LMHA Board of Directors reserves the right to excuse or dismiss any exhibitor, member, or spectator at any LMHA event.

**Article II. STALLIONS:** Are allowed but must be handled at ALL times by someone 19 or over. Unruly Stallions will be dismissed from grounds by an LMHA Director.

**Article III. DOGS:** Are allowed, however they are required to be on a leash of 6ft or less. Unruly Dogs and Owners will be asked to leave by an LMHA Director.

**Article IV. CLASS PROCEDURES:** LMHA will follow AQHA rulebook, specifically beginning with SHW 300 thru SHW 490.3 with the following exceptions and reiterations. A copy of the AQHA rulebook will be kept at the show office for review by any member or exhibitor and can be found online at [www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com).

**Section 4.01** Judge's decisions are final. LMHA will not entertain disputes.

**Section 4.02** Horses will work in both directions of the ring at the gaits required of the class, unless a specific pattern is determined by judge/show management or horses breed denotes otherwise.

**Section 4.03** In performance classes, judges should specify the gait to be used after calling for a reverse. If the judge does not specify the gait, the exhibitor must continue in the same gait used before the reverse. A reverse should not be called from a canter or lope.

**Section 4.04** If tack or equipment fails, breaks or a horse loses a shoe and the exhibitor cannot safely complete the class, he or she may be disqualified at the discretion of the Judge. However, if the exhibitor is able to continue, despite the difficulty, without creating cruelty or inhumane treatment to the horse, the exhibitor may continue.

**Section 4.05** Chaps are optional.

**Section 4.06** LMHA Board of Directors reserves the right to cancel, combine or split any classes. They may also move, add or change break times and or duration to each individual show as time permits.

## **Article V. Pony/Mini Trail In-Hand**

### **Section 5.01 General Rules**

- (a) Chain on the lead is permitted under the chin of the animal. Exhibitor must maneuver the Pinto using the lead shank of halter only. Pony or Miniature may not be touched by the exhibitor unless the judge or course designer instructs or if side passing is required.
- (b) Whips or crops are prohibited.
- (c) Exhibitor may be requested to lead from either side.
- (d) An exhibitor may show more than one entry in this class.
- (e) Tying up of long tails is permissible in this class.
- (f) Baiting to encourage a Pony or Miniature to perform one of the obstacles is not allowed. Any baiting in such class shall result in a disqualification.

### **Section 5.02 Course**

- (a) Trail In-Hand animals are required to work over, under and through obstacles. Failure to attempt to negotiate obstacles in prescribed order will result in disqualification.
- (b) Obstacles should simulate conditions normally encountered at the ranch, shows, open trails, or parades. Unnatural or "horror" obstacles should be avoided.
- (c) Course to include a minimum of six (6) and maximum of ten (10) obstacles, with a minimum of one (1) obstacle from three (3) different categories listed below.
- (d) Course designer must keep in mind both the size of the Pony or Miniature as well as its safety. Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent direct advantage to either a small or large animal. Ingenuity in adapting and combining various obstacles will lend itself to courses pleasing to both exhibitors and judges to include a walk and jog of suitable duration to determine the way of going. Lope and/or canter are not allowed.
- (e) Speed is not to be used to determine placing, though excessive delay while approaching obstacle is to be penalized. Judges are encouraged to advance on to next obstacle any entry taking excessive time at an obstacle. A time limit may not be placed on the course as a whole or on individual obstacles.
- (f) Entries will be evaluated on responsiveness, willingness, and general attitude. Entries should demonstrate the control, calmness, and sensible attitude of the ideal Trail Pony or Miniature.

(g) All poles used on course raised off the ground shall be made of PVC pipe with a minimum diameter of 2".

(h) The Judge and Course Designer shall walk the course with the Exhibitors if needed.

### Section 5.03 Categories Of Suggested Articles

#### (a) Overs/Work Over

- *Bridge*
- *Tarp*
- *Water*
- *Single horizontal pole with maximum height of 8"*
- *Deflated inner tubes (may choose to step on or in) f. Multiple walk-over poles with 6" maximum individual heights*

#### (b) Unders/Work Under

- *Clothesline with clothes hanging up.*
- *Light pole suspended at a minimum height of four inches above the back of the tallest Pony or Miniature.*
- *Canopy*

#### (c) Back through

- *Exhibitors may back thru an L.*
- *Back around a barrel, a pair of barrels or other visible obstacle.*

(d) Serpentine: Proceed at requested gait, through a pattern such as in and about of a series of poles or pylons. Any gait may be requested.

#### (e) Jumps

- *Individual jump may not exceed 18" if animal only is to go over. Exhibitor goes around jump.*
- *Multiple jumps should not exceed 12" in height and should be 3' to 4' apart.*
- *If both Pony or Miniature and exhibitor are required to go over the single jump, it should not exceed 12" in height.*
- *Ground poles are recommended for all jumps.*

#### (f) Daily chores

- *Negotiate a gate.*
- *Carry an object from one part of the arena to another.*

- *Lay a saddle pad, blanket or sheet on Pony or Miniature's back.*
- *Brush tail.*
- *Go through motions of measuring Pony or Miniature's height at the back with a yard stick or tape measurer.*
- *Load in trailer or chute.*

**(g) Control obstacles**

- *Ground tie and walk around.*
- *Stand Miniature or Pony in circle and turn on forehand and/or hindquarters.*
- *Side pass either or both directions.*

**Section 5.04 Disqualifications**

- (a) Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
- (b) Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
- (c) Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.
- (d) Negotiating obstacles in wrong sequence.
- (e) Not following the correct line of travel.

**Article VI. Pony/Mini Jumping In-Hand**

**Section 6.01 General Regulations and Requirements**

- (a) Miniatures are required to be a minimum of two (2) years of age to compete.
- (b) Jumping classes must be posted at least two (2) hours prior to the scheduled time of the class.
- (c) Judge(s) shall walk course with designer and exhibitors if needed.
- (d) Exhibitors may not go over jumps with Pony or Miniature.

**Section 6.02 General Course Design**

- (a) Course diagrams must show with arrows the direction each obstacle must be taken.
- (b) Jumps will be made of PVC piping.
  - *The crossbar shall be made of PVC pipe with a minimum diameter of 2".*
  - *The height of the standard shall not exceed the height being jumped.*
  - *All jumps must be a minimum of five (5) feet wide.*

• *A ground pole or ground line is required.*

- (c) There will be a minimum of sixteen (16) feet between jumps for miniatures and twenty (20) feet for ponies, with the exception of an in and out.
- (d) In-and-outs should be set approximately ten (10) feet between each jump.
- (e) No jumps to exceed 34"
- (f) Any decorations or jump wings must not protrude more than twenty-four (24) inches from the uprights.
- (g) A start and finish line must be established indicated by two markers.
- (h) There will be a minimum of four (4) obstacles, with Ponies or Miniature's to jump a minimum of six (6) jumps and a maximum of eight (8) jumps.

### Section 6.03 Course Performance

- (a) Ponies or Miniatures (exhibitors optional) must cross the line in the proper direction to start and complete the course.
- (b) Ponies or Miniatures must stay within the course boundaries as outlined by the start and finish cone.
- (c) An exhibitor may circle once upon entering the ring, but not after crossing starting line.
- (d) An exhibitor may circle once upon leaving the ring.
- (e) Baiting of an entry to encourage it to perform at any of the jumps is not allowed. Baiting in class is a disqualification.
- (f) Ponies or Miniatures that charge fences, or fail to maintain the same gait throughout the course shall be penalized.
- (g) Ponies or Miniatures are to be judged on style, manners, and way of going with preference given to those which cover the Course at an even pace, with free flowing strides, clearly jumping the obstacle without ticking or touching it, as in a brisk trot or canter, but should maintain same gait throughout course.

### Section 6.04 Scoring

- (a) In scoring, an in-and-out is to be considered as two jumps. Ponies or Miniatures are scored on a mathematical basis and penalty faults include knockdowns and refusals as follows:
  - *Knockdowns— 4 faults. An obstacle is considered knocked down when, in jumping an obstacle, a Pony or Miniature or exhibitor, by contact, lowers the established height of the fence in any way.*

- *Refusals – 3 faults. Stopping at an obstacle without knocking it down and without backing, followed by jumping from a stand-still is not penalized. However, if the halt continues or if the Pony or Miniature backs even a single step, side steps, or circles to retake the fence, a refusal is incurred.*
- *Major faults to be considered are: knockdowns, touches or ticks, refusals, bucking or kicking, spooking or shying, showing obstacle to Pony or Miniature, or wringing tail.*

**(b) Disqualifications**

- *Three (3) refusals*
- *Off course*
- *Fall of Pony or Miniature and/or exhibitor.*
- *Failure to pass through the start and/or finish cones, and/or knocking over start or finish cones*
- *Loss of control of Pony or Miniature; dropping lead, Pony or Miniature running away, Pony or Miniature exiting on its own*
- *Crossing your own path*
- *Unsound Pony or Miniature*
- *Jumping obstacle prior to having it reset in the event of a knockdown*

**(c) Tack and Attire**

- *Whips are not permitted in the class.*
- *Exhibitor foot wear is optional, but must be closed toe shoes or boots.*
- *Front leg wraps and boots are optional.*
- *A halter is to be used. No bits or headstalls.*
- *Exhibitors may wear apparel suitable for the event, including long pants, long sleeve shirt, etc.*
- *Tying up of long tails is permissible in this class.*

**Article VII. AGE REGULATIONS: An exhibitor's age for purposes of participating in an LMHA event, is the exhibitor's age on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the event is held.**

**Article VIII. ENTRIES:**

**Section 8.01 Only one horse/exhibitor combination allowed per back number.**

**Section 8.02**      **Entries (additions or otherwise) must be received in the show office no later than the time proceeding class enters the show ring.**

**Section 8.03**      **All Walk-Trot entrants may only show in Walk-Trot classes per weekend.**

**Article IX. AWARDS AND POINTS:**

**Section 9.01**      **Points will be awarded for all approved classes held at approved shows based on one horse/exhibitor combination to be accumulated for all high point awards using the following system, accumulated towards your annually declared age group.**

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
6 or More	6	5	4	3	2	1
5	5	4	3	2	1	
4	4	3	2	1		
3	3	2	1			
2	2	1				
1	1					



**Section 9.02** To be eligible for a Year End High Point awards, the member is required to show under a minimum of FOUR JUDGES during the calendar year.

**Section 9.03** Weekend and Year End High Point awards are as follows and are denoted with exceptions

- Lead Line – Year End Only, all qualifying participants receive an award.
- Pee Wee Walk 10 & Under
- Walk Trot 12 and Under
- Walk Trot 13 and Over
- 13 and Under
- 14-18
- 19-39
- 40 and Over
- Pony/Mini
- Junior Horse – Year End Only.
- Senior Horse – Year End Only.

**(a) Classes that count towards Weekend and Year End High Point accumulations are as follows:**

- *Highest Placing Halter Class*
- *Reining*
- *English/Western Riding*
- *Bareback*
- *Age Division Showmanship*
- *Age Division English Equitation*
- *Age Division English Pleasure*
- *English Discipline Rail*
- *Age Division Western Horsemanship*
- *Age Division Western Pleasure*
- *Western Discipline Rail*

**Section 9.04** Year End Saddle Awards - 16" work saddle, can engrave fenders when eligible

(a) If a Member has earned any Year End Saddle award or Raffle within five years (2010-2015) that member is not eligible for any saddle award or raffle for the current year (2016).

(b) Classes that count towards Year End Saddle High Point accumulations are as follows:

- *All eligible Halter Classes for the horse/exhibitor combination*
- *Reining*
- *English/Western Riding*
- *Bareback*
- *Age Division Showmanship*
- *Age Division English Equitation*
- *Age Division English Pleasure*
- *Junior or Senior English Pleasure*
- *English Discipline Rail*
- *Age Division Western Horsemanship*
- *Age Division Western Pleasure*
- *Junior or Senior Western Pleasure*
- *Western Discipline*

(c) Year End Ruffled Saddle

- *Drawing for the saddle will be held at the year-end banquet.*
- *Must have shown to at least 8 judges are eligible*
- *Lead-Line and Walk only members are not eligible*
- *Member must be present at banquet to collect the saddle.*

#### **Section 9.05      Year End Showmanship Halter Awards**

(a) If a Member has earned any Year End Showmanship Halter award within five years (2010-2015) that member is not eligible for the award for the current year (2016).

(b) All Showmanship classes for one horse/exhibitor combination count towards the Year End Showmanship Halter. Including a 2pt bonus for Grand Champion showman and a 1pt bonus for Reserve Champion showman, per show earned.

**Section 9.06      Other awards, door prizes and raffles will be offered at the banquet at the discretion of the LMHA Board of Directors and every member is encouraged to attend!**

## **Article X. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**Section 10.01** LMHA president is an elected position with a 2/3 majority vote, by the LMHA board of directors.

- (a)** The position of LMHA president has no ending term. The member that currently holds the position may resign at will.
- (b)** The position of LMHA president may be repealed by a unanimous vote by all board members, excluding the current LMHA president.

**Section 10.02** Board members are delegated by the president of LMHA. All volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to participate

**Section 10.03** Members of the board of directors will conduct the business affairs of the association in good faith and with honesty, integrity, due diligence, and reasonable competence.

**Section 10.04** Members of the board of directors will exercise proper authority and good judgment in their dealings with the association staff, suppliers, social media and the general public and will respond to the needs of the association members in the responsible, respectful and professional manner. Inappropriate behavior can pose a risk to our reputation and integrity.

**Section 10.05** If a director is found acting outside of the standards set before them, that member may have the following course of action taken upon them by the board of directors on a majority vote.

- (a)** A formal warning issued to the director in question in writing by the LMHA president
  - *A director may be issued up to three warnings before immediate removal from the member's directorship could take place.*
- (b)** Upon a 2/3 vote of the board of directors, the director in question may be immediately removed from the member's directorship.