



# MOHSS Rule Book

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## 1. General

- 1.1. The Maryland Open Horse Show Series Board Members, both individually and collectively ("MOHSS Show Board"), reserves the right to combine or cancel any classes.
- 1.2. The MOHSS Show Board and other show officials are not responsible for injuries to horses, riders, or spectators nor for damage or theft of property.
- 1.3. The MOHSS Show Board reserves the right to excuse anyone who is not conducting themselves in a safe and courteous manner for one or more shows. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized.
- 1.4. To keep the show moving, there will be no warm-up jumps outside the ring. There will be a small ring that can be used for flat warm-up. Ride at your own risk.
- 1.5. Riders are not allowed to ride a horse double while on the grounds.
- 1.6. There will be access to a water tank on the grounds.
- 1.7. Jump Courses or patterns may be read to the rider during the class. Ask at the entry booth and provide documentation for this service.
- 1.8. In special cases, there can be age exceptions made for divisions. Please ask a MOHSS Board Member.
- 1.9. A photo release is included in each registration form. Photos will be taken by MOHSS committee members that may be used for the MOHSS website, the MOHSS Facebook page, and/or slide show to be presented at the MOHSS Achievement Night at the end of the year.
- 1.10. Unless otherwise specifically stated elsewhere in the MOHSS Rules, all decisions regarding compliance with one or more MOHSS Rules or the interpretation thereof will be made by the MOHSS Show Board. Such decisions of the MOHSS Show Board are final.



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## 2. Judge

- 2.1. All Judge's decisions are final.
- 2.2. In any class, the Judge may require the removal or alteration of any equipment that is unsafe or inhumane in his/her opinion.
- 2.3. Riders will not be allowed to show unjudged.

## 3. Horses & Ponies

- 3.1. Any horse/rider combination will be removed from any class at the request of the MOHSS Show Board, if dangerous to themselves or other riders.
- 3.2. Proof of a negative Coggins, within 12 months, is required. Members must submit a copy of their horse's Coggins with their registration. No registrations will be accepted without a current Coggins. If your Horse's Coggins expires during the show season, proof of an updated negative test must be placed on file at the entry desk.
- 3.3. All horses and ponies must be serviceably sound.
- 3.4. An exhibitor is responsible for having his or her horse under control at all times and must have safe equipment in good repair. The Show Steward will have the responsibility for expelling noncompliant members.
- 3.5. It is suggested that horses tied to trailers always have access to water, hay, and a salt block. It is also suggested that horses are not left alone while tied to the trailer.



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## 4. Tack & Attire

- 4.1. Proper show attire is recommended but not required; however, entrants must wear helmets, long pants, a belt, and hard soled shoes with heels whenever mounted. If you do not own proper English show attire, a collared shirt must be worn. Riders may not wear full length chaps for equitation or pleasure. However, half chaps are accepted. ASTM or SEI protective headgear shall be worn by all riders.
- 4.2. Judges may excuse jackets at any show, however, jackets will be excused for the June, July and August shows. For the June, July, and August shows, riders are encouraged to wear polo shirts with matching square saddle pads.
- 4.3. It is suggested but not required that riders use fitted saddle pads.
- 4.4. No rider may be attached to the saddle by any means.
- 4.5. Bell boots, splint boots or other protective leg/footwear are not permitted unless required or suggested by the horse's vet or farrier.
- 4.6. Cruppers and breastplates are allowed. Anti-grazing devices are allowed in Leadline and Mini Short Stirrup only.
- 4.7. The bridle may be either full, Kimberwick, Pelham, or Snaffle. Double reins or converters are required on Pelham or full bridles. Martingales may only be used in Equitation over fences classes and in the entire Schooling Horse/Pony Division (all classes). No dropped, figure 8, or flash nosebands allowed.

## 5. Classes

- 5.1. A rider must fill out an entry form for each horse they compete on. A different number will be assigned for each horse.
- 5.2. In all divisions, points will count 10, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 (to participate).



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- 5.3. Points will be tracked by rider. A rider must participate in a minimum of four shows to be eligible for year-end awards.
- 5.4. Show series members will be allowed one division change per rider, per year. Points do not follow the division change. However, if a rider rides in one division and subsequently starts a different division during the show series year (April through October) while continuing to ride in his/her initial division, points will be counted towards both divisions separately.
- 5.5. Refunds will be granted for subsequent classes if there is a rider injury, or a horse is excused by the judge.
- 5.6. A rider will not be allowed to enter a class once the class has begun.
- 5.7. Ribbons not claimed by the end of the show day will be recycled to be used in future shows.
- 5.8. A fall of horse or rider will result in the exhibitor being excused from the class.
- 5.9. In Over Fences classes, elimination will result from one or more of the following events: (a) jumping an obstacle before it is reset; (b) failure to keep proper course; (c) horse and/or rider fall in competition; and (d) a combination of any three of the following actions: refusal, run-out, extra circle, and bolting from course.
- 5.10. In Clear Round, no more than 10 riders will be allowed in the ring at one time. Each group will have between 5 and 10 minutes to warm up and jump all the jumps in the ring. All riders must ride in the same direction, call out jumps, and be mindful of other riders in the ring. Trainers are allowed in the ring during this time to accompany a rider(s). Entry into Clear Round is unlimited; however, riders who have not ridden in Clear Round automatically have the next spot in a round over a rider who has already entered Clear Round before. The mandatory show fee covers the cost of this class.



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- 5.11. In Pleasure Over Fences, a rider may enter no more than three horses. Different numbers will be assigned for each horse.

## **6. Location**

- 6.1. All dogs must be leashed.
- 6.2. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the show grounds.
- 6.3. Due to park regulations, riding is permitted only in designated areas.
- 6.4. Please clean up after your horse. This includes manure, hay, etc. There are designated areas to dispose of waste.
- 6.5. Due to limited trailer parking space, vehicles not attached to horse trailers may not park on the gravel lot. Additional vehicle parking is offered in a parking lot on the other side of the ring.
- 6.6. Portable grills are not permitted on the show grounds.

*In case of rain, the Park Service will assess the conditions of the ring and notify the MOHSS as to whether the show can be held. Please check our Facebook and website for cancellation details in the event of bad weather or ring conditions.*