

# 2026

## MARYLAND OPEN HORSE SHOW SERIES

### RULE BOOK

**Location:** Schooley Mill Park (SMP), Hall Shop Road, Highland, MD

**Dates:** Sunday May 4, Sunday May 25, Sunday June 8, Saturday July 19, Saturday August 16, Sunday September 21, Sunday October 5, Sunday October 26



# MOHSS Rule Book

- Shows begin at 8AM for June, July & August
  - (Warm-up/Clear Round will begin at 6:30AM)
- Shows begin at 9AM for May, September, and October
  - (Warm-up/Clear Round begins at 7:30AM)
- Trail will open thirty minutes prior to the start of the show for leadline riders and mini short stirrup riders at all shows.
- There will be a mandatory show fee of \$10/each rider per show
- Entry Fees: \$15.00 per class - No refunds for dropped classes
- If registering on the day of the show, there will be a \$25 late fee attached to your entry. Please take advantage of our online or mail in pre-entry option to avoid this fee.

## 2025 Maryland Open Horse Show Board Members:

Lisa Albrecht	Brittany McCarville
Joan Bosmans	Pati Minot
Pam Gilmer	Kimberly Serota
Kristin Gross	Laura Squirlock
Diane Jacobus	Amanda Wilkerson
Christina Loratto	

## 2025 Maryland Open Horse Show Junior Board Members:

-Coming Soon-

*The Maryland Open Horse Show Series presents a series of schooling shows designed to help both horses and riders. We offer a fun and rewarding experience for all involved. We aim to please and hope that everyone has a very happy experience. This series offers classes for all ages and levels of riding.*



# MOHSS Rule Book

## 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. There will be two schooling periods, where jumping is allowed, prior to each show in the main ring. Morning schooling round will have jumps set as cross rails while the afternoon schooling round will have them set at 2' for equitation and reset to crossrails for pleasure.
- 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. Be sure to bring your own bucket to fill for your horse to drink out of. No washing of horses with water from the tank. The park service tries their best to keep it full for our shows, however it is always safest to bring water.
- 1.7. Jump Courses or patterns may be read to the rider during the class under special circumstances. Ask the entry booth for more information.
- 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 may be taken by MOHSS Board, JR Board, and JR Committee members. Opportunity for occasional Photo Contests during the season that will allow parents and family members, riders, coaches and barns to take pictures of their rider/riders to submit for the contest. Those photos could also be used on the MOHSS website, Facebook page and slide show.
- 1.10. Unless otherwise specifically stated elsewhere in the MOHSS Rules, all decisions regarding compliance with one or more MOHSS Rules or the



# MOHSS Rule Book

interpretation thereof will be made by the MOHSS Show Board. Such decisions of the MOHSS Show Board are final.

## 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. Coggins will be kept on file for the season. If your horse's Coggins expires during the show season, proof of an updated negative test must be provided.
- 3.3. All horses and ponies must be serviceably sound. The judge is allowed to make all final decisions regarding soundness of the horse/pony.
- 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 all horses tied always have access to water, hay, and a salt block. It is also suggested that horses are not left alone while tied.

## 4. Tack & Attire

- 4.1. Proper show attire is recommended but not required; however, entrants must wear helmets, long pants, a belt (if pants have belt loops), 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, however, half chaps are accepted. ASTM or SEI protective headgear shall be worn by all riders anytime they are mounted.
- 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 and square saddle pads are allowed.



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- 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 by the horse's vet or farrier and a note from them is submitted ahead of show day.
- 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 Crossrail Hunter 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/rider combination to use for the entirety of the season. Leadline and Mini Short Stirrup numbers will be given by Rider name.
- 5.2. Show series members will be allowed one Equitation division change per rider, per year. Points will be counted towards both divisions separately.
- 5.3. Refunds will be granted for subsequent classes if there is a rider/horse injury, rider/horse illness, or a horse is excused by the judge. The eligibility for a refund for scratched classes must be discussed with the entry booth at the show and may not be requested after the show has closed.
- 5.4. The judge or any MOHSS board member is allowed to split a class if they feel it is a safety issue.
- 5.5. A rider will not be allowed to enter a class once the class has begun. It is the rider's responsibility to make sure they are keeping track of their classes and coming to the gate on time.
- 5.6. It is the rider's responsibility to make sure they have their correct back number on before entering the ring for their class. It is up to the judge if they will award a placing to someone in the class who is missing or wearing the wrong back number.
- 5.7. If you don't wish to take your ribbons home, please let us know at the ribbon table so we can recycle and use them for future shows.



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- 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 (schooling in the main ring), the following rules will apply to all riders.
  - 5.10.1. No more than 10 riders will be allowed in the ring at one time. The ring/show steward will not allow additional riders to enter once the schooling time has started.
  - 5.10.2. Each group will have about 10 minutes in the ring. 5 minutes one direction and then the ring steward will call for everyone to reverse.
  - 5.10.3. The first and last schooling period will be open to riders who only wish to flat if we have riders that need a calmer warm up experience.
  - 5.10.4. Please only jump one line at a time and do not jump an entire course. The outside lines will both be open to call out and jump both directions of the schooling session. The diagonal lines will only be open to call out and jump while the ring is going the appropriate direction. Please be sure to take extra precautions while jumping diagonal lines.
  - 5.10.5. Schooling will enter at the large gait and exit out of the small gate.
  - 5.10.6. If you wish to be excused before the schooling period is over please go to the small gate and wait for a safe time to be let out of the ring.
  - 5.10.7. Priority will be given to horses and riders that have not yet been in to school.
  - 5.10.8. No lunging permitted in the main ring at any time.
  - 5.10.9. Please halt in the ring if a rider or horse has fallen.
  - 5.10.10. Remember that there are two schooling sessions available. The first session will be all x-rails and the second session will have jumps set at 2'.



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- 5.10.11. If you are a trainer with a large group of students, you can request a 10 min schooling period with only your own riders. There will still be no jumping of courses allowed.
- 5.10.12. The mandatory show fee covers the cost of this class.

## 6. Cross Entry

- 6.1. Riders may cross enter from Leadline into Mini Short Stirrup.
- 6.2. Riders in Mini Short Stirrup 8 & Under may cross enter into crossrail hunter Walk/Trot. They may also enter the Benefit Hack class which is Walk/Trot. They may not ride in any class that includes cantering or jumping.
- 6.3. Riders in Beginner 10 & Under Eq, Beginner 11-17 Eq, and Long Stirrup Adult Eq may not cross enter into any other Equitation Divisions Medal other than Open. They also may not cross enter into Modified Hunter Horse/Pony.
- 6.4. Riders in Beginner 10 & Under Eq, Beginner 11-17 Eq, and Long Stirrup Adult Eq are allowed to cross enter into Crossrail Hunter, Pleasure Pony, and Pleasure Horse.
- 6.5. Riders in Junior 13 & Under Eq and Junior 14-17 Eq may cross enter into Open Equitation and Medal. They are also eligible for Crossrail Hunter, Modified Hunter, Pleasure Horse, and Pleasure Pony.
- 6.6. There are no cross entry rules for Pleasure Horse or Pleasure Pony for riders who are not signed up for Mini Short Stirrup 8 & Under Walk/Trot division. Mini Short Stirrup riders are only allowed to enter the Walk/Trot classes.

## 7. Points

- 7.1. In all divisions, points will be assigned 10 for first, 7 for second, 5 third, 4 for fourth, 3 for fifth, 2 for sixth, and 1 (to participate).
- 7.2. Points will be tracked by the rider for all equitation and trail classes regardless of the horse that they are riding.
- 7.3. Points will be tracked by rider and horse combination for all pleasure and hunter classes.
- 7.4. A rider must pay for their membership at their first show. Points will be tracked for the season for year-end awards for all riders not dependent on how many shows they attend. All members/riders will be eligible to qualify for the Colonial Classic.



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## 8. Division Champions and Reserve Champions

- 8.1. All divisions, except for Trail and Medal, will award a Champion and Reserve Champion ribbon based on the point structure in 7.1
- 8.2. If there is a tie for Champion and Reserve Champion, the Champion ribbon will be awarded to whoever had the higher place in the last class of the division.
- 8.3. Riders are eligible for Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons if they are registered for one of more classes in a division.
- 8.4. If a rider is excused from a class for any reason, they are still eligible for Champion or Reserve Champion of the division they competed in.

## 9. Colonial Classic

- 9.1. Riders must be a member of a participating show series to be eligible to show in the Colonial Classic. MOHSS is a participating show series.
- 9.2. Points will be tracked for all members of MOHSS and our top riders from each division will be selected by the MOHSS board to be qualified for the Colonial Classic.
- 9.3. Your points in the MOHSS Trail divisions will not qualify you for the Colonial Classic.

## 10. Location

- 10.1. All dogs must be leashed.
- 10.2. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the show grounds.
- 10.3. Due to park regulations, riding is permitted only in designated areas.
- 10.4. Please clean up after your horse. This includes manure, hay, etc. There are designated areas to dispose of waste. There is a wheelbarrow and pitchfork on site if you need to borrow one to clean up after your horse.
- 10.5. 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.
- 10.6. Portable grills are not permitted on the show grounds.



# MOHSS Rule Book

*In case of rain, the Park Service will assess the conditions of the ring and notify the MOHSS as to whether or not the show can be held. Please check our Facebook and website for cancellation details in the event of bad weather or ring conditions.*