

2024 GENERAL RULES

1. The age of an Individual on the prior year's December 1st shall be maintained throughout the following season.
2. The exhibitor and horse's owner must be a member of Tri-County prior to entering the class for points to count towards year-end awards.
3. There will be a \$25 charge for returned checks presented as payment for horse show fees. Exhibitor will not be able to show until all show fees and penalties have been paid.
4. Proper show attire is required. Show attire and tack need not be fancy, but should be safe, neat, clean and appropriate for the discipline. Chaps are optional unless specifically stated required in a given class.
5. On the recommendation of the Judge, the Show Manager may disqualify anyone who uses unsafe or severe equipment. The Show Manager will have the choice to disqualify or ask for correction (if possible) for such equipment, before the class is judged. Not more than 5 minutes will be allowed for such changes.
6. Unruly or disorderly conduct will be grounds for dismissal from the show grounds at the discretion of the Show Manager for anyone on the show grounds.
7. At the discretion of the Judge, any horse out of control will be excused from the class. At the discretion of the Judge, any horse in pain may be excused from the class.
8. Hackamores and bit-less bridles are not permitted in any English or Western classes. In speed events, use of a hackamore (including mechanical hackamores) or other type of bridle is the optional choice of the contestant; however, the Judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment they may consider severe.
9. A Bosal or non-shanked snaffle are suitable for Western if the horse or pony is 5 years old or younger, or in a novice horse or rider class. Must be ridden two-handed.
10. Plain cavesson nosebands are recommended. Non-conventional types of bits and nosebands may be penalized.
11. Boots and bandages are permitted ONLY In Equitation Over Fences, Reining and Games. Standing martingales are permitted in jumping classes only. Bell boots are not allowed.
12. Youth (17 or under) are not permitted to show a stallion.
13. Stallions are not to be left unattended at any time, under any circumstances on the show grounds.
14. Anyone violating the said rules and regulations could result in cancellation of points and/or membership upon vote of the Executive Board.

JUDGES

1. Judges will award six places for each class. Youth classes will be awarded eight places. There may be additional placing at the discretion of the Judge/Show Manager.
2. Judges shall abide by the United States Equestrian Federation (formerly the American Horse Show Association Rules, American Quarter Horse Association, Maine Appaloosa Horse Club, Arabian Horse Association and American Morgan Horse Association) in conjunction with rules and regulations that are specific for these organizations.
3. Judges cannot judge an exhibitor or horse that they have trained, instructed or sold to 30 days prior to the show date.

SHOW GROUND RULES

Competitors show at their own risk with signature of exhibitor and parent's signature of youth exhibitors completed on entry form before entering a class. Under Maine law, an equine professional has limited liability for an injury or death resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities.

1. Spectators attend at their own risk and should observe and use caution in all horse areas. Parent or guardian must accompany small children if they are in the trailer or horse area.
2. No horses are allowed in camping area (because of shallow underground wires) or on the racetrack. Competitors should use only the practice ring or the unused exit road leading away from parking area to exercise or school horses. Proceed with caution in all traffic and spectator areas.
3. The area in front of the secretary booth should also remain clear of horses for safety precaution.
4. Only contestants and authorized personnel are allowed in the main or practice ring. No one is allowed on the ring fence for the safety of the spectator and competitors.
5. Please take responsibility for cleaning up around your trailer before leaving trash cans and returnable containers are provided on grounds. We ask you clean up after your horse around your trailer. Muck buckets are provided for your use. Union Fairground officials require that all manure and hay be removed after each show, so your cooperation is appreciated.

POINT SYSTEM

Points are awarded to the horse or rider according to their placing and are totaled at the end of the season for Championship trophies. Points will be awarded according to how many entrants are in each class, to a maximum of 10 points for the first place entrant. Only six places will count for points in each class, even if the Judge chooses to award for more than six places. Youth classes will award ribbons and points through eight places. Points are rated 1.25 higher in championship classes - credited to original class.

SHOW REQUIREMENTS

1. Show proof of current coggins test and rabies vaccination.
2. Class list will contain the date, time and place of show.
3. Class list will contain the name of the Judge and Mailing Secretary.
4. Class list will contain the amount of class fee, post entry fee, if any, and all additional fees.
5. Class program must contain correct age of riders (See class specification).
6. Each class title should be written exactly as in class specification list.
7. Any new classes offered that are not in the class specification list must have their own rules posted at the secretary's booth.
8. Rider's attire must be suitable to the discipline being ridden. Chaps are optional except for Morgan Pleasure Western riders. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. Hair must be neatly contained. Show jackets may be removed at the discretion of the judge.
9. All contestants participating in timed events will dismount to receive award, for the safety of the person giving the award.
10. All numbers will be worn on contestant's back or one on each side of the horse. Failure to do so could result in disqualification. Assigned number will be used for the entire show year.
11. All participants under 18 years of age **MUST** have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in writing on the entry form. Failure to provide signature will result in disqualification.
12. Headers and trailers must be 18 years of age.
13. Exhibitors may speak with the judge after the show has completed and only after having received permission from the Show Manager.
14. Holds will be granted at the discretion of the Show Manager. Request must be asked **BEFORE** the start of the show unless there are unforeseen circumstances. Hold forms can be completed at the Secretary's Booth at check-in. When a hold is granted, the In-gate will be held for five minutes, then open for class participants to enter and the hold requestor should enter as soon as possible or the gate may be closed at the Judge's discretion. Adjustments must be made in the paddock area to prevent further delay.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization is Tri-County Horsemen

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

1. To promote and develop good fellowship among horse lovers.
2. To encourage, promote and develop the owning, training and breeding of horses.
3. To promote and develop good horsemanship together with the knowledge and interest in the care, training and breeding of horses.
4. To cultivate the social life among its members and foster the welfare and enhance the health and happiness of its members and persons interested by promoting and encouraging the use of and interest in horses.
5. To promote and cultivate among its members and others, all equestrian games and sports.
6. Through the activities of this organization, create an interest and educate the public in the recreational possibilities and benefits of the use and ownership of horses.
7. To promote and cultivate the formation of association and friendly relationships with similar clubs throughout the state and elsewhere.
8. And for the uses and purposes for which this organization is formed, to lease, purchase, hold, use and enjoy in fee simple, deed in the trust or dispose of same at the pleasure of the organization excepting and providing that this organization is a nonprofit one and none of its operations shall at any time result in any way in pecuniary profit or gain to this organization or any members thereof.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. To maintain active membership in this organization, all members should participate and assist in all activities of this organization.
2. Active membership in this organization shall be granted to all persons upon payment of dues.
3. Participation of the activities of this organization shall be restricted to members only, excepting public events.
4. The annual dues for membership shall be \$30 for an individual regardless of age and \$40 for family membership including all children under 18 years of age, after May 1st. Early bird memberships received prior to then may be subject to special discount pricing.
5. The annual dues shall start from January 1st each year and shall be payable thirty days thereafter and any members who fail to pay dues on or before April 1st shall be suspended from privileges of membership until such dues are paid and if dues are not paid by the succeeding January 1st the member shall be automatically suspended.
6. No member shall participate in the annual meeting until all dues for the past year are paid
7. Family memberships may only contain two generations (Ex: grandparent and grandchild or parent and child)

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

1. This organization shall attempt to meet monthly, the day to be decided by the Executive Board.
2. The annual meeting shall be held at the awards banquet in the fall.

3. The annual election of officers shall take place at the awards banquet each year.
4. Special meetings of the organization may be called by the Secretary upon request of five members in good standing.
5. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Executive Board and 4 members in good standing.

ARTICLE V: BOARD, DIRECTORS

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the Officers and 3 elected Directors.
2. The term of the office for the Directors shall be 3 years, 2 years and 1 year.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

1. The elective officers of this organization shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Show Secretary.
2. The President shall establish agendas for meetings and conduct meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.
3. The Vice-President shall act for the President in his/her duties If absent.
4. The duty of the Secretary shall be to keep a record of all meetings and send newsletters to members. He/She shall deliver all records to his/her successor at the annual meeting.
5. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to keep a record and have charge and custody of all funds and pay out same on any bills or financial affairs. He/She shall deliver all funds and records to his/her successor at the annual meeting.
6. The duty of the Show Secretary shall be to keep show records, receive and post show entries and maintain year-end award point records.
7. All monies of this organization shall be handled by the Treasurer and deposited in a bank designated by members of the organization in good standing.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS

1. All Officers and Directors shall be elected at the annual awards banquet.
2. All voting of Officers for this organization shall be by secret ballot.
3. Only active members in good standing whose dues are paid in accordance with these by-laws shall be eligible to vote.

CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

Any class may be split at the judge's discretion. Split classes are judged as one class. All participants must be allowed to canter/lope at least one way of the ring in classes calling for this gait.

NOVICE: Rider or horse, as appropriate, that has not won a year end award in the respective class, as of Jan 1st this year.

YEAR END AWARDS

Championship trophies and Champion and Reserve ribbons will be awarded. Maiden Equitation and Pleasure are classes that do not have year-end awards. If no one qualifies for the Champion or Reserve Champion in a class, no awards will be presented. To be eligible for a year end award, the participant must enter the class a minimum of 3 times and the rider/handler/owner must be a current paid member of the Tri-County Horsemen. An eligible winner of a challenge trophy will not have to show three times if no entry wins the regular class year end award.

Points can only be accrued after membership dues have been paid in full. Any points earned prior to payment of dues will not be counted. The awards banquet shall be held in October or November depending on the availability of sites.

Election of Officers shall take place at that time.