

BOOT CONTEST RULES

MPEC, Wichita Falls, Texas — October 2–3, 2026

Awards Ceremony Begins @ 4:00 PM Saturday

Contestants must register/pay to enter the Boot and Saddle Maker Tradeshow Convention Hall.

If you have any questions concerning the rules, feel free to contact me at
940.867.2173 or mvaughnboots@gmail.com

BASIC RULES

- BOOTS must be checked in at the table by end of day Friday, to be entered into the contest.
- EACH contestant is limited to ONE entry per category and boot must have been made since last years' contest and boots cannot have been previously entered in this show.
- ALL boots will be entered as a PAIR, not a single boot.
- ALL work must be done by the individual entering the boot and no one else, except in the Shop Boot category.
- IF you are entered in the Open category in any division, you cannot enter the Intermediate category as well.
- ALL categories will be judged by bootmakers who have been in the business for years & whose work is considered Master quality. To eliminate any "conflict of interest", no judge will have a boot or a student whose boot is entered in the contest.

CONTEST CATEGORIES

The following categories will have 2 (two) levels of entry: Intermediate and Open. You may choose the level you wish to enter, but you CANNOT enter the Intermediate level if you have previously won that category. You may enter the Open level of the category, even if you have won the category. If you are entered in the Open category division in any division, you cannot enter the Intermediate category as well.

TOP STITCHING: Boots will have top stitching only. No inlays, collars, brands, initials, etc, anywhere on the boots.

WORKING COWBOY BOOT: Built of sturdy leather (bullhide, pig, elephant, water buffalo, wildebeest, waxed calf, shark, Hippo or Taurus shoulder). May include initials, brand and/or a collar. Collar can have cutouts or inlays. No more than 3 colors of leather on the top, including the top leather.

DRESS BOOT: Boots should be simple and elegant, i.e., something that could be worn for dress with a suit or pair of slacks. May include initials, brand, collar, and/or tooling.

ARTISTRY BOOT: Tops of the boots MUST have a substantial amount of inlay/overlay work on them or be tooled (not just a brand, initials, and/or a collar). The foot may also have inlay/overlay work, but is not required.

The following categories have only 1 (one) level of entry:

JOURNEYMAN — constructed 15 or less pair of boots: Basic boots with top stitching only, no tooling, inlays, collars, brands, etc. Journeyman should concentrate on the basics of building a good boot. If you enter the contest as a Journeyman, you can ONLY enter this category. If you have won the Journeyman you CANNOT enter this category again.

SHOP BOOT: Boots built in a shop with more than one person working on them.

MASTER BOOT: Anything goes! Let your imagination lead you!