



NORTHERN MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WESTERN HORSE CLUBS

**NMAWHC**  
*Official*  
**Show Rulebook**

P.O. Box 4113  
Traverse City, MI 49685

2023 Edition & Update

**Northern Michigan Association  
of Western Horse Clubs**

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# Show Rulebook

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## General Rules

1. May not have a judge who resides within 75 miles of the show grounds *except for trail Judges*. (11/2022)
2. The *Show Approval* (11/2022) committee shall compile a show kit, which consists of:
  - a. Judges list
  - b. Rule Book which includes:
    - i. Approved class list
    - ii. Class descriptions (in Rule Book)
  - c. Judge's card for recording results
3. NMAWHC will mail the show dates complete with address locations and judges' names to members by May 1st.
4. NMAWHC shall put on at least one approved show per season.
5. The entire ring must be used for each class except for lead line or at the judge's discretion.
6. Shows must include all NMAWHC point approved classes.
7. All shows are to be held rain or shine.
  - a. If a judge makes the decision to cancel a show due to dangerous ring or weather conditions, the class that is currently in the ring, must be pinned if it has shown all three gaits in one direction.
8. Classes of 18 or less *may* be split at the discretion of the judge. All classes of 19 or more *must* be split into two or more equal groups. All those who make the cut in each split group must be brought back for a final run and 6 places awarded.
9. Showmanship and Halter classes are to be run before any performance classes.
10. Lunch Break:
  - a. Shall be a minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes, unless otherwise previously arranged.
11. The use of an equitation or horsemanship pattern is highly recommended and must be posted and announced before the start of the show.
12. Show bills must include a complete list of all classes in the entire show, location, and judges' name.
13. The Points Secretary is to fill in the class number and class description on each judge's card. Class placings are to be legible.
14. All shows are to start at either 8:30 or 9:00 am.
15. Awards are to be given through sixth place.

16. Trail class can be judged in a separate arena or area by a show committee appointee providing the trail judge has been submitted and approved by the Board of Directors in advance. This class may be judged by the approved show judge for the day in the main ring. When show is double judged, trail must also be double judged.
17. Hardship clause: Because in any given situation there may arise extenuating circumstances, there might be cause to accept one or more of these rules in order to grant a full approval of a show. The committee reserves the right to do so in cases which do not in any matter conflict with the purpose, policies and intent of the NMAWHC.

## **Exhibitors**

1. The term “exhibitor” when used herein refers to:
  - a. Handler of a horse in a class where the merits of the horse are considered.
  - b. In horsemanship and equitation classes, the “exhibitor” is the rider.
  - c. Exhibitor behavior: see Judge’s Information, number 7, page.
2. An exhibitor may not serve as a judge, ringmaster or show if he/she has had any direct contact with the judge concerning the preparation of the show.
3. No exhibitor may show, before a judge, any horse under said judge’s ownership or lease.
4. An exhibitor may present in writing any legitimate complaints concerning the judge, show committee, ringmaster, etc. to the board.
  - a. All formal complaints from exhibitors, family members or representatives must be presented in writing to a board member or show management or sent to the club secretary my mail within ten days of the incident.
5. No exhibitor may compete in an approved class before a judge by whom within three months of the show
  - a. He/she has been instructed, coached, or tutored (with or without pay).
  - b. He/she or parents, guardian, or instructor have had financial transactions relative to the sale, lease, board or training of any horse. The conducting of clinics or

assistance in-group activities will not be considered instruction, coaching or tutoring.

6. Ages of exhibitors to be determined by January 1st of each year.
7. Stall reservations will require a deposit of \$25.00 to be paid at least one week prior to the show. The Treasurer and Stall Manager will work together in gathering names, reservations, and payments. The paid deposit will go towards the final invoice per registered rider.

## **Judge's Information**

1. May not have a judge who resides within 75 miles of the show grounds except for the trail judge(s).
2. A judge may judge only one NMAWHC approved show per two seasons except for a returning judge who judges only the trail class at a show. Any returning judge may not judge two consecutive days at the same show even when one day is judging trail only.
3. A person may not collect NMAWHC points in the same calendar year in which he judges a NMAWHC approved show.
4. Only one judge allowed in the show ring at a time.
  - a. Unless it is specified as a double-point show and a double-judged show.
  - b. Apprentice judges may be allowed in the ring, providing they do not influence the judge or slow down the pace of the show.
  - c. The show committee must be notified in advance if the judge is bringing an apprentice.
5. The judge must be qualified to handle all NMAWHC approved classes.
6. Judges must be prompt and appropriately attired.
7. The judge shall judge each class as follows:
  - a. In conformity with the rules and regulations set forth for each class in the NMAWHC rule book.

- b. If an exhibitor or his representative wishes to speak to the judge, he/she must do so with the permission of and in the presence of the show manager.
  - c. Exhibitors may not speak with the judge pertaining to their performance until they have completed their last class of the day, however they may view the judge's card from their previous classes, with the judge's permission.
  - d. Exhibitors are notified that any act of discourtesy or disobedience to the judges, officials, or exhibitors on the part of the owner, rider, or groom shall disqualify the horse and exhibitor. The owner shall forfeit entry and other fees. No points or awards may be given to said exhibitor or horse. Such acts will be determined by the judge and/or show officials.
  - e. The judge shall disqualify, at their discretion, an exhibitor from an event where any of the following occurs:
    - i. Use of two hands with a shank bit (excludes pee-wee competitors)
    - ii. Horse is out of control
    - iii. Excessive use of force (example: excessive spurring)
8. The judge's decision is final in all cases ending each class.
9. Only one ringmaster per judge allowed in the show ring during judging.
10. The judge must mark his or her own judge's card
11. Any questions or problems that arise may be addressed to the show committee.
12. No exhibitor may show before a judge any horse under said judge's ownership or lease.
13. No exhibitor may compete in an approved class before a judge by whom, within 3 months of the show:
- a. Has been instructed, coached, or tutored (with or without pay)

- b. Exhibitor, parent, guardian, or instructor has had any financial transactions relative to the sale, lease, board, or training of any horse. The participation in clinics or assistance in-group activities will not be considered instruction, coaching or tutoring.
- 14. No lame horse will be allowed to show. Lameness of horse is to be determined by the judge provided that the lameness is consistently observed.
- 15. Exhibitors will be allowed seven minutes to repair or replace a piece of broken equipment before the class enters the ring.
- 16. Tack changes will be allowed providing the announcer's booth is notified at least two classes prior. Tack changes may not exceed the seven-minute time allotment.
- 17. A rider may not dismount, or in any way be separated from his/her horse at any time, except at the discretion of the judge or under extenuating circumstances. If the rider is thrown off, falls off etc., the rider will be disqualified from placing, but may continue to ride the class at the discretion of the judge. Rider may dismount in the lineup *after* the judges' card has been turned in.
- 18. The judge shall have the obligation and authority to ask an exhibitor to remove his horse from the ring for the safety of other horses or the spectators.
- 19. The judge also has the authority to remove unsportsmanlike exhibitors.
- 20. The use of an equitation or horsemanship pattern will be at the judge's discretion, but highly recommended and may be mailed in advance ***and posted on Facebook and/or Club Website.(11/2022)***
- 21. Classes of 18 or less MAY be split at the discretion of the judge. All classes 19 or more must be split into two or more equal groups. All those who make the cut in each split group must be brought back for a final run and six places awarded.



## Trail Judge's Guide

1. Trail patterns must be posted and announced before the start of show.
2. The trail course **MUST** be kept the exact same for each rider within an age division.
  - a. Example 1: spectators are by the fence for the first few riders, then none for the remaining riders, solution-keep all spectators 10 feet from the fence line
  - b. Example 2: water hazard has clear water for only the first few riders, then becomes muddy/cloudy, solution-stir the water before the first rider begins
3. Going off course or breaking trail pattern will result in a penalty or disqualification. A judge must decide the degree of the penalty to be given for being off course.
  - a. Example 1: Changing the order of the last two obstacles would be a penalty
  - b. Example 2: Riding the entire course in reverse order would be a disqualification
4. The judge may allow three chances for an exhibitor to complete an obstacle before asking the rider to move on, but the rider should be marked down for refusals.
5. If an exhibitor is taking an excessively long time to complete an obstacle, the judge may ask him/her to move on to the next obstacle. The rider should not score on the obstacle they did not complete but should be scored on what parts of the course they did complete.
6. The judge will allow each exhibitor no more than three minutes to complete the trail course.
7. The judge should ask the show committee to remove an obstacle from the trail course, if he/she feels that it is unsafe.
  - a. Example 1: Ground tie in an unfenced area
  - b. Example 2: An unsafe or poorly constructed bridge
8. Specifications for the log obstacle:
  - a. At the walk, logs are spaced a minimum of 15 inches apart
  - b. At the trot or jog, logs are spaced 3' the 3'6" apart
9. Trail will be started at the show committees' discretion and be open a minimum of four hours.
10. Safety is a primary consideration.
11. Horses executing the course in a quiet and alert manner will be awarded maximum points.

12. May be ridden either English or Western with appropriate attire and appointments.
13. If time allows and the show chair/judges agree, exhibitors may walk the trail course without their horses prior to the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> trail class.
14. Trail class can be judged in a separate arena or area by a show committee appointee providing the trail judge and pattern have been submitted and approved by the Board of Directors in advance. This class may be judged by the approved show judge for the day in the main ring.
15. An exhibitor is to be penalized or excused for excessive use of force in any part of the trail class.
16. The level of difficulty may be adjusted according to age division as determined at the discretion of the show committee. A minimum of four obstacles must be implemented from the following list:
  - a. Bridge at least 40" wide, NO teeter bridge
  - b. Gate
  - c. Ride over at least four logs
  - d. Mail box
  - e. Water hazard, NO plastic
  - f. Turn in a box, at least six foot square
  - g. Ride through a corridor, a minimum of 48" wide made of barrels, bales, brush, etc.
  - h. Ground tie or hobble
  - i. Back through a pattern
  - j. Jump, not to exceed 12"
  - k. Dismount and lead over, not to exceed 24"
  - l. Slicker
  - m. Side pass
  - n. Dismount and/or mount
18. Trail Judges shall use the American Quarter Horse Association Score Sheet in judging the trail class.
19. In-hand-trail horse may not be shown in any riding classes.

## **Show Staff**

1. Any reputable person who is familiar with the rules and is capable through ability or experience may act as show staff.

- a. All show staff shall work together to create a neat, orderly and safe working environment.
- b. Show staff is to have proper and ample sign-up paperwork including extra show bills.
- c. Shall assist in the entry process with an able and willing attitude.
- d. Shall assist other show staff in the organization of entry forms, Coggin's forms, waivers etc.
- e. Be available at the end of the day to get checks closed, point sheets signed and receipts written for any funds given to the show.
- f. The ***Points Secretary (11/2022)*** shall verify paperwork to ensure proper exhibitor numbers, names and horse's names to eliminate any confusion with the placing's.
- g. The announcer shall keep the show moving without becoming an unnecessary nuisance to exhibitors and other show staff.

## **Ring Steward**

1. Any reputable person who is familiar with the rules and is capable through ability or experience may act as ring steward.
  - a. The ring steward's duties are to help the judge-not advise him
  - b. Shall refrain from discussing or seeming to discuss the horses or exhibitors with the judge.
  - c. Shall not take part or seem to take part in the judging.
  - d. Shall place themselves in such a position as to not interfere with the judge's view of the exhibitors.
  - e. May be asked by the judge to move and place horses as he or she advises.
  - f. Shall not mark the judge's cards (it is the judge's responsibility to mark their own cards.)

## **General Show-Ring Rules**

1. Proper attire is to be worn in all classes.

2. English Attire:
  - a. English style jacket, shirt with rat-catcher or tie, appropriate styled, heeled English type boots, riding breeches, belt and helmet.
  - b. NMAWHC recommends helmets that meet the specifications of and are approved by the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) and the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI). NMAWHC recognizes use of an approved helmet is at parental discretion.
  - c. Slip on spurs are not allowed, only securely buckled or strap-on un-roweled spurs are allowed.
  - d. Crops and bats are optional but must be used with consideration for other horses and exhibitors.
3. Western attire:
  - a. Long sleeved shirts, western hats, western heeled boots and a belt.
  - b. Helmets, spurs and chaps are optional.
4. Stallions:
  - a. A stallion by definition is an unaltered (non-castrated) male horse, one year of age or older. Weanlings are not considered stallions.
  - b. Stallions must be shown and handled by a person 19 years of age or older. Exceptions are horses foaled in the current year.
5. Tie downs and martingales are prohibited except in jumping, cloverleaf, or driving classes.
6. Nose bands are prohibited in Western classes.
7. Flat curb chains and leather curbs are allowed.
8. A horse is determined to be one year of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> the year following its foaling date.
9. Bits
  - a. Senior horses (six years and older) must be bitted with a breed specific bit.
  - b. Junior horses (five years and under) may be ridden with a bosal or non-shanked snaffle.
    - i. Example: ring snaffle
  - c. Pee Wee classes are exempt from this rule. Pee Wee showmen may use the equipment selected by their parent or guardian regardless of the age of the horse being shown.
10. Reins

- a. Senior Western horse; one handed, no change of rein hand reins ends shall drape over the horse's shoulder on the same side as the rein hand.
  - b. Junior Western horse; two hands with split reins if using a non-shanked bit or mecate and bosal
  - c. Romal reins; no finger between the reins the free hand may be used to hold the romal provided that it is in a relaxed position and is held at least 16" from the rein hand.
11. No lame horse will be allowed to show. Lameness is to be determined by the judge provided the lameness is consistently observed.
  12. If a counter canter is asked for, the exhibitors may ride 15 feet off the rail.
  13. Any exhibitors not conforming to NMAWHC rules are subject to disqualification.
  14. Exhibitors will be allowed seven minutes to repair or replace broken equipment and five minutes for tack changes provided the ringmaster is notified.
  15. A rider may not dismount or in any way become separated from his/her horse at any time except at the discretion of the judge or under extenuating circumstances. If the rider is thrown off, falls off etc., the rider will be disqualified from placing, but may continue the class at the discretion of the judge. Rider may dismount in lineup *after* the judges' card has been turned in.
  16. Drugging horses for any reason is prohibited. NMAWHC reserves the right to test any horse suspected of being drugged.
  17. Draft horses will be considered a pleasure type horse and are allowed in open halter classes such as stallions at halter or weanling/yearling at halter.
  18. Pee wee riders may not compete in any other division



## Approved Class List

### **Showmanship:**

1. Pee Wee 10 and Under
2. Walk/Trot 11 - 18
3. Walk/Trot 19 & over
4. Walk/Trot/Canter 13 & under
5. Walk/Trot/Canter 14 - 18
6. Walk/Trot/Canter 19 & over

### **Halter:**

1. Weanlings & Yearlings at Halter
2. Stock Type Mares
3. Stock Type Geldings
4. Pleasure Type Mares
5. Pleasure Type Geldings
6. Grand & Pleasure Stock Type  
(first & second place horses)

### **English:**

1. Pee Wee 10 and Under English Equitation
2. Walk/Trot English Equitation 11 - 18
3. Walk/Trot English Equitation 19 & over
4. English Equitation 13 & under
5. English Equitation 14 - 18
6. English Equitation 19 & over
7. Step-up English Open
8. Pee Wee 10 and Under English Pleasure
9. Walk/Trot English Pleasure 11 – 18
10. Walk/Trot English Pleasure 19 & over
11. English Pleasure 13 & under
12. English Pleasure 14 - 18
13. English Pleasure 19 & over

### **Western:**

1. Walk/Trot Western Horsemanship 11 – 18
2. Walk/Trot Western Horsemanship 19 & over
3. Western Horsemanship 13 & under

4. Western Horsemanship 14 - 18
5. Western Horsemanship 19 & over
6. Step-up Western – open
7. Pee Wee 10 and Under Western Horsemanship
8. Pee Wee 10 and Under Western Pleasure
9. Walk/Trot Western Pleasure 11 – 18
10. Walk/Trot Western Pleasure 19 & over
11. Western Pleasure 13 & under
12. Western Pleasure 14 - 18
13. Western Pleasure 19 & over

### **Trail:**

1. Walk/Trot Trail 11 – 18
2. Walk/Trot Trail 19 & over
3. Trail 13 & under
4. Trail 14 - 18
5. Trail 19 & over
6. Pee Wee 10 and Under Trail

### **Additional List:**

1. Stallions at halter
2. Color Class – open
3. Two Year Old at Halter Open
4. Pony at Halter 56” & under
5. Lead line Rider 6 & under
6. Junior Horse English Pleasure
7. Senior Horse English Pleasure
8. Junior Horse Western Pleasure
9. Senior Horse Western Pleasure

### **Optional Class List:**

Examples but not limited to

1. Yearling Lunge Line
2. Hunter Hack
3. Pleasure Driving
4. Bare Back Equitation Open
5. Training class W/T
6. Training Class W/T/C
7. Saddle Seat Equitation or Pleasure
8. Adult Lead line

9. Cowboy Challenge- Saturday Evening Only
10. Western Riding
11. Reining Open(NRHA Rules)
12. Walk Only
13. Saddle Seat Equitation
14. Saddle Seat Pleasure
15. In-Hand Trail
16. Command

## **Class Descriptions**

### **Showmanship:**

1. Horses are to be shown in hand.
2. Exhibitors are judged on showmanship of animal and overall appearance
  - a. Showmanship 50%
  - b. Fitness 40%
  - c. Overall Appearance 10%
3. The animal is judged on fitness, not conformation.
4. The exhibitor must wear proper, breed and discipline specific attire.

### **Halter:**

1. Bats or whips are prohibited in Stock Type halter classes.
2. Horse's age is determined by January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - a. Example: Horses Foaled in 1990 are considered two years old in 1992
3. Horses are to be judged on type, conformation and way of going:
  - a. Type 30%
  - b. Conformation 60%
  - c. Way of Going 10%
4. The exhibitor must wear proper, breed and discipline specific attire.
5. Horses that are shown in Stock Type halter classes may be shown in a Western-type halter or an English-type halter or bridle. Stock Type halter classes are open to breeds such as Quarter Horse, Paint, Appaloosa, etc.
6. Horses that are shown in Pleasure Type halter classes may be shown in a Western type-halter or an English-type halter or



bridle. Pleasure halter classes are open to pleasure type breeds such as Morgan, Arab, Saddlebred, Tennessee Walkers, etc.

7. Horses are to be shown in hand.
8. Horses may show and accumulate points in more than one approved halter class per show:
  - a. Example: Stock Type Halter and Color Class

#### **Color Class:**

1. Horses are to be judged on color, and conformation:
  - a. Color 50%
  - b. Conformation 50%
  - c. Examples of types of horses in this class include: paint, buckskin, appaloosa, palomino, pinto, roan, etc.
2. The exhibitor must wear proper, breed and discipline specific attire.
3. Horses are to be shown in hand.

#### **Lead-Line:**

1. Riders may not ride in any other class.
2. Rider's age is to be six and under.
3. Chaps are optional.
4. Horses are to be shown at the walk only.
5. Horses must be led by a handler.
6. All exhibitors are to receive first place ribbons.
7. Half the ring may be used.

#### **Walk-Trot:**

1. A horse entered in a walk/trot class may not be ridden by the same rider in a walk/trot/canter class unless it is step-up.
2. A walk/trot rider may show a different horse in a walk/trot/canter class.
3. A different rider may show a walk/trot horse in a walk/trot/canter class.
4. Shanked bits must be used one handed in walk/trot classes. The option of snaffle bits may be ridden two handed regardless of a horse's age, only applying to walk/trot rider/horse pairs in walk/trot classes.
5. One "Step-up English Pleasure" and one "Step-up Western Pleasure" are on the required class list to provide the walk trot showmen a forum in which to canter. First through sixth place ribbons will be awarded, although no year end points will

accumulate from these two classes. Pee Wee 10 & Under may only go into these step-up classes.

6. Year-end awards will be given just as in the other age divisions.

### **Pleasure Driving:**

1. The horse or pony should be capable of giving a pleasurable drive with the emphasis on manners and gaits.
2. All gaits will be asked for and performed in both directions:
  - a. walk
  - b. normal trot
  - c. extended trot/road gate
3. The reverse should be at the ringmaster's direction.
4. In the line-up horse or pony should:
  - a. stand quietly
  - b. stay checked at all times
  - c. back readily
5. Attendants are permitted to assist in lining up the horses or ponies to ensure driver safety.
6. The attendant should step back as the judge approaches.
7. The class is open to rider/handlers from both the open age groups as well as those from the novice divisions.

### **English Equitation:**

1. Tack must suit the style of riding (hunt seat or saddle seat)
2. The rider is judged on seat, hands, handling skills, legs suitability and appointments:
  - a. Rider's skills 60%
  - b. Performance 20%
  - c. Appointments 10%
  - d. Suitability 10%
3. The use of an equitation pattern is highly recommended and must be posted and announced before the start of the show.
4. The use of whip and spurs are optional but must be used with consideration for other horses and exhibitors.
5. Chaps are not allowed.
6. If a hand gallop is asked for, only eight horses may be on the rail at a time.

### **English Pleasure:**

1. The horse is judged on performance, conformation and appointments:
  - a. Performance 70%
  - b. Conformation 20%
  - c. Appointments 10%
2. Tack must suit the style of riding (hunt seat or saddle seat).
3. Additional work suitable for English pleasure horses may be asked for at the discretion of the judge (example: extended trot).
4. If a hand gallop is asked for, only eight horses may be on the rail at a time.

### **Junior Horse English Pleasure:**

1. Horses are five years old and under.
2. Horses may be ridden in a snaffle or a standard breed specific English bit.

### **Senior Horse English Pleasure:**

1. Horses are six years old and over.
2. Horses may be ridden in a snaffle or a standard breed specific English bit.

### **Option Classes**

1. Option Class slots will NOT be moved from their class position on the Showbill.
2. Classes will be reserved on a first come first-serve basis and will be made available for purchase when show registration opens.
3. Only one class request per rider will be allowed, and the rider must be entered into the class.
4. If any Option Classes are still available at the time the show begins, they will be open for purchase to all exhibitors at the show.
5. No year-end awards will be offered for Option Classes as these can change at each show

### **Hunter Hack:**

1. The hunter hack horse should move in the same style as a working or field hunter.

2. The class will be judged on individual fence work 70% and flat work 30%
3. Style over fences
4. Even hunting pace
5. Flat work
6. Way of going
7. Horses are first required to individually jump two fences, 2' to 2'6" in height. Hunter-style fences including cross rails are acceptable.
8. Fences are required to have a good ground line, wings are recommended.
9. Jumps do not have to be set on a line, however, if they are they must be set 36, 48, or 60 feet apart in increments of no less than 12 feet, but no more than 36 feet.
10. Following the last fence, exhibitors may be asked to hand gallop or pull-up and stand quietly at the discretion of the judge.
11. Horses being considered for an award are then to be shown at the walk, trot and canter in both directions of the ring maintaining light contact with the bit. Lengthening of gaits may be asked for during rail work.
12. Faults over fences will be scored as in a working hunter class.
13. Disqualifications will result from a total of three disobediences, which can include: refusals, run-outs, stopping or extra circles.
14. Judges shall penalize unsafe jumping and bad form over fences (whether fences are touched or not).
15. Tack and appointments are to be the same as for English pleasure.

### **Western Horsemanship:**

1. The rider is judged on hands, seat, legs, riding skills, suitability of the horse and rider and appointments.
  - a. Rider skills 60%
  - b. Performance 20%
  - c. Appointments 10%
  - d. Suitability 10%
2. Horses five years and under may be ridden in a bosal or a snaffle with two hands on split reins.
3. Horses six years and over, only one hand may be used, rein hand should not change, with only one finger between the

reins. Rein ends should drape over the horse's shoulder on the same side as the rein hand.

4. The use of a horsemanship pattern is highly recommended and must be posted and announced before the start of the show.
5. Chaps and spurs are optional.

### **Western Pleasure:**

1. The horse is judged on performance, conformation, and appointments:
  - a. Performance 70%
  - b. Conformation 20%
  - c. Appointments 10%
2. Chaps and spurs are optional.

### **Junior Horse Western Pleasure:**

1. Horses are to be five years old and under.
2. Junior western horses may be ridden in a bosal, snaffle, or standard breed specific bit.
3. Two hands may be used if using a bosal or snaffle bit.

### **Senior Horse Western Pleasure:**

1. Horses are to be six years old and over.
2. Horse must be ridden in a standard breed specific shanked western bit with proper use of reins.

### **Trail Class:** (Trail Judge's Guide, see page 6)

1. Trail pattern must be posted and announced before the start of show.
2. The trail course **MUST** be kept the exact same for each rider within an age division.
  - a. Example 1: spectators are by the fence for the first few riders, then none for the remaining riders, solution-keep all spectators ten feet from the fence line
  - b. Example 2: water hazard has clear water for only the first few riders, then becomes muddy/cloudy, solution-stir the water before the first rider begins
3. Going off course or breaking trail pattern will result in a penalty or disqualification. A judge must decide the degree of the penalty to be given for being off course.
  - a. Example 1: changing the order of the last two obstacles would be a penalty

- b. Example 2: riding the entire course in reverse order would be a disqualification
- 4. The judge may allow three chances for an exhibitor to complete an obstacle before asking the rider to move on, but the rider should be marked down for refusals.
- 5. If an exhibitor is taking an excessively long time to complete an obstacle, the judge may ask him/her to move on to the next obstacle. The judge will allow no more than three minutes to complete the trail course. The rider should not score on the obstacle they did not complete, but should be scored on what parts of the course they did complete.
- 6. The judge should ask the show committee to remove an obstacle from the trail course if he/she feels that it is unsafe.
  - a. Example 1: ground tie in an unfenced area
  - b. Example 2: an unsafe or poorly constructed bridge
- 7. Specifications for the log obstacle:
  - a. At the walk logs are spaced a minimum of 15 inches apart
  - b. At the trot or jog logs are spaced 3' the 3'6" apart
- 8. Trail will be started at the show committee's discretion and ending at the close of the last NMAWHC approved class when ran concurrently and judged by someone other than the main show judge.
- 9. In-Hand-Trail horses may not be shown in any riding class.

### **Bareback Equitation:**

- 1. The rider is to be judged on skills, performance, and appointments:
  - a. Skills 70%
  - b. Performance 20%
  - c. Appointments 10%
- 2. This class can be ridden Western or English
- 3. Chaps are not allowed

### **Command:**

- 1. This class is to be treated as a serious performance class.
- 2. No "Simon Says" type of game playing is allowed in this class.
- 3. The back-up may be asked for at the judge's discretion.
- 4. Reasonable deviation from the following list of choices will be at the judge's discretion:
  - a. Perform at all three gaits in both directions of the ring.

- b. Back on the rail (six steps maximum).
- c. Dismount and mount
- d. Side-pass
- e. Turn on the forehand
- f. Turn on the haunches
- g. Counter canter (may be executed up to 15 feet off the rail)
- h. Stop
- i. Circle at a trot
- j. Change of leads
- k. Change of gait on command

### **English/Western Riding Pattern:**

This class is neither a stunt nor a race. It is a competition in the performance and characteristics of a good, sensible, well-mannered ranch horse or pleasurable English mount. The horse should demonstrate free and easy movement and should give the impression of a pleasant, comfortable ride whether in the open country or over obstacles on the trail.

1. Conformation will not be judged.
2. Horses will be judged on:
  - a. Quality of gaits
  - b. Change of leads
  - c. Response to the rider
  - d. Manners
  - e. Disposition
3. Preference shall be given to complete flying lead changes performed midway between the markers throughout the course. This indicates the control of rider over horse.
4. It is suggested that in age divided classes, those 14 years and under not be penalized for simple lead changes (dropping down to a jog/trot between lead changes) instead of executing flying lead changes.
5. The judge has the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment that in his or her opinion would tend to give a horse or rider an unfair advantage.
6. Exhibitor Rules and Penalties:
  - a. Riders should use proper equitation per riding style (English or Western)
  - b. Spurs or romal reins may not be used forward of the cinch.
  - c. The rider's hands must be clear of the horse and saddle while the horse is in motion.

7. Penalties:
  - a. Losing a stirrup.
  - b. Touching any part of the saddle with free hand (Western).
  - c. Use of two hands on the reins or changing rein hands (Western senior horse).
  - d. Knocking down obstacles or markers.
8. Disqualification:
  - a. Breaking pattern.
  - b. The fall of either horse or rider. It is considered a fall when the horse's shoulder touches or the rider, come in contact with the ground.

### **English/Western Riding Pattern Set-Up:**

1. The use of a gate is optional, if a gate is used:
  - a. The short double line drawn on the pattern represents a swinging gate that upon entering the arena must put the rider in a position to open, pass through and close without dismounting.
  - b. The gate should be located in a convenient part of the arena where it will not interfere with the balance of the pattern.
  - c. Care should be used in selecting a gate that will not endanger the horse or rider.
2. The eight small dots represent the markers (barrels, kegs, cones). These should be separated by a uniform distance. The distance may be altered if the local arena conditions are too small for the following suggested distances; not less than 30 feet, no more than 50 feet.
3. The criss-cross rectangle represents an obstacle just enough to break the horse's stride when going over it (a small log is recommended).
4. The long and sometimes twisting line indicates the direction of travel.
5. Riding the Pattern:
  - a. Upon entering the arena, the exhibitor will put his or her horse through the gate (if present).
  - b. The exhibitor will proceed through the routine as indicated by the pattern.
  - c. Upon completion the exhibitor will ride to the judge if indicated.



- d. The judge may require an exhibitor to repeat or reverse any part of the pattern.
- e. This is a judged event, not a timed event.

### **Reining:**

To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reining horse should willfully be guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance.

#### *Scoring:*

1. The scoring will be based on zero to infinity, with a 70 denoting an average performance.
2. Scores will be announced after each horse works.
3. Any ties for first place will be worked off by using the same pattern and order of go as was used during the event.
4. A no score is not eligible to place, the following will result in a no score:
  - a. Use of illegal equipment, including wire on bits, bosals, or curb chains.
  - b. Use of illegal bits, bosals or curb chains.
  - c. Use of tack collars, tie downs or nose band.
  - d. Use of electric shockers, whips or bats.
  - e. Use of any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.
  - f. Failure to provide horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection.
  - g. Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor.
5. A score of zero is eligible to place, the following would result in a score of zero:
  - a. Use of more than an index or first finger between the reins.
  - b. Use of two hands or changing hands.
  - c. Improper use of romal.
  - d. Failure to complete the pattern as written.
  - e. Performing the maneuvers other than in a specified order.
  - f. The inclusion of maneuvers not specified.
  - g. Equipment failure that delays completion of the pattern.
  - h. Baulking or refusal of a command where the pattern is delayed.

- i. Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern or not.
- j. Jogging in excess of one-half the length of the arena while starting a circle, circling or executing a rollback.
- k. Over-spins of more than a ¼ turn.
- l. Use of free hand while holding the romal rein to alter the length or tension of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand.

*Penalties:*

1. Severity of deviation will determine amount of mark down.
2. All deviations from the exact written pattern is considered a lack of or temporary loss of control.
3. Any movement the horse executes on his own shows lack of control.

*Credits:*

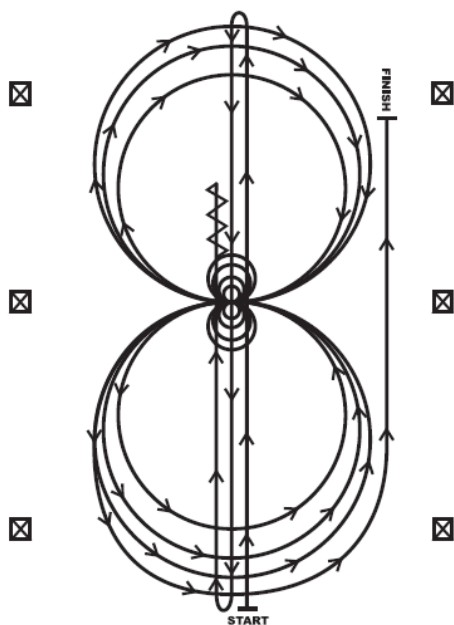
1. Smoothness of gait
2. Finesse
3. Attitude
4. Quickness and authority of performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed (which raises the level of difficulty and makes it more exciting to watch).

*Equipment:*

1. Any type of bit free of mechanical devices may be used.
2. Rope or leather bosals free of wire, iron or mechanical devices may be used.
3. Curb chains are permissible provided that:
  - a. They are at least ½" in width.
  - b. They are free of barbs, wire and/or twists.
  - c. They lay flat against the horse's jaw.
4. A rider may untangle excess rein where:
  - a. Excess rein may prevent rider from continuing the pattern.
  - b. Where rein excess can be straightened out without affecting the performance of the horse at an appropriate time in the pattern.
5. Use of the rider's free hand to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand while holding the romal end will result in a zero score.

*Riding the Pattern: **Insert updated pattern (11/2022)***

1. Run at speed to the far end of the arena past the end marker and do a left rollback—no hesitation.
2. Run to the opposite end of the arena past the end marker and do a right rollback—no hesitation.
3. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back up to center of the arena or at least ten feet (three meters). Hesitate.
4. Complete four spins to the right. Hesitate.
5. Complete four and one-quarter spins to the left so that horse is facing left wall or fence. Hesitate.
6. Beginning on the left lead, complete three circles to the left: the first circle large and fast; the second circle small and slow; the third circle large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
7. Complete three circles to the right: the first circle large and fast; the second circle small and slow; the third circle large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
8. Begin a large circle to the left but do not close this circle. Run straight up the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least twenty feet (six meters) from wall or fence. Hesitate to demonstrate the completion of the pattern.



## Points and Awards System

1. This points system applies to the Year-End All-Around High Point and the Year-End Individual Class High Points. Daily High Point may be tabulated at each show chairperson's discretion.
2. Points will be accumulated from the time NMAWHC dues are paid.
  - a) Grand Champion halter horse is to be given an additional 5 halter points, which will count toward year-end awards.
  - b) Reserve Champion halter horse is to be given an additional 3 halter points, which will count toward year-end awards.
- 3) Points will be awarded in all approved classes held at approved shows. Points will not be accumulated if class fees are not paid.
- 4) Placings shall be awarded the following points regardless of how many exhibitors are in each class. 1<sup>st</sup>= 6 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> = 5 points; 3<sup>rd</sup> = 4 points; 4<sup>th</sup>=3 points; 5<sup>th</sup>= 2 points; 6<sup>th</sup> = 1 point.
- 5) Year-end awards will be given in all NMAWHC optional classes that appear in at least four of the approved shows.
- 6) Should an association member sell their horse at any time during the show season to another association member in the same age group, the pleasure points on the horse only, will stay with the horse only, for year-end awards.
- 7) The age divisions recognized by this association shall be:
  - a) 13 & under
  - b) 14-18
  - c) 19 & over
  - d) Pee Wee 10 & Under
  - e) Walk/Trot 11-18
  - f) Walk/Trot 19 & over
- 8) Points for the current season are to be issued a minimum of three times per year.
- 9) At year's end, the total number of points accumulated at approved shows throughout the year shall determine the Grand and Reserve status. The following four places will be

labeled as third, fourth, fifth and sixth. In the case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given.

- 10) Horse points: points will be awarded to and accumulated on an individual horse in:
  - a) Halter
  - b) English and Western pleasure
  - c) Junior Horse
  - d) Senior Horse
  - e) Individual horse points may only be totaled and credited to each individual horse. Example: Becky rode English Pleasure on Pal/10 points, Sport/5 points, Buddy/1 point. Total year end points would be listed separately for each horse.
- 11) Year-End Points: Points will be awarded to and accumulated on the Horse/Rider in:
  - a) Showmanship
  - b) Equitation and Horsemanship
  - c) English Pleasure & Western Pleasure
  - d) Trail
  - e) Exhibitors are to declare the horse that they intend to accumulate year-end points. They must declare this horse at the beginning of the season. If, for any reason, they decide to change horses midseason, they have the option to re-declare this new horse. The first horses' points will remain separate from that of the second horse.
- 12) In order to accumulate points toward year-end awards, horses must be shown by a member of NMAWHC.
- 13) A person must show in any number of NMAWHC approved shows or additional classes to be eligible for a year-end award in that class with the exception of Lead line up to a total of eight shows.
- 14) ***A person must indicate on their registration form at the first show they attend if they wish to be entered into highpoint for awards and pay the additional fee as this is not automatic. (11/2022)***

## **Special Awards**

### **Sportsmanship Award:**

1. One sportsmanship award, per division, will be awarded at the year-end banquet.
2. Nominations shall be submitted by the general membership with final vote by the Board of Directors. In the case of a tie, each member involved will be honored with this award.
3. Must be a paid member NMAWHC.
4. Desirable qualifications are: a sense of fairness, consistently courteous, continually displays self-discipline, cheerful, considerate of others, accepts responsibilities while carrying out the objectives of NMAWHC.
5. Nominations must be accompanied by an example of the nominee's sportsmanship-like behavior.

### **Member of the Year:**

1. Chosen annually by the general membership. In the case of a tie, each member involved will be honored with this award. Nominations shall be submitted by the general membership with final vote by the Board of Directors. In the case of a tie, each member involved will be honored with this award.
2. Desirable qualifications are any member who has given consistently of his/her time and/or expertise in the fulfillment and furthering of the goals and objectives of NMAWHC.

### **Most Improved Rider:**

1. Most Improved Rider is any individual showing progress throughout the show season. Nominations shall be submitted by the general membership with final vote by the Board of Directors. In the case of a tie, each member involved will be honored with this award.
2. Desirable qualifications are: The rider has shown successive progress and improvement throughout the show season.

### **Best Show Parent/Groom of the Year:**

1. Nominations shall be submitted by the general membership with final vote by the Board of Directors. In the case of a tie, each member involved will be honored with this award.
2. Desirable qualifications are: any person who has aided another exhibitor and given of themselves so that the exhibitor could successfully participate in the show.

### **Youth Team**

#### **Qualifying & rules for the youth team:**

1. A Youth Team will consist of qualifying youth from the NMAWHC membership to represent the club at an All-Breed Open Horse Show that has teams. The determined show shall be approved by the board.
2. Any youth that is in good standing and participates in all NMAWHC Youth Team fundraising events can participate on the Youth Team.
3. Turn in all the necessary entry information by the deadline given for that year.
4. Youth must have a parent or relative come with them to the show.
5. A Youth Team, with permission from the board, may use a different horse for the designated Youth Team show.

#### **Funding For Youth Team Show:**

1. As Club funds allow and as the board approves, the club may pay for the stalls needed for the team and pay for the team captain's membership fee for the MHSA. The club will only pay for the members stall. Any other youth team stalls needed, i.e.; tack, dressing room stall, will be the responsibility of the Youth Team.
2. Any prize money won by the team will be given back to the NMAWHC.

3. The club will provide insurance coverage if needed for fundraisers for the team's expenses.

## **Educational Scholarship Fund**

### **Application:**

1. The Northern Michigan Association of Western Horse Clubs provides financial assistance to members through scholarships. Interested members must apply for scholarship funding by completing an application, which will be on the club's website at nmawhc.com.
2. Deadline for the application will be September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. The only applications accepted after September 1<sup>st</sup> are those postmarked on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>. All applications need to be sent to NMAWHC Educational Scholarship Fund, c/o NMAWHC, PO Box 4113, Traverse City, MI 49685.
3. We will not accept incomplete or late applications. Application procedures are listed on the scholarship application and should be followed.

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

1. Applicant must be a current member in good standing of NMAWHC. Previous recipients are not eligible to receive additional scholarship funding. Applicant can apply at any time but must be enrolled as a full-time student seeking a degree at an accredited college, university or vocational school at the time the scholarship is to be paid out.

### **Scholarship Funding:**

1. A scholarship of \$500.00 will be awarded to one recipient each year and paid to the college, university or vocational school they are attending.
2. All scholarship disbursements are subject to the NMAWHC board approval.
3. The NMAWHC board reserves the right to dissolve the scholarship fund. Upon being dissolved any money in the scholarship fund will be returned to the general budget.