



2025 Horse Show Rulebook

2025 Class fees are \$10 per class & \$15 per championship class!

No points will be awarded during the 2025 show season.

Definition of Divisions:

Adult Open In Hand: Open to all handlers aged 18 years and older, with no restrictions on the age or breed of horse, pony, or mini. Riding is not required. Open to all seats.

Youth Open In Hand: Open to handlers aged 17 years and under, with no restrictions on the age or breed of horse, pony, or mini. Riding is not required. Open to all seats.

Green Horse/Pony: Open to all seats. Open to “green” horses and ponies. A Green Horse/Pony has had little experience in the given division and is in their first or second year of showing, AND has not cantered/loped at any horse-related event that was judged or timed. To be shown at the walk, trot/jog. The horse cannot be cross-entered into any classes or divisions requiring the canter/lope. Horses showing in the Green Horse division may not canter/lope anywhere on the show grounds. Rider level/status does not count. WMRC does not deem a blue-ribbon limit in this division. Please use caution when having a youth rider on a green horse or pony. We do allow cross-entering from green to youth/ adult WT.

Adult Walk/Trot: Open to all seats. Open to riders 18 years and older who have not cantered/loped in the past three years on any horse at any horse-related event that was judged or timed. Rider cannot be cross-entered into any classes or divisions requiring the canter/lope, yet the horse may cross into a WTC class with a different rider! Riders showing in the Adult WT division may not canter/lope anywhere on the show grounds. Must be shown in tack and attire according to seat.

Youth Walk/Trot: Open to all seats. Open to riders 17 years old and under who have not cantered/loped on any horse at any horse-related event that was judged or timed. Riders showing in the Youth WT division may not canter/lope anywhere on the show grounds. The rider cannot be cross-entered into any classes or divisions requiring the canter/lope. Age is deemed as of January 1st of the current year. Pattern not required in Equitation, may be required to back. Must be shown in tack and attire according to seat. A Header may quietly enter the ring (by the small gate near the Announcer’s booth) during line up with no fault made to the exhibitor. The Header must be appropriately dressed to enter the show ring and over 18 years old.

Youth WTC: Open to all seats. Open to riders 17 years of age and under. WTC division. Riders cannot be cross-entered into any class or divisions that limit the rider’s abilities and status to WT. Age is deemed as of January 1st of the current year. Pattern not required in Equitation, may be required to back. Must be shown in tack and attire according to seat.

Saddle Seat: Saddle seat tack and full attire. ASTM/SEI approved fastened helmet is required if 18 or under. A full Bridle or Pelham bit with 2 reins is allowed.

Hunt Seat: You are required to show in English tack and full attire; braiding is not required. No boots, leg wraps, drop nosebands, or martingales are allowed. An ASTM/SEI-approved fastened helmet is required if you are 18 or under. You may be required to WTCG and back, depending on the class.

Stock Seat. They will be required to be shown in western tack and full attire. Chaps are not required. If shown in curb/ shank bit, must be ridden with 1 hand. Bosal is acceptable. Training snaffles can be ridden 2 handed on horses under 5 years old only. ASTM/SEI approved fastened helmet is required if 18 or under. You may be required to WJLG and back depending on the class.

Lead line: Open to all riders who cannot show unassisted (off of the lead line). There are no age limitations in this division. The supervising handler must have a “lead” attached to the equine at all times while the lead line rider is practicing or showing the horse while mounted. The handler must be at least 18 years old. Spotters are allowed. **No chains over or under the horse’s nose!** SPECIAL NEEDS RIDERS ARE WELCOME! Lead line riders may not cross-enter into any other divisions but may show in Model classes with a supervising handler in the ring with them. Riders do not have to show in full show attire, just neatly dressed for the riding style, and must wear an ASTM/SEI approved fastened helmet.. Handlers need to be in appropriate clothing to complement the rider. No tank tops, sandals, or shorts

Pony/Mini: Open to miniature horses 38 inches and under and any Pony under 14.2 HH. Open to Adult and Youth Handlers. Pony/Mini may cross-enter into other classes or divisions.

Class Specifications:

IN HAND:

Showmanship: Judged on the showmanship of the posted pattern. Shown with the equine in hand, standing, turning, backing, also at a walk and trot. Handlers should show the horse to the best of their ability; failure to read and not execute the pattern or course correctly will result in being marked as a fault by the judge. Patterns will be posted online and at the announcer’s booth. Lead liners are not permitted in Showmanship. This is not a confirmation class.

Open Showmanship Championship: Must have shown in a showmanship class to enter. The pattern will be posted online and at the announcer’s booth. Ribbons are awarded through 6th place.

Model: To be shown in hand and judged standing only. Judged on type, conformation, finish, and suitability as a mount to the seat shown. Some judges prefer your horse to stand like a “Breyer Model” during this class, being judged based on the perfect model of your horse’s breed/discipline, perky eyes and ears, feet squared, etc. All entries will walk in and line up head to tail. Exhibitors must have attire appropriate for the seat specified. Example: Stock-type exhibitor should be dressed in stock attire. Hunt-type exhibitors should be dressed in hunt attire. Lead Liners may show with an attendant.

3 & Under Halter: Open to horses and ponies three years of age and under as of January 1 of the current year. To be shown at a walk and trot on the line. To be judged on conformation, quality substance, and soundness. May not have more than two handlers.

Open Model Championship: Must have shown in a model class to enter. Ribbons are awarded through 6th place. Judged standing only.

EQUITATION:

Equitation Classes: To be judged on the rider's seat and hands; performance of the horse due to the rider's equitation. Additional testing at the Judge's discretion, however, exhibitors will not be asked to perform individual patterns.

PLEASURE:

Pleasure Classes: To be judged on manners, performance (to give a pleasurable ride), suitability of the equine for the rider, and quality. May be asked to back. Additional testing at the judge's discretion.

Pattern Classes: Judged on both the rider's abilities and the performance of the horse to be a team while executing a pattern. To be divided between WTC and WT Patterns will be posted before the show online as well as at the announcer's booth.

McKenna Caulder Memorial Class: Held only during the Friday show during the Lancaster Fair. There will be special ribbons awarded through 6th place. Presented by McKenna's family. This class will be divided into WT and WTC. All seats are welcome. **Come accented in Pink if you wish!**

ALL WALK TROT DIVISIONS:

****Walk trot horse/rider combinations are not permitted to canter anywhere on the show grounds.***

****Walk trot horse/rider combinations may not have competed or shown, at any Show, Gymkhana, or horse related events that requires a canter/lope or faster gait that has been judged or timed.***

****Any horse/rider combinations that are noncompliant with Walk Trot rules will be moved up to a higher division and will result in loss of all points.***

LEADLINE:

Lead line: Supervising handler must have a "lead" attached to the equine at all times while the lead line entry is practicing or showing the horse while mounted. The handler must be 18 years old. Lead line entries will be asked to use ½ of the ring, walk and trot one at a time as directed by the judge. SPECIAL NEEDS RIDERS WELCOME!! **No chains are permitted over or under the horse's nose.**

Lead line Halter: Lead line entry must be accompanied by a supervising handler. The handler is not required to have a "lead" on the horse IN THIS CLASS ONLY; however, if the supervising handler does have a "lead" on the horse, the exhibitor will not be penalized/marked down. Lead liners are not permitted in Showmanship but can enter Model classes. The exhibitor must be able to easily and safely handle the horse/ pony or mini. If they cannot, they will be excused. The supervising handler cannot handle the horse/pony or mini for the exhibitor.

DRIVING:

Open Pleasure Driving: Open to horses, drafts/ half drafts 14.2 HH and over. To be shown in an appropriate harness, and a 2 or 4 wheeled vehicle at a walk, pleasure trot, and extended trot. To be judged on manners, performance, and suitability. Must stand quietly and may be asked to back. One attendant without a whip will be permitted for each entry.

Pony/Mini Driving: Open to miniature horses and ponies 2 years of age and older and must be under 14.2hh. To be shown in an appropriate two or 4 wheeled cart and equipment. To be shown at a walk, trot, road trot, and/or extended trot both ways of the ring. May be asked to back.

COSTUME:

Costume Class: Exhibitors and their horses are judged on the originality and creativity of their costumes, with safety and the ability to move at a walk being paramount. Any costume that creates a hazardous situation will not be permitted to enter the ring. This class is walk-only. The horse and rider/handler should be walking at all times, not trotting or cantering. Lead line exhibitors may have an adult to accompany the exhibitor, regardless of whether the horse is led, ridden, or driven. Costumes should be appropriately themed and avoid profanity.

TRAIL:

Trail – In Hand Mini: Open to miniature horses. **This is an IN-HAND class.** Will be judged on the horse and handler's team's ability to negotiate trail obstacles. The trail course will be posted at the Announcer's booth and online.

Trail – In Hand Open: Open to ponies and horses, no minis. **This is an IN-HAND class.** Will be judged on the horse and handler's team's ability to negotiate trail obstacles. **You can cross enter into the mounted trail class if you wish.** The trail course will be posted at the Announcer's booth and online.

Open Trail Horse Horse or Pony: Open to ponies and horses, no minis. Will be judged on the horse and handler's team's ability to negotiate trail obstacles. **You can cross enter into the Trail – In Hand Open class if you wish.** The Trail Course will be posted at the Announcer's booth and online.

GAME CLASSES:

All Game Classes require appropriate tack for the seat being ridden. All saddles must have stirrups. Helmets are required for any rider under the age of 18. Optional body protection vest and horse protection equipment (i.e., leg wraps, boots, etc.) may be used. The gate will remain closed until the end of the class, unless due to a safety issue. When a rider is eliminated, they should go to the center of the ring. Two hands are permitted on the reins as well as holding onto the saddle.

Pairs Class – Ribbon Hold (Ribbon Relay): Two riders, forming a team, hold a ribbon suspended between them. The judge will instruct riders to walk, trot, canter, turn, and back around the ring. The last team still holding an unbroken ribbon will win the class ribbon. If the rider team does not perform the proper gait correctly, then the horse & rider team is eliminated. This is based on the honor system - If you know you're out, please play along, call yourself out, and go to the center of the ring.

Mint Julip (Water Cup Challenge): Riders are given a cup filled with water upon entering the ring. The judge will instruct riders to walk, trot, canter, turn, and back around the ring. The goal is to keep the most water in your cup. If a rider loses all the water in their cup, they go to the center of the ring. If the rider does not perform the proper gait correctly, then the horse & rider team is eliminated. This is based on the honor system - If you know you're out, please play along, call yourself out, and go to the center of the ring. When the whistle sounds, all riders with water still in their cup come to the center of the arena, and the rider with the most water still in their cup wins the class ribbon.

Sit-a-Buck: Riders enter the arena with a dollar bill. When cued, riders will place the dollar bill between their inner thigh and the horse's flank. The judge will instruct riders to walk, trot, canter, turn, and back around the ring. When a rider's dollar bill falls to the ground, they are eliminated from the game. If the rider does not perform the proper gait correctly, then the horse & rider team is eliminated. This is based on the honor system - If you know you're out, please play along, call yourself out, and go to the center of the ring. The last rider remaining with their dollar bill tucked in place wins the class ribbon.

GENERAL RULES:

1. Health Requirements:

- All horses must have a Copy of a Veterinary Certified Rabies Certificate – *Dated within 12 months of the show date.*
- Copy of Negative Coggins Test- Dated within 12 months of the show date, REQUIRED FOR OUT OF STATE HORSES.
- PETS: All other pets (dogs, cats, etc.) must have a current Veterinary Certified Rabies Certificate while on the fairgrounds. This may be requested. Tags do not count. All pets must remain on a leash while on the fairgrounds.

2. Waivers / Safety:

- All exhibitors, guardians, and trainers shall be responsible for a thorough knowledge of and compliance with the rules contained in this book. Situations not specifically covered by these rules shall be handled by the show officials in a manner that most closely follows the spirit of these rules. By signing the entry form you are acknowledging that you and anyone with you on show day will comply with the WMRC rulebook.
- ALL exhibitors under 18 years of age are required to wear an ASTM-approved helmet at all times while mounted or driving, including during warm-up. ANY RIDER violating helmet rules at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with requirements.
- Every horse on the show grounds must be entered, shown, and judged in at least 1 class. Every horse on the show grounds must have a signed entry form/release form on file with the Show Office upon entering the grounds.
- The Horse Show Entry form requires the signature of the owner of the horse. By the horse owner signing the Horse Show entry form, that said owner acknowledges the WMRC insurance/release statement while the horse is at a WMRC Horse Show.
- ALL Exhibitors (ridden or handlers) are required to have an Entry Form and Release of Liability on file with the Show Office to ride or handle a horse anywhere on the fairgrounds. Trainers are also required to have a Release of Liability on file with the Show Office to ride anywhere on the fairgrounds.
- Riding/practicing is not allowed in the draft horse ring, the pulling ring, or any other space not specifically designated for this use. Please respect the fairgrounds.
- WMRC reserves the right to split, eliminate, or combine classes due to the number of participants.
- ALL equines being shown under saddle must be at least 3 years old as of Jan. 1 of the current year.

- Riders' age and Equine age are considered as of January 1 of the current year.

3. Checks/Payments:

- All checks must be signed. Pre-entry blank checks must be signed when mailed in by the pre-entry date, or you will be charged the post-entry fee.
- **Each show must be paid for with a separate check, you may not pay for all shows with one check.**
- Post entries: A signed blank check or cash must be left with your entry; you will not be allowed to “come up and pay later”.
- There will be a return check fee of \$35.00. Any exhibitor who does not make restitution for the returned check amount and fee will no longer be allowed to show at any WMRC show without payment in full using cash or money order only in advance.
- If you pre-enter and are not able to make it to the show, your pre-entry check will be made out for \$15 for every scratched entry that was being held under your name, 3 days to submit a Dr note or Vet note for a refund of class fees only.
- Our horse shows run rain or shine. Announcements will be made if the show committee feels that weather conditions become unsafe.
- If you have entered classes and decide to leave before finishing out or starting the day, you will still be charged for your scratched classes.
- If you scratch the class, you still must pay for the class.
- If you have written out your check ahead of time (you do not have an open check), you may write out a new check before the show office closes. If you do not come up and fill out your blank check, it will be filled out with your show total by the office secretary.

4. Lancaster Fair Passes:

- Subject to change at any time due to changes made by the Lancaster Fair Association.
- The Lancaster Fair Association allows the WMRC a set number of 1-day gate passes for exhibitors that are ONLY showing at our Friday show. If you are registered to show at the Class A Horse Show you will not be receiving a gate pass from the WMRC.
- At the Main gate – (2) one day gate passes for each pre-entered horse/rider combination.
- These passes are to get you into the fairgrounds for the WMRC horse show; they will not get you on rides. You will not get passes if your entry is not received by the pre-entry date, and therefore you will have to pay to get into the fair with your horse trailer. **Lost Tickets will not be reissued.** Trucks with horse trailers enter at the Main Horse Show gate; those trucks drive to and park on the infield, and all other cars are to be parked in the designated parking areas.
- Your pre-entry check must be signed to receive fair passes.
- If you pre-enter with a blank check and are not able to make it to the show, your pre-entry check will be made out for \$15 for every scratched horse/rider entry that was being held under your name.

5. Stalls and/or Campers:

- Subject to change at any time due to changes made by the Lancaster Fair Association.
- Stalls are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- All stalls must be stripped and checked before leaving the fairgrounds. There will be a designated area for the manure pile.
- Day stalls will be available for \$20 per stall. There will be an additional \$20 cash deposit PER STALL required to be left at the show office and will be returned after the stall is completely stripped clean of bedding, hay and manure and checked. For the Fair Show, any horse that is not entered into the Class A show must vacate the stall by 10:00 pm on Friday. Any horse that is entered into the Class A show and has already paid for the weekend stall will not be charged by WMRC for Friday.
- Campers or Trailer Hook-ups are available for \$40. Camper hookups are limited to water and electricity only. The fairgrounds does not have sewer hookups.

6. **Showing out of your trailer:**

- You are required to bring manure, sawdust and hay to the designated manure pile or take it out with you.
- Please be aware of the heat/temperature when leaving your horse on a trailer, your trailer must have adequate ventilation or a/c, and your horse must have access to water.

7. **Keeping the Fairgrounds Clean:**

- All persons entering the fairgrounds should be courteous in cleaning up their trash in or around trucks, trailers, and stalls before leaving the grounds. Please be courteous in keeping the grandstand and bleachers clean.

8. **Pets:**

- Show management requires that all pets (i.e., dogs, cats, etc.) in and around the show grounds be restricted, at all times, on a leash to be held firmly in hand or firmly attached to a truck or trailer. The Show Committee reserves the right to remove from the show grounds and/or prohibit from future competitions any pet deemed to be a nuisance. Pets are not allowed in the grandstands and should be kept away from the show ring rail for safety purposes. Pets are NOT to be left in any vehicle. Please give your pet adequate shade and water.
- A current Vet Certified Rabies Certificate is required and may be requested.
- Clean up after your pet. Please do not walk the pet out of the horse show area of the fairgrounds.

9. **Exhibitor Conduct:**

- Exhibitors should conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Foul language is discouraged and is considered poor sportsmanship. Multiple complaints will result in dismissal from the showgrounds.
- All protests or complaints must be brought to the Secretary's booth and will be dealt with accordingly by the respective horse show committee members.
- If an exhibitor or a representative wishes to speak with the Judge, they must do so with permission and in the presence of the Show Secretary. Exhibitors may not speak with the Judge pertaining to their performances until the show has completed and pinned the last class of the day.
- The "Judge's" decision is final. The judges that the WMRC hires are all professional, carded judges.
- Cruelty to or the abuse of an equine by any person at a WMRC show is forbidden. The Judge and/or show management has the authority to dismiss from the class or show grounds any exhibitor for cruelty to or abuse of an equine. This also includes any warming up or training anywhere on the showgrounds. You will forfeit any and all class fees.

- Exhibitors may cross-enter divisions unless specified in the Definition of Divisions; however, if your horse shows any signs of exhaustion, lameness, or its health is being compromised, you will be excused by the Judge's discretion from the remainder of the show.
- Any questions regarding specific tack that is permissible in the show ring should be dealt with before the show starting or the session before your class. Last-minute requests are strongly discouraged, and you may not get an answer before your class.
- WMRC currently does not have any written rules regarding training equipment while warming up. However, our rules regarding cruelty apply to training or warming up on the showgrounds.
- Children on bikes must be respectful of the horses. Children must stay in the horse show/ upper area of the fairgrounds and be supervised at all times.

10. **Holds, Adds, Scratches:**

- Forms must be filled out and at the announcer's booth at least 2 classes before the class requiring a hold, add, or scratch. A form must be filled out and handed directly to the secretary. Verbal adds, holds, and scratch requests are not accepted.
- Post entries are charged a one-time \$10 fee per horse.

11. **Bandit fee:** Exhibitors who enter the ring into the incorrect class will be charged a \$5 Bandit fee for each offense. Exhibitors that enter the ring with the incorrect show number on will be charged a \$5 Bandit fee for each offense.

12. **Lost Number Fee:** We ask that you keep and reuse your show number for the entire season. If, during the season, you lose your number, you will be charged a \$2.00 fee for a new number.

13. **Patterns:**

- All patterns will be posted online as well as the morning of the show at the Announcer's booth.

14. **Attire and Tack:**

- ***Hunt Seat:*** Must be shown in proper Hunt, Dressage or English attire and tack; Shirt, hunt coat, breeches, and tall boots or paddock boots, black or brown half chaps are accepted, ASTM/SEI approved fastened helmet or Hunt cap (must be 18 or older to wear a hunt cap), Bridle with a proper fitting English bit, All-purpose/English/Hunt/Dressage/Endurance Saddle, breastplate if desired. Gloves if desired. Whip or spurs (non-roweled) are optional. NO training equipment of any kind will be permitted in the show ring – tie-downs, draw reins, martingales. Drop nosebands will be at the judge's discretion. Coats are required, but may be removed at the discretion of the judge.
- ***Stock Seat:*** Must be shown in proper Western attire and tack: Show ring suitable long-sleeved shirt and pants/or nice-looking jeans, chaps are not required, boots with a heel, cowboy hat or ASTM/SEI approved fastened helmet (Under 18 is required to wear a helmet when mounted), Bridle or properly fitting hackamore, Western saddle with or without horn, Australian saddles are allowed, breastplate if desired. Gloves if desired. Spurs optional. Snaffle bits with snaffle hobble may be ridden with two hands on horses under 5 years old or Green Horse. Any exhibitor riding or steering in a shank bit with a curb strap must only use ONE hand. NO training equipment of any kind will be permitted in the show ring – tie-downs, draw reins, training forks Non-mechanical Hackamores and Bosals allowed.

- ***Saddle Seat:*** Must be shown in proper Saddle seat attire and tack; Suits/or Day Coats, jodhpurs, Derby or ASTM/SEI approved fastened helmet (under 18 must wear a helmet when mounted, Full/Double Bridle (Curb and Bradoon or a Saddle seat Pelham is acceptable), proper English/Cutback saddle. Gloves if desired. Whip and/or spurs are optional. NO training equipment of any kind will be permitted in the show ring. Tails up and boots/wraps will be at the judge's discretion if muddy.
- ***Adult Open, Youth Open, Green Horse, Youth WT:*** All are expected to be in the appropriate attire for their respective suitability/seat.
- ***Youth & Adult WT:*** All are expected to be in the appropriate attire for their respective suitability/seat. An ASTM/SEI-approved fastened helmet and boots with a heel are required for youth.
- ***Lead line:*** Riders are not required to wear a complete show outfit but should be in suitable clothing for the show ring, also required to wear boots with a heel and an ASTM/SEI approved fastened helmet. The handler is to be in neat/clean show ring appropriate clothing and must have closed-toe shoes on. NO tank tops or shorts!
- ***Pony/Mini:*** The handler should be dressed in a neat, show ring or workmanlike attire, clean manner with suitable footwear. Equestrian or dress hats are acceptable.
- ***Model:*** The handler should be dressed in their respective seat attire; Handlers should exhibit a clean manner with suitable footwear. Equestrian or dress hats are acceptable.
- If you have any questions regarding the suitability of your tack, please contact us via email prior to show day.

15. **Contesting:** The books for each show are closed 2 weeks after each show date. Only an exhibitor or the exhibitor's parent/guardian may contest placings or fees. A written letter stating your dispute must be mailed or emailed to WMRC within the allotted time frame.

16. **Other:**

- Any equine that tends to kick should wear a red ribbon in its tail.
- Stallions: Handler must be 18 years of age to handle and/or enter a stallion at a WMRC Horse Show. Stallions must be kept in a stall or inside the trailer when not being shown.
- It is the exhibitors, parents/guardians, and trainers' responsibility to thoroughly read the WMRC rulebook and understand the rules, classes, and divisions into which they are entering.
- The show committee or the Judge may refer to other rule books for more clarification, such as 4-H, NEHC, and/or breeds if needed.
- The show office is not responsible for getting you into your class! We will make every effort to announce the class as they are entering the ring. If speaker audio fails, you will still be responsible for getting to your class on time.

17. **Disabilities:**

- Documented disabilities will not be penalized for reasonable accommodations requested to perform in a class and may receive modified testing if needed. **NOTE: Show Management must be notified before the start of the show!**

WMRC reserves the right to refer to the rules of NEHC, 4-H, and other major associations for clarification on rules and discrepancies. The Judge's decision will be final.

Any questions can be emailed to WMRChorseshow@gmail.com

Rulebook updated 5/13/2025