

# **MHC Rules 2020**

## **General Club Information:**

Age Divisions: (All riders ages are as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year)

Senior	19 & Over
Intermediate	10 – 18
Pee Wee	9 & Under

Any horse rider combination choosing to move up a division for competitive purposes must remain in that division for the balance of the year. Rider will forfeit all points accumulated to that point. No Cross Entry between divisions.

**Membership Fees:** (All membership fees are due January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and expire December 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year regardless of purchase date)

<b>Family*</b>	\$55.00
<b>Individual</b>	\$35.00
<b>Associate</b> (non riding)	\$10.00

\*Family memberships are only to include family members under the age of 25 residing at the same address, or financially supported by the primary holder of the family membership.

All MHC members participating in MHC activities must have current horse council membership or a \$1 million liability insurance policy and are required to provide proof of the same upon request.

MHC honours all current club membership, with proof of membership, to ride at MHC member rates, but will not accrue points toward year end awards, but are eligible for daily high point.

**Entry Fees:** (These fees apply to “regular season” shows. See MHC Schedule of Events)

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Non-Member</b>
Regular Shows		
Individual Day Rate	\$30.00	\$55.00
Per Class	\$6.00	\$10.00
Additional Horse	\$10.00	\$25.00
Family Members	\$40.00	N/A

Note: Entry fees as outlined with the exception of “per class” rates cover entries for the whole day (morning and afternoon classes). Any one choosing to ride only 1 discipline in a split show will still pay the day rate or may choose to pay a per class rate. Riders choosing to ride more than one horse or wishing to change horses for different disciplines must pay the second horse fee.

#### **MHC Points Structure:**

# Riders	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
1	2					
2	3	1				
3	4	2	1			
4	5	3	2	1		
5	6	4	3	2	1	
6 or more	7	5	4	3	2	1

#### **MHC General Rules:**

1. MHC rules supersede any and all other rules. In lieu of a MHC rule book rule, HCBC rules will apply. In lieu of an HCBC rule, the show committee decision will be final.
2. ASTM helmets (with affixed harness) must be worn by all riders 18 and under and by all riders performing over fences, at all times while mounted on MHC grounds. We strongly encourage and recommend that all riders wear helmets at all time while mounted.
3. MHC requires mandatory membership in Horse Council BC or proof of a minimum \$1 million liability insurance for all riders participating in any MHC activities. Copy of membership or liability insurance must be provided before applying for membership, or prior to participating in any MHC activities.
4. The number of shows held in each discipline will be determined by the current years executive.
5. Show officials shall consist of all show committee members or executive members present at any MHC function.
6. Horses and riders may be required to pass an inspection by the officials at any show or activity. The inspection shall apply to soundness, fitness, biting, equipment or dress codes. Failure to pass inspection may result in disqualification.
7. Competitors with a history of bad cheques or poor credit with MHC will be asked to pay all monies in cash.

#### **MHC Show Rules**

1. All competitors must abide by all MHC Rules. Violations may be penalized by disqualification, at the discretion of the show committee and/or executive. MHC rules apply to all events, show, etc. conducted by the MHC, and any important differences or changes pertaining to specific events will be made known in advance. In event of special shows, etc. Rules differing from MHC rules will be included in the in the prize list or program.
2. MHC show committee has the right to refuse entry.
3. Horse deemed visibly unfit to participate in any MHC show or function by the executive or show committee, may be disqualified from events.

4. Horses and riders may be required to pass an inspection by the officials at any show or activity. The inspection shall apply to soundness, fitness, biting, equipment or dress codes. Failure to pass inspection may result in disqualification.
5. If fewer than 3 riders (2 or less) enter any performance class, those riders will ride with the next age division, but will be judged and placed according to their age division, with the exception of walk/trot division. Walk/trot classes will run separately regardless of the number of riders.
6. In performance classes, anyone riding without their number will be excused. Anyone riding with their number reversed will be considered o'concourse and not be judged.
7. Anyone wishing to ride for schooling purposes, using schooling aids, may do so providing they have paid their entry fees, adhere to club rules and ride only in their applicable classes and age division. They must ride with their number reversed, and no placings, points or prize money will be awarded. This rule does not apply to the Pee Wee division where schooling equipment may be for the safety of the young rider.
8. No coaching from the sidelines.
9. Pee Wee division will canter at the discretion of the judge and show committee.
10. Leadline riders to be led by handlers 14 years of age or older unless otherwise approved by the show committee.

### **Points & Awards:**

1. There will be placings awarded to 6<sup>th</sup> place.
2. Shows/Classes will count for yearend awards when indicated in the show program.
3. High Point will be awarded separately for English, Western and Games.
4. Each assigned number covers one horse/rider combination. Points are to count separately for each horse/rider combination. Mid-season or required changes of horses may qualify to carry over their points in the event of the sale, soundness, accident or injury of a horse and is at the discretion of the executive.
5. A horse may be ridden by only two riders for each event of class per day, with the exception of leadline or riders approved by the show committee.
6. To qualify for yearend awards, horse rider combinations must participate in a minimum of two MHC points' shows of the same discipline.
7. To qualify for Yearend Awards you must log a minimum of 10 volunteer hours for an individual and 15 volunteer hours for a family in the current year. This may be done at either shows, MHC special events or fundraisers.
8. Walk/Trot Green Horse/Green Riders cannot cross enter into age division classes. Walk/Trot classes will run regardless of the number of riders.

### **Ground Rules:**

1. The driveway must be kept clear. All trailers must be parked in the back parking lot (or front upon instruction of the show committee) in an orderly manner, If parking directions are provided, they must be followed. All posted signs must be adhered to.
2. There is no smoking allowed in the bleachers, holding area or any other posted areas.
3. Anyone wishing to move a horse from the back parking lot to the road must use the walkway on the south side of the main arena. No horses are allowed between the posted signs on the driveway or near the concession building. Failure to comply may result in disqualification for the event.

4. No unauthorized persons are allowed in the show ring or in horse traffic areas.
5. All dogs must be kept on a leash and in control at all times while on MHC grounds. Dogs are not allowed in the holding area. MHC asks that all dog owners clean up after their pets.
6. Rude and/or offensive language or behaviour towards volunteers, the executive, or officials or treatment of a horse deemed to be abusive will result in automatic disqualification for the remainder of the day.
7. All riders must wear appropriate footwear and applicable helmet at all times while mounted on MHC grounds.
8. Riders may not leave their horses unattended (tied or otherwise) in the holding area.
9. Anyone found to be impaired by drugs or alcohol will be disqualified for the day or asked to leave the MHC grounds.
10. The Showbooth is for show officials only and loitering by spectators, competitors, or volunteers is not permitted.
11. Priority for parking in the back lot is for vehicles attached to trailers, unattached vehicles may only be in the back lot if you are showing and have tack ect. in your vehicle, and must move to the front lot, at the request of the show committee, if the parking space is required for trailers.

### **Arena Rules:**

1. Riders travelling in opposite directions are to pass left hand to left hand.
2. Slower working horses are asked to yield the rail. Avoid halting or standing while on the rail.
3. Exhibitors should take turns while warming up over fences or around barrels or other equipment. Riders must make sure their path is clear and will remain clear and make their intentions known to all other riders while using such equipment.
4. All instructions from MHC officials or volunteers must be quickly and quietly followed
5. Stallions may only be handled or ridden by someone 19 and older. Unmanageable stallions will be excused. Stallions must wear a blue ribbon in their tail.
6. Horses known as kickers must wear a red ribbon prominently displayed in their tail, and be kept away from other horses. Green horses or horses new to the show ring must display a green ribbon in their tail. Exhibitors are asked to make all efforts to leave at least 5 horse lengths behind and beside any horse with a ribbon displayed in their tail, regardless of colour.
7. No lunging in the main arena, without permission from the show committee and must clear the arena 30 mins prior to the start of the show.

### **Holding Area Rules:**

1. The whipper-in's instructions must be quickly followed.
2. All people in the holding area must have proper foot attire, both riders and helpers.
3. Exhibitors must keep the in and out gates clear at all times.
4. Exhibitors must keep their horses at a walk in the holding area and parking lot at all times unless otherwise instructed by the show committee.
5. There is to be no unattended horses in the holding area.
6. Riders are allowed to sit on their horses in the covered holding area if they are fully tacked and the rider is wearing all applicable safety footwear and headwear.
7. A Senior may be put in charge of the holding area and all exhibitors are responsible for their horses at all times.

8. It is the responsibility of the competitor to be ready on time, and to report to the Whipper-In or holding area before their class enters the ring. If a competitor arrives too late to enter, they forfeit that class and no refund will be given. Gate holds are a privilege and are only available on reasonable request.
9. Children under the age of 12 who are not exhibiting horses that day are not permitted in the holding area unless supervised by an adult.
10. Dogs are not allowed in the holding area.
11. Spectators are asked to use the grandstands for viewing – Please leave the holding area for riders and grooms.

### **Protest Procedures:**

1. All competitors must abide by all MHC rules or risk disqualification (at the discretion of the show committee)
2. There will be no refund of entry fees if a rider is disqualified for any reason.
3. All requests for refunds of entry fees must be submitted in writing to the executive within 48 hours of the competition where the complaint arose. No refunds will be issued on show day.
4. Any complaint or objections to circumstances at a show must be brought to the attention of show officials. Such grievances shall not be discussed in the ring. The discussion of the show officials is final.
5. Protests concerning violations may be given, in writing to the show committee within 48 hours of the time of the said violation occurs, accompanied with a protest deposit of \$100.00. The show management will accept all suitably filed protests. If the protest is upheld the \$100.00 will be returned to the protestor. If the protest is not upheld, the \$100.00 is forfeited to MHC. If the protestor is still dissatisfied, they may appeal to the executive. In this case the protest, the decision of the executive is final.

### **Judging:**

1. There shall be no discrimination against any type, quality or breed of any horse.
2. Under no circumstances should spectators, volunteers or riders converse with or disturb the judge while he or she is judging.
3. A judge shall not be an exhibitor, rider, driver steward or manager at any show which they are officiating, with the exception of Games shows where a rider representative may be appointed to hand time or watch for riders off course in a pattern.
4. A judge shall not adjudicate in any class in which a family member is competing.
5. A judge shall not discuss the purchase or sale of any horse during a show in which they are officiating.

### **Division Descriptions:**

**Junior Horse:** Horses 5 years old or younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Junior horses may be ridden in a regulation Western snaffle or bosal in all Western Pleasure classes. If a shanked snaffle is used, with split reins, the reins must be held in one hand with a index finger between them. Riders may not change hands. If Romel reins are used, no finger is permitted between the reins.

**Senior Horse:** A horse or pony over 6 years old as of January 1<sup>st</sup> Senior horses must compete in a Western style bridle and Western shanked bit with leather split or Romel type reins, and be ridden with one hand.

**Horse Types:**

**Stock** – Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, Paints, and similar types

**Hunter** – Thoroughbreds, Warmbloods, and similar types

**Saddle** – Saddlebreds, Morgans, and similar types

**Pleasure** – Arabians and similar types

**Draft** – Clydesdale, Percheron, Andalusian, Halflinger, Canadian, Belgian, Friesian and similar types

\*In cases of cross breed or if the breeding is unknown, the show committee will determine in which type of class the horse most closely resembles and the exhibitor may enter the appropriate class

1. Horse Colour: Classes divided by colour refer to the appearance of the horse, not by any applicable registration.
2. Novice Horse: Horse which has not won three first place ribbons at any show or play day.
3. Green Horse: A horse of any age that does not have show ring experience. A green ribbon should be worn in the tail in such case.
4. Walk/Trot: Horses are horses that are not cantering or loping and may not cross enter into age division classes where canter is required.
5. Open Class: A Class that is open to horses of any age or type or riders of any age.
6. No Cross Entry: Rider will pick one class in the class type that they are suited to ride in and are not allowed to ride in the same class in any other division. Any horse rider combination that chooses to move up a division for competitive purposes must remain in that division for the balance of the year. Rider will forfeit all points accumulated to that point. A rider may move up a division for one or more disciplines.

**Biting Discriptions:**

**1. Western Shanked Bit:**

- A solid or broken mouthpiece that has shanks and acts as leverage. Free if mechanical device and is 8½ "(215mm) maximum length shaft to be measured. Shanks may be loose or fixed.
- They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs on solid mouthpiece.
- The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three piece, connecting ring of 1" to 1¼" (25mm to 32mm) or less in diameter, or connecting ring of 1¼" (32mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar mouthpiece of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20mm) measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2" (50mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.
- The port must be no higher than 3½" (90mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half breeds and spades are standard.

**2. English Snaffle:**

- Snaffles include the conventional: O Ring, Egg Butt: D Ring: Full Cheek etc. with a ring no larger than 4" (100mm)

- The inside circumference of the erring must be free of attachments which would provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval, or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped.
- The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" (8mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25mm) in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle.
- The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three piece, connecting ring of 1" to 1 1/4" (25mm to 32mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20mm) measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2" (50mm) which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.

### **3. Western Snaffle:**

- Snaffles include any single jointed, O-Ring snaffle bit that does not have any appointments for gaining leverage. (i.e. : ports, cathedrals, thumbs, shanks, curb straps ect.)
- The inside circumference of the ring must be free of attachments that would provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval, egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped.
- The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" (8mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25mm) in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle.
- Western snaffles must have a chin strap connected below the reins.

### **4. Hackamore:**

- Refers to the use of a braided rawhide or leather bosal (noseband) which is used in lieu of a regulation bit. It does not refer to a mechanical hackamore.
- There must be a minimum of 2 fingers (approximately 1 1/2") between the bosal and the nose, and absolutely no metal under the jaw or on the noseband or in connection with the noseband.
- The hackamore core must be made entirely of rawhide and not weighted in any fashion. Hackamores may be subject to inspection by show officials at any time.

## **English Performance Section**

### **English Tack:**

1. Braiding and banding are optional
2. Whips if permitted ( see specific class description) must be no longer than 30" or 75cm from the top of the handle to the end of the tassel and un-weighted.
3. Leather bridles with only regular cavessons may be double, Pelham, single (snaffle) or Kimberwick type. (Pelham converters are only permitted for PeeWee competitors) No gags or elevator bits.
4. Plain cavessons/nosebands are allowed in all classes.
5. Saddles should be plain English, Dressage, or modified jumping types. Extreme forward seat is not recommended for flat performance classes.

6. Protective equipment ( e.g. boots and bandages are not permitted except in Jumper classes or schooling classes if indicated.
7. Schooling equipment is not permitted except for schooling classes when indicated or to insure the safety of a PeeWee rider.
8. No slip on spurs allowed or spurs longer than 2" (5cm). If spurs are roweled, rowels must be free spinning and smooth.
  - Please see more class specific rules regarding tack and attire for Equitation, Hack and Hunter
  - Riders are subject to inspection by MHC Show Officials at any time.

### **English Apparel:**

1. Competitors should be neatly attired in a riding coat or other tidy suitable attire. ASTM helmet with harness, shirt (with long or short sleeves) tie choker or stock, breeches, or jodhpurs, and boots with a least a 1" heel. (Please note in the event of hot weather the show committee may give permission to remove jackets or sweaters. In this event riders are required to wear a long sleeved riding shirt).
  2. ASTM helmets with permanently affixed harness must be worn by all riders at all times while mounted.
  3. Half chaps, if worn, must be a conservative dark colour (brown or black)
  4. Spurs if worn must be no longer than 2" (5cm). No slip on spurs allowed or spurs longer than 2" (5cm) If spurs are roweled, rowels must be free spinning and smooth.
  5. Gloves are optional.
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