2019 Las Vegas Open Mustang and Burro Show

RULES & REGULATIONS

Not adhering to the Regulations and Competition Rules listed in this document may result in disqualification from current and/or future American Competitive Mustang Club (ACMC) competitions and programs.

REGULATIONS: Participation in this event is by application only; therefore, ACMC and Competition Host(s) has the right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from an ACMC program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.

1. Youth are ages 5-17 on the day of the show. Youth can participate in any class.

1. The purpose of this event is to showcase the talent and trainability of Mustangs and burros and to provide an opportunity for trainers and their animals to engage in safe competition for prize money and/or awards. Therefore, all animals entered into the competition should be gentle and safe to maneuver through the show grounds. Upon entry onto the show grounds, should an animal be deemed unsafe by ACMC and/or Competition Host(s), that animal may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.
2. Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing Mustang and burro freezemarks will be verifed by a ACMC or Competition Host(s) representative to determine the horse’s eligibility. For legibility reasons, the trainer may need to shave the hair around the freezemark ahead of time. Only the following animals without a freezemark may compete: wild conceived but captive born animal or a US Forrestry animal. Please provide supporting documentation for these animals. Absolutely NO domestic bred animals can compete.
3. Upon entry onto the show grounds, all exhibitors must provide a current Health Certifcate and Negative Coggins paperwork for their animals.
4. Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing Mustangs will be examined by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual to determine the health and condition of the horse. Should a Mustang be deemed in poor condition by a veterinarian OR by a knowledgeable individual that Mustang may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.
5. Stall Shavings will not be provided. You will be responsible for all stall rental fees and shavings.

10. Competitors are responsible for renting tack stalls if needed.

11. Competitors are not allowed to place locks on stalls containing an animal (paid tack stalls allowed).

12. Competitors are required to arrange for their own housing during the competition. If staying at the show grounds you MUST rent an RV space (they are limited, first come first serve basis). There are local hotels with room reservation blocks at special rate for competitors. Info provided on the Facebook group.

13. All participants must complete and submit the entry form by October 1st, 2019 for pre registration and discounted entry fees. No entries the day of the show. Entry must be received by October 20th, 2019. No refunds will be issued for any reason, however, you can change animals if needed.

1. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing all tack, feed, water buckets and supplies needed during the competition. Shavings will be available for purchase on site.
2. Competition Host(s) reserve the right to change classes or cancel show based on entries, weather, etc.
3. Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and humane in the treatment of Mustangs and burros, such as to promote the implementation of the event and fair competition. This includes, but is not limited to: conduct while trainers have Mustangs in their possession; conduct on the show grounds; conduct while trainers are wearing TIP Challenge or Open Show logo or ACMC logo on or off the show grounds; and includes the conduct of individuals traveling with trainers, spectators or event managers and all other persons being present on show grounds. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and inhumane treatment of horses are prohibited and shall be grounds for the disciplinary action against offending individuals. Further, event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to preserve the decorum of the show.

COMPETITION RULES:

1. STEWARDS: ACMC and/or Competition Host(s) may (at any event) designate one or more individuals as a Steward to support the efforts of show officials. The Steward’s responsibilities may include but are not limited to: 1) Monitor show-grounds for any inhumane treatment of animals and unsportsmanlike conduct; 2) Investigate complaints and issue warnings; and 3) Assist show officials and trustees in any capacity.
2. The judge or steward may prohibit or mark down points for the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage. AQHA, USDF and WDAA rules are resources for preferred equipment.
3. Western mustangs may be shown with two hands in a snaffle bit or bosal. Showing a western mustang with two hands when using a western curb or shank-type bit is strongly discouraged during any point of the competition (including the freestyles) and will result in an automatic 10 point deduction per judge.
4. Training aides (whips, sticks, treats, martingales, the tail end of lead rope, etc.) will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown with the use of training aides will be judged accordingly. Any excessive use of a training aid (including striking the horse) will result in an automatic 10 point deduction from each judge in that class.
5. Excessive spurring or jerking on the reins or lead line during the competition will result in an automatic 10-point deduction from each judge off the overall class score.
6. No person shall alter, change or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, powder or in any other manner. Trainers may clip/trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural. Use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail are prohibited during competition (except the freestyle classes) and will result in an automatic 10 point deduction from each judge off the overall class score. Costume-related tail/mane decorations will be allowed during the freestyle performance. Alteration of tail function (tail blocking, dead tails, etc.) is prohibited at any and all points during the competition and will result in disqualification.
7. Drugs: No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang, either before or during any ACMC competition or adoption. Any medication, drug, mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect or enhance the Mustang’s performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. If a Mustang is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the event manager as to the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount. THE MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO NOT ALLOW AN ANIMAL ON MEDICATION TO COMPETE. THE MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY ANIMAL IN THE COMPETITION. Positive tests will result in removal from the event, removal of reimbursement and prize money. In regard to herbal/natural supplements, trainers are cautioned against the use of medicinal preparations, tonics, pastes and products of any kind, the ingredients and quantitative analysis of which are not specifically known, as many of them may contain a forbidden substance.
8. Any class ties will be broken by the score from a pre-determined element in the class. The tie-breaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. The tie-breaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.



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**CLASS DESCRIPTION & SCORING:**

**INHAND CLASSES-** (may cross-enter into any class if meets age requirements)

**In Hand Trail**- a set pattern will be given on a set of obstacles that may include: bridge, poles, opening and closing gates, tying, backing, side passing, dragging, pivots, loading on a trailer and other spooky type obstacles. Judged on the confidence and poise of the handler as well as the precision and completion of maneuvers in a timely manner. Judges may ask exhibitor to move to next obstacle for excessive time at a particular obstacle. Judged on the ability to assess the horse and work through skills on the fly. Competitors will enter one at a time and complete the pattern.

**In Hand Pattern**- shows the judge your horse handling skills and safety. Handlers will be asked to perform some of the following skills with their horse: lunging, leading, catching, picking up feet, brushing, disengagement of hips and shoulders, backing horse, trotting, etc. A pattern will be provided before the event. Competitors will enter one at a time and complete the pattern.

**In Hand Freestyle**- anything goes as long as it is in hand! See freestyle rules below for more details. There will be absolutely no standing or sitting on in-hand animals by the handler.

**WALK/TROT CLASSES**- (may cross enter into any other class)

\*The terms “Jog” and “Trot” may be used interchangeably in the descriptions below. When riding Western, horses are expected to Jog: meaning a slower, more collected and cadenced 2 beat gait. When riding English, horses are expected to trot: meaning a brisker, more extended and cadenced 2 beat gait.

**Walk/Trot Trail -** a set pattern will be given on a set of obstacles that may include: walking, trotting, bridge, poles, loading in a trailer, ground tying, backing, side passing, pivots, and other spooky type obstacles, mounting, dismounting, bridling and unbridling, opening mail box, gate, drag, etc. Judged on the confidence and poise of the handler as well as the precision and completion of maneuvers in a timely manner. Judges reserve the right to ask an exhibitor to pass on an obstacle taking too much time. Can be shown Western or English tack. Rider should be in clean and presentable Western or English Attire.

**Walk/Trot Dressage**: Use Western Dressage (WDAA) Intro Test 2 and USDF Training Test B for this class. Patterns included at end of these rules. Appropriate Western or English attire must be worn by mustang and exhibitor.

**Walk/Trot Freestyle**- anything goes! Judged on creativity, overall difficulty and number of maneuvers completed successfully. Participants can do anything they want except for lope. See freestyle rules for more details.

**WALK/TROT/CANTER CLASSES (may cross enter into any other class)**

\*The terms “Jog” and “Trot” may be used interchangeably in the descriptions below. When riding Western, horses are expected to Jog: meaning a slower, more collected and cadenced 2 beat gait. When riding English, horses are expected to trot: meaning a brisker, more extended and cadenced 2 beat gait. The terms “lope” and “canter” may be used interchangeably in the descriptions below. When riding Western, horses are expected to lope: meaning a slower, more collected and cadenced 3 beat gait. When riding English, horses are expected to canter: meaning a brisker, more extended and cadenced 3 beat gait.

**Walk/Trot/Canter Trail**- a set pattern will be given on a set of obstacles that may include: walking, trotting, cantering, bridge, poles, loading in a trailer, ground tying, backing, side passing, pivots, mailbox, drag and other spooky type obstacles. Judged on the confidence and poise of the handler as well as the precision and completion of maneuvers in a timely manner. Judges reserved the right to ask exhibitor to pass an obstacle if taking too long. Can be shown Western or English tack. Rider should be in clean and presentable Western or English Attire.

**Walk/Trot/Canter Dressage**: Use Western Dressage (WDAA) Basic Test 2 and USDF Training Test 2 for this class. Patterns can be found on 2019 Las Vegas TIP Challenge Facebook group “files” tab and [www.northatlantaequestrian.com](http://www.northatlantaequestrian.com). Appropriate Western or English attire must be worn by mustang and exhibitor.

**Hunter (Jumpers)** – will be shown over a full hunter type course of fences 2’-2’6”. Any attire/tack may be used that follow the rules set forth here.

**Walk/Trot/Canter Freestyle**- anything goes! Judged on creativity and overall difficulty. Participants and do anything they want. See freestyle rules for more details.

**Ranch Riding**- Will follow AQHA rules Ranch Riding Pattern 3. Judged on the overall calmness, movement and responsiveness of the horse as well as the rider’s equitation and ability to guide the horse through the class. Will take place in an arena. This is a western class and riders should be in western attire with western tack.

**BURROS:** Burros are open to any BLM branded burro or offspring conceived in the wild. Burros over the age of 2 may be ridden or pull a cart if desired. All burros are allowed to have a saddle or pack on during classes if desired. Burros may compete in all classes per guidelines and rules same as a horse.

**FREESTYLE RULES**:

For the freestyle performance, exhibitors will have 3 minutes to stage or set the arena. Exhibitor must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up and tear down - it is the exhibitor's responsibility to make sure all props are cleared from the arena immediately following the conclusion of the freestyle performance, including hay, confetti, etc.

1. All props must be freestanding. Nothing may be driven into the ground (i.e. rebar, stakes, etc.), and doing so will result in disqualification.
2. Exhibitors may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle performance.
3. Props of pyrotechnic nature including fireworks, flares, firecrackers, rings of fire, etc. are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
4. Shooting will not be allowed. Cap guns are ok.
5. Exhibitors will have 3 minutes to complete their freestyle performance – music and time will start simultaneously when the exhibitor and/or animal enters the arena. Live "voice-overs" and/or commentary from the exhibitor and/or exhibitor representative are not allowed during the performance and will result in disqualification.
6. Music is a required component of the freestyle performance – if the exhibitor does not turn in music prior to competition start, management may select music for him/her. Music must be submitted as one single track either on a CD or as an .mp3 file on a flash drive.
7. Cattle will not be provided or allowed during the freestyle performance.
8. Other animals (dogs, additional horses, etc.) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the freestyle performance for any reason and will result in disqualification. Other people (including children) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the freestyle performance for any reason other than to drive a vehicle to be used during the performance. If someone other than the exhibitor is driving a vehicle in the performance none of the occupants of the vehicle will be allowed to exit the vehicle while in the arena and the windows must be rolled up at all times (the vehicle, if driven by someone other than the exhibitor, must be closed-cab; gators, golf carts, ATV’s, etc. will not be allowed and will result in disqualification). Other people are NOT allowed to act as props, ride or come in contact with the animal at any point during the performance and will result in disqualification. Other people may hand props to the trainer from outside the arena. Animals are not allowed to trot or lope onto or into any moving or covered vehicles/trailers/props of any kind and will result in disqualification.
9. Mustangs/burros are not allowed to trot or lope through any moving vehicles/trailers/props of any kind and will result in disqualification.
10. The exhibitor is NOT allowed to stand, kneel, etc. on top of an animal that does not have all four feet on the arena floor and doing so will result in disqualification OR cannot stand on or ride any animals less that 3 years old.
11. Exhibitors must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance – bare feet are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
12. Judges, Competition Host(s) and/or ACMC staff may stop any performance deemed unsafe, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate.
13. Ties will be broken by the WOW factor score. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. Management reserves the right to use a “ride off” as a tie breaker for first place.
14. All items/props are subject to final review and approval by event manager.
15. Freestyle will be scored on the following:  Overall horsemanship/handling;  Communication/partnership between horse and rider and the horse’s overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner. Incorporation of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty. These maneuvers could include side-pass, two tracking either direction, pulling and/or dragging, jumping, serpentines, rollbacks, roping, lead changes, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, spins, etc. Components of  Choreography; the composition and arrangement of the ride in relation to the music and its rhythm, as well as the use of maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance,  The “WOW” Factor – level of originality and the overall entertainment value, including costume.