

Mustang Open 2020

PURPOSE: The mission of this event is to increase the adoption of BLM-housed American Mustangs through innovative gentling competitions and awareness programs. In keeping with this mission to promote adoption by showcasing the Mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

1. Upon entry onto the show grounds, all trainers must provide a current Health Certificate and Coggins paperwork for all competing horses. A Mustang deemed in poor condition by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual that Mustang may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.
2. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing all tack, feed and supplies needed during the competition.
3. An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practices.
4. Competition schedule to be announced.
5. **Conduct:** Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and humane in the treatment of Mustangs, 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 Georgia Open logo wear 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.
6. **Mustang Heritage Foundation Humane Treatment Policy:** Every Mustang and all animals shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any participant using abusive or excessive training techniques or being inhumane to a Mustang in his/her care (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Georgia Open and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. If a participant's horse enters the contest or if the trainer/participant at any time presents a horse with questionable training/care related injuries (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Georgia Open and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) the participant may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. This policy is in addition to our event rules which are stated above. The following list, while in no way exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behavior and training techniques: • No horse that appears to be emaciated, drawn or injured may be exhibited. • Use of inhumane training techniques or

methods such as striking horses with objects, excessive spurring and/or excessive jerking of reins. • Any inhumane treatment that results in wounds.

COMPETITION RULES:

1. STEWARDS: The Georgia Open 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:

Monitor show grounds for any inhumane treatment of horses and unsportsmanlike conduct;
2) Investigate complaints and issue warnings; and 3) Assist show officials and trustees in any capacity.

2. Trainers must fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.

3. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles and equipment. Exhibitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear, which reflects the style of their riding. Silver on your saddles or sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.

4. The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage.

5. Training aides (whips, sticks, treats, 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.

6. 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.

7. Wearing guns (real or toy) in any arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks may be allowed during the competition with prior permission.

8. Drugs: No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang, either before or during the Georgia Open competition. 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 Georgia Open event manager as to the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount. THE GEORGIA OPEN MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG 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.

9. Trainers will be given specific competition patterns at the event. Liberty Classes: **Novice** - Pattern may be completed with horse on a lead line includes walk, trot, halt, back, small and large circles. **Intermediate** - Liberty horse may include walk, trot, halt, back, small and large circles. **Advanced** – Liberty horse may include trot, canter, halt, side pass, back 90 degree turns, lay down, small and large circles.

10. For the freestyle performance, trainers will have three minutes to stage or set the arena.

11. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up and tear down - it is the trainer's responsibility to make sure all props are cleared from the arena immediately following the conclusion of the freestyle performance, including hay, confetti, etc. Not completely clearing the arena of debris will result in a no score for the freestyle.

12. All props must be freestanding. Nothing may be driven into the ground (i.e. rebar, stakes, etc.), and doing so will result in a no score for the freestyle.

13. Trainers may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle performance, however the promotion logo/statement must be no larger than 12 inches by 24 inches.

14. Props of pyrotechnic nature including fireworks, flares, firecrackers, rings of fire, etc. are allowed with prior permission.

15. Wearing guns (real or toy) in any arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks is allowed during the competition with prior permission.

16. Trainers will have 3.5 minutes to complete their freestyle performance. The music and time will start simultaneously when the trainer or horse enters the arena, whichever comes first. It is the trainer's responsibility to ensure Georgia Open staff is aware of which is entering first (horse or rider), so that the time and music can be started appropriately. Failure to do so will result in a no score for the freestyle.

17. Music is a required component of the freestyle performance – if the trainer does not turn in music during the finalists' meeting at the event, management may select music for him/her. Music must be submitted as one single track (GO staff will not transition from one track to another during the performance or merge music files for a competitor) as an mp3 file. Music will not be played from a phone or any other device. The music file will be downloaded into our music system. All music is subject to review and approval by GO staff. If the trainer does not pick up their flash drive following the freestyle, GO will discard it at the end of the event.

18. Cattle will NOT be provided for use in the freestyle finals.

19. Other animals (dogs, additional horses, additional cattle, etc.) WILL be allowed in the arena during the final's performance.

20. Other people (including children) WILL be allowed in the arena during the final's performance.
21. A rider mounted on their mustang is not allowed to trot or lope onto or into any moving or covered vehicles/trailers/props of any kind and will result in disqualification.
22. Mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope through any moving vehicles/trailers/props of any kind and will result in disqualification.
23. Trainers must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance – bare feet are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
24. Judges and/or GO staff may stop any performance deemed unsafe, dangerous, or otherwise inappropriate.
25. Payment of all earned money will be issued within 10 business days of the event conclusion

For more information on the Georgia Open Event, please call Rebecca Bowman (859) 489-8141.