

RULES for SHOWING and JUDGING CRITERIA

The following procedure and criteria apply to all classes, with the exception of special classes, for which the different procedure and criteria is so stated.

Any, show which issues its prize list and begins its show before March 1st shall be governed entirely by the previous Rule Book with amendments.

All entries should be presented clean, neatly trimmed, and in good flesh presenting a healthy appearance.

Each entry should be outfitted in clean and appropriate tack. The Exhibitor of each entry should be neat in appearance, and be attired in properly fitting riding attire.

Conformation:

1. In general appearance, the Gaited Mule should have an intelligent look, neat head, well-shaped and pointed ears, clear and alert eyes, and a tapered muzzle.
2. The neck should be long and graceful and the shoulders muscular and well sloped.
3. The back should be short with good coupling at the loins.
4. The mule should be deep in the girth and well ribbed and the chest should be of good proportion and width.
5. The croup should be generally sloping and the hips well muscled with muscular development extending down toward the hocks.

Judging/Show Ring Procedure:

Mules shall enter the ring and proceed to the right at the Show Walk and shall continue at the Show Walk until returning to the entry/exit gate.

After the class is closed, the Judge shall call for performance gaits.

When it is found that a class is being delayed by mules not being ready to perform, the entrance gate may be closed at the order of the Judge(s) or Show Chairman, provided warning is issued and Exhibitors are given 3 minutes in which to appear at the entrance gate ready to participate.

Judging shall not commence until the gate is closed or at the end of the three-minute call. An official timer must be appointed to enforce this rule.

Entrance gate to show ring will be closed when the Judge calls for the first gait, and no entry shall be admitted into the ring after the gate is closed.

Gaits:

1. The Show Walk is a smooth easy four beat gait, smooth backend, with the mule under control, and the head set.
2. The Show Gait or the Favorite Gait has an increase in speed from the Show Walk with the mule still under control with the head set.

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3. A threat to other Exhibitors or, by its behavior offers an obstacle to other Exhibitors (includes mules rearing, balking, kicking, running away, or leaving the ring) it must be excused.

Bits with shanks over 9 ½ and gag bits without shanks are prohibited and mule must be excused.

Any Exhibitor who, in the opinion of the Judge, abuses an entry with a whip or other instruments shall be excused.

No mule may be shown before a Judge that has been sold by said Judge or by his/her employer within a period of 90 days prior to the show.

No mule may be shown before a Judge that has been boarded, owned, trained, or shown by said Judge within a period of 90 days prior to the show.

No mule for which a Judge has acted in the capacity of agent, and/or has collected a commission as the result of a sale, may be shown before the Judge within a period of 90 days prior to the show.

Gingering of tails is prohibited and any mule suspected of having a gingered tail will be excused.

In the judging of a class, a Judge makes the final decision (on possible rule violations) as whether to excuse a mule or permit it to remain in the class.

All mules shown must be serviceably sound and must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind, or complete loss of sight in either eye.

The official veterinarian's decision, if requested by the Judge, as to the serviceable soundness of a mule shall be final. If the official veterinarian is not immediately available or called on, the Judge's decision as to the serviceable soundness of a mule shall be final.

In a championship show or any show when three or more Judges are being used, any mule and/or Exhibitor being excused must be excused by the majority of the Judges (two if three Judges, three if four or five Judges are used). All Judges who are signing the excuse must sign the appropriate forms provided by the Show and form must be given to the Show Chairman immediately.

An entry that has been excused previously shall be eligible to show in a succeeding qualifying class if the problem can be corrected.

If a Ringmaster suspects a mule and/or Exhibitor is in violation of the rules, he/she must immediately report said mule and/or Exhibitor to Judge.

The Exhibitor/mule may be barred from all A.G.M.A. activities if the Judge's decision is upheld by the A.G.M.A. Grievance Committee.

If a mule exits the ring and is written a ticket as sore by the D.Q.P., the winnings of that class shall be forfeited. Lower placed mules shall be advanced.

Mules must be worked both ways of the ring at all required gaits sufficiently for all mules to have performed before each officiating Judge.

A workout must be held if there are 22 or more entries.

A mule that has not performed all required gaits shall not be placed over a mule that has performed all gaits.

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The mule must perform all gaits in order to be judged in overall performance, presentation, and conformation.

Minor adjustments may be made by an Exhibitor (without dismounting, if mule is being ridden) when mules are being reversed, at ease, lined up in the ring, etc. shall be allowed. Mule will be excused if physical assistance over the rail is obtained in accomplishing adjustments.

No item may be used inside or from outside the ring while showing a mule except one whip per handler. Whips are not allowed in Western Classes.

After all gaits are completed, the Judge will walk the line and ask each mule to back individually, and then evaluate conformation. Mules must back easily and stand quietly. If there is more than one judge, the Call Judge must walk the line up.

Exhibitors must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Exhibitors and/or spectators talking to or criticizing a Judge or Judges will not be tolerated and Judges or any other show officials that are witness to such incident must report the violation to the A.G.M.A. Penalty will be assessed by the A.G.M.A. Grievance Committee.

A mule is deemed to have been exhibited when he departs the ring at the end of the exhibition.

Any change in color of markings other than hoof is prohibited.

Only clear grooming materials are allowed on the hide and hair. Materials may be used to remove stains.

Possession of chains (action devices) on the show grounds is a basis for expulsion from the show grounds.

No entry may be administered any medication/drug that will alter its disposition or deportment in the ring.

Also prohibited are any medications/drugs regardless of how harmless or innocuous they might be which by their very nature mask or screen the presence of the aforementioned medications/drugs, or prevent or delay testing procedures.

Entries showing obvious signs of being sedated or tranquilized shall be excused. When a Judge suspects a medication/drug, has been administered he/she shall have the authority to order a medical examination to determine if such medication/drug has been administered.

The A.G.M.A. shall reserve the right to examine any entry to determine if medication/drugs have been administered.

Such examination as may be required shall be administered after the class.