

State of Mississippi Horse Show Association 2019

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I. Intent

1. The State of Mississippi Horse Show Association (SOMHSA) shall be operated in the state of Mississippi for the purpose set forth in these by-laws as a non-profit organization and in accordance with the laws of the state of Mississippi.
2. The purpose for which this association is organized is to promote the western and gaited horses in the state of Mississippi, to organize and produce the championship show, and to promote good horsemanship and sportsmanship among its members. Any person(s) breaking the rules set forth as outlined in these rules and bylaws, will be dismissed from the state show from that point forward.
3. This organization shall be managed and controlled by the officers and board of directors as herein set forth in the association by-laws.
4. SOMHSA reserves the right to deny participation in any SOMHSA sponsored event to any party or individual for violation of the rules of SOMHSA or for behavior such as but not limited to, abusive or obscene language, alcohol and/or drug possession or consumption, intoxication, fighting, violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior or behavior otherwise deemed by the Directors as detrimental or dangerous to the general welfare of the members, Director or Officers of SOMHSA or general operation of the SOMHSA State Championship Horse Show.

II. Association By-Laws

1. No Association can have a show on the same date as the District and State 4-H Horse shows. In addition, an Association cannot cross another Association's boundaries to have a show without written permission between both Directors of the affected Associations and that show can only have a maximum of two (2) judges AND run to one (1) clock.
2. No one is allowed on the fairgrounds premises before 10 a.m. on Wednesday, the week of the state show, except Officers, Directors and Vendors.
3. All events shall be governed by the rules of the State of Mississippi Horse Show Association except that when this association has no rule, the published rules of AQHA shall govern where applicable, and all other events shall be governed in accordance with the published rules of the applicable association.
4. To join the State of Mississippi Horse Show Association, an initial fee of \$200 is required. Each association is to pay annual fee of \$100 at the February meeting and the balance of \$400 will be paid at the May meeting. No new association will be considered unless the membership drops below 13 associations. At which time, new associations will be added with a 1 year probationary period.
5. All officer positions will be voted on individually.
6. If any association representative misses 2 consecutive meetings, a registered letter will be sent to both the director & secretary of said association. A phone call by the Chairman or Secretary of the State Horse Show will also be made. If 3 consecutive meetings are missed, the director and the entire association will be disqualified from the state show for that year only.
7. The State of Mississippi Horse Show Association will be governed by a board consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Rules Chairman, Assistant Rules Chairman, Secretary, Assistant

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Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers are elected annually at the November meeting. All elected officers of the State Association must come from either current or past officers or assistant officers or directors. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary cannot hold a director's position for that year.

8. If a director cannot attend the director's meeting; he/she needs to send to contact the Chairman or Secretary. The absent director may send someone to represent him/her. Another director may not vote for an absent director.
9. The State Chairman, Secretaries and Treasurer will be paid \$300 plus lodging at the State Championship Show. All other officers and directors will have their lodging or hook-up expenses paid during the State Show.
10. The elected officers of the State Horse Show Association will receive \$0.35 per mile (one way) to attend the state show meetings and the state show.
11. Each association will work a designated number of events at the State Show. The working order will be drawn at the May meeting.
 - A. A paddock master, announcer, 2 or 3 secretaries for the announcer, 2 gate persons, 2 or 3 arena workers, plus 1 person for the office is required for each of the classes the association works. They will also be responsible for 2 or 3 safety men in the classes to set up obstacles such as trail, western riding, reining, pole bending, and/or barrel racing.
 - B. Stalls are assigned by working order.
 - C. Directors are assigned 4 stalls and can buy 2 additional; officers are assigned 4 and can buy 2 additional. Under no circumstances are the director stalls to be sold for personal profit.
12. All officers and directors must be on the show grounds the first day of the show and the last day of the show.
 - A. Each director is responsible for watching over their designated classes.
 - B. Each director must also be on the show grounds the entire day of your designated working order.
13. Radios will be provided for the ring steward and announcer.
14. The Board of Directors will select and "Official Photographer." This is the only person taking official photographs.
15. The Board of Directors shall meet at such times and places and for such purposes as it may deem necessary; however, there shall be at least one scheduled meeting each year in the month of November called the organizational meeting for the year's coming events. Additional meetings will be held when deemed necessary.
16. Judged & Timed Events will be held on a rotating basis each year. In 2013, timed events will begin the show and judged events will end the show.
17. Within a 14 day time period of the end of the show, a complete list of winners will be posted on the website and mailed to each director.
18. **As approved in November 2018, the state show will consist of a single judged western show, single judged gaited show, and a 5-D format Jackpot Barrels on a permanent basis and cannot be altered or changed unless there is no longer a state show.**

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19. After these rules are approved each year by the State Board of Directors, they cannot be changed or altered in any fashion without a 2/3 majority of the board in favor of the change. (With the exception of rule # 15 above.)

III. Facility Rules

1. A negative Coggins test is required for each horse entering the show grounds and a health certificate must accompany each out of state horse. Each association is responsible for determining that each horse they send to the state show has a negative Coggins test. The government will be checking coggins upon arrival at Gate 14. **All horses MUST COME THROUGH GATE 14, NO EXCEPTIONS!** IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT A DIRECTOR PRIOR TO ARRIVING AT THE EQUINE CENTER.
2. No dogs are allowed in the Equine Center. All dogs on the show grounds must be kept on a leash.
3. Horses are to be washed in designated areas only.
4. **Golf carts only are allowed at the State Show. No bicycles, no ATV's, no scooters, no skates, and no skateboards. Golf carts are to be driven by licensed drivers only. Violators will be asked to leave. As long as SOMHSA has the entire facility rented, our rules take precedence over any other ground rules.**
5. The fairgrounds facility requires insurance for any shows held at the equine center. This expense is paid by the State Show.

IV. General Rules and Regulations

1. No hearing devices (other than hearing aids) may be used during the show unless prior approval by the State Board of Directors.
2. The annual championship show will consist of both qualifying and open events.
3. **Pattern books will be posted online no earlier than two (2) weeks prior to the show. In addition, the patterns will also be posted in the show office during the show.**
4. A set of numbers will be given to each individual to be displayed on each side of the saddle blanket or back. One set of numbers is to be assigned to each rider.
5. Once an entry is turned in, refunds will not be made. In order to have all entries published in the program book, all entries must be in the hands of the Show Secretary no later than the date decided on at the July meeting. Any association that has not paid all fees by the September board meeting will not be allowed to show.
6. "Open Classes" – In open classes, each association may send as many contestants as they wish. You must show in 3 association shows (or to 3 judges) in the association which you represent at State to be able to show in the open classes at the State Show. The timed event people must compete against 3 separate clocks in the association in which you represent at the State Show to be able to show in the open classes at the State Show. Each association will pay \$10 for each open entry; except Open Gaited Classes, each association will pay \$17 for each open gaited entry.
7. "Qualifying Classes" – Each association may send ten (10) entries with two (2) alternates listed in the event one of the first ten (10) is unable to attend. Each association determines their own rules for the selection of the ten (10) entries. You must show in the qualifying classes in 3 association shows (or to 3 judges) in the association which you represent at the State Show to be able to show in the qualifying classes at the State Show. The timed event people must compete against 3 separate clocks in the association in which you represent at the State Show to be able to show in the qualifying classes at the State Show. Each association will pay \$5 for each qualifying entry; except Qualifying Gaited classes and each association will pay \$12 for each Qualifying Gaited entry.

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8. All entries will be entered on forms furnished to each association secretary. No late entries or submissions are allowed in any class after the entries are turned in to the state show secretary. In the event of an error by the association secretary, the State Show secretary or assistant show secretary, the issue will be reviewed by the Rules Committee.
9. There will be one horse/rider in all events. No person may show two horses in the same event, except the **5-D Barrel Class**. The horse/rider signed up is the only one allowed to show. Violators will be disqualified and banned from the rest of the show for that year.
10. Protests must be in writing and filed with the show secretary before the winners are called out in the class. For a protest to be considered valid there must be evidence of a rule violation. Problems other than a rules violation can be appealed to the Board of Directors. Forms for protest are available in the show office. A fee of \$100 (cash) must be paid at the time of protest. The fee will be refunded only if the protest is honored and ruled in favor of the person protesting.
11. At the State of Mississippi Championship Show, a horse cannot represent more than one State of MS Horse Show Association. If a rider does use a horse in this manner, the horse and riders will be disqualified for the remainder of the show and will be suspended from the next years show.
12. Parking spaces and hook-ups will be reserved for officers and directors around the director barn and warm up arena. Officers and Directors will be given priority and any remaining spaces available may be given to other exhibitors.
 - A. The southwest corner of the warm up arena will be reserved for Platinum Sponsors.
13. A person, appointed by the State Chairman, will be in charge of contacting the judge. This person will present the judge's credentials and fees to the Board of Directors for approval then write contracts & confirmation letters. There is to be 2 western judges and 1 gaited judge with a ringmaster for each judge (See Section II Rule 16 A). They have to stand at opposite ends of the arena. (No husband/wife teams).
14. No one can serve as Ring Master if they will be showing under that judge. The ring steward will not show the program book or any other papers with names and numbers of constants on it to the judges at any time.
15. No lunging of horses will be allowed in the Equine Building during the practice time. Practice time will be from 5 AM – 7 AM
16. Equipment used during the show must be approved by the State Show Board of Directors. (Phones, clocks, scoreboards, barrels, poles, ect.)
17. All stalls are \$40.00 each with 2 bags of shavings per stall; this price is for 1 night or all week.
18. Every horse must have a stall or pay a \$5 grounds fee. There will be no horses tied out overnight.
19. No stalls will be available until 10:00 AM on Wednesday. If anyone is found in violation of the stall rule, the association the horse is from will be fined \$50 per horse per day. This does not apply to working Officers and Directors.
20. All youth classes will be worked with a maximum of 20 horses per cut. All adult classes will be worked with a maximum of 20 horses per cut. A working order is posted in the program book. Riders will ride in their posted cut, except when he/she is in the work off for the previous class and in the first cut of the next class. The Chairman and Secretary of the State Show have to be notified of possible conflicts ahead of time. If an exhibitor misses their cut for any reason other than this, they will not be allowed to ride in another cut. Any youth class with 20 or less entries will ride as one cut. Any adult with 20 or less entries will ride as one cut.
21. Spectators should be reminded to stay off fence rails. Spectators will not be allowed in the arena entrance and exit area.
22. All Pony, Buckaroo, Lead Line, Challenged Riding, Beginner Poles, Beginner Barrels and Beginner Arena Race classes will have four safety personnel in the ring at all times. No one with a child in

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the class can be a safety person for that class.

23. ¼ inch rubber bands and magic seats may be used.

V. Awards

1. Hi-Point awards will be given in the following categories: Pony Judged, Pony Speed, 12 & Under Judged, 12 & Under Speed, 13 – 17 Judged, 13 – 17 Speed, 18 & Over Ladies and Men's Judged, 18 & Over Ladies and Men's Speed, Gaited 17 & Under, Gaited 18 & Over.
2. Big Horse Buckaroo, Beginner Barrels, Beginner Poles, Beginner Arena Race, Lead Line & Jackpot Barrels will not be included in figuring Hi-Points. **Also any class designated on a one (1) year trial basis also will NOT count towards hi-point.**
3. Points will be awarded on a 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis. In the event of a tie, following rules will be used to break the tie.
 - A. Hi-Point will go to the person, not the horse.
 - B. The rider who showed one horse will be considered over the rider who accumulated points on more than one horse.
 - C. The rider who won over the greatest number of horses.
 - D. The rider must have shown in three or more classes.
4. Pony Hi-Points will be figured on pony events. Pony classes will not be counted on for the 12 & Under Hi-Points. Pony riders must show in three events in order to qualify for a Hi-Point.

VI. Halter Classes (Including Western, Performance, Mini, Pony and Gaited)

1. No lip chains on halter horses.
2. Classes are designated based on the horse and exhibitor age.
3. Miniature horses must be 38" and under.
4. For Gaited horses tack must be either Western or English style. No combination of these styles will be allowed.
5. Ponies must be entered as either 38" and under, over 38" to under 48", then 48"-52", exhibitors must be 12 & under with the exception of the Miniature Halter 13 & Over class.
6. Halter Stallions must be exhibited by persons 18 & over.
7. Performance Halter is designated as Mares or Geldings only, Performance Stallions must show in the all age halter stallion class. Remember, in order to show in the Performance Halter class, the horse MUST be shown in at least two (2) other performance classes.

VII. Western Classes

8. Attire as follows in western pleasure class: Hat, western boots (pointed toe or rounded, shiny or rough finish) western saddle, long sleeve shirt with collar (can be a slinky for girls or women). Vest, chaps, spurs (western), jackets, or gloves are optional.
9. AQHA rules apply to all western pleasure classes.
10. Hunt Seat Equitation and Performance Halter have been added on a permanent basis and will now be counted towards high point.
11. **Ranch Trail will be added on a one year trial basis, will not count towards high point.**

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VIII. Gaited Classes

1. There will be a one judge system used.
2. All classes will be worked with a maximum of 18 horses per cut. The working order is posted in the program book. Riders will ride in their posted cut. If they miss their cut, they will not be allowed to ride in another cut. Any class with 18 or less entries will be ridden as one cut.
3. Tack must be either Western or English style. No combination of these styles will be allowed in the gaited classes.
4. Gaited horses will not be asked to back. Except western saddle trail class.
5. In gaited classes, one or two hands on the reins are optional, but may not be changed after the class has begun.
6. Gaited Horses – NO chains or boots may be used. Classes will be designated as Open Flat Shod, Open Padded, and Open Gaited (Pads or Flat Shod) except Saddle Trail.
7. All Gaited horses must be checked and videoed at all local shows, 1 horse or 50.

Gaited (English)

1. Cut back English style saddle. Plain breast strap may be used.
2. Single rein bridles and bits are to be used. The reins may be either smooth leather or laced leather but not long and hanging like western reins. Rhinestone brow bands are allowed.
3. Attire should be a saddle suit. Shirt worn under coat may either be sleeveless, short sleeve, or long sleeve. Coat length should be from fingertip to mid-calf. Pants should have tie downs or underpass. Pants should also be made of suitable fabric. No overalls. Jeans may be worn but must be new black jeans. No faded black jeans. Slinkies may be worn by the ladies or girls but must be worn under a coat.
4. Boots may either be English or Western style boots.
5. Riding whips may be used and are not to exceed 48" in length.
6. Spurs are optional, but if worn must be English Style.
7. Hats may be Hamburg's top hats, derby, snap brim or helmets. These are optional for ladies.
8. The length of the bits being used should not exceed 10' from the top of the ring that attached to the bridle to the ring attaching the reins.
9. Braids on the horse should be attached neatly at the forelock (may be tied to cavesson at the top of the head) and mane.

Gaited (Western)

10. Western tack or breed specific saddle, to be approved by the judge before the class. Single rein bridles may not be laced but must be western style. Breast straps are optional.
11. Rider may ride either one handed or two handed, but rider must not switch from one to the other during the class.
12. Walking horse bits (as discussed under English) are allowed.
13. Attire must be Western in styling with long sleeves and collars which also includes bands, standup or tuxedo. Western style hats are to be worn. Hats are optional for ladies.
14. If spurs are worn, they must be western style.
15. Saddle Trail Class was voted in on a permanent basis. Rules: regular keg shoes, no plantation shoes, and no pads. Walk, Trail Gait, and Back required. The rules under Gaited (Western) apply.

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IX. Buckaroo

1. Contestants will not be required to take feet out of stirrups.
2. Buckaroo horses will not be required to back and no lope is required.
3. The age limit will be nine (9) years old and under.
4. There will be no more than 20 riders per cut.
5. There will be four (4) safety people in the arena at all times. No one who has a child in that class is allowed in the arena to be safety personnel.

IX. Reining

1. Will be 17 & Under and 18 & Over (not qualifying classes).
2. Pattern will be left to the discretion of the judges.
3. Pattern will be posted as soon as available.

X. Ponies

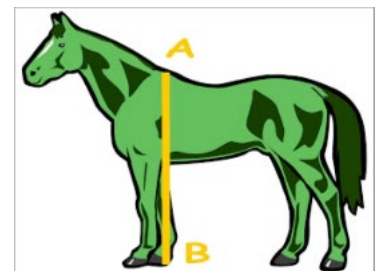
1. Ponies 52" and under can only be shown by exhibitors 12 years and under in designated pony classes, with the exception of the Miniature Halter 13 & Over class.
2. Maximum height for ponies is 52". (See diagram below)
3. Ponies will be measured at the state show. They will be measured from the withers to the ground (including shoes). Each association will be required to measure their own ponies and provide those measurements to the State Show Secretary with their state show entries.
Associations failing to submit a list of pony measurement's with the SOMHSA's entries will be fined \$100.00
4. **All ponies will be measured one (1) time, no exceptions! No trimming and re-measuring!**
5. **Once a pony has been deemed too tall, it cannot have another pony substituted in its place. However if a pony has been signed up in the wrong pony class by height, it can be moved to the correct pony class.**
6. Ponies will be measured for the pony halter classes as:
 - A. ***Mini, 38" and Under***
 - B. ***Over 38" to Under 48"***
 - C. ***48" to 52"***
7. No director will be allowed to measure any pony from their association.
8. There will be four (4) safety people in the ring at all times. No one having a family member in the class may be safety personnel
9. Back number stickers will be issued to each exhibitor with a pony being measured. You must bring your back number with you when you get your pony measured and have sticker in place on number in order to enter the arena to show.

How To Measure Ponies

Height of withers

Stand the animal on a smooth, level surface, in such position that the front legs are vertical and the backs of the hocks are in a vertical line with the point of the horse's quarter. The head is to be held low enough to reveal the highest point of the wither and no lower.

With the horse in this position, measure the vertical distance from the highest point of the withers to



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the ground. The arm of the measuring standard should be placed over the highest point of the withers, and no measurement taken at any other part of the horse's body will count. The standard must be a straight, still, unbendable stick, and should be provided with a plumb or spirit level to make sure the standard is perpendicular from withers to the ground and that the cross piece is parallel with the ground surface.

XI. Lead Line

1. This class is for exhibitors who are 6 years and under. The leader must be 15 years and older. No stallions are allowed to be ridden.
2. The class will enter the ring at a flat footed walk, turning to the right and proceeding in a counterclockwise direction on the rail. The class will be worked at a walk, both directions of the ring.
3. The rider will be judged on his/her basic position in the saddle (hand position, seat position, and back position). Contestants riding a gaited horse may use one or two hands but cannot switch during the class. A Western horse must use a legal Western show bit. A lead must be held by the person leading the horse. The rider may wear Western or English in this class, but the saddle must match the rider. The rider's feet must be in the stirrups.
4. There must be four (4) safety people in the arena. They shall not be family members of contestants in the arena.
5. Attire (Western) – western hat, long sleeve shirt, cowboy boots, western saddle and any legal western bit. Spurs, chaps, vests, jackets, or gloves are optional.
6. Attire (English) – English hat, pants, boots, coat, English saddle & bridle. Either hunt seat or saddle seat attire.
7. No contestant in the Lead Line class will be allowed to be tied, buckled, or fastened in the saddle in any manner.

XII. Time Events

1. All timed events classes will be set up with 2 holding pens in the arena. The five contestants that are running and the next 5 up. ***One handler per exhibitor and no additional horses will be allowed in the holding pen.*** No spectators lining the fence. There will be a drag at the start of each class and after every 10 riders.
2. No hats or caps may be worn in timed events. Shirts must be a long sleeve, button down the front (top to bottom), with a collar, and tucked in and sleeves rolled down. Safety helmets only will be allowed and must fit properly. In the event a safety helmet comes off or a hat or cap is worn, the run will be disqualified.
3. ¼ inch rubber bands or a magic seat may be used.
4. Running order for speed events will be on a rotation basis – working order is posted in the program book.
5. The barrels to be used in the barrel classes will be plastic. First and second barrel will be set 28' from the clocks and 21' from the fence. The third barrel will be set 116' from the timer line or at the discretion of the Rules Committee.
6. The quad pattern will be set up as follows: 30' between center poles 15' each way of center of arena. The 4 corner poles will be set 63' from the center of the center poles and 21' from the

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fence. Only people with proper authority are to set up patterns. Patterns are changeable if the Board deems necessary.

7. A contestant will be called by the announcer by his/her number only.
8. A contestant must ride within his/her association's working order.
9. Should the clock stop or some other malfunction, the rider will get up to two (2) reruns. However, if he/she has a clean run on the first rerun, that time will stand and he/she may not take a second re-ride. The rider will be told immediately if the clock malfunctions so that rider may save his/her horse for the rerun or reruns. The rider will be given the option to ride immediately (back to back) or go to the bottom of the class. If the rider is at the end of the class he/she will be given a maximum of five (5) minutes to rest their horse.
10. A contestant will be disqualified if they run out of order or before the announcer call his/her number, unless due to announcer error. They will not be given a re-ride. They will also be disqualified if anyone assisting them enters the arena. Only working officials will be allowed inside the arena.
11. All timed events will run with a closed gate.
12. Each speed event rider will have one (1) minute to start after his/her number has been called by the announcer. The number may be called no more than 3 times. The rider may have assistance in the run out area during this time.
13. Any excess unsportsmanlike conduct such as reaching out with hand to knock extra poles or barrels over because a horse has run badly or deliberately running horse into the gate or beating horse in head with whip will result in disqualification for the rest of the show.
14. If the horse and rider break the pattern in any way before the clock malfunctions, there will be no rerun.
15. In the case of a tie, the riders must come within two seconds of the previous time. Ties are to be run off. It is the rider's responsibility to be present for the run off. Ties will be announced.
16. Any rider knocking over a barrel or pole will be penalized five (5) seconds. The rider is permitted to "touch" or "set up" a barrel or pole. If the original course is altered by a rider intentionally grasping a pole, a five second penalty for each pole grasped will be assessed.
17. No speed event rider or reining rider will be allowed in the arena before their class starts unless there is a break in the show.
18. The arena race will be run with one barrel in the end of the arena. The arena race will be set up as follows: one barrel will be placed 116' from the time line and in the center of the arena. A five second penalty will be added for knocking over a barrel.
19. A stop and turn is legal equipment in the speed events.
20. If a contestant rides in the Beginner Barrels, Poles and/or Arena Race, he/she cannot ride in any other timed event.
21. The top three to place in the Beginner Barrels, Beginner Poles and Beginner Arena Race cannot come back the next year in any beginner class, they must move up to the appropriate age division.
22. The **5-D** Barrel Class will be paid out on a **5-D format** and run by SOMHSA rules, drags will be after every 10 horses.

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XIII. Challenged Riding Class

1. Handicapped riders are not required to wear boots. Each rider is to have two (2) safety people and one (1) person leading the horse. The safety people are to be on each side of the horse and must remain beside the horse at all times while in the show arena. They are to be close enough to reach the rider at all times, but does not have to hold onto the rider unless needed. This is mandatory. These safety people are to be at least 18 years of age. Safety helmets are to be worn by each contestant. There is no other dress code for this class. All entries must be pre-registered with state entries.

XIV. Vendors & Sponsorships

1. The cost of ads in the show program book will be as follows:
 - a. \$100 for full page
 - b. \$60 for ½ page
 - c. \$30 for ¼ page
 - d. \$15 for business cards
2. Vendor and tack trailers will be parked in designated areas. These trailers are responsible for their own electrical hook-ups. Vendors who wish to be inside on the North Side of the Arena will be charged \$150 for their booth space. Vendors who wish to be inside on the South Side of the Arena will be charged \$200 for their booth space. Booths will be available on a first come, first pay basis and to be assigned by the Treasurer. All outside Vendors will be charged \$150 for their booth space.
3. \$150 for class sponsors – This includes full page ad, name in program book, announced at the beginning of the class and upon presentation of awards, and can provide a banner. The banner must be received by noon on Wednesday.

XV. Scholarship

State of Mississippi Horse Show Association Scholarship Requirements:

1. The applicant must fill out a scholarship application.
2. The applicant must be a senior in high school or graduate the year the scholarships are awarded.
3. Applicant's most recent high school transcript, with most recent cumulative GPA (2.5 or better) must be attached to the application.
4. National test scores. (ACT/SAT)
5. A letter of recommendation from high school principal/counselor/home school administrator.
6. A letter from his/her association director.
7. A recent photograph.
8. An essay from the applicant expressing how their participation in the association has helped them, and what horses mean to them.
9. Must participate in association shows and the state show 2 years out of the 4 years of high school.
10. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to each recipient's college of choice. The number of recipients to be awarded based on the number of applicants and/or the financials of the state association.
11. All paperwork must be postmarked by **the end of the first week of March** each year and mailed to the person listed on the scholarship application. The winners will be announced at the May meeting of each year.