

RULES for the MAJORITY OPINION THREE-JUDGE SYSTEM

Under the Majority Opinion System (M-O-S), all three Judges carry equal weight in the final class decision and winners are placed by the best two out of three votes.

Each mule is judged as if it were working individually and then compared with the performance of all other mules in the class who are judged on the same basis.

All Judges place the same number of entries in each class, depending on class size. These are resolved by averaging the opinions of the three Judges.

Judges should discuss and plan how to cover the ring and work classes before the show to avoid "cluster judging." (Suggestion: Section the ring into three areas to give each Judge a separate but equal view of the rail with rotation of positions for each class.)

Judges should vary their judging positions and rotate around the ring.

Judges rotation and Call Judge designation should be noted on the judges' cards prior to each class.

No referee is required since all ties are broken by a two-thirds majority vote.

Judges must work independently, with no discussion of any kind until the winners are announced.

Judges' Cards should indicate how many entries should be placed prior to each class.

Three additional ties are recommended for each class (tie 11 mules in a class in which 8 mules receive awards.

The Ringmaster should return an incompletely tied card to the Judge for correction before giving it to the Scorer.

Any Judge may request a workout in any class by communicating through the Ringmaster.

The Judge making the request must state the numbers of those mules to be called to the workout and for how many places they are to be worked.

The Ringmaster relates this to the other Judges one at a time.

The Ringmaster must be sure that all Judges know what mules are working to fill the places.

The Ringmaster must inform the Announcer of the workout request. Whenever mules are being called for a workout, the Announcer must call for them in numerical order.

A workout requires agreement by two of the three, or the positions must be filled without a workout.

If a workout is agreed upon, the Ringmaster must ask the other Judges if they wish to add other mules to those being sent to the rail.

In order to be included in a workout, an entry must appear on two Judges' lists. If an entry does not receive two votes for the inclusion in the workout, that entry does not return to the rail.

If no entries receive two workout votes, there is no workout and the class is tied.

When three numbers are circled on the same line and their vote counts are identical, it is an extremely rare three-way identical tie. When a three way identical tie occurs for first place, a workout is optional. If the Judge calls for a workout, the three mules involved shall be sent back to the rail. If a workout is not called for the class, the class will be tied by the fall of the Cards. If there has already been a workout, the Judges should be notified and given the option of going with the fall of the Cards or sending the mules back to the rail for additional work. If the tie is still identical after the workout, the class is tied by the fall of the Cards. When the identical three-way tie is for second place or lower, the class is determined by fall of the Cards.

EXAMPLE OF SCORING JUDGES CARDS:

American Gaited Mule Association Code of Ethics

	A	B	C
(1-2-3)	*101	102	103
(1-2-3)	*102	103	101
(1-2-3)	*103	101	102

The number that is positioned first (not the circled line) on the Call Judge's Card will be first (101). The second (102) and third (103) places are then determined by the Judges' choices as their Cards are placed in sequence.

In the example shown above, if B were the Call Judge, then 102 would be first, C's choice of 103 would be second, and A's choice of 101 would be third. If C were the Call Judge, then 103 would be first, 101 would be second, and 102 third.