

# **AMERICAN GAITED MULE ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS**

## **PURPOSE**

The Code of Ethics is promulgated as an aid to the preservation of the integrity of the American Gaited Mule, the records of the Association, and the relationships among the Association, its members, and any other "person" or "persons" that enjoy its benefits and privileges. All persons are expected to abide by the following standards.

## **STANDARDS**

1. All persons and specifically members, officers, and directors of the Association shall conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen in all meetings and dealings with the Association, with any other person or in any matter in which the Association has an interest.
2. In an effort to demonstrate respect for the A.G.M.A. all persons shall support the Association Position Statement on Animal Welfare, which states:

"The A.G.M.A. actively protects and promotes the welfare of the Gaited Mule. To this end, the A.G.M.A. is committed to the following:

  - Ensuring that the overall and ongoing welfare of the Gaited Mule and Gaited Donkey is the primary concern of all breeders, owners, trainers and exhibitors.
  - Ensuring that all breeders, owners, trainers and exhibitors treat their Mules humanely and with dignity and respect, and use proper care in training, handling and showing them.
  - Educating breeders, owners, trainers and exhibitors on the proper care of Gaited Mules.
  - Continuing, to work with USDA officials to ensure that the highest standards of welfare, safety and health are maintained at all A.G.M.A. events.
  - Developing and enforcing stringent rules that govern the exhibiting, judging, showing, and selling of Gaited Mules in order that the natural abilities of the animals are best reflected.
  - Increasing awareness of the rules among all breeders, owners, trainers, and exhibitors, emphasizing that they are responsible for the welfare and humane treatment of the mules entrusted to their care."
3. No person shall knowingly or intentionally disseminate false or misleading information or engage in any practice which has the effect of corrupting the integrity of the Association or any activity it sanctions or otherwise engage in an unethical practice in any situation involving Gaited Mules or any matter in which this Association has an interest.
4. No person shall disseminate or make any false statement or representation concerning any other Person, and if so made A.G.M.A. shall act promptly to correct erroneous communications which he or she has disseminated.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

This Code of Ethics is intended as a guideline for the self-policing of a person's actions.

It is understood that persons who commit flagrant or repeated violations of the code may be subject to possible disciplinary actions as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors of this Association.

Upon being installed as an Officer or Director of the A.G.M.A., persons shall recite the Oath of Office as follows:

I have read and understand the Code of Ethics adopted by the American Gaited Mule Association. I hereby agree to abide by the requirements of the Code in my conduct as an Officer, Director, and Member of this Association.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The American Gaited Mule Association (herein after known as the A.G.M.A.) is an organization that was established in 1994 to promote the Gaited Mule and Gaited Donkey. To accomplish this A.G.M.A. has instituted a program for affiliating mule and donkey shows and has established rules for the registering and showing of the American Gaited Mule and Donkey.

This rulebook is published for the express purpose of providing, in written form, uniform rules for registering and exhibiting Gaited Mules and Donkeys. These rules pertain to the classification, inspections, conduct, and operation of shows, and to general matters affecting Exhibitors, Judges, D.Q.P.s and Show Committees.

The rules of the A.G.M.A. (this rulebook) shall take precedence over the rules of any other committee. All divisions, sections, and classes for which rules are provided herein must be conducted accordingly and shall not be held under any rules that are not in agreement.

Every show and every person participating therein including Exhibitor, Owner, Lessee, Manager, Agent, Rider, Judge, Show Official, or Employee is subject to the rules of the A.G.M.A. and to the local rules of the show.

Every person participating in any show recognized by the A.G.M.A. is subject to provisions of the A.G.M.A. RULES.

Knowledge of the rules of any sport is required of each participant, and the Exhibitor at a mule show is in no way exempt from this responsibility. A complete knowledge of, and compliance with, the rules is essential; and Exhibitors must fully understand all the rules as well as class specifications for the divisions in which they show.

It is obvious that, however complete rules may be, they can never cover all possible situations that may arise. If a matter cannot be solved by the interpretation of the rules to the letter, then the only official rule interpretation is that which is received from the A.G.M.A. Board of Directors.

ANY RULE CHANGES must be submitted in writing by September 1st to the rules committee for review and forwarded to Board of Directors. Rule changes made every other year unless there is a unanimous vote by the rules committee and Board of Directors, starting with 2010.

All rule changes approved by the Board of Directors between publications of new rulebooks will be submitted to the Membership in writing or on the A.G.M.A. website and newsletter, 30 days before they will be in effect. Action taken with regard to adoption, amendment, and repeal of these RULES shall be published in the A.G.M.A. NEWSLETTER in addition to the minutes of the Board of Directors. This action shall be RULE ACTION.

An individual has the responsibility of adding rule change(s) to his/her rulebook. In the A.G.M.A. newsletter, no other breed's registration papers may be used in advertising. No picture of Mules or Horses wearing action devices, pads, set tails, etc. may be used in the publications. If the horse is registered with other breeds, that fact may be noted in the ad, but the A.G.M.A. registration must come before any other breed registration listing.

## DEFINITIONS

**AFFILIATED SALE** - The term "affiliated sale" includes all that have been accepted for this privilege by the A.G.M.A.

**AFFILIATED SHOW** - The term "affiliated show" includes all shows that have been accepted for this privilege by the A.G.M.A.

**AMATEUR EXHIBITOR** - An Amateur for show purposes, is a person who, after his/her 18th birthday, has not engaged in any activities that would cause him/her to be classified as a Trainer, and holds a valid Amateur's Card.

**BAD IMAGE** - (1) A mule which does not lead freely to and from inspection, and/or about the show, sale, or exhibition grounds; (2) In a working mule, one which is not level; one which hops or skips; and/or (3) A mule which does not stand with full and free movement of all limbs.

**CHALLENGE TROPHIES** - A challenge trophy is a trophy donated to or offered by a show that must be won a specified number of times under specified conditions in order to be permanently retired.

**D.Q.P.** - A D.Q.P. is a Designated Qualified Person. This person is qualified to detect and diagnose a mule that is sore and to otherwise inspect mules for the purpose of enforcing the H.P.A. and A.G.M.A. Rules.

**EXHIBITOR** - (1) Any person who enters any mule, any person who allows his/her mule to be entered, or any person who directs or allows any mule in his/her custody or under his/her direction, control, or supervision to be entered in any mule show or mule exhibition. (2) Any person who shows or exhibits any mule, any person who allows his/her mule to be shown or exhibited, or any person who directs or allows any mule in his/her custody or under his/her direction, control, or supervision to be shown or exhibited in any mule show or mule- exhibition. (3) Any person who enters or presents any mule for sale or auction, any person who allows his/her mule to be entered or presented for sale or auction, or any person who allows any mule in his/her custody or under his/her direction, control, or supervision to be entered or presented for sale or auction in any mule sale or mule auction.

**IMMEDIATE FAMILY** - For show and membership purposes, the term immediate family shall include the following: husband, wife, youth children and grandchildren.

**MEDICATION** - A medication/forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant, or tranquilizer, or local anesthetic, which might affect the performance of a mule (stimulants and depressants are defined as medications/drugs/forbidden substances that stimulate or depress the circulatory, respiratory or central nervous system.)

**NON-AFFILIATED SHOW** - The term non-affiliated show refers to a show that is not affiliated with an organization that licenses Judges and publishes a current rulebook.

**POST ENTRIES** - Post entries are entries made after the advertised closing date for inclusion of entries in the printed program.

**SANCTIONED SHOW** - The term sanctioned show refers to those shows that offer other breed classes, in addition to A.G.M.A. classes, which have been accepted for this privilege by the A.G.M.A.

**SCAR RULE** - In accordance with the H.P.A. (copies of which are available from the A.G.M.A.), any mule foaled on or after October 1, 1975 is subject to the terms and conditions of the Scar Rule. The Scar Rule defines that which is acceptable under the H.P.A.

**SORE** - (1) Any irritating or blistering agent which has been applied, internally or externally by a person to any limb of a mule; (2) any burn, cut, or laceration which has been inflicted by a person on any limb of a mule; (3) any tack, nail, screw, or chemical agent which has been injected by a person into, or used by a person on any limb of a mule and/or (4) any other substance or device which has been used by a person on any limb of a mule, or a person has engaged in a practice involving a mule and, as a result of such application, infliction, injection, use, or practice, such mule suffers, or can reasonably be expected to suffer physical pain or distress, inflammation, or lameness when walking, or otherwise moving, except that such

term does not include such an application, infliction, injection, use, or practice in connection with the therapeutic treatment of a mule by or under the supervision of a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State in which such treatment was given.

TRAINER (or PROFESSIONAL) - Any adult who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody and/or performance. A person is a Trainer (professional) for mule show purposes who, after his/her 18th birthday, accepts remuneration for training, showing, or riding of a mule, whether or not it is the principal means of his/her income.

VIOLATION - A violation is any act committed at an affiliated even prejudicial to the best interests of the A.G.M.A., including but not limited to violation of the rules of the A.G.M.A.

YOUTH EXHIBITOR - For mule show purposes, a Youth Exhibitor is an individual who on January 1st of the show year has not reached his/her 19th birthday. Example: An Exhibitor who is eighteen on January 1st but turns 19 on January 2nd is still eligible to show as a Youth Exhibitor all that year. (An Exhibitor who turns nineteen on January 1st; however, may not show as a Youth during that year.

## **RULES for REGISTRATION**

The A.G.M.A. is an official registry for Gaited Mules, Gaited Mares, and Gaited Donkeys. All mules, mares, and donkeys must exhibit a smooth, easy gait other than a trot (such as a single-foot; a running walk; a rack; a fox trot; a stepping pace; paso fino gait, etc).

Application for registration must be made on an official application for registration furnished by the A.G.M.A.

All certificates of registrations, to be valid, must be filed with the A.G.M.A. on an application for registration and accepted by the Secretary of the A.G.M.A.

The application for registration must be neat, complete, and in ink or typewritten. Forms filled out in pencil will be returned.

All applications for registration become an important and permanent part of records. Every care should be exercised to ensure accuracy.

The name of the Gaited Mule, Mare, or Donkey must not exceed 25 characters.

**VIDEO REQUIREMENTS:** Registration applications for Gaited Mules and Gaited Donkeys not meeting the following criteria must be accompanied with a video that shows the mule or donkey exhibiting a smooth gait other than a walk, trot, or canter.

A. A colt that has been bred from an A.G.M.A. Registered Jack and a Gaited Mare that has Gaited Registered papers from a recognized Gaited Registry with the proper registration number can be registered automatically. The mare can be registered automatically with the A.G.M.A. by sending a copy of the registration papers with the register number on it. In addition, an A.G.M.A. Registered Jennet having a colt from an A.G.M.A. Registered Jack can be registered automatically. All Jennets to be A.G.M.A. registered must submit a video. However, if there are no proper papers, then a gaited video must be submitted for any of the above. Owners of Mules or Donkeys with only one registered parent or no registered parents will be required to submit a video, showing the mule or donkey to be registered in a gait under saddle or under halter.

The A.G.M.A. takes no responsibility for the certificates of registration once they are mailed to the owner. The person(s) applying for transfer or registration is solely responsible for the accuracy of the mailing address.

The certificate of registration is intended for the private use of the owner(s) of the mule, donkey, or gaited mare horse and the content thereof may not be copied or otherwise reproduced without the express written consent of the A.G.M.A.

Papers returned for completion or correction more than once will be subject to a "Not in Order Fee."

Any person or persons who shall willfully register or record a false pedigree may be forever barred from making further registrations, and from membership, and the registration of such false pedigree shall be void.

## **RULES for MEMBERSHIP**

Dues are for the period of August 1 through July 31.

Members have a 90-day grace period after July 31 before they will be removed from the membership list.

Youth exhibitors showing in youth classes only are not required to be a member or own a mule for show purposes.

Voting eligibility at annual meeting (in February): Membership dues must be paid by November 31. To exercise voting privileges, a member shall be in good standing for the past three (3) consecutive years, and must be physically present at the meeting, unless a vote by the Board of Directors allows a specific item to be voted on by mail ballot, or electronic ballot.

Only members 18 years of age and over who own a mule registered with the A.G.M.A. are eligible to vote. Family memberships have (2) votes.

Married, Lifetime Members have two (2) votes. Single, Lifetime Members have one (1) vote.

Married, Founding Charter Members have two (2) votes. Single, Founding Charter Members have one (1) vote. This level of membership will receive immediate voting privileges.

Charter Membership are entitled to one free mule registration per calendar year.

Free registration must be requested. It will not be automatically granted.

## **RULES for MULE SHOW ENTRIES**

In all A.G.M.A. classes at A.G.M.A. affiliated or sanctioned shows, all entries must be registered with A.G.M.A. The entry blank must contain the official registered name and number of each entry, the Owner(s) and Trainer's name/ names, complete address, and amateur card number, if applicable. (Show Management furnishes entry information upon request.)

The person whose responsibility this is, or his/her representative, must sign the entry blank at each show whether the person be an Owner, Exhibitor, agent and/or coach as well as Trainer.

Where a minor Exhibitor (a youth) has no Trainer, a parent or guardian must sign as the Trainer.

The name of the Trainer, not the farm or stable name, must be designated as such on the entry blank.

Should an Exhibitor, his/her agent or Trainer fail to sign an entry blank as required, his/her first entrance in to the ring as an Exhibitor shall be interpreted as his/her acceptance of the Rules of the A.G.M.A. and shall render him/her subject to said rules.

Violation of the rules in connection with entries may be cause for disqualification of the Exhibitor, agent and/or Trainer by the Show Committee.

Mules must be named and the same registered name and registration number must be listed in all classes. The back number will be assigned to the mule not the rider. A mule must be entered under its original registered name unless the name has been officially changed.

The requirement of correct names/numbers is to facilitate future referrals on High Point Champions, World Grand Champions, and other awards an Exhibitor, World Champion and/or mule may be entitled.

In 2007 a person must be a member of the A.G.M.A. association to show at affiliated shows.

In 2008 a person must be a member and register their mule with the A.G.M.A. association to show at affiliated shows.

## **UNPAID ENTRIES**

Any show or sale which accepts entries without the payment of the required entry fees, etc., does so at its own risk and the A.G.M.A. will not be responsible for the collection of fees.

If a person makes payment for entries, etc., which is not negotiable, the Secretary of the show shall report the name and address of the Exhibitor in writing to the A.G.M.A. immediately.

Upon receipt of such notice, the A.G.M.A. shall notify the Exhibitor by certified mail of the indebtedness and state that unless settlement is made within thirty (30) days of the postmark, the exhibitor and all of the mules for which non-negotiable fees have been paid will automatically be barred from taking part whatsoever in affiliated shows until settlement is made.

## **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.
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.

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.

## GENERAL GAITED RULES

1. All mules must exhibit a saddle gait other than a trot, such as a smooth, easy gait, for example; a single-foot, running walk, rack, stepping pace, paso fino, foxtrot, etc.
2. Abusive Treatment: Abusive treatment and/or training techniques to produce alteration of the gaits shall not be tolerated.
  - A. Each show in which gaited mules are exhibited in seven (7) or more classes must have present a Designated Qualified Person, D.Q.P., carded with the Horse Protection Commission or other gaited association to detect and diagnose a mule which has been sores and to otherwise inspect mules for the purpose of enforcing the A.G.M.A. humane rules. Any ruling in shows in which D.Q.P. inspects mules, the D.Q.P.'s decision is final and not subject to protest or grievance.
  - B. Each show in which gaited mules are exhibited in 6 or less classes the judge and/or a veterinarian has the authority to excuse any animal that, according to their professional opinion, appears to be sores.
  - C. Handlers must be able to lift the foot of the mule to be inspected.
3. Age Divisions: Gaited Mule classes are divided into age groups, designated by 4 years and younger and 5 years and older. The age divisions for Stock Mules designated by Junior (5 years and under) and Senior Mule (6 years and over) classifications do not apply to Gaited Mules.
4. Should classes be offered for breeding jacks, no youth may show a jack.
5. Show Approval: Any organization, club, or individual may request their show or contest and the results be recognized by A.G.M.A. Application forms must be obtained from the A.G.M.A. secretary or show-sanctioning secretary.
6. Age of Mules: For mule show purposes, a mule shall be considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the date of foaling. Exception: Foals born in October, November, and December are eligible for classes along with foals born the following year.
  - A. Two-year-old mules and donkeys may not be shown in any under saddle or driving class until after June 1st of the year they become two years old, as determined on January 1st.
  - B. A Gaited Mule 4 year and younger must be determined so by A.G.M.A. registration or mouthing by a licensed veterinarian.
    - a. Gaited Mules may be mouthed at time of birth or any time thereafter to determine their eligibility for 4 and under classes.
    - b. A veterinarian certificate must be obtained at time of mouthing stating the date of examination.
  - C. Any 4 and Under Gaited Mules may show up, but Five and Over Gaited Mules may not show down in 4 and Under Gaited Mule Classes
  - D. Any 4 and Under Gaited Mule that is entered in a Five and Over Gaited Mule Class must remain in Five and Over Gaited Mule Classes for all shows, for the rest of that calendar year, regardless of ownership.
  - E. Any owner found to be falsely entering an older mule in a younger age division is subject to disciplinary action and will forfeit all points earned in that age classification.

### Walking Mule Gaits:

1. Flat Walk is a true, bold, and four-cornered, with fore legs moving straight in an elevated arc, and with a pronounced and cadenced head motion. The rear legs should follow through close to the ground, comfortable and over striding the front tracks. Stiff legged front or rear leg motion and irregular gait, especially when entering the ring, are typical of the movement of a sore mule and the judge must immediately excuse any mule exhibiting this type of motion from the ring.
2. Running Walk is the same general motion as the flat walk, but with additional speed. The mule shall exhibit a smooth gliding, overstepping, four-cornered gait with the greater stride and accelerated head motion. The running walk should be a free and easy gait. Mules exhibiting an exaggerated, hesitating way of going, are not in form. Twisting the hocks or stiff-legged rear leg motion shall also be considered a deviation from the true running walk and a mule exhibiting these ways of going should be penalized.
3. Canter is to be smooth and straight on both leads, not walking behind, but cantering on both ends with a rolling, rocking chair motion, comfortable in hand. Exaggerated “pumping” of the mule at the center is not considered good form.
4. Judging Considerations: The Walking Mule should move freely in each gait and proceed in a smooth fluid, rhythmic manner, with a pronounced and cadenced head motion. At all gaits, the mule should be flexed at the poll with muzzle slightly tucked. Stiff front or rear leg motion, stumbling bucking knees, lack of rhythmic timing, pointing, or favoring a particular leg, necessity for excessive pumping or bumping of the mule, or any tendency to rack, pace, or other deviation from the true walk are not considered good form and shall be penalized in judging.

#### **Racking Mule Gaits:**

1. Show Walk is a smooth collected showy, four beat gait.
2. Show Rack is a relaxed four beat gait showing style and grace.
3. Fast Rack shows the same style and action as the Slow Rack but with speed. Form should not be sacrificed for speed.
4. Style Rack is an accelerated version of the slow rack emphasizing showiness and pride.

#### **Judging Considerations:**

In each of the first three gaits the Racking Mule must be collected and presented well, and the rider must be relaxed and smooth in the saddle. At no time should the mule exemplify a gait with animated hock action. The Racking Mule must exhibit good conformation and be free of blemishes and unsoundness. The Racking Mule should not exhibit an exaggerated head nod in the Show Walk or Fast Rack. It should not exhibit an exaggerated hock action with the rear legs, but its stride should be long and natural. The front leg action should exhibit a curved, rolling motion rather than the legs following a straight line commonly termed “pitching or pointing”.

### **Gaits Other Than Walking and Racking:**

All mules must exhibit a saddle gait other than a trot, running walk, or a rack. This would include those mules that exhibit a foxtrot, paso fino gait, single foot, and stepping pace. Classes should be divided into slow gait & fast gait of show gait & favorite gait.

### **Gaited Mule Classes:**

All the following classes, including the Walking Mule, Racking Mule and Gaited Mule classes can again be divided into Amateur, Youth, Ladies, Gentlemen's, Amateur Ladies, Amateur Gentlemen's, or Open classes. In addition, it is recommended that class lists specify Western or Saddle Seat tack and attire in each class.

#### **1. Walking Mule Division:**

##### **A. 4 Years and Younger Walking Mule Class: Two Options:**

- (1) Mules perform two gaits: the flat walk and the running walk both directions of the arena Mules to be backed at the judge's discretion.
- (2) Mules perform three gaits: flat walk, running-walk and canter both directions of the arena Mules to be backed at the judge's discretion.
- (3) Exhibitors are expected to show in Saddle Seat attire unless specified on the class list. To increase entries, the Show Secretary may choose to allow both types of attire and tack.

##### **B. 5 Years and Older Walking Mule Class: Two Options**

- (1) Mules perform two gaits: the flat walk and the running walk both directions of the arena Mules to be backed at the judge's discretion.
- (2) Mules perform three gaits: the flat walk, the running walk and canter both directions of the arena Mules to be backed at the judge's discretion.
- (3) Exhibitors are expected to show in Saddle Seat attire unless specified on the class list. To increase entries, the Show Secretary may choose to allow both types of attire and tack.

##### **C. Open Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Mule:**

- (1) This class may be offered at any show in which Gaited Mule classes are offered. If offered, the title conferred would be A.G.M.A. World Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Mule.
- (2) Mules perform three gaits: flat walk, running-walk and canter both directions of the arena Mules to be backed at the judge's discretion.
- (3) Open to any age mule or rider.
- (4) Winner is designated as the Open Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Mule of that show.

##### **D. Walking Mule Western Trail Pleasure:**

For any age walking mule, to be shown in the Western attire and tack and can perform two or three gaits including the flat walk, the running walk and canter both directions of the arena (canter can be optional). The class description must indicate if the class is a two or three gait class. The mule should display a smooth ground covering stride that is suitable for the trail. The mule should easily turn to the outside of the ring when asked to reverse.

#### **2. Racking Mule Classes:**

- A. **Style Racking:** For any age or gender racking mule. Mules will be asked for three gaits, Show Walk, Show Rack, and the Style Rack, both directions of the arena. The style rack should show more animation and speed than the Show Walk.
- B. **Speed Racking:** Mule to perform three gaits, the Show Walk, the Show Rack, and the Speed Rack,

both directions of the arena. Credit shall be given to the most consistent mule that shows excessive speed. A mule that breaks gait shall be penalized.

- C. Racking Mule Class: Mules to perform two gaits: The Show Walk and the Show Rack. Entries may show in Saddle Seat or Western attire at the discretion of the Show Secretary who must specify on the class description. Exhibitors are expected to show in Saddle Seat attire unless specified on the class list. To increase entries, the Show Secretary may choose to allow both types of attire and tack.

### 3. Gaited Mule Under Saddle Classes:

- A. Gaited Mule English Trail Pleasure: For any age gaited mule, to be shown in the Saddle Seat attire and tack and can perform two or three gaits including Show Gait, Favorite Gait, and the (canter, optional). Class can call for two or three gaits, including the Show Walk, Favorite Gait, and (canter, optional). The class description must indicate if this is a two or three gait class. The mule should display a smooth ground covering stride that is suitable for the trail. The mule should easily turn to the outside of the ring when asked to reverse.
- B. Gaited Mule Western Trail Pleasure: For any age gaited mule, to be shown in the Western attire and tack and can perform two or three gaits including the Show Gait, Favorite Gait, and the (canter, optional). Class can call for two or three gaits, including the Show Gait, Favorite Gait, and (canter, optional). The class description must indicate if this is a two or three gait class. The mule should display a smooth ground covering stride that is suitable for the trail. The mule should easily turn to the outside of the ring when asked to reverse.

#### C. Gaited Mulemanship/Equitation:

- (1) In the Equitation Division, the exhibitor, as opposed to the mule, is judged. Exhibitors are judged on their seat, hands, and their ability as it relates to the performance of the mule, appointments of the mule with the rider, ring showmanship, and overall presentation.
- (2) A class designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence and maintaining a balanced functional and fundamental correct body position. The ideal mulemanship pattern is extremely precise with the rider and animal working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. The pattern may include but should not be limited to the following maneuvers: gait a serpentine without breaking at the Show Gait or Favorite Gait; perform a figure eight at the Show Gait or Favorite gait; be able to track a straight line in a gait; stop when asked; back on command; canter and break to a Show Gait without trotting.
- (3) Show management must identify the class as English or Western.

#### D. Gaited Obstacle Trail:

- (1) It is suggested that this class be divided into youth and adult classes where there are sufficient entries. The judge may grade each obstacle subtracting points for faults, refusals, excessive time, etc. Plus, and minus points may also be used for each obstacle if too much time is spent on one obstacle.
- (2) A minimum of six obstacles will be used, three of which are mandatory and at least three others selected from the approved list.
  - (a) Mandatory Obstacles:
    - I.) Gate
    - II.) Bridge
    - III.) Back Through
  - (b) Additional Obstacles:
    - I.) Water hazard

- II.) Simulated water hazard
- III.) Serpentine obstacles at a walk or a gait
- IV.) Carry an object
- V.) Ride over at least four logs or poles
- VI.) Put on and remove a slicker
- VII.) Side pass obstacles (may be elevated to a 12" maximum)
- VIII.) Box
- IX.) Mail Box
- X.) Lime Circle
- XI.) Drag or Pull

(c) Prohibited Trail Obstacles:

- I.) Tires
- II.) Live animals
- III.) PVC pipe
- IV.) Jumps
- V.) Rocking or moving bridges
- VI.) Water box with floating or moving parts
- VII.) Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher
- VIII.) Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll
- IX.) Ground tie
- X.) Dismounting

- (3) The course must be designed to require each mule to demonstrate walk, and gait somewhere between the obstacles as part of the working course.
- (4) Final consideration of the judge will include quality and smoothness of performance of the mule and neatness and ability of exhibitor. The ideal trail mule will negotiate the course with surefootedness; looks at the obstacles, but does not hesitate, yet does not rush along the course; moves willingly without excessive urging of exhibitor. Mule should show willingness to stand quietly on the bridge and not rush off. At the gate, the obstacle is not complete unless the gate is closed and should be judged accordingly. Mule should position himself at all times to enable the exhibitor to keep a hand on the gate until the gate is closed.
- (5) Entry may be either English or Western but not a combination of both. Western exhibitor must hold reins in one hand (the exception being a mule 4 or under wearing a bosal or ring snaffle) and should not be changed during the performance except while working the gate, if necessary. English entries may be ridden with both hands on the reins. A time limit may be set for the course; however, the time itself will have no bearing on the final placement except as a limit for course completion. Any type hackamore is not permitted with the exception of a bosal.

4. Gaited Mules at Halter:

A. Halter Division:

- (1) Halter class entries are presented in hand, in a show halter.



(7) Class to be judged 50% on conformation and 50% on gait.

The mules will be exhibited at a slow gait both ways of the arena before being brought to the center for individual inspection. The ideal gaited mule should be well proportioned, having a long neck that comes out of the shoulder at the angle of 45 to 55 degrees, short back long sloping croup and hind legs should have some set to the hock which will enable a gaited mule to stride under himself.

When tracking, the mule should carry his head above the withers and his fore legs should move from the shoulder allowing some extension and breaking in the foreleg and the hind legs should step over the front foot stride. When tracking, the mule should move very loose and free. The handlers should wear Western of Saddle Seat attire and the halter and bridle should match the exhibitor's attire.

- C. Driving Classes: Any of the driving classes found in the Driving Section of this rulebook may be offered for the Gaited Mule in harness adhering to the Driving Tack rules.

### **Time Outs:**

Time Outs interrupt the show; therefore, unauthorized time outs will not be permitted.

1. A rider desiring a time out will ride to the center of the arena, remain mounted, and request it of the Judge. The Judge will ascertain the reason for the time out and either grant or deny the request.
2. After an exhibitor pulls into the center, he/she must obtain a time out before dismounting. Failure to do so shall require the Judge to excuse the entry; the Judge has no discretion in this regard. Further, the entrance of a trainer or an assistant into the show ring before a time out is granted shall require the Judge to excuse the entry. The sole exception to this rule shall be a mule and/or rider in immediate danger of injury in the opinion of the Judges.
3. If the Judge grants a time out, mules on the rail will go at ease, and a groom or farrier will be ordered in as required. The rider may then dismount. Riders granted a time out may not make adjustments to any equipment other than that for which the time out was authorized except for adjustments, as they would make while mounted.
4. Riders at ease on the rail during timeouts may make such adjustments as they can while mounted, but assistance over the rail is not permitted; physical assistance (touching the mule) is not permitted and mule must be excused.
5. If the Judge finds the reason for the time out not valid, he/she must order the entry back to the rail immediately.
6. Time outs may be granted by the Judge for replacement of shoes by a farrier, replacement of broken equipment, or in other instances where the Judge finds reason. However, time outs for adjustments of equipment, such as curb chains and bridles are not allowed.
7. A total of ten minutes in aggregate shall be allowed for each entry for authorized time outs, but no more than two-time outs per class.

### **Workouts:**

All mules chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the arena, each gait asked for by the Judge. A Judge shall not place any entry in a workout unless the entry has performed all required gaits both ways of the arena in the initial performance. Any Judge ignoring this rule shall have subjected himself/herself to disciplinary action. Workouts shall be judged as a separate class. Any and all mules shall be judged as a separate class. Any and all mules performing in the arena must be considered for first place.

### **Falls:**

1. A rider is not considered to have fallen when he/she is separated from a mule that has not fallen in such

a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.

2. A mule is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground.
3. The fall of a mule and/or rider shall not disqualify the entry, unless due to bad manners of the mule or unless the safety of the rider is threatened.

#### **Unruly Mules:**

Mules being unruly, rearing, balking, running off, or leaving the Arena must be excused.

#### **Rider Class Divisions:**

- a. Open Classes: Classes are open to all Rider/Exhibitor Divisions.
- b. Amateur Classes:
  - A. Amateur is any rider nineteen years old and older on January 1 of the calendar year of the show.
  - B. Amateurs must hold a current A.G.M.A. Amateur card.
  - C. A.G.M.A. Amateur card and A.G.M.A. registration papers in 2008 must accompany the amateur's entry form.
  - D. A.G.M.A. Amateur riders, riding a mule they own are permitted to show in open classes.
  - E. Class description must specify for Amateur exhibitors only and can be further broken down into Amateur Ladies Class as well as Amateur Gentlemen's Class. All above-mentioned classes, including the Walking, Racking and Gaited Classes may be held for Amateur exhibitors.
  - F. Amateur application must be completed and an Amateur card must be purchased before entering an Amateur class
- c. Youth Classes: Youth classes are defined as a rider who is eighteen years and younger on January 1 of the calendar year of the show.

#### **Attire and Tack:**

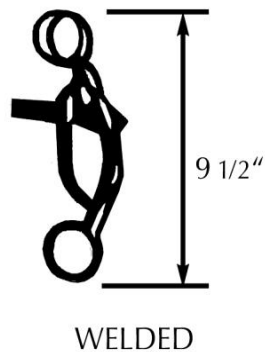
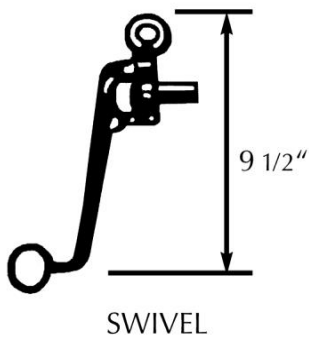
Saddle Seat or Western Attire depending on the class.

1. In all Gaited Mule Western classes, western attire and tack is to be used, Mules will be shown in a western saddle.
  - A. Optional equipment: spurs, chaps, gloves, rope or riata.
  - B. Prohibited equipment: Australian saddles, crops, mechanical hackamores, martingales, training paraphernalia, action devices, tie downs, tack collars, jerk lines.
2. In all Gaited Mule English type classes, Saddle Seat attire and English type saddles are mandatory.
3. In Saddle Seat classes a saddle seat habit of two or three button saddle suit of a solid conservative color is correct both day and evening.
4. In all Gaited Mule Western type classes, exhibitors in all approved A.G.M.A. shows are required to wear long-sleeved shirts, Western hats, pants, and boots in stock type halter, gymkhana events and western performance classes.
5. In all Gaited Mule Driving type classes, drivers should be dressed conservatively according to the style of present day; either Western or English is acceptable. Ladies wearing a skirt should wear a lap apron, a hat of choice, long sleeves, and gloves are required.

6. In all Gaited Halter Mule type classes, either English or Western attire adhering to the above rules is acceptable.
7. Safety helmets are optional.

**Tack:**

All mules must use English tack, except where division or class rules permit otherwise. All mules must use Standard Walking Mule Single Rein Bridle and Bit, except where division or class rules permit otherwise. Neither quick-change bridles and reins nor gag bits with no shanks are allowed. Curb chains are permitted.



**Bits:**

Gaited bits are recognized as any standard Walking Mule bit. Severe bits are discouraged and bleeding from the mouth or muzzle is reason for disqualification. These bits are curbs with a solid or broken mouthpiece. A description of a legal Gaited Mule bit for Mules 5 years and older and Mules 4 years and younger includes:

1. A 9 ½-inch length shank to be measured as indicated. Shanks are measured from the very top of the metal to the very bottom of the metal, including the rings to which the cheeks and reins are attached. Shank may be fixed or loose.
2. With regard to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece. Solid or broken mouthpieces may have a port no higher than three inches. Smooth round, rubber, wrapped copper wire, twisted wire, double-twisted wire, or Tom Bass ports are acceptable. Bits featuring mouthpieces with cathedral, donuts, prong edges or rough, sharp material shall be cause for elimination.
3. Gag bits with shanks are acceptable.

**Bridles:**

Mules will be shown in standard Walking Mule Bridles with closed English type reins in English classes and split or Romal reins in Western classes. Curb chains must meet the approval of the Judge and be at least one-half inch in width and must lie flat against the jaw of the mule.

**English Tack:**

1. SADDLE: English Type saddles of the flat or deep seat, forward seat, Australian and stock seat saddles are prohibited.
2. BRIDLE: All mules must use a Standard Walking Mule Single Rein Bridle and Bit.
3. WHIPS: Whips can be used in under saddle classes (English Only) and halter classes but must not exceed 4 feet in length including the snapper.

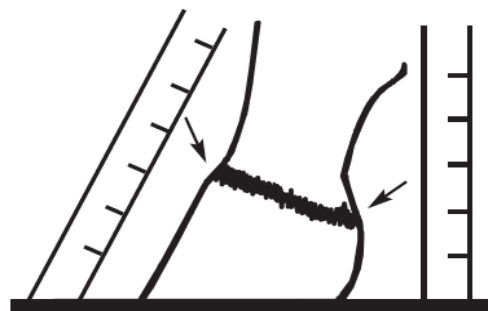
**Western Tack:**

1. SADDLE: Western tack requires a Western Style Saddle.
2. BRIDLE: Western tack requires a Western Style Saddle Bridle with no cavesson. The length of the bit must not exceed nine and one half (9 ½) inches. Curbs are allowed, chain or leather, but must be at least one half (1/2) inch wide and must lay flat against the mule’s jaw. Split or Romal reins are also allowed.
3. WHIPS: Whips are not allowed in Western classes.

**Driving Tack:**

Also see Driving Rules.

1. FINE HARNESS: A correctly fitting harness is essential for the comfort of the harness mules and donkeys. A wider harness saddle is suggested for two wheeled vehicles as more weight rests on the mules and donkey’s back.
2. BRIDLE: Should fit snugly to prevent catching on the vehicle or other pieces of harness. A throatlatch and a nose and/or cavesson are mandatory.
  - A. Martingales and over checks are prohibited in obstacle classes
  - B. Failure to comply incurs elimination.
3. BITS:
  - A. Snaffle bits and other types of traditional driving bits are allowed.
  - B. Bits may be covered with rubber or leather.
  - C. Legal bits include:
    - (1) Half cheek snaffles
    - (2) Liverpool
    - (3) Elbow Driving
    - (4) Bradoon Over Checks
4. WHIPS: An appropriate whip shall be carried at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest mules and donkeys. A driver not in compliance will be disqualified.



CORONET BAND

5. **SHOEING:** Toe length must exceed the height of the heel by one (1) inch or more. The length of the toe shall be measured from the coronet band, at the center of the front pasterns along the front.
6. **BAREFOOT:** Barefoot mules may be shown in classes; however, judges must disqualify lame or tender footed mules.

#### **Keg Shoe Shod Mules:**

Applying to all four feet, the mule is to be shod with an unmodified stamped keg shoe cast or poured. Shoe must be sized to fit the mule's foot. No over sized shoe modified smaller. Borium or drill tech is allowed on the toe and caulk. One dot is allowed on each caulk and two dots are allowed on the toe. The amount of borium or drill tech may be no more than a quarter (1/4) inch thick. No pads allowed. No additional weight shall be allowed on or in the hoof, other than the shoe and nails. Lubricants in the pastern area, action devices, pads, bands, boots and artificial appliances are prohibited on the keg-shod mules in the show ring and on the show grounds.

#### **Light Shod:**

Applying to all four feet, the mule is shod with a shoe no wider than three-quarters (3/4) inch, and no thicker than three-eighths (3/8) inch. No tungsten is allowed, hot or cold rolled steel or aluminum, with no bare plate or other weight inside the shoe. The shoe is not to extend beyond the bulb of the mule's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the mule's heel to the ground and the shoe must not extend more than a quarter (1/4) inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The caulk must not exceed one (1) inch turn back. The use of borium or drill tech is permitted on the caulks of the shoes, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the borium or drill tech must not exceed seven-eighths (7/8) inch. Welded on clips are not permitted on flat shod mules. Clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are permitted. No pads allowed. No additional weight shall be allowed on or in the hoof, other than the shoe and nails. Lubricants in the pastern area, action devices, pads, bands, boots and artificial appliances are prohibited on the light shod mules in the show ring and on the show grounds.

#### **Show Mules Are Not to be Shown at A.G.M.A Approved Events:**

A Show Mule (shown with pads) is a mule that has received training to enhance the natural gaits associated with its breed type. Such mules perform with boots or action devices, which give an added dimension to their performances in the ring.

## **SPECIALTY CLASSES**

#### **Costume Class:**

1. Entries shall be shown in appropriate costumes reflecting a particular theme.
2. Mules shall be shown in accordance with the A.G.M.A. rules and shall be judged 50% on the mule and 50% on the costume of the Exhibitor.
3. This class is not required to canter.

#### **Novice and Limited Class:**

1. A Novice Class is open to mules and/or Exhibitors that have not won a first-place ribbon at an affiliated show. The show sheet must specify if the class is for novice rider or novice mule or a combination of both.

2. A Limited Class is open to mules and/or Exhibitors, which have not won six (6), first place ribbons at affiliated shows in a particular performance division in which they are shown.
3. Eligibility of entries is established as of the date of closing of entries and each Show Committee.

## **RULES for RETIREMENT**

In the event that a retirement ceremony shall be allowed at the request of the Owner of a mule or donkey, said mule or donkey shall not be permitted to compete at that show.

Any mule or donkey officially retired shall be barred for life from further competition, except by special permission of the A.G.M.A. Board of Directors.

The A.G.M.A. shall give necessary publicity to official retirement ceremonies.

Any ceremony announcing an Exhibitor's retirement from competition is prohibited.

## **RULES for AMATEUR EXHIBITORS and AMATEUR CLASSES**

An Amateur Class is one in which every Exhibitor is an amateur.

Any person who, under these rules is a Trainer and knowingly and falsely represents himself/herself to be an amateur in order to exhibit in amateur classes, or any person who violates any of the provisions of this rule, shall be subject to disciplinary action. If found guilty, there will be a mandatory three full calendar year (January-December) waiting period before re-applying for amateur status. The subject shall declare and apply for amateur status before being considered/granted an Amateur card. A person who has previously been declared a Trainer must wait three years before applying and being granted A.G.M.A. amateur status.

If there is a question whether a person is a Trainer or Amateur, determination shall be made by the A.G.M.A. Board of Directors.

Any person who has not reached his/her 18th birthday is declared to be an Amateur and is not required to have an Amateur Card.

Amateur classes may be restricted to Exhibitors 18 years and over and shall so state on the prize list.

A Trainer's immediate family (no matter their age) cannot exhibit a mule as an Amateur if the Trainer has received remuneration for that mule.

Standing a breeding stallion or Gaited Breeding Jack; buying/selling mules and boarding mules does not affect a person's amateur status. Having the occupation of veterinarian or farrier or owning a tack store, does not affect the amateur status of a person who is otherwise qualified. The writing of books or articles for mule show purposes or the acceptance or remuneration for judging or serving in the capacity of D.Q.P. at mule shows does not affect a person's amateur status.

To be eligible to show in Amateur classes at A.G.M.A. Affiliated Shows, every Amateur must have a current Amateur Card that must be renewed annually.

Application must be made to the Amateur Licensing Committee, whose chairman is appointed annually by the A.G.M.A. Board of Directors. It must contain the name of the applicant, address, date of birth, telephone number (including area code), and be accompanied by the required fee. The Amateur Card Rule will be enforced, and a photo I.D. will be required.

Amateur Divisions:

1. Amateur Classes are open to Amateur Exhibitors in keeping with specific class requirements.
2. Suggested Classes:
  - A. Amateurs on Two-Year-Olds (no canter required)
  - B. Amateurs on Three-Year-Olds (no canter required)
  - C. Amateurs on Four-Year Olds (no canter required)
  - D. Amateur Specialty Class (no canter required)
  - E. Amateurs 50 Years Old and Over (canter optional)
  - F. Gentlemen Amateur 18 Years Old and Over (canter optional)
  - G. Amateur Open Classes;
  - H. Amateur Trained, no professional training within 90 days
  - I. Owner/Amateur/Trained, no professional training within 90 days (training shall include grooming, warming up the mule or giving instructions by a Trainer)
  - J. Championship Classes.
3. Amateur Classes may be limited to Owner-amateur. An Owner/Amateur Class is one in which every

contestant is either an amateur who owns the entry being shown or is an amateur member of the owner's immediate family, unless otherwise stated in the prize list.

4. Amateur Classes may be limited to "Amateur Owned and Trained." To qualify for this class, the mule must have received no professional training within 90 days preceding the show. The mule cannot be boarded at a professional training establishment. The exhibitor in any amateur owned and trained class shall be restricted to the mule owner or an immediate family member.

## **RULES for YOUTH EXHIBITORS and YOUTH CLASSES**

Youth classes are so stated to facilitate the separation of points for the High Point Youth Champions.

In the event a Show Committee wishes to divide youth Exhibitors' Classes, it may offer separate classes for boys and girls or offer several age limits. The following three age limits are suggested but may be varied depending on local conditions:

1. Youth who have not reached their 13th birthday;
2. Youth who have reached their 13th birthday but not their 14th birthday; and
3. Youth who have reached their 14th birthday but not their 19th birthday.

If a Judge or parent determines a child cannot handle a mule, the Judge or properly identified parent may request the entry be excused and the show shall comply.

Fastening a child in any way to the saddle is strictly prohibited and entry shall be excused.

Exhibitors 13 years and under will be allowed one groom in the lineup.

### **Youth Divisions:**

Open to Exhibitors, 18 years and under, in keeping with specific class requirements. Suggested classes are:

1. Youth on Mules, 13 years old and under (no canter required)
2. Youth 14-18 (canter optional)
3. Youth on Mare Mules or on Horse Mules 18 years Old and under and/or
4. Youth Championships.

Youth classes may be limited to Youth Owner/Exhibitor Class. The youth 13 years old and under class may be divided further into separate classes for mare mules and horse mules, particularly where a youth 13-year-old and under Championship is offered. The class for youth 18 years old and under may be divided further into separate classes for Exhibitors of specific ages, particularly where a Youth 18 Years Old and Under Championship is offered. Classes may be divided still further by the gender of the Exhibitors.

## **RULES for the TRAIL PLEASURE DIVISION**

1. Youth and Amateur Trail Pleasure classes will demonstrate two gaits: The Show Walk and Favorite Gait. Four and Over Amateur Classes and Youth classes 14-18 may be asked to canter if designated on the class sheet.
2. The Show Walk or the Trail Pleasure mule should be a smooth, easy gait with a smooth backend. The mule should be under control and have a natural headset.
3. The Favorite Gait for the Trail Pleasure mule should have an increase in speed from the Show Walk. Form should not be sacrificed for speed.
4. In all Trail Pleasure Classes, mules will be asked to “whoa” at least one time while performing at the Show Walk or Favorite Gait each way of the ring at the Judge’s discretion.
5. When asked to “whoa”, the mule should stop and stand quietly on a relaxed rein until asked to continue.
6. The mule must demonstrate perfect manners and an exceptionally smooth, natural gait. Mule and Exhibitor should show no sign of strain.
7. The Trail Pleasure mule must give the impression of the ultimate trail mule at all times during the class. This mule should represent the mule that gives equal pleasure “on the trail or inside the rail”.
8. The mule should perform on a relaxed rein and be ridden with one hand. However, Youth Exhibitors 13 Years of Age and Under may use two hands.
9. Since the Trail Pleasure mule represents the ultimate pleasure mule, cross chain cavesson and whips of any kind are prohibited in this class.
10. The Trail Pleasure mule must stand quietly and back readily in the line up or be penalized in the final judging.
11. Advanced Trail Pleasure classes will be required to perform the canter both ways of the ring, back clear of the line up and perform a 360 neck rein turn. All mules must be neck reined. The reins must be held in one hand and the loop shall fall to one side. When using split reins, a hand around the reins or index finger between the reins is permitted, but the free hand is not allowed to touch the reins. When using Romal reins a hand should be around the reins, but a finger between the reins is not permitted. (Romal refers to an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension may be carried in the free hand with approximately a 16-inch space between the reining hand and the free hand holding the Romal). The Romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the mule. In Advanced Trail Pleasure the mule may be asked to “WHOA” from the canter.

## **RULES for the JUDGING COMMITTEE**

The Committee is composed of a Chairman, Co-Chairman, and five A.G.M.A. members to review all Judges' applications. The Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding approval or denial of a Judge.

The Chairman of the Judges Committee must be an A.G.M.A. member in good standing. The Chairman of the Judges Committee cannot show during his/her term as Chairman. No mule owned by the Judges Committee Chairman can be shown during his/her term as Chairman.

Existing judges' conduct and ability are subject to continual review by the Judges Committee.

The A.G.M.A. Board of Directors will approve the Chairman of the Judges Committee.

## **RULES for the CONDUCT of JUDGES**

**Correct Attire:** Where show circumstances are best served by alternative attire. English, Gaited, Driving and Dressage judges may, at their discretion, dress in attire appropriate for the classes they are judging. Western attire, including long sleeves, pants, Western hat and boots.

When officiating at a show, a Judge shall not arrive on the show grounds more than 30 minutes prior to show time.

A Judge, by accepting an invitation to officiate a show, assumes a responsibility to protect Show Committee by excusing from the ring all mules suspected of being in violation of the A.G.M.A. and H.P.A. Rules.

A Judge is obligated to adjudicate each class in conformity with the Rules and specifications of that class as they appear in the A.G.M.A. Rule Book. The Judge is expected to be proficient and to possess a thorough knowledge of the Rules of the A.G.M.A.

No Judge selected to officiate at a show shall be contacted relative to this show by any person having an interest in any mule expected to be shown at such show. Telephone calls from Trainers, Exhibitors, etc., are to be reported to the Judges Committee and the Judges Committee may make a charge and refer the person to the Grievance Committee and Board of Directors for discipline.

Judge will be announced at the show when the show starts.

A Judge shall not inspect or discuss any mule entered in the show prior to the beginning of the show, unless so requested by the Show Committee.

Said Judge shall report all contacts made in violation hereof immediately to the A.G.M.A. Judges Committee.

It is the responsibility of a Judge to report any violation to the A.G.M.A.

Failure of a Judge to attend a show to which he/she is committed, to perform his/ her duties and to officiate in the classes to which he/she is assigned shall constitute cause for disciplinary action, except in cases of extreme emergencies.

All Judges are required to attend a yearly Judges Clinic to keep abreast of new rules, procedures, etc.

All Judges will be advised by mail of any rule changes. It is the individual judge's responsibility to keep his/ her rulebook updated.

At an A.G.M.A. show, a judge cannot judge a show in which mules are owned or exhibited by member(s) of his or her immediate family.

Judges Committee will decide on Judges Conduct and Reprimand. It will then have to be approved by the Board of Directors.

## **VIOLATIONS**

The Operating Plan as published by A.G.M.A., as accepted by the A.G.M.A., is hereby made a part of the A.G.M.A. Rule Book, the same as if printed in its entirety in this space. Subsequent periodic acceptance by A.G.M.A. of the Operating Plan for period covered by the plan is a prerequisite to inclusion of the Operating Plan in the A.G.M.A. Rule Book.

Abnormal Reaction to Palpation, both feet: Mandatory two (2) week suspension for Trainer, and exhibitor. Not a sore mule. Reaction is not repetitive in same spot.

One-foot Abnormal Reaction to Palpation: Will not be allowed to show that night. A trainer receiving four (4) violations will receive a two-week suspension.

Presenting for inspection, exhibiting, or being in control of any sore, sensitive, or unsound mule.

Presenting for inspection, exhibiting, or being in control of any bad image mule: Penalty for first offense is a three (3) week suspension. Second violation within same calendar year will require a mandatory appearance before the Grievance Committee.

Presenting for inspection, exhibiting, or being in control of a mule that has been illegally shod.

Presenting for inspection, exhibiting, or being in control of a mule with a foreign substance on its pastern area or an illegal substance on its hooves to accomplish artificial hoof extensions.

Showing, exhibiting or attempting to show or exhibit a mule while said mule is under suspension.

Failing to present a mule for inspection by the D.Q.P. before showing or exhibiting.

Failing to present for re-inspection immediately following the class, all first-place winners or any other mule requested by Show Committee, the D.Q.P. or USDA.

Being in possession (riding, leading, and standing) of a mule wearing action devices.

Penalization by another Equine Industry Organization, or Court of Law for violation of H.P.A. Rules.

Acting, enticing or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the Rules of the A.G.M.A., or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of the A.G.M.A.

Committing any act or making any remark considered offensive and/or having been made with intent to influence or cast aspersions on the judging.

Failing, as an Exhibitor or his/her representative, to sign the entry blank of a show in which he/she competed.

Physically assaulting a person and/or treating a mule or donkey cruelly. Failing to obey any penalty imposed by the A.G.M.A.

Influencing or attempting to influence by any means or manner any D.Q.P. in determining the eligibility of any mule entering any class at any affiliated show.

Influencing or attempting to influence by any means or manner any Judge in determining which mule shall win in any class at any affiliated show.

Failure to pay any debt(s) to the A.G.M.A.

Weapons: Carrying or possessing, on the premises, show grounds (which includes but is not limited to the entire area, including out buildings, warm up areas, exercise areas, and parking lots), office, or other meeting place of any A.G.M.A. activity, whether openly or concealed, with the intent to go armed, or inflict injury, any weapon capable of, or adapted for, the infliction of serious bodily injury or death by either shooting, hitting, cutting, swinging, or stabbing. Weapon shall include, but not be limited to, any firearm (handgun, pistol, rifle or shotgun), explosive, explosive weapon (which includes explosive incendiary, poisonous gas or irritating gas or agent), bowie knife, hawk bill knife, ice pick, dagger, leaded cane, switch-blade, knife, blackjack, knuckles,

or any other instrument of like kind. Responsible parties for the above violations will receive immediate, lifetime suspension from A.G.M.A.

Any Exhibitor for violations of such things as refusing a ribbon at any Affiliated/Sanctioned Show may be suspended for 30 days.

Responsible parties for the following violations a suspension of not more than one (1) year.

1. Refusal to provide the necessary information to D.Q.P.
2. Failure to have a mule re-inspected after notification by Show Chairman, D.Q.P., or USDA.
3. Verbal abuse to anyone representing Show Management, D.Q.P., Program Director, Employees or Director, and/or USDA while functioning in any official capacity at, or pertaining to, any mule show, sale, etc.
4. Physical abuse to anyone representing Show Management, D.Q.P., D.Q.P. Program Director, Employees or Directors, or USDA while functioning in any official capacity at, or pertaining to, any horse show, sale, etc. This will require a mandatory appearance before A.G.M.A. Board Members, Committee Members, and employees will be subject to the same disciplinary action as all other members who violate this rule.
5. Providing false information. Providing false information of any nature or kind to any show official or D.Q.P. will require mandatory appearance before Grievance Committee. Any report filed by Show Committee, or any Judge(s), showing that a mule was excused or dismissed from the ring for violation for which weeks are assigned as provided herein, will be penalized in the same manner as violations reported by D.Q.P.

Sore Tickets: At a show where there are two (2) or more D.Q.P.'s, two must agree and both sign the ticket. At a show there is only one D.Q.P., that D.Q.P. writes the ticket.

\*These rules and penalties may change in 2007 by USDA-APHIS. At that time these rules and penalties will change in the A.G.M.A. Rule Book.

THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES ARE PRESCRIBED BY THE 2001-2003 OPERATING PLAN AS PUBLISHED BY USDA-APHIS.

	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth &amp; Subsequent</b>
<b>Soring Violations</b>				
Pressure Shoeing	12 months	2 years	5 years	Life
Bilateral Sore	8 months	2 years	5 years	Life
Unilateral Sore	2 weeks	2 months	1 year	2 years
Scar Rule	2 weeks	2 months	1 year	2 years
First year of Plan	DQ Class	2 weeks	2 months	1 year
Subsequent	2 weeks	2 months	1 year	2 years

SUSPENSION VIOLATIONS: six (6) months for each occurrence

OTHER HPA VIOLATIONS: Foreign Substance

Pre Show-DQ Class (Non-correctable) Post Show: two (2) weeks for each Equipment Violations

Pre Show-DQ Class (Non-correctable) Post Show: two (2) weeks for each occurrence

UNRULY/FRACTIOUS MULE: DQ Class (Non-correctable)

During the first year of this Plan (2001 mule-show season), a first violation of the Scar Rule will require that

the mule be disqualified from the class in which it was entered. The custodian will then be provided with educational material on the Scar Rule. Subsequent violations within the first year of the Plan shall require that the penalties be imposed in accordance with the above chart as listed in the category "First year of Plan." In all subsequent years and mule show seasons, penalties for Scar Rule violations shall be imposed in accordance with the above chart under the listing "Subsequent years." In all cases, when any violations identified after a mule has shown in its class (post show), the winnings shall be forfeited and the class shall be retied. H.I.O.s shall require that show management agree to enforce this stipulation when affiliating with an H.I.O. which is a signatory to this Plan. Penalties assessed during the term of this Plan shall not automatically become void upon the termination of this Plan.

Section VII. G Probation Period. This term means the period of time after a suspension is served in which a subsequent violation becomes cumulative according to the above table. Under this Operating Plan, H.I.O.s will allow violators a probationary period of at least one (1) year for all HPA violations as set forth in Section VII. G above. Such probationary period shall commence once a suspension has been fully served and any subsequent HPA offense received after the end of the probationary period shall be considered a first offense for the offender.

## **PENALTIES and SUSPENSION**

The A.G.M.A. shall have final jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to restrictions levied for any violations of the Rules, or any prejudicial act, and may order suspensions and penalties including, but not limited to the following:

### **General Guidelines for Penalties:**

1. Any person found guilty of a violation of the A.G.M.A. Rules may be subject to suspension for any period from showing or having others show, exhibit or train for them. Suspension shall be assessed to the trainer, owner, and exhibitor.
2. A suspended person is forbidden for the time specified in the sentence to hold or exercise office in the A.G.M.A. or any Affiliated Show and may be excluded from all show grounds during Affiliated Shows and from participating in any A.G.M.A. activity including voting and attending the annual meeting.
3. Any person suspended by the USDA is automatically suspended by the A.G.M.A. for the period of the USDA suspension. The A.G.M.A. may levy any other such penalty against the person as deemed appropriate.
4. Any volunteer or any employed person who assist, rides, exhibits, or grooms for the benefit, credit, reputation, or satisfaction of the person disciplined may be suspended for any period.
5. Any elected officer or Board of Director while serving a suspension issued by the A.G.M.A. is also suspended from his/her duties as an officer or director for the same period of time.
6. Any member who violates the above rules, shall be suspended for the remainder of that member's natural life from membership in A.G.M.A. and for a like period is prohibited from participating in any A.G.M.A. show, meeting, function, or any other activity.
7. Any non-member violating in this provision shall be prohibited for the remainder of their natural life from the membership in A.G.M.A. or participating in any show, meeting, function, or any other activity.

### **Penalties Resulting in Immediate Disqualifications and/or Return of Premiums Include, but Are Not Limited to:**

1. Misrepresentations of a mule's identity, name, age, eligibility for the class, registered or recorded name, registration number, owner of record, and other information on any entry blank, or substitution in the show ring of an entry other than the one named for the class in question which shall result in the Exhibitor's forfeiture of any ribbon, trophy, cash prize and other award won by such misrepresented or substituted animal, and shall render the Exhibitor liable for further penalty.
2. Voluntarily removing a mule from the ring without the permission of a Judge.

The Exhibitor and all animals under his/her care and training may be disqualified from all future classes at that show by the Show Committee and caused to forfeit all prizes and entry fees for the entire show.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES for SUSPENSIONS**

1. Any person who desires their suspension to commence before the twenty (20) day period allowed for requesting a Board of Directors and Grievance Committee Hearing shall file a written statement with the Board of Directors and the Grievance Committee stating that he/she is guilty as charged and requesting the suspension begin immediately. In this event, the applicable suspension days will begin running on the post-marked date of the letter to A.G.M.A.
2. Any person who desires his/her suspension to commence immediately may sign the back of his/her D.Q.P. ticket. This is an admission of guilt.

### **Additional Penalties, Which May Be Levied:**

Any person found guilty of a violation of the A.G.M.A. Rules may be subject to the following:

1. Expulsion: Expulsion from all Affiliated Shows, sales or exhibitions, expulsions from registering or transferring mules.
2. Forfeiture: Forfeiture of awards, trophies, ribbons, and prize money won in connection with the offense committed.
3. Fine: Fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$5,000.
4. Probation: Probation for any period of time up to one (1) year from the date of decision or, if suspension is levied, from the date the suspension is terminated. Probation shall be a time during which the conduct of the person is scrutinized carefully by the A.G.M.A. and should violation be filed against said person he/she is automatically suspended from all rights and privileges until the Hearing of the Board of Directors and the Grievance Committee.

### **Restrictions, Notification, Reciprocity:**

1. Suspension must be taken during the A.G.M.A. show season.
2. A person suspended by USDA cannot present a mule for inspection or warm the mule up on the show grounds.
3. The A.G.M.A. office staff shall notify the sponsoring organization of every Affiliated Show of person on suspension. The A.G.M.A. may report disciplinary action taken to another equine association/breed registry if in their opinion some course is advisable for the protection of mutual interest.

## **RECORD and PUBLICATION of BOARD of DIRECTORS and HEARING COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

Actions taken by the Board of Directors and with regard to administrative and operational matters shall be recorded in the minutes of the A.G.M.A. This action shall be OPERATIONAL ACTION.

## **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.

	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.

## **RULES for the HIGH-LOW OLYMPIC JUDGING SYSTEM**

1. Five Judges working independently of each other will place each class. Judge number one will be the Call Judge.
2. Points will be assigned to the placing on a one to ten basis with first receiving ten points, second place receiving nine points, third place receiving eight points, and so forth on down to one point for tenth place. The highest placing and the lowest placing are eliminated for each entry.
3. The remaining three placing are totaled and the entry receiving the most points wins the class. In case of a tie; then all five places are added. If still tied, then the first or Call Judge's Card shall determine first place.
4. If a mule receives four or less placing, the top score is eliminated.
5. 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.
6. A workout requires agreement by three of the five judges, or the positions must be filled without a workout.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. If no entries receive two workout votes, there is no workout and the class is tied.

## **RULES for the HIGH POINT SYSTEM at a SHOW**

Exhibitor and Owner must be a Member of the A.G.M.A. to participate. Mule must be A.G.M.A. registered in 2008.

Place	Points
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1st	6
2nd	5
3rd	4
4th	3
5th	2
6th	1

If you have only three (3) mules to place, then first place gets three points, second gets two points, and third place gets one point. However, many placing you have is the number of points given for first place and go down from there to the last place getting one point.

\*In case a tie occurs, the mule will be declared the Show High Point winner who:

1. Earned points in the greatest number of classes
2. The mule winning the most First placing

## **GRIEVANCES/PROTESTS**

1. The Grievance Committee is made up of the A.G.M.A. Grievance Committee Chair, the A.G.M.A. Gaited Committee Chair, and the A.G.M.A. Rules Committee Chair. The Grievance Committee shall have sole authority to investigate possible or alleged violations of any bylaw, rule or regulation of the Association. This Grievance Committee will gather all needed information, the \$100.00 protest fee, and substantiate the need for further investigation, and then will transfer the documentation to the Board of Directors with no names mentioned.
2. The person filing the protest must be an A.G.M.A. member in good standing.
3. If a member of the Grievance Committee is involved in any protest, she/he should be removed from the voting procedure and an alternate member should be appointed to serve temporarily on the Gaited Grievance Committee.
4. Violations concerning the following will NOT be addressed by the Grievance Committee:
  - A. Judge issues which are handled through the Judges Committee.
  - B. Show Ring layout.
  - C. Timer problems.
  - D. Disagreements about disqualifications. In shows in which a D.Q.P. inspects mules, the D.Q.P.'s or veterinarian decision is final and not subject to protest or grievance.
5. The protest must be filed in writing citing the specific rule infraction, signed by the protesting member(s) and delivered to any member of the Grievance Committee within 48 hours of the time of the cause of the protest.
6. The protest must be accompanied by a \$100.00 fee, by cash or check, which shall be forfeited, to A.G.M.A. if the protest is not sustained.

### **Suspended Individuals:**

Any person receiving disciplinary suspension from the A.G.M.A. or any other equine association will be refused entry into A.G.M.A. gaited mule classes for the period of their suspension.

## **MATTERS NOT SUBJECT to PROTEST**

The soundness of a mule, when determined by an official veterinarian, D.Q.P., or by a Judge, is not subject to Protest.

A Judges decision, representing an individual preference, is not subject to Protest unless it is alleged to be in violation of the Rules.

The decision of the D.Q.P. and the Judges are final.

## **AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS, FIRMS, CORPORATIONS, or PARTNERSHIPS**

The provisions of the Rules shall apply to all Owners, Exhibitors, agents,

Trainers, managers, riders, handlers, show officials, show employees, members of the families or employees of the above, participating either individually, or as a Member of an entity.

Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or other entity granted any right, privilege, authorization, license, or accepting any benefit from the A.G.M.A. shall be deemed to contractually agree to fully cooperate with all duly appointed committees, agents, and employees in enforcement of all Rules, regulations, of the A.G.M.A.

Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or other entity granted any right, privilege, authorization, or license, or accepting, receiving, or exercising same may be required to give evidence or testimony in any investigation, hearing, trial, or other proceeding held by duly appointed representatives of the A.G.M.A. in connection with investigation of possible violation and enforcement of these Rules.

Any violation and penalties of these rules shall apply equally to all mule shows, sales, and Exhibitors affiliated with the A.G.M.A.