



2022

Wyoming Mustang Association  
Rules, Information & Premium Book



## Goal

The primary goal of the Wyoming Mustang Association (WMA) is to learn, foster friendly competition and create community. WMA events will provide each member or entrant the opportunity to demonstrate what a wild horse can accomplish when given proper care and training. This is a BLM wild horse, burro and mule show requiring all animals to have a US BLM Freeze Mark and proof of Certificate of Title or Adoption Papers. Selected events may be open to all breeds.

## Liability

All entries are accepted with the understanding that the WMA Committee, agents, and facility are not responsible for any loss, damage or injury to any animal exhibited or to any article of any kind. All animals shall be under the control and the risk of the exhibitor, who will be responsible for any loss, damage or injury to any person, animal or property occasions by him, his agents or employees, or by an animal owned or exhibited by him, and shall indemnify the WMA Committee against any and all loss, damages and liability thus occasional, including attorney fees, which may be incurred as a result thereof. The submitting of an event entry form or RSVP to the WMA shall constitute an acceptance by each person signing same of the revisions herein set forth.

## Membership

Wyoming Mustang Association memberships are valid on the date of purchase and expire one calendar year from active date. Members will receive a membership card via mail which they can present at events for discounted entry fees and points tracking. Only active members will be eligible for year-end awards.

### Current Membership Fees:

Individual Youth Membership: \$15.00/year

Individual Adult Membership: \$20.00/year

Family Membership (4 members): \$60.00/year

Membership form can be completed online by visiting [wyomingmustangassn.com/membership/](http://wyomingmustangassn.com/membership/). Membership payments can be paid by check or PayPal. If PayPal is used, a small service fee will be added to your membership fee.

## Awards

### High Point Competitor Awards

Individual horse show events will award a competitor with the highest accumulation of points at that show in the following categories:

- Junior Youth
- Senior Youth
- Adult/Open
- Novice
- Green Horse

Points toward these high point awards will be awarded in ALL classes excluding those marked with an asterisk (\*) on the show bill. Placings in the individual classes will be awarded points using the scale listed in this document.

### Wyoming Mustang Ambassador Award

This award will be given to the WMA member with the highest accumulation of point throughout the year in events held outside of WMA. The idea of this program is to encourage showing and participation in events with your wild horse or burro throughout the year in a variety of organizations and events.



Points can be accumulated in the following ways:

- Organized trail ride events (2 points)
- Horse Shows (5 points for showing, 1 point for each class entered)
- Clinics (3 points for auditing, 5 points for entering, 1 point for each additional day of the clinic; i.e. if the clinic lasts 3 days and you are entering, you would receive 7 points total for the event)
- HMA rides (3 points)
- Volunteer (1 point for each hour of volunteering at shows and events)

Documentation

For each event you attend, you will be required to complete a brief form and provide documentation proving your participation for the points to count toward the year-end award. The form can be easily accessed on our website: <https://wyomingmustangassn.com/award-programs/>.

Award

The member with the highest point accumulation at the end of the calendar year will be awarded the Wyoming Mustang Ambassador Award.

### **Wyoming Mustang Association Outstanding Member Award**

This award will be given to the WMA member with the highest accumulation of points throughout the year in WMA hosted events. This program is to encourage member participation in organization events.

Points can be accumulated in the following ways:

- Organized trail ride events (2 points)
- Horse Shows (5 points for showing, 1 point for each class entered)
- Clinics (3 points for auditing, 5 points for entering, 1 point for each additional day of the clinic; i.e. if the clinic lasts 3 days and you are entering, you would receive 7 points total for the event)
- HMA rides (3 points)
- Volunteer (1 point for each hour of volunteering at WMA events)

Documentation

For each event you attend, you will be required to complete a brief form and provide documentation proving your participation for the points to count toward the year-end award. The form can be easily accessed on our website: <https://wyomingmustangassn.com/award-programs/>.

Award

The member with the highest point accumulation at the end of the calendar year will be awarded the Wyoming Mustang Association Outstanding Member Award.

### **Healthy Horse & Burro**

We want everyone to be comfortable knowing they are in the company of healthy horses and burros. The WMA requires a current Coggins test for every event and a health certificate when applicable.

### **Refusal of Entrants**

The WMA reserves the right to refuse, accept conditionally, or cancel any exhibitor's participation in hosted events.



### **Entrants in Class/Event**

Any class with less than two entries may, at the discretion of the WMA Committee, be combined with another class or canceled. The exhibitors in the classes will be notified accordingly. Large classes may be divided and conducted in two separate classes with duplicate prizes. If classes are split, you must ride in the assigned section. NO CHANGES ALLOWED.

### **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

When an exhibitor and/or representative acting on behalf of the exhibitor is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, the Committee can suspend the rights of such exhibitor and/or representative from participating in future events for such a period as judged appropriate; and the Committee can bar from participation in any future events.

### **Disqualification**

Any animal inhumanely doctored in any way, medically, mechanically or unfairly prepared or tampered with before entering the event will be disqualified. If it is ascertained that any exhibitor has made any false statement in regard to any animal or article exhibited, or if any exhibitor shall attempt to interfere with the judges in the performance of their duties, he or she shall be excluded from competing or exhibiting. In case of any animal being disqualified, the winner of the next succeeding prize in the class shall take the prize that has been awarded to such disqualified animal and the lowest prize in the class shall go to the reserve winner.

### **Discipline**

Exhibitors are warned that any act of discourtesy or disobedience to the officials of this show on the part of the owner, lessee, trainer, groom, rider or driver may disqualify the animal from further participation. The Committee reserves the right to remove an animal, owner, lessee, trainer, groom, rider or driver from the event without being liable for compensation or damages. Stallions/intact jacks are allowed to participate in the event as long as their handler is 18 years or older. If at any time the stallion or intact jack becomes disobedient, the Committee reserves the right to remove the animal and handler from the event without being liable for compensation or damages.

### **Warm up/Practice Arena Conduct**

There shall be no conduct in the paddock area, which disturbs or creates hazard to animals, riders and/or handlers. There will be no whips, noisemakers or other equipment, devices or objects allowed in the Warm up/Practice Arena which might disturb or create a hazard to animals, riders or handlers in the area, except the show whip carried properly by the rider or handler.

### **Cruelty and/or Abuse**

Cruelty to or abuse of an animal by any person at a recognized competition is forbidden and constitutes a violation and may result in expulsion from the show grounds. "Cruelty" and/or "abuse" include but are not limited thereto:

- Excessive use of force on any animal in a stall, runway, schooling area, show ring or elsewhere on the event grounds before or during an event or competition by any person.
- Rapping the legs of an animal with butt end of a riding crop or other implement.
- Use of any substance to induce temporary heat.
- Manual polling with any object other than a bamboo pole.
- Use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jump.
- Use of electric device in schooling or showing.



- Use of shackled (not to be construed as rubber or elastic exercising devices).
- Showing an animal with raw or bleeding sores.
- Use of explosives on the competition grounds, except in an exhibition or if required in class competitions.
- Inhumane treatment of an animal in a stall, runway, schooling area, show ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds by any person.

### **Use of Whips**

No item may be used inside or outside the ring/event area while attending a WMA event except one whip per handler. No appendages/attachments of any kind are permitted except In-Hand classes where a small empty paper or plastic bag or ribbons may be attached to the whip or used separately.

### **Two-Minute Gate Rule**

Due to a full schedule of classes at WMA events, the two (2) minute limit for gates will be strictly enforced. Exhibitors are cautioned against entering the same animal/rider in successive classes. The gate will close two (2) minutes after the first animal enters the ring, or in case with large classes taking more than two minutes, at the completion or final animal in the continuous string of equines/burros. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be sure that his/her animal is at the gate on time. Class calls must be considered a courtesy only. NO protests will be upheld on the basis of a public address (PA) system malfunction. Gate hold will be granted at the discretion of the gate steward and will not exceed five (5) minutes.

### **Withdrawal from Event/Classes**

As a courtesy to the Gate steward, Announcer and Show Office, exhibitors are requested to notify the Show Office or Event Coordinator when it is necessary to withdraw from an entered class or event. This courtesy will enable the event to run more efficiently. Your consideration will be greatly appreciated by the staff.

### **Admission to the Ring**

No person will be permitted to enter the ring except participants in the class, judge, their assistants, and show officials. Attendants and grooms may enter the ring only when summoned by order of the judge.

### **Rider Categories**

Junior Youth (9 and under):

An individual who has not reached his/her 9th birthday as of January 1st of the current year – 9 years old or under. Lead-line is allowed.

Senior Youth (10 to 17):

An individual who has reached his/her 10th birthday as of January 1st of the current year but has not reached his/her 17th birthday as of the current year.

Adult/Open (18 and older):

Open to exhibitors over 18 years of age or older regardless of the ribbons, remuneration previously won, or professional status. There is no qualification required for the rider, or handler.

Novice:

Open to exhibitors who have not engaged in any of the following activities:

- Accepts remuneration for riding, schooling, showing in halter, training, or conducting clinics or seminars.
- Accepts remuneration for instructions in equitation or horse training.
- Has won prizes or money in excess of \$2,000.



- Has won the high point novice horse/rider combination at the Wyoming Mustang Days Show.

### **Animal Categories**

For event purposes, any wild horse, burro or mule is considered to be one year on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling. The age of the animal on January 1 shall be maintained throughout the entire calendar year. No animal is allowed to be shown under saddle if less than 2 years of age.

Green Horse:

- Walk/trot classes designed for the horse and any age competitor that is not yet ready to canter/lope. A Green Horse may not cross enter into any other animal category.

In-Hand animals:

- An equine not yet ready to show under saddle. In-Hand animals may not enter in any class under saddle.

Burros & mules:

- Burros and mules will compete in all classes with equines unless a sufficient number justifies separate classes.

### **Show Point System**

Awards will be calculated on a sliding 6-point scale. For example: 1st-6pts, 2nd-5pts, 3rd-4pts, 4th-3pts, 5th-2pts and 6th-1pt. If there are three people in a class, the points are as follows: 1st-3pts, 2nd-2pts and 3rd-1pt.

### **Safety Helmets**

During all over-fence and warm up exercises, it is required that all riders wear a properly fitted headgear with a fastened chin harness. In all other judged and timed event classes, the use of protective headgear is acceptable, recommended and the optional choice of the exhibitor. ASTM/SEI helmets are recommended. It is the responsibility of the rider and the parent, guardian or trainer to ensure that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrians' use and that the headgear is properly fitted and in good condition. The WMA Committee are not responsible for ensuring that the headgear worn complies with safety standards and make no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective headgear and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear, because all equestrian sports involve inherently dangerous risks and no helmet can protect against all possible injuries.

### **Showmanship**

The showmanship class is judged on an exhibitor's ability to execute practical and basic halter class maneuvers from the ground. The class should always be judged with this in mind, giving credit to the exhibitor who can correctly perform each maneuver of the total pattern or run. Judges should refrain from conducting the class routine in any manner that attempts to trick, confuse or mislead exhibitors. In showmanship at halter, conformation of the horse is not judged.

#### **Attire**

Exhibitors should be neat, clean and well-groomed. Handler should wear appropriate English or Western Attire. Chaps and spurs are not permitted in showmanship.

#### **Equipment**



Use a clean halter that is adjusted to fit the horse. The halter should fit well on the horse's head to maximize response to subtle halter cues. Silver halters shall not count over a nice, clean, well-fitted halter.

Lead straps are often attached to a chain and snap. The lead strap may be snapped below the jaw in the center ring of halter or the chain can be run under the horse's chin and snapped to the upper or lower halter ring on the right side of the horse's head.

### **Horse Fitting and Grooming**

1. The horse should be clean and well groomed. Manner of fitting for mane and tail may vary according to recognized practices for particular breed of horse.
2. A well-groomed horse that is clean, properly trimmed and conditioned does have a justified advantage in showmanship at halter. Underweight or thin horses may be penalized.

### **Method of Showing**

1. Walk, trot, turn, stop, back and pose the horse as shown in the posted pattern or by the judge's instructions.
2. The horse is always lead from the left side. The exhibitor's right hand is held closest to the halter, with the distance being highly dependent upon the mannerisms of the horse, the size of both the horse and the exhibitor and the breed standards. The excess amount of lead is folded or loosely coiled in the left hand and held about waist high. Never wrap the excess lead around the hand or make a coil so small that a sudden jerk could cause the lead to wrap around the hand.
3. At both the walk and trot, the exhibitor's shoulder should be about even with the horse's throatlatch. In this position, the horse is beside the exhibitor, allowing the judge a clear view of the horse's travel. Movement at both gaits should be brisk and sharp, as opposed to slow and dull. Speed of travel is somewhat related to straightness of travel, and the slower a horse moves, the greater chance for deviation from a straight line of movement.
4. When leading to or from a judge or ringmaster, stops and turns are very important. The exhibitor should always allow plenty of space between the horse and the judge. Stops should be executed squarely and without hesitation, as the stop is an important maneuver preceding a correct turn or reverse of direction.
5. Turns of more than 90 degrees should always be executed to the right. Pushing the horse away rather than pulling the horse around will allow more distance between the horses and the exhibitor's feet. In addition, turning to the right allows the horse to use the right hind foot as a pivot point. The horse can then cross the left front foot over the right front to execute a very uniform and smooth turn. This results in the horse remaining in essentially the same tracks after the turn is completed and provides the judge a good view as the horse is walked or trotted away.
6. Immediately following a turn or reverse of direction, the exhibitor should look back to make sure the horse is lined up with the judge. Class routines may require walking or trotting back into the lineup of horses. The exhibitor should lead all the way through the line, stop, reverse, and then lead into the line to set up. If asked to change positions in the line, back the horse out of the line and approach the new position from behind.
7. Pose or set up the horse with its feet set according to its type or breed. Stock horse breeds stand square. Move the horse's feet by pushing or pulling on the lead strap as necessary with the right hand. Touching the horse's body with a hand or foot to change the horse's position is penalized.
8. Once set up, the horse should be presented in such a way as to not distract the judge's attention from the horse. The exhibitor stands on the opposite side of the horse when the judge is toward the front and on the same side as the judge when the judge is toward the rear of the horse. Most judges for youth exhibitors prefer this method of presentation.
9. For safety reasons, at no time should an exhibitor stop and stand directly in front of the horse.
10. The primary objective is to show the horse. Exhibitors should stand where they can see the judge and the judge can see them, but without obstructing the judge's view of the horse. The basic position of the exhibitor should allow constant observation of the horse's position and permit observation of the judge.



11. Looking at the judge keeps an exhibitor from continually observing the horse and keeping the horse set properly. Exhibitors should maintain eye contact with the horse. It is acceptable to glance at the judge from time to time, but an exhibitor should not do this continuously.
12. Exhibitors should keep their proper position in line and allow reasonable space (at least 5 feet) between horses on either side. Keep horses from making contact with a competitor or encroaching on space rightfully belonging to another exhibitor.

### **Some Showmanship Class Faults**

1. Allowing the horse to remain out of position.
2. Standing directly in front of the horse.
3. Kicking the horse's feet to move them.
4. Failure of the horse to lead properly.
5. Failure to stop before turning when showing at a walk or trot.
6. Failure to back.
7. Loud voice commands to the horse or other unnecessary actions.
8. Picking up the horse's feet for positioning purposes.
9. Tracking crooked.
10. Posing incorrectly.

### **Class Routine**

1. Exhibitors may enter the arena single file, moving around the arena counter-clockwise before lining up at the judge's instruction. Once in line, each exhibitor will perform individually.
2. At many shows, exhibitors will be asked to enter the arena individually and work a pattern designed by the judge.
3. Regardless of the manner used, judges should draw patterns clearly and make instructions that are easily understood by exhibitors.
4. Where patterns are posted, such instructions should be available for the exhibitor to review prior to the start of this class (at least 1 hour before, if possible).

## **English Performance Classes**

### **Attire**

See the section entitled Safety Helmets. Clothing must be clean and neat. The rider must wear a shirt/blouse, coat, boots, breeches, and helmet. Spurs of the unrowelled type, gloves, crops and bats are optional. Gloves are preferred in the equitation class.

### **Equipment**

Clean English forward, hunting or dressage saddles are allowed. Saddles may have a suede seat and/or suede inserts on the skirts. Regulation snaffle, Pelham or full bridle, with a cavesson noseband is required. Smooth round, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire and straight bar or solid mouthpieces with maximum 1 ½ inch high ports are allowed. Breastplates are optional. Martingales are not allowed in flat classes or hunter hack. Draw reins, hackamores, boots or bandages are all prohibited (exception: boots or leg wraps are legal in open jumping). Proper show attire & tack is not mandatory; however, points may be deducted for improper show attire & tack.

### **Hunter Under Saddle**

The hunter under saddle should be suitable to purpose. A hunter should move in a long, low frame and have the ability to increase its stride and cover ground with ease in a flowing movement. Those moving in an artificial frame with quick, short or choppy strides are not desirable. The hunter should have an interested expression and an alert eye. Hunters must be obedient and should willingly respond to cues of the rider. When asked to extend the trot or for a hand gallop, they should move forward strongly with appropriate forward impulsion. To obtain sufficient impulsion from the hindquarter, the poll should be level with or slightly above the withers. The face should either be on or slightly ahead of the vertical.



### **Hunter Hack**

Animals will be required to jump two fences 12-15 inches in height at the center of the X- Rail. Jumps do not need to be set on a line but if they are they must be set 36, 48 or 60 feet apart or in increments of 12 feet but no less than 36 feet.

## **Western Performance Classes**

### **Attire**

Riders shall wear western hat (or approved helmet), long sleeve shirts and western boots. Western boots shall include typical cowboy boots and lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. The use of spurs and chaps shall be optional. Clothing should be neat and clean.

### **Equipment**

Horses shall be shown in a stock saddle that fits the rider and horse. Silver equipment will not count over good, clean, working equipment. Horses may be ridden with snaffle, curb, spade, half-breed bit or with braided rawhide, leather or rope hackamore (bosal). Two-hand or one-hand is allowed as long as properly used, see example. If a romal is used, fingers between reins are not permitted. Curb bits must have shanks that do not exceed 8 ½ inches (total length of upper and lower shank) and the port must be no higher than 3 ½ inches. Curb chains or straps must be at least ½ inch in width and must lie flat against the horse's chin. No wire curbs are permitted, regardless of the amount of padding or tape. Absolutely no iron will be permitted under jaws. Mechanical hackamores are prohibited. Bosals or nosebands are not permitted with a bit. Gag bits, tie downs, martingales and draw reins are prohibited. Protective boots and leg wraps are not allowed in halter, western pleasure, western riding and trail but are allowed in timed events, team cattle sorting, and reining classes. Proper show attire & tack is not mandatory, however, points may be deducted for improper show attire & tack.

### **Trail in Hand**

This class is for horses, burros and mules of any age not yet ready to show under saddle. Horses and burros will be judged on performance of animal, responsiveness to handler and attitude at typical trail obstacles (gate, bridge, water, mailbox, ground poles, slicker, cones, etc.) as well as general fitness and grooming. Animals are to be shown at a walk and jog somewhere during the course. Failure to follow exact pattern will be cause for disqualification. Failure to complete obstacles will mean penalty. Western or English attire approved. Course will consist of 6 to 10 obstacles. A maximum of 3 attempts per obstacle with unnecessary delays and a maximum time limit of 30 seconds per obstacle will be allowed. Pattern will be posted day of competition.

### **Trail**

Trail Classes will be held in the Outdoor Grass Arena. Please refer to "Trail Course Obstacles" listed on the next page. Trail Class Obstacles are subject to change; lists are not all inclusive. Each obstacle is worth 5 points. Failure to complete an obstacle will result in a loss of points.

### **Trail Class Obstacles**

1. "L" shaped poles
2. Water crossing
3. Cross a bridge
4. Weave through cones
5. Open a gate
6. Cross through/over poles
7. Cross a tarp
8. Mailbox work
9. Ride between panels
10. Pick up a flag/bucket
11. Back up
12. Trot or lope



13. Handle a slicker
14. Drag a log
15. Side-pass
16. Dismount
17. Load horse into a trailer

To be judged on performance of animal over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to rider and attitude. Credit will be given to those horses negotiating obstacles cleanly, smoothly and alertly with style in prompt response. Horses will be penalized for performing with an artificial or mechanical appearance. Also, for touches and knock downs of any elements of the course and for unnecessary delay in approaching the obstacles. Extreme variation of gait is to be penalized. The course will be designed to require each horse to demonstrate walk, trot and lope somewhere between the obstacles as part of the working course. Enough space will be provided for the judge to evaluate the gaits. A horse with a major fault on the course, knock downs, etc., should not place ahead of a horse that worked the obstacles cleanly. Failure to follow exact pattern will be cause for disqualification. Failure to complete obstacles will mean penalty. Obstacles include but are not limited to: side pass; wooden bridge; opening and closing of gate; water hazard; ride over at walk, jog or lope; carry an object from one side of the arena to the other; remove or replace material from a mailbox; hobble or ground tie animal (at contestants' option); back through; backing around obstacles; 360 degree turn inside a box; put on or remove slicker. Western or English attire approved. Course will consist of 6 to 10 obstacles. A maximum of 3 attempts per obstacle with unnecessary delays and a maximum time limit of 30 seconds per obstacle will be allowed. Pattern will be posted day of competition.

### **Timed Event Classes**

Barrel racing, pole bending, freestyle reining team sorting and other like events.

#### **Attire**

Western boots are required.

#### **Equipment**

Western-type equipment must be used. The use of a mechanical hackamore, gag bit or other type of bridle is the contestant's choice. However, the officials or judge may require removal or alteration of equipment considered severe, dangerous or inhumane. Contestants may use tie downs.

#### **\*Freestyle Class**

Free style is open to all ages and riding disciplines. Winner Takes All! Competitors will be judged on their horsemanship and creativity. Each participant is required to trot one circle to the left and trot one circle to the right (without breaking stride), halt and back up 4 steps at a time of the competitors choosing during their routine. Music, costumes, creativity, props, and entertainment are encouraged and will help increase points! Competitors will have 3-4 minutes to show off their and their horses' abilities. *The Freestyle Award will go to a competitor chosen by the judge at the end of the event. Competitors will not receive points towards the High Point Competitor Award at horse show events.*

#### **\*Team Cattle Sorting**

Teams are "drawn" from those wishing to compete in class. There are three members per team. Cattle are numbered consecutively. A hold back line is required a specific feet from arena rail. There is a 90-second time limit. The objective is to sort each individual number one at a time without allowing the others to cross the marked line. Team members must hold all cattle except number being sorted behind the line. Example: If steward calls number 3, sorter will begin with 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0, 1, 2 working to get all cattle sorted within time limit. Time stops if a foul occurs. In case of "tie" teams will then be called back in one at a time and the team to get the selected cow over in the quickest time wins. Team Sorting will receive 1st place prize to the winner/winning team. *Team Sorting will not receive points towards the High Point Competitor Award at horse show events.*