



## **MICHIGAN AFFILIATE CIRCUIT RULES**

**As approved April 2009**

The Michigan Reining Horse Association (MRHA) is an Affiliate of the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) and participates in the NRHA Affiliate Circuit program.

The Michigan Affiliate Circuit shows are both NRHA and MRHA approved.

The MRHA shows that are designated as Affiliate Circuit shows will be published on the MRHA website and in the MRHA *Slide Tracks* newsletter, prior to the start of the show season.

The following rules are to be used in conjunction with the MRHA and NRHA rules and bylaws.

There are two distinct aspects of the Michigan Affiliate Circuit program:

- NRHA North American Affiliate Championships
- Michigan Affiliate Circuit Year End Awards

The rules governing each of these are outlined below.

### **I. NRHA NORTH AMERICAN AFFILIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The MRHA participates in the NRHA North American Affiliate Championships program. This program provides a format by which local champions can compete against their peers for a NRHA Morrison Bronze or a NRHA Pewter Trophy, while also offering the opportunity to advance to a National level. The aim of this program is to increase the emphasis on “grass roots” reining and continue to promote the sport of reining at all levels.

MRHA members who qualify at the Michigan Affiliate Circuit shows may represent MRHA at the Northeastern Regional Finals competition, where NRHA North American Affiliate Championships qualifiers are determined.

## QUALIFICATION

1. MRHA will offer qualifying classes for the Northeastern Regional Affiliate Finals as listed in Appendix A which will be consistent with the current show schedule as approved by the Board each year.
2. To qualify a rider for a class, that specific class must be offered in at least three Michigan Affiliate Circuit shows. There is no minimum or maximum number of shows that a rider must attend.
3. The rider must be a member in good standing of MRHA and NRHA at the time of competition for points to count towards Regional Finals qualification.
4. NRHA will use the affiliate membership lists to determine a rider's affiliate. Riders belonging to more than one affiliate must declare to the NRHA office by July 1 of the current year the affiliate they plan to represent at the Regional Finals whether or not they have shown in more than one affiliate. A rider's designation will remain as declared until the NRHA office is notified of a change. Designations and changes received between July 1 and December 31 will apply to the following year. A rider may qualify in only one region and for only one affiliate.
5. Points are to be calculated on a one horse/one rider format.
6. Points will be awarded based on the number of horses actually competing in the class, i.e., if fifteen (15) horses compete, first place will be awarded 15 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 14 points, etc. Points will be calculated on horses actually competing, excluding the horses entered but scratched. Zeros and no scores will not be awarded points.
7. The top ten (10) horse and rider combinations from each class qualify for the Regional Affiliate Finals.
8. The NRHA office will post the standings of each affiliate on the NRHA website.
9. Those qualifying for the Regional Finals may only enter the championship classes for which they qualify.

10. Riders may not change horses for the Regional Finals.
11. A NRHA Morrison Bronze will be awarded to the Regional Affiliate Finals winner in each class except Rookie and Youth which will receive an NRHA Pewter Trophy.
12. The **REINER** and NRHA website should be referenced for complete rules regarding the North American Affiliate Championships.

## **II. MICHIGAN AFFILIATE CIRCUIT YEAR END AWARDS**

MRHA will award Pewter Trophies to its Michigan Affiliate Circuit Champions and Plaques to its Circuit Reserve Champions in NRHA Category I classes. In Category 3 and Category 5 classes, plaques will be awarded to Circuit Champions and Reserve Champions. These awards will be presented at the annual MRHA Awards Banquet that follows the show season.

### **QUALIFICATION**

1. Michigan Affiliate Circuit Year End Awards will be given for the classes listed in Appendix A which will be consistent with the current show schedule as approved by the Board each year.
2. The rider and owner must be a member in good standing of MRHA and NRHA at the time of competition for points to count towards Michigan Affiliate Circuit Year End awards.
3. Points are to be calculated on a one horse/one rider format.
4. Points will be awarded based on the number of horses actually competing in the class, i.e., if fifteen (15) horses compete, first place will be awarded 15 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 14 points, etc. Points will be calculated on horses actually competing, excluding the horses entered but scratched. Zeros and no scores will not be awarded points.
5. MRHA will post the Michigan Affiliate Circuit Year End Award standings on the MRHA website.

# APPENDIX A - Approved April 2009

## MRHA - RULES & REGULATIONS

APPROVED MARCH 2005

**Michigan Affiliate Circuit Year-end Awards** will be given for the following classes beginning in the 2009 MRHA Show Season: Open, Intermediate Open, Limited Open, Rookie Professional, Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Novice Horse Open Level 2, Novice Horse Non Pro Level 2, Youth 13 & Under, Youth 14-18, and Rookie.

### **Recognized Award Categories** beginning in the 2009

MRHA Show Season include the following:

- A. Open, Int Open, Ltd Open, Rookie Professional, Novice Horse Open Level 2
- B. Non Pro, Int Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Novice Horse Non Pro Level 2, Rookie
- C. Youth 13 & Under, Youth 14-18
- D. Green Reiner I and Green Reiner II
- E. MRHA Affiliate Circuit Awards (Open, Intermediate Open, Limited Open, Rookie Professional, Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Novice Horse Open Level 2, Novice Horse Non Pro Level 2, Youth 13 & Under, Youth 14-18, and Rookie)