

MRHA RULES & REGULATIONS
MRHA RULES AND REGULATIONS – Adopted March 12, 2005

These rules and regulations are set by the Officers and Board of Directors of the Michigan Reining Horse Association.

Section 1: Membership Fees – Upon purchase of MRHA Membership, member agrees to abide by the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Association.

- A. Annual individual membership \$25
- B. Individual lifetime membership \$200
- C. Annual Youth Membership \$15 (Youth must purchase regular membership to participate and be eligible for year-end monies/points to accumulate in any other classes.)

Section 2: Disciplinary Procedure

Any member or non-member may be disciplined or suspended from the Association and may be denied all privileges of the Association by the Officers and Board of Directors, whenever it shall have been established by satisfactory evidence in a hearing conducted by the Officers and the Board of Directors that such a member or non-member has knowingly and willfully violated any Bylaws or Rules of the Association. Anyone who become a member of the Association or becomes involved in a contractual agreement with the Association accepts to be bound by all the Bylaws and Rules of the Association and renounces to any recourse which he/she may have against the Association, so long as the latter acts in good faith in compliance with the Bylaws and Rules.

- A. Whenever anyone shall be accused of any violations, he/she shall be given not less than thirty (30) days written notice of a time and place for hearing such accusation by the Officers, Board of Directors, or by an appropriate committee, at such time and place he/she will have the opportunity, in person or by counsel to be heard and to present evidence in his/her behalf, and to hear and refute evidence offered against him/her.
- B. When a member or non-member is disciplined or suspended, the name of such member or non-member will be published in the MRHA Newsletter and on the MRHA web site.
- C. Any other disciplinary procedures regarding Show Conduct, abuse to horse, judge, show management, or contestants, etc, refer to the NRHA Handbook or your NRHA Show Representative.
- D. The decision and action of the Board of Directors shall be final and binding on all parties. Any members or non-member may be suspended and/or denied privileges of the Association, by the approved show official or official there of, or may be denied privileges of the Association by the Treasurer of the Association for the failure to pay when due any obligation owed to the Association or for giving a worthless check for entry fees, stall fees, office charges, premiums or any other fees, charges connected with the exhibition of reining horses, provided, however, that fifteen (15) days before action by the Treasurer, written notice of the account due and the intention to suspend or withhold privileges of the Association shall be delivered to such members or non-member. Any suspension and denial of

MRHA RULES & REGULATIONS

privileges under this section shall terminate upon full payment of the obligation due the Association. Every notice required by these rules and regulations may be served by delivery of a copy of the notice to the person to be served, or his/her attorney, either in person or by mail, postage prepaid, to his/her last known address as it appears on the Association's records and upon mailing such notice, shall be deemed received by such person when it is deposited in the United States mail.

- E. There is a \$25 charge for all returned checks. Furthermore, any unpaid bills by a member or non-member (entry fees, stall fees, shavings fees, advertising fees, sponsor commitment fees, etc) past ninety (90) days may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

Section 3: Conduct and Protests

Any complaint or protest must be in writing and filed with the Secretary at the MRHA office. Upon receipt, all complaints or protests will be referred to the MRHA Officers and Board of Directors for investigation and recommendation. If, in the Officers and Board of Director's judgment, it is not sufficiently serious to warrant a full hearing, thereon, they will report the same with a recommendation for appropriate action. Any complaint or protest must be accompanied by a cashier's check, certified check, money order, or cash in the amount of \$100 and must be in writing and filed with MRHA within ten (10) days of the incident. If the protest is disallowed, the protest fee will not be refunded. If the protest is allowed, the protest fee will be refunded.

Furthermore, the person filing the protest will be liable for the cost of such protest and all damages which may result there from, if the protest is not sustained. In the event the Officers and Board of Directors does not uphold the complaint, the complaintee will be responsible for any cost incurred.

Section 4 – all meetings of the Officers and Board of Directors will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 5 – Green Reiner

Purpose: To enable non-professional riders with little or no experience to compete at an entry-level class and to experience the fun, excitement, and camaraderie of reining competition. Also, to allow some older reining horses to be able to come back and compete in a class where the rider has the option of showing with two hands.

Green Reiner I – This is the entry-level class for non-professional riders who have not earned \$10 lifetime or 10 points lifetime in NRHA/MRHA competition. If a Green Reiner I is eligible for this class at the beginning of a show season, they remain eligible for the entire season. Any points earned in this class will not count toward Green Reiner II eligibility. Green Reiner I will run as a one- or two-handed class which will be at the option of the rider. However, either style used must be consistent throughout the pattern and will be scored impartially by the judge. The pattern designated will be altered to consist of two spins both directions and simple lead changes in both directions. Simple lead changes, where a lead change is called for in the pattern, the horse must come to a

complete stop then depart. Rider does not need to own the horse. Rider must be a current MRHA member to show.

Green Reiner II – This is the class to which Green Reiner I riders will graduate if and when they are no longer eligible for the Green Reiner I class. This class is for non-professional riders who have not won \$50 lifetime or 50 points in NRHA/MRHA competition. If a Green Reiner II is eligible for this class at the beginning of a show season, they stay eligible for the entire season. Green Reiner II will run as a one- or two-handed class which will be at the option of the rider. However, either style used must be consistent throughout the pattern and will be scored impartially by the judge. Green Reiner II class will run NRHA approved patterns. Rider does not need to own the horse. Rider must be a current MRHA member to show.

Year-End Awards will be issued based on points accumulated at the end of the current year. Points will be tabulated using the NRHA Youth Scale with 0 scores not placing. Once a rider has received \$50 lifetime or 50 points lifetime in NRHA/MRHA competitions, he/she will be unable to participate in the MRHA Green Reiner program.

Note: A Non Pro shall be defined as a person who at the time of the Non Pro application has not won in excess of \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) in Category 1 and 2 open reining competition. A Non Pro shall further be defined as a person who has not given lessons for remuneration and/or has not directly or indirectly shown, trained, or assisted in the training of a horse ridden astride for remuneration – this does not include prize money. Payment of entry fees and/or expense by anyone other than the Non Pro, his/her immediate family, or a corporation, partnership, or other business entity in which the Non Pro and/or a member of his/her immediate family are the sole and only owner, shall be considered remuneration except for demonstration, exhibitions, or international team competitions where the Non Pro is a member of the nationally-sponsored team.

Section 6 – Michigan Affiliate Circuit Year-end Awards

MRHA will award pewter trophies to Michigan Affiliate Circuit champions and plaques to its Circuit Reserve Champions in NRHA Category 1 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 MRHA show season.

Qualifications: Michigan Circuit Year-end Awards will be given for the following classes: Open, Intermediate open, Limited Open, Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Novice Horse Open, Novice Horse Non Pro, Youth 13 & Under, Youth 14-18, and Rookie.

Owner and rider must be a member in good standing with MRHA/NRHA at the time of competition for points to count toward Michigan Affiliate Circuit year-end awards.

Points are to accumulate on a one-horse, one-rider format.

Points will be awarded on the number of horses actually competing in the class; i.e., if fifteen (15) horses compete in a class, 1st place will be awarded 15, points, 2nd place – 14

points, etc. Points will be calculated on horses actually competing, excluding the horses entered by scratched. Zeros and no scores will not be awarded points.

MRHA will post the Michigan Affiliate Circuit year-end standings on the MRHA web site.

Section 7 – Year-end awards

All NRHA shows in the state of Michigan are subject to MRHA approval.

Any classes offered at more than 50% of the MRHA approved shows may receive year-end awards. Classes offered at or less than 50% of MRHA approved shows may be given year-end awards at the discretion of the awards committee and approval of Officers and Board of Directors.

All owners and riders must be current members of MRHA to qualify for year-end awards. With the exception of Green Reiner classes where only riders need to be members. Year-end monies/points begin to accumulate once membership fee is paid.

Year-end awards are based on monies earned on the horse in the open division. Year-end awards are based on monies earned on the horse and rider combination in the non-pro divisions.

Year-end awards are based on points earned in Youth, Green Reiner I and Green Reiner II

All calculations published for year-end awards and affiliate circuit year-end awards are unofficial until December 1 of the current year at which time they shall be deemed official.

Section 8 – Recognized Award Categories

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

Note – any other awards such as Ladies, Gelding, Special Events, Freestyle, Primetime, Special participation or achievement awards will be given at the discretion of the awards committee and approval of the Officers and Board of Directors.

Section 9 – Amendments or additions to Rules and Regulations

- A. These rules and regulations of the MRHA are voted on and ratified by the Officers and Board of Directors and need not be presented to the General Membership for approval.

MRHA RULES & REGULATIONS

- B. Any changes to these rules and regulations must be proposed and presented by the Chairperson of the Rules committee to the Officers and Board of Directors of the MRHA on or before the fall meeting of the current year. They will then be discussed by the Officers and Board of Directions. Any additions or changes to these proposed rules will be sent back to the chairperson of the Rules Committee for rework. The final revisions will be discussed at the following meeting, voted on, and ratified. Any revised rules will be supplied to the General Membership through MRHA avenues such as newsletters, personal mailings, and website information or in rulebook format.

- C. Any and all interpretation decision to these Bylaw, Rules, and Regulations shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson of the Rules Committee and will advise the Officers and Board of Directors as to the meaning and/or purpose of said rule or Bylaw in question.