



**June 12 - 14, 2025**  
**Lexington, Kentucky**

Rules and Regulations  
for the

## **SHOWCASE CLASSES**



# The Mustang Heritage Spectacular

## Open Showcase

### COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Mustang Heritage Spectacular's Open Showcase classes are produced by the Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF). MHF is dedicated to facilitating successful placements for America's excess wild mustangs and burros through innovative programs, events, and education. In keeping with this mission, the Mustang Heritage Spectacular Open Showcase classes will promote adoption by showcasing the mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

#### 1. GENERAL TERMS

Not adhering to the competition rules and regulations listed in this document may result in **disqualification** from current and/or future MHF programs and events. MHF has the unconditional right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or participant from a MHF program or event for any reason whether specified or not.

Competitors must be a **minimum of 10 years old** at the time of application.

Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing mustangs can be examined by a veterinarian or MHF representative to determine the horse's health and condition. Should a mustang be deemed in poor condition by a veterinarian, that mustang may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.

Competitors are responsible for bringing all tack, feed, and supplies needed during the event.

An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practices.

MHF staff will monitor show grounds for any inhumane treatment of horses and unsportsmanlike conduct. MHF staff reserves the right to investigate any complaints and issue warnings.

**Conduct:** To promote fair competition, the conduct of all participants must be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike, and humane in the treatment of animals or people. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct while competitors have animals in their possession, conduct on the show grounds, conduct on social media, conduct while wearing any MHF or Mustang Heritage Spectacular logoed attire, conduct while interacting with event staff; and includes the conduct of individuals traveling with competitors, spectators, and all other participants present on the show grounds. Any misconduct or alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and inhumane treatment of animals or people will be grounds for disciplinary action against offending individuals. Further, event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition or show grounds to preserve the show's decorum.

By entering these classes, competitors agree to allow MHF to utilize any media taken during the competition or on the show grounds for commercial purposes and marketing. Competitors agree to waive any exclusive rights to the images or videos taken at the event.

## 2. ENTRIES, FEES AND PRIZES

### a. Entry dates:

Entries will be accepted online at: <https://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org/MHS/>

i. EARLY-Entries open **October 1, 2024** – ***EXCLUSIVELY available to mustangs registered for the Great American Mustang Sale***

ii. Entries will **OPEN** for any wild-bred mustang on **April 1, 2025** – *a limited number of entries will be accepted, subject to availability. A waitlist will be maintained.*

iii. Entries will **CLOSE** on **May 15, 2025**.

### b. Entry fees:

- i. \$50 Western Showcase class
- ii. \$50 English Showcase class

Mustangs registered for the *Great American Mustang Sale* will have the **entry fee waived** for ONE showcase class.

### c. Stall fees:

- i. \$125 per stall
- ii. Tack stalls may be limited

Mustangs registered for the *Great American Mustang Sale* have **ONE stall included** in their registration.

d. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the class. Prizes will include ribbons, sponsored items (TBD), and a Champion buckle.  
No prize money will be awarded.

## 3. JUDGES

MHF will designate the appropriate number of judges, as well as an equipment/rule steward to support the efforts of show officials, to ensure all rules are being followed.

## 4. EQUIPMENT

- a. Mustangs may be exhibited in English tack, Western tack, or other appropriate equine styles and equipment. Competitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and headgear which reflects the style of their riding. ***Youth competitors are required to wear a helmet that meets ASTM standards.***
- b. ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT that will result in **disqualification** from the class includes snaffle bits with mouthpieces smaller than 5/16" and/or consisting of non-smooth material (such as twisted material), stud chains, and bosals made of anything but rawhide, leather, or rope with a flexible core (no motel of any kind). Use of any bit or

equipment determined by the judges to be severe will not be allowed and will result in **disqualification** from the class in which it was used.

- c. The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage. The diameter of 11 mouthpieces, length of shanks and use of curb straps or chains must comply with MHF rules. National Snaffle Bit Association and American Quarter Horse Association rules are good resources for preferred equipment including the diameter of mouthpieces, length of shanks and use of curb straps or chains. It is the competitor's responsibility to contact MHF event staff to obtain written approval regarding any questionable equipment, or to clarify if a certain type of equipment is deemed humane and allowable. Said request and approval/disapproval must be conducted in writing via email.
- d. Mustangs may be shown with two hands in a snaffle bit or bosal. Showing a mustang with two hands when using a curb or shank-type bit is strongly discouraged during any point of the competition and will result in an automatic 5-point deduction per judge.
- e. Training aids (whips, sticks, treats, and tail end of lead rope, etc.) will not be restricted, although competitors should realize that the use of training aids will be judged accordingly. Any excessive use of a training aid (including striking the horse) will result in automatic 10-point deduction from each judge in the class.
- f. Wearing guns (real or toy) or shooting guns and/or blanks is not allowed in any arena or during competition, or anywhere on the grounds and will result in an automatic **disqualification**.

## 5. DRUGS

No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a mustang, either before or during the Mustang Heritage Spectacular event. Any medication, drug, mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect or enhance the mustang's performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. If a mustang is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the competitor must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the Mustang Heritage Spectacular event manager as to the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount. THE MUSTANG HERITAGE FOUNDATION STAFF/CONTRACTORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION. Positive tests will result in removal from the event and removal of reimbursement and prize money. In regard to herbal/natural supplements, competitors are cautioned against the use of medicinal preparations, tonics, pastes and products of any kind, the ingredients and quantitative analysis of which are not specifically known, as many of them may contain a forbidden substance.

## 6. CLASS RULES AND FORMAT

- a. **WESTERN SHOWCASE CLASS:**

To include a **course pattern** (trail + maneuvers) and a **90-second free showcase**. Competitors will show their horse in the western tack of their choosing and must wear standard western outfit and headgear. **Youth competitors are required to wear a helmet that meets ASTM standards.**

This class is designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks and maneuvers that might be asked of them on the trail or across a variety of western disciplines. Competitors will be asked to ride their horse through a course of generic obstacles and maneuvers. **After 3 failed attempts** at any obstacle or maneuver, the rider must move on to the next. Judges will assess competitors according to the applicable western standards.

A course walk-through with the judges and competitors will be scheduled before the class. Horses are not allowed in the walk-through.

**Course elements (70 points total)** in this class may include, but are not limited to: Walk, trot, then stop and back; walk over logs/poles; walk/trot between obstacles or cones; Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute; walk, trot, canter/lope, then stop and back; turns and circles to the left and right; lead change; walk over bridge or platform; pick up and carry an object; pivot; side pass. A horse will be given credit for being relaxed, responsive to the rider, transitioning smoothly and correctly, and being cadenced at all gaits.

**At the end of the course pattern, the competitor will be free to showcase their horse for 90 SECONDS.** A timer will start after passing/completing the last obstacle on the pattern, and a buzzer/whistle will note when the time is finished. Once the time limit is finished, the competitor must immediately walk or trot the horse out of the arena.

#### 90-Second Free Showcase:

- i. A variety of generic items will be provided as options for competitors to use as props, but it is NOT a requirement to incorporate any items. Example items (not guaranteed): flag, tarp, barrel, rope, or jumps. Competitors can also re-use any items already set on course, as long as they do not alter them.  
**No outside props will be allowed.**
- ii. Competitors are permitted to unmount and/or untack the horse to showcase a specific talent or skill. Training aids (such as a whip, treats, lead rope, etc.) are permitted.
- iii. Showcase scores will be based on the following:
  1. Horsemanship (10 points): communication and partnership between the horse and rider/handler, including the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed, and confident manner.

2. Maneuvers (10 points): incorporating a variety of maneuvers, talents, or skills specific to any western sport or training method. (examples: flying lead changes, speed, spinning, running stops, roping, etc.)
3. Difficulty (10 points): demonstrating a level of difficulty or specialized skill related to a western sport or training method. Judging will be based on the generic western standards of the maneuvers being demonstrated.

Additional elements may be added such as brush, artificial foliage, rain slickers, etc.

COURSE PENALTIES: Pattern completed out of order (-5 points); dismounting or being bucked off during the class (-5 points); and,

FREE SHOWCASE PENALTIES: Clear refusal of an obstacle (-5 points), blatant disobedience such as bucking, kicking, running off (-5 points).

SCORING: The final score will be calculated using the following formula:

1. 70% Course scores
  2. 30% Free Showcase score
- With an overall perfect score of 100 points.

b. **ENGLISH SHOWCASE CLASS:**

*To include a **course pattern** (trail + movements) and a **90-second free showcase**. Competitors will show their horse in english tack of their choosing and must wear standard english outfits and headgear. **Youth competitors are required to wear a helmet that meets ASTM standards.***

This class is designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks and movements that might be asked of them on the trail or across a variety of english disciplines. Competitors will be asked to ride their horse through a course of generic obstacles and movements. **After 3 failed attempts** at any obstacle or movement, the rider must move on to the next. Judges will assess competitors according to the applicable english standards (i.e. if in dressage tack, dressage standards will apply; if in jumper tack, jumper standards will apply, etc.).

A course walk-through with the judges and competitors will be scheduled before the class. Horses are not allowed in the walk-through.

**Course elements (70 points total)** in this class may include, but are not limited to: Walk, trot, then stop and back; walk over logs/poles; walk/trot between obstacles or cones; Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute; walk, trot, canter, then stop and back; turns and circles to the left and right; lead change; walk over bridge or platform; pick up and carry an object; pivot; side pass. A horse will be given credit for being relaxed, responsive to the rider, transitioning smoothly and correctly, accepting proper connection on the bit, and being cadenced at all gaits.

**At the end of the course pattern, the competitor will be free to showcase their horse for 90 SECONDS.** A timer will start after passing/completing the last obstacle on the pattern, and a buzzer/whistle will note when the time is finished. Once the time limit is finished, the competitor must immediately walk or trot the horse out of the arena.

**90-Second Free Showcase:**

- iv. A variety of generic items will be provided as options for competitors to use as props, but it is NOT a requirement to incorporate any items. Example items (not guaranteed): flag, tarp, barrel, or jumps. Competitors can also re-use any items already set on course, as long as they do not alter them.  
**No outside props will be allowed.**
- v. Competitors are permitted to unmount and/or untack the horse to showcase a specific talent or skill. Training aids (such as a whip, treats, lead rope, etc.) are permitted.
- vi. Showcase scores will be based on the following:
  - 4. Horsemanship (10 points): communication and partnership between the horse and rider/handler, including the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute movements correctly in a controlled, relaxed, and confident manner.
  - 5. Movements (10 points): incorporating a variety of movements, talents, or skills specific to any english sport or training method. (examples: flying lead changes, speed, jumping, lateral movements, etc.)
  - 6. Difficulty (10 points): demonstrating a level of difficulty or specialized skill related to an english sport or training method. Judging will be based on the applicable english standards of the movements being demonstrated.

Additional elements may be added such as brush, artificial foliage, rain slickers, etc.

**COURSE PENALTIES:** Pattern completed out of order (-5 points); dismounting or being bucked off during the class (-5 points); and,

**FREE SHOWCASE PENALTIES:** Clear refusal of an obstacle (-5 points), blatant disobedience such as bucking, kicking, running off (-5 points).

**SCORING:** The final score will be calculated using the following formula:

- 1. 70% Course scores
  - 2. 30% Free Showcase score
- With an overall perfect score of 100 points.

## **6. MOVE OUT**

All horses must be moved off-site by Sunday, June 15, 2025, at 8:00 AM.

**Contact:**

Mustang Heritage Foundation

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