

# **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **SECTION I**

### **GOVERNING RULES FOR SHOWS AND EXHIBITORS**

Shows sanctioned by the Montana State Horse Show Association are required to conform to MSHSA rules and offer the list of approved classes. Show management may apply MSHSA rules to non-MSHSA classes if desired.

#### **RULES ENFORCEMENT - GENERAL**

- a. Show management has the right to act on any apparent rule violation and does not have to wait for a formal complaint to be lodged.
- b. Judges are paid to provide their estimation of the quality of performance of both horses and riders. Each judge's decision is final and may not be challenged unless the complaint alleges that the judge's decision is in violation of MSHSA rules.
- c. Show management should make every effort to impress upon the judge the importance of being familiar with the rules and to express the desire that the rules be followed. If at any time the judge appears to be either resistant or non-compliant, show management is obligated to insist that the rules be followed.
- d. MSHSA will supply a list of regulations that must be posted by show management in an area that is readily visible to show exhibitors.

## **PROCEDURES – INFORMAL**

- a. Allegations of rules violations that arise before the placement of the class will be dealt with informally and a decision will be made as soon as practicable. The show may be delayed if necessary.
- b. Complaints may only be filed with show management. Complaints must be taken to the show manager either verbally or in writing and the show manager will be responsible for resolving the complaint in consultation with other members of the show management, and/or judge when applicable. MSHSA board members, if available, may be included in the consultation to resolve any discrepancies that arise at the show regarding adherences to or violation of MSHSA rules.
- c. If an exhibitor is stopped at the ingate for a violation involving such as improper dress or tack, improper back number, the exhibitor will be allowed sufficient time for a gatehold to remedy the situation.

## **PROCEDURES – FORMAL**

- a. The filing of a formal grievance in writing is required if the complainant is dissatisfied with the decision from the informal procedure.
- b. The grievance must be filed with the show manager and submitted in writing and signed by the complainant. Outline the specific situation being aggrieved specify the MSHSA rule or rules that have allegedly been violated by section, page,...paragraph, number, etc. and request the relief sought.
- c. The grievance must be filed orally as soon as the infraction is noticed so as to help assure the presence of the judge if their counsel is required to arrive at a decision. This must be filed in writing one hour prior to the end of the show day.

d. A panel of show management and two members of the board of directors will rule on the grievance within seven (7) days and will provide a decision that includes a ruling on the relief sought to the complainant in writing. The decision of this panel is final.

e. A member, exhibitor, etc. may not grieve the application or use of a rule because they believe it is to be unfair, unnecessary, etc. The proper procedure for such situations is to attempt to revise the rule at the Annual Membership meeting.