2026

UKAMHS

UK American Miniature Horse Society

Rule Book

www.UKAMHS.co.uk

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1. The American Miniature Standard of Perfection

BREED OBJECTIVE: To produce the smallest possible perfect horse.

GENERAL IMPRESSION: The American Miniature Horse is a beautiful, small well balanced horse that if all reference to size were eliminated, would have the same conformational proportions of other full sized light breeds. The mares demonstrate refinement and feminine qualities. The mature stallions show boldness and masculinity. The general impression is to be a balanced individual regardless of size with symmetry, strength, agility and alertness. Movement is strong, natural and athletic. In motion the horse will exude athleticism as demonstrated by suppleness of the shoulders and engaged hocks. In judging when characteristics are almost equal, preference must be given to the smaller horse.

TEMPERAMENT: Temperament is reflected in its personality. The American Miniature Horse is intelligent, curious, gentle, sensible, willing to cooperate and easy to train.

SIZE: Measuring at base of the last hair of the mane, the mature animal must not exceed 34 inches. Horses two years old or younger conform to the height for age requirements as stated in the show rules.

COLOR: Any coat colour, pattern, white markings and eye colour are equally acceptable.

HEAD: The head is beautiful, triangular in shape and comparatively small in proportion to the length of neck and body. The forehead is broad with large, prominent eyes. The eyes are set well apart and are placed approximately 1/3 the distance from the poll to muzzle. The distance between the muzzle and eyes is comparatively short. A profile may be straight or slightly dished below the eyes, blending into large nostrils on a small, refined muzzle.

BITE: When viewed from the side, the meeting point of the centre incisor teeth should be equal and even. A slight deviation no more than half the width of the tooth's surface is permissible without fault. The accuracy of the bite may vary according to age. As the premolars and molars move into location, the alignment of the jaw could vary during this process.

EARS: The ears are set on top of the head and carried alertly. They are medium in size, well shaped with pointed tips curving slightly inward.

NECK: The neck is set on the top of a well-angulated shoulder, departing well above the point of the shoulder and blending into the withers, giving the impression of the neck sitting on top of the withers rather than in front of them. The slender neck is slightly arched forming a gentle curve from the poll to the back. Its length is in proportion to body with the top line being considerably longer than the bottom line. The throatlatch is clean and well defined, allowing flexion at the poll and normal respiration.

SHOULDERS: The shoulders are muscular, long, sloping, well angulated (45-50 degrees), allowing for a free swinging stride and alert head/neck carriage.

BODY: The body is compact with a short back, close coupling, broad loins, deep flank and well sprung ribs. The back has a long, level, well muscled croup and is smoothly rounding at the hip. The tail is well set. The underline of the body should be long but not tucked up at the flank. At maturity, the top of the hip must not be higher than the withers. The chest is medium width with defined muscular development.

LEGS: The legs appear longer than the body is deep. They possess flat bone, and an appearance of over-all substance with refinement. Legs are structurally straight and parallel when viewed from the front and back with hooves pointing directly ahead. The pasterns have sufficient length and angulations to provide a light, springy step. The front legs possess a well muscled forearm, relatively long in proportion to a short cannon. Front pasterns slope 45 to 48 degrees and blend smoothly with no change of angle from the hooves to the ground.

The rear leg structure must demonstrate good angulations and proper flexion of the hocks for athletic movement; have the stifle placed well forward and low in the flank area with thighs and gaskins well muscled. The gaskin is relatively long in relation to the cannon. The rear cannons are perpendicular to the ground when points of hocks and buttocks are in the same vertical lines. Back pasterns slope 40 to 50 degrees and blend smoothly with no change of

angle from the hooves to the ground. The hooves are trimmed to a practical length and have sufficient toe length and angle with spread of the heels for the size and proportions of the animal.

MOVEMENT: The walk is a natural free flowing, four beat gait with length of stride proportional to the height and length of leg. The trot is a natural forward, free flowing two beat diagonal gait where the knee and hock are synchronized in their elevated, flexed and extension movement. When viewed at a walk and trot from the front, the horse will replicate the structural correctness of its stance. The American Miniature Horses' conformation allows them to trot willingly and freely at liberty or pulling a pleasure cart.

JUVENILE CONSIDERATIONS: The body of the junior horse demonstrates stretch and frame to be filled in with muscling appropriate for its age. A mature adult look is not desirable.

2.UKAMHS Membership

UKAMHS members are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following the rules outlined in the UKAMHS Rule Book. By becoming a member, you agree to comply with the society's rules and regulations. Lack of knowledge is not a defence to breach of rules.

A. Membership of the Society will be open to any person who has a genuine interest in American Miniature Horses. Each person applying for admission as a Member of the Society must complete a membership application form and agree to comply with all of the society's rules and regulations listed in this rulebook.

B. A person shall not be admitted as a member unless the UKAMHS board has approved administration of that person as a member. The UKAMHS board shall have an absolute discretion to refuse membership of the society to any person, and the UKAMHS board shall not be obliged to provide any explanation of such refusal. A person shall be admitted as a member of the society on the date upon which the secretary of the society sends an acknowledgement to that person to the effect that the person has been admitted as a member.

C. Membership numbers will only be issued once the admission has been approved, appropriate fees have been paid and a signed membership application, agreeing to comply with the Society's rules and regulations, has been received.

D. Any member that fails to comply by the rules of UKAMHS, or by the rules of societies/shows/events hosting qualifiers may be suspended for whatever period the board of directors deem appropriate.

E. All Memberships are on an annual basis running from January to December.

F. Youth memberships are available for individuals aged under 18 as of January 1st of the current year. Please note these memberships must be accompanied by an adult membership.

G. International memberships are for those that live outside of the UK.

H. Competitors must be members of the UK AMHS prior to entering any UKAMHS HOYS qualifying show, and all horses entered must have been nominated to show for the current season. Exhibitors that enter without these requirements will be disqualified.

<u>Membership Entitlements</u>

1. Membership entitles you to enter your purebred American Miniature horses in the UKAMHS HOYS Qualifying classes.

2. As a member, you are entitled to compete for the UKAMHS members awards. The awards evening will be held on the Saturday night of the UK AMHA Regional Show.

3. All members are invited to attend the UKAMHS members awards evening, that will be held on the 8th of August 2026 at Pickering Grange Equestrian Centre.

2.2 Conduct and Discipline

At the UK American Miniature Horse Society, we believe that good conduct is essential to creating a positive and supportive community.

The American Miniature Horse is eligible to be entered into numerous county and national shows, which provides excellent opportunities to showcase the breed and the equines talent. As a member of the society, members must maintain the integrity of the breed and promote good conduct among fellow members. This includes upholding the standards and guidelines set forth by the association, as well as always acting in a professional and responsible manner.

Good Conduct

At the UK American Miniature Horse Society, we have a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of threatening, abusive, violent, or inappropriate behaviour or language towards our members, staff, volunteers or other UKAMHS members. By submitting an application for registration or membership, or entering any of UKAMHS events or qualifiers, you agree to abide by our rules and regulations. Failure to do so may result in the refusal or revocation of your membership or entry, and you may be asked to leave any UKAMHS event. Please note that members are responsible for the actions of any non-members, including family members, employees, or anyone within their group while attending any UKAMHS event. We take these matters seriously and appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all.

Social Media

At UKAMHS we understand the importance that social media plays in the day-to-day life of our members and as a member of our community, we encourage you to engage with us on social media. However, we ask that you follow a few simple rules to ensure that our interactions remain respectful and positive.

Please refrain from using any language or behaviour that is threatening, abusive, or inappropriate towards other members, staff, or volunteers. When posting or transmitting any material to social media, please ensure that it is clearly stated as your personal view and not represented as the view of UKAMHS.

Please do not share any confidential or sensitive information about UKAMHS, or UKAMHS members, staff or volunteers. Respect the privacy of others and do not share any personal information without their consent. You must not post or transmit any misleading/incorrect/unjustified material which could damage the name or reputation of UKAMHS, its members, volunteers or staff.

Cruelty/Misconduct

UKAMHS members must not engage in any behaviour that is considered cruel towards horses or ponies. Any such behaviour may result in a disciplinary hearing against the member(s) involved. Additionally, members must conduct themselves in a manner that is not derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interest of UKAMHS. Any offensive, abusive, or unpleasant behaviour towards any person or animal at any show or any other location where UKAMHS business is being transacted may result in disqualification from the show/class and may result in a disciplinary hearing.

Failure to observe any of the rules may result in disqualification of the horse concerned and initiate disciplinary hearings by UKAMHS against the person breaking the rules. In the event of disqualification, all awards, qualification, entry money, show costs will be forfeited.

Any member, or non-member, or horse or pony, that is suspended for any period of time, as a result of any disciplinary action taken by the Horse of the Year Show, Miniature Horse Club of Great Britian, the International Miniature Horse and Pony Society, the American Miniature Horse Association, or the American Miniature Horse Registry, may not compete in a UKAMHS affiliated shows during the period of any such suspension, unless the disciplinary committee in its absolute discretion decides otherwise, after making such investigations as it deems appropriate.

Neither the UKAMHS or any of its officials or judges accept any financial responsibility for its or their decision.

3. UKAMHS Show Rules & Regulations

Owners, trainers, agents and exhibitors are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following the guidelines outlined in the UKAMHS Rule Book. By becoming a member, you agree to comply with the Society's rules and regulations. If in doubt received clarification from the Show Committee. The UKAMHS reserves the right to amend rules and regulations at any time throughout the show year. Current (2026) members will be notified of any rule changes via the e-mail address submitted on their membership application.

3.1 Responsibilities of Owners, Exhibitors and Handlers

1. **Entry**
   Horses must be entered into the correct class, in accordance with the horses age, sex and height. The exhibitor must use the complete name and number of the animal as it is shown on the horse's registration certificate. Horses shown under false identity will be automatically and immediately disqualified. No substitutions, changes or refunds.

   Entries for qualifiers will only be accepted once your membership status and horse nomination has been approved. If you enter your horse into a UKAMHS HOYS qualifier prior to your membership and horse nomination approval you will be disqualified and your entry fees will be forfeited.

2. **Passport**
   All horses must have a valid passport issued by a UK Passport Issuing Office (PIO) or be overstamped if the horse has an overseas passport. The passport must be registered in the owner's name and validated by a UK PIO.

3. **Vaccinated**
   Equine Influenza and Tetanus vaccinations are a compulsory requirement for all horses competing in UKAMHS classes or events. If your horse does not meet the requirements for a show, you are unlikely to be allowed to attend and may be asked to leave the showground. Remember to check the vaccination rules of the venue you are attending. Shows reserved the right to conduct spot checks to check compliance with vaccination regulations.

4. **Animal Health & Safety**
   Any animal showing signs of disease or illness will be asked to leave the show. Any exhibitors or attendants who have knowingly brought animals from stables/farms that currently have outbreaks of any contagious/infectious disease are subject to immediate disqualification and asked to leave the showground. Any animals that are unruly/deemed to be unsafe will be asked to leave the showground or to be returned to it's stable.

5. **Responsibility/Liability**
   The Society, the governing members and the show committee are not responsible for any loss, injury or death to any persons/animals at any time whilst on the showground whether competing or not. Owners are responsible for all Vets, Doctors fees etc. incurred at the showground. **You must have valid and up to date Public Liability Insurance.**

6. **Youth**

Youth handlers under 12 years old are encouraged to wear a British standard-approved hard hat. Individuals under 16 years of age are prohibited from showing and holding stallions outside of the showring.

Under the welfare acts the parents/guardians of those under 16 years old are responsible for the welfare of their children's horses. All children must be fully supervised.

7. **Exhibiting under Judges**

Exhibitors MUST NOT exhibit a horse under a judge in circumstances that would constitute a breach of rules by that Judge or cause a conflict of interest (see page 17). Lack of knowledge is not a defence to breach of these rules, and exhibitors/owners/producers/handlers must make appropriate enquires to satisfy themselves that no breach of this rule will occur. Any breach of this rule may result in automatic disqualification of the horse concerned and may result in disciplinary proceedings being initiated against the exhibitor or producer/trainer. **At any point the Directors can call into question any conflicts of interest they deem inappropriate and act accordingly. The Directors findings will be final and may result in horses or judges being removed from any shows affiliated to UKAMHS.**

No one should request a judge's opinions of an exhibiting horse prior to showing under that judge. Anyone found in violation of this rule will be asked not to show for the remainder of the current show year and the exhibit in question may be unable to compete in any further qualifiers, forfeiting any prizes, qualifications, and all show fees/costs. Any breach of this rule may result in disciplinary proceedings being initiated against the exhibitor, owner, producer and/or trainer.

8. **Exhibitor/Owner/ Behaviour**

Please conduct yourselves in a courteous manner. Any form of abuse towards any person or animal at the show will not be tolerated. Evidence of any inhumane treatment to a horse, including but not limited to blood, whip marks that raise welts or abusive whipping, in or out of the show ring, shall result in disqualification of that horse and that exhibitor for the balance of that show and shall result in the forfeiture of all trophies, ribbons, awards and points won by that horse and handler, forfeiting all entry fees.

Cruelty, abuse, or inhumane treatment of any horse on the showground will not be tolerated. Offenders may be disqualified from the show for the duration of the event and may face revocation of their membership. UKAMHS must be notified of any such disqualification by the Show Manager when show results are reported, and the UKAMHS has the right to suspend or cancel said member's membership.

Unsportsmanlike, abusive, or detrimental conduct by an exhibitor, trainer, owner, family members or staff will not be tolerated by show management. This includes, but is not limited to, threatening, abusive, or intimidating behaviour whether physical, verbal, or written towards any individual or show official. Show management have the right to suspend the offender for the duration of the show. Individuals accused of such behaviour may appeal their case to the UKAMHS Board of Directors, who will make a decision. If found guilty, that individual may be banned from future participation in UKAMHS activities and have their membership revoked.

Any conduct or coaching intended to distract a horse or interfere with the showing of an exhibitor's horse will not be tolerated. Offenders be required to leave the show area. If the offender is an exhibitor, they will be excused from the ring and prohibited from the show area for the duration of the event.

Exhibitors and/or owners are not allowed to protest directly or indirectly to the judge regarding the placing of any horse. Any individuals found guilty of such conduct by show management will be excused from the show, forfeiting any awards received at that event and the right to compete in any additional classes. No entry fees or show costs will be refunded.

9. Drugs/Artificial Irritants/Appurtenances

The use of stimulants or depressants or any drug affecting the showing of a horse is strictly forbidden. Any horse showing evidence of the use of ginger or other irritants to produce a higher tail carriage than normal shall be disqualified for that class. No horse having had surgery for purely cosmetic purposes will be permitted to show. No ribbons, braids, glitter, stallion tack (excluding bits) or any decorative appurtenances, are allowed in halter conformation classes. Judges will disqualify horses in violation of this rule for the class in which the violation occurred. Evidence of any infraction may result in disqualification of that horse and that exhibitor for the balance of that show and shall result in the forfeiture of all trophies, ribbons, awards and points won by that horse at that show.

10. UKAMHS Board Members

All UKAMHS board members and directors have the right to act as officials at any of the UKAMHS affiliated shows and may investigate any infringement of the UKAMHS rules observed by them, or any alleged infringement reported to them by a show official, judge, member, exhibitor or observer.

When an infringement or possible infringement to the rules has been observed by a UKAMHS board member/director, or an alleged infringement has been reported, the UKAMHS board member/director shall investigate the situation and conclude whether an infringement has taken place and shall impose one of the following penalties:

1. Caution the person as to their conduct
2. Direct that any horse belonging to such person or produced by such person or handled by such person at the time of the infringement shall be disqualified from the class in which it was taking part in at the time of the infringement.
3. Direct that such person and any horses belonging to him or being produced by him be disqualified from competing in any UKAMHS classes at that affiliated show.

The decision of the UKAMHS board member/director shall be final and binding on all parties on the day of the affiliated show in question. However, any party aggrieved by the decision of the UKAMHS board member/director may refer the matter by their way of appeal to the disciplinary committee.

Any such appeal shall be by notice in writing given to the secretary to be received by the secretary within 14 days of the date of the affiliated show in question and shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of the sum equal to ten (10) times the current membership, if the appeal is successful then the appeal fee shall be refunded but if the appeal is unsuccessful the appeal field shall be forfeited to the UKAMHS.

If in the opinion of the UKAMHS board member/director a penalty greater than the than the penalties listed above should be imposed, he may refer the matter to the to the disciplinary committee by notice in writing given to the secretary to be received by the secretary within 14 days of the affiliated show in question. This rule may result in disciplinary proceedings being initiated against the exhibitor, owner, producer and/or trainer.

3.2 Disclaimer

Neither the organisers nor anyone for whom they are in law responsible, nor UKAMHS, nor any agent, employee, representative of, nor person involved with any show to which these rules apply, accepts any liability for any accident, loss damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, handlers, spectators, land or any other person or property whatsoever, whether caused by negligence, breach of contract or in any other way whatsoever.

4. UKAMHS Horse of the Year Show Qualifiers

All exhibitors/owners/producers/handlers must comply with the UKAMHS rules and regulations laid out in this rulebook, in addition to the Horse of the Year Show's (HOYS) official Rules at www.hoys.co.uk, and the rules and regulations set forth by the individual shows holding the HOYS qualifiers.

4.1 Eligibility for Showing in HOYS Qualifying Classes

1. All owners and handlers must be current members of UKAMHS.
2. All horses must be registered with AMHA or AMHCGB (Section A/Purebred).
3. All horses must be nominated with UKAMHS for the current show year.
4. All owners are required to pay showing levy fees for the current year.
5. All handlers that are not owners are required to pay a handler fees for the current year.
6. All horses must have been measured at a UKAMHS approved measuring session or show prior to entering a qualifier and must measure correctly for its age category and cannot exceed 34 inches in height.
7. All horses must have a valid passport issued by a UK Passport Issuing Office (PIO) or be overstamped if the horse has an overseas passport. The passport must be registered in the owner's name and validated by a UK PIO.

4.2 Nominating

1. Your horse MUST be nominated to show with UKAMHS for the current show year.
2. You must provide copies of the horses AMHA registration paperwork or studbook passport at time of nomination to prove eligibility.
3. A copy of the ownership page of the horse's passport must be provided.
4. All nominations must have been declared by the 1st June 2026.

4.3 Name & Identification of Horses

1. A horse must show in the name under which it was originally registered with the American Miniature Horse Studbook.
2. All horses must always travel with their passports; disciplinary action will be taken against competitors breaking this rule. The UKAMHS will authorise spot checks at shows, competitors breaking this rule will not be allowed to compete.

4.4 Age and Gender of Horses

Horses must be over one years old to compete in the UKAMHS Hoys qualifying classes. The age of the horse shall be calculated from the 1st January in the year of its birth.

Mares

1. Mares with a living foal born during the current season may not be shown in UKAMHS classes.
2. Pregnant mares are not permitted to compete after six months of gestation.

Stallions

1. Where stallions are being exhibited the handler must be the correct age to compete the horse in the ring in accordance with the rule book.
2. Stallions and Colts should be handled by competent people only.
3. The temperament of the stallion must be taken into consideration, and he should not be taken to a showground if he is likely to be a danger to anyone present.
4. If it is in the opinion of the relevant member body that the stallion may cause accident or injury to any person or any animal at the showground the stallion will be disqualified and asked to leave the showground, or to be returned to its stable.

4.5 Height Verification

All horses competing in the UKAMHS HOYS qualifiers must have an annual height certificate issued in the current year by the UKAMHS Show Committee.

No Miniature Horse shall exceed 34 inches in height.
Yearlings must not exceed 32 inches.
Two-year-olds must not exceed 33 inches.
The show age of the horse is determined from January 1 preceding its birthday.

4.6 Handlers

1. No handler may show more than one horse in a class.
2. Handlers must present themselves suitably as outlined in this rule book.
3. Handlers can only qualify a maximum of two horses per calendar year for the UKAMHS Championship Class at the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS).
4. All HOYS handlers MUST have shown the horse that they are showing in the UKAMHS Championship class at HOYS in at least one (1) UKAMHS qualifier in the year of competing.
5. All handlers MUST have been declared by the 1st June 2026.

4.7 Trainers/Producers

1. If a horse is produced or trained by a person other than the owner, such person must be a member. The UKAMHS office must be notified in writing of any change of producer.

4.8 Conduct and responsibility of competitors

1. Competitors must consider the health and safety of other competitors, spectators and those working or assisting at the show.
2. It is necessary for all exhibitors to carry public liability insurance for an adequate indemnity to protect against their negligence including any injury caused by their animals or property.
3. When outside of the warmup arena and show arena competitors should remain in walk or trot, where available horses must walk in designated horse walks.
4. Under no circumstance should an exhibitor take their horse into the public areas of the show ground.
5. No competitor should behave in any inappropriate manner to any horse judge, event staff, members of the public or other competitors.
6. No competitor should put another person or animal at risk of harm from their animals and actions.
7. Every competitor should behave in a safe and respectable manner at all times
8. Competitors should follow instructions from the show steward and judge

4.9 Qualifiers

List of qualifiers can be found on the website, www.UKAMHS.co.uk

To compete in qualifiers, you must register with the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) for User ID Numbers and Horse ID Numbers, www.hoys.co.uk/competitor-hub.

AMHA European Regional Championship Qualifier Rules

1. Horses must be owned by persons who resides in Europe.
2. Horses must have resided in Europe since the 1st January 2026.
3. Horses must be produced, trained, conditioned and shown by persons who resides in Europe.
4. UK owned horses are **ineligible** in compete in this qualifier.

4.10 County Show Qualifiers

At County Shows the classes will be divided as follows:

1. UKAMHS Yearling
2. UKAMHS Two Year Old
3. UKAMHS Senior Mares & Geldings
4. UKAMHS Senior Stallions

All first and second place winners are required to compete in their respective championship class. The champion and reserve can be selected from any of the first and second place horse regardless of placing in the qualifying class. The championship class must be placed to sixth place, just in case of prior qualification, disqualification or illegitimate qualification.

4.11 Breed Show Qualifiers

At the American Miniature Horse Breed Shows the classes will be divided as follows:

1. UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Junior Mare
2. UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Junior Gelding
3. UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Junior Stallion
4. UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Senior Mare
5. UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Senior Gelding
6. UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Senior Stallion

The following two classes are optional extras that the breed shows can hold:

7. UKAMHS American Miniature Stock Horse
8. UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Ultra Mini (For horses under 30" at maturity)

A horse is only allowed to participate in one HOYS Qualifying class per show. For instance, if you decide to enter the stock class, you cannot also enter the corresponding age and sex class, and vice versa.

All first and second place winners are required to compete in their respective championship class. The champion and reserve can be selected from any of the first and second place horse regardless of placing in the qualifying class. The championship class must be placed to sixth place, just in case of prior qualification, disqualification or illegitimate qualification.

06/08/2026
Clarification to HOYS Qualification Eligibility

A horse must have an eligible nominated handler available to compete at HOYS should it obtain a qualification. That handler must have been nominated by the published deadline and must have shown that horse at a HOYS qualifying show during the current season.

Where a horse does not have an eligible nominated handler meeting these requirements, it shall be ineligible to receive a HOYS qualification. If such a horse finishes in a qualifying position, the qualification shall be passed down to the next eligible competitor.

Where an exhibitor has already qualified a horse and a further horse exhibited by the same exhibitor subsequently finishes in a qualifying position, that horse must have an additional eligible nominated handler. If neither horse has an additional eligible nominated handler, the second qualification shall be forfeited and passed down to the next eligible competitor.

5. Height Verification for HOYS qualifiers

1. The show age of the horse is determined from January 1 preceding its birthday.

2. Horse's height must be verified on a hard, level surface, by a show official and witnessed by a recording official of UKAMHS.

3. Any one horse will only be entitled to three measurement attempts during the show year, regardless of the horse measuring in at a different society's show.

4. The height verification of the Miniature Horse shall be determined by measuring the vertical distance from the base of the last hairs of the mane to the ground with the front two (2) legs vertical and in line with or parallel to the measuring device, and the back of the hocks in a vertical line with the horse's fetlocks. The last hair of the mane refers to the last coarse (longer) hair of the horse's mane. Any softer body hair, left longer to be considered as an extension of the mane, should be differentiated from mane hair and should not be included as part of the mane when measuring. The horse's head and neck shall be in a natural position, facing forward, with the nostrils lower than the eyes. The animal must stand squarely on all four (4) feet. No height allowance will be made for excessive foot. After the horse is set up for measuring by the handler, said handler may not touch the horse, i.e. stretching the head up forward, moving the feet; touching the back or pressing down on any part of the back until the measurer removes the measuring stick.

5. If an animal does not meet the desired height, the handler has the right to request a second measurement. Upon repositioning the animal and the measuring stick a second measurement will be made. If the second measurement is still not acceptable a third measurement is allowed. Note: Only one reading is permitted with each measurement. The third measurement is final and will be recorded as the official height.

6. A horse that must be sound to be measured.

7. Any horse showing evidence of the use of any drugs, sedatives or stimulants to produce deceptive height will be refused measurement.

Horses may be subject to spot-check height measurements if the show committee has reason to believe that a horse exceeds the permissible for its age group, or if a formal complaint is submitted. This protocol is implemented to ensure compliance and uphold fairness within the competition.

6. Ring Procedure

Horses to be shown in hand at the walk and trot. Horses must also be viewed in motion from the side, and judged on the priority of:

1. Conformation
2. Quality
3. Presence
4. Way of Going
5. Type

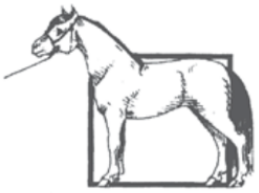
6.1 Ring Pattern

Horses will enter the ring individually, walking counterclockwise to a cone/designated marker about 20 feet from the entrance. After reaching the cone/designated marker, they will trot around the ring. Once the trot is complete, each horse will line up along the side of the ring while waiting for the other exhibits to complete their trot.

Once all exhibitors have completed their trot, they will take turns walking straight to the judge. Upon reaching the judge, they must show the horse's bite before trotting away in a straight line for a short distance. Then, they will trot around to create a new lineup, positioning the horses' nose to tail for final judging. After the final horse has walked to and trotted away from the judge, the judge will evaluate each horse, starting from the first exhibit, to determine the class placings.

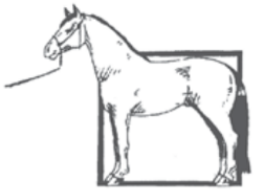
6.2 Class General Rules

1. Classes may not enter the ring until all awards from the previous class are presented.


ACCEPTABLE

2.Horses to be shown not stretched, which means all four (4) feet are flat on the ground and at least one front and one rear cannon bone remain perpendicular to the ground. See sketches for acceptable stances. STRETCHED HORSES TO BE PENALIZED after the initial warning by the judge in each class. It is permissible to hand set the horse.

3.Horses may be clipped or shown in full coat.


ACCEPTABLE

4.Horses must be serviceably sound or be disqualified for that class, in good condition, and well groomed.

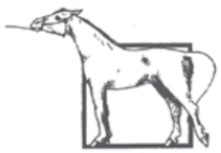
5. Transmissible weakness will be penalized.

6. Overbites/ underbites that exceed 1/2 depth (thickness) of the teeth will be severely penalized, with the exception of geldings. Judges MUST check teeth on all stallions and mares.

UNACCEPTABLE

7. In the case of two (2) animals being judged equal, the higher placement shall be awarded to the **smaller animal**. In placement shall be awarded to the **smaller animal**. In no case, however, shall a smaller horse be placed over a larger horse with better conformation.

8. No whips, lighters, crops, or any other device(s) detrimental to the well-being of the horse shall be allowed in halter classes. Evidence of any inhumane treatment to a horse, in or out of the show ring, shall result in disqualification of that horse and that exhibitor for the balance of that show and shall result in the forfeiture of all trophies, ribbons, awards, and points for that show.


UNACCEPTABLE

9.For safety reasons, the judge must excuse any unruly horse from the ring.

10. The same exhibitor must handle only one horse throughout an entire class. Any violation will lead to disqualification of both the exhibitor and the horse for that class, exceptions for championship classes. All handlers must be members of UKAMHS and nominated to handle that horse.

11. It is the responsibility of the owner, handler, or exhibitor to arrive on time for classes. Once a class is called and the gate is closed, any horse that leaves the arena for any reason will be disqualified. Additionally, if you miss the class, no refunds will be issued.

12. The names of the horses being exhibited will not be disclosed to the judge before the show. Exhibitors receive a number for each horse, which must be displayed on the back of the handler. This number will remain the same for the entire show. If you do not have your back number, you may not be placed and could be disqualified at the judge's discretion.

6.3 Ribbons and Awards

1. Ribbons and placement to at least sixth are required.
2. The sequence of announcing awards is at the discretion of the Show Manager.
3. Horses eligible to show in their respective championship classes must show unless excused by the show manager or judge.

Championship Class

All first and second place winners are required to compete in their respective championship class. The champion and reserve can be selected from any of the first and second place horse regardless of placing in the qualifying class. The championship class must be placed to sixth place, just in case of prior qualification, disqualification or illegitimate qualification.

7. Presentation in the show ring

Handlers must be appropriately presented for the classes. Management reserves the right to refuse any entry or individual from entering the ring if they are not suitably dressed for an audience. Additionally, no farm, individual, or horse names or logos may be displayed on the exhibitor or horse.

7.1 Attire for showing at UKAMHS HOYS qualifiers

Women & Men
Handler's attire must include a western hat, long sleeved collared shirt or jacket, smart straight or boot-cut trousers with boots or smart laced up shoes (No trainers).

Jackets must be buttoned up to give a neat appearance.

Jeans and skintight trousers are not allowed to be worn.

Gloves are optional.

Hair must be tied up neatly.

Children (Under 14 years)
Western styled collared shirt or jacket, trousers/jodhpurs, boots, and riding hat.

7.2 Presentation of the American Miniature Horse

1. Horses may be clipped or shown in full coat.
2. Razoring of a horse's face is **NOT** allowed at any County show or at the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS).
3. Whiskers **can** be clipped off or left natural. A close facial clip is acceptable.
4. The bridle paths of American Miniature Horses are typically clipped to highlight the neck structure of the horse, with the length of the bridle path left to your discretion.
5. Banding or braiding of manes is prohibited.
6. Manes should be natural looking and of moderate length.
7. Pulled, overcut or undercut manes are acceptable.
8. Tails are to be trimmed clear of the ground.
9. Use of, artificial tails or manes are prohibited and shall result in disqualification of the horse for that class.
10. Hooves are to be unshod
11. No alteration to the natural colour of the coat or skin is permitted.

7.3 Makeup & Show products

1. The use of oils and make-up on horses exhibiting in the show ring should be used sparingly for subtle enhancement, such as defining the eyes and muzzle, rather than creating a heavily made-up, unnatural, look. A judge may penalise a horse, who in their opinion is wearing excessive make up.
2. Facial makeup: Black highlighters, heavy black makeup, or black gloss/polish on the muzzle and around the eyes is NOT allowed. However, the use of clear oils and clear glosses to enhance shine and accentuate the skin around the muzzle and eyes is permitted.
3. Non-permanent show products can be used to enhance a horse's natural colour (e.g. whitening a white leg marking or blackening a black leg), you cannot add white facial markings to a horse without facial markings, nor can you blacken a leg that has white markings. If your horse has mottled markings this must remain mottled.
4. Hooves can only be painted in black, or clear hoof oil. If your horse has white or striped hooves you must use clear hoof oil.
5. Please ensure that glosses contain UV filters for added sun protection.

Any horse which has been colour enhanced beyond the above show guidelines or razored at a show where it is forbidden may be disqualified for the entire show, and all trophies, ribbons, qualification, points and entry fees will be forfeited.

7.4 Show Tack for the American Miniature Horse

a. All horses must be shown in an arabinan type halter, unless exhibiting in a stock class where a stock halter is required.
b. Conchos on halters are at your discretion.
c. Yearlings and two-year-olds cannot be bitted; however, stallions aged three years or older may be fitted with a snaffle bit at your discretion.
d. Leads must have buckles, no clipped leads allowed.
e. Chains may only go under chin and not over the nose or in the mouth.
f. Leather/biothane coupling, bio chains or control bar can be used instead of chains.
g. Whips and canes are prohibited from American Miniature Horse classes.

7.5 Behaviour

1. Any horse behaving in a dangerous manner which could threaten the safety of other exhibits, competitors or spectators will be asked to leave or to be returned to its stable.
2. Unruly horses may be ordered to withdraw at the judge's, stewards, any show official's or UKAMHS board members/directors discretion.
3. Should the horse become loose causing disruption to the class/show, the horse will be disqualified.
4. Rearing is considered a safety hazard, and the judges will penalize or disqualify the horse as this behaviour indicating a lack of control/manners, or a welfare issue.

7.6 Soundness

1. Exhibits which appear to be lame may be asked to withdraw at the judge's discretion, as the welfare of the horse is paramount.

7.7 Handler

1. Handlers must be polite and professional to judges, stewards, organizers, and other competitors at all times.
2. Verbal or physical abuse is not tolerated. Judges, stewards, show organizers, UKAMHS volunteers and UKAMHS directors have the absolute authority to disqualify an individual from a class or show immediately for violating this rule.
3. Handlers are responsible for the safety of themselves, their horse(s), and others.
4. The horse and handler must be on time for the classes, if you are not present/on time you will not be considered for the class.
5. Shanking, which is the practice of sharp, forceful yanking of the lead rein (which often has a chain attached), to make a horse more animated in halter competitions, is **NOT** acceptable handling and will be penalised.
6. If a handler lets go of an animal under any circumstance the judge will determine if the animal's manners and behaviour should result in any disqualification. Animals that get loose resulting in disruption to the class or show will be disqualified for the duration of the show.

8. Judging

Whenever possible, UKAMHS events will be judged by either an AMHA judge or a UKAMHS panel judge. UKAMHS panel judges are chosen based on prior judging experience and their standing with recognized equine breed organizations.

Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and the selection of the best horses for the purpose described by the conditions of the class. He/she should make clear that the best horse on the day wins. No discrimination should be made as to youth, amateur, or professional status of the handler. Since Miniature Horses come in various types, it is crucial for the judge to remain unbiased and evaluate all horses based on merit, rather than personal background, to determine the best among the exhibited entries.

8.1 Judges Panel

1. Judges on the panel will be appointed yearly.
2. Judges who fail in the observance of the UKAMHS rules or whose conduct in any respect shall be, in the opinion of the UKAMHS board, derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the UKAMHS may be removed from the judges panel at any time.
3. Judges may only accept to judge one (1) UKAMHS Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) qualifier within any two-year period.
4. Judges from overseas may be invited to judge at the MHCGB Shows, UKAMHS British Open Show and at the Regional Championship Shows.

8.2 Judging of classes

1. If a judge considers an exhibit ill-mannered, unsound or unsuitable, he may ask the exhibit to retire without judging.
2. A judge may ask a pony to leave the ring if in his opinion the pony's manners are unacceptable or if it is receiving undo outside assistance.
3. A fall of the pony will result in elimination.
4. If a handler lets go of an animal under any circumstance the judge will determine if the animal's manners and behaviour should result in any disqualification.
5. Animals that get loose resulting in disruption to the class/show will be disqualified.
6. Judges have the right to alter placings if a horse misbehaves after the placings have been awarded.
7. Competitors must not exhibit a horse under a judge in circumstances that would constitute a breach of the rule(s) 8.3 by that judge. Any breach of this rule will result in automatic disqualification of the horse concerned and may result in disciplinary proceedings being initiated against the exhibitor/owner and/or producer/trainer.
8. If a judge has reasonable grounds for belief that any rules are being breached, he may ask the exhibitor to leave the ring and withdraw from the class. The judge's decision is final in all cases.
9. Once a judge has commenced judging a class a horse may not be taken out of the ring without the permission of the judge. Once the class has commenced there, will be no change of handler.

8.3 Judges Regulations

Any judges hired to judge an UKAMHS qualifier are required to acquaint themselves with the official show rules of UKAMHS and must comply with those rules. Judges shall appear for their assignment suitably attired to appear before an audience. Judges may only accept to judge one (1) UKAMHS Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) qualifier within any two-year period.

Judges must not:

A. Judges must not Judge a class if he has owned, leased, produced, bred, sold, trained, exhibited or received financial gain from an exhibitor in the class. This rule excludes group clinics and/or seminars.
B. Judge any family members or horses that are or have been owned, produced, exhibited, bred or handled by a member of the immediate family, a godchild or by anyone with whom he is in a business partnership with, employed by or employees or lives with.
C. Judge his own clients, or clients of his immediate family or clients of anyone with whom he is in a business partnership with, employed by or employees or lives with.
D. Judge horses produced by a person who is producing any horses he (judge) owns or has sold.
E. Judge horses owned or produced by a person who he has purchased horses/ponies from or sold ponies to
F. Judge horses owned, produced or handled by a person who has employed the judge since the 1st January in the current year.
G. Judge any member that they have had a direct connection or business association, or any relationship that can be deemed a conflict of interest, financial or otherwise (rule excluded service fees for stallions and keep of mares whilst at stud).
H. Judge an exhibitor that has remunerated the judge for the board or training of any horse for horse show purposes. Stud fees and broodmare fees are excluded.
I. Judge anyone who has approached the judge in any fashion (e-mail, text, phone, etc.) with regards to a decision on the show results, or to seek opinions on their horse(s).
J. A judge shall not visit the horse stall area, nor speak with owners, trainers, exhibitors, or owners' representatives nor inspect or discuss any horse entered in the show before the judging, nor shall he/she review the program until after the judging has been completed
K. A judge must not attend a show exhibitor's party or any related activities on the day prior to the show in which they are officiating. This includes any event that could lead to contact with a breeder, owner, exhibitor, or horses entered in the upcoming show.

If a horse is presented to a judge by a person the judge knows is ineligible to compete under these rules, the judge must advise the show manager or steward that he/she believes the entry to be ineligible and request that the entry be excused.

Exhibitors are requested not to converse with judges before or throughout the show. The judge's decision is final, and no one should approach the judge during the show regarding their decision.

It is deemed unsportsmanlike to seek judge's opinion about an exhibiting horse before competing under that specific judge. Any exhibitor found in violation of this rule will be disqualified from showing under that judge, and any awards and show fees will be forfeited.

Judges will be instructed not to accept any Facebook friend requests and must report any exhibitor attempting to engage with them prior to the show. UKAMHS asks all judges to carefully consider their use of social media and to avoid communication about any horses or competitors they have judged or may judge in the future.

At any point the Directors can call into question any conflicts of interest they deem inappropriate and act accordingly. The Directors findings will be final and may result in horses or judges being removed from any shows affiliated to UKAMHS.

8.4 Guidelines and Advice for Judges

1. It is the duty of all judges on the panel to understand and comply with the rules in the rule book and to ensure they are fit and well to judge.
2. Judges are required to acquaint themselves with the breed standard of perfection.
3. When two horses are of equal quality preference should be given to the smaller animal.
4. Manners of horses: the manners and behaviour of a horse are critical components of judging, animals that display poor behaviours should be penalize or eliminated. Unruly animals should be dismissed from the ring.
5. In a championship class the horses must walk to the designated marker and trot around the arena before lining up to be judged.
6. When judging the championship class, a second (2nd) place horse can be placed over a first (1st) placed horse if the exhibit is behaving and exhibiting better than first place horse in their corresponding class.
7. The makeup and oiling of horses should be a subtle enhancement rather than a heavy look.
8. Handling of horses: Respectful and kind handling of horses at shows, both inside and outside the ring, focuses on prioritizing equine welfare, reducing stress, and ensuring safety through proper etiquette. Inappropriate handling of horses should be penalised or disqualified.
9. Shanking, which is the practice of sharp, forceful yanking of the lead rein (which often has a chain attached), to make a horse more animated in halter competitions, is **NOT** acceptable handling and should be penalised.

8.5 Show Disqualifications

1. Unsoundness.
2. Cruelty, abuse or inhumane treatment of any horse or person inside or outside of the show ring.
3. An unruly horse must be excused from the ring by the judge for safety reasons.
5. Use of illegal drugs and/or artificial irritants.
8. Rules are violated.

10. Affiliated Shows

1. UK AMHS classes must not be called by other names
2. Shows must choose judges from the approved 2026 UKAMHS judges panel and must confirm their judge choice with the UKAMHS prior to announcing the judge for the classes. Judges can only judge one (1) UKAMHS Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) qualifier within any two-year period.
3. Shows must not engage in conversations with competitors regarding their choice of judge. If shows have any problems obtaining a judge contact the UKAMHS office where they will give you every possible assistance in finding a judge.
4. Shows must send the UKAMHS office copies of the UKAMHS class entries within seven days of their close of entry.
5. Competitors must be members of the UK AMHS prior to entering the show and all horses entered must have been nominated to show for the current season and have obtained a measuring card for the current season. Exhibitors that enter without these requirements may be disqualified.
6. The championship class must place down to sixth place.

11. Stewards & Officials

A. Any reputable person may act in the capacity of ring steward.
B. The ring steward must help the exhibitors with the ring procedure and control the smooth running of the class.
C. The ring steward must not discuss the horses or exhibitors with the judge.
D. Show managers, ring stewards and any paid employees of that show and their immediate family or entities refrain from showing or having horses shown that are registered in the above's names, where they are officiating or employed.
E. Judges, show officials, or stewards have the authority to request the removal of any exhibit from the ring, or show if it displays continued disobedience or unruly behaviour.
F. Judges, show officials, stewards, UKAMHS directors and UKAMHS board members have the authority to request the removal of any competitor, owner, handler, or associate displaying any form of abuse towards a person or animal. Such actions will result in the disqualification of the horse and persons involved for the remainder of show, along with the forfeiture of all trophies, ribbons, awards, points earned by that horse and/or handler.

12. Objections and complaints

Any member or non-member wishing to register an objections or complaint, whether it is against a competitor, judge, or show official should write to the UKAMHS office within 14 days of the date of the event. This matter will then be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in the UKAMHS rules.

An officiating UKAMHS judge or steward wishing to register an objection or complaint against a UKAMHS member or show official should write to the UKAMHS within 14 days of the date of the event. This matter will then be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in the UKAMHS rules.

A show secretary wishing to register an objection or complaint against a judge or UKAMHS member should write to the UKAMHS within 14 days of the date of the event. This matter will then be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in the UKAMHS rules.

Any dispute or complaint in respect to a horse's measurement will be delt with in accordance with the measurement complaints procedure.

The UKAMHS board have the right to request a measurement on any horse if believed to have exceeded 34". The horse must be measured at the owner's expense within 28 days of notification by the UKAMHS. Unless the horse is measured within this timeframe (28 days) it's UKAMHS registration will be withdrawn and the matter may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. A horse that receives an objection to its height which is subsequently upheld will forfeit any previous qualification gained for HOYS and the qualification will be passed to the next eligible exhibit.

11.1 Complaints Procedure

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of a UKAMHS affiliated event, or any other UKAMHS matter, please adhere to the follow the complaints procedure:

1. Notify the show secretary or a member of the show committee of your complaint as soon as possible.

2. Provide details of your complaint in writing within ten days of the alleged incident, including the date, time, location, and any witnesses or evidence that may support your claim. Submit your complaints fee of £100 to UKAMHS within ten days of the alleged incident **(please note, UKAMHS board members, UKAMHS judges, stewards, show officials and show volunteers are not required to pay the complaints fee upon submitting a complaint)**. The complaints fee shall be refunded if the complaint is sustained. If the complaint is not sustained the fee shall be forfeited.

3. The show committee will investigate your complaint, consider the interests of all parties involved, and provide a written response to all parties within 14 days of receipt of complaint.

4. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you may appeal to the society's board of directors within 14 days of receiving the response.

5. The board of directors will review the appeal and make a final decision, providing a written response within 28 days. We take all complaints seriously and will do our best to resolve any issues in a fair and timely manner.

11.2 Height Protest

If you wish to submit a height protest, please adhere to the following complaints procedure:

Notify the UKAMHS show committee in writing, and submit the £250 protest fee, which shall be refunded to the protestor if the height protest in sustained. If the protest is not sustained the fee shall be forfeited.

1.The show committee will provide you with written response acknowledging your protest.

2.The animal will be measured by a designated measurer at a time and place of the committees choosing, within 28 days of height protest and fee being paid.

3.All measurements must be conducted in the presence of the owner or trainer of the protested animal, as well as the individual who filed the protest.

4.Three measurements will be taken, averaged, and the resulting figure will be deemed the official height of the horse.

5. Any animal presented for measuring must not exhibit signs of lameness or sedation. If a horse is found to be lame or sedated, it will be disqualified for the remainder of the show year, and any nomination and/or levy fees will be forfeited.