



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAIR ASSOCIATION**

Filly & Gelding Handbook

2024

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Filly and Gelding Premium Pay-Outs

Class Point System: Each of the horses in a class will be given a point for each horse placing below it, plus one point. Points are calculated through last place.

Example 1: In a class of twenty-four horses, the first place exhibitor receives one point; the second place gets two points; and so on down through twenty-fourth place which gets twenty-four points.

Example 2: In a class of four horses, the first place exhibitor receives one point; second gets two points; third gets three points; and fourth gets four points.

Premium Pay-Out: There will be premiums for first through third place in each class as follows:

CLASS		PREMIUM PAY-OUT							
Class 1	Performance Halter – Filly	1 st Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$200	3 rd Place	\$150	=	\$600
Class 2	Performance Halter – Gelding	1 st Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$200	3 rd Place	\$150	=	\$600
Class 3	Sr. Showmanship	1 st Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$200	3 rd Place	\$150	=	\$600
Class 4	Jr. Showmanship	1 st Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$200	3 rd Place	\$150	=	\$600
Class 5	Sr. Longe Line	1 st Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$200	3 rd Place	\$150	=	\$600
Class 6	Jr. Longe Line	1 st Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$200	3 rd Place	\$150	=	\$600
Class 7	Sr. In-Hand Trail	1 st Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$200	3 rd Place	\$150	=	\$600
Class 8	Jr. In-Hand Trail	1 st Place	\$250	2 nd Place	\$200	3 rd Place	\$150	=	\$600
Premium Pay-Out Total									\$4,800

High Point/Reserve High Point:

1. An exhibitor must show in all four classes (Halter, Showmanship, Longe-Line, and In-Hand Trail) to be eligible for High Point/Reserve High Point.
2. The exhibitor's points for the four classes will be totaled. The exhibitor with the lowest amount of points will be given the respective high point award, and so on.
3. In the event of a tie, High Point will be determined by the most firsts; seconds; etc.

Scholarship Pay-Outs for Yearling Filly and Gelding Show:

The scholarship pay-outs will be awarded to High Point for overall classes.

Sr. High Point Scholarship	\$1,500
Jr. High Point Scholarship	\$1,500
High Point Scholarship Total	\$3,000

Belt Buckles and banners will also be awarded to High Point recipients.

Halter

Attire

Exhibitors shall wear western hat, long-sleeve shirts, and western boots. Western boots shall include typical cowboy boots and lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. Any boot other than a leather sole boot is strongly discouraged. Exhibitors should be neat, clean, and well-groomed.

Equipment

Lead straps are often attached to a chain and snap. The lead strap may be snapped below the jaw in the centering of the halter, or the chain can be run under the horse's chin and snapped to the upper or lower halter ring on the right side of the horse's head.

Judging Procedure

Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right (left of the horse) to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed at 50 feet (15 meters) away. It is at the judge's discretion whether horses will trot straight past this cone or turn left and continue trotting. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front, and rear. The judge should line the horses to be placed in a head-to-tail order according to preference.

Showmanship at Halter

The showmanship class is judged on an exhibitor's ability to execute practical and basic halter class maneuvers from the ground. The class should always be judged with this in mind, giving credit to the exhibitor who can correctly perform each maneuver of the total pattern or run. Judges should refrain from conducting the class routine in any manner that attempts to trick, confuse, or mislead exhibitors. In showmanship at halter, conformation of the horse is not judged.

Equipment

Use a clean halter that is adjusted to fit the horse. The halter should fit well on the horse's head, to maximize response to subtle halter cues. Silver halters shall not count over a nice, clean, well-fitted halter. Lead straps are often attached to a chain and snap. The lead strap may be snapped below the jaw in the center ring of the halter, or the chain can be run under the horse's chin and snapped to the upper or lower halter ring on the right side of the horse's head.

Horse Fitting and Grooming

1. The horse should be clean and well-groomed. Manner of fitting for mane and tail may vary according to recognized practices for a particular breed of horse.
2. A well-groomed horse that is clean, properly trimmed, and conditioned does have a justified advantage in showmanship at halter. Underweight or thin horses may be penalized.

Method of Showing

1. Walk, trot, turn, stop, back, and pose the horse as shown in the posted pattern or by the judge's instructions.
2. The horse is always led from the left side. The exhibitor's right hand is held closest to the halter, with the distance being highly dependent upon the mannerisms of the horse, the size of both the horse and the exhibitor, and breed standards. The excess amount of lead is folded or loosely coiled in the left hand and held about waist high. Never wrap the excess lead around the hand or make a coil so small that a sudden jerk could cause the lead to wrap around the hand.
3. At both the walk and the trot, the exhibitor's shoulder should be about even with the horse's throatlatch. In this position, the horse is beside the exhibitor, allowing the judge a clear view of the horse's travel. Movement at both gaits should be brisk and sharp, as opposed to slow and dull. Speed of travel is somewhat related to straightness of travel, and the slower a horse moves, the greater chance for deviation from a straight line of movement.
4. When leading to or from a judge or ringmaster, stops and turns are very important. The exhibitor should always allow plenty of space between the horse and the judge. Stops should be executed squarely and without hesitation, as the stop is an important maneuver preceding a correct turn or reverse of direction.
5. Turns of more than 90 degrees should always be executed to the right. Pushing the horse away, rather than pulling the horse around, will allow more distance between the horse's and the exhibitor's feet. In addition, turning to the right allows the horse to use the right hind foot as a pivot point. The horse can then cross the left front foot over the right front to execute a very uniform and smooth turn. This results in the horse remaining in essentially the same tracks after the turn is completed and provides the judge a good view as the horse is walked or trotted away.
6. Immediately following a turn or reverse of direction, the exhibitor should look back to make sure the horse is lined up with the judge. Class routines may require walking or trotting back into the lineup of horses. The exhibitor should lead all the way through the line, stop, reverse, and then lead into the line to set up. If asked to change positions in the line, back the horse out of the line, and approach the new position from behind.
7. Pose or set up the horse with its feet set according to its type or breed. Stock horse breeds stand square. Move the horse's feet by pushing or pulling on the lead strap as necessary with the right hand. Touching the horse's body with a hand or foot to change the horse's position is penalized.
8. Once set up, the horse should be presented in such a way as to not distract the judge's attention from the horse. The exhibitor stands on the opposite side of the horse when the judge is toward the front and

on the same side as the judge when the judge is toward the rear of the horse. This method of presentation is preferred by most judges for youth exhibitors.

9. For safety reasons, at no time should an exhibitor stop and stand directly in front of the horse.
10. The primary objective is to show the horse. Exhibitors should stand where they can see the judge and the judge can see them, but without obstructing the judge's view of the horse. The basic position of the exhibitor should allow constant observation of the horse's position and also permit observation of the judge.
11. Staring at the judge keeps an exhibitor from continually observing the horse and keeping the horse set properly. Exhibitors should maintain eye contact with the horse. It is acceptable to glance at the judge from time to time, but an exhibitor should NOT do this continuously.
12. Exhibitors should keep their proper position in line and allow reasonable space (at least five feet) between horses on either side. Keep horses from making contact with a competitor or encroaching on space rightfully belonging to another exhibitor.

Faults

1. Allowing the horse to remain out of position.
2. Standing directly in front of the horse.
3. Kicking the horse's feet to move them.
4. Failure of the horse to lead properly.
5. Failure to stop before turning when showing at a walk or trot.
6. Failure to back.
7. Loud voice commands to the horse or other unnecessary actions.
8. Picking up the horse's feet for positioning purposes.
9. Tracking crooked.
10. Posing incorrectly.

Class Routine

1. Exhibitors will be asked to enter the arena individually and work a pattern designed by the judge.
2. Judges should draw patterns clearly and make instructions that are easily understood by exhibitors.
3. Where patterns are posted, such instructions should be available for the exhibitor to review prior to the start of this class (at least one hour before, if possible).

Longe Line

Equipment

1. The horses are to be shown in a flat nylon or leather halter, with a longe line 20 to 30 feet long. Use of a longe whip is optional.
2. The snap on the longe line may include a chain extension which can be attached to the halter under the horse's chin, or the chain may be run through a side D and under the horse's chin. Chains are not permitted over the horse's nose or in the horse's mouth. Bridles are not permitted.

Class Routine

1. The arena will have a designated exhibition area. No assistance may be provided by grooms, once a horse enters the arena.
2. Each exhibitor will have two minutes to exhibit his or her yearling. A whistle or announcement will signal one minute and at the end of the two-minute exhibition. At the completion of the two minutes, the exhibitor and the horse will leave the working area. After all horses are worked, they will be brought back in and lined up for a final inspection.
3. Yearling longe line horses should be shown in both directions on the longe line and should attempt to show all three gaits in each direction. The order in which the gaits are shown is the choice of the exhibitor. Failure to show all three gaits shall not be cause for disqualification but shall be scored accordingly.
4. Longe whips, if carried, should be used to provide encouragement and to aid in positioning the horse on the longe line. Excessive use of the longe whip can be cause for disqualification.

Scoring

Scoring should be computed as follows:

1. 40 percent for mechanical correctness of longeing procedures and the response of the horse on the longe line.
2. 40 percent for quality of movement.
3. 20 percent for conformation.

In-Hand Trail

The trail class tests the horse's ability to cope with many situations encountered in daily life. The horse is judged on the cleanliness, neatness, and promptness with which the obstacles are negotiated; ability to negotiate obstacles correctly; and attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse while negotiating the course. Emphasis on judging should be on identifying the well-broke, responsive, well-mannered horse which can correctly negotiate the course. The object is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it, by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents.

Guidelines

Judges should consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning and grooming, and the equipment (dirty, ill-fitting or ragged equipment) in their overall scores. Also, to be considered is the correctness of the horse while being led. Drifting to the side, leading or stopping crooked, failure to maintain a pivot foot in a turn, leading or turning sluggishly should be considered and evaluated in the horse's maneuver scores and reflected in his/her overall score. Exhibitors should be discouraged from excessive verbal cues and excessive stiff or unnatural movements around horse or when leading. For safety reasons, those exhibitors continuously holding the chain on the lead, tightly coiling lead shank around hand, or dragging the lead shank should be penalized.

Scoring

Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Credit will be given to those yearlings negotiating the obstacles cleanly, smoothly, and alertly with style in prompt response to the exhibitor's cues. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:

1. One half (½) POINT.
 - a. Each tick of log, pole, cone, plant, or obstacle.
2. One (1) POINT.
 - a. Each hit, bite or stepping on a log, pole, cone, plant, or any component of the obstacle.
 - b. Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less.
 - c. Both front and hind feet in a single-stride slot or space.
 - d. Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
 - e. Failure to meet the correct strides on trot over log obstacles.
3. Three (3) POINTS.
 - a. Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides.
 - b. Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant or obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle unless caused by the tail.
 - c. Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with one foot once the foot has entered obstacle; including missing one element of an obstacle on a line of travel with one foot.
4. Five (5) POINTS.
 - a. Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
 - b. First or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
 - c. Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.
 - d. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise (slight touching or tapping with one hand to cue horse in a sidepass maneuver only is acceptable).
 - e. Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with more than one foot once the foot has entered obstacle; including missing one element of an obstacle on a line of travel with more than one foot.
 - f. Blatant disobedience (including biting, kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking or continuously circling the exhibitor).
5. Zero (0) total score for course (disqualification).
 - a. Performing the obstacles other than in specified order.
 - b. No attempt to perform an obstacle.
 - c. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
 - d. Excessively or repeatedly touching the horse.

- e. Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle in any manner other than how it's described, including overturns of more than 1/4 turn.
- f. Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles.
- g. Working outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area.
- h. Third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing over entire course.
- i. Failure to demonstrate correct gait between obstacles as designated.
- j. Horse gets loose from exhibitor.
- k. Leading or backing on the wrong side of the horse. Leading and backing should be performed from the left side of the horse.
- l. Fall of horse or handler.
- m. Excessive schooling, pulling, turning or backing anywhere on course.
- n. Failure to complete obstacle (i.e. dropping the rope gate and not picking it up).

Course Requirements

1. Use Care in Setting Up Course - Care must be exercised to avoid the setting up of any of these obstacles in a manner that may be hazardous to the horse or exhibitor. Obstacles should be placed in such a manner that they flow from one to the other quickly and efficiently.
2. Change of Procedure - Where the local conditions and equipment will not permit the establishment of obstacles as specified and that they may require changing of procedures or hand on the lead, then all competitors must be advised that such changing of procedure or of hands is permitted.

Method of Showing

1. Exhibitor must use only the right hand on the lead where the chain begins, and lead on the horse's left side. A chain may be used under the chin or hanging from the halter. Exhibitor must use only the left hand to carry the excess lead, looped loosely except when:
 - a. Carrying an object from one part of the arena to another.
 - b. Dragging an object from one part of the arena to another.
 - c. Opening/closing a gate, left hand gate only. In these cases, the right hand can also carry the excess lead.
 - d. Sidepassing. In this case, the lead at the chain and the excess lead can be held in the hand at the horse's head.
2. Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous and sportsmanlike at all times. The exhibitor should continue showing the horse until the class has been placed or excused.
3. Any stops should be straight, smooth and responsive with the horse's body remaining straight. Backing and turning should be performed from the left side of the horse. The exhibitor should face the horse when backing. Exception: When negotiating a gate, the exhibitor is not required to face the horse. The horse should back up readily with the head, neck and body aligned in a straight or curved line as instructed.
4. When executing a turn to the right, the exhibitor should face the horse and move the horse away from them. On turns of less than 90 degrees, it is acceptable to lead the horse toward them. On turns of 90 degrees or greater, the horse should pivot on the right or left hind leg while stepping across with the front legs.
5. Exhibitor is not allowed to touch the horse, except when sidepassing.

Obstacle Requirements

The course should include a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 obstacles and be designed using a minimum of one obstacle from each of the following divisions:

Division A

1. Walk-overs - An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 20 inches (50.8cm) to 24 inches (60.96cm) between poles, either on the ground or raised with a maximum center height of 10 inches (25.4cm). These can be in a straight line, curved or zigzag.
2. Trot-overs - An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 36 inches (91.44cm) to 42 inches (106.68cm) between poles, either on the ground or raised with a maximum center height of 10 inches (25.4cm). These can be in a straight line, curved or zigzag. Note: A curved or zigzag design is measured for distance between the poles, from center of the length of the pole to the center of the length of the next pole.

Division B

1. Sidepass - An object of such nature and length, which is safe may be used to demonstrate the responsiveness of the horse to signals at its side. If raised, height may not exceed 2 feet (60.96cm). The obstacle should be designed to require the horse to sidepass, to the right or left, off pressure or signal, on or near its side. The obstacle should be in the course design such that the horse comes up to it but does not cross or straddle it while completing the sidepass. The exhibitor is allowed to touch the horse on the side during the sidepass.
2. Lime Circle - Requiring either:
 - a. Turn on the forehand with front feet inside and back feet turning outside the circle. The handler may hold the horse and the excess lead in his/her left hand during the turn.
 - b. Turn on the haunches with hind feet inside and front feet turning outside the circle.
3. Square, minimum 8' (2.4383m) sides - Lead into the square. While all four feet are confined in the square, make a 360 degree or less turn and lead out. Exhibitor may remain inside or outside the square.
4. Gate - The gate must be set up so that it is a minimum of four feet (1.2192m) in length and four feet (1.2192m) in height and so that the exhibitor can open from his/her left side. It is permissible to carry excess lead in the right hand while negotiating the gate. Exhibitors losing control of the gate while passing through shall be penalized and scored accordingly.

Division C

1. Back through - Shall consist of either:
 - a. Poles - Straight L, double L, V, U or similar shaped obstacle. Poles should be on the ground, 30 inches (76.2cm) between minimum. Exhibitor may remain outside or inside the poles.
 - b. Barrels or Cones, minimum of three - 36 inches (91.44cm) between minimum. Exhibitor and horse can pass between barrels or cones together.
 - c. Triangle - 36 inches (91.44cm) between minimum at entry and 40 inches between minimum for sides. Note: If guardrails are used with b. or c. they shall be 3 (91.44cm) to 4 (121.92cm) feet from the sides of the obstacle.
2. Bridge - A bridge with a wooden floor not to exceed 12 inches (30.48cm) in height and with or without side rails not less than 48 inches (121.92cm) apart will be used.
3. Water Hazard - A ditch or shallow pond of water may be used. A horse must pass through this obstacle, which must be large enough so that to properly complete this obstacle all four feet of the horse must step in the water. Management may not place any item in the water. If a box is used, simulated water is permissible. If water is used, exhibitor should walk to left of water while the horse passes through the water.
4. Simulated Water - A plastic sheet, secured to the ground, so that it will not become affixed to the horse's foot when a horse passes over the simulated water.

Division D

1. Carrying Object - Any object, other than animal or fowl, and of a reasonable size or weight, may be carried to a specific point.
2. Drag or Pull - Any object other than animal or fowl which can reasonably be pulled or dragged by the exhibitor. This obstacle should be in the course design such that the item to be dragged is on the exhibitor's left side. The excess lead may be carried in the exhibitor's right hand.
3. Mailbox - Remove and/or replace items. Sidepass is optional. Note: Obstacles 1 and 3—if the object will be picked up/put down or opened/closed on the horse's right side, the exhibitor is allowed to hold the horse and the excess lead in his/her left hand while negotiating the obstacle.
4. Serpentine - Obstacle consisting of four pylons, guardrails optional, through which a horse will maneuver at a walk or jog-trot. Guardrails shall consist of poles placed parallel and a minimum of 4 feet (121.92cm) from the base of pylons; walk-pylons, minimum 4 feet (121.92cm) apart, base to base. Jog-trot pylons, minimum 7 feet (213.36cm) apart, base to base.
5. Jog-around - Square consisting of 4 poles, minimum 12 feet (3.6576m) long, and a pylon placed in the center of the square. Exhibitor will enter over a designated pole, perform a minimum 90 degree jog-around the pylon and exit over the designated pole. The handler should be in the box with the horse. For jog-arounds greater than 90 degrees, the jog-arounds will be performed as a left turn where the exhibitor will be next to the pylon during the jog-around.

6. Jog-through - Shall consist of poles L, double L, V, U or similar shaped obstacle. Poles should be on the 3 feet (91.44cm) minimum and 4 feet (121.92cm) maximum. Exhibitor may be inside or outside the jog-through.

3-Year-Old Futurity Versatility

1. The judge will ask each rider to work individually. Individual works will be a combination of maneuvers that the judge feels are necessary to determine the brokenness and manners of the horse/rider combination. The pattern must include only maneuvers from the following list:
 - a. straight walk, jog, and lope, and/or circles in both directions.
 - b. stop.
 - c. back straight in an "L", and in a circle.
 - d. 360 degree turn or spin.
 - e. pivot, both ways.
 - f. turns of 90,180 or 270 degrees.
 - g. rollbacks
 - h. lope circles of varying size and speed.
 - i. pickup leads from standstill, walk, or jog.
 - j. simple lead changes on a straight away or in a circle.
 - k. side pass.
 - l. trot around or through cones.
 - m. two track.
 - n. walking and/or trotting over logs.
2. The pattern should be posted at least 1 hour before the class begins, if at all possible.
3. Scores on individual works will be based on rider's skills, the brokenness/manners of the horse and execution of the pattern. Each maneuver will be scored from 1-10.

3-Year-Old Futurity Pleasure

This class serves to measure the ability of the horse to be functional and a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from task to another. This horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. Excessively long, floppy reins will not be given extra credit. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make all required transitions smoothly, timely and correctly. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact.

Horses shall be shown individually at the walk, trot, and lope in both directions. The walk, trot, and lope will be extended in one direction only. Markers setup in the arena will designate gait changes. The pleasure course shall be set to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. The pattern may be started either in the left or right direction. The order of gaits shall be:

- 1) extended walk,
- 2) trot,
- 3) extended trot,
- 4) lope,
- 5) stop and reverse,
- 6) walk,
- 7) lope,
- 8) extended lope,
- 9) trot, and
- 10) stop and back

The extended trot may be ridden with the rider either posting or standing in the stirrups to the front of the saddle. Holding the saddle horn is permissible, at the extended trot. The reverse may be executed in either direction.