

New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Inc



NZMHA Show Rules - Specialty Events

LIBERTY

Liberty is demonstrating the natural beauty of the Miniature Horse. Horses are to be judged on style, grace, animation, gaits, presence, and ease of catching.

(a) The Liberty Class may be offered at shows where the facilities include an enclosed arena/area of suitable size, and where the conditions would not be hazardous to the exhibitor and/or horse. The size of the arena/area is to be of suitable diameter to allow the horse to move safely and with style and grace. It is suggested that the enclosed area be more than 10 metres in diameter. The designated arena/area for Liberty Classes requires the following arena/area safety standards to be met:

- i. The surface arena/area should be of a suitable "safe" standard. The surface must be even and not have any holes, surface water, or mud present.
- ii. Entry and Exit gates must be of solid construction, and not have large gaps or holes present.
- iii. The walls of the arena should be a minimum height of 42 inches high (42 inches is the standard 7 wire fence height), and be of sound, solid construction (NO WIRE FENCES), with no large gaps or holes present.
- iv. The arena/area, fences or gates for Liberty Classes will not include electric fence standards and tape or rope, poles, jumps or jump stands.

(b) Judging

- i. Horse will be judged beginning when the halter is removed by the exhibitor (the individual wearing the number) and until caught by the exhibitor. Only the exhibitor may catch the horse;
- ii. In assessing the performance the following criteria will be judged;

Style & Grace	30%
Animation & presence	30%
Gaits of the Horse	20%
Music & its suitability	10%
The catch	10%

- (c) Only one exhibitor, and one assistant, will be allowed in the arena with the horse. Whips and shaker bottle are allowed.
- (d) The assistant (second person without a number) may assist the exhibitor in catching the horse, but touching the horse with aids (whips etc) or hands at any time will result in instant disqualification.
- (e) The exhibitor may not touch the horse with aids (whips etc) or hands; this will result in instant disqualification, except after the music is stopped, when the exhibitor is allowed to catch their horse without the use of aids (whips etc).
- (f) Music is required (provided by the exhibitor). The exhibitor must set the tape to the exact place for the announcer/show personnel to play. The tape must be clearly marked with the exhibitor's name, number



and side of recording. (It is recommended that the exhibitor has only the music they wish to use recorded on the tape). No reruns given for incorrect setting of tapes (eg not set at start of music).

- (g) The time of "Liberty" (when the horse is set free) shall be 1 1/2 minutes. This time begins when the exhibitor removes the halter from the horse. The exhibitor must catch the horse within 2 minutes or disqualification will result. ALL HORSES MUST BE SAFELY HALTERED BEFORE LEAVING THE ARENA.
- (h) No assistance (i.e. touching horse, unnecessary noises or distracting behaviour) from outside of the arena will be permitted.. Elimination will result unless the judge feels that the outside action was taken in an attempt to cause the exhibitor's horse to be disqualified, or in the event of a spectator unintentionally causing outside assistance (i.e. touching horse). Spectators of the Liberty Class will be asked to be quiet whilst the exhibitor is catching their horse.
- (i) The exhibitors and assistants must be appropriately attired.
- (j) Only one number to be worn, by the exhibitor only. Assistants must not wear a number.
- (k) The Announcer, or Show Official, shall PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE 10 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE LIBERTY CLASS that there is NO OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE ALLOWED, and that SILENCE must be observed throughout each performance and whilst the exhibitor is attempting to catch his/her horse. APPLAUSE IS PERMITTED ONLY AFTER THE HORSE HAS BEEN HALTERED AT THE CONCLUSION OF ITS PERFORMANCE. The Announcer, or Show Official, shall PUBLICLY issue a REMINDER IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FIRST PERFORMANCE.
- (l) All horses competing in the Liberty must be 24 months of age or older.
- (m) The Show Management may cancel the Liberty Class at anytime if they believe the conditions are unsafe for horses or exhibitors (i.e. slippery surface due to rain etc.)
- (n) No boots, bandages, decorative ribbons, glitter etc. are allowed in the Liberty Class.