



LITTLE HORSE DIVISION

At the April meeting of the NZMHA Council the decision was made to introduce the Little Horse Division to the registry of the Association, under Article 30.3 of the NZMHA Constitution and Show Rules 2014.

It is interesting to note that at the time of putting this document together notice has been received that the National Miniature Horse Association are now looking at adding a Little Horse Category to their registry.

Article 30.3 states

3. The Council shall have the power and authority to make, amend, repeal and enforce such rules and regulations, not contrary to law, the Articles of Incorporation and Rules and Regulations, as they may deem expedient and necessary concerning conduct, management and activities of the Society, including but not limited to the collection of dues and fees, regulation regarding stud book, registration, the expenditures of money, the auditing of book and records, the awarding of championships, conducting of shows, contests, exhibitions, sales, social functions and other details relating to the general purposes of the society. All of the foregoing is subject to revision or amendment and approval by the members at any general or special general meeting of members.

The Council considered the interpretation of this Article and decided unanimously that in order to move the Association forward it was necessary to utilise this Article and passed the following amendment.

Article 25.2 was amended to:

Add at the end of 2.

“Little Horse – measures more than 38 inches but no more than 42 inches in height.

- *Height Limitations – At no time shall a miniature or small horse remain registered with the association if its height, measured at the base of the last true hair of the mane whilst standing squarely on a level surface, exceeds 42 inches.*

The following will apply:

- *All horses that fall into this category are permitted entry under existing NZMHA rules.*
- *Height for age will be 4 inches more than the current height for age for Category B miniature horses.*
- *An amnesty for all previously revoked horses to be updated, without incurring the late filing fee, for all categories and will remain open until 31st March 2015*

This action was deemed necessary to allow adequate time for preparation to incorporate the new Division into the Association in time for the 2014/2015 show season.

The benefits of adding this extra category include the enabling of breeders who so choose to improve their breeding programmes for the betterment of the miniature horse. Miniature horses will continue to be promoted and supported in the same way.



The addition of the new height category is not introduced to the detriment of other existing height categories but to provide additional income to support this objective.

Membership Concerns

Objectives of the Association:

Members have expressed concern that Council is going against the stated objectives of the Association. Council do not believe the addition of another height category is contrary to these objectives but complementary.

The following were put forward by Council members as to how the introduction of this new division would enhance what the Association currently stands for and offers its members.

- Encourage new members and registrations. A number of members with miniature horses over height have already expressed interest in the new category.
- Enable over height imports and miniature horses to be registered or retain their registration in the Little Horse Category
- Improve the quality of miniature horses in New Zealand, if members choose to embrace the larger horses in their breeding programmes.
- Create a new revenue stream for registration upgrades and any hard-shipping into the new category.
- Potentially increase members attending shows by introducing classes for the new category as required.

Article 2a – states:

a) to promote the identity, popularity and perpetuation of the Miniature Horse Breed.

This will continue irrespective of the introduction of a new height category. We believe it will become more popular than it is today with the introduction of new breeding.

b) to aid and encourage the breeding, exhibiting, use and purpose of Miniature horses; promote and co-ordinate Miniature Horse show activities; promote and encourage exhibition of Miniature Horses in open classes; co-ordinate with other associations and societies in providing qualified horse judges for Miniature Horse shows; and in devising and adopting Miniature Horse show rules, regulations and standards.

The addition of the new height category will provide breeders with the opportunity to vary their breeding programmes for the betterment of the miniature horse. Miniature horses will continue to be promoted and supported in the same way. The addition of the new height category is not introduced to the detriment of other existing height categories but will provide additional income to support this 'betterment' objective.

c) to formulate publicity and education programmes and other activities in the interest of the Miniature Horse owners, Miniature Horse associations or societies, clubs and enthusiast, for the purpose of stimulating popular interest in the Miniature Horse; and to promote continuing education of members and the general public in the care, management and use of the Miniature horse.



Nothing changes here. The Associations objectives remain the same.

d) to co-operate with other organisations with similar interests in Miniature Horses.

NZMHA already co-operates with NZAMHC and recognises other registries. The scope can be widened to include other relevant organisations as may be deemed necessary.

e) to own, operate and maintain a register and a stud book for Miniature Horses

This will still happen

f) to engage in any manner of business to raise money for the purposes above recited

The new height category will expand the scope of the association and assist with providing additional income to support these purposes.

g) to engage in and ad all form of business transactions or enterprises a natural person might do, except as limited by law

The new category fits in here – it expands the business of the Association

The objective points h) to l) are not affected by the addition of the new category

Voting:

Upon releasing this decision to the membership of NZMHA via its official Facebook page and the Association website there was considerable response from the membership.

Some of the concern appears to be over the necessity to ratify this decision at the upcoming AGM in July 2014 and the manner in which the voting will occur. Many consider it unfair that unless they are able to attend the AGM, or have someone they can trust to hold their proxy to vote the way instructed, it would be extremely unfair.

Solution:

For this reason the voting on the ratification (as specified necessary Under Article 30.3) A Special Resolution will take the form of a postal ballot which will therefore require a 75% vote to pass. If it fails to reach this 75% voting then the amendment will not come into effect. The voting forms for this Special Resolution will be included with this years Voting Papers due to be released in July 2014.



Incorporation into the NZMHA existing Registry:

Part of the process for Council reaching this decision to utilise Article 30 was in discussion with the NZMHA Registrar, Mrs Marie Bax. It was felt if the change could not be easily accommodated within the existing database, it would need to be revisited.

Mrs Bax has now confirmed that there is no problem incorporating the Little Horse Category into our existing database. Currently the types of registration we offer are:

- T Temporary
- P Permanent
- O Other
- F Foundation
- R Revoked
- D Deceased

The Little Horse Division would be run as LH

- LH Little Horse

The Registration Certificates for the Little Horse Division will be run off in a different colour thus keeping it separate from the Miniature Horse registration papers.

Measuring for Little Horse category to be the same as for Miniature Horse, measured at the base of the last true hair of the mane while standing squarely on a level surface.

Eligibility for the Little Horse Division:

To be eligible for registration under the Little Horse Division the following would apply:

The Little Horse Division will cater for horses 38" to 42" and for those miniature horse who have grown over 38'. As long the horse a) has both parents currently on the NZMHA registry or b) has previously been registered with the NZMHA, the horse may be registered. If neither of these criteria apply, the horse would need to be hardship as per our Hardship Registration rules.

An amnesty is thus offered, to remain open until 31 March 2015, for any upgrades meeting these criteria, to take place without attracting the late filing fee.

Shows/Competitions:

It is not envisaged that the introduction of the Little Horse Category will effect the shows immediately, if at all.

For this reason it would be left to the affiliated clubs to decide whether or not they offer the Little Horse classes at their shows.



There were concerns voiced that the introduction of this division would cost Clubs more money for ribbons. This will not be an issue as it will be left to the clubs to decide whether the number of Little Horses in their area warrant classes being offered at their shows.

For this reason there would be no Hi Point competitions for the Little Horse Division in the short term and until such time as the numbers of Little Horses registered warrants it.

If the need should arise, classes will be offered at the Showcase Shows and the National Show.

The following classes may be offered by clubs if they feel there is a need in their individual areas.

Little Horse Male	-	All ages
Little Horse Female	-	All ages
Little Horse Colour	-	Multi colour and solid colour combined
Little Horse Movement	-	All ages and genders

Measuring Sticks/Measuring Policy:

Please refer to the following amended Measuring Policy which will come into effect with the ratification. With the proposed updated Measuring Policy, the Little Horse category will fit into the existing measuring requirements easily.

Currently the stocks of measuring cards are sitting around 500 so it is proposed that a sticker – also attached - is utilised on the old stocks of these cards. New stock will be printed with the new information but it is not envisaged this will be necessary until the 2015/2016 season.

Currently NZMHA has approximately 15 calibrated measuring sticks in circulation. It is envisaged over time, that these will be upgraded to cater for the larger Little Horse category. NZMHA Council has sought the advice of an engineer and has been advised that they can easily be altered to measure up to 42".

New measuring sticks can also be purchased over time that go up to 42".

The altered measuring policy and the stickers for the cards can be found at the end of this document.

Council invites members to submit any questions to the Secretary to enable a constructive discussion.



New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Inc.



Policy on Procedure for Measurement of Miniature Horses/Little Horses (Updated July 2014)

PURPOSE - The purpose of this document is to outline the procedure for the measuring of miniature /little horses.

DEFINITIONS – Terminology peculiar to the measuring procedure and used within this document.

NZMHA	New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Incorporated.
Council	the Council of the New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Inc.
Measuring Stick	Measuring appliance approved by the NZMHA Council.
Height Certificates	Height Certificate Forms printed in a format approved by the NZMHA Council.
Day Measuring	Under Rule G03 e, measuring can be done for a non hi-point show only. No certificate will be issued.
Measurers	Those persons who have completed training and who are certified and approved by the NZMHA Council to measure miniature and little horses. NZMHA Council shall maintain a list of Approved Measurers. Must be a financial member of NZMHA at time of measuring.
Witness	Those persons who have completed training and who are certified and approved by the NZMHA Council to witness the measurement of miniature/ little horses. Ten (10) horses are to be measured before being trained as a measurer. Person must be competent to complete the associated paperwork.
Fees	Council will each year set a minimum fee for the measuring of miniature/ little horses. This fee shall apply across the country.
Instructor	Those persons, whom Council shall authorise and appoint to train, instruct and oversee Measurers and Witnesses.
Handler	The person responsible for the Horse including, but not limited to, the Owner, the Exhibitor and the Lessee.



PROCEDURE FOR MEASUREMENT OF MINIATURE / LITTLE HORSES

1. All horses shall be measured in accordance with the provisions of Rule 10 of the Official Rule Book (Constitution and Rules) of the New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Incorporated.
2. Only an official Measuring Stick as defined may be used for the measuring of miniature horses.
3. All horses shall be measured in inches. If at any time a metric equivalent is required then the conversion table as set out in Article 36 of the Constitution and Rules of NZMHA must be used.
4. The measurement of horses must take place in a place open to all NZMHA members. Whilst a public place is preferable, a private residence is acceptable. Members in the area must receive a minimum of 7 days written notice that an official measuring is to take place and that it is open to all members.
5. **Measuring must take place on a concrete surface which has been checked with spirit level to ensure it is a level surface and the area shall be chalk marked. All horses measured on a particular day shall be measured within that area.**
6. The Measurer and Witness must take care, particularly in the instance of clipped horses, to ensure that the measurement is taken to the last true hair of the name and not on unclipped or long body hair. The Measurer and Witness must be able to distinguish between mane and body hair.
7. The Witness may complete the Height Certificate for the Measurer to sign. After the Measurer has measured the horse they must enter the recorded height on the Height Certificate and after checking all details, sign in the appropriate place. The Witness must then not only witness the signature but must also check all details and the recorded height.
8. The information required on the Height Certificate in respect of the horse's name, registration numbers etc. Should preferably be entered from a copy of the Registration Certificate with particular attention being paid to the horse's colour, sex, height and age. Should there be any doubt as to the identity of the horse the Measurer shall be entitled to question the handler and if satisfactory evidence is not produced then the horses shall be refused a Height Certificate.
9. The period for which a Height Certificate shall remain valid shall be determined by the horse's age and the limitations set out in the Show Rules of the NZMHA.
10. The Regional Delegate shall measure, or delegate to an Approved Measurer, horses for NZMHA members.
11. The Measurer and Witness are to have no interest in horses they measure or witness. Interest is defined as:



- Owning the horse or a share in the horse or the horse being owned by a family member;
 - Having sold the horse less than six months before the date of measure;
 - Having leased the horse to another party (i.e. still retain legal ownership);
 - Show the horse on a regular basis for the owner or be an employee of the owner or owners family
12. If the Handler is not prepared to accept the first measure of the horse a total of three measurements shall be taken, then added together and divided by three. The result shall be deemed to be the height of the horse.

If the Handler refuses to accept the Height Certificate the Measurer must retain the completed height certificate. The Horse will not be entitled to be presented for another measure for 28 days. Until such time as the Horse is remeasured the height of the Horse shall be deemed to be measured (i.e. the average) At the time the Horse is re-presented the Handler must advise the Measurer that it is a remeasure and provide the name of the original Measurer and date of measure.

13. The Measurer may refuse to measure a horse under the following conditions
- i. **Threatening or abusive behaviour by the Handler;**
 - ii. **Attempts by the Handler to influence the measure;**
 - iii. **Unacceptable stance (stretched horses are not acceptable);**
 - iv. **Horses presented lame (feet over trimmed);**
 - v. **Inability of the Measurer or Witness to satisfactorily identify the horse**
14. A Handler may opt to have a horses height “checked” without the issuing of a Height Certificate however if the horse is found to have gone over Height for Age, as defined in the Show Rules of the NZMHA, a Height Certificate will be issued.



Height Conversions

The Miniature Horse is a Height Breed for which measuring is carried out in inches. The Royal Agricultural Society and its affiliated A & P Societies utilise measuring equipment that measures in centimetres with the heights recorded to the nearest half centimetre.

For practical purposes (ie limitations in measuring equipment) the following equivalents shall apply for the purposes of converting inches to centimetres for the heights that apply to NZMHA Height for Age Criteria.

Category A

	Official Measure	Metric Equivalent	Official Metric
No Category A Horse shall exceed	34 inches	86.36 cms	86.50 cms
Foals/Weanlings must not exceed	30 inches	76.20 cms	76.00 cms
Yearlings must not exceed	32 inches	81.28 cms	81.50 cms
Two Year olds must not exceed	33 inches	83.82 cms	84.00 cms

Category B

	Official Measure	Metric Equivalent	Official Metric
No Category B Horse shall exceed	38 inches	96.52 cms	96.50 cms
Foals/Weanlings must not exceed	33 inches	83.82 cms	84.00 cms
Yearlings must not exceed	36 inches	91.44 cms	91.50 cms
Two Year olds must not exceed	37 inches	93.98 cms	94.00 cms

Little Horse

	Official Measure	Metric Equivalent	Official Metric
No Little Horse shall exceed	42 inches	106.52 cms	106.00 cms
Foals/Weanlings must not exceed	Minimum 33 ¼" Maximum 36 "	94.00 cms	94.00 cms
Yearlings must not exceed	Minimum 36 ¼" Maximum 38 "	102.51 cms	102.00 cms
Two Year olds must not exceed	Minimum 37 ¼" Maximum 40 "	104.02 cms	104.00 cms



Proposed Stickers for Existing Stocks of Measuring Cards

HEIGHT VERIFICATION

Category A		Category B		Little Horse	
No Category A Horse shall exceed	34 inches	No Category B Horse shall exceed	38 inches	No Little Horse shall exceed	42 inches
Foals/Weanlings must not exceed	30 inches	Foals/Weanlings must not exceed	33 inches	Foals/Weanlings must not exceed	36 inches
Yearlings must not exceed	32 inches	Yearlings must not exceed	36 inches	Yearlings must not exceed	38 inches
Two Year olds must not exceed	33 inches	Two Year olds must not exceed	37 inches	Two Year olds must not exceed	40 inches

Certificates are deemed to be valid for:

- 3 months – For horses two (2) years of age and under
 - 6 months – For horses three (3) years and under five (5) years of age
 - 12 months – For horses five (5) years and over
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