

Maine Trail Riders Association

Open Ranch Horse Show

Sunday, May 18, 2025

MTRA Arena, 6 Tutt Lane, Litchfield, ME 04340

Rules & Regulations (updated on March 15, 2025)

This show will be run under the rules of ECRRA. <https://ecrassociation.com>.

Proof of Negative Coggins is REQUIRED for this show. Proof of Rabies vaccination or Rabies Titre >0.5 IU/mL is REQUIRED for this show.

Event camping is free for MTRA members. Pit toilet for humans and water for horses are available free of charge while camping. Annual membership is \$25/individual or \$35/household and must be completed prior to arrival on the grounds for camping. Horses must be tied, high-lined, or contained within temporary fencing while on the grounds and not being ridden.

ALL DOGS must be leashed at all times.

This show is open to equines of any breed/type. Equines may be entered once per class.

Due to the large number of youth at our shows, horses that kick are required to have a red ribbon displayed in their tail and stallions are required to have a yellow ribbon displayed in their tail.

6 ribbons will be presented in all classes, with the possible exception of some team gaming classes.

Exhibitors may show in more than one division, provided they meet the requirements for each division. Exhibitors may show walk/trot OR walk/trot/lope, not both.

ALL riders may ride 2 handed or ride with bridged reins in any legal western bit except Open Division, who must ride one-handed unless showing in a snaffle bit or bosal.

RIDER ELIGIBILITY

Open Division Eligibility: The Open Division is open to any professional or nonprofessional regardless of age or rider eligibility and regardless of past winnings. Must ride one handed when using a curb bit.

Novice Division Eligibility and Restrictions: The Novice Division is reserved for individuals with limited riding and showing experience who wish to learn more about ranch showing at a beginner's pace. The rider has not received payment directly or indirectly for riding, training, assisting in training, or showing horse(s) at anytime during the past five years . The rider has not received payment directly or indirectly for instructing another person or conducting a seminar in riding, training or showing a horse any time during the past five years. No age requirement. Stallions are prohibited in this division.

Youth Division Eligibility: Exhibitors in the youth division must be aged 3 to 17 as of January 1 of the current year. Stallions are prohibited in this division.

Leadline Division Eligibility: Exhibitors in the Leadline Division may be of any age. They may also enter walk/trot classes for individual patterns in Youth or Novice division, provided they can safely handle their mount independently. Leader must be 18 or older. Proper show attire required for both rider and leader.

EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

Equipment. Horses shall be shown in a western stock saddle. Silver equipment will not count over good clean, working equipment. Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit. Split reins or romal reins shall be used with all curb bits. Split reins may be used with snaffle bits. When a bit is used, the mouthpiece must be at least 5/16" and not more than 3/4" in diameter measured one inch from the cheek and must be smooth; no twisted wire mouth-pieces. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece such as prongs. Curb straps are required for curb bits and the curb chains or straps must be at least 1/2 inch in width and must lie flat against the horse's chin. No wire curbs are permitted, regardless of the amount of padding or tape. Protective leg gear is acceptable in all performance classes.

Prohibited Equipment. Tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, twisted-wire mouth pieces, mechanical hackamores and running martingales are prohibited. The judge may prohibit the use of any equipment deemed to be inhumane. The judge may inspect bits and equipment at any time.

Attire. Riders shall wear protective headgear or western hats, long-sleeved shirts, long pants and western boots with a heel. Other attire, such as wild rags, chaps, and spurs are optional. Western boots shall include typical cowboy boots or lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. Clothing should be neat and clean. No clothing worn for showing may have farm or company logos.

Protective headgear is strongly encouraged for youth riders, age 17 and under. Protective headgear is encouraged for adults. Riders will never be penalized by the judge for wearing protective headgear.

OTHER

Judges' decisions are final. No Exhibitor or person shall approach a Judge to discuss a decision or matter unless he first obtains permission from the show manager. Any exhibitor or person disregarding this rule may be asked to cancel all entries and forfeit entry fees. The show manager reserves the right to vary or change the judges and to decline any entry. The show manager reserves the right to divide or combine any class in the best interests of the show. The show manager reserves the right not to delay classes due to conflicts and not to allow substitution of classes or horses.

Horses entered and not exhibited shall forfeit fees, unless the manager is presented with a veterinary certificate, or a physician's certificate in the case of the rider, by the end of show day. Once a horse has been shown in a class or division, it is no longer eligible for a refund. Eligible refunds will be made within 5 days after the show. Checks returned for any reason will be subject to a \$25.00 fee.

Courteous behavior is expected from all exhibitors. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Show Manager, postmarked within 5 days of the close of the show, accompanied by a nonrefundable \$25.00 fee. All protests will be reviewed by the show committee.