

2022 MINIATURE HORSE/SMALL EQUINE FACT SHEET APPENDIX 2 LIBERTY RULES

ADAPTED FROM MICHIGAN 4-H MINIATURE HORSE SHOW RULES

A. Purpose:

1. Liberty is demonstrating the natural beauty of the small equine (older than one year of age). Horses are to be judged on style, grace, animation, gaits, presence, and ease of catching. The liberty animal is expected to perform at a walk, trot, and canter.

B. General Rules:

1. Two halters are required. One being a small equine halter that fits the equine appropriately. The other halter will be a large horse halter that will be used for the release and catching of the horse.
2. The exhibitor may have another 4-H member in the arena to help show their equine. This member must be wearing appropriate show attire outlined in the Miniature Horse Fact Sheets.
3. The exhibitor and member may use items (i.e. whip, shakers, etc.) within *reason*. These items may not touch the horse at any time during the performance, otherwise the exhibitor will be disqualified.
4. If an exhibitor chooses to use a whip, the whip should be a driving type no longer than 4 foot and can have a lash at the end of the whip no longer than 6 inches (including plastic).
5. The time for liberty will be a minute and a half.
6. The time for catching will be two minutes. If the horse has not been caught by the exhibitor within the two minutes, then a 5 point deduction will be taken.
7. Entry will be disqualified if the horse is to fall, roll, or leave the arena during their performance. Stopping, standing, or eating grass is not a disqualification.
8. Horses will be judged once the music starts and the large horse halter is removed by the exhibitor.
9. After removing the large horse halter, the exhibitor is to not touch the horse in any manner until they are instructed to catch the horse. Only the exhibitor can touch the animal during the catch. There will be no "baiting" (use of hay, grain, clickers, etc.) to catch the horse.
10. Music is to be tasteful (no explicit content, etc.) and add to the style of the horse. The music must be provided the morning of the class to the tower.

C. Ring Procedure

1. Time will be started once the music starts and the halter is removed.
2. The announcer will say "Time," when the minute and a half performance has ended.
3. The exhibitor must then catch the horse within the two-minute timeframe.
4. The catch time will be timed and recorded.
5. The announcer will say "Time" to signal the end of the catch timeframe.