

2020 Rule Change Recommendations

Current Rule: Page 26. Section 1: Rules Violations. A Cruel and Inhumane Treatment: Treat any horse in a cruel or inhumane manner, including but not limited to the prohibited conduct specified in the General Show Rules section of this Handbook. Cruelty to horses other than Missouri Fox Trotting Horses is included in this prohibition, as it indicates a general course of dealing with horses which is unacceptable by the MFTHBA. For violation of this rule, an MFTHBA member may be censured, disciplined, suspended, fined and/or expelled from the MFTHBA. A non-member may be denied MFTHBA privileges. This prohibition against cruelty included, but is not limited to, MFTHBA members, their agents, representatives and employees, the action for which members are also responsible. When any violation occurs during a horseshow or horse-related event, the member in violation may be asked to leave the grounds immediately. **The member in violation shall also be temporarily suspended from any activities involving the showing, selling, training or exhibition of any horse until such time as the issue shall be settled by means described in Section 2, below.**

Recommended Change: Change highlighted to read “If legal charges related to cruel and inhumane treatment are filed against a member, the member shall also be temporarily suspended from any activities involving the showing, selling, training or exhibition of any horse until the issue shall be settled by means described in Section 2, below.”

Reason for change: Cruel and inhumane treatment is considered one of the most significant violations for MFTHBA members with mandatory major violation penalties if a violation is upheld. The final sentence of the current rule requires mandatory suspension once a complaint is filed. The change would require temporary suspension if local, state, or federal charges regarding inhumane or cruel treatment were filed but would allow the Board discretion in temporarily suspending a member for an incident filed solely under the MFTHBA rules violation process.

Current Rule: Page 27 Section 2 Actions Resulting from Failure of Members or Non-Members to Comply with the Rules B. Minimum information required shall include:

1. The alleged violator’s full name and address, the date, location and event where the incident occurred, if applicable
2. A summary of the act(s) of the accused member which constitutes a violation of MFTHBA rules.
3. The specific MFTHBA rule(s) involved.
4. The complaint must be in written form and signed by the member bringing the complaint.

Recommended Change: Add Item 5. A \$200 deposit. If the complaint is upheld, the deposit shall be returned to the one making the complaint. If the complaint is dismissed, the deposit shall remain with the organization.

Reason for Change: The MFTHBA incurs expenses associated with each complaint filed. The deposit is intended to assist with some of the expenses associated with complaints that are dismissed for various

reasons. It is also meant to encourage the individual filing to look for other ways to resolve minor issues before filing a rules violation (as outlined in the MFTHBA rule book “Those contemplating a complaint are encouraged to first attempt to resolve the complaint informally by discussing the alleged violation with either the other person(s) involved, management at the event where the action occurred and/or the appropriate Director of the region involved.)

Current Rule: Page 28, General Violations, Section 3, B. B. Violations to rules and regulations will fall in three categories: Minor, Moderate, or Major

1. For a Minor or Moderate rule violation, a first occurrence warning will be issued. This warning will remain on a member’s record for a 12-month period. If, during this period, the member has no additional violations, the warning shall be marked “closed” but will remain on file.
2. If an additional violation occurs during this 12-month period, the member will be subject to the fines, as published below, for both the original and the current violation.

Recommended Change: 1. For a Minor or Moderate rule violation, a first occurrence warning will be issued. This warning will remain on a member’s record for a **24-month period**. If, during this period, the member has no additional violations, the warning shall be marked “closed” but will remain on file.

2. If an additional violation occurs during this **24-month period**, the member will be subject to the fines, as published below, for both the original and the current violation.

Reason for Change: The change will extend the period that a complaint remains open.

Current Rule: Page 29. Penalties to be assessed for Rule Violations Chart:

Penalties to be assessed for Rule Violations:

	1st Offense	2nd Offense <i>(within 12 Months of 1st Offense)</i>	3rd Offense <i>(within 36 Months of 1st Offense)</i>
Minor Violation	Warning citation \$50 fine, suspended Penalty (Remains open, 12 Mos.)	\$50 for 1 st Offense plus <u>\$50 for 2nd Offense</u> Total: pay \$100	3 rd Offense, advance to “Moderate” pay \$300
Moderate Violation	Warning citation \$150 fine, suspended Penalty (Remains open, 12 Mos.)	\$150 for 1 st Offense + <u>\$150 for 2nd Offense</u> Total: pay \$300	3 rd Offense, advance to “Major” pay \$500
Major Violation	\$500 for 1 st Offense + Board Review	Additional \$500 1 st Offense, <u>+ \$1,000 for 2nd Offense</u> Total: pay \$1,500 + Board Review	3 rd Offense, \$2,500 + Board Review

Recommended Change: **Change second offense to read within 24 months.** Also, change Moderate Violations will have the following changes:

- o 1st Offense: **Warning Citation, \$150 fine, remains open for 24 months (Remove suspended penalty.**

Reason for Change: None provided

Current Rule: None. MFTHBA Policy allows any MFTPR ponies to show in MFTHBA classes. If the horse is 5 years of age, they must have completed the permanent registration requirements prior to showing. This is the earliest the MFTHBA allows this process to be completed. Ponies that fail to meet the requirements for permanent registration are issued green papers and are prohibited from showing in MFTHBA shows.

Recommended Change: Page 43 Add 4. In MFTHBA sponsored shows, MFTPR ponies may only show in designated MFTPR classes.

Reason for Change: None provided

Current Rule: Page 49 B Standard of Conduct for Board Members. 2. Conflict of Interest: A Board member shall avoid a business or personal situation having a potential for conflict or appearance of conflict, with their responsibilities to MFTHBA, or which could tend to compromise their primary duty to further the purposes and policies of MFTHBA.

Recommended Change: Add In the event a Board Member has a conflict of interest regarding any business being conducted by the MFTHBA, they should remove themselves from any discussed during a meeting and should refrain from voting.

Reason for Change: It is important to maintain the integrity of all business decisions made by the MFTHBA. This change removes any gray area on how a Board Member should conduct themselves regarding a conflict.

Current Rule: Page 50 C. Executive Session. 1. Executive session may be held for deliberation concerning the following matters:

- a) Employment of MFTHBA officers and others, including but not limited to evaluations, negotiations and complaints.
- b) At the request of the MFTHBA Secretary-Treasurer to discuss any MFTHBA personnel matter.
- c) Complaints involving any member of the Board of Directors.
- d) Disciplinary hearing involving a member or non-member.
- e) Negotiations involving MFTHBA commercial activities.
- f) Pending, threatened or possible litigation.

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b) At the request of the MFTHBA Secretary-Treasurer to discuss any MFTHBA personnel matter.

c) Complaints

d) Disciplinary hearing involving a member or non-member.

e) Negotiations involving MFTHBA commercial activities.

f) Pending, threatened, or possible litigation.

Reason for Change: Removes the gray area associated when an executive session should be used. It does not change the use or requirements that actions be taken in open session as outlined in Item 2 (c).

Current Rule: Page 51 Judge Requirements B. For renewal of an existing judge's license, the following will apply:

1. Individual must maintain current membership in MFTHBA and be a member in good standing. Any individual who has not renewed their MFTHBA membership will have their name removed from the list of licensed MFTHBA judges;

2. Every three years, applicant must apply for renewal of Judges card and pay designated fee.

3. Upon receipt of a renewal application, the judge will be required to complete an exam. The renewal exam will be designed to objectively measure an applicant's knowledge of the MFTHBA's rules and standards. A judge must receive and 85% or higher on the open book exam to be eligible to renew their card. A judge failing to receive an 85% will be required to attend a judge's seminar and retake the exam prior to renewal.

4. Applicant shall have their name presented to the Board of Directors for consideration of renewal of an MFTHBA judge's card to be effective for a three- year period upon completing the renewal exam. Additional endorsement for versatility and/or ranch horse will be added if so qualified

Recommended Change: Change 1 to read: Individual must maintain current membership in MFTHBA and be a member in good standing. Any individual who has not renewed their MFTHBA membership by **January 31st** will have their name removed from the list of licensed MFTHBA judges. **Once an individuals name is removed from the judges card list, they will no longer be considered a carded judge;**

Reason for Change: MFTHBA membership renewals are sent out in December and are due December 31. As of January 1, an individual that has not paid is no longer considered a member and therefore does not meet the requirements to hold an MFTHBA judges card. This change clarifies the extent of the grace period allowed to an MFTHBA carded judge to pay their MFTHBA membership.

Current Rule: Page 51. General Rules for Judges and Ring Personnel, Section 1, A., 7. Apprentice a minimum of three (3) shows (either live or virtual) under the supervision of three (3) different MFTHBA carded judges with a minimum of 30 classes judged. The MFTHBA Board of Directors may adjust the

apprenticeship requirements based on this or other criteria, by a majority vote of the Board. The apprentice shall have a maximum of three years (36 months) in which to complete this process.

Recommended Change: Apprentice a minimum of three (3) shows (either live or virtual) under the Supervision of three (3) different MFTHBA carded judges with a minimum of 30 fox trotter classes judged. The MFTHBA Board of Directors may adjust the apprenticeship requirements based on this or other criteria, by a majority vote of the Board. The apprentice shall have a maximum of three years (36 months) in which to complete this process.

Reason for Change: We feel that the classes judged should be fox trotter classes, not open breed classes or classes from other breed shows.

Current Rule: New Rule

Recommended Change: Page 53 Judge Responsibilities Item B Add 19. To be eligible to judge the World Show and Celebration, a judge must receive their card at least 90 days before the start of the show.

Reason for Change: None provided

Current Rule: Page 53, 500 General Rules for Judges and Ring Personnel, Section 2. B. 10

A judge may not judge the same division in the Spring Show/Futurity or the Show & Celebration in Ava, MO within thirteen months. A judge who judged model would be eligible to judge performance and vice versa. This restriction does not pertain to Versatility or Ranch Horse Competitions. If the pool system of judging is used in the future or returns to the three or five judge system the next year after the pool system is used, the thirteen month rule will not apply for the shows. If the pool system is not used at the Spring Show or Celebration the thirteen month judging rule will be in effect.

Recommended Change: Remove this section completely.

Reason for Change: With the small number of current carded judges available, it severely limits our eligible judges as per the Judges' Criteria passed by the Board of Directors. Whether we use the pool system or the three or five judge system at the Spring Show or the Celebration, we are greatly limited on available judges if we are held to the 13 month rule.

Current rule: Page 74 Section F-3 Amateur Owned Division a) Horse Ownership: The exhibited horse must be owned by the Amateur member who is exhibiting the horse or owned by immediate family members as defined in the following statement, or by certain legal entities as described below. Immediate family members are spouse, child, stepchild, parent, grandparent, grandchild, step-grandchild, step-parent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, and in-law. Separate legal entities, such as family corporations, trusts or partnerships, are also qualified as authorized owners of the amateur exhibitor's horse so long as all legal and equitable owners and beneficiaries of the legal entity are individuals specifically meeting stated amateur and family designations contained in these rules. In the

case of co-owned horses, all owners must be members of the exhibitor's immediate family or the acceptable entities mentioned above.

Recommended Change: Change the last sentence to read: "In the case of co-owned horses, all owners must be members of the exhibitor's immediate family or of the acceptable entities mentioned above **with completed transfer of ownership with MFTHBA by March 1 of the year in which the horse is to be shown.**"

Reason for Change: To make the rule consistent for all amateur owned horses.

Current Rule : Page 84 Show Rules, Policies & Procedures, Versatility Competition. Section 1 Versatility Champions, B. World Champion and World Grand Champion titles. 2. The World Grand Champion Versatility title will be awarded to the winner of each division (Open, Amateur and Youth) at the Annual Show and Celebration. A Reserve World Grand Champion Versatility title may also be awarded in each division. To be eligible for the World Grand Champion title a horse must place in the top ten of at least one class in Category 1 (three-gait classes – Western Pleasure and English Pleasure) and must compete in all Versatility categories. Points will accrue and be tabulated from each class in the Versatility categories listed below.

Recommended Change: Add a. The stake race will not be included in the calculations for a World Grand Champion Versatility title.

Reason for Change: The speed events weigh too heavily in the awarding of points going toward the Versatility World Grand Champion title.