

# **ADULT COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS OVERVIEW**

## **Mustang Heritage Spectacular- Extreme Mustang Makeover**

The Mustang Heritage Spectacular- Extreme Mustang Makeover is produced by the Mustang Heritage Foundation with the support of the US Forestry Service. The Mustang Heritage Foundation is dedicated to facilitating successful placements for America's excess wild mustangs and burros through innovative programs, events, and education. In keeping with this mission, the Mustang Heritage Spectacular- Extreme Mustang Makeover event will promote adoption by showcasing the mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

Not adhering to the Regulations and Competition Rules listed in this document may result in disqualification from current and/or future Mustang Heritage Foundation competitions and programs.

### **ADULT GENERAL RULES**

35 participants will be selected out of all complete applications.

Animal selection will be at pick up. Trainers, or their proxy, will pull numbers from a hat and then select their top animal choices in that order.

Animals will be adopted or purchased(if eligible) at pick up.

The Mustang Heritage Foundation has the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from a Mustang Heritage Foundation program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.

The following list of general rules applies to any and all competitions, including in person and virtual.

### **1. TRAINER APPLICATION & SELECTION**

- a. Interested trainers must complete and submit the trainer application before or on the deadline. Applications may be completed online at [mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://mustangheritagefoundation.org), or printed and mailed to 200 University Blvd., Suite 225, #110, Round Rock, TX, 78665, by application deadlines. MHF is not responsible for any lost/misdirected applications.
- b. Trainers must be 18 years of age or older as of the application deadline date(s).
- c. Trainers are required to be current members of the Mustang Heritage Foundation in order to compete. Learn more about membership and join at [mustangheritagefoundation.org/membership](http://mustangheritagefoundation.org/membership). Your membership helps support mustang and burro adoption and awareness.
- d. No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed.
- e. Trainer selection will be made based on experience, references, facility approval and geographic location. Alternate trainers will also be notified should one of the selected trainers be unable to pick up their mustang.
- f. MHF and USFS staff members (full or part-time) along with their immediate family are ineligible to compete. Additionally, anyone who actively works for the USFS either directly or indirectly is ineligible to compete.
- g. Any applicant or selected trainer may be removed from the selection process or competition at any time if found to have any alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans. Applicants must meet all USFS Wild Horse Adoption Requirements. Removal of any trainer from the application process or competition is at the discretion of the Mustang Heritage Foundation.

- h. The Mustang Heritage Foundation will conduct a criminal background check on applicants or remove any applicant from the process for any reason or for no reason.
- i. Trainers are required to submit a signed release with their application so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event and will be the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation.
- j. Trainers are required to provide a digital headshot photo of themselves and short bio with their applications – applications received without photos or bios will not be considered. In lieu of inclusion with online application, headshot photo may be emailed to [marketing@mustangheritagefoundation.org](mailto:marketing@mustangheritagefoundation.org). The photo and bio will be used for promotional purposes and will be viewable by the public.
- k. Sponsorships: The Mustang Heritage Foundation has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Foundation asks that trainers honor those sponsorships.
  - i. The Mustang Heritage Foundation may supply shirts with sponsor logos for trainers to wear during the event. Trainers will not be required to wear Mustang Heritage Foundation event shirts during the actual competition but may be required to wear shirts during promotional and adoption events.
  - ii. Trainers will be restricted from wearing apparel or equine products during the competition that have logos that are larger than 4 inches wide and 2 inches tall.
  - iii. Trainers may have small banners and brochures or small printed materials at their horse's stall ONLY to promote their training business and their sponsors during the event. Exhibitors may not hang banners of any size in the common event areas promoting sponsors.
  - iv. Trainers may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle performance of the final's competition, however the promotion logo/statement must be no larger than 12 inches by 24 inches.
  - v. Trainers may purchase EMM/MHF logoed merchandise (t-shirts, banners, caps, etc.) from the Mustang Heritage Foundation but may not reproduce EMM/MHF logos in any way on apparel, banners or other posted materials.

## **2. MUSTANG CARE**

- a. Mustangs will have current vaccinations, Coggins and trimmed hooves.
- b. Mustangs used in Mustang Heritage Spectacular-Extreme Mustang Makeover competitions will be as uniform in size and age as possible. Age of horse is determined by the USFS and will comply with the industry standard of changing age on January 1.
- c. Selected trainers will pick up a mustang in Pikeville, Tennessee on February 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- d. Trainers must meet all requirements listed on the following pages for hauling and stabling their mustang.
- e. Trainers will have from the day they pick up their mustang until the competition date to train and work with their mustang.
- f. Trailer requirements: You must provide transportation for your mustang from the pick-up facility to your facility. While someone else may transport the animal, all trailers must meet these minimum standards: covered top, sturdy walls/floors, and a smooth interior free from any sharp protrusions; ample head room; removable partitions or compartments to separate animals by size and sex, if necessary; floor covered with a non-skid material; and, adequate ventilation. The US Forestry Service requires stock-type trailers with a rear swing gate to transport animals. Drop ramp, divided two-horse trailers and trucks with stock racks are not acceptable.

g. Facility requirements: Facility can consist of a corral/paddock/stall/round pen. Facility must be a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) and have fences at least 6 feet high. Facility must be sturdy and constructed of materials such as poles, pipes or planks (minimum 1.5-inch thickness) without dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large-mesh woven, stranded and electric materials are unacceptable for fencing. You should not release the Mustang into a large open area, such as a pasture, since you may not be able to recapture the animal for training or to provide veterinary care. However, once the animal is gentled, you may release it into a pasture or similar area. You must provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for your Mustang.

h. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged. At all times, the humane care and best interest of the horse are paramount. For Mustang Heritage Spectacular-Extreme Mustang Makeover events and Mustang Heritage Foundation programs, the trainer is responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of any mustang entrusted to their care. Contact Mustang Heritage Foundation staff or management to report any health issues with your horse so that proper veterinarian care can be administered. Any suspected inhumane treatment of horses should be reported to management immediately with potential consequences as outlined in our Humane Treatment Policy.

i. Trainers are responsible for all care-related costs from the day the mustangs are picked up through the competition. Expenses incurred during the training period and competition will not be reimbursed. j. For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the mustang to his/her nearest USFS facility if he/she is unable to complete the training and participate in the competition. Participation is subject to review if an individual has a history of frequently returning MHF program horses before completing the training or participating in the competition.

k. In the case of serious injury or death of your mustang, trainers are required to notify the Event Director, Rebecca Bowman at (859) 489-8141 and the USFS within 24 hours of the occurrence.

### **3. EVENT**

a. Approximately \$50,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded during the event.

b. The top two trainers with the highest combined preliminary class scores will receive the Champion and Reserve Champion Mustang Horsemanship Buckles and cash prizes.

c. 3 total Incentive awards will also be presented to the trainers with the top 3 highest combined preliminary scores in the following categories: Rookie (trainers who have never previously competed in an MHF event), Young Gun (trainers 18-21 years old) and Silver Bullet (trainers 50 years old or older). Trainers are only eligible for one incentive award per event.

d. All mustangs that have competed in at least one class at this competition will be available to the public through a live bid process at the conclusion of the event.

e. All trainers who participate in the event are required to also participate in the auction. If a trainer withdraws from the competition, they are not eligible to participate in the auction.

f. In the case that a trainer is no longer interested in moving forward with the competition, an email officially withdrawing must be submitted to the Event Coordinator.

### **4. MHF HUMANE TREATMENT POLICY**

a. Every mustang and all animals shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any participant using abusive or excessive training techniques or being inhumane to a mustang in his/her care (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) may be removed from the

contest and/or all future contests and training programs. If a participant's horse enters the contest or if the trainer/participant at any time presents a horse with questionable training/care related injuries (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) the participant may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. This policy is in addition to our event rules. All trainers must agree to, sign and return the Humane Treatment Policy included in the Trainer Application. The following list, while in no way exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behavior and training techniques:

- i. No horse that appears to be emaciated, drawn or injured may be exhibited.
- ii. Use of inhumane training techniques or methods such as striking horse with objects, excessive spurring and/or excessive jerking of reins.
- iii. Any inhumane treatment that results in wounds.

## **5. CONDUCT**

a. Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and humane in the treatment of mustangs, such as to promote the implementation of the event and fair competition. This includes, but is not limited to: conduct while trainers have mustangs in their possession; conduct on the show grounds; conduct on social media; conduct while trainers are wearing Mustang Heritage Spectacular-Extreme Mustang Makeover or Mustang Heritage Foundation logoed attire off the show grounds; and includes the conduct of individuals traveling with trainers, spectators or event managers and all other persons being present on show grounds. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and inhumane treatment of horses are prohibited and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against offending individuals. Further, event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to preserve the decorum of the show.

## **6. DIGITAL MEDIA POLICY**

a. Mustang Heritage Foundation understands that sharing your journey as a competitor on digital media is a part of the current landscape and we encourage you to do so, thoughtfully. One of our highest priorities is to ensure that the digital content relating to MHF and MHF programs aligns with our mission, values, and public image to guarantee the future and reputation of our foundation.

b. Quality and Respect: As a competitor or participant in Mustang Heritage Foundation programs, you are representing MHF in everything you do and being mindful when developing digital content is vitally important. Additionally, many MHF followers will want to follow your journey and may engage with you along the way. It is our expectation that each competitor, participant, and partner of MHF create content that is consistent with our mission and values and be respectful in their engagement with followers, however controversial. Carefully consider your audience (intended and unintended) as you develop content and review your content prior to sharing or distributing to ensure accuracy and alignment with MHF mission and values.

c. Auditing: As a competitor and/or participant, you are held accountable for the content you share when in partnership with us. The Mustang Heritage Foundation team regularly monitors competitor and participant content for violations of our digital media policy, and it is our expectation that if a post is found to be in violation, the competitor or participant will remove and/or alter the content accordingly as soon as possible after notification. Mustang Heritage Foundation reserves the right to discontinue the relationship and/or partnership with a competitor or participant at any time based on digital media policy violation(s).

## ADULT IN-PERSON COMPETITION RULES

All written rules will supersede anything previously discussed or implied. Any additional clarification of the existing rules must be obtained in writing. In the event that there are any questions or confusion involving a written rule, the MHF events team will be available to share written clarification upon request.

- During the competition mustangs and trainers will be assessed by a panel of accomplished horsemen and - women. Preliminary classes will include Handling & Conditioning Class, a Mustang Maneuvers Class and a Trail Class. A finals competition consisting of a Compulsory Pattern and a Freestyle Performance will be held for the top-10 highest scoring competitors.
- Trainers are required to complete and submit 7-day, 45-day, 65-day, and 90-day progress reports during the training period. Progress forms and supplemental information will be provided prior to pick-up with detailed due dates. All four progress reports are required by the indicated due dates. Progress reports can be accessed online via <https://mustangheritagefoundation.org/mustang-spectacular-progress-report/> or submitted via email to [progress@mustangheritagefoundation.org](mailto:progress@mustangheritagefoundation.org).
- The purpose of this event is to showcase the talent and trainability of mustangs and to provide an opportunity for trainers and horses to engage in safe competition for prize money and awards. Therefore, all horses entered into the competition should be gentle and safe to maneuver through the show grounds. Upon entry onto the show grounds, should a mustang be deemed unsafe by MHF and/or USFS that horse may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition and adoption. The goal is for all trainers and horses to participate in the event as long as the horse is safe to do so. If there is a concern regarding the horse's training status please contact Event Director, Rebecca Bowman at (859) 489-8141.
- Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing mustangs microchip will be verified by a USFS or MHF representative to determine the horse's eligibility.
- Upon entry onto the show grounds, all trainers must provide a current Health Certificate and Coggins paperwork for all competing horses.
- Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing mustangs will be examined by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual to determine the health and condition of the horse. Should a mustang be deemed in poor condition by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual that mustang may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.
- At least one bag of shavings and one stall per competing mustang will be provided free of charge. One shared tack stall will also be provided free of charge (tack stall may be shared with up to three other individuals). All mustangs will be stalled together according to the division in which they are competing (Youth Division, EMM, etc.). Trainers are not allowed to place locks on horse stalls.
- Trainers are responsible for all care-related costs from the day the mustangs are picked up through the competition. Expenses incurred during the training period and competition will not be reimbursed. Trainers are responsible for bringing all tack, feed and supplies needed during the competition.
- An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practices.
- Competition schedule to be announced.
- Winners will be announced following the competition.
- Trainers are required to demonstrate their mustangs during the adoption on the final day of the event in a manner that showcases the trainability of the horse. For example, if a horse is exhibited under saddle during the competition, then it should also be demonstrated under saddle during the adoption.

- Trainers must fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
- Trainers will be given specific competition patterns at the event. Trainers will have an opportunity to “walk through” the patterns with the judges, without their mustang, prior to the competition.
- Class awards may be presented. Any class ties will be broken by the score from a predetermined element in the class. The tiebreaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.
- Ties will be broken by the trail class to determine the top 10 finalists. If a tie exists between trail class scores, the score from a predetermined element in the trail class will break the tie. The tiebreaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.

## **1. JUDGES**

- a. The Mustang Heritage Foundation will designate the appropriate number of judges, as well as an equipment/rule steward to support the efforts of show officials to ensure all rules are being followed.

## **2. EQUIPMENT**

- a. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles and equipment. Exhibitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear, which reflects the style of their riding. Silver on your saddles or sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.
- b. If ridden during the preliminary classes, horses must be saddled and bridled in appropriate tack/gear.
- c. ILLEGAL equipment that will result in automatic disqualification from the class in which equipment was used in (regardless of discipline) includes snaffle bits with mouthpieces smaller than 5/16" and/or consisting of non-smooth material (such as twisted material), stud chains, and bosals made of anything but rawhide, leather, or rope with a flexible core (no metal of any kind). Use of any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed and will result in disqualification from the class in which it was used.
- d. The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage. The diameter of 11 mouthpieces, length of shanks and use of curb straps or chains must comply with MHF rules. National Snaffle Bit Association and American Quarter Horse Association rules are resources for preferred equipment including the diameter of mouthpieces, length of shanks and use of curb straps or chains. It is the trainer's responsibility to contact MHF event staff to obtain written approval regarding any questionable equipment, or to clarify if a certain type of equipment is deemed humane and allowable. Said request and approval/ disapproval must be conducted via email in writing.
- e. Mustangs may be shown with two hands in a snaffle bit or bosal. Showing a mustang with two hands when using a curb or shank-type bit is strongly discouraged during any point of the competition (including the finals) and will result in an automatic 5-point deduction per judge.
- f. Training aides (whips, sticks, treats, the tail end of lead rope, etc.) will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown with the use of training aides will be judged accordingly. Any excessive use of a training aid (including striking the horse) will result in an automatic 10-point deduction from each judge in that class.
- g. Wearing guns (real or toy) in any arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks is not allowed during the competition or anywhere on the grounds and will result in an automatic disqualification.

### **3. MUSTANG TREATMENT**

a. Excessive spurring or jerking on the reins or lead line during the competition will result in an automatic 10- point deduction from each judge off the overall class score.

b. No person shall alter, change or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, powder, or in any other manner. Trainers may clip/trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural. Use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail are prohibited during the preliminary competition and will result in an automatic 10-point deduction from each judge off the overall class score. Costume-related tail/mane decorations will be allowed during the finals freestyle performance. Alteration of tail function (tail blocking, dead tails, etc.) is prohibited at any and all points during the competition and will result in disqualification.

c. Drugs: No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a mustang, either before or during the Mustang Heritage Spectacular-Extreme Mustang Makeover competition or adoption. Any medication, drug, mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect or enhance the mustang's performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. If a mustang is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the Mustang Heritage Spectacular-Extreme Mustang Makeover event manager as to the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount. **THE MUSTANG HERITAGE SPECTACULAR-EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.** Positive tests will result in removal from the 12 event, removal of reimbursement and prize money, refund of adoption fees paid by an adopter and return of a mustang to the USFS should the adopter wish to return the adopted mustang. In regard to herbal/natural supplements, trainers are cautioned against the use of medicinal preparations, tonics, pastes and products of any kind, the ingredients and quantitative analysis of which are not specifically known, as many of them may contain a forbidden substance.

### **4. AWARDS**

a. ALL TRAINERS competing in the event will be eligible for 50% commission of the adoption price minus a \$200 adoption and processing fee.

b. PRELIMINARY CLASSES will have the following cash prizes awarded to the Top 6 in each preliminary class (Handling & Conditioning, Mustang Maneuvers, and Trail).

1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$1,200

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$900

3rd Place: \$700

4th Place: \$500

5th Place: \$400

6th Place: \$300

c. HORSEMANSHIP Champion and Reserve Champion will be awarded cash & prizes. This category consists of the top two trainers with the highest combined overall preliminary class scores.

Champion Horsemanship: \$3,000

Reserve Champion Horsemanship: \$2,000

d. INCENTIVE AWARDS will be presented to the top trainer in each category with the highest combined preliminary scores – finals scores do not count toward incentive awards. Each trainer is only eligible to win one incentive award per event with precedence given to the Rookie award. For example, if trainer A has the highest preliminary

scores in the Rookie and Young Gun categories then he will be given the Rookie award and the next highest score in the Young Gun category will receive the Young Gun award. In addition, Young Guns and Silver Bullets are only eligible to win one award per year. For example, the winner of the Young Gun award at the 2020 Makeover in California is ineligible to win the Young Gun award at any other 2020 Makeover event. Incentive award categories are:

Rookies: First time Mustang Heritage Spectacular-Extreme Mustang Makeover competitors, Young Gun: Trainers 18-21 years of age at the time of entry, Silver Bullet: Trainers 50 years of age or older at time of entry

e. FAN FAVORITE FREESTYLE will receive \$3,000 in prize money and buckle.

f. TOP 10 FINALISTS: Approximately \$30,000 in CASH & PRIZES will be awarded to the Top 10 Finalists.

Champion: \$8,000 & Champion buckle

Reserve Champion: \$5,500 & Reserve Champion buckle

3rd Place: \$4,000

4th Place: \$3,000

5th Place: \$2,500

6th Place: \$2,000

7th Place: \$1,500

8th Place: \$1,500

9th Place: \$1,000

10th Place: \$1,000

## **5. PRELIMINARY CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & SCORING**

a. Handling & Conditioning Class (80 points from each judge) During this class, the trainer will lead the horse into a small pen inside the arena, un-halter and release the horse in the pen. The trainer will exit the pen. The horse's conditioning will be scored at this time. The trainer will then be allowed back into the pen. Upon re-entering the pen, the trainer will re-halter the horse and lead the horse out of the pen to complete a set of handling maneuvers in the arena. This class will be judged on the following: Handling (60 points): Judges will assess the horse's demeanor and responsiveness during the haltering process, as well as the relationship between horse and trainer through the completion of additional handling maneuvers including but not limited to the following:

- Walk • Trot • Stop • Back • Pick up feet • Load and unload from trailer
- Conditioning (20 points): The horse's condition will be judged in two areas: • Appropriate weight/muscling based on the Henneke System (10 points) • Overall appearance (this score will reflect hair coat, feet condition, etc.) (10 points)
- Penalties • Patterns completed out of order (5 points) • Competitor losing their horse during the class (5 points)
- 14 Additional Criteria: No person shall alter, change or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, hoof polish, powder or in any other manner – doing so will result in a 10-point deduction per judge. The use of stud chains is prohibited and will result in automatic disqualification of the class. Trainers may clip/trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural. Use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail are prohibited and will result in disqualification. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails. The score will not reflect conformation.



To learn more about appropriate weight/conditioning for a horse based on the Henneke System, please visit: <https://www.gerlltd.org/Education/Equine%20Body%20Condition%20Score%20Presentation.pdf>

b. Mustang Maneuvers Class (80 points from each judge) This class is intended to show the horse's willingness and ability to complete a set of generic horsemanship maneuvers. Judges will assess exhibitors showing in either Western or English discipline accordingly. For example, if a 360 pivot is requested – judges will expect a horse shown under English attire to turn on the backhand and expect a horse shown under Western equipment to attempt to spin. A horse will be given credit for being relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. Credit will also be given to a horse that is responsive to the rider and makes the required transitions smoothly, timely and correctly. Maneuvers may include but are not limited to: • Walk, trot, lope/canter • Change of direction while on the rail • Stop • Back • Pivot or turns to right and left • Lead changes • Two-track • Sidepass

c. Combined Leading & Trail Class (80 points from each judge) This class is designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal trail ride or work day. Exhibitors will be asked to lead and ride their horse through a course of generic obstacles and maneuvers. Exhibitors will be able to “walk through” the course with the judges prior to the class. Horses are not allowed during the walk-thru. 15 Leading elements obstacles/maneuvers may include but are not limited to: • Walk, trot, stop and back • Walk over logs/poles • Walk/trot between cones/obstacles • Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute • Pick up all four feet • Brush horse once on each side • Load and unload from stock trailer Riding obstacles/maneuvers may include, but are not limited to: • Walk, trot, canter/lope, stop and back • Turns and circles to the left and right • Walk over logs/poles • Lead change • Walk over bridge • Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute • Pick up and carry an object • Additional elements may be added such as brush, artificial foliage, rain slickers, etc. Penalties • Pattern completed out of order (5 points) • Dismounting or being bucked off during a riding class (5 points)

## **6. FINALS DESCRIPTION & SCORING**

- a. The top 10 mustangs with the highest combined total scores from the preliminary classes will return for a finals competition that includes freestyle performance.
- b. The score from the preliminary Mustang Maneuvers class will carry over and account for 30% of the final score with the Freestyle performance score accounting 70% for the final top 10 placings.
- c. For the freestyle performance, trainers will have four minutes to stage or set the arena.
- d. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up and tear down - it is the trainer's responsibility to make sure all props are cleared from the arena immediately following the conclusion of the freestyle performance, including hay, confetti, etc. Not completely clearing the arena of debris will result in a no score for the freestyle.
- e. All props must be freestanding. Nothing may be driven into the ground (i.e., rebar, stakes, etc.), and doing so will result in a no score for the freestyle.
- f. Trainers may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle performance, however the promotion logo/statement must be no larger than 12 inches by 24 inches.
- g. Props of pyrotechnic nature including fireworks, flares, firecrackers, rings of fire, etc. are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- h. Wearing guns (real or toy) in any arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks is not allowed during the competition or anywhere on the grounds and will result in an automatic disqualification.
- i. \*Trainers will have 3.5 minutes to complete their freestyle performance. The music and time will start simultaneously when the trainer or horse enters the arena, whichever comes first. It is the trainer's responsibility to ensure EMM staff is aware of which is entering first (horse or rider), so that the time and music can be started appropriately.

- j. Live "voice-overs" and/or commentary from the trainer and/or trainer representative are not allowed during the performance and will result in disqualification.
- k. Lighting and/or spotlights cannot be manipulated or altered for any of the trainer freestyle performances.
- l. Music is a required component of the freestyle performance – if the trainer does not turn in music during the finalists' meeting at the event, management may select music for him/her. Music must be submitted as one single track (MHF staff will not transition from one track to another during the performance or merge music files for a competitor) as an mp3 file. Music will not be played from a phone or any other device. The music file will be downloaded onto our music system. All music is subject to review and approval by MHF staff. If the trainer does not pick up their flash drive following the freestyle, MHF will discard it at the end of the event.
- m. All freestyle music and themes should be in good taste and family-friendly.  
The purpose of the Mustang Heritage Spectacular-Extreme Mustang Makeover is to highlight the Mustang Heritage Foundation's mission to place more mustangs in private care. Therefore, the code of conduct will be strictly enforced and music containing profanity and controversial or disparaging themes or props are strictly prohibited. The Mustang Heritage Foundation reserves the right to disqualify and remove from competition any trainer that violates this rule for any reason or no reason. The Mustang Heritage Foundation's decision will be final. If clarification is needed, contact the MHF event staff.
- n. Other animals (dogs, additional horses, additional cattle, etc.) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the finals performance for any reason and will result in disqualification.
- o. Other people (including children) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the final's performance for any reason other than to drive a vehicle to be used during the performance. If someone other than the trainer is driving a vehicle in the performance none of the occupants of the vehicle will be allowed to exit the vehicle while in the arena and the windows must be rolled up at all times (the vehicle, if driven by someone other than the trainer, must be closed-cab; gators, golf carts, ATV's, etc. will not be allowed and will result in disqualification). Other people are NOT allowed to act as props, ride or come in contact with the horse at any point during the performance and will result in disqualification. Other people may hand props to the trainer from outside the arena.
- p. A rider mounted on their mustang is not allowed to trot or lope onto or into any moving or covered vehicles/trailers/props of any kind and will result in disqualification.
- q. Mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope through any moving vehicles/trailers/props of any kind and will result in disqualification.
- r. A trainer may not stand or kneel on a horse that is standing, sitting, or laying on any object. Examples include tarps, bridges, platforms, chairs, etc. It is advised that trainers contact MHF staff with questions prior to their performance. It is the trainer's responsibility to clarify any information.
- s. Trainers must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance – bare feet are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- t. Judges and/or MHF staff may stop any performance deemed unsafe, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate.
- u. Ties will be broken by the maneuvers score. If a tie exists between maneuvers scores, the score from a predetermined maneuver from the maneuvers class will break the tie. The tiebreaker maneuver will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. Management reserves the right to use a "ride off" as a tie breaker for first place.
- v. All items/props are subject to final review and approval by MHF staff.

The freestyle portion of the final's competition encourages trainers to choose music, costumes and props which permit them to show the athletic abilities of their horse in a crowd appealing way. During the freestyle performance, contestants will be scored based on the following for a total score of 120 points per judge:

- Overall Horsemanship (60 points)

a. Communication/partnership between horse and rider and the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner (30 points).

b. Incorporation of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty (30 points). These maneuvers would include but are not limited to side pass, two tracking either direction, pulling or dragging, serpentines, rollbacks, lead changes, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc. • Entertainment Value (60 points) a. Components of Choreography (30 points): The composition and arrangement of the exhibition in relation to the music and its rhythm.

b. Creativity (30 points): The use of themes, maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance and overall originality.

## **7. AUCTION DAY**

a. Mustangs must compete at some level (competing in the Handling & Conditioning Class and in-hand in the trail/obstacle class is acceptable) in order to participate in the auction. Mustangs cannot attend the event for the auction only.

b. Trainers are REQUIRED to stay and present their horse during the auction. Trainers are required to present their horse in a manner consistent with the appearance and level of training demonstrated during the competition. For example, if a horse is exhibited under saddle during the competition, then it is required to be demonstrated under saddle during the auction.

c. Trainers are encouraged to meet the adopter of their horse and are asked to leave feed and water in the horse's stall prior to departing.

d. ALL TRAINERS competing in the event will be eligible for 50% commission of the adoption price minus a \$200 adoption and processing fee.

e. Trainers wishing to adopt their mustang must acquire a bidder's number and bid (or have a representative bid for them) during the auction. Trainers may apply any prize money and/or commission earned toward the adoption price. Trainers who adopt their mustangs must complete the necessary adoption paperwork with MHF and the USFS immediately following the adoption.

f. For more information on Mustang Heritage Spectacular-Extreme Mustang Makeover events, please call (512) 869- 3225