

DIVISION T (Open)
WILD HORSE/MUSTANG PROGRAM
Superintendent- Diane Shipley

Rules:

1. Youth trainers are between the ages of 8 to 18 years of age to be eligible to participate in the competition.
2. Mustangs will be a draw at the fairgrounds that day and trainers will pick out the mustangs randomly.
3. Mustangs will have all vaccinations, current coggins as well as hooves trimmed prior to pick up by the BLM.
4. Mustangs will remain on the property of the BLM until shown after the freestyle and will then be offered by silent auction to the trainers or public.
5. Youth trainers may receive help with their mustangs by anyone but must be shown by youth trainers in all classes.
6. Trainers will provide a report to the leader on day 7, day 45, and 1 week prior to fair.
7. Freeze marks will be verified by BLM personal prior to the show.
8. Treats, excessive jerking on the lead and whips will be a 10 point deduction per each judge.
9. Trainers will have the opportunity to walk through the course with the judge. No mustangs during this walk through.
10. Trainers will bring all paperwork to the fairgrounds when entered for the fair.
11. Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing mustangs will be examined by a knowledgeable individual to determine the health and condition of the horse. Should a mustang be deemed in poor condition the mustang may be excused from the competition.
12. Trainers will be responsible for all care related costs from the day the mustang is picked up through the competition. Training and care expenses will not be reimbursed.
13. Mustangs can be shown in either Western or English. Trainers are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear which reflects the style of their discipline. Youth trainers are not allowed to ride, sit or stand on their mustang at any time prior to or during the competition and will result in disqualification. This includes in the stall warm up area at the event and during the competition itself.
14. No trainers shall alter change or attempt to hide the natural marking and or rubbed or raw areas of a horse by surgery, dye, powder or in any other manner. Trainers may clip/trim horses or leave main, tails, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural. Use of false tails or extensions

on the mane or tail are prohibited during the preliminary competition and will be an automatic 10 point deduction from each judge off the overall class.

15. Costume related tail and mane decorations will be allowed during the finals freestyle performance.
16. Class awards will be presented. Any class ties will be broken by the score from the trail class. If a tie still exists the tie will be broken by a tie breaker judge.
17. No other animal or dog will be allowed in the arena during the performance for any reason and will result in disqualification.

Competition Classes:

Youth trainers and 12-24 month old Mustangs will be judged in three (3) classes: Handling and Conditioning, In-Hand Trail and Freestyle. The highest combined scores from these classes will determine the winner. 10 extra points will be given for participation in the Montrose County Fair Parade.

1. Handling and Conditioning Class—40 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— 30 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— 10 points

The horse's condition will be judged in two areas:

- Appropriate weight/muscling (5 points).
- Overall Appearance-this score will reflect hair coat, feet condition, etc. (5 points)

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, hoof polish, 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. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails. The score will not reflect conformation. [Learn more about appropriate weight/conditioning.](#)

2. Leading Trail Class— 40 points from each judge

This class is intended to show the horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal day. Exhibitors will be asked to lead the horse through a course of obstacles. Obstacles may include but are not limited to the following:

- 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

*additional elements may be added such as brush, artificial foliage, rain slickers, etc

3. Freestyle— 40 points from each judge

During this class exhibitors are encouraged to choose musical scores, costumes and props that permit them to show the athletic abilities of their animal in a crowd appealing way.

- All trainers are required to show their Mustang and/or Burro in-hand—riding is not an option and doing so will result in disqualification.
- Exhibitors are not allowed to sit or stand on 12-24 month old Mustangs and/or Burros and doing so will result in disqualification.
- Animals are not allowed to pull any items (doing so will result in disqualification) however, the exhibitor may pull an item while leading the animal.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Props of pyrotechnic nature i.e. fireworks, flares, sparklers, firecrackers, etc Are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- Shooting guns and/or blanks will NOT be allowed during the freestyle performance and will result in disqualification.

- Exhibitors will have 4 minutes prior to their performance to stage or set the arena
- Trainers will have 3.5 minutes to complete their freestyle performance. The music and time will start simultaneously when the trainer or animal enters the arena, whichever comes first. It is the trainers responsibility to ensure staff is aware of which is entering first (animal or trainer), so that the time and music can be started appropriately. Failure to do so will result in a no score for the freestyle.
- Live “voice-overs” and/or commentary from the trainer and/or trainer representative are not allowed during the performance and will result in disqualification.
- 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 (staff will not transition from one track to another during the performance or merge music files for a competitor) either on a CD or as an mp3 file. Music will not be played from a phone or any other device. The music file will be downloaded into our music system. All music is subject to review and approval by staff.
- Mustangs and/or burros are not allowed to walk, trot or lope into/onto any *moving* vehicles or trailers of any kind and doing so will result in disqualification. Mustangs and/or burros are not allowed to trot or lope into/onto any *covered* vehicles or trailers of any kind and doing so will result in disqualification.
- Other animals (dogs, additional horses, etc.) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the finals 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.
- Trainers must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance– bare feet are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- Judges may stop any performance deemed unsafe, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate.
- Use of the whip as a tool for the freestyle will be optional. At no time will the whip touch the animal in an aggressive manner, but may be laid on the animal. The Judge’s discretion will be final.
- All items/props are subject to final review and approval.

The freestyle portion is worth a total of 40 points and will be scored in the following areas:

Overall Horsemanship—20 points:

- The communication and partnership between the animal and trainer, and the animal’s overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner. (10 points)

- Incorporation of a variety of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty. (10 points) These maneuvers would include but are not limited to: sidepass, pulling or dragging, serpentines, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc.

Entertainment Value—20 points:

- Components of Choreography—the components and arrangement of the exhibition in relation to the music and its rhythm. (10 points)
- Creativity—the use of themes, maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance and overall originality. (10 points)