Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
MO 209.14	242-25	1	Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	AMHA	Approved (4/7/2026)

MO209.14 Tracking #242-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	1/29/2026	Approved 4/7/2026 1

Rule Change Intent

This clarification makes the rules for Morgan Fitting and Showmanship more simple for understanding by changing the numbering and indentations of the section.

Proponent Details

AMHA

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Linked Rules

Comments

Member Comments

SUBCHAPTER MO-19 ADDITIONAL CLASSES

MO209 Additional Class Specifications

(...)

14. MORGAN FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP RULES

~~a.~~ The Morgan Fitting and Showmanship class (English or Western) demonstrates the exhibitor's ability to condition and show a horse to a designated person. Stallions are prohibited in classes limited to junior exhibitors (less than 18 years). The fitting and showmanship class is to be judged 40% on appearance and 60% on showmanship.

~~1.~~*a*. Horse's Appearance—40%

~~a~~*i*. Condition—Horses should be healthy, alert, serviceably sound, and in good condition.

~~b~~*ii*. Grooming

1. Coat clean and free of stains. Excessive amounts of oils, fly spray, and polish are discouraged.
2. Mane and tail clean and free of tangles.
3. If unshod, hooves must be trimmed and shaped. If the horse is shod, shoes must be trimmed and shaped, and shoes must fit, not show undue wear, and clinches should be smooth. Hoof dressing and/or polish may be used.
4. Excess hair should be clipped or trimmed from fetlocks, face, ears, throatlatch, and bridle path.
5. Braiding is optional if horse is shown under hunter tack.

~~c~~*iii*. Tack—Tack should be clean, neat, in a safe condition, fit properly, and be appropriate to the way the horse is shown (English or Western).

1. English-Show halter or bridle with one bit (weymouth curb or snaffle) and cavesson or bridle with one bit (snaffle, kimberwicke, weymouth curb with short shank and thick mouth, or pelham) and cavesson.
2. Western-Show halter or bridle with Western (snaffle or curb) bit.

~~2.~~*b*. Showmanship—60%

~~a~~*i*. Leading

1. Enter leading the horse at a collected trot around the ring in a counterclockwise direction or as specified by the judge.
2. Recommended method is to lead on horse's left side holding reins or lead strap in right hand 4-10 inches from the bit or ring. The remaining portion of reins or strap should be held safely in the left hand.
3. Horse must work individually on the line at a walk and trot. Horse should lead readily. When making a turn, the horse should be turned to the right, exhibitor walking around the horse.

~~b~~*ii*. Posing

1. When posing the horse, the exhibitor should stand toward the front, off the horse's shoulder facing the horse, always in a position where they can keep an eye on the horse and know the position of the judge. The judge should have an unobstructed view of the horse.
2. Horses must stand squarely on all four feet. Horses in Saddle Seat tack shown by handlers wearing Saddle Seat attire may have rear legs placed slightly back.
3. Crowding should be penalized. The exhibitor should maintain a horse's length apart (8-10 feet) when leading or posing in a line head to tail. When lined up side-by-side, there should be plenty of room between entries. An exhibitor should not lead their horse between the judge and a horse the judge is observing.
4. The horse should be alert and mannerly.

~~c~~*iii*. Poise, alertness, and attitude

1. The exhibitor should quickly recognize the conformation faults of the horse they are leading and show it to overcome its faults.

2. The horse should be shown at all times quietly and effectively. Exhibitors must not show just themselves.

3. The exhibitor should respond quickly to requests from the judge. They should be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.

4. The exhibitor should not be distracted by persons and things inside or outside the ring. The exhibitor should remain alert and showing until the entire class has been worked and judged, and the winners have been announced.

~~d~~*iv*. Exhibitor Appearance—Clothes and person must be neat and clean. Suitable riding clothes are desirable and must be appropriate to the manner in which the horse is shown (saddle, hunt, or Western). Boots are mandatory. A whip, not to exceed 42 inches in length, is optional with English tack.

~~e~~*c*. Suggested Scorecard

1*i*. Horse's Appearance (40%)

~~2~~*1*. Condition (15%)

~~3~~*2*. Grooming (20%)

~~4~~*3*. Tack (5%)

5*ii*. Showmanship (60%)

~~6~~*1*. Ring Deportment/Actions (20%)

~~7~~*2*. Leading (15%)

~~8~~*3*. Posing (15%)

~~9~~*4*. Attitude & Appearance (10%)

~~f~~*d*. Additional Testing

1*i*. Exhibitors may be asked to answer horse-related questions.

2*ii*. Exhibitors may be asked to perform additional tests at the discretion of the judge.