

## 2005 Maine Morgan Sport Horse In Hand 4 & Over Rules Class #58

**PURPOSE:** To evaluate potential, suitability and qualities as a dressage sport horse (or performance horse.)

**PARTICIPATION:** Open to all Morgan horses registered with the American Morgan Horse Association, Canadian Morgan Horse Association or British Morgan Horse Society 4 years old and older as of January 1, 2005. Any and all handlers in the competition ring are required to sign an entry blank. If entries warrant the class will be divided into A. stallions and Geldings and B. Mares.

### GENERAL RULES

**EQUIPMENT & TURNOUT:** Braiding is optional. Bridles are mandatory. A bridle shall consist of a snaffle type bit with reins (two reins are optional) and a headstall with a throatlatch. Noseband is optional. A split or single chain may be used instead of reins. Bandages of any kind are forbidden during a class. The handler is allowed only one assistant, who may each carry only one whip with no attachments allowed. Conservative sports attire is recommended.

**TIME AND ORDER OF GO:** Will be posted Thursday PM in the Secretary's booth.

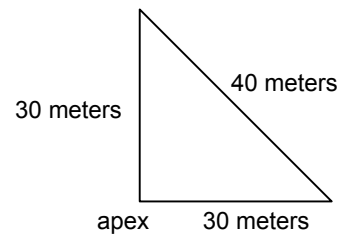
**JUDGING PROCEEDURE:** Horses will be shown individually on the triangle. Following the posted order, entries will approach at a walk to the apex of the triangle and await the judge's request to proceed.

The handler will lead the horse to the right on the perimeter of the triangle first at a walk and once again at the trot returning to the apex of the triangle.

The horse will then be shown standing in an "open" position (all four legs of the horse visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse) for type and conformation judging. However, the judge may elect to judge type and conformation before and/or after movement. The judge

The judge may request at any time that the exhibitor repeat any movement.

After the judge has completed judging he/she will excuse the handler who will lead the horse away from the judging area. The next exhibitor will enter the judging area promptly. The judge must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten or endanger other exhibitors or their entries. After all horses are shown on the triangle, some or all may be recalled to be shown in groups at a walk and trot either in a line or all moving around the arena. If the competition veterinarian is not immediately available, the judge's decision as to the serviceable soundness of a horse must be final. The judge will disqualify horses for unsoundness. Tie scores shall be broken by referring to movement scores. If still tied, the tie shall be broken at the judges discretion, by the use of decimals, or the horses may be examined again (movement only).



After the judge has completed judging he/she will excuse the handler who will lead the horse away from the judging area. The next exhibitor will enter the judging area promptly. The judge must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten or endanger other exhibitors or their entries. After all horses are shown on the triangle, some or all may be recalled to be shown in groups at a walk and trot either in a line or all moving around the arena. If the competition veterinarian is not immediately available, the judge's decision as to the serviceable soundness of a horse must be final. The judge will disqualify horses for unsoundness. Tie scores shall be broken by referring to movement scores. If still tied, the tie shall be broken at the judges discretion, by the use of decimals, or the horses may be examined again (movement only).

### JUDGING SPECIFICATIONS

**MOVEMENT: 60%** (30% Walk, 30% Trot) To be judged on Purity and Quality which is judged mainly in profile, and Correctness which is judged mainly coming to and going away from judge. Walk: Four even beats, straight and even strides, correctly aligned steps, articulation of joints, freedom of shoulders and haunches, balance, elastic and swinging back, overstep, reach, ground-covering with marching quality. Trot: Two even beats, straight and even strides, correctly aligned steps, articulation of joints, freedom of shoulders and haunches, balance, elasticity, swinging back, natural engagement and impulsion from hindquarters, suspension, power from upward thrust and roundness.

**TYPE AND CONFORMATION: 30%** Correct Morgan type and conformation is the same in each section of the Morgan Horse division where conformation is considered. There is only one standard for type and conformation of the Morgan Horse. Classes that are offered for horses in specific disciplines or specific suitable to become classes must be judged against the criteria stated in the Judging Standards for the In-Hand Section. The quality and correctness of head, neck, saddle position, shoulder, frame, back, forehead, hindquarters, angulation and formation of legs and joints according to current USA Equestrian judging standards for Morgan In Hand. Predispositions to unsoundness or limitations in quality of movement, caused by weaknesses or conformation faults, potential for trainability and performance. Emphasis on function, not fashion. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults. Good harmonious conformation suitable for sport horse performance.

**GENERAL IMPRESSION: 10%** Includes impulsion, balance, harmony and development related to age and typiness. Alert, expressive and well-mannered.

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:** will be in the main ring after tallying scores.