



EASTERN MICHIGAN HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 24, 2026

LOCATION: Maniaci's Banquet Center, Richmond, MI



Meeting Called to order at 3:06 pm

Welcome to EMHA Awards Banquet and Member meeting

- 1) Cost comparison between 2024 and 2025
 - a) \$39,069.41 was cost for 2024
 - b) \$55,702.31 was the cost for 2025
- 2) Currently all board positions are filled
 - a) Elections will be held at the 2026 Awards Banquet and all positions will be open.
 - b) Emily Surfus has indicated that she will not be running for president again.
 - c) All members are eligible to volunteer for a position on the board.
 - d) All board positions are volunteer positions except the point's secretary
 - e) If anyone has any questions about any board positions or delegate positions please feel free to reach out to the association via email.
- 3) Items voted on at the meeting
 - a) Vote to have no cross ties in the aisles – PASS
 - b) No equipment in the aisles – DID NOT PASS
 - c) Add Ranch OPEN Walk/Trot Sweepstakes class – PASS
 - d) Keep Camping as an option – PASS
 - e) EWD Riders may not vacillate, meaning that EWD riders may not change between non EWD division and the EWD division – PASS
 - f) Allow a horse that has been injured and pulled from competition to be allowed to return with a second vet note to finish the season and keep all accrued points. Current rules only allowed one horse change and does not allow for injured horse to return to earn points. – PASS
 - g) Clarification on the family membership being for DIRECT family members only. Children must be under 22. It does not include grandparents, aunts, uncles. Cousins, nieces, nephews, or engaged individuals and their children.
 - h) (1) Vote to raise sweepstakes from \$12 to \$15 –PASS
 - i) (2) Vote to add verbiage underlined here to rule stating that: a judge cannot judge more than one EMHA show per year, except in extenuating circumstances. –PASS
 - j) (3) Vote to require board members to attend 75% of all shows. Shows are 2 days. Members attending 1 day would be 50% for that weekend. – PASS
 - k) (4) Vote to remove the verbiage stating that there would be no tie breakers for the 13 and under divisions – PASS
 - l) (5) Vote to PASS clarification on tie breakers for pleasure and Gymkhana highpoint. For pleasure contestant with most 1st places will be awarded the win. If first places are equal then there will be a ride off with a pattern from the pattern book or one selected by the judge. For Gymkhana rider with the most 1st places will win the award. If the first place placings are equal then all run times of all events will be added up and whoever has the lowest time wins. DQs will be counted as 30 seconds. --- PASS



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- m) (6) Vote to add the verbiage underlined to existing rule: Classes will be split at the judge's discretion **and/or board members' discretion.** -- PASS
 - n) (7) Vote to make rule : If not enough contestants register to run class then added money will be added to another sweepstakes class on the same day at the discretion of the board. –PASS
 - o) (8) Back numbers will be unique for every horse/rider combination.-- PASS
 - p) (9a) Vote to add in Western bit rules Under pleasure rules section 14 –PASS
 - q) (9b) Vote to add English bit rules under pleasure rules section 15 – PASS
 - r) (10a) Vote to add Ranch Riding bit rules to the Ranch riding section of the rule book section 6a regarding curb straps – PASS
 - s) (10b) Vote to add ranch riding bit rules to ranch riding section of the rule book 6b regarding bit requirements – PASS
 - t) (10c) Vote to add rules regarding bits for junior horses to the ranch riding section of the rule book 6c. – PASS Note that within the next 30 days an email will be sent out regarding verbiage for addressing a bosolito in the ranch riding division.
 - u) (11) Vote to add rule for Gymkhana for a double judge show: e. Contestant will be allowed a re-run if 5 second penalty on initial run f. Contestant will re-run at end of age group g. Contestant must exit arena prior to re-run. –PASS
 - v) (12) Vote to add Bit rule for gymkhana as follows: 18. Gymkhana Bit Regulations: a. Humane, appropriate tack, allowing snaffles, hackamores, or shank bits b. Curb straps must be used on shank bit. –PASS
 - w) (13) Vote to change rule to state that A contestant will be disqualified if their current pattern interferes with the secondary pattern set up in the ring. –PASS
- 4) Non voting Rule updates to note:
- a) All complaints regarding judges should be forwarded to the President or Vice President **in writing** for review and possible action by the E.M.H.A Board.
 - b) EWD contestants will not be judged separately for halter, since halter is based on the equine.
 - c) Contestants agree to abide by any grounds rules and regulations, failure to do so may result in forfeiture of membership and/or inability to show at E.M.H.A. events
 - d) . Any person, member or non-member, making himself/herself a nuisance by constant complaints or harassment of officials, judges, or grounds personnel may be denied entry to a class(es) by the show committee. a. First instance of concerning behavior will be addressed by board b. Second instance of concerning behavior will result in membership being revoked, with no refund, all points will be forfeited, and will not be welcome to show at E.M.H.A. remainder of season
 - e) Social Media and Conduct Policy a. To maintain a respectful and supportive community, members are expected to communicate in a positive and constructive manner when representing or discussing the Association, its members, or its leadership. b. Posting or sharing negative, false, or harmful comments about the Association, its members, or leadership on social media or other public platforms is strictly prohibited. c. Any member found engaging in such behavior may have their membership immediately



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revoked, all accumulated points forfeited and will not be eligible for a refund. The individual will also be prohibited from rejoining the Association for the remainder of the year

- f) Any dismount, not in a pattern, will result in the immediate disqualification and removal of the contestant from the class.
 - g) If any equine/contestant combo, in any age group has shown or will show in pleasure classes as Walk Trot, that contestant may ONLY walk or trot in contesting class. No cantering is allowed. a. **More than 3 canter/lope strides will result in disqualification.**
 - h) Random Pattern Sweepstakes Classes: a. Contestants may touch the poles or barrels b. Disqualification:
 - i. Broken Pattern
 - ii. Lack of forward motion
 - iii. Knocking over any pole, barrel, keg, equipment, etc
 - i) For pole bending: Contestants may touch the poles 8. Penalty: a. A five (5) second penalty will be assessed for each pole knocked over up to two poles 9. Cause for disqualification include: a. Knocking down poles b. Knocking over 3 poles c. Broken Pattern d. Lack of forward motion.
 - j) For Cloverleaf: 6. Penalty: a. A five (5) second penalty will be assessed for each barrel knocked over up to two barrels 7. Cause for disqualification include: b. Knocking over 3 barrels c. Broken Pattern d. Lack of forward motion
 - k) Penalty: a. A five (5) second penalty will be assessed for the barrel being knocked over 6. Cause for disqualification include: b. Broken Pattern c. Lack of forward motion
 - l) Arena run: 4. Cause for disqualification include: a. Broken Pattern b. **Knocking over kegs** c. Lack of forward motion.
- 5) If anyone has suggestions for rule changes or show bill/class suggestions, please email the association.
 - 6) Season Stall and camping registration will be available soon.
 - 7) Thank you to all members for supporting the association. We are all looking forward to this coming season.
 - 8) Meeting adjourned 4:27 PM