



THE FORT WORTH MUSTANG SHOW *YOUTH DIVISION*

2024 EVENT GUIDELINES & COMPETITION RULES

EVENT OVERVIEW:

The Fort Worth Mustang Show - Youth Division, hosted by Bar M Productions in partnership with the Mustang Champions Organization, will be a competitive event open to Bureau of Land Management mustangs, 2 years of age and younger, adopted or purchased at an approved off-range corral or adoption event between April 1st and May 31st, 2024.

Interested youth competitors, **9-17 years of age**, must apply online before April 1st. At time of application you will be asked to identify the date and location where you plan to adopt your competition mustang. Only 20 applicants will be selected. Upon notification from event management regarding an approved application and selection, parents or guardians, 18 years of age and older, will work with the Bureau of Land Management to become eligible to adopt or purchase. Once a mustang has been adopted or purchased the adopter/owner will enter the mustang and approved exhibitor into The Fort Worth Mustang Show to be held September 6-7, 2024 at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, TX. An online entry form will be provided to approved applicants. An entry fee of \$150 will be collected at time of entry.

***Mustang Qualification Statement:** Competing mustangs must be adopted or purchased between April 1st and May 31st with the intent of competing in the FWMS Youth Division and should not be entered or registered in other BLM sponsored or funded competitions. Our goal is to increase the placement of America's wild horses into private care through quality training and competition.

Tentative Timeline:

- Apply online at www.thefortworthmustangshow.com before **April 1st**.
 - *You will be asked to designate your intended adoption date and location, find upcoming events @[Upcoming Adoption Events](#).*
- **Week of April 1st** - Receive confirmation of accepted application.
- Parents/Guardian (or other approved adult) locate and adopt or purchase a BLM mustang - **April 1 - May 31st**.
- Complete & Submit event entry form and payment before entry deadline - **July 1st**.
- Work with your mustang using humane gentling & training methods.
- Attend the event and compete in Fort Worth, TX - **September 5-7th**.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW:

The goal of The Fort Worth Mustang Show is to showcase the skill and adaptability of the American mustang and the talented trainers that work with them. All classes are designed to demonstrate the mustangs willingness to perform various maneuvers and obstacles in-hand.

The Bureau of Land Management will hereafter be referred to as, BLM, The Fort Worth Mustang Show will hereafter be referred to as, the event, and youth exhibitors competing in the event will hereafter be referred to as, competitors.

COMPETITION OUTLINE:

1. Event Qualification

- a. The Fort Worth Mustang Show and Bar M Productions representatives have the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove a competitor from the event or entry process for any reason or for no reason.
- b. In order to become eligible to compete, individuals must adopt or purchase a BLM mustang, 2 years of age and younger, between the dates of April 1st and May 31st from an approved BLM off-range corral or satellite event.
- c. **Mustang Qualification Statement:** Competing mustangs must be adopted or purchased between April 1st and May 31st with the intent of competing in the FWMS and should not be entered or registered in other BLM sponsored or funded competitions. Our goal is to increase the placement of America's wild horses into private care through quality training and competition.
- d. An official adoption or purchase form, signed by an authorized BLM representative and dated April 1 - May 31st, will be required at time of entry.
- e. Mustangs adopted or purchased before or after the dates of April 1st and May 31st will not be eligible to compete.
- f. Individuals must contact BLM to schedule an appointment to adopt or purchase. Event staff will not schedule appointments for interested adopters.
- g. Official adopter/owners and the designated youth competitor must submit an event entry form on, or before, July 1st. Competition rules and event entry form can be found online at www.thefortworthmustangshow.com. **Online submission is preferred.** If needed, entry forms can be printed and mailed to: Bar M Productions, PO Box 1226, Mineral Wells, TX 76068.
- h. An entry fee of \$150 will be collected at time of online entry.
- i. No replacement of approved exhibitors.
- j. Competitors will be asked to submit a digital headshot photo and short bio to be used for promotional purposes. Photos and bios should be submitted at time of entry.

2. Promotion and Sponsorships

- a. Competitors may promote personal businesses or sponsorship on freestyle props, apparel, brochures and other promotional materials; however, logos should be no larger than 12 by 24 inches. Competitors may also use their designated stall area for promotional purposes.
- b. The Fort Worth Mustang Show will create event specific merchandise to be sold to the public. Competitors should not reproduce event logos in any way on apparel, banners or other posted materials.

3. Reassignment Auction

- a. There will be NO reassignment auction in the youth division.

4. Mustang Care and Training

- a. All competing mustangs should arrive with a current health certificate and negative coggins.
- b. In preparation for competition, mustang training should be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" training techniques are encouraged. Contact event staff should you have any training or care concerns.

c. Humane Treatment Statement

Competition mustangs shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any competitor using abusive or excessive training techniques or actions deemed inhumane towards a mustang in his/her care may be removed from the event. Any mustang entered in the event arriving with questionable training or care related injuries may be removed from the event. This policy is in addition to our event rules.

d. Conduct Statement

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. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any form of misconduct; illegal, indecent or profane, or any form of inhumane treatment of mustangs, are prohibited and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against offending individuals. Event management may expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to maintain the decorum of the show.

COMPETITION RULES:

1. The event purpose is to demonstrate a mustang's willingness to perform various maneuvers and obstacles in hand, showcasing the skill and adaptability of the American mustang. Our goal is to provide a safe, fair and fun competition for mustang adopters, owners, and spectators.
2. All competitors will compete in 3 classes; Trial, Showmanship and Freestyle. Class scores will be cumulative to determine final placings.
3. Competitors are required to submit condition and training progress reports during the training period. Reports will be due on the 25th of each month beginning April 25th through August 25th (first report will be based on final adoption / purchase date). Details regarding how and when to submit reports will be provided upon event entry. Any condition or training concerns should be reported to Stormy Mullins, 940-445-9773.
4. Upon entry to the show grounds, competing mustangs' freeze marks will be verified by a BLM or Bar M representative to determine the mustangs eligibility, it may be helpful to shave the hair around the freezemark ahead of time.
5. Upon entry to the show grounds, all competitors must provide a current 30-day health certificate and negative coggins.
6. Upon entry to the show grounds, competing mustangs will be examined to determine the health and condition of the horse. Should a mustang be deemed in poor condition, or unfit to show, by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual the mustang may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.
7. One stall per competing mustang will be provided. One shared tack stall will also be provided (may be shared with three other competitors). Competitors are not allowed to place locks on the horse's stall. Shavings and additional stalls may be purchased on site.
8. Only competition mustangs are allowed on the grounds. No other animals allowed on show grounds. No dogs allowed in stalls, arenas, meeting areas or other high traffic areas. Unless otherwise determined by the event facility.
9. Youth trainers are not allowed to ride, sit or stand on their 12-24-month-old Mustang at any time prior to or during the competition and will result in disqualification. This includes in the stall/warm-up areas at the event and during the competition itself.
10. An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practice times.
11. Competition schedule to be announced.

12. Winners will be announced following the competition.
13. Competitors will be given competition patterns (when applicable) at the event and will be given the opportunity to “walk through” the patterns with the judge, without their mustang, prior to the class.

JUDGING

14. Class awards may be presented. Class ties will be broken by the score from a predetermined class element. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. A tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.

EQUIPMENT

15. Mustangs will be shown in a halter of your choice. No chains.
16. Training aids (whips, sticks, treats, tail end of a 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.
17. 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.

TREATMENT

18. Excessive schooling will result in an automatic 10-point deduction off the overall class score.
19. 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. Competitors may clip/trim mustangs, 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 competitions and will result in an automatic 10-point deduction from each judge off the overall class score. Costume related additions/alterations will be allowed during the freestyle performance only. Alteration of tail function (tail blocking, dead tails, etc.) is prohibited at all points of competition and will result in disqualifications.
20. No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a mustang, either before or during the competition or auction. All medication, drugs, mechanical devices or artificial appliances, of such character as, could affect or enhance the mustangs performance or appearance at the event, is prohibited.

21. If a mustang is receiving medication, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the event manager, including the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount. The event reserves the right to drug test any mustang in the competition. Positive tests will result in removal from the event, refund or non-payment of any reimbursements, prize money and commission owed. In regard to herbal or 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.

AWARDS

22. Approximately **\$7,500** in CASH & additional prizes will be awarded to the top placing youth competitors. Additional overall and class prizes may be added.

CHAMPION	\$ 4,000
RESERVE	\$ 2,000
THIRD	\$ 1,000
FOURTH	\$ 500

CLASS DESCRIPTION & SCORING

23. Showmanship Class: **40 points**

The showmanship class is designed to showcase the foundation of the in-hand training that the mustang has received. During this class exhibitors will be asked to complete a pattern of maneuvers which may include, but are not limited to; lead at a walk, trot, back, pivot, side pass, pick up feet, brush each side and tail and load and unload from a trailer. A pattern will be provided at the event.

- ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty for losing your horse.
- ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty for going off-pattern.

24. Trail Class: **40 points**

The mustang trail class is designed to demonstrate the mustangs ability to navigate through a pattern of trail obstacles. Obstacles may include, but are not limited to; bridge, gate, walk and trot over poles, serpentine. Competitors will get the opportunity to review the course with the judge prior to the class.

- ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty for coming off of your horse.
- ❖ There will be a 2-point penalty for going off-pattern.

25. Freestyle Class: **40 points**

The freestyle class encourages competitors to choose music, costumes and props, which will allow them to show the athletic abilities of their horse in a crowd, appealing and entertaining way. During the freestyle performance competitors will be scored based on the following:

Overall Horsemanship - 20 points

- Communication and partnership between the horse and exhibitor and the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner. (10 points)
- The incorporation of maneuvers in their degree of difficulty. These maneuvers would include, but are not limited to; side pass in either direction, pulling, dragging, serpentines, lead changes, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc. (10 points)

Entertainment Value - 20 points

- Components of choreography - The composition and arrangement of the performance in relation to the music and it's rhythm (10 points)
- Creativity - The use of themes, maneuvers, costumes and props to enhance the performance and overall originality (10 points)

26. Sitting, riding or standing on the horse is not allowed. This includes in the stall/warm-up areas at the event and during the competition itself.

27. Competitors will have a maximum of four minutes to stage or set the arena for their performance.

28. Competitors must provide their own props and assistance for staging or setting the arena. It is the competitors responsibility to ensure all props and other materials are cleared from the arena immediately following their freestyle performance. Not clearing the arena of "debris" will result in a no score for the freestyle performance. "Debris" includes but is not limited to; hay, glitter, streamers, water, etc.

29. All props must be freestanding, not driven into the ground (no stakes, rebar, etc.) doing so will result in a no score for the freestyle performance.

30. Props of pyrotechnic nature, including fireworks, flares, fire, crackers, rings of fire, etc. are not allowed, and will result in a no score for the freestyle performance.

31. The use or wearing of guns, either real or toy, during the competition will result in an automatic disqualification.

32. Mustangs are not allowed to pull any items (carts, sleds, etc.), however the exhibitor may pull an item while leading the horse.

33. Competitors will have 3.5 minutes to complete their freestyle routine. The music and time will start simultaneously when the competitor or horse enters the arena, whichever comes first. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that event staff are aware of which will be entering first, horse or exhibitor, so that the time and music can be started appropriately.
34. Live voice-overs or commentary from the competitor or competitor representative are not allowed during the performance and will result in a disqualification.
35. Lighting cannot be manipulated or altered for a competitor's performance.
36. Music is a required element of the freestyle performance. If the competitor does not turn in music to the event staff, music may be selected for him or her. Music must be submitted as a single track either on a USB or emailed directly to a staff member. Music will not be played from a phone or any other device. The music file will be downloaded into a music system. All music is subject to review and approval by event staff.
37. All music selection and freestyle themes should be in good taste, and family friendly.
38. Additional animals, including dogs, horses, zebras, etc. will not be allowed in the arena during the freestyle performance for any reason, doing so will result in disqualification.
39. Vehicles can not be used during set up or the freestyle performance.
40. Additionally, mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope through moving vehicle's trailers or props of any kind. Doing so will result in disqualification.
41. A competitor may not stand or kneel on a horse that is standing, sitting, or laying on any object. An example includes; tarps, bridges, platforms, chairs, etc.
42. It is advised that competitors contact event staff with questions prior to their performance. It is the competitor's responsibility to clarify any questions regarding their freestyle performance.
43. Competitors must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance, bare feet are not allowed, and will result in disqualification.
44. Judges or event staff may stop or interrupt a performance deemed unsafe, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate.
45. Ties in the freestyle class will be broken by the horsemanship score. In the case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used.

46. All freestyle performance elements; props, costume and music are subject to final review and approval by event staff.

OVERVIEW - PENALTIES, DEDUCTIONS & DISQUALIFICATIONS

Class Penalties & Deductions:

1. 2-point penalty for losing your horse during a class.
2. 2-point penalty for going off-pattern in pattern classes.
3. 10-point deduction for excessive use of a training aid (including striking the horse).
4. 10-point deduction for excessive schooling or jerking on the lead line.
5. 10-point deduction for use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail.
6. 10-point deduction for altering, changing or attempting 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.

Disqualifications:

7. 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.
8. Alteration of tail function (tail blocking, dead tails, etc.) is prohibited at all points of competition.
9. The use of stud chains is prohibited and will result in an automatic disqualification of the class.
10. Live voice-overs or commentary from the competitor or competitor representative.
11. Additional animals, including dogs, horses, zebras, etc.
12. Mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope through moving vehicles, trailers, or props of any kind.
13. Competitors must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance, bare feet are not allowed.

For more information on the Fort Worth Mustang Show, please call Stormy Mullins at 940-445-9773 or go to www.thefortworthmustangshow.com.