

# Mid America Foxtrotting Horse Association Four Year Old Maturity

## Rules & Regulations

**Rule # 1.** All entries must be owned by a Mid America member. Membership fees of \$15.00 - Individual or \$25.00 - family, payable to the association at the time of nomination or before. No entry will be accepted without current membership.

**Rule # 2.** Entries must be received or postmarked by April 1st, or be subject to late penalties in rule #3.

**Rule # 3.** Entries can be paid up in the Maturity until the day of the show for \$300. All entry fees must be paid in full in the Mid America Office at the show, and cannot be put on a Tab. Entry fee will be \$300 April 2nd until the day of the show. All paid in full entries received by April 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible to nominate a judge.

**Rule # 4.** All nominations shall include the completed entry form, the entry fee and a copy of the registration papers. The rules and entry forms are also available at our web site [www.mofoxtrot.com/midamerica](http://www.mofoxtrot.com/midamerica).

**Rule # 5.** All horses must be nominated by their registered MFTHBA name.

**Rule # 6.** All entry nominations, entry fees, and judges' ballots are to be sent to the following address:

Mid America Fox Trotting Horse Assn. Attn: Maturity ♦ P.O. Box 726 ♦ Republic, MO 65738

Please make checks payable to MAFTHA. Please do not send cash in the mail. Be sure to mail all correspondence to the address above.

**Rule # 7.** Entries may have been shown at halter or in performance classes previously and remain eligible for the show.

**Rule # 8.** The entry fee will only be refunded upon receipt of a death certificate from a licensed veterinarian, provided the certificate is presented to the Maturity Treasurer within 30 days of death.

**Rule # 9.** Declaration to the division (Open or Amateur) will be made at the entry desk on the day of show. A horse may not be shown in both Amateur and Open Divisions.

**Rule #10.** Once Mid America has been notified from our bank of insufficient funds from an entry after the entry deadline, the individual will have 5 business days to send the appropriate funds after being contacted by Mid America, with the additional bank fee included.

**Rule #11.** Disruptive and/or Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of show participants, owners, or spectators will not be tolerated and can result in disqualification from the show, forfeit of prizes and/or expulsion from the grounds.

### **EXHIBITING**

**Rule # 12.** Both owner and rider of any horse shown in the Maturity shall be required to be a current member of the Mid America Fox Trotting Horse Association.

**Rule # 13.** Horses will be ridden (and timed, if desired), at the discretion of the call judge. In the event of large classes, the judges may stop the class and dismiss a number of entries for simplicity of judging the class. Should this be determined by the judges, the procedure will be announced when the class is called. ***This rule may be modified or adjusted by the board of directors.***

**Rule # 15.** If a rider dismounts because of a fall or without permission he/she will be disqualified.

**Rule # 16.** Time-out will only be allowed if approved by the ring steward.

**Rule # 17.** The USDA/HPA rules will take precedence over Mid-America rules in case of conflict. Any entry who receives a ticket from the USDA or the DQP officials will be disqualified from the show and all prizes forfeited.

**Rule # 18.** If preliminary workouts are necessary, they may be adjusted at the board's discretion. The top ten from each preliminary workout are eligible to show back in the semi-final classes and the top ten from each semi-final classes are eligible to show back in the championship classes.

**Rule #19.** Amateur – Conforms to the rules of the MFTHBA description of Open Amateur.

**Rule # 20.** An infraction of the rules must be protested in writing within 60 minutes of the offense by submitting a \$100.00 fee to a Mid America board member. Frivolous protests will not be considered.

**Rule # 22.** Any entry that is disqualified by a judge will be excused from the class.

### **JUDGES AND JUDGING**

**Rule # 23.** All Maturity entries paid in full by April 1, are eligible to vote for the judges as nominated by the Owners of the Two Year Old Futurity entries. The top ten names will be determined and a ballot sent to all eligible Two Year Old Futurity entries who will select five judges. The final voting ballots will be mailed by May 1 and must be returned to the Maturity Treasurer postmarked by June 1. The judges will be determined by exhibitor ballot.

**Rule # 24.** Neither the judge nor members of their family shall exhibit or own a horse in the show.

**Rule # 25.** The judge will not be eligible to judge provided that he/she has trained, exhibited, conditioned, boarded, or owned any horse to be shown. If a judge cannot exercise an objective opinion, free from possible prejudice, bias, or outside influence, because of a connection with an owner, exhibitor or anyone else connected with the horse, or, for that matter, if such connection would appear to others of possible bias, whether or not the judge feels he or she would be affected, a judge must disqualify himself or herself, or may be disqualified by the MAFTHA Board of Directors. The judge must have a current MFTHBA judge's card and be in good standing with MAFTHA and MFTHBA.

**Rule # 26.** The judge shall not appear on the show grounds more than 15 minutes before the judging begins from the day the show begins until the conclusion of the final day of the show. Judges shall not visit with the exhibitors, owners, or handlers before the show, nor inspect or discuss any horse prior to class time. In the event this rule is violated, the judge will be dismissed and the alternate will judge. Judges shall not discuss horses or judging from the day the show begins until the conclusion of the final day of the show.

### **PAYBACK**

**Rule #27.** Payback money will be split between the Divisions based on the number of entries per division on a percentage basis. 5% of the money received will be held for administrative and operational expenses of the Mid America Foxtrotting Horse Association.