



2022 Alabama Wild Mustang TIP Challenge Rules

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. Youth (ages 8-17) and/or adults (ages 18 and up) are eligible to participate. Parents/guardians/sponsors of youth must sign all appropriate applications and Mustang adoption forms and must ultimately be responsible for the care of horses. Children may not receive assistance while in the arena competing.
3. No substitution or replacement of the accepted adopter will be allowed. The adopter who is accepted must be the individual that trains and competes. Youth adopters may receive help in the training and conditioning of their Mustang, but may NOT have assistance during the competition.
4. Adopters will receive \$200 from the Mustang Heritage Foundation at the conclusion of the event (to be disbursed through the event manager) to offset horse/burro care and travel expenses. If the adopter must withdraw from the competition due to injury, he or she must supply a doctor or veterinarian note to the event manager describing the injury and/or reason why the adopter or animal will not be able to compete in order to receive the \$200 reimbursement.
5. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles. Silver on your equipment or sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.
6. Training aides will not be restricted, although adopters should realize that horses/burros shown without the use of training aides may be scored higher.
7. RIDING, SITTING, STANDING, and/or PULLING/DRAGGING: a. Adopters are not allowed to ride, sit or stand on their Mustangs or burros at any time prior to or during the competition. This competition is in-hand only. b. Horses under 3 years old are not allowed to pull any items (carts, sleds, etc.), however the exhibitor may pull an item while leading the horse. Page 4 of 4 Mustang Heritage Foundation© c. Horses 3 years old or older may pull items (carts, sleds, etc.). d. Burros competing in any jumping, driving, log dragging, versatility or harness classes must be 3 years old or older.
8. A tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the competition in case of ties.
9. Drugs: No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang or burro, either before or during the competition or adoption. Any medication, drug mechanical device or artificial appliance,

which is of such character that it could affect performance or appearance at the event, is forbidden. If a Mustang/burro is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the event manager as to the reason for medication and the prescribed amount. THE MUSTANG HERITAGE FOUNDATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS and SCORING

SHOWMANSHIP & CONDITIONING - 80 points from each judge

a) **Conditioning** — 40 points

The horse's condition will be judged in two areas:

- **Appropriate weight/muscling**- 20 points. The score will not reflect conformation. To learn more about appropriate weight/conditioning for a horse please Visit <http://www.gerlltd.org/Education/Equine%20Body%20Condition%20Score%20Presentation.pdf>
- **Overall Appearance** - 20 points. This score will reflect hair and coat condition, feet condition, grooming, etc.

NOTE: 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, hoof polish, or in any other manner. Trainers may clip/trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural. Use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail are prohibited. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails.

b) **Showmanship** – 40 points

Judges will assess the partnership between horse and trainer, as well as correctness of execution, through the completion of 8 showmanship maneuvers including but not limited to the following: walk, trot, stop, back, side-pass, pivot, etc.

IN-HAND TRAIL— 40 points from each judge

Trainers will maneuver their horse through a course of 8 obstacles as described by a pattern. Obstacles to expect may be, but are not limited to - ground poles, standing poles, cones, a bridge, a horse trailer, a flag, a drag, a ball, a tire, etc. Maneuvers to expect may be but are not limited to – walk/trot over, send across, side-pass in front of or over, back up straight or in a curve, lead through, weave between, load and unload, ground tie, picking all four feet up, etc.

LIBERTY HORSEMANSHIP – 40 points from each judge

This class will be completed inside of a round pen. Trainers will demonstrate 8 basic horsemanship tasks, typically occurring during a round pen session with a horse at liberty, such as, but not limited to – taking the halter off, circling, changes of direction, speed control, catching the horse and haltering, etc. Judges will assess the horse's demeanor and responsiveness as well as the partnership between horse and trainer. The tasks may be completed on-line if needed, but a lower level of difficulty score will be applied accordingly. The use of training whips (dressage/driving/lunge) or horsemanship sticks is allowed.

FREESTYLE - 80 points per judge: Exhibitors are encouraged to choose music, costumes and props that permit them to show the athletic abilities of their horses in a crowd appealing way.

The **Freestyle** portion will be scored in the following areas:

Overall Horsemanship - 40 points per judge:

- **Harmony** – 20 points

The communication and partnership between horse and trainer, and the horse's overall willingness, relaxation and confidence.

- Degree of Difficulty – 20 points

Incorporation of a variety of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty. These maneuvers would include but are not limited to – pivot, side pass, back up, pulling or dragging, serpentine, tricks (lay down, bow, sit, etc.), circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc.

Entertainment Value - 40 points per judge:

- Choreography, Musicality and Creativity - 20 points

The composition and arrangement of the exhibition in relation to the music and its rhythm. The use of themes, maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance and overall originality.

- Audience Engagement – 20 points

The entertained response of audience – laughter, cheer, applause, emotional connection to the theme, etc.

Freestyle Rules and Regulations:

A. Exhibitors are not allowed to sit or stand on 12-24-month-old Mustangs or Burros and doing so will result in disqualification.

B. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up and tear down - It is the trainer's responsibility to make sure all props are cleared from the arena immediately following the conclusion of the freestyle performance, including hay, confetti, etc. Not completely clearing the arena of debris will result in a no score for the freestyle.

C. All props must be freestanding nothing may be driven into the ground (i.e. rebar, stakes, etc.), and doing so will result in a no score for the freestyle.

D. Props of pyrotechnic nature I.e. fireworks, flares, sparklers, firecrackers, etc. ARE NOT allowed and will result in disqualification.

E. Shooting guns and/or blanks will be allowed but must be approved by the show management prior to the event.

F. Trainers will have 4 minutes prior to their performance to stage or set the arena.

G. Trainers will have 5 minutes to complete their freestyle performance. The music and time will start simultaneously when the trainer or horse enters the arena, whichever comes first. It is the trainer's responsibility to ensure TIP staff is aware of which is entering first (horse or rider), so that the time and music can be started appropriately. Failure to do so will result in a no score for the freestyle. Trainers must email their music, no later than 1 week prior to event (as an mp3 file!) or the music will be selected for them.

H. Music is a required component of the freestyle performance. Trainers must email their music, no later than 1 week prior to event (as an mp3 file!) or the music will be selected for them. Music will not be played from a phone or any other device. The music file will be downloaded into our music system. All music is subject to review and approval by TIP staff.

I. Mustangs are not allowed to walk, trot or lope onto/into any moving vehicles or trailers of any kind and doing so will result in disqualification. Mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope onto/into any covered vehicles or trailers of any kind and doing so will result in disqualification.

J. Trainers must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance — bare feet are not allowed and will result in disqualification.

K. Judges and/or TIP staff may stop any performance deemed unsafe, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate. All items/props are subject to final review and approval by TIP staff.