



|                                                   |           |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <u>IMHA Membership Rules &amp; Policies</u>       | <u>4</u>  |
| <u>1. Purpose</u>                                 | <u>4</u>  |
| <u>2. Membership Categories</u>                   | <u>4</u>  |
| <u>2.1. Adult Amateur Membership \$80</u>         | <u>4</u>  |
| <u>2.2. Adult Professional Membership - \$100</u> | <u>4</u>  |
| <u>2.3. Youth Membership - \$50</u>               | <u>4</u>  |
| <u>3. Membership Requirements</u>                 | <u>5</u>  |
| <u>4. Membership Rights &amp; Benefits</u>        | <u>5</u>  |
| <u>5. Amateur Status Rules</u>                    | <u>5</u>  |
| <u>6. Membership Suspension &amp; Revocation</u>  | <u>5</u>  |
| <u>6 Appeals</u>                                  | <u>6</u>  |
| <u>7. Contact</u>                                 | <u>6</u>  |
| <u>Horse Registration Rules and Policies</u>      | <u>6</u>  |
| <u>1. Mustang Eligibility Requirements</u>        | <u>6</u>  |
| <u>2. Required Documentation</u>                  | <u>6</u>  |
| <u>4. Transition from Temporary to Sealed</u>     | <u>7</u>  |
| <u>5. Point Accumulation Rules</u>                | <u>7</u>  |
| <u>6. Transfer of Ownership</u>                   | <u>7</u>  |
| <u>7. Verification &amp; Inspections</u>          | <u>7</u>  |
| <u>8. Policy Review</u>                           | <u>8</u>  |
| <u>How to Register</u>                            | <u>8</u>  |
| <u>Facility &amp; Safety Requirements</u>         | <u>9</u>  |
| <u>Competition &amp; Judging Standards</u>        | <u>9</u>  |
| <u>Insurance &amp; Liability</u>                  | <u>10</u> |
| <u>Event Reporting &amp; Results Submission</u>   | <u>10</u> |
| <u>Code of Conduct for Hosts</u>                  | <u>10</u> |
| <u>Violations &amp; Penalties</u>                 | <u>10</u> |
| <u>Hosting Benefits</u>                           | <u>11</u> |
| <u>1. Introduction</u>                            | <u>12</u> |
| <u>2. General Welfare Standards</u>               | <u>12</u> |
| <u>3. Training &amp; Competition Guidelines</u>   | <u>12</u> |
| <u>4. Facility &amp; Event Standards</u>          | <u>13</u> |
| <u>5. Zero Tolerance for Abuse &amp; Neglect</u>  | <u>13</u> |
| <u>6. Reporting &amp; Enforcement</u>             | <u>14</u> |
| <u>7. Commitment to Mustang Welfare</u>           | <u>14</u> |
| <u>1. Purpose</u>                                 | <u>15</u> |
| <u>2. General Policy Statement</u>                | <u>15</u> |
| <u>3. Prohibited Substances</u>                   | <u>15</u> |
| <u>4. Permitted Medications</u>                   | <u>17</u> |
| <u>5. Testing Procedures</u>                      | <u>17</u> |

|                                                                     |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <a href="#">6. Violations &amp; Penalties</a>                       | <a href="#">17</a> |
| <a href="#">7. Reporting &amp; Appeals</a>                          | <a href="#">18</a> |
| <a href="#">8. Commitment to Fairness</a>                           | <a href="#">18</a> |
| <a href="#">1. Description of Governance</a>                        | <a href="#">19</a> |
| <a href="#">2. Ownership and Structure</a>                          | <a href="#">19</a> |
| <a href="#">3. Principal Leadership Titles and Responsibilities</a> | <a href="#">19</a> |
| <a href="#">4. Administrative Teams</a>                             | <a href="#">19</a> |
| <a href="#">5. Decision-Making Authority</a>                        | <a href="#">19</a> |
| <a href="#">6. Mustang Professionals (MPs)</a>                      | <a href="#">20</a> |
| <a href="#">7. Committee Assignments</a>                            | <a href="#">20</a> |
| <a href="#">8. Transition to Independent Entity</a>                 | <a href="#">20</a> |
| <a href="#">9. Policy Amendments</a>                                | <a href="#">20</a> |
| <a href="#">10. Transparency and Ethics</a>                         | <a href="#">20</a> |



# IMHA Rule Book

Version 1.2 (Sep 2025)

---

## IMHA Overview

### Purpose

The International Mustang Horse Association (IMHA) exists to promote, preserve, and celebrate mustangs through education, competition, and community. All human members agree to uphold IMHA's mission, rules, and animal welfare standards.

### Tagline

*"International Mustang Horse Association: Supporting Mustangs Beyond Adoption."*

### Mission

*The International Mustang Horse Association (IMHA) empowers mustang owners by providing resources, education, and community support to help their horses thrive beyond adoption. Our mission is to showcase the versatility of trained mustangs, create opportunities for owners to achieve their goals, and foster a strong network of enthusiasts dedicated to their success.*

### Vision

*The International Mustang Horse Association (IMHA) is dedicated to supporting mustang owners beyond adoption, helping them unlock the full potential of their horses. We aim to provide resources, education, and a thriving community where owners and trainers can set and achieve meaningful goals. By spotlighting the versatility and uniqueness of trained mustangs, we create opportunities for enthusiasts to connect, learn, and celebrate their horses across various disciplines. Through collaboration and advocacy, we ensure that adopted mustangs have a path forward to a successful and fulfilling future where their value is increased through achievement.*

### Values

- *Humane, empathetic, and kind actions that prioritize horse welfare.*
- *Education rooted in horsemanship.*
- *Meaningful relationships between horses and humans, as well as within the community.*
- *A culture of encouragement and support.*
- *Mustang and human growth and development beyond adoption.*

## Elevator Speech

*The International Mustang Horse Association (IMHA) helps mustang owners succeed beyond adoption. We provide resources, education, and a supportive community to showcase the versatility of trained mustangs and create opportunities for owners to reach their goals. Whether you're a trainer, rider, or simply passionate about these incredible horses, IMHA connects you with the tools and people to ensure your mustang has a successful and fulfilling future.*

## History

*The International Mustang Horse Association (IMHA) was founded in 2025 under Live Equestrian LLC to become the premier organization for registering mustangs and providing them a place to showcase their talents throughout their entire career—not just at adoption. IMHA was started by Teddy Franke, Scott DePaolo, and Wendy Hensley, each with deep roots in horsemanship, mustang training, and education. With firsthand experience placing, training, and promoting mustangs, they saw the need for an organization that could support these horses beyond the adoption pen. IMHA is still being built—with the support of programs like Teens & Oregon Mustangs, and through the passion of countless horsemen, trainers, owners, and enthusiasts who are dedicated to the future of the American Mustang. This is more than a registry. It's a growing movement to give mustangs a place to be recognized, to shine, and to thrive—for life. IMHA isn't just for professionals—it's for everyone who believes in the value, versatility, and heart of the mustang. Whether you're a trainer, a youth competitor, a weekend trail rider, or a lifelong mustang fan, there's a place for you here. Your mustang has a story. Let it be recognized. Get involved. Be counted. Ride with us.*

---

# Membership

---

## Adult Amateur Membership \$80

- For individuals 18 years or older.
- Must not earn more than 50% of annual income from equine-related professional activities.
- Eligible for Amateur divisions in shows.
- May not train horses for pay, accept payment for riding horses not owned by the member, or instruct lessons for remuneration.

## Adult Professional Membership - \$100

- For individuals 18 years or older who derive income from equine training, instruction, or related services.
- Eligible for Open/Professional divisions.
- May conduct clinics, training, and accept payment for equine services.
- Must meet IMHA professional credentialing requirements (if applicable).
- May be asked to serve on temporary governance or disciplinary committees.
- Are expected to help maintain IMHA standards and policies.

## Youth Membership - \$50

- For individuals under 18 years old.
- Eligible for youth-only classes, awards, and programs.
- Must compete only in youth divisions.
- Requires parent or guardian consent.
- Membership cost is \$50 annually

---

## Membership Requirements

- Must complete an official IMHA Membership Application.
  - Must pay annual dues by January 31 each year to remain in good standing.
  - Must agree to abide by all IMHA Rules, Code of Conduct, and the Animal Welfare Policy.
  - Must notify IMHA of any changes in contact information or membership status (e.g., Amateur to Professional).
-

## 4. Membership Rights & Benefits

- All members in good standing are entitled to:
  - Compete in IMHA-approved events appropriate to their membership level.
  - Earn and accumulate points towards annual and lifetime awards.
  - Access IMHA educational resources, clinics, and training opportunities.
  - Receive member communications and updates.
- 

### Amateur Status Rules

- Amateurs must comply with all IMHA amateur definitions.
  - Misrepresentation of amateur status is grounds for disciplinary action.
  - Amateurs found to be conducting professional activities beyond 50% of their taxable income may have points revoked and status changed retroactively.
  - Members may apply to change status from Amateur to Professional at any time, but not vice versa within the same competition year.
- 

### Membership Suspension & Revocation

Membership may be suspended or revoked for:

- Violations of IMHA Rules or the Animal Welfare Policy.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Fraudulent activity (e.g., falsified entries, misrepresented horse registration).
- Failure to pay fees or fines.
- Actions detrimental to the reputation and mission of IMHA
- In the event of a perceived misconduct IMHA will convene a committee of review consisting of three professional members.. These members will review the misconduct and make a recommendation for suspension or other disciplinary action to the IMHA directors. If the board of review deems the alleged misconduct is unwarranted there will be no further action. Suspended members lose all membership privileges until reinstated.

### Appeals

- Members have the right to appeal disciplinary actions to the IMHA Executive Directors. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the disciplinary notice.
- IMHA Executive Board will determine a course of action through majority vote.

## Contact

Questions about membership status, rules, or applications should be directed to:

 [\[info@IMHA.com\]](mailto:info@IMHA.com)

# Horse Registration

---

## Mustang Eligibility Requirements

- Mustang Origin:
- Only mustangs adopted through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or another recognized government adoption program are eligible for IMHA registration.
- BLM Identification: Each mustang must have an official BLM freezemark brand, which serves as the primary unique identifier for IMHA registration.
- The freezemark number must match the paperwork submitted with the application. Photo must be submitted with application for registration.

### Ownership Status:

- Temporary Registration: Available for mustangs under active BLM adoption status (not yet titled).
- Sealed Registration: Available for titled mustangs (ownership officially transferred from BLM to adopter, verified by BLM Title Certificate).

## Required Documentation:

- Applicants must submit: A completed IMHA Mustang Registration application Form.
- A copy of the BLM adoption paperwork (for Temporary Registration). A copy of the BLM Title Certificate (for Sealed Registration).
- Clear, recent photographs showing: The freezemark brand clearly. Four clear focused photos in good lighting from the front back and either side.

## Registration Fees:

- Temporary Registration: \$45 — valid for one calendar year; points earned will transfer once the horse is sealed.
- Sealed Registration: \$90 — one-time, permanent registration for titled mustangs. Transfer of Ownership: \$25 — required within 100 days of a change in ownership to maintain points.
- There will be a late fee of an additional \$25 for registrations received after 100 days.

## Transition from Temporary to Sealed

- Owners may apply for Sealed Registration upon receiving the BLM title.
- The horse's freezemark must be verified again at the time of sealing.
- All points earned during the Temporary Registration period transfer to the permanent record.
- A horse that is already titled may immediately apply for a sealed registration and is not required to have a temporary registration.

## Point Accumulation Rules

- Mustangs must be officially registered (Temporary or Sealed) before participating in point-earning IMHA events.
- Points will not be applied retroactively for activities prior to registration.
- Horses with expired Temporary Registration will not earn points until renewed or sealed.

### Transfer of Ownership

- - IMHA must be notified within 100 days of any transfer of ownership.
- The new owner must submit:
  - A transfer form
  - The horse's freezemark details
  - Supporting proof of transfer
  - The \$25 fee to maintain continuity of the horse's points and records.
- All accumulated points remain attached to the horse's IMHA record.

### Verification & Inspections

- IMHA reserves the right to verify any mustang's freezemark and identity through photos, inspections, or microchip scanning if applicable.
- Falsified identification or documents will result in cancellation of registration and forfeiture of all accumulated points and awards.

### Policy Review

- IMHA reviews registration and identification policies annually to ensure alignment with standards and best practices

## How to Register

1. Complete the IMHA Mustang Registration Form (available online).
2. Attach required BLM paperwork, clear freezemark photos, and horse photos.
3. Pay the applicable registration or transfer fee.
4. Receive a unique IMHA Registration Number — required for all IMHA-sanctioned events.

# Show Rules & Competition Guidelines

---

## 1. General Eligibility

- Horses **do not need to be IMHA registered** to compete. However, **only IMHA-registered horses are eligible to earn points and awards.**
- Riders are **not required to be IMHA members** to enter. Membership is encouraged and provides a **discounted entry fee** plus eligibility for points tracking and year-end awards.

## 2. Class Participation

- Horses may be shown **Western, English**, in any IMHA class, including in-hand divisions.
- Horses and riders will be judged by the **standards of the discipline they represent:**
  - A **Forward seat rider** is expected to demonstrate correct English equitation and position.
  - A **Western rider** is expected to ride in a Western seat with appropriate posture and balance.
  - A **Dressage rider** is expected to meet basic dressage seat and presentation requirements.

## 3. Tack & Equipment

- All tack must be safe, clean, and appropriate for the discipline declared by the rider.
  - **Bits and Rein Use:**
    - Riders may use a **direct rein (two hands)** at any time when using a bit designed for direct reining (e.g., snaffle).
    - When a **solid or curb bit** is used, the expectation is that the horse be shown primarily in an **indirect (neck rein)** style.
  - In-hand classes require a halter and lead, or other equipment as specified in the posted pattern.
- ## 4. Exhibitor Conduct & Attire
- Exhibitors must present themselves in attire appropriate to the discipline they are representing.
  - Neatness, safety, and respect for the horse will be considered in judging.

- Helmets are strongly encouraged in all divisions; youth riders may be required to wear ASTM/SEI-certified helmets per event regulations.

## 5. **Judging Standards**

- Judges will evaluate exhibitors by discipline standards, horsemanship, horse's manners and movement, and class-specific criteria as published in the show program.
- Judge's decisions are final. Concerns may be filed with show management in accordance with IMHA protest procedures.

## 6. **Sportsmanship & Welfare**

- Exhibitors must uphold IMHA's **Code of Ethics** and **Animal Welfare Policy** at all times.
- Any mistreatment of horses, poor sportsmanship, or unsafe conduct may result in disqualification or removal from the event.

# Show or Event Hosting

---

IMHA celebrates the versatility of mustangs. As such we approve events in a variety of disciplines. Any member can host a show provided they meet the following requirements: General Requirements for Hosts

- Hosts must submit an Event Application at least 30 days prior to the proposed event date.
  - Secure an IMHA carded Judge for the event.
  - Events must be open to all IMHA-registered mustangs in applicable divisions.
  - Events must follow IMHA-approved judging criteria and competition formats.
  - Hosts are responsible for organizing and managing a safe, fair, and professional event.
  - All required fees (e.g., approval fee, judge, and participant fees) must be paid in full before the event date.
- 

## Facility & Safety Requirements

- Facilities must provide adequate space, footing, and shelter for competing mustangs.
  - A licensed veterinarian must be on-site or on-call during all event hours.
  - The event must have sufficient water, shade, and rest areas for horses and participants.
  - First-aid stations must be available for both horses and riders.
  - A documented emergency evacuation plan must be in place for natural disasters, fire, or other hazards.
-

# Competition & Judging Standards

---

Judges must undergo an online IMHA training and testing process to receive a card that qualifies them to judge IMHA shows or events. They must maintain an active professional membership and renew their training once every two years.

To judge an IMHA show you must meet the following criteria:

- Current judges card
- Current first aid certification
- All IMHA events must follow **IMHA-approved scoring and ranking formats**. (See event summary report)
- **Minimum class entries:** Each competition class must have at least **three (3)** entries to qualify for IMHA point awards.
- All horses must comply with IMHA's anti doping Policy and Animal Welfare Policy.
- Event hosts and judges are responsible for enforcing all **IMHA conduct and welfare policies** for participants and horses.

## Insurance & Liability

- Hosts must provide **proof of liability insurance**, listing IMHA as an **additional insured entity**.
  - All participants must **sign a liability waiver** before entering the competition grounds. Waivers must be returned to IMHA with the event summary report.
  - IMHA is not responsible for **accidents, injuries, or property damage** occurring at sanctioned events.
  - All **incidents** must be reported to IMHA and included in the **event summary report**.
- 

## Event Reporting & Results Submission

- Hosts must submit an Event Summary Report within 14 days after the event concludes.
  - Late submission of results or failure to report incidents may result in loss of future sanctioning privileges.
-

## Code of Conduct for Hosts

- Hosts must exhibit **professionalism, integrity, and fairness** in all areas of event organization.
  - **Discrimination, harassment, or unethical behavior** will not be tolerated and may result in revocation of sanctioning.
  - All **staff, volunteers, and participants** must be treated with **respect and courtesy**.
  - Hosts are responsible for ensuring all staff are familiar with and enforce **IMHA rules and welfare policies**.
- 

## Violations & Penalties

- IMHA reserves the right to **audit and review** any sanctioned event for compliance.
  - **Minor infractions** (e.g., late results, minor safety violations) may result in **warnings or monetary fines not to exceed \$100 per infraction**.
  - **Major infractions** (e.g., violations of horse welfare, insurance noncompliance, ethical misconduct, failure to report incidents) may result in **event cancellation, suspension, or permanent loss of hosting privileges**.
- 

## Hosting Benefits

- By hosting an IMHA-sanctioned event, organizers gain:
- Recognition as an **IMHA-approved event host**.
- The ability to offer competitors **official IMHA points and awards**.
- Access to **IMHA support**, including promotional materials, listings on the IMHA calendar, and judging resources.

For questions or to apply for event sanctioning, please contact:  
office@IMHA.com

# Animal Welfare Policy

---

## Introduction

The **International Mustang Horse Association (IMHA)** is committed to ensuring the humane treatment, ethical training, and responsible care of mustangs in all aspects of competition, training, and management. This **Animal Welfare Policy** establishes the standards and expectations for all IMHA members, event participants, and sanctioned event organizers to uphold the **highest level of horse welfare** at all times. IMHA aligns its welfare principles with guidance from the **Animal Welfare Council**, advocating for responsible horse management and the ethical treatment of equines in all disciplines.

---

## General Welfare Standards

- All IMHA members and participants must adhere to the following general welfare principles:
  - Horses must be **treated with respect, patience, and fairness** at all times.
  - All training, handling, and competition practices must prioritize **the safety and well-being of the horse**.
  - Mustangs must have access to **adequate food, water, and shelter**.
  - Horses must receive\*\* veterinary care, hoof care, and appropriate conditioning as needed to maintain their health and performance.
  - Any act of **neglect, mistreatment, or inhumane treatment** will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.
  - Horses must be allowed adequate **rest and recovery periods** between strenuous activities to prevent overexertion.
- 

## Training & Competition Guidelines

- To ensure ethical training and competition, the following guidelines must be followed:
- Training methods must be based on **patience, empathy, and respect\*\*** for the horse.
- **Harsh or abusive training techniques**, including excessive spurring, whipping, or the use of severe bits or tack, are strictly prohibited.
- **Lameness, illness, or injury** must be evaluated by a competent equine professional before the horse is allowed to compete.
- Horses showing signs of **distress, fatigue, or injury** must be withdrawn from competition immediately.
- **Drug-Free Competition:** IMHA enforces a **strict anti-doping policy** and prohibits the use of any **performance-enhancing drugs, sedatives, or substances** that alter a horse's natural ability.

- Training sessions must be **appropriate for the horse's age, physical ability, and mental readiness**, ensuring gradual development.

## Facility & Event Standards

IMHA-sanctioned events must meet the following facility and event safety requirements:

- **Safe footing and arena conditions** must be provided to prevent injury.
  - **Humane transportation** methods must be used when hauling mustangs to and from events.
  - **Adequate shade, water, and rest areas** must be available at all competitions.
  - **Overcrowding in stalls, trailers, or holding areas** is prohibited.
  - All competitions must be overseen by an **IMHA-approved judge and event officials** to ensure compliance with animal welfare policies.
  - Events must include **qualified veterinary support personnel on-site or on call** to handle any equine medical concerns.
  - Horses must be assessed for **proper body condition**, and those deemed **underweight or unfit** may be **disqualified from participation**.
- 

## Zero Tolerance for Abuse & Neglect

- IMHA enforces a **zero-tolerance policy** for abuse, neglect, or mistreatment of any horse. The following actions are strictly prohibited:
- **Intentional physical abuse**, including excessive force, striking, or mistreatment.
- **Neglect**, such as failing to provide food, water, or medical care.
- **Forcing an injured or sick horse to train or compete.**
- **Unethical training practices** that cause undue stress, fear, or discomfort to the horse.
- **Use of prohibited equipment** that causes pain or restricts natural movement.
- **Overuse of restrictive training devices** that hinder normal movement or cause distress.
- Horses must not be subjected to **excessive or repeated stressful situations** that compromise their well-being.

Violations of these policies will result in **investigation, suspension from competition, or permanent banning from IMHA events.**

---

## Reporting & Enforcement

- IMHA encourages all members and participants to report any suspected violations of this policy. Reports can be made **confidentially** to IMHA officials. The enforcement process includes:
  - **Initial Review:** IMHA officials or professionals will conduct an immediate review of the reported incident.
  - **Investigation:** Witness statements, video evidence, and veterinary assessments may be used to determine if a violation occurred.
  - **Disciplinary Action:** Violations may result in **warnings, disqualification, suspension, or permanent expulsion from IMHA events and/or membership.**
  - **Appeals Process:** Any individual found in violation may submit an appeal for review by an IMHA disciplinary committee..
- 

## Commitment to Mustang Welfare

IMHA is dedicated to **ensuring that mustangs thrive in their second careers** beyond the wild. By implementing and enforcing these welfare policies, we strive to create a **safe, ethical, and respectful environment** for both horses and handlers.

All IMHA members, trainers, and event organizers are expected to **uphold these standards** and be **active advocates for mustang welfare.**

For any questions or to report a violation, please contact [office@IMHA.com](mailto:office@IMHA.com)

---

**Thank you for your commitment to the health and well-being of mustangs!**

## Anti Doping Policy

---

## 1. Purpose

The International Mustang Horse Association (IMHA) is committed to ensuring fair and ethical competition while protecting the health and well-being of all participating mustangs. This Anti-Doping Policy outlines the substances and practices prohibited in IMHA-sanctioned events and establishes procedures for testing, reporting, and enforcement.

---

## 2. General Policy Statement

- All mustangs competing in IMHA-sanctioned events must be **free of performance-enhancing drugs, sedatives, or any other prohibited substances**.
  - The use of substances intended to artificially enhance performance, mask pain or injury, or alter a horse's natural behavior is **strictly prohibited**.
  - The responsibility for compliance lies with the **owner, trainer, and rider/handler** of the horse.
- 

## 3. Prohibited Substances

- Prohibited substances include, but are not limited to:
- **Stimulants** (e.g., caffeine, amphetamines)
- **Sedatives and tranquilizers** (e.g., acepromazine, xylazine, dormosedan etc)
- **Steroids** (anabolic or corticosteroids used to enhance performance)
- **Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)** beyond permitted thresholds
- **Painkillers and numbing agents :**
  - NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs):
  - Phenylbutazone
  - Flunixin meglumine
  - Firocoxib
  - Ketoprofen
  - Meclofenamic acid
  - Aspirin
  - Naproxen

Opioids / Narcotic Analgesics:

- Butorphanol
- Buprenorphine
- Tramadol
- Morphine

Local Anesthetics (Numbing Agents):

- Lidocaine
- Mepivacaine
- Bupivacaine
- Procaine

Other Pain-Relieving Substances:

- Dexamethasone
- Triamcinolone
- Betamethasone
- Gabapentin
- DMSO

Devil's Claw (herbal)

1. **Hormones and growth promoters**
2. **Any masking agents or diuretics used to interfere with drug detection.**

**Examples include (but are not limited to):**

- Probenecid
  - Furosemide (Lasix) when not used for medically diagnosed EIPH
  - Glycerol
  - Certain alkalinizing agents (bicarbonates, "milkshakes")
  - Furosemide (outside of sanctioned therapeutic use)
  - Hydrochlorothiazide
  - Spironolactone
  - Mannitol
- 

#### 4. Permitted Medications

- Some medications may be permitted for therapeutic use when:

- The treatment is medically necessary and prescribed by a **licensed veterinarian**.
  - A **Medication is declared on the show entry with a prescription from a licensed veterinarian**.
  - The medication does not confer an **unfair advantage** or mask a condition that could jeopardize the horse's welfare or safety.
- 

## 5. Testing Procedures

- IMHA reserves the right to conduct **random or targeted drug testing** at any sanctioned event.
  - Testing may be carried out by **licensed veterinarians**
  - Samples may include **blood, urine, or hair** and will be sent to an accredited equine drug testing laboratory.
  - Refusal to submit to testing or interference with the collection process will be considered a **violation** of this policy and subject to violations and penalties as described in section 6 below.
- 

## 6. Violations & Penalties

If a horse tests positive for a prohibited substance:

- The horse will be **disqualified** from the event and forfeit all awards, points, and earnings from that event.
  - The responsible party (owner/trainer/rider) may face:
  - **Suspension from IMHA competitions**
  - **Fines or forfeiture of membership privileges**
  - **Permanent disqualification** for repeated or severe violations
  - Sanctions will be determined by convening an **IMHA Disciplinary Committee**, with the right to appeal under the IMHA Appeals Process.
-

## 7. Reporting & Appeals

- Suspected violations may be reported confidentially to IMHA.
  - Individuals who receive notice of a violation have the right to:
    - Request a **B sample analysis** (if applicable)
    - Submit a **written explanation and supporting documentation**
    - Request a formal **hearing** before the Disciplinary Committee
- 

## 8. Commitment to Fairness

The IMHA Anti-Doping Policy exists to promote **ethical horsemanship**, ensure **fair play**, and uphold the **welfare of mustangs**. We appreciate the cooperation of all participants in maintaining clean sport.

For questions, declarations, or to report a violation, please contact:  
[office@IMHA.com](mailto:office@IMHA.com)

# Governance Policy

---

## 1. Description of Governance

1. The Governance Policy of the International Mustang Horse Association (IMHA), a for-profit entity operating as a DBA under Live Equestrian LLC (LE), provides a framework for organizational oversight, decision-making, and administrative operations. It ensures the responsible management of IMHA's mission to support adopted mustangs through competition, education, and community engagement.

## 2. Ownership and Structure

IMHA is owned and administered by the principals of Live Equestrian LLC:

- Wendy Hensley
- Scott DePaolo
- Teddy Franke

These individuals form the Principal Leadership Team and are responsible for all high-level strategic and administrative decisions.

## 3. Principal Leadership Titles and Responsibilities

- **Teddy Franke** – Director of Governance & Operations
  - Oversees rules, policies, internal systems, and committee oversight
- **Scott DePaolo** – Director of Outreach & Events
  - Manages event sanctioning, partnerships, outreach, and event coordination
- **Wendy Hensley** – Director of Marketing & Membership
  - Leads member services, marketing strategy, branding, and communications

Each Director is empowered to assemble teams and delegate tasks as needed within their area of responsibility.

## Administrative Teams

The Principal Leadership Team may form and assign teams as needed to accomplish specific administrative, operational, or strategic tasks.

Occasional crossover between Directors on specific tasks, events, or projects may occur as determined collaboratively by the Principal Leadership Team to best meet organizational needs.

## Decision-Making Authority

The Principal Leadership Team exercises all final authority on policy, budget, committee formation, and disciplinary outcomes. Decisions are made by majority vote among the three principals. In the event of a split decision, one designated vote serves as the tie-breaker, as determined by prior agreement of the leadership team.

The Principal Leadership Team exercises all final authority on policy, budget, committee formation, and disciplinary outcomes. Decisions require a majority vote of the three principals.

### **Mustang Professionals (MPs)**

MPs are volunteer members who are committed to the organization and to the horses. They contribute their time and expertise to support IMHA's mission and uphold its standards.

IMHA maintains a sub-division called the Mustang Professionals (MPs). MPs are professional members who have completed additional requirements and are eligible to:

- Serve on disciplinary, rules, or appeals committees
- Provide mentorship to amateur and youth members
- Promote IMHA's ethical and welfare standards

MP participation is coordinated by the Director of Governance & Operations and governed by a separate MP Association policy.

### **Committee Assignments**

When governance-related needs arise (e.g., disciplinary action, appeals, rule reviews), the appropriate Director will select committee members, prioritizing Mustang Professionals. All committee members must agree to confidentiality and recusal standards.

### **Transition to Independent Entity**

It is the intent of the Principal Leadership Team to eventually establish IMHA as its own legal entity, separate from LE but owned by the same three principals. This governance policy will be updated accordingly at that time.

### **Policy Amendments**

This Governance Policy is reviewed annually. Amendments may be made by majority vote of the Principal Leadership Team. Emergency updates may be enacted immediately and ratified at the next leadership meeting.

### **Transparency and Ethics**

IMHA maintains a commitment to transparency, fairness, and ethical conduct. The Principal Leadership Team will publish key decisions and reports at its discretion and expects all members, staff, and committee members to abide by IMHA's ethical guidelines and Animal Welfare Policy.