



2019 RULES & REGULATIONS  
FORT WORTH, TX – SEPTEMBER 5-7

**PURPOSE:**

The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is to increase the adoption of BLM-housed American Mustangs through innovative gentling competitions and awareness programs. In keeping with this mission, the Player's Choice Extreme Mustang Makeover was created in order to promote adoption by showcasing the Mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

**OVERVIEW:**

The Player's Choice Extreme Mustang Makeover, produced by the Mustang Heritage Foundation with the support of the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse & Burro Program, will allow approved trainers to select their competition mustang through an online auction event.

- Trainers will not be adopting their mustangs, only selecting them for training and competition.
- The online selection-auction, produced by Superior Livestock Productions, will be held on **April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. Interested trainers must submit a Trainer Application to the Mustang Heritage Foundation on or before **March 1, 2019**. Trainer Applications are available at [www.extrememustangmakeover.com](http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com). Upon application approval, Superior Productions will contact the approved trainer to provide a bidder number and a bid line phone number. Approved trainers will bid by phone, online, or at the studio in Fort Worth, Texas, during the selection. Bidding starts at \$200.
- Trainers may have an opportunity to select 2 mustangs (based on application and facility approval) during the selection auction. Trainers will choose one mustang to compete with and will place the other up for adoption through the Trainer Incentive Program (TIP). Trainers **must** notify Mustang Heritage Foundation staff which horse they are moving to TIP by **June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. Trainers will receive a \$1,000 compensation upon completion of the TIP adoption.
- Horses available for selection may be previewed prior to the selection-auction at [www.extrememustangmakeover.com](http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com). Horses may **not** be previewed at any of the BLM holding facilities.
- Trainers who win the bid are required to pick up their selected Mustang(s) on either May 17 or May 18 at one of the following BLM locations: Burns, OR; Palomino Valley, NV; Elm Creek, NE; Ewing, IL; or Paul's Valley, OK. These are the only dates and locations available. For shipping purposes, trainers are required to confirm their location of choice on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Over \$130,000 in prize money will be offered during the Player's Choice Extreme Mustang Makeover competition held **September 5-7, 2019** at the Will Rogers Equestrian Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Only horses offered through this Selection will be eligible to compete in the Player's Choice Extreme Mustang Makeover.
- \$100,000 in prize money will be distributed to the Top 10 Finalists, with \$50,000 being awarded to the Champion. An additional \$30,000 will be distributed to the highest 10 placing trainers in each of three preliminary classes. Awards will also be distributed.
- During the competition Mustangs and trainers will be assessed by a panel of accomplished horsemen and -women. Preliminary classes will include Handling & Conditioning, a Mustang Maneuvers Class and a Trail Class. A finals competition consisting of a Compulsory Pattern and a Freestyle Performance will be held for the top-10 highest scoring competitors.
- All trainers competing in the event and participating in the auction will receive \$100.
- All mustangs competing in the Player's Choice Extreme Mustang Makeover competition on **September 5-7, 2019** will be available to the public following the competition through a live bid process. Trainers will receive 50% commission (over the \$200 adoption and processing fee) on horses adopted for \$200 or more.

***Not adhering to the Regulations and Competition Rules listed in this document may result in disqualification from current and/or future Mustang Heritage Foundation competitions and programs.***

**REGULATIONS:**

***Participation in this event is by invitation only; therefore the Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees has the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from a Mustang Heritage Foundation program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.***

1. All interested trainers must complete and submit the application online, postmark it to P.O. Box 979, Georgetown, TX, 78627 or fax date to (512) 869-3229 by March 1, 2019. Applications can be found online at [www.extrememustangmakeover.com](http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com). MHF is not responsible for any lost/misdirected applications.
2. Interested trainers must provide valid credit card information in order for the application to be accepted. The card will not be charged and trainers are not required to use this card for payment upon winning the bid. Trainers will be called on April 6<sup>th</sup> following the selection auction to finalize payment. A 3.5 percent service charge will be applied to all credit transactions.
3. Trainers must be 18 years of age or older as of entry deadline.
4. Trainers are required to be registered members of the Mustang Heritage Foundation in order to compete. Mustang Heritage Foundation membership applications can be found online at [www.mustangheritagefoundationstore.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundationstore.org). The minimum membership fee is \$35 annually. Membership supports Mustang adoption and awareness and provides a membership card, a member's only bumper sticker and event ticket and merchandise discounts.
5. The trainer who selected the mustang must exhibit the mustang. No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed.
6. Trainer selection will be made based on experience, references, facility approval and geographic location. Alternate trainers will also be notified should any of the selected trainers drop out prior to the Selection Auction.
7. MHF and BLM staff members (full or part-time) along with their immediate family are ineligible to compete. Additionally, anyone who actively works for the BLM either directly or indirectly is ineligible to compete.
8. Any applicant or selected trainer may be removed from the selection process or competition at any time if found to have any alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans. Applicants must meet all BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Requirements. Removal of any trainer from the application process or competition is at the discretion of the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Board of Trustees.
9. The Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees may at any time conduct a criminal background check on applicants or remove any applicant from the process for any reason or for no reason.
10. Mustangs will be made available for selection by approved trainers through an online auction produced by Superior Livestock Productions. The Player's Choice Selection Auction will be held on April 6, 2019, online and in studio in Fort Worth, Texas.
11. Mustang selection by the trainer becomes final only by bidding (via phone, online or in studio) and winning the bid and paying the bid price on April 6, 2019. All paid selections are final; bid fees will not be refunded.
12. Trainers may be eligible to select up to two (2) mustangs (pending application and facility approval). Within 30 days of pick-up, trainers must designate one mustang as the competition mustang. The other mustang will be placed in the Trainer Incentive Program (TIP), giving the trainer 90 days to find an adopter for the mustang. Trainers must notify Mustang Heritage Foundation Staff which horse they are moving to TIP by **Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**. Upon adoption completion, trainers will receive a \$1,000 compensation through TIP. The competition mustang will be available to the public at the September event following the competition. Trainers will receive 50% commission (over the \$200 adoption and processing fee) on horses adopted for \$200 or more.
13. Mustangs used in the Player's Choice Extreme Mustang Makeover competition will be as uniform in size and age as possible. Age of horse is determined by freemark and BLM health papers and will comply with the industry standard of changing age on January 1.

14. BLM holds ownership of these animals and they cannot be sold or traded.
15. **Trailer requirements:** You must provide transportation for your Mustang from the BLM facility to your facility. While someone else may transport the animal, all trailers must meet these minimum standards: covered top, sturdy walls/floors, and a smooth interior free from any sharp protrusions; ample head room; removable partitions or compartments to separate animals by size and sex, if necessary; floor covered with a non-skid material; and, adequate ventilation. The BLM requires stock-type trailers with a rear swing gate to transport animals. Drop ramp, divided two-horse trailers and trucks with stock racks are not acceptable.
16. **Facility requirements:** Facility can consist of a corral/paddock/stall/round pen. Facility must be a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) and have fences at least 6 feet high. Facility must be sturdy and constructed of materials such as poles, pipes or planks (minimum 1.5 inch thickness) without dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large-mesh woven, stranded and electric materials are unacceptable for fencing. You should not release the Mustang into a large open area, such as a pasture, since you may not be able to recapture the animal for training or to provide veterinary care. However, once the animal is gentled, you may release it into a pasture or similar area. You must provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for your Mustang. Shelters must be a two-sided structure with a roof, well drained, adequately ventilated and accessible to the Mustang. The minimum two sides need to block the prevailing winds and need to protect the major part of the bodies of the horse. Tarps are not acceptable. Contact your administering BLM office for shelter requirements in your area.
17. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged. At all times, the humane care and best interest of the horse are paramount. For Extreme Mustang Makeover events and Mustang Heritage Foundation programs, the trainer is responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of any Mustang entrusted to their care. Contact Mustang Heritage Foundation staff or management to report any health issues with your horse so that proper veterinarian care can be administered. Any suspected inhumane treatment of horses should be reported to management immediately with potential consequences as outlined in our Humane Treatment Policy.
18. Trainers are required to submit a signed release with their application so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event and will be the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation.
19. **Trainers are required to provide a digital head shot photo of themselves and short bio with their applications – applications received without photos or bios will not be considered. Head shot photo may be emailed to [photos@mustangheritagefoundation.org](mailto:photos@mustangheritagefoundation.org). The photo and bio will be used for promotional purposes and will be viewable by the public.**
20. Trainers are responsible for all care-related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up through the competition. Expenses incurred during the training period and competition **will not** be reimbursed.
21. Trainers are required to complete and submit a 7-day, 45-day and 90-day progress report during the training period. Progress forms and supplemental information will be provided prior to pick-up.
22. In the case of serious injury or death of your mustang, trainers are required to notify the MHF Event Director, Stormy Mullins at [\(940\) 445-9773](tel:9404459773) within 24 hours of the occurrence. MHF will immediately relay this information on to the appropriate BLM staff.
23. For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the Mustang(s) to his/her nearest BLM facility if he/she is unable to complete the training and participate in the competition. Participation is subject to review if an individual has a history of frequently returning EMM or MHF program horses before completing the training or participating in the competition.
24. The purpose of this event is to showcase the talent and trainability of Mustangs and to provide an opportunity for trainers and horses to engage in safe competition for prize money and awards. Therefore, all horses entered into the competition should be gentle and safe to maneuver through the show grounds. Upon entry onto the show grounds, should a Mustang be deemed unsafe by MHF that horse may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition and adoption. The goal is for all trainers and horses to participate in the event as long as the horse is safe to do so. If there is a concern regarding the horse's training status please contact Event Director Stormy Mullins at (940) 445-9773.
25. Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing Mustangs' freemark marks will be verified by a BLM or MHF representative to determine the horse's eligibility. For legibility reasons, the trainer may need to shave the hair around the freemark ahead of time.

26. Upon entry onto the show grounds, all trainers must provide a current Health Certificate and Coggins paperwork for all competing horses.
27. Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing Mustangs will be examined by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual to determine the health and condition of the horse. Should a Mustang be deemed in poor condition by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual that Mustang may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.
28. Trainers may ONLY adopt their competition Mustang at the event through the public bid process during the adoption. Trainers must complete a separate BLM adoption application and be approved by the BLM prior to bidding.
29. At least one bag of shavings and one stall per competing Mustang will be provided free of charge. One shared tack stall will also be provided free of charge (tack stall may be shared with up to three other individuals). All Mustangs will be stalled together according to the division in which they are competing (Youth Division, EMM, Open, etc.). Trainers are not allowed to place locks on stalls.
30. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing all tack, feed and supplies needed during the competition.
31. An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practices.
32. Competition schedule to be announced.
33. Winners will be announced following the competition.
34. Trainers are required to demonstrate their Mustangs during the adoption on the final day of the event in a manner that showcases the trainability of the horse. For example, if a horse is exhibited under saddle during the competition then it should also be demonstrated under saddle during the adoption.
35. **Conduct:** 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. This includes, but is not limited to: conduct while trainers have Mustangs in their possession; conduct on the show grounds; conduct while trainers are wearing Extreme Mustang Makeover logo wear off the show grounds; and includes the conduct of individuals traveling with trainers, spectators or event managers and all other persons being present on show grounds. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and **inhumane treatment of horses are prohibited** and shall be grounds for the disciplinary action against offending individuals. Further, event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to preserve the decorum of the show.
36. **Mustang Heritage Foundation Humane Treatment Policy**  
Every Mustang and all animals shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any participant using abusive or excessive training techniques or being inhumane to a Mustang in his/her care (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. If a participant's horse enters the contest or if the trainer/participant at any time presents a horse with questionable training/care related injuries (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) the participant may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. **This policy is in addition to our event rules which are stated above. All trainers must agree to, sign and return the Humane Treatment Policy included in the Trainer Application.** The following list, while in no way exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behavior and training techniques:
  - No horse that appears to be emaciated, drawn or injured may be exhibited.
  - Use of inhumane training techniques or methods such as striking horse with objects, excessive spurring and/or excessive jerking of reins.
  - Any inhumane treatment that results in wounds.
37. **Sponsorships:** The Mustang Heritage Foundation has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Foundation asks that trainers honor those sponsorships.
  - a. The Mustang Heritage Foundation may supply shirts with sponsor logos for trainers to wear during the event. Trainers will not be required to wear Mustang Heritage Foundation event shirts during the actual competition, but may be required to wear shirts during promotional and adoption events.

- b. Trainers will be restricted from wearing apparel or equine products during the competition that have logos that are larger than 4 inches wide and 2 inches tall.
- c. Trainers may have small banners and brochures or small printed materials at their horse's stall ONLY to promote their training business and their sponsors during the event. Exhibitors may not hang banners of any size in the common event areas promoting sponsors.
- d. Trainers may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle performance of the finals competition, however the promotion logo/statement must be no larger than 12 inches by 24 inches.
- e. Trainers may purchase EMM/MHF logoed merchandise (t-shirts, banners, caps, etc.) from the Mustang Heritage Foundation but may not reproduce EMM/MHF logos in any way on apparel, banners or other posted materials.

## **COMPETITION RULES:**

1. **STEWARDS:** The Mustang Heritage Foundation may (at any event) designate one or more individuals as a Steward to support the efforts of show officials and the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Board of Trustees. The Steward's responsibilities may include but are not limited to: 1) Monitor show grounds for any inhumane treatment of horses and unsportsmanlike conduct; 2) Investigate complaints and issue warnings; and 3) Assist show officials and trustees in any capacity.
2. Trainers must fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
3. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles and equipment. Exhibitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear, which reflects the style of their riding. *Silver on your saddles or sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.*
4. If being ridden during the preliminary classes, horses must be saddled and bridled in appropriate tack/gear.
5. **ILLEGAL equipment that will result in automatic disqualification from the class in which equipment was used in (regardless of discipline) includes:** Snaffle bits with mouthpieces smaller than 5/16" and/or consisting of non-smooth material (such as twisted material), stud chains, and bosals made of anything but rawhide, leather or rope with a flexible core (no metal of any kind). Use of any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed and will result in disqualification from the class in which it was used.  
  
Tie downs, martingales, mechanical hackamores, spade and high port bits are strongly discouraged and will be judged accordingly with use. The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage. The diameter of mouthpieces, length of shanks and use of curb straps or chains must comply with MHF rules. National Snaffle Bit Association and American Quarter Horse Association rules are resources for preferred equipment including the diameter of mouthpieces, length of shanks and use of curb straps or chains.
6. Mustangs may be shown with two hands in a snaffle bit or bosal. Showing a Mustang with two hands when using a curb or shank-type bit is strongly discouraged during any point of the competition (including the finals) and will result in an automatic 10 point deduction per judge.
7. Training aides (whips, sticks, treats, the tail end of 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.
8. Excessive spurring or jerking on the reins or lead line during the competition will result in an automatic 10 point deduction from each judge off the overall class score.
9. 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. 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 during the preliminary competition and will result in an automatic 10 point deduction from each judge off the overall class score. Costume-related tail/mane

decorations will be allowed during the finals freestyle performance. Alteration of tail function (tail blocking, dead tails, etc.) is prohibited at any and all points during the competition and will result in disqualification.

10. **Drugs:** No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang, either before or during the Extreme Mustang Makeover competition or adoption. Any medication, drug, mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect or enhance the Mustang's performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. ***If a Mustang is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the Extreme Mustang Makeover event manager as to the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount.*** **THE EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.** Positive tests will result in removal from the event, removal of reimbursement and prize money, refund of adoption fees paid by an adopter and return of a Mustang to the BLM should the adopter wish to return the adopted Mustang. In regard to herbal/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.
11. Trainers will be given specific competition patterns at the event. Trainers will have an opportunity to "walk through" the patterns with the judges, *without their Mustang*, prior to the competition.
12. Class awards may be presented. Any class ties will be broken by the score from a predetermined element in the class. The tiebreaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.
13. Ties will be broken by the trail class to determine the top 10 finalists. If a tie exists between trail class scores, the score from a predetermined element in the trail class will break the tie. The tiebreaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.

#### **PRELIMINARY CLASS DESCRIPTION & SCORING:**

##### **A. Handling and Conditioning Class – 40 points from each judge**

During this class, the trainer will lead the horse into a small pen inside the arena, un-halter and release the horse in the pen. The trainer will exit the pen. The horse's conditioning will be scored at this time. The trainer will then be allowed back into the pen. Upon re-entering the pen, the trainer will re-halter the horse and lead the horse out of the pen to complete a set of handling maneuvers in the arena. This class will be judged on the following:

**Handling – 30 points** – Judges will assess the horse's demeanor and responsiveness during the haltering process, as well as the relationship between horse and trainer through the completion of additional handling maneuvers including but not limited to the following:

- Walk
- Trot
- Stop
- Back
- Pick-up feet
- Load and unload from trailer

**Conditioning – 10 points** – The horse's condition will be judged in two areas:

- Appropriate weight/muscling (based on the Henneke System) (5 points).
- Overall Appearance – this score will reflect hair coat, feet condition, etc. (5 points).

No person shall alter, change or attempt 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 – doing so will result in a 10 point deduction per judge. The use of stud chains is prohibited and will result in automatic disqualification of the class. 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

and will result in disqualification. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails. The score will not reflect conformation. To learn more about appropriate weight/conditioning for a horse based on the Henneke System, please visit <http://www.gerlltd.org/Education/Equine%20Body%20Condition%20Score%20Presentation.pdf>.

#### **B. Mustang Maneuvers Class - 40 Points from each judge**

This class is intended to show the horse's willingness and ability to complete a set of generic horsemanship maneuvers. Judges will assess exhibitors showing in either Western or English discipline accordingly. For example, if a 360 pivot is requested – judges will expect a horse shown under English attire to turn on the backhand and expect a horse shown under Western equipment to attempt to spin. A horse will be given credit for being relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. Credit will also be given to a horse that is responsive to the rider and makes the required transitions smoothly, timely and correctly. Maneuvers may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, Trot, Lope/Canter
- Change directions while on the rail
- Stop
- Back
- Pivots or turns to right and left
- Lead changes
- Two-track
- Sidepass

#### **C. Combined Leading & Riding Trail Class – 40 points from each judge**

This class is designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal trail ride or work day. Exhibitors will be asked to lead and ride their horse through a course of generic obstacles and maneuvers. Exhibitors will be able to “walk thru” the course with the judges prior to the class. **Horses are not allowed during the walk-thru.**

Leading elements obstacles/maneuvers may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, stop and back
- Walk over logs/poles
- Walk/trot between cones/obstacles
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute
- Pick up all four feet
- Brush horse once on each side
- Load and unload from stock trailer

Riding obstacles/maneuvers may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, canter/lope, stop and back
- Turns and circles to the left and right
- Walk over logs/poles
- Lead change
- Walk over bridge
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute
- Pick up and carry object
- Dragging items specified length

*\*Additional elements may be added such as brush, artificial foliage, rain slickers, etc.*

#### **FINALS DESCRIPTION & SCORING:**

- A. The top 10 Mustangs with the highest combined total scores from the preliminary classes will return for a finals competition that includes compulsory maneuvers and a freestyle performance.
- B. Competitors will come into the finals with a “clean slate.” No previous scores will be counted toward the final placing.

- C. Each contestant will have 90 seconds to complete required compulsory maneuvers (listed below).
- D. The completion of the compulsory maneuvers will take place separately from the freestyle performance.
- E. For the freestyle performance, trainers will have four minutes to stage or set the arena.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. Trainers may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle performance, however the promotion logo/statement must be no larger than 12 inches by 24 inches.
- I. Props of pyrotechnic nature including fireworks, flares, firecrackers, rings of fire, etc. are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- J. 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.
- K. Trainers will have 3.5 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 trainers responsibility to ensure EMM 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.
- L. Live "voice-overs" and/or commentary from the trainer and/or trainer representative are not allowed during the performance and will result in disqualification.
- M. Lighting and/or spotlights cannot be manipulated or altered for any of the trainer freestyle performances.
- N. Music is a required component of the freestyle performance – if the trainer does not turn in music during the finalists' meeting at the event, management may select music for him/her. Music must be submitted as one single track (MHF staff will not transition from one track to another during the performance or merge music files for a competitor) either on a CD or as an mp3 file. 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 MHF staff. **If the trainer does not pick up their cd or flash drive following the freestyle, MHF will discard it at the end of the event.**
- O. Cattle will be provided for use in the freestyle finals, based on availability. When available, one cow will be provided for those finalists requesting one.
- P. Other animals (dogs, additional horses, etc.) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the finals performance for any reason and will result in disqualification.
- Q. Other people (including children) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the finals performance for any reason other than to drive a vehicle to be used during the performance. If someone other than the trainer is driving a vehicle in the performance **none of the occupants** of the vehicle will be allowed to exit the vehicle while in the arena and the windows must be rolled up at all times (the vehicle, if driven by someone other than the trainer, must be closed-cab; gators, golf carts, ATV's, etc. will not be allowed and will result in disqualification). Other people are NOT allowed to act as props, ride or come in contact with the horse at any point during the performance and will result in disqualification. Other people may hand props to the trainer from outside the arena.
- R. A rider mounted on their mustang is not allowed to trot or lope onto or into any *moving or covered* vehicles/trailers/props of any kind and will result in disqualification.
- S. Mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope *through any moving* vehicles/trailers/props of any kind and will result in disqualification.
- T. *The trainer is NOT allowed to stand, kneel, etc. on top of a horse that does not have all four feet on the arena floor* and doing so will result in disqualification.



- U. Trainers must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance – bare feet are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- V. Judges and/or MHF staff may stop any performance deemed unsafe, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate.
- W. Ties will be broken by the compulsory score. If a tie exists between compulsory scores, the score from a predetermined compulsory maneuver will break the tie. The tiebreaker compulsory maneuver will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. Management reserves the right to use a “ride off” as a tie breaker for first place.
- X. **All items/props are subject to final review and approval by MHF staff.**
- Y. Finalists will be scored on the following:

**1. Execution of Compulsory Pattern – 40 total points per judge**

Contestants will have 90 seconds to complete a pattern of 8 compulsory maneuvers. Each maneuver is worth five points. This score will reflect completion of the maneuver as well as the horse’s level of willingness to execute the maneuvers in a relaxed and confident manner. **A pattern that may include but is not limited to the following maneuvers will be provided at the finalists meeting:**

1. Stop
2. Back
3. Lope/canter one full circle to the right
4. Lope/canter one full circle to the left
5. Lead change
6. Pivot or spin 360 degrees to right and left
7. Side pass to the right and left
8. Stop with roll back

**2. Freestyle Performance – 60 total points per judge**

The freestyle portion of the finals competition encourages trainers to choose music, costumes and props which permit them to show the athletic abilities of their horse in a crowd appealing way. During the freestyle performance, contestants will be scored based on the following:

**Overall Horsemanship - 30 points:**

- Communication/partnership between horse and rider and the horse’s overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner (15 points).
- Incorporation of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty (15 points). These maneuvers would include but are not limited to: *sidepass, two tracking either direction, pulling or dragging, serpentines, rollbacks, lead changes, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc.*

**Entertainment Value - 30 points:**

- Components of Choreography – the composition and arrangement of the exhibition in relation to the music and its rhythm. (15 points)
- Creativity – the use of themes, maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance and overall originality. (15 points).

**AWARDS:**

1. **ALL TRAINERS** who compete in the event and present their horse for adoption will receive \$100. No receipt or paperwork submission will be necessary.
2. **ALL TRAINERS** competing in the event will be eligible for 50% commission (over the \$200 adoption and processing fee) of the adoption price if the Mustang they trained is adopted for \$200 or more.

3. **INCENTIVE AWARDS** will be presented to the trainers with the highest combined preliminary scores – finals scores do not count toward incentive awards. The Champion Rookie, Young Gun, and Silver Bullet will be awarded to the highest scoring trainers eligible for the designated incentive. Incentive award categories are:

- Rookies – first-time Extreme Mustang Makeover competitors.
- Young Guns – trainers who are 18-21 years old as of time of entry.
- Silver Bullets – trainers who are 50 years old and over as of time of entry.

Additionally, the next nine non-finalist trainers with the highest combined preliminary scores will be awarded one incentive from the designated incentive award (Rookie, Young Gun, or Silver Bullet). Each trainer is only eligible to win one incentive award per event with precedence given to the Rookie award. For example, if trainer A has the highest preliminary scores in the Rookie and Young Gun categories then he will be given the Rookie award and the next highest score in the Young Gun category will receive the Young Gun award. In addition, Young Guns and Silver Bullets are only eligible to win one award per year. For example, the winner of the Young Gun award at the 2019 Makeover in Kentucky is ineligible to win the Young Gun award at any other 2019 Makeover event.

4. **EACH CLASS** (Handling & Conditioning, Mustang Maneuvers and Trail) will award \$1,000 to the top 10 highest placing trainers.

5. Approximately **\$103,000 in CASH & PRIZES will be awarded to the TOP 10 FINALISTS:**

Champion - \$50,000, A Cut Above Buckle	6 <sup>th</sup> Place - \$3,000
Reserve Champion - \$20,000	7 <sup>th</sup> Place - \$3,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place - \$10,000	8 <sup>th</sup> Place - \$3,000
4 <sup>th</sup> Place - \$5,000	9 <sup>th</sup> Place - \$3,000
5 <sup>th</sup> Place - \$3,000	10 <sup>th</sup> Place - \$3,000

6. A **FAN FAVORITE** award will be presented to the horse whose performance receives the most votes from the crowd during the Freestyle Finals Performance. Voting will only take place during the Finals Performance. Voting method and additional details to be announced.

7. Payment of all earned money will be issued within 10 business days of the event conclusion.

#### **AUCTION DAY:**

1. Mustangs must compete at some level (competing in the Handling & Conditioning Class and in-hand in the trail/obstacle class is acceptable) in order to participate in the auction. Mustangs cannot attend the event for the auction only.
2. Trainers are **REQUIRED** to stay and present their horse during the auction. Trainers are **required** to present their horse in a manner consistent with the appearance and level of training demonstrated during the competition. For example, if a horse is exhibited under saddle during the competition then it is required to be demonstrated under saddle during the auction.
3. Trainers receive 50% commission (over the \$200 processing fee) on horses adopted for \$200 or more.
4. Trainers are encouraged to meet the adopter of their horse and are asked to leave feed and water in the horse's stall prior to departing.
5. Trainers wishing to take home their Mustang must acquire a bidders number and bid (or have a representative bid for them) during the auction. Trainers may apply any prize money and/or commission earned toward the auction price. Trainers who win the bid on their Mustangs must complete the necessary paperwork with MHF or BLM immediately following the auction.

**For more information on Extreme Mustang Makeover events, please call (512) 869-3225.**