

The United States Mangalarga Marchador Association is pleased to announce the First Annual Virtual MM Complete Horse Competition. This is a fun and exciting way to show off what you and your Mangalarga Marchador can do!

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Set up the course at your home or riding facility according to the included guidelines
2. Practice, practice, practice -- we don't care how many times you practice....just have fun!
3. When you're ready, have someone video you running the course according to the included rules and guidelines
4. Submit your video to the USMMA for judging

It's THAT simple!

## GENERAL RULES

1. **The Virtual MM Complete Horse Competition is a TIMED EVENT so it is imperative that you understand you may NOT edit your video entry.** Your video must run without interruption or edit from the time you begin the course to the time you end the course. Remember, you can video yourself running the course as many times as you like and submit the one(s) you think are best. You may submit as many videos throughout the year....but each one must be completely and absolutely free of edits.
2. Our panel of judges will begin an independent timer when you cross the start line and will stop their timer when you have successfully completed the final obstacle. We will have three judges and one alternate judge who each review, judge and time your video privately and independently, so the average of the judges' scores will be used to determine your final score.
3. Because this is a timed event, time faults will be added to your score in the following way:
  - Incorrect gait from one obstacle to another: 5 sec time fault for each occurrence
  - Refusal: 5 sec time fault for each refusal (there will be no disqualification for repeated refusals, but we're making the assumption that you will have practiced enough that excessive refusals will not be seen in the video submissions)
  - Improper execution of an obstacle: 5 sec time fault for each occurrence
  - Knock over of a bending pole, barrel or jump pole: 5 sec time fault for each occurrence
  - Skipping an obstacle: 25 sec time fault for each occurrence
4. Disqualifications
  - If your course is obviously incorrect or laid out improperly your submission will be disqualified. We will contact you and let you know what we noticed and give you the opportunity to correct the errors and try again if time allows. This will only be done for IMPROPER course layout. It will not be done for any other reason.
  - An excessive show of poor horsemanship or abusive behavior will be grounds for immediate and permanent disqualification and removal of video from our YouTube

channel.

- Videos that have been determined to have been edited to falsify or change the appearance of the performance of horse and rider, or to falsify or change the amount of time it has taken to complete the course will be disqualified.

5. The judges decisions are final.

6. Horses may be ridden by their owner, or by a rider that their owner has chosen. Entries MUST include the following information:

- Horse's Complete Registered Name
- Owner's Full Name
- Rider's Full Name

## **COURSE RULES**

1. Horse and rider will begin behind the start line. The rider will hold a tennis ball in their hand which they will drop as their horse steps over the start line. This helps our judges determine when to begin their timer.

2. Horse and rider will **WALK** to the gate and open and close the gate with their **LEFT** hand. The rider may not at any time touch the gate their right hand.

3. Horse and rider will **WALK TO** and **ALL THE WAY THROUGH** the "back up box". **Once they have passed all the way through the box**, they will then begin to back up through the box (simply retracing their steps backwards) until they've exited the box once again. Once the horse has backed all the way through the box and its entire body is out of the box, it may begin forward again (this time in the Marcha).

4. Horse and rider will now **GAIT** (Marcha) through the box and to the bending poles. Horse and rider will begin by **KEEPING THE FIRST BENDING POLE ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE HORSE**. They will continue weaving through the poles all the way down the line, do a half circle to reverse direction, and then weave back through the poles to the beginning without going over the white chalk line and **without breaking GAIT**.

5. As the horse and rider leave the last bending pole they will turn sharply to the left and the horse will pick up a **LEFT LEAD CANTER**. Horse and rider will continue to canter through the rest of the obstacles.

6. Horse and rider will **CANTER through the barrels in an "S" pattern** with the horse changing leads each time he changes direction around a barrel.

7. Horse and rider will continue to **CANTER and jump each jump** in succession **without breaking the canter** gait.

8. Horse and rider will come to an abrupt halt (from canter to halt) in the center of the circle. Here the horse must stand still (without moving its feet) for a full 4 seconds while his reins are loose and resting on the horse's neck. The judge will stop his timer when the horse has stood still on a loose rein for the full 4 seconds after the reins have been rested on the horse's neck.

### **VIDEO GUIDELINES**

Your videographer should stand in the center of the course from beginning to completion of your run in order to give the very best view to our judges. Please bear in mind that due to the nature of this being a virtual, videoed event, our judges will need to use their best judgement when it comes to determining how you've completed each obstacle if the video did not provide a clear, unobstructed view or if it was difficult to tell from the angle where your horse's feet were. This is supposed to be a FUN competition, so please understand that it may be hard for the judges to see what you see while you're doing it. Judges decisions are FINAL in every instance. They have volunteered to participate as a judge and we would like it to be a stress free job for them. In fact, your show of appreciation (even if you don't agree with their ruling) would be a wonderful way to thank them.

### **VIDEO SUBMISSION FOR JUDGING**

Your UNEDITED video should be uploaded as a "video reply" to our instructional video on our YouTube account which can be found at: [www.YouTube.com/usmarchador](http://www.YouTube.com/usmarchador)

In the text portion of your upload, you will need to include the horse and rider information:

Horse's complete registered name

Owner's complete name

Rider's complete name

That's it!

If you have questions about this event, how to set up the course, how to video yourself, or how to upload your submission, please view the demo video on our YouTube channel. If that does not answer your questions, then contact Signa Strom at [signastrom@gmail.com](mailto:signastrom@gmail.com) or 717.821.6840.