WPOAC 2027 Show Rules & Guidelines

General

National POAC rules govern all WPOAC shows; the current National POAC Rulebook is the reference for all class guidelines. Any matter not addressed by these rules will be ruled by the WPOAC Board of Directors, whose decision is final.

All WPOAC shows will begin promptly at 7:30 AM. Exhibitors are expected to be ready to show at this time. The arena will be available for warm-up on Friday evening and on the day of the show before 7:00 AM, unless otherwise posted.

Patterns will be posted on the WPOAC website and Facebook page.

The Show Committee reserves the right to combine or split any classes.

Show High Point awards will be calculated based on the pony/rider combination in accordance with National POAC and Wisconsin POAC High Point guidelines.

Judges' decisions are final. If score sheets are used, exhibitors may review them and submit any score inquiries to the show chairs before the judges leave the grounds at the conclusion of the show.

*Denotes JPFC classes. Ponies must be current on payments for the International Futurity to be eligible to show in these classes.

**Denotes classes that are not nationally pointed POAC classes.

△Junior division is any pony that is 5 & under with a rider 18 & under. Senior division is any pony that is 6 & over with a rider 18 & under.

Age Definitions

For POAC show purposes, an individual's age on January 1 is maintained throughout the year; persons born on January 1 assume the greater age of that date.

Ponies are considered one year old on the first day of January following the actual foaling date and gain a year each consecutive January 1.

Show High Point and Year-End Awards

To be eligible for WPOAC Weekend High Point and Year-End Awards, both the exhibitor and the pony/horse owner must be current members of WPOAC.

Points toward Weekend High Point and Year-End Awards will not accrue until membership is paid.

Exhibitors must enter and compete in at least 51% of the pointed classes within a division offered during the show to be eligible for Weekend High Point Awards.

Exhibitors must participate in at least 51% of Wisconsin POAC-pointed shows during the current season to qualify for Participation and Year-End Awards.

Exhibitors seeking National POAC points and National Year-End Award eligibility must be current National POAC members, and their pony must be registered and meet all national requirements.

Residents of outside states may be eligible for year-end awards if both the owner and exhibitor are Wisconsin POAC members.

Pony Inspections & Measurements

All registered POAs without a Permanent Card (PC) must be measured in the designated area prior to showing. Inspections will be held during posted hours at the show grounds. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to present the pony for inspection.

At IBC shows, non-POA horses or ponies aged four (4) and over that are entered in halter classes may be measured if they appear to be under 54 inches to ensure proper class placement. Non-POA horses or ponies over 54 inches will not be measured.

A POA that measures over the maximum National POAC height requirement may continue to compete in IBC or Open classes at WPOAC-approved shows; however, the pony shall not be eligible to earn National POAC points while overheight.

If a POA measures within the National height requirement at the start of the show season but is later found to be overheight at a subsequent show, the pony may continue to compete in IBC or Open classes where permitted. The pony must be issued a new back number and pay the applicable fee to reflect its updated status. From that point forward, the pony and exhibitor will be considered Open Exhibitors. Points earned before and after the measurement change will be recorded separately under the respective back numbers. However, all points earned by that pony and exhibitor combination during the season will be combined for Wisconsin POAC Year-End High Point Awards.

Coggins & Health

A current negative Coggins dated within one (1) year of the show is required for all horses and ponies on the grounds. Ponies or horses showing signs of contagious illness may be asked to leave the grounds immediately.

Exhibitors are encouraged to act in the best interest of animal health and biosecurity when deciding whether to attend a show. Exhibitors are responsible for following all interstate travel requirements for horses and ponies.

Back Numbers

Each pony/exhibitor combination must have a current back tag number. If no number has been assigned, one must be purchased. Back tag forms are available on the WPOAC website.

Back numbers are $5 per pony/rider combination if submitted and paid prior to the show, or $10 if obtained at the show.

Exhibitors may retain the same number year to year. However, annually they must submit a Back Tag Waiver Form, payment, a copy of the pony's registration papers, a copy of the Permanent Card (if applicable), and a current negative Coggins dated within one year.

Back numbers are not mailed and must be picked up from the show secretary or chairperson at your first show.

Numbers must be worn on both sides of the pony in all mounted classes.

Class Entries & Participation

Exhibitors may sign up for any class they choose but will only be charged for the classes they actually enter. Scratches must be communicated to show personnel in advance to keep the show running on schedule.

All exhibitors are expected to be in the holding area at least one class prior to their scheduled class and must enter the ring in the designated order or promptly when their class is called.

Exhibitors must notify the gate person of all tack changes before the class is called. Once the gate is called, exhibitors must enter before it closes or forfeit the class.

An exhibitor may show more than one eligible POA in individual work performance classes per class specifications. A pony may be ridden by more than one rider in a class, provided that the riders are in different age divisions. It must be specified on a POAC point designation sheet before the show begins from which age division the pony will receive points, or all points will be forfeited. The designation sheet must include the pony's name, the riders' names, and the name of each class entered. This also includes 19 & Over riders and Adult Non-Pro riders. Leadline 6 & Under classes are exempt from designations.

Non-Pro classes will be conducted in accordance with National POAC Non-Pro guidelines and require a valid Non-Pro card for participation.

Two-year-old horses/ponies may not be shown in both in-hand and riding classes at the same show.

Ponies must be 3 years and older to enter Ranch Division classes.

Walk/Trot & Walk/Trot/Canter Rules

Exhibitors may choose at each show whether to enter Walk/Trot division classes.

Exhibitors may not cross-enter into the corresponding 3-gait class at the same show. For example, an exhibitor may not enter the Western Pleasure W/T class and their age group Western Pleasure class at the same show.

A pony may not be shown by more than one exhibitor in the same event in the Walk/Trot Division at the same show. For example, a pony shown in Trail W/T may not be shown by another exhibitor in Trail W/T at the same show. However, a pony entered in Trail W/T with one exhibitor may be shown in the corresponding age group class, Junior or Senior Pony class, or JPFC class by a different exhibitor.

An exhibitor who enters a Leadline 6 & Under class may not enter the corresponding 9 & Under class.
For example, a rider cannot enter Trail Leadline 6 & Under and Trail 9 & Under.

Exhibitors entered in Ranch Walk/Trot classes are not eligible to compete in Ranch Reining. Ranch class riders may not cross-enter in Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Lope classes at the same show. Ponies are permitted to cross-enter Ranch Division classes and Western Division classes.

Attire & Equipment

ASTM/SEI approved helmets are required for youth in Hunt Classes and all exhibitors in Timed and Jumping events.
All attire and equipment must comply with National POAC rules for the discipline shown.

Stalls, Shavings, & Jump-Outs

All stalls must be reserved with entries. Two bags of shavings are included with each stall, including tack stalls.
Additional shavings must be pre-ordered. Limited extra shavings may be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Any exhibitor who places a pony, horse, or equipment in an unrented or open stall will be charged the full stall rental fee for that stall.

Camping

Camping fees are charged per unit, and all reservations must be submitted with entries. Trailers and campers must be parked in designated areas, and those not using electricity may be required to park outside fenced areas. Exhibitors must keep their area clean, safe, and supervise children and pets. WPOAC is not responsible for theft, damage, or injury; all camping is at your own risk.

All dogs must be leashed on showgrounds and may not be tied to trailers and left unattended.

Safety & Conduct

Unsportsmanlike behavior, abusive treatment of animals, or violation of show rules may result in disqualification and removal from the showgrounds. Warm-up rings are open at the discretion of the Show Chairs. Exhibitors must ride safely and follow all posted warm-up patterns and directions.

Show Administration & Financials

Show results and financial reports must be submitted to the President and Show Committee Chair within 30 days. Financial reports and funds go to the Treasurer; results go to the Point Secretary unless an extension is granted by the President.

Returned checks and outstanding debts will be reported to the WPOAC Board of Directors. All debts must be paid before the individual may enter another WPOAC show.

A $25 NSF fee applies to returned checks.

Judges

A judge may be contracted for one show per year. The same judge may not officiate more than once in a single show season except under emergency circumstances approved by the WPOAC Board of Directors.

Any issues or concerns regarding a judge's conduct, scoring, or decisions must be reported to the Show Chair(s) during the show. Complaints made after the conclusion of the show will not be considered for immediate corrective action.

Exhibitors are encouraged to report both positive and negative feedback so the Show Committee can accurately reflect the performance of the judge to the National POAC.

Liability & Emergencies

All exhibitors are responsible for providing their own first aid or medical care. Emergency personnel will be called as needed, and exhibitors consent to treatment. WPOAC, show management, and the facility are not responsible for accidents, runaways, injuries, or escaped horses/ponies. All exhibitors, owners, trainers, and spectators assume all risk while on showgrounds.

All participants are expected to adhere to the current National POAC rules, regulations, and guidelines.
The official handbook can be found at poac.org/resources/poac-rules.
By participating, riders acknowledge that they understand and agree to follow these rules.