



2026 Blandford Fair Horse Show Rules

IMPORTANT NOTE: Unless a rule is otherwise stated in this document, this show will follow the AQHA Rule Book.

1. Pre-registration is free and closes on the published deadline. Exhibitors may also register on the day of the show before **8:00 AM** without a late fee. Registrations received after **8:00 AM on show day** will incur a **\$10 late registration fee**. Standard class fees apply to all entries.
2. All riders must complete and submit an Entry Form before entering the show ring for any class. Show management requests that added classes be submitted at least 3 classes ahead of the added class whenever possible.
3. The Horse Show begins at 9:00 AM. Grounds open at 6:30 AM. Entry forms must be turned in at the Secretary's Booth by 8:00 AM to ensure entry into desired classes. Registrations received after **8:00 AM on show day** will incur a **\$10 late registration fee**.
4. The Games Show begins at 9:00 AM. Grounds open at 6:30 AM. Entry forms must be turned in at the Secretary's Booth by 8:00 AM to ensure entry into desired classes. Registrations received after **8:00 AM on show day** will incur a **\$10 late registration fee**.
5. After the show begins, the fee for all scratched classes must be paid in full, except in the case of injury to horse or rider.
6. Show fees must be paid at the Secretary's Booth upon check-in on the day of the show. Classes may be paid by check or cash. Please provide a separate payment for each horse/rider pair. Any returned checks will incur a \$30 penalty in addition to the balance owed.
7. Massachusetts State Law requires a negative Coggins dated within the past 12 months for each participating equine. Out-of-state (MA) equines are required to have a Coggins dated within 6 months. Please bring a printed copy to show at the Secretary's Booth during check-in. Anyone who cannot provide proof of a valid, in-date negative Coggins test will be asked to leave the grounds.
8. Registration papers must be presented at the Secretary's Booth during check-in to enter Registered Breed classes.

9. Riders in Walk/Trot divisions (with the exception of Ranch) may not enter canter classes and may not canter or lope on the show grounds for the entire day. Doing so will result in elimination without refund.
10. Ranch Horse Walk/Trot is open to both Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Canter exhibitors.
11. The Green Horse Division is open to horses within their first or second year of showing. Green Horses may cross-enter into other divisions. The Green Horse Division will be run as walk/trot only.
12. The Show Committee reserves the right to add, split, combine, or cancel classes. Classes that do not have a minimum of 3 entries will be canceled.
13. The judge's decisions are FINAL. Discrepancies or questions must be directed to the Ring Steward or Secretary's Booth for show management. Under no circumstances should any discrepancy be directed to the judge.
14. BFHS promotes an educational and family-friendly horse show environment. Any unsportsmanlike conduct will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to verbal warning, written warning, excusal from the event, or being banned from BFHS-sanctioned events. Visitors, family, friends, and spectators are expected to follow these rules and are subject to the same actions.
15. All horses must be healthy and serviceably sound. Horses that are visibly lame, ill, or in physical distress will be excused.
16. Unruly horses will be excused. Horses that kick must wear a clearly visible red ribbon in their tail. Stallions must wear a clearly visible yellow ribbon in their tail. No Junior exhibitors or Beginners may show a stallion.
17. Appropriate tack and attire are required. Exhibitors will not be penalized for wearing protective headgear in lieu of traditional headgear. Helmets MUST be worn by ALL exhibitors who are 18 years old and under as of January 1 of the current year.
18. Horses may be shown two-handed in a snaffle bit in any under-saddle class. Bitless bridles are allowed (including side pulls, cross-under bridles, and bosals). If you have an equipment question, please contact show management before the event.
19. Western riders may wear chaps in all classes.
20. Leadline entries must be shown with a halter under the bridle, lead held securely by the handler, and reins in the exhibitor's hands. Handlers must be 13 years of age or older.

21. Classes may be held for up to 2 minutes. Holds must be requested at least 2 classes in advance and requested at the Secretary's Booth.
 22. Patterns for any classes requiring them will be available at the Secretary's Booth.
 23. Groom's classes are open to individuals who are not registered to exhibit in the event. The class is free; however, an entry form with a signed liability waiver must be completed before entering. It is at the discretion of the horse's owner to allow a groom to ride or handle their horse.
 24. Point standings will be announced when they are ready. No inquiries, please.
 25. Division Championships will be determined on the following point scale: 7-5-4-3-2-1. Riders must enter all classes in their division to qualify.
 26. Equitation placing will break ties for Championships.
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DIVISION AND CLASS DESCRIPTION

Open English

Open to all English riders of any age. English disciplines may include, but are not limited to, hunt seat, dressage, saddleseat, jumpers, etc. Exhibitors will be asked to walk, trot, canter, and back.

Open Western

Open to Western riders of any age. Riders will be required to walk, jog, lope, and back. Chaps are optional. Equines may be shown two-handed in a snaffle bit at any age for under saddle classes.

Leadline

Open to riders of all ages, all seats, who have never competed off the leadline. Handlers must be 13 years of age or older. Exhibitors may be asked to trot or jog at the judge's discretion.

Open Horse in Hand

Open to all horses, all breeds. All classes will be completed unmounted. The division consists of:

Halter

Pleasure

Reinsmanship

Pattern (judged on the handler's equitation and communication between horse and handler)

Ranch Horse (Walk/Trot)

Open to any ranch-type horse interested in trying ranch events. Open to all levels of riders (Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Canter riders welcome). This division will run as walk/jog only. Exhibitors may be asked to extend, collect, work out, or perform other maneuvers as requested by the judge. Equines may be shown two-handed in a snaffle bit at any age for under saddle classes.

Youth Walk/Trot

Open to riders 12-18 years old who are not competing at the canter or lope for *this* show season. Riders may be moved out of this division if this rule is not followed.

Open Adult Walk/Trot

Open to riders above 19 years old or over who are not competing at the canter or lope for *this* show season. Riders may be moved out of this division if this rule is not followed.

Open Driving

Drivers may be accompanied by a passenger 18 years of age or older. Drivers and passengers must wear an ASTM/SEI-approved helmet. Driving will be judged on manners and way of going. This division is open to all driving equines regardless of size. Headers are required in the lineup.

Green Horse (Walk/Trot)

Open to horses in their first or second year of showing under saddle at the BFHS, any age. The Division is walk/trot. Equines may be shown western two handed in a snaffle bit at any age for under saddle classes

Youth Walk Trot Canter (Games Day only)

Open to riders 12-18 years old. Exhibitors will be asked to walk, trot, canter, and back.

Adult Walk Trot Canter (Games Day only)

Open to riders 19 years old or over. Exhibitors will be asked to walk, trot, canter, and back.

2026 Class Descriptions

Halter

Judged on the horse's conformation and way of travel. Horses will be asked to walk and trot/jog. Each entry will be inspected to evaluate conformation (the horse's build).

Showmanship

Judged on the correctness of pattern completion as well as effective communication between horse and handler.

Equitation

Judged on the rider's effectiveness in using aids to communicate with their horse. Riders are expected to maintain proper posture at all gaits, including halt, back, sidepass, and other maneuvers, as well as during patterns and work-offs as called for.

Pleasure

Judged on the horse's quality of movement at each gait, including halt, back, sidepass, and other required maneuvers. Credit is awarded for ease of maneuvering, willingness to work, and responsiveness to the rider.

Command

Judged on the rider's ability to complete requested gaits and maneuvers promptly and correctly as announced. At the judge's discretion, the class may be run using a "now" system, or each rider may be given approximately three seconds to complete the requested maneuver.

Commands may include:

- Halt
- Back
- Sidepass
- Turn on the haunches
- Turn on the forehand
- Reverse direction at any gait
- Counter canter
- Any other variation deemed appropriate by the judge

Leadline

Leadline exhibitors are welcome to compete in the Handler Class. This class is run similarly to Halter.

Pleasure and Equitation will be run as described above.

Candy Race

Exhibitors will line up by the in-gate. The announcer will count down and say "Go!" Exhibitors will walk or trot/jog to the center arena line, dismount with assistance if needed, collect as much candy as possible, and race back on foot to the starting line where their handlers and horses will be waiting.

Driving Pattern

Competitors will be asked to drive a prescribed pattern designed to demonstrate accuracy, control, precision, and the horse's responsiveness to the driver. Judging will be based on the correct execution of the pattern, smooth transitions, proper use of aids, and overall performance.

Driving Pleasure

The Driving Pleasure class showcases the horse's manners, way of going, and suitability as a pleasure driving horse. Horses should demonstrate a relaxed, willing attitude while maintaining forward, balanced movement. Competitors will be asked to work in both directions of the ring at the walk and trot, with additional gaits or movements at the judge's discretion. Judged on performance, manners, quality of movement, and overall presentation.

Driving Reinsmanship

Driving Reinsmanship emphasizes the driver's skill and ability rather than the horse alone. Exhibitors are judged on proper handling of the reins and whip, accuracy, control, smoothness, and effectiveness in guiding the horse. Correct turnout, ring etiquette, and communication between horse and driver are also considered. The horse should respond willingly and promptly to the driver's aids.

Charity Classes

Ready for a challenge? The pattern for this class will be revealed only minutes before the class begins! Horse and rider teams will have a short opportunity to review the pattern before entering the arena. Judging will focus on accuracy, confidence, communication, responsiveness, and the overall partnership between horse and rider!

All entry fees from this class will be donated to support the Blandford Fair Preservation.

Jackpot Classes

Put your skills to the test and compete for cash prizes in our Jackpot Classes! Each Jackpot class has a \$20 entry fee, with 100% of the jackpot entries paid back to the top three placings.

Payouts:

- 1st Place: 60% of the jackpot
- 2nd Place: 30% of the jackpot
- 3rd Place: 10% of the jackpot

Classes will be judged on the horse and exhibitor's overall performance, accuracy, willingness, and execution of the class requirements.

Please Note: **Prize payouts are based on the total entry fees collected for each individual Jackpot class.**