

Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association
Standard Operating Procedure



Guidelines for Districts for Equestrians With Disabilities (EWD)

Purpose-to allow Districts to offer alternatives and accommodations to the standard class list so that EWD riders may ride for their educational institution. The classes would allow for Walk/Walk Trot Showmanship, Equitation, Horsemanship and Trail. These classes would be added based on participation of EWD riders and the classes may be run in one of the following ways:

1. Start before each discipline
2. Be held at a separate agreed upon start time (ie..lunch)
3. May be run congruent with ongoing classes

These classes are exposition only and do not count for points and/or against slot allocation.

Exhibitors

Competition is open to riders with physical or cognitive disabilities (see eligible conditions for examples), that causes a permanent impairment that can be measured objectively.

To participate in EWD events, a rider will provide the following documentation to MIHA District chairperson at least 30 days in advance

- A licensed medical physician signature on a MIHA Special Diagnosis form
- Acceptable Adaptive Equipment Form (form to be completed by a certified instructor or coach of Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.), Special Olympics, US Para-Equestrian, Certified Horsemanship Association or IRD or a certified therapeutic riding instructor).
- Parents will sign waiver of liability holding MIHA, District chairperson, Coaches, any member of MIHA or relatives of MIHA members harmless against injury or property damage (attached, included in our Registration form)
- EWD rider is required to fill out our MIHA registration form
- EWD rider is required to conform to team rules included fees for team they join
- EWD rider shall not show in any other class
- EWD riders should bring their own equine mount. This equine mount shall be registered and/or leased by the EWD family.
- Stallions are not eligible to be show in any EWD activities

**Documents to be updated every 2 years

Handlers

- Must be registered as Adult Volunteer
- Indicate for which rider they are handling

- Procure coach's insurance through MIHA and pay fee
- Handlers shall stand quietly in a designated area, not obscuring the judge's line of vision, unless their assistance is required and requested by the judge or ring steward,
- Blind or deaf exhibitors may have an assistant who communicates via verbal or sign language or cue cards to the competitor, so they may hear the judge's directives or pattern instructions. This assistant will be outside the ring, and their position known to the judge and ring steward.
- Leaders and sidewalkers: The supported exhibitor must have a leader with a loose lead without a chain, attached to the halter in a manner that does not interfere with reining of the horse. The supported exhibitor may need the assistance of the one or two side walkers. Once the class has started, unauthorized assistance from horse leaders, spotters and side walkers will result in penalties. Side walker may not give verbal commands or extra physical prompting, except in case of emergency
- Handlers, leaders, sidewalkers or extra spotters, other than the required horse handler, are not considered tack or equipment

Equipment-

- EWD Exhibitors must wear properly fitted and fastened with harness, ASTM approved protective helmet.
- EWD exhibitors can use Special Adaptive Equipment including but not limited to the attached form, Special Adaptive Equipment and Riding Ability form
- Said EWD equipment is the sole responsibility of the EWD to provide, maintain and care for
- EWD exhibitors shall be required to have 1-2 sidewalkers (must be registered as Adult Volunteer and opt for Insurance) and 1 horse handler to facilitate the safety of the horse and exhibitors.
 - handlers must be 18 years of age or older
 - handler must have a lead line without chain attached to the halter only in a manner that does not interfere with reining of the horse
 - handlers will lead and stand quietly during the exhibition of the equine, not obscuring the judges line of vision, unless their assistance is required and/or requested by the judge or ring steward, in the event of a safety issue
 - EWD participants shall abide by the NSBA General Rules for Tack and Equipment; section 358 in the NSBA rulebook, EWD competition for Independent & Supported Exhibitors, v 2022 Page 188 Section 361
<https://www.nsba.com/rulebook>

Class Procedure-

- EWD classes will be treated as an exposition event where riders are able to participate with their team but not count for point or used as a slot
- EWD classes shall consist of Walk Only/Walk Trot Fitting and Showing, Walk only/Walk Trot English Equitation, Walk only/Walk Trot Western Horsemanship, Walk only/Walk Trot Trail.

- In the absence of EWD participants normal class lists and procedures would prevail
- EWD exhibitors that walk only shall show in a separate EWD class than EWD Walk Trot class
- Trail class should be modified with exhibitors' disability in mind and temperament of equine partner. Sharp turns, long reaches should be avoided for this class. Handler(s) may aid rider with any obstacle which becomes too extreme for riders ability.(ie..helping rider with gate) When posted trail pattern calls for a lope, EWD walk trot riders shall trot/jog. Walk only will walk the entire course.

****Eligible conditions:**

Ankylosis
 Amputation (partial to full joint)
 Arthrogyposis
 Asperger syndrome
 Autism spectrum disorder
 Batten disease
 Cerebrovascular accident (CVA/Stroke)
 Cerebellar ataxia
 Cerebral Palsy
 Coffin-Lowry Syndrome
 Cystic Fibrosis
 Down Syndrome,
 Dwarfism
 Fragile X Syndrome
 Friedreich's Ataxia
 Guillain - Barre Syndrome
 Hearing Impairment
 Hunter Syndrome
 Intellectual disability
 Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis
 Microcephaly
 Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
 Muscular Dystrophy
 Paresis
 Post-Polio Syndrome
 Prader-Willis Syndrome
 Rett Syndrome
 Spina Bifida
 Spinal Cord Injury
 Tourette's Syndrome
 Traumatic Brain Injury
 Trisomy Disorders
 Visual Impairment
 Upper Motor Neuron Lesions

*Additional diagnosis will be considered upon request

All EWD riders are a case by case, and will be reviewed by the District Chair and EWD Committee. With that, safety is paramount for not only EWD riders, but for handlers, riders, coach's, and all other individuals within MIHA. District Chairs will submit paperwork to the EWD Committee for acceptance or rejection (paperwork is not completely satisfied within this SOP). EWD Committee will