



MA3 Competition Rules

Addendum



Mounted Archery Association of the Americas is the official governing body of the International Horseback Archery Alliance within the United States. As a general practice, all MA3 events, including but not limited to 1* and 2* competitions, shall follow the IHAA Rules as written in the IHAA Rulebook. Where MA3 rules are more strict than or in addition to the IHAA Rulebook, they will be written in this addendum and will supersede the IHAA rules. This document shall not be used without direct reference to the IHAA Rulebook.

Revised 2/29/2024

3.0 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT, ATTIRE, ARCHERY EQUIPMENT and TACK

- 3.1.1A** Riding helmets are encouraged but are not mandatory. The exception is that competitors under the age of 18 must wear a riding helmet at all times when mounted.
- 3.1.2.3** If a helmet is to be required for a specific event, it must be announced in the official competition rules for the event at time of registration, so that all competitors have equal opportunity to make an informed decision to compete.
- 3.7A** All competitors MUST use a saddle with stirrups.
- 3.8A** All horses must be ridden with a bridle, bit-less bridle, side pull or bosal. All horses must have reins. There will be no liberty riding or riding with a bridle-less bit (war bridle) or a halter.
 - 3.8A.1** A halter is defined as a piece of equipment designed for handling the horse on the ground, not designed or marketed for riding purposes.
 - 3.8A.2** A halter may be considered a bridle if designed and marketed for riding, has separate attachment points for reins, and using the reins does not cause any part of the headgear to slip, pull, or otherwise contact the horse's eye or other sensitive parts of the horse.
- 3.9.2.2** Other than a rein keeper, any piece of equipment that attaches the horse's head to its body/saddle, under penalty of elimination, is prohibited. Any rein keeper used must be able to break away in the event of a fall or entanglement. Rein Keepers are required. (Prohibited equipment includes, but is not limited to, martingales of any kind, tie downs, draw reins, check reins, reins looped over the horn or pommel, or ANY item or attachment of equipment that impedes free head carriage at any time. Contact with the horse's head/mouth should only be possible by the rider taking up the reins.)

4.0 HORSES

- 4.1A** All horses should be adequately trained and experienced in mounted archery and must be fit enough to complete all their required runs at walk, trot, canter or gallop.
 - 4.1.2** It is suggested that only experienced mounted archery horses be shared among multiple riders at a competition.
- 4.6.1A** The maximum number of canter runs (to include warm up runs) offered for a multiple day competition is TWENTY FOUR (24) per day per HORSE. NO HORSE WILL EXCEED 24 RUNS PER DAY AT ANY MA3 or NATIONAL RANKING COMPETITION, to include practice day(s).
- 4.6.1B** If the Horse is shared with 2 people, that is 12 total canter runs per person.

7.0 OFFICIALS

- 7.4.2 The Competition organizer shall submit a competition application to the MA3 Board of Directors for review and approval no less than two (2) months prior than the first competition day for National Ranking events, and no less than One (1) month for non-ranking events.
 - 7.4.2.1 The Competition Organizer shall ensure that all Track Marshals have taken and passed the required Track Marshal Exam AT LEAST two weeks before the first Competition Day.
- 7.5.3 The Head Judge shall be responsible for ensuring all competition rules and safety protocols listed in this document are followed.
- 7.8.1 There must be at least two Score Keepers with at least one being an Active MA3 member.
- 7.8.2 No competitor may be a Score Keeper.
- 7.8.3 Smaller competitions with less than 15 competitors may, where needed, have only ONE Score Keeper, providing that a second person who is not a competitor double checks scores. Larger competitions with 15 or more competitors should have TWO Score Keepers, and it is advised to utilize the Radek IHAA online scoring system.
- 7.8.4 In the case of the Radek system usage, one Score Keeper will input the scores into the Radek system online while a second Score Keeper will write the scores manually. (www.ihaa.eu)
- 7.9A All Track Marshals shall be required to complete the Track Marshal Exam provided by MA3 and to pass the final exam with at least an 80% score before they are allowed to perform these roles.
- 7.14.2 Before any volunteer shall be allowed to participate in a competition, it is required that they undergo proper training and education on MA3 Competition Rules and Guidelines. It is the responsibility of the Competition Organizer to ensure that this training occurs.

8.0 – THE TRACK

- 8.2.1 The boundaries of the track shall be clearly delineated by a rope, track poles, or raised earth.
- 8.2.2 It is suggested that if a track is built with poles rather than with ropes, the poles should be moved closer together than they would be with ropes as barriers.
- 8.3.1A It is required, that if rope is used, it should have breaking points to allow a horse to go through it. The recommended method is to attach a small piece of wire to the ends of the ropes and hook them together.
- 8.3.3 Any posts used as barriers must be bendable, easily bent, under 100 pounds, such that it does not present significant risk of injury to a horse or rider who falls on them. The top of the post must be covered by a non-metal T-shaped fitting, ball, or rounded object to prevent injury. The white, push-in posts with flat, square tops, or similar, are permissible to use without a covering on top as long as the posts are angled OUTWARD from the track. Wood or metal posts including steel "T-posts" are strictly prohibited for use as track boundaries.
- 8.5.2A There shall be at least **25 meters** space after the finish line for the horse to slow and stop safely.
- 8.7A The track shall be inspected for hazards before each day of competition. It is recommended to designate a track maintenance person or crew during competitions.
- 8.8.3 As a safety check, all tracks including Straight Tracks, Hunt, Cross Country, or otherwise, will be ridden at suggested course speed prior to warm-up day by competition organizers or members of host chapter. If track must be changed for safety reasons, it must be re-run at suggested course speed by at least two riders/horses before continuing competition.
- 8.9A All spectators/ all people must be at least 5 meters from the course at all times, including Volunteers, Scorers, Photographers, Competitors, Horses, and Officials including the Track Marshal.
- 8.9.2 There shall be a physical barrier between spectators and the course/track/competing horses. The barrier shall be either along the entire length of the track (run in and run out) or outside of the 5 meter safety zone.

8.9.3 The 5 meter zone shall be marked off for easy visual reference (poles or cones).

8.12 Any applicable state equine signage must be posted during competitions, viewable by all competitors.

8.12.1 It is suggested that these signs be posted within 15 meters of the Track.

8.13 Emergency contacts for Local Hospitals, Vets, and Farriers must be posted in a physical sign during competitions, viewable for all competitors.

8.13.1. It is suggested that these signs be posted within 15 meters of the Track.

13.0 PERSONAL CONDUCT

13.2.2A Riders are not allowed to use their arrows or bow to cue their horse, either by waiving in the air or hitting the horse.

13.3A In the interest of keeping competition zones safe for horses and competitors, there will be no alcohol or drug use closer than 30 meters from the start and finish areas of the track. This includes but is not limited to spectators and other non-competitors or competition personnel.

13.8 Guns and ammunition are prohibited within 30 meters of the competition track.

13.9 Minors under the age of 18 are not allowed to participate without a parent/guardian present.

4.9.1 In the event that a Competitor or Participant under the age of 18 travels to a competition without their parent or legal guardian, they must bring with them paperwork designating responsibility to whichever adult is acting as their guardian for the event.

4.9.2 This rule applies to the Competitors, Volunteers, and Participants of any kind, at any official MA3 event including practices, demonstrations, and competitions.

4.9.3 The Parent, Guardian, or person designated responsible for the minor **MUST BE ON SITE AT ALL TIMES** when the minor is on site during any official MA3 Event.

4.9.4 Please reference the Youth Waiver for more details and official designations.

15.0 APPEALS

15.7 In the case that a decision cannot be determined by the appeals committee, the issue will be tabled until competition ceases for the day, and the situation (including any possible points which would be affected) will be recorded for posterity. When the competition ceases for the day, the appeals committee will call upon their assigned MA3 Board of Directors Representative to communicate the issue to the BoD Rules Committee, who will legislate the situation.

16.0 PROCEDURE PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION

16.3A A walk/jog on the track, or area with similar footing, prior to the start of the competition is mandatory to check for soundness. It will be up to the horse owner or qualified veterinarian to determine the soundness of the horse

16.4 All Competitions will be open to any current MA3 member, at the discretion of the host or chapter leader.