

## PROTEST PROCEDURE CONCERNING HEIGHT

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Those who will be present during the protest
  - a. Steward/Measuring official who measured the horse into the show.
  - b. The steward/measuring official who will be measuring for the protest measurement.
  - c. 2 other protest committee members to be selected by the show manager.
  - d. The protestor or agent filing the protest.
  - e. The owner(s) or agent of the protested horse.
  - f. The owner may designate someone to handle their horse for the measurement as long as it is not an AOTE horse.
  - g. Two designated members of the show rules committee (if present on the grounds) to observe and serve as a Rule Book resource
  - h. . No spectators will be allowed in the protest measurement area.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The protest committee will meet with the above parties to go over the following:
  - i. GR-020
  - j. GR-050
  - k. WS-028 will also be reviewed if the protest is at the World Show.
  - l. A packet with the aforementioned rules and this procedure will be given to all involved.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The protestor and the owner of the protested horse, unless handling their horse, will remain at least 10' from the horse being protested.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The protest committee has the right to remove anyone the protest committee deems disruptive to the protest measuring process.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The protest measurement will be videotaped by AMHA at any AMHA sponsored event.
  - m. No personal videotaping will be allowed.
  - n. The official AMHA video will be available for members who were involved in the protest measurement procedure to view in the show office.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Due to the tense atmosphere of a protest measurement, a ¼" allowance will be given (ie. a horse that measures 32¼" will be considered a valid measurement to qualify for 32" and under class)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. When the horse is presented to the protest committee officials, the horse's name, owner name and the person's name protesting will be recorded in the show records and announced on the AMHA video.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The measuring stick will be calibrated in the presence of all people in #1 above right before the measuring commences.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The protest committee will do a soundness check per GR-050 C 5 \_\_\_\_\_, check for signs of sedation per GR-020 I \_\_\_\_\_ and confirm the last mane hair \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The protest committee members not measuring will determine if the horse is standing according to GR-020.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Once the measurement is taken and the stick is locked in position, barring no objections from the protest committee, the height will be announced, and the stick shown to all parties involved as well as the official AMHA video when being videoed as described in #5 above.

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Protest committee member #1

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Protest committee member #2

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Protest committee member #3

## GR-020 HEIGHT VERIFICATION

- A. No Miniature Horse shall exceed 34 inches in height. Weanlings must not exceed 30 inches.  
Yearlings must not exceed 32 inches.  
Two-year-olds must not exceed 33 inches.

The show age of the horse is determined from January 1 preceding its birthday.

- B. Horse's height must be verified on a hard, level surface, preferably concrete or paved, in a public place, by a show official and witnessed by a recording official of the show. **The cross piece or arm of the stick must slide up and down freely until the standard is placed on the ground. The cross piece or arm must then be lowered on the horse's last mane hair.** No person with horses being shown competing in the show may be a measuring official at the show.  
(Amended 02-11, effective 01-12)  
**(Amended 11-23, effective 01-24)**

The measuring device used to measure the first horse must be used to measure all the horses. A standard measurement stick is a straight, stiff, unbendable stick (metal) that is equipped with a bullseye, plumb bob or a spirit level to make sure that the standard is perpendicular to the ground and that the cross piece or arm is parallel with the ground surface.

- C. To receive an exhibitor's number, the horse must be measured and have height recorded on the entry sheet by the person measuring horses or by his designee.
- D. The height verification of the Miniature Horse shall be determined by measuring the vertical distance from the base of the last hairs of the mane to the ground with the front two (2) legs vertical and in line with or parallel to the measuring device, and the back of the hocks in a vertical line with the horse's fetlocks. The last hairs of the mane refers to the last coarse (longer) hair of the horse's mane. Any softer body hair, left longer so as to be considered as an extension of the mane, should be differentiated from mane hair and should not be included as part of the mane when measuring. The horse's head and neck shall be in a natural position, facing forward, with the nostrils lower than the eyes. The animal must stand squarely on all four (4) feet. No height allowance will be made for excessive foot. After the horse is set up for measuring by the handler, said handler may not touch the horse, i.e. stretching the head up forward, moving the feet; touching the back or pressing down on any part of the back until the measurer removes the measuring stick.

(Amended 02-03, effective 01-04) (Amended 02-10, effective 01-11) (Amended 11-21, effective 01-22)

CLARIFICATION 12-05-09: "The Official Show Measurer will not attempt to measure the horse until the handler has set the horse, per Show Rule GR-020, and is positioned near the horse, in a kneeling or standing position, not touching the horse with any part of his/her body, and advises the measurer the horse is ready to be measured. The Official Measurer will then attempt to measure the horse. During the measuring process, if the handler touches the horse, the attempt to measure will be stopped, and the handler will be advised the horse cannot be touched during the measuring process."

- I. Any horse showing evidence of the use of any drugs, sedatives or stimulants to produce deceptive height will be refused measurement until such time as the Measurement Team sees no sign or effects of said drugs or stimulant use.  
(Amended 02-10, effective 01-11)

## GR-050 PROTESTS

- A. All protests shall be handled according to the following:
- 1. All protests must be made by an owner/agent of a horse entered in the show and owner must be present or have an agent present at the show. (Amended 11-23, effective 01-24)**
  2. The protest shall be accompanied by a **\$200** deposit. If a protest is not sustained the **\$200** protest fee shall go to the profits of the show. (Amended 11-23, effective 01-24)
  3. Protests shall be adjudicated by a protest committee of three (3) show officials not involved in the dispute.
  4. The Protest Committee shall promptly meet and adjudicate the issue, make effective its decision upon the parties in interest and report its determination to all parties. A show Protest Committee may disqualify a person and/or his/her entries for the duration of the show.
  5. The decision of the Protest Committee may be appealed to the AMHA Show Rules Committee with an additional \$150.00 and all copies of paperwork sent to the protestee by the protestor. A second appeal may be made to the AMHA Board of Directors with an additional **\$150** fee. (Amended 11-23, **effective 01-24**)
  6. No protest of approved show rules or Show Rules Committee's previous interpretations of any rule will be allowed on show level.
- B. Horses involved in a protest shall upon request:
1. Be presented within one hour of notification.
  2. Remain in full view of at least one show official, or designated person, until protest is finally resolved.
  3. Horse may not be trimmed, medicated, ridden, exercised, or otherwise altered prior to final resolution of the protest. **Horses may be lunged for up to 15 minutes.** Any such alteration will result in the disqualification of the animal for the remainder of the competition with forfeiture of all prizes and entry fees paid by the owner. **(Amended 11-23, effective 01-24)**
- C. Protest concerning height:
1. The measurement of a horse may be protested at any time prior to the end of the show so long as the horse is present on the show grounds. The protest must be made in writing accompanied by a **\$200** deposit. **(Amended 12-07, effective 01-08) (Amended 11-23, effective 01-24)**
  2. The horse shall be re measured by a show official other than the show official that measured all animals at the show, and in the presence of the original measurer and at least two (2) other show officials. **If another qualified show official measurer is not present at the time of protest, the original measurer can remeasure with the supervision of at least two (2) other show officials. (Amended 11-23, effective 01-24)**
  3. If there is no discrepancy in measurements from the first measurement to the measurement after protest, the original measurement stands as official. There will be a one-quarter inch (1/4") over height qualifications for the protest measurement only. Example: Horse 'A' is protested as being too tall in a 30 to 32 class. Its original measurement was 31 ¾. The horse measures 32 ¼ by a protest measuring team. It meets the allowance authorized under the protest rule. It is therefore a legal horse at that show. (This ¼ inch amnesty only applies to Protest Measurements and not to regular measurements) The one quarter (1/4) in allowance is to be applied to all height categories. All points, placings, awards will be relinquished by any horse who fails to meet height requirements under protest for that show only. If the measurement is within legal height limits for the AMHA, but out of class height constraints, only the awards pertaining to effected height classes will be relinquished. Example: Horse 'B' was exhibited in a 30 to 32 inch Senior Halter Class. Horse 'B' wins Grand. It is then protested, Horse 'B' measures 32 ¾ inches. Horse B forfeits the Grand Champion award along with the 30 to 32 inch halter class placings, but may keep any award that is not height related, such as youth halter, halter obstacle, color, etc. (The horse must forfeit the Championship Award, as a result of disqualification from the original height class). If the horse measures above AMHA **height**

requirements at its respective age it then loses ALL awards, points, and placings for that show. 2/22/2015 BOD voted to retain 12/8/2020 BOD voted to retain (Amended 12-22, effective 01-23)

4. All measurements must take place in direct view of the owner/trainer of protested animal, and the individual who filed the protest.
5. Any animal submitted for an official measurement must show no evidence of lameness. If lameness is determined by the show veterinarian, this shall result in disqualification of the animal for the balance of the competition, and the owner of the animal forfeits fees and winnings for the entire show for the protested animal.

#### CLARIFICATION

“An AMHA horse that does not measure within required height constraints for its age group at a show cannot be protested in attempt for further measurement to enter the show. GR-050 pertains to horses in a show and does not apply to horses that do not meet qualification. Under GR-050 horses that have qualified and been accepted in a show can only be protested one time, per show, for a height challenge.”

The rule above is clarifying that if a horse measures out of the show, it is not considered in the show; therefore it can not be protested.

## WORLD SHOW ONLY

### WS-028 MEASUREMENT OF HORSES

- A. Once show officials have followed the rules for measuring the horse (GR-020) and the horse has been measured, the measurement becomes the official height for that show and is not protestable once the horse enters the ring. The height of the horse will be posted three (3) hours prior to the horse entering the ring. If any horse is shown where measurement was not posted (unless through show management error) in accordance with the above, its height can be protested up to one hour after its class is completed. If a protest is filed, the procedures for protest as outlined in GR-050 must be followed. **The AMHyA World Show and AMHA World Show shall be considered separate events but use the same measurement. A horse entering the AMHyA show must be protested prior to its first youth class. At the conclusion of the AMHyA World Show, all results and placings will be considered final. Any horse showing in the AMHA World Show (i.e. Amateur & Open Divisions) will be protestable even if it showed in Youth, but the protest must be made prior to the horse's first class in the AMHA World Show Amateur/Open Show. Protests made during the Amateur/ Open section of the World Show shall not affect placings in the AMHyA youth show.**  
(Amended 11-21, effective 1-22)
  
- B. Beginning in 1998, World Championship and Championship Shows to use measuring stick as described in GR-020-B.