

THE RULES of the Organisation and Competition of the Middle European Cup

§ 1.

The Middle European Cup

The Middle European Cup (MEC) is the international competition of teams in Western Riding. The basic objective and mission of MEC is to promote the Western Riding in the organizing countries and to realize the competition of the best riders in the categories of youth, adults and open, in the variety of disciplines.

§ 2.

The Logo of MEC

1. The Logo of MEC is approved and agreed by all organising countries as follows:



2. The Logo of MEC cannot be changed.
3. The only allowed change in the logo is the year in which the competition is held.
4. The logo alternative in the national language of the organizing country is allowed.

§ 3.

The Organizing Countries

Organizing countries are as follows:

the Czech Republic
Hungary
Poland
the Slovak Republic

§ 4.

The Main Organizer

1. The MEC is held in a different country every year.
2. The main organizer is always the National Federation of Western Riding of the country in which the MEC is held in a given year.

3. They are the following federations:
Western Riding Club of the Czech Republic
Magyar Lovas Szövetség – Western Szakág
Polska Liga Western i Rodeo
Slovak Association of Western Riding and Rodeo

§ 5.

The Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee consisting of the representatives of the organizing countries is supervising the action of MEC.
2. Each country nominates two members of this Committee.
3. The Committee elects the president and the secretary from among its members. They are elected for the period of four years.
4. The Committee meets once (not twice) – the meeting will be held during the actual year competition at the venue of MEC.
5. In case it is necessary, the meeting can be held more than once a year. Matters of MEC can be carried out, agreed and decided upon also by electronic means – e-mail, skype etc.
6. The Committee is supervising the main organizer and is monitoring the ready condition of MEC. The supervision must be carried out in the form of protocols by e-mail and if it is necessary, also by personal meeting.
7. The organizer of MEC is obliged to reply to every e-mail and to answer any question put by a committee member representing any participating country.
8. Besides supervising, the Committee is obliged to keep records of the results and statistics of the individual years.
9. The organizing country has to present all substantial information regarding MEC on the webpage www.mecinfo.eu , which is administered by Western Riding Club Czech Republic.

§ 6.

Changing the MEC Rules

1. Any change of the rules has to be submitted to all members of the MEC Committee in writing, as the proposal for the change of the rules.
2. Any change of the rules has to be approved by the MEC Committee, it has to be published as an amendment to the rules and approved at least 3 months before the beginning of the oncoming MEC competition.
3. The acceptance of the change of the rules is decided by voting.

§ 7.

The Voting

1. Each country has one voice. Any decision made by the Committee is valid only when the decision has been adopted by the majority.
2. President of MEC has one voice. In case of the equality of votes, the president has two votes.

3. The voting is valid on condition that minimum two countries are present at the voting.

§ 8.

Judging and Disciplines of MEC

The MEC competitions are advertised for the following classes and disciplines:

A. YOUTH Class (age 10 – 18) in the following disciplines:

Reining Youth	AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations (Rule No. 451)
Western Pleasure	AQHA (Rule No. 464B)
Trail	AQHA (Rule No. 454B)
Barrel Racing	AQHA (Rule No. 457). This discipline is run in two rounds and the winner is the racer, <u>who achieved the best time (no matter in which round)</u> . Riders can use any bridle they want (not injuring the horse) regardless of rider or horse age and they can use one-hand or two-hand holding.
Pole Bending	AQHA (Rule No. 458). This discipline is run in two rounds and the winner is the racer, <u>who achieved the best time (no matter in which round)</u> . Riders can use any bridle they want (not injuring the horse) regardless of rider or horse age and they can use one-hand or two-hand holding.
Western Horsemanship	AQHA (Rule No. 473B)

B. ADULT Class (age 18 and more) in the following disciplines:

Reining Junior	AQHA (Rule No. 451), Discipline is for 3 to 5 years old horses.
Reining Senior	AQHA (Rule No. 451). The discipline Reining Senior is run in two rounds (all riders go to the second round) and the winner is the racer, <u>who achieved the maximum of points, added together from both rounds</u> . Discipline is for horses 6 years old and older.
Western Pleasure	AQHA (Rule No. 464B)
Trail	AQHA (Rule No. 454B)
Western Riding	AQHA (Rule No. 453B)
Superhorse	Rule of Western Riding Club Czech Republic
Western Horsemanship	AQHA (Rule Nr. 474B)
Barrel Racing	AQHA (Rule No. 457). This discipline is run in two rounds and the winner is the racer, <u>who achieved the best time (no matter in which round)</u> . Riders can use any bridle they want (not injuring the horse) regardless of rider or horse age and they can use one-hand or two-hand holding.
Pole Bending	AQHA (Rule No 458). This discipline is run in two rounds and the winner is the racer, <u>who achieved the best time (no matter in which</u>

round). Riders can use any bridle they want (not injuring the horse) regardless of rider or horse age and they can use one-hand or two-hand holding.

C. OPEN Class (age 10 and more) in the following disciplines:

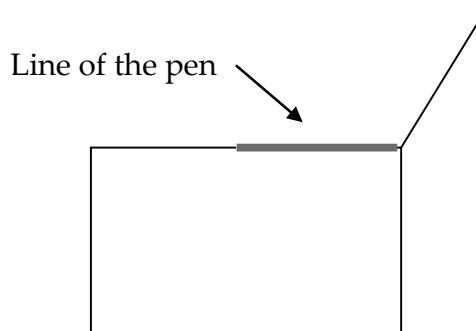
In the OPEN Class is the number of rounds set by the organizer. The organizer has to indicate the number of rounds of each discipline in propositions. Meeting of judges and team leaders will be before every OPEN Class discipline. The reason is to clarify the Rules. Riders can speak with judges only via team leaders.

Cutting

AQHA (Rule No. 471). This discipline has to be the first OPEN class discipline in program. If it is run in two rounds, the winner is the racer, who achieved the maximum of points, added together from both rounds. The couple rider/horse can start only once. Exception is granted only in case of serious reasons (injury of horse etc.), and this reasons will be evaluate by MEC Committee before start of the discipline – then one reserve rider/horse may start. The name of this reserve rider/horse has to be written in the original application form of this couple to the Cutting. In this case is allowed to one couple rider/horse to start more than once.

Team Penning

AQHA (Rule No.455). The number of yarded cows is decisive for the better placement, then the time. If it is run in two rounds, rounds are added together. The couple rider/horse can start only in one team. Exception is granted only in case of serious reasons (injury of horse etc.), and this reasons will be evaluate by MEC Committee before start of the discipline – then one reserve rider/horse may start. The name of this reserve rider/horse has to be written in the original application form of this team to the Team Penning. In this case is allowed to one couple rider/horse to start in more than one team. Riders can use any bridle they want (not injuring the horse) regardless of rider or horse age and they can use one-hand or two-hand holding. Team can close the pen and finish the start only in case that all riders are on the side of pen and no other cattle (except these in pen) is on the side of the pen. The Pen can be closed in this way: one rider from the team goes with his horse to the pen line (the line is between nose and front legs of the horse) and visibly rises his hand.



Cattle Penning

Rules of SAWRR. It's up to the Organiser, if this Discipline will be ridden by MEC. If it is run in two rounds, all the competitors go to the second round and rounds are added together. The number of yarded cows is decisive for the better placement, then the time. This discipline is counted to the MEC points only if there are teams from two countries at least. The couple rider/horse can start only once. Exception is granted only in case of serious reasons (injury of horse etc.), and this reasons will be evaluate by MEC Committee before start of the discipline – then one reserve rider/horse may start. The name of this reserve rider/horse has to be written in the original application form to the Cattle Penning. In this case is allowed to one couple rider/horse to start more than once. Riders can use any bridle they want (not injuring the horse) regardless of age and they can use one-hand or two-hand holding. Rider can close the pen and finish the start only in case that on no other cattle (except this in pen) is not on the side of pen. Pen can be closed in this way: rider goes with his horse to the pen line (the line is between nose and front legs of the horse) and visibly rises his hand. The line of the pen is displayed in the discipline Team Penning and it is the same in Cattle Penning.

Ranch Sorting

AQHA (Rule No.456 IV.). It's up to the Organiser, if this Discipline will be ridden by MEC. If the discipline is run in two rounds, all the competitors go to the second round and rounds are added together. The number of sorted cows is decisive for the better placement. This discipline is counted to the MEC points only if there are riders from two countries at least. The couple rider/horse can start only in one team. Exception is granted only in case of serious reasons (injury of horse etc.), and this reasons will be evaluate by MEC Committee before start of the discipline – then one reserve rider/horse may start. The name of this reserve rider/horse has to be written in the original application form of this team to the Ranch Sorting. In this case is allowed to one couple rider/horse to start in more than one team. Riders can use any bridle they want (not injuring the horse) regardless of rider or horse age and they can use one-hand or two-hand holding.

1. All other matters (equipment, bridle etc.) are specified by the Rules of AQHA.
2. The parent of the child, who is younger than 10 years, can ask for the start, but it has to be allowed by MEC Committee at least one month before the date of the MEC Competition beginning.
3. Riders, which are 13 years old and less, could start with any type of a bit (no matter the age of a horse).
4. The competition will be judged by the team of judges from participating countries. Each national team has to nominate one judge with secretary. The judge has to have the valid judge-licence in your country for actual year. The judge and secretary – costs for accommodation and

meal will be paid by organizer and the other costs will be paid by national western association. The ringsteward will be determined by the organizer.

5. By the points – disciplines will be the highest and the shortest score scratched and the score of rest of judges will be added up (if there are four or more judges). In the case that there are three or less judges, then all points will be added together. In the impression disciplines, where the judges have to give the rankings, the points will be awarded according to the FEI table (then there is the same system as in other disciplines):

1. 120 points	6. 55	11. 15
2. 105	7. 45	12. 10
3. 91	8. 36	13. 6
4. 78	9. 28	14. 3
5. 66	10. 21	15. 1

6. In case of the points equality in the discipline:
 - a) In case, that two or more riders are placed on the same place in rankings of the discipline, the final rankings will be decided by the judges based on new ride. If the judges still cannot determine on the rankings, it will be decided in lottery.
 - b) The winner of each discipline can be only one pair (rider/horse) or one team. Equal placement in next rankings is possible, if it does not inhibit countries from gaining awarding points (if it does, use system 6a.).
7. The main judge will be determined by lottery before the beginning of competition. All the chiefs of equips/teams have to attend and be present at this lottery.

§ 9. Competitors

A. Number of competitors

1. Competitor can be enlisted in the MEC only through country leader (it is not possible to send individual application form).
2. The arbitrary number of competitors from each country can be enlisted in each discipline in YOUTH and ADULT classes, but to the limit five riders per country are counted towards the MEC classification on points. The chief of equipe is obliged to register these 5 riders at least one hour prior to the start of the given discipline. If the chief of equipe fails to do so, his team will be given no point in this discipline.
3. Each competitor is obliged to wear the national team dress of his/her country (apart from disciplines Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship). If he does not observe the condition, he will be disqualified.
4. In the working disciplines (OPEN class) the maximum number of competitors is set by the organizer. To the MEC classification are counted maximum five riders in Cutting and Cattle Penning, five teams in Team Penning and Ranch Sorting. The chief of equipe is obliged to register these riders or teams at least one hour prior to the start of the given discipline. If the chief of equipe fails to do so, his team will be given no point in this discipline.

5. Youth competitors till the age 15, has to wear the three-point-protective helmet in all disciplines except Western Horsemanship, Trail and Pleasure (in these three disciplines they can start with a western hat, but on the responsibility of their parents, which has to be sign on the MEC application form). Youth competitors till the age 18, has to wear the three-point-protective helmet in speed disciplines and disciplines in OPEN class. When this condition will be not fulfilled, the competitor will be disqualified.
6. One horse can not start in more than four disciplines per day (disciplines which are ride in to rounds are counted as one start).

B. The right to start

Each competitor has to have the valid licence of the country he represents. If the rider wants to represent other country, not the country the citizen of which he is, it is possible only in case he has permanent or temporary residence in the country, which he intends to represent.

C. Horse licence

The horse has to have the valid licence of one of participating countries.

D. The chief of equipe is responsible for the correctness and veracity of the licence.

§ 10.

Awarding Points of MEC

1. The points of each discipline are credited to the classification of MEC by the number of participating countries. If in one discipline the riders from five countries take part, the points are allocated as follows: the first one will achieve 5 points for his/her country, 4 points are achieved by the best rider from the second country (even he/she ends up on the 5th place), 3 points are achieved by the best rider from another country, ect.
If in one discipline the riders from only two countries compete, the rider from the first place will achieve 2 points and the best rider of another country will achieve 1 point.
2. In case that in one discipline all riders from one country have the score 0 or are disqualified, they achieve 0 points for their country.
3. In case of the equality of points in the final MEC classification, the decisive is the number of first places. If it will be not possible to determine the placement after counting the first places, the winner country will be determined in a lottery.

§ 11.

Fees

1. In the disciplines of ADULT and OPEN category the maximum allowed starting fee is EURO 35.00 per rider/horse. In Reining Senior, which is run in two rounds, it is EURO 50.00 per rider/horse. In Team Penning it is EURO 105.00 per team - plus cattle fee EURO 50,- for each team. This cattle fee (EURO 50,-) will be paid also in Cutting and Cattle Penning for each

rider/horse. In Ranch Sorting it is EURO 70,- per team – plus cattle fee EURO 50,- for each team.

2. In the disciplines of YOUTH class the maximum limit for the starting fee is EURO 17.50.
3. The price of box is max. EURO 75.00 for min. three days, including hay and straw.
4. The Office fee EUR 5,- will be paid for each horse/rider.
5. All the above-mentioned fees are including taxes.

§ 12.

Awards for Individuals

1. In compliance with the AQHA Rules, ribbons will be given to individuals up to the 6th place in each discipline as follows:
 - 1st place: blue
 - 2nd place: red
 - 3rd place: yellow
 - 4th place: white
 - 5th place: pink
 - 6th place: green
2. Cups will be given to individuals up to 3rd place in each discipline.
3. Other awards are fully in the power of the organizer.

Financial awards:

1. In the ADULT and OPEN classes, where the starting fee is EURO 35.00, the organizer is obliged to use EURO 30.00 for financial awards
 - In Reining Senior, where the starting fee is EURO 50.00, it is EURO 40.00 - for financial award.
 - In Team Penning it is EURO 90.00.
 - In Ranch Sorting it is EURO 60.00.
2. In the YOUTH class it is EURO 15.00.
3. Financial awards are awarded up to the 4th place in proportion of 40 %, 30 %, 20 %, and 10 %.

§ 13.

Awards for Teams

1. The winning team will be awarded the copy of the Original Middle European Cup (which is always provided by the organizer), and all the team-riders plus five members of the realization team will be awarded the gold medals.
2. The Team on the 2nd place will be awarded the Cup and all the team-riders plus five members of the realization team will be awarded the silver medals.
3. The Team on the 3rd place will be awarded the Cup and all the team-riders plus the realization team will be awarded the bronze medals.
4. The team placed on the 4th place will be awarded the Cup.

§ 14.
The Challenge Cup

1. The Challenge Cup (donated by the Western Riding Club of the Czech Republic) will be given by the Organizer of the present MEC to the Organizer of the next MEC.
2. Any alternations and changes on the Challenge Cup are forbidden, and the possible changes can only be approved by the Steering Committee.

§ 15.
The Duties of Organizer

1. The organizer is obliged to hold the decoration of winners and to play the national anthem for the winner.
2. On his web-page the organizer is obliged to publish the proposition of the competition as follows:
 - the preliminary proposition at least 3 months before the beginning of MEC
 - the final proposition at least 1 month before the beginning of MEC
3. The organizer is obliged to hold the festive formation of teams during the performance of MEC.
4. The organizer is obliged to provide the Challenge Cup with the label stating the name of the winning country.
5. The organizer of the next MEC is obliged to advice the date and the venue of the next MEC to the Steering Committee before December 10 of the current year, prior to the next year of competition, and the president has to give this message to all participating countries till December 31 of the current year.
6. The MEC-Competition can last for maximum three days and the program of the last day of the MEC competition has to be finished till 3 PM – the awards ceremony including.
7. The organizer is obliged to hand in all score sheets and results to the Secretary of MEC.

§ 16.
Other competition

1. At the same time, besides the MEC competition, the AQHA competitions can also be held.
2. The disciplines of MEC have to run separately, as the independent disciplines.

1st of February 2014

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