



2021 USMS Futurity Rules

Futurity Rules

Any member with a current USMS membership in good standing is eligible to compete in the USMS Futurity events.

All Futurity entries must be 4 or 5 year old horses. The horse must have never competed in any mounted shooting event (any organization, sanctioned or unsanctioned) for money, prizes or points at any time before January 1st, 2021. Futurity horses have one (1) year of eligibility. Horses may have been entered in other (non-mounted shooting) events.

The horse must be registered in order to be eligible to compete.

Maturity Rules

Starting in 2022, a Maturity sidepot will be offered. In order for a horse to be eligible for the Maturity, it must have previously competed in any USMS Futurity event. There are no age limits on Maturity horses. Maturity horses are required to be nominated each year that they wish to compete in any Maturity events.

Futurity/Maturity Nomination Rules

All Futurity and Maturity horses must be nominated into the USMS Futurity or Maturity program prior to their first time entering.

To nominate a horse, the owner or representative must submit a copy of registration papers, the \$25 (twenty-five dollar) nomination fee, and a signed nomination form.

All riders must be a USMS member to compete and all horses must be nominated prior to the event.

**The Futurity/Maturity Nomination Form is a separate document.*

Rule Change Section

All rule change submissions must be made in writing to the Futurity Board of Directors. All rule change submissions will be reviewed following the World Finals of the current year.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Any member may be disciplined, fined, suspended or expelled from the Association and may be denied any or all privileges of the Association whenever it shall have been established by satisfactory evidence to the Futurity Board of Directors that such member has knowingly and willfully violated any pertinent rule of the Associations. FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND ANY RULES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS AN EXCUSE. A decision as to the violation shall be based upon the written statements from the complaining party and their witnesses and a similar statement by the member complained of and their witnesses. A decision shall be made by the Futurity Board of Directors upon said written documents without hearing by the parties involved. The final decision cannot be appealed.

**ANY VIOLATION OF THESE RULES COULD RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION
AND/OR A 365 DAY MEMBERSHIP SUSPENSION**

USMS has adopted a “ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY” abuse includes but not limited to excessive jerking, spurring, whipping, slapping, abuse with any device, or any other act intended to cause trauma or injury to the horse. Accusations of above abuse must be in writing by at least 2 persons, the complaining party and one witness.

Equipment Rule Violations

The following equipment is not allowed to be used in the Futurity Horse events:

- Tie downs thinner than 3/8in across the area of the poll.
- Nosepieces, bonnets, brain chains, and/or tie-downs that are constructed out of wire or chain are prohibited; leather or rope versions thicker than 3/8in are acceptable.
- Bits with a total purchase + shank length of longer than 8 inches.
- Ported bits where the measurement of the port exceeds 2 inches.

Any blood drawn from broken skin that is caused by equipment will result in a 60 second penalty; this includes, but is not limited to, the horse’s nose, corners of the mouth, and sides of the horse. If there are any skin abrasions prior to the start of the event, they may be presented to the judge and/or Futurity Board of Directors prior to the first run.

Equipment checks may be conducted at the Judge’s and/or Futurity Board of Directors discretion, at any point following a competitor’s run.

Judges

When the Futurity is a stand-alone event (not a sidepot), there should be one or more judges for the judged portion of the Futurity that are not contesting in that event.

Futurity horses will be judged on the following 10 items, with each item being worth a potential 10 points each, for a total score of 100.

1. Arena Entrance/Entering the pattern
2. Willingness, guiding through the first five balloons
3. Willingness, guiding through the second five balloons
4. Traveling on the correct lead, no cross-firing
5. Quality of turns
6. No gaping at mouth, not bracing against equipment
7. Softness, responsiveness
8. No refusals, hesitations, or shying away from gunfire
9. Physical condition of horse; quality of movement
10. Shutdown/exiting arena

The judged portion of the Futurity will be for separate award(s), and will not affect the outcome of the performance of the horse in each stage.

Payout

All Futurities will be paid out in a 2D format per stage. The rider must shoot clean and be penalty-free to be eligible for payback in that stage.

- 1-8 Riders – pays 1 spot per D
- 9-16 Riders – pays 2 spots per D
- 17-25 Riders – pays 3 spots per D
- Add 1 payout spot per D per 8 riders

Futurity “Sidepot” vs Futurity “Class”

Futurity Sidepot. Every USMS sanctioned shoot (without a stand-alone Futurity Class) is required to offer a Futurity Sidepot. If there is a Futurity Sidepot, it will be treated as a 2D sidepot with 100% payback; points will be allotted as set forth in the point guideline. The Futurity horse must be nominated to the USMS Futurity and be entered in the Main Match in order to be eligible to be entered in the Futurity Sidepot. This is not an additional run and is based on the Main Match times.

Futurity Class. Each USMS sanctioned shoot may choose to offer a stand-alone Futurity Class in lieu of a Futurity Sidepot. In the event that there is a stand-alone Futurity Class: If a competitor has entered a different horse in the Main Match, the competitor may choose to enter their Futurity horse in only the Futurity Class (no additional Main Match entry is required). However, if the separate Main Match fee has been paid, competitors Futurity times will roll over into the Main Match. To further clarify: every competitor is required to have a minimum of one horse [any horse] entered in the Main Match. The Futurity Class entries will all run together at the end of each stage, and they must run the exact same patterns as Main Match. Futurity Class entry fees will be set by the producer(s) of the event and must follow the 2D payback format, with a minimum of 60% payback.

Points

Points will begin being tracked once the Futurity Horse has been nominated; points are tracked per horse.

Points will be tracked from both Futurity sidepots and stand-alone Futurity events. Points will be accrued per stage at each event. A contestant will earn a minimum of one point per stage at all events. The points earned will correspond to the D in which they place. Contestants will earn an additional point for every contestant they place higher than. There is no difference in point amounts earned from sidepots or stand-alone classes.

Point year will terminate immediately prior to the current year’s world finals. Points will count only at futurities that are USMS sanctioned.

Questions?

Please reach out to the current representative for the Futurity Board of Directors.

2020-2021 Representative:

Shari Kennedy
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