

2023 USMS Futurity & Maturity 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, 2023. 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. Futurity horses are required to be nominated to the USMS Futurity & Maturity program. A Futurity horse may only be entered one time in the Futurity Class; multiple riders may not enter the same Futurity Horse in the Futurity Class.

Maturity Rules

A 2D Maturity sidepot will be offered at the major (corporate) events, and may also be offered as an optional sidepot by local clubs. **In order for a horse to be eligible for the 2D Maturity sidepot, it must have previously been nominated to the USMS Futurity program during its Futurity year, no exceptions.** Maturity eligibility may be verified online at the following link, under the heading “Futurity Horse Nominations”: <https://usms2020.com/futurity-horses/>
Every horse that has been nominated to the Futurity will forever be eligible for the Maturity following the completion of its Futurity year, as the Maturity has no restrictions on age.

Futurity/Maturity Nomination Rules

All Futurity horse riders must be a USMS member to compete. All Futurity horses must be nominated into the USMS Futurity program during their Futurity year. To nominate a horse, the owner or representative must electronically submit a copy of registration papers, the age-determined nomination fee, and complete the online nomination form found here: <https://usms2020.com/product/futurity/>
In order for a horse to be eligible for the Maturity, it must have been nominated during its Futurity year, no exceptions. Maturity horses are **not** required to be nominated each year.
Completion of nomination may be verified online at the following link: <https://usms2020.com/futurity-horses/>

Futurity Nomination Fee

- 0 to 1-year-old \$25
- 1 to 2- year-old \$50
- 2 to 3- year-old \$75
- 4-year-old \$100
- 5-year-old \$100

Rule Change Section

All rule change submissions must be made in writing to the Futurity Board. All rule change submissions will be reviewed following the Futurity 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

At the major (corporate) events, there should be one or more judges for the judged portion of the Futurity that are not contesting in that event. *At the local level, it is up to the discretion of the hosting club if they would like to have the event judged. If so, it is the club's responsibility to secure a judge; judging scoresheets are available from the Futurity Board upon request.*

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

At the major (corporate) events, the judged portion of the Futurity will be for the Sam Helms Horsemanship award. The judged portion will not affect the outcome of the placings/payout for the Futurity horse in each stage.

Payout

All Futurity and Maturity sidepots 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

2D Futurity Class

Every USMS sanctioned event may offer a Futurity Class. The Futurity Class will be ran in a 2D format; points will be allotted as set forth in the point guideline. The Futurity horse must be nominated to the USMS Futurity in order to be eligible to be entered in the Futurity Class. This will be a separate run unless you entered the Main Match. If you entered the Main Match, your time will roll to the Futurity Class. Main Match entry is not required to compete in the Futurity Class, as long as you have a horse in the Main Match. We recommend that all Futurity Class entries be run at the end of the go-order on each stage, to preserve the “class” appearance.

2D Maturity Sidepot

Every USMS major (corporate) event will offer a 2D Maturity Sidepot, and this is now an optional sidepot for local clubs. This sidepot is only available to previously nominated Futurity horses. These horses will run in the regular go-order of the Main Match and your time will roll to the sidepot.

Is your horse eligible? Maturity eligibility may be verified online at the following link, under the heading “Futurity Horse Nominations”: <https://usms2020.com/futurity-horses/>

Points

Points will be tracked for Futurity and Maturity horses. Points will begin being tracked once the Futurity Horse has been nominated; points are tracked per horse. 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.

Point year will run from January 1st, 2023 through the Futurity Finals, held in Decatur, TX October 27-29. Please note that this varies from the USMS Points calendar year. Points will count only at futurities that are USMS sanctioned.

Questions?

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

2023 Representative:

Jessica Wortman (256) 690-3338