

New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Inc.



Policy on Procedure for Measurement of Miniature Horses (Updated 12 December 2012)

PURPOSE - The purpose of this document is to outline the procedure for the measuring of miniature horses.

DEFINITIONS – Terminology peculiar to the measuring procedure and used within this document.

NZMHA	New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Incorporated.
Council	The Council of the New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Inc..
Measuring Stick	Measuring appliance approved by the NZMHA Council.
Height Certificates	Height Certificate Forms printed in a format approved by the NZMHA Council.
Day Measuring	Under Rule G03 e, measuring can be done for a non hi-point show only. No certificate will be issued.
Measurers	Those persons who have completed training and who are certified and approved by the NZMHA Council to measure miniature horses. NZMHA Council shall maintain a list of Approved Measurers. Must be a financial member of NZMHA at time of measuring.
Witness	Those persons who have completed training and who are certified and approved by the NZMHA Council to witness the measurement of miniature horse. Ten (10) horses are to be measured before being trained as a measurer. Person must be competent to complete the associated paperwork.
Fees	Council will each year set a minimum fee for the measuring of miniature horses. This fee shall apply across the country.
Instructor	Those persons, whom Council shall authorise and appoint to train, instruct and oversee Measurers and Witnesses.
Handler	The person responsible for the Horse including, but not limited to, the Owner, the Exhibitor and the Lessee.

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PROCEDURE FOR MEASUREMENT OF MINIATURE HORSES

1. All horses shall be measured in accordance with the provisions of Rule 10 of the Official Rule Book (Constitution and Rules) of the New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Incorporated.
2. Only an official Measuring Stick as defined may be used for the measuring of miniature horses.
3. All horses shall be measured in inches. If at any time a metric equivalent is required then the conversion table as set out in Article 36 of the Constitution and Rules of NZMHA must be used.
4. The measurement of horses must take place in a place open to all NZMHA members. Whilst a public place is preferable, a private residence is acceptable. Members in the area must receive a minimum of 7 days written notice by the Regional Delegate that an official measuring is to take place and that it is open to all members.
5. **Measuring must take place on a concrete surface which has been checked with spirit level to ensure it is a level surface and the area shall be chalk marked. All horses measured on a particular day shall be measured within that area.**
6. The Measurer and Witness must take care, particularly in the instance of clipped horses, to ensure that the measurement is taken to the last true hair of the mane and not on unclipped or long body hair. The Measurer and Witness must be able to distinguish between mane and body hair.
7. The Witness may complete the Height Certificate for the Measurer to sign. After the Measurer has measured the horse they must enter the recorded height on the Height Certificate and after checking all details, sign in the appropriate place. The Witness must then not only witness the signature but must also check all details and the recorded height.
8. The information required on the Height Certificate in respect of the horse's name, registration numbers etc. Should be entered from a copy of the Registration Certificate with particular attention being paid to the horse's colour, sex, height and age. Should there be any doubt as to the identity of the horse the Measurer shall be entitled to question the handler and if satisfactory evidence is not produced then the horses shall be refused a Height Certificate.
9. The period for which a Height Certificate shall remain valid shall be determined by the horse's age and the limitations set out in the Show Rules of the NZMHA.
10. The Regional Delegate shall measure, or delegate to an Approved Measurer, horses for NZMHA members.
11. The Measurer and Witness are to have no interest in horses they measure or witness. Interest is defined as:
 - Owing the horse or a share in the horse or the horse being owned by a family member;
 - Having sold the horse less than six months before the date of measure;
 - Having leased the horse to another party (i.e. still retain legal ownership);

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- Show the horse on a regular basis for the owner or be an employee of the owner or owners family
12. If the Handler is not prepared to accept the first measure of the horse a total of three measurements shall be taken, then added together and divided by three. The result shall be deemed to be the height of the horse.

If the Handler refuses to accept the Height Certificate the Measurer must retain the completed height certificate. The Horse will not be entitled to be presented for another measure for 28 days. Until such time as the Horse is remeasured the height of the Horse shall be deemed to be measured (i.e. the average) At the time the Horse is re-presented the Handler must advise the Measurer that it is a remeasure and provide the name of the original Measurer and date of measure.

13. The Measurer may refuse to measure a horse under the following conditions

i. Threatening or abusive behaviour by the Handler;

ii. Attempts by the Handler to influence the measure;

iii. Unacceptable stance (stretched horses are not acceptable);

iv. Horses presented lame (feet over trimmed);

v. Inability of the Measurer or Witness to satisfactorily identify the horse

14. A Handler may opt to have a horses height “checked” without the issuing of a Height Certificate however if the horse is found to have done over Height for Age as defined in the Show Rules of the NZMHA a Height Certificate will be issued.





Height Conversions

The Miniature Horse is a Height Breed for which measuring is carried out in inches. The Royal Agricultural Society and its affiliated A & P Societies utilise measuring equipment that measures in centimetres with the heights recorded to the nearest half centimetre.

For practical purposes (ie limitations in measuring equipment) the following equivalents shall apply for the purposes of converting inches to centimetres for the heights that apply to NZMHA Height for Age Criteria.

Category A

	Official Measure	Metric Equivalent	Official Metric
No Category A Horse shall exceed	34 inches	86.36 cms	86.50 cms
Foals/Weanlings must not exceed	30 inches	76.20 cms	76.00 cms
Yearlings must not exceed	32 inches	81.28 cms	81.50 cms
Two Year olds must not exceed	33 inches	83.82 cms	84.00 cms

Category B

	Official Measure	Metric Equivalent	Official Metric
No Category B Horse shall exceed	38 inches	96.52 cms	96.50 cms
Foals/Weanlings must not exceed	33 inches	83.82 cms	84.00 cms
Yearlings must not exceed	36 inches	91.44 cms	91.50 cms
Two Year olds must not exceed	37 inches	93.98 cms	94.00 cms

For all other measurements 1 inch = 2.54cms rounded to the nearest 12 cm

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