

MANITOBA HORSE COUNCIL INC
ANNUAL AWARDS
Description of Categories
February 22, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The successful recipient of an MHC (Manitoba Horse Council) Award exemplifies the characteristics defined within the respective award criteria. Members may be recognized for outstanding achievement or for continual outstanding contributions within the community. The Awards committee encourages those submitting nominations, to include as much detail as possible to define the impact their nominee has made.

Awards Categories

1. EC Licensed Coach of the Year
2. Provincial Coach of the Year
3. Athlete of the Year (Adult and Youth)
4. Sportsperson of the Year
5. Volunteer of the Year
6. Equine of the Year (Sport and Non-sport)
7. Facility/Stable of the Year
8. Official of the Year
9. MHC Legacy Award

General Requirements

- Nominations are only accepted through the online nomination form.
- Nominators must hold a valid MHC membership or be the parent of a minor who holds such a membership.
- Candidates may not self-nominate, nor may their family members nominate them.
- Individuals may be nominated for multiple categories; however, the nomination for each category must be submitted one at a time.
- Candidates may be of any age, involved in any discipline and must hold a valid MHC membership at time of nomination (Note: nominees for Volunteer of the Year are exempt from membership requirement).
- Candidates must reside in Manitoba.
- Two references are required for each nomination.
- The decisions of the MHC Awards Committee are final.

EC Licensed Coach of the Year

The recipient of this award is a current EC (Equestrian Canada) Licensed Coach. This individual demonstrates exceptional ability to work with students, leading by example and teaching in a positive and informational light. They embrace continuing education with great importance and empower others to learn and grow in a safe manner. This individual is ethical and prioritizes equine welfare and the humane treatment of horses. They continuously strive for what is best for the horse and rider, and value the feedback of others. They are focused on the complete development of their athletes (both horse and human). Nominees are recognized for their contribution to equine activities as a coach whether their students are recreational or competitive.

To be recognized as current, the coach must be up to date with all requirements of the EC Licensed Status at the time of nomination.

Note: Equestrian Canada holds those identifying as Trainers to the same standards as Coaches with regards to Licensing.

Equestrian Canada Licensed Coach (Status will be verified by MHC)

___ MHC member in good standing

___ Follows and promotes Long Term Equestrian Development (LTED) model.

___ Shows dedication and skill that has touched both human and equine athletes.

___ Shares knowledge and insight with their students.

___ Believes in and practices ethical conduct in the barn, the arena and at a competition.

___ Demonstrates positive enthusiasm and dedication.

Credit will be given to coaches who promote and use the EC Learn to Ride/Drive program to teach and evaluate riders. However, it is acknowledged that a coach may be Licensed without having gone through the Rider Level program, especially in non-English disciplines and this will be considered.

Provincial Coach of the Year

The recipient of this award is recognized by Manitoba Horse Council as a Provincial Coach at the time of nomination, having met the requirements of MHC regarding the provincial coach designation. For requirements: <https://manitobahorsecouncil.ca/Becoming-a-Coach>

A coach may be working in any discipline. This individual demonstrates exceptional ability to work with students, leading by example and teaching in a positive and informational light. They embrace continuing education with great importance and empower others to learn and grow in a safe manner. This individual is ethical and prioritizes equine welfare and the humane treatment of horses. They continuously strive for what is best for the horse and rider, and value the feedback of others. They are focused on the complete development of their athletes (both horse and human). Nominees are recognized for their contribution to equine activities as a coach whether their students are recreational or competitive.

To be recognized as current, the coach must be up to date with all requirements of the MHC Provincial Designation at the time of nomination.

MHC Provincial Coach (Status will be verified by MHC)

___ MHC member in good standing

___ Must have MHC Coaching requirements: Respect in Sport, First Aid, & background screening.

___ Shows dedication and skill that has touched both human and equine athletes.

___ Shares knowledge and insight with their students.

___ Believes in and practices ethical conduct in the barn, the arena and at competitions (as applicable).

___ Demonstrates positive enthusiasm and dedication.

Athlete of the Year

The award is given to an athlete who has excelled in equestrian competition in the current award year while demonstrating exceptional talent, horsemanship, sportsmanship, and dedication to equestrian sport. This individual exhibits an unwavering ambition, cheerful outlook, and determination toward their activity whether competition or recreational. They set personal goals and strive hard to achieve them, taking setbacks in stride. They dedicate time with their equine partners and show a well-rounded interest in the daily care and responsibility of riding and/or owning a horse. They treat others, including their equine partner, with the utmost respect, kindness, and love. This individual not only enjoys but takes considerable pride in their activity. They exhibit an elevated level of commitment to practice and competition (if applicable) schedules.

Please provide a list of competition results from 2023.

Does the Nominee meet any of the following criteria? (Please check all that apply)

Competed in a recognized equestrian discipline.

Participated in an MHC and/or Equine Canada sanctioned event.

Exhibited high level of commitment to both practice and competition.

Represented Manitoba at either a Provincial, National, or International level competition.

Youth

Aged 17 years or younger as of January 1, 2023

Adult

Aged 18 or older as of January 1, 2023

Sportsperson of the Year

This individual's character best exemplifies the definition of sportsmanship. Their conduct and attitude benefit all participants in sport. They value fair play, exhibit courteous behaviour, put the horse's welfare first, and show a determined spirit and graciousness in victory or defeat. The individual maintains a cheerful outlook while showing support for fellow riders. They treat officials and competitors with respect, even when faced with challenging outcomes. They demonstrate cooperation and respect in dealing with their instructor/coach. This recipient is committed to "doing what is right." They are selfless and committed to positive overall performance whether individually or as part of a team.

Volunteer of the Year

This award is designed to honour an individual who has contributed selflessly at an extraordinary level of dedication to benefit the equine industry in Manitoba. This individual is incredible to work with as they exude energy and approach tasks with enthusiasm, professionalism, and commitment. They are dependable, positive, honest, and flexible. This individual is a collaborator and can breathe life into even the most mundane of tasks. They bring value to their volunteer position. The recipient does not necessarily need to be involved with equines on a regular basis but may have contributed a significant impact to the equestrian community.

Nominees are not required to be current MHC members.

Does the Nominee meet any of the following criteria? (Please check all that apply)

- Shows commitment to their club and/or community.
- Mentors others, providing inspiration and encouragement.
- Supports various equine programs and activities throughout the province.
- Performs unselfish acts of service to others in the Manitoba equine community.
- Exhibits a giving spirit in the Manitoba equine community.

Equine of the Year

This award is a designation given to an equine (horse, pony, donkey, mule), who has accomplished an extraordinary achievement within their respective discipline/activity. This animal has made a significant impact on the equine community by doing something “above and beyond,” or has overcome many challenges in a particular situation. The recipient does not need to be involved in competition – a school horse who has made an impact on many riders’ lives in a unique way, accomplished an incredible goal, overcome incredible odds, and stands out from other equines.

The equine must reside in Manitoba at the time of nomination.

Identify the current owner of the nominated equine along with their contact information.

___ Sport: any horse that has achieved prominent success in any provincial, national, or international sanctioned competition in a recognized discipline.

___ Non-Sport: any horse used in any form of non-competitive activity (i.e., trail horse, therapy, school horse, etc.)

Facility / Stable of the Year

The recipient of this award is a stable/facility that always upholds the highest standard of horse care and welfare in and around their property. The safety of horses and riders is always the number one priority. Maintenance and upkeep of the stable/facility is impeccable. They treat their clients with the utmost respect and communicate in a clear and appropriate manner. They employ knowledgeable staff and foster a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment. They apply fair business ethics, ideal risk management protocols and exemplify best practices for riding and horse care. Their property is clean and safe for both horse and rider and adheres to biosecurity protocols. The recipient of this award is recognized for demonstrating excellence in horse welfare and providing an outstanding environment. Coaching staff hold either EC Licensed status or are recognized as MHC provincial coaches.

At minimum:

- A PDF copy of the current stable insurance document with a minimum \$2,000,000 commercial liability coverage.
- Current adult MHC membership (requires boarders, horse owners, and lessees to have MHC memberships as well)
- Proof that the facility's emergency action plan, rules, policies, and/or procedures were posted in a public area of the facility.
- The facility requires all users to sign a liability waiver.
- Coaching staff hold either EC Licensed status or are recognized as MHC provincial coaches.

Official of the Year

The Official of the Year award is given to a judge, course designer, technical delegate, or steward who has been active in the competitive year and is a representative of the principles of athlete development and fair play. They have demonstrated their commitment to the role of officiating in competition by offering equestrian athletes a safe, fair, and enjoyable environment.

To be recognized as current, the nominee must be an accredited Official (MHC, AQHA, EC and/or FEI) in any discipline and have officiated at competition in the 2023 season.

MHC Legacy Award

This award is reserved as a special honour for an individual or group who demonstrates outstanding performance and has made a significant contribution to benefit the industry.

As such, it may not be presented every year.

The recipient (individual or group) is considered an exceptional member of the equine community and demonstrates an elevated level of commitment, initiative, cooperation, and dedication that reinforces the values of MHC. The recipient of this award demonstrates excellence, teamwork, and goes beyond expectations. The recipient does not necessarily need to be involved with horses on a regular basis but may have contributed a significant impact to the equestrian community in Manitoba.