



MWLA Trainer Face Off: A Lama Training Competition & Sale Regulations and Competition Rules

The mission of the Midwest Lama Association Trainer Face Off is to increase the availability of quality trained young prospects. In keeping with this mission, the Trainer Face Off was created in order to promote and showcase a lama's value and trainability through competition. The Trainer Face Off, sponsored by the Midwest Lama Association, will provide an opportunity for approved trainers to train, promote, compete with, and sell their lama prospect or prospects.

Trainers do not need to be the owner of their lama entered in the Trainer Face Off. If the trainer is not the owner of their entered lama, details of the arrangement between the trainer and owner is a private agreement between the trainer and owner. The MWLA and the Trainer Face Off are not involved in any negotiations or arrangements between trainer and owner.

There will be only one division of the Trainer Face Off. All trainers must be 16 years old as of January 1, 2020.

Each trainer will submit a Trainer Application through email to midwestlama@gmail.com or by mail to the Trainer Face Off Committee at: N6231 650th St, Beldenville, WI 54003. The application must be completely filled out, include 4 images of the lama (right side, left side, front side, back side), and include a copy or photograph of the lama's ILR or AOA registration papers.

The final division size is at the discretion of the Trainer Face Off Committee, with a minimum of 10 made. If less than 10 applications are submitted, all trainers that submitted applications will be invited to participate in the Trainer Face Off. The committee may select more than 10 trainers to invite.

Trainers from anywhere in the continental US are encouraged to submit an application but selection preference will be given to those who indicate they can be, and intend to be, present at the final competition in October at Lamapalooza. Preference will also be given to MWLA members in good standing. Midwest Lama Association membership applications can be found online at <https://midwestlama.org/join-midwest-lama-assoc>. The membership fee is \$25 annually. Order of submission will be recorded and be used as tie breaker, meaning if there are multiple submissions that are vying for a single slot in the competition and sale, the final deciding factor will be the submission order and the trainer who submitted their application first will be invited.

A single trainer is allowed to submit more than one Trainer Application, each for a different lama. The initial 12 positions in the competition will be filled with unique trainers based on the lama's selection order in the lama section of the Trainer Application. For example, a trainer's first choice for which of their multiple submitted lamas will be listed as 1st, their second choice for which lama they would enter into the competition and sale if multiple entries are allowed will be listed as 2nd, and so on and so forth through all their submitted lamas. A lama may only be submitted by a single trainer. Multiple submissions will be invited to compete if there is additional room in the selection group.

Applications will be accepted through midnight CST on April 26, 2020. If mailed, applications must be post marked by April 22, 2020. The applications will be reviewed by committee and selections will be notified on May 3, 2020. Upon invitation, a \$100 entry fee is to be post marked by May 8, 2020 to the MWLA Treasurer (Art Johnson, 642 Swedish Mission Road River Falls, WI 54022). A select group of trainer/lama pairs may be waitlisted (if there are more submissions than positions) and will be notified of their waitlisted status on May 3, 2020. Positions in the competition will not be finalized until the entry fee has been received. If fees are not paid, the trainer/lama pair will be uninvited from the Trainer Face Off and the position will be offered to a waitlisted trainer.

The MWLA will provide each accepted trainer with a laminated MWLA Trainer Face Off participant sign that can be used by the trainer as promotional material. The MWLA will be providing supporting guides and content throughout the competition to aid the trainer in their journey.

The lama entered must meet the below criteria:

- Be an alpaca or a llama.
- Must be registered with their appropriate registry (ILR for llamas and AOA for alpacas).
- May be male, female, or gelding.
- Must have been born in 2019, as confirmed by a copy of registration papers attached to the application.
- Must be in good health and condition for the duration of the competition.

Should a lama be deemed in poor condition by a veterinarian or by a panel assigned by the Trainer Face Off committee and MWLA and consisting of licensed veterinarian(s) and/or respected lama industry professionals, that lama may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.

The Trainer Face Off will culminate in a competition held October 3, 2020 at the Lamapalooza show in Austin, MN.

All entry fees paid in by trainers will be paid back at the following percentages:

- 50% of fees to 1st place
- 30% of fees to 2nd place
- 15% of fees to 3rd place
- 5% of fees to 4th place

Any sponsorship monies collected will be added to the fees and paid as premium monies. Sponsorships could be used to increase the number of places paid.

Those not present at the final competition at Lamapalooza in October are not eligible for the premium monies but are eligible for the trainer percentages of the sale price of their lama.

All lamas accepted into the Trainer Face Off will be sold through a live and online auction following the competition on October 3, 2020.

The fees associated with the sale are as follows:

- 70% of the final sale price paid to owner
- 15% of the final sale price paid to the trainer
- 10% of the final sale price paid to the sale facilitator
- 5% of the final sale price to be paid to MWLA

Non-members will receive 80% of potential premiums if they place in the competition, with the additional 20% going to the MWLA. Non-members will receive 10% of the final sale price, as opposed to 15%, with the 5% difference going to the

MWLA. A trainer will be considered a member of the MWLA for the competition if their membership is turned in prior to or with their initial application submission.

Throughout the training competition, there will be paperwork and photograph/video deadlines required. There is an online component to the sale and MWLA requires marketing materials to adequately present, display, and market the lama prospects. Updates to posted content can be made at any point by submitting updates to midwestlama@gmail.com. The required submissions and deadlines are as follows:

- April 26, 2020 – Initial application documents required. Four images of the lama (right side, left side, front side, back side), and include a copy or photograph of the lama's ILR or AOA registration paper.
- May 31, 2020 – Pictures of lama groomed as if presenting for sale/advertisement/show. Right side, left side, and headshot images required. Any additional views and shots accepted and appreciated.
- July 5, 2020 – Trainer bio/write up, initial lama write up, trainer headshot, and picture of lama "doing something". "Doing something" could mean completing an obstacle, participating in a PR event or parade, wearing a costume, being bathed, wearing a pack, etc.
- August 2, 2020 – Videos of lama walking to and away from camera, video of lama walking in profile, and video of lama "doing something". "Doing something" could mean completing an obstacle, participating in a PR event or parade, wearing a costume, being bathed, wearing a pack, etc.
- September 6, 2020 – Updated images of lama's right side, left side, and headshot. Additional images and videos accepted and appreciated. Final trainer and lama bios required.

For those that participate in the final competition at Lamapalooza on October 3, 2020, a video of their competition run will be recorded and posted prior to the sale beginning.

Any supplementary photos, videos, documents, notes, writeups, or additional information is allowed and appreciated. Supplementary items may include images or video of sire or dam and other lamas in the pedigree, awards earned, placings received, etc. Links to websites or links to videos not hosted by MWLA will not be accepted.

Late submissions of content will be accepted, but three late content submissions may result in the trainer and/or lama being excused from the competition.

No open toed shoes are allowed during the final competition and sale, and the trainer and lama must negotiate all tasks in a safe manner. A trainer and lama's inability to negotiate all tasks in a safe manner may result in that lama being excused from the competition.

The competition could include tasks such as:

- Catching and haltering
- Stairs, bridges, teeter totters, ramps, jumps, tunnels, duck unders,
- Contact walkthroughs like noodles, curtains, miscellaneous objects hung
- Adding or removing objects from the lama like blankets, packs, hats, costumes, bandages, etc.
- Water crossings or sprinklers
- Picking up feet, showing teeth, touching ears or other specific body part
- Changing pace
- Leading through/around a maze, partition or other boundary
- Loading and unloading from a trailer or vehicle
- Allowing themselves to be pet, touched, navigated around by people other than the trainer with other animals (lama and non-lama) while potentially wearing a variety of items or performing tasks like taking a picture
- Backing
- Side passing

- Standing calmly while trainer completes a task, navigates around the lama or other objects
- Being led while trainer pulls a wagon or pushes a wheelbarrow
- Navigating through door or gate
- And more!

The point and grading scale is modeled after ILR-SD rules and can be found in Section H. ILR-SD Performance Scoring in the 2020 ILR-SD Guidelines. This competition is intended to show the lama's willingness and ability to complete a set of generic management maneuvers, PR tasks, and situations that the lama may be exposed to on a farm, at an event, or during a show. Two judges will score each trainer/lama pair and their combined scores will determine final placings.

The competition will include up to 15 tasks. A single task may include multiple maneuvers like putting a hat on the lama, walking through a path to a person, stopping and being pet, then navigating to another spot and removing the hat.

Placings will be announced following the competition at Lamapalooza, October 3, 2020 before the final sale.

The trainer who submitted the application must exhibit the lama. No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed. Only submitted and approved lamas will be eligible to compete. No substitution or replacement of approved lama will be allowed.

Lamas cannot change owners between the initial application submission and the sale.

Owners can put a reserve on their lama or buy back their lama at the sale. Owner is responsible for and required to pay the fees associated to the final sale of the lama. Fees are listed above at 30% of the final sale price achieved at auction. If the trainer is the owner, owner is required to pay 15% of the final sale price achieved at auction for sale facilitation and MWLA fees. If the lama receives no bids at auction, the owner is required to pay \$250 with the following fee breakdown: \$100 to trainer, \$100 to sale facilitator, \$50 to MWLA. If the trainer is the owner, and the lama receives no bids at auction, the owner is required to pay \$150 with the following fee breakdown: \$100 to sale facilitator, \$50 to MWLA.

Lama training must be humane and compassionate. At all times, the humane care and best interest of the lama are paramount. Any suspected inhumane treatment of lamas should be reported to the Trainer Face Off Committee immediately with potential removal from the competition.

No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a lama, either before or during the Trainer Face Off competition and sale. Any medication, drug, mechanical device or artificial appliance, which could affect or enhance the lama's performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. If a lama is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the Trainer Face Off Committee as to the reason for the medication and the prescribed amount. The Trainer Face Off Committee reserves the right to drug test any lama during the term of the competition from initial submission through final sale. Positive tests will result in removal from the competition and forfeiture of any prize money or the 15% trainer sale fees collected.

Not adhering to the Regulations and Competition Rules listed in this document may result in disqualification from current and/or future MWLA competitions and programs.