2027 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

Compete against the best of the best in the nation this year at the 2027 National Forging & Horseshoeing Competition! The contest will be conducted in rounds of 20 AFA provided forging stations which means competitors have opportunities to take in a lot of the convention lectures, demos and other activities. Competitors do not need to haul a station to compete.

The Intermediate Division is open to farriers who have never won the Intermediate Division or competed in the Open Division (2-Person Draft excluded) at a prior convention competition.

Open Division competitors wishing to be considered for the American Farriers Team must have attained the AFA CJF certification, have previously qualified at the 2026 Team Trials, be a citizen of the United States (or have attained permanent resident status), and must have a valid passport.

The contest will be conducted in rounds of 20 AFA provided forging stations.
The Top 20 will be determined by the overall average of all 3 individual classes.
Please see all of the competition rules at the end of this document.

55th Annual CONVENTION
MOBILE • ALABAMA
2027
AMERICAN FARRIER'S ASSOCIATION
Presented by
PLATINUM PERFORMANCE
IT STARTS WITHIN

Competition Judges

Open Division:

(Pictured left to right)

Mike L. Augenstein, CJF
Dan Corkery, CJF
Adam Fahr, CJF







Intermediate Division

2026 American Farriers Team:

(Pictured left to right)

Nathanial Bruss, CJF
Sam Howard, CJF
Travis Smith, CJF [2026 Team Manager]
David Reed, CJF
Garrett Stark, CJF
Sam Sellers, CJF [Alternate]



Rules Committee

Chairman: Justin Fry, CJF **Members:** Phillip Box, CJF, Troy Colglazier, CJF, Dusty Franklin, CJF, FE, AWCF, ASF, Tom Petersen, CJF, Matt Shaklee, CF, Travis Smith, CJF, Sawyer Spradling, CJF, Conrad Trow, CJF, DipWCF, Andrew Wells, CJF

2027 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

Journeyman Class

Sponsored by Kahn Forge, Inc

Forge a full set of shoes, one pair of front shoes and a pair of hind shoes. Hammer finished.

Time Limit: 55 minutes

PAIR OF FRONTS
12-1/2" x 3/8" x 1"
3/4 fullered and toe clipped
Measures 5-5/8" wide x 5-3/4" long
Punched for six Kahn Forge Combo 5 Slim nails



PAIR OF HINDS
12" x 3/8" x 1"
Plain stamped; quarter clips. Bob punched.
Measures 5-7/16" wide x 5-7/8" long
Punched for six Kahn Forge Hybrid 5 nails



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Roadster Class

Sponsored by Iron Range Manufacturing

The Roadster Class, open to all open division competitors, requires competitors to forge two shoes: Fullered Front Shoe and Double Caulkin. Competitors may have a striker.

Note: Competitors are placed in rounds by draw, therefore competitors in the same round may not strike for one another. Every effort will be made to accommodate everyone's strikers. Competitors can use flatters and bob punches. No filing or sanding will be permitted.

Time Limit: 45 minutes

1. DOUBLE CAULKIN
13-1/2" x 1/2" x 1"
Hammer Finished
Measures 5 1/2" wide x 5 3/4" long
Punched for seven E6 nails



2. FULLERED FRONT SHOE
12" x 3/8" x 3/4"
Fullered, toe clipped
Measures 5-3/16" wide x 5" long
Punched for six 5 City or 5 Slim nails



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Specialty Forging Class

Sponsored by Mustad USA

The AFA Rules Committee will select 3 shoes from a list of 6. Competitors will learn during the on-site competitors meeting which shoes they will make.

Time Limit: 90 minutes

1. SIDE WEIGHT TROTTER
11" x 1/4" x 1"
Measures 4-3/4" wide x 6-5/16" long
Punched for six Mustad Race 5 Nails



2. SLIDING PLATE
10" x 1/4" x 1-1/4"
Measures 4 5/8" wide x 5 1/4" long
Punched for eight Mustad 4.5 Race nails



2027 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

Specialty Forging Class

Sponsored by Mustad USA

3. OMNIDIRECTIONAL FRONT
Masselotte toe clip
12" x 1/2" x 3/4"
Measures 5-1/8" wide x 5-3/8" long
Punched for six Mustad E5 Slim Nails



4. MODERN SHETLAND W/ JUMPED ON TOE CLIP
4-1/2" x 3/8" x 1"
Clip 6" x 5/16" x 3/4"
Measures 4" wide x 4-7/8" long
Clip height from foot bearing surface of the shoe 1-1/8"
Punched for six Mustad City Head 4.5 nails



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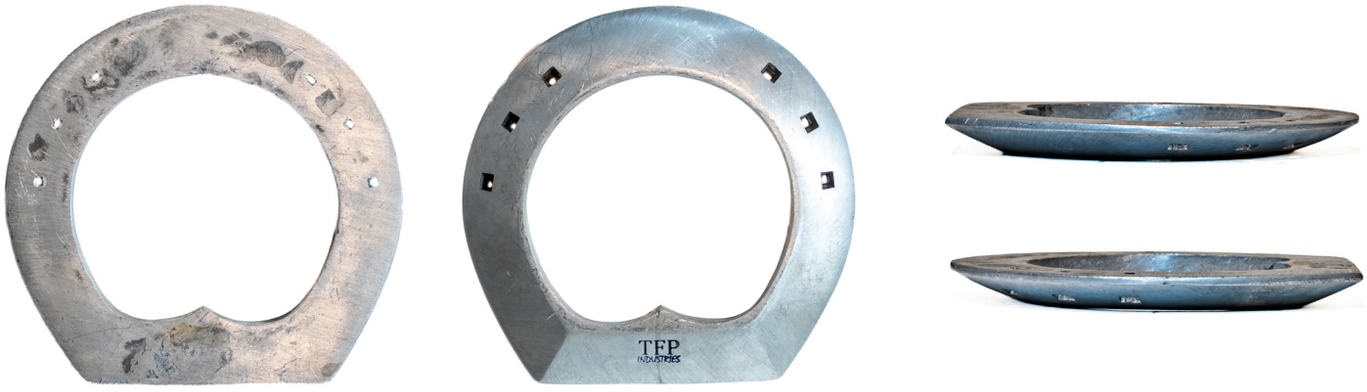
Specialty Forging Class

Sponsored by Mustad USA

5. LATERAL SUPPORT HIND BAR SHOE
13" x 3/8" x 1"
Measures 5-1/8" wide x 5-3/8" long
Punched for six Mustad E5 Slim Nails



6. OMNIDIRECTIONAL BAR SHOE
14" x 1/2" x 1" Aluminum
Measures 6-1/4" wide x 6" long
Punched for six Mustad Hybrid 5 nails



2027 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

Live Shoeing Class

Mustad Capewell Cup
Sponsored by Mustad USA

The Live Shoeing Class

Time Limit: 60 minutes

The top twenty from the high score averages of the Journeyman Class, the Roadster Class and the Specialty Forging Class will compete in The Mustad Capewell Cup Live Shoeing Class in reverse order, with the competitor in 20th place competing first and the competitor in 1st place competing last. You will forge the same shoes as made in the Roadster Class. Contestants will be allowed a striker; the striker may not rasp or hold the hammer and tongs at the same time.

A front or hind foot will be shod with a hand-forged shoe made from 14" X 3/8" X 3/4" bar stock (provided). 14" X 3/8" X 1" bar stock will also be available for bigger feet should the 3/8" X 3/4" not be appropriate. The toe-clipped shoe will be fullered and punched with 6 nail holes for appropriate Capewell city head or slim nails, which will be provided by the stewards. Competitors must use the nails provided and the required number of nails per shoe.

The roadster shoe will be forged for the same side as in the Roadster Class and will be made from 13-1/2" X 1/2" X 1" bar stock. The shoe will be punched with 7 nail holes for E6 slim nails. The specimen shall be 5 1/2" wide (tolerance +/- 1/8 of an inch), with the width measured on the ground surface.

A time limit of 15 minutes is set for hoof preparation, and to facilitate the judging process competitors will begin at specific intervals. The competitor will notify the steward when the foot is ready to be judged. The first judge will score the dressed foot. The next judge will score shoe quality and fit. Stewards will notify the judge when this portion is ready to be judged. Competitors should allow enough time to nail and finish. After time expires, the third judge will score nailing and finish.

A finished job is defined as a foot with nails clinched which by definition means the nails are at least bent down against the hoof wall. A competitor will be disqualified if the time limit is exceeded. The competitor must still complete the horse, even if time has expired.

A scoreboard will show names and scores of the competitors; however, specimen shoe scores will be kept confidential until the Grand Finale Banquet. Score sheets will be emailed after the banquet for competitor review.

2027 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

Awards

In addition to the awards mentioned with the specific classes, other awards include:

Overall High Point Award

Sponsored by Kahn Forge

National High Point Award

Sponsored by Texas Professional Farriers Association

Reserve National High Point Award

Sponsored by MFC Tools

Intermediate Overall High Point Award

Sponsored by Vulcan Horseshoes

Two-Person Draft Class

Sponsored by Well-Shod

Time Limit: 70 minutes

Farriers who have been members of a national team (any nation) past or present may not work together in this class. Draft partners who have not competed on a national team at the time of entry may compete together. One farrier will make a pair of front shoes; the other farrier will make a pair of hind shoes. The shoes to be made by the first farrier are not specified. Points are awarded equally to each farrier.

One competitor will make one pair of front shoes from 18" x 1/2" x 1-1/4" bar stock, hammer-drawn toe clip, scotch heels, fullered and punched for eight E-10 nails. The other competitor will make a pair of hind shoes from 17" x 1/2" x 1-1/4" bar stock, hammer drawn toe clip, scotch heels, fullered, punched for seven E-10 nails. Hammer finished. No flatters and no bob punching.



2027 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

Intermediate Journeyman & Bar Shoe Classes

The Intermediate Division will run during the first round of classes. Competitors in this division can stay in this division until they have won the Overall award or have competed in a division other than the Intermediate Division (Two-Person Draft excluded). The Intermediate Division will have open judging by the 2026 American Farriers Team.

Intermediate Journeyman Class

Sponsored by Victory Racing Plate Company

Time Limit: 45 minutes

FOUR PLAIN STAMPED SHOES
3/8" x 3/4"
Front 11 1/2" – Punched for six 5 slim nails, toe clips
Hind 11" – Punched for six 5 City slim nails, quarter clips



Intermediate Bar Shoe Class

Sponsored by F.LLI Bassoli

Time Limit: 45 minutes

ONE FRONT STRAIGHT BARSHOE
14" x 3/8" x 3/4"
Fullered
Punched for six 5 slim nails

ONE PLAIN STAMPED HIND SHOE
11" × 3/8" x 3/4"
Quarter Clips
Punched for six 5 slim nails



2027 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

Intermediate Specialty Forging Class

Sponsored by FPD, Inc.

The AFA Rules Committee will select 2 of the 3 shoes. Competitors will learn during the on-site competitors meeting which shoes they will make.

Time Limit: 70 minutes

1. DIAMOND TOE HIND

13" x 3/8" x 1"
Measures 5-5/8" wide
Length to lateral heel 6-7/8"
Length to medial heel 5-7/8"
Punched for six Liberty E4 Slim Nails



2. LATERAL EXTENSION FRONT

9-1/2" x 5/16" x 3/4"
Measures 4-1/2" wide x 4-3/4" long
Punched for six Liberty E5 Nails



2027 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

Intermediate Specialty Forging Class

Sponsored by FPD, Inc.

3. SIDEBONE BAR SHOE
16.5" x 1/2" x 1"
Measures 5-7/8" wide x 6" long
Punched for seven Liberty E5 Nails



Vern Hornquist Memorial Class

Judge: Glenn Reese, CJF
Winner of the 2026 Vern Hornquist Memorial Class

Time Limit: 60 minutes

RIGHT HIND STRAIGHT BAR SHOE
14" x 3/8" x 3/4"
Plain stamped; quarter clips. Bob punched.
Measures 4-3/4" wide x 5-1/4" long; 3" wide bar
Punched for six Capewell 5sb nails



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Open Jackpot Class

Sponsored by Anvil Brand

The Open Jackpot Class is a two-person, 60-minute class. Two of the four shoes shown below will be selected and announced at the Competitors Meeting on Monday evening. Each competitor must make a shoe. Two-person teams may be comprised of anyone, there are no restrictions on past Team participants.

1. HIND BEVEL
16" x 1/2" x 1-1/4"
Masselotte toe clip
Measures 7-1/4" wide x 7-3/8" long
Punched for seven E8 nails



2. TOOL & FULLERED HIND PREVENTER
5/8" square
Measures 5-1/4" wide x 5-5/8" long
Punched for five ESL 5 Nails



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Open Jackpot Class

Sponsored by Anvil Brand

3. DEEP SEATED BAR SHOE
17" x 1/2 x 1"
Measures 6-1/8" long x 6-1/2" wide, 3-3/8" bar
Hammer Finish
Punched for eight E7 Slim Nails



4. YORKSHIRE HIND
17-3/4" x 1/2" x 1-1/4"
Measures 7" wide x 7-1/8" long
Punched for seven E10 Nails



2027 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

Competition Rules

JUDGING RULES Judging is based upon rules set forth here, rules and information provided at the on-site competitor's meeting, photos and drawings presented by the AFA Rules Committee, and by information forwarded in Chapter Nine (9) of the AFA Certification Study Guide. Forging and/or shoeing that fails to align with these rules and specifications will be disqualified immediately and will not be scored or judged. During judging, competitors are not allowed to talk to judges. Doing so will be grounds for disqualification. Spectators may watch the judging process, but may not interfere with or question the judges. When possible, horses and/or shoes will be available for inspection upon completion of judging. Judge's score sheets will not be available to competitors or spectators before the announcement of class winners.

ENTRY FEES FOR CONTEST Forging competitions are open to everyone on a first come, first served basis according to the date received in the AFA office. This will apply when contest space is limited.

AFA Members: $350 plus the $150 station and propane fee to enter all classes.

Non-AFA Members: $550 plus the $150 station and propane fee to enter all classes.

The Draft Class is a separate entry.
The Open Jackpot Class is a separate entry.
All entries must be received in the office by January 8, 2027.

REFUND POLICY Before closing (by January 7): 100% refund less a $50 fee • Within 4 weeks (by February 5): 50% Refund.
Less than 4 weeks before the start of competition: No refund except in case of injury, then money is applied to next year.
Email refund request to: mjones@americanfarriers.org

ON-SITE VETERINARIAN A veterinarian will be present during all live shoeing activities. If a medical condition occurs during shoeing, time will be stopped and an examination completed. If the competitor causes such a condition, he/she will be disqualified. If the competitor does not cause such a condition, he/she may continue without penalty.

HORSE HANDLERS Each competitor is responsible for supplying his or her own horse handler for the live shoeing classes. The handler will not aid, assist, advise, or in any way be involved with the competitor during shoeing. No restraining device, such as a twitch or war bridle, is permitted. The use of lip, mouth, nose or bar chain is allowed, provided no abuse to the animal is rendered by its use.

STEWARDS A steward will be assigned to each competitor. The steward shall ensure compliance with the competition rules by the competitor and notify the Chief Steward for any breach of rules. In live shoeing classes, the steward will bring the horse to the competitor's horse handler and return the horse to the holding area after competition.

PROPANE AND SAFETY GLASSES In the interest of safety, propane cylinders are rented at the competition site, and no outside cylinders are allowed. All persons on the competition floor will be required to wear safety glasses. Competitors who fail to do so will be immediately disqualified from the respective class. Handlers, stewards, or other persons on the competition floor who refuse to wear safety glasses will be asked to leave the competition floor immediately.

AFA TEAM MEMBERSHIP To be eligible for the American Farriers Team, a competitor must be an AFA member in good standing, an AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier, have previously qualified during 2026 Team Trials, be a citizen of the United States (or have attained permanent resident status), and must have a valid passport.

FOREIGN MATERIALS All shoes and feet must be completely free of foreign material. Waxing, oiling or otherwise treating shoes or hooves will result in disqualification.

DISQUALIFICATION Prior to judging, the Chief Steward has the final authority to disqualify competitors for non-compliance with stated rules and/or for other inappropriate actions, including but not limited to using abusive or profane language, evidencing general conduct unbecoming of a professional farrier, laming a horse during live shoeing, and/or abusing a horse during live shoeing.

BAR STOCK All bar stock will bear the mark of the AFA and will be furnished to competitors just before the Chief Steward calls for the competition to begin. Bar stock may not be marked or cut by the competitor before starting the class.

TOOLS AND DEVICES Hand tools and top anvil tools are allowed. No mechanical benders are permitted. A top anvil toe bender that is non-mechanical, non-hydraulic, or non-electric, or any other device powered by the competitor, is considered a top anvil tool and is permitted. Grinders, stall jacks, portable anvils or devices other than a stationary anvil are not allowed. A shoeing block or foot stand shall be used only to rest hooves.

SITE INFORMATION For set up, competitors will be on rubber mats provided by the American Farrier's Association. All stations include an anvil, forge, vise and tray table provided by the American Farrier's Association.