



## **MHSA REGIONAL PROGRAM**

The Rules published herein are effective March 15, 2025 and remain in effect except as superseded by any rule changes enacted by The Board of Directors or Executive Committee or by subsequent editions or supplements to the rule book.

The MHSA Regional Program follows MHSA Rules except where stated. No further reproduction may be made without the express advance written consent of the MHSA.

# RULE XXIII – MHSA REGIONAL PROGRAM RULE BOOK

The MHSA Regional Horse Shows are open to horse shows held in the State of Maryland that are not USEF rated.

## NEW & NOTABLE:

### ITEM 1.

Adults may ride ponies in any classes not restricted to junior exhibitors. Suitability to count. Junior exhibitors may ride the same pony in any class at the show that is not an MHSA Regional rated class or divisions.

### ITEM 2.

Stallions may not be shown by junior riders nor may they be shown by an adult in any division with ponies.

## SECTION 1. Recognized Divisions.

**Children's Hunter.** Open to horses ridden by junior exhibitors who are under 18 years old as of December 1 of the current competition year. Judging will be based on performance, soundness, and the suitability of the mount. Fence height will be 3 feet, with spreads not exceeding this height. Courses must include at least eight fences. If either the Adult Amateur or Children's Hunter division has fewer than four entries, they may be combined.

**Adult Amateur.** Open to horses ridden by Adult Amateur exhibitors who have reached their 18th birthday by December 1 of the current competition year. Competitors in amateur-restricted classes must comply with USEF Rule GR1306. By signing the entry form and annual membership form, riders confirm their understanding and compliance with this rule. Judging will be based on performance, soundness, and suitability of the mount. Fence height will be 3 feet, with spreads not exceeding fence height. If either the Adult Amateur or Children's Hunter division has fewer than four entries, they may be combined.

**Low Children's Hunter Horse.** Open to horses ridden by junior exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday by December 1 of the current competition year. The course must include at least eight fences, with a height of 2'6" and spreads not exceeding the fence height. Judging will be based on performance, soundness, and suitability of the mount. If either the Low Children's Hunter Horse division or the Low Adult Hunter division has fewer than four entries, they may be combined. Riders in the Low Children's division may not cross-enter into any other divisions with fences exceeding 2'6" at the same show, **except for age group equitation or medal classes.** If a rider competes in a division where multiple fence heights are offered, they may not jump higher than 2'6"

**Low Adult Hunter.** Open to horses shown by Adult Amateur exhibitors who have reached their 18th birthday by December 1 of the current competition year. Competitors in amateur-restricted classes must comply with USEF Rule GR1306. By signing the entry form and annual membership form, riders confirm their understanding and compliance with this rule. The course must include at least eight fences, with a height of 2'6" and spreads not exceeding the fence height. Judging will be based on performance, soundness, and suitability of the mount. If either the Low Children's Hunter Horse division or the Low Adult Hunter division has fewer than four entries, they may be combined. If a rider in the Low Adult Hunters division competes in a class where multiple fence heights are offered, they may not jump higher than 2'6". Riders in the Low Adult Hunter division may not cross-enter into any other divisions with fences exceeding 2'6" at the same show, **except for age group equitation or medal classes.**

**Small/Medium Pony Hunter.** Open to ponies ridden by junior exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday by December 1 of the current competition year. Judging will be based on performance, soundness, and suitability of the mount. Fence height will be 2', with spreads not exceeding the fence height. If either the Small/Medium Pony Hunter or Large Pony Hunter division has fewer than four entries, they may be combined. Ponies must have a current MHSA measurement card on file with the MHSA office prior to competing in this division unless a USEF measurement card is available.

**Large Pony Hunter.** Open to ponies ridden by junior exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday by December 1 of the current competition year. Judging will be based on performance, soundness, and suitability of the mount. Fence height will be 2'6", with spreads not exceeding the fence height. If either the Small/Medium Pony Hunter or Large Pony Hunter division has fewer than four entries, they may be combined. Ponies must have a current MHSA measurement card on file with the MHSA office prior to competing in this division unless a USEF measurement card is available.

**Pre-Children's/Pre-Adult Hunter.** Open to horses and ponies ridden exclusively by Juniors and Adult Amateurs. Pre-Adult members competing in amateur-restricted classes must comply with USEF Rule GR1306. By signing the entry form, riders confirm their understanding and compliance with this rule. Adults may ride ponies, suitability will be taken into account. Suitability of a pony for a rider is determined by height of rider as related to the height of the pony. Judges must penalize but not necessarily eliminate an entry not having such suitability. Judging will be based on performance, soundness, and suitability of the mount. Fence height will be 2', with no oxers permitted. Riders may not cross-enter into any hunter division with fences exceeding 2'3". If a Pre-Child/Adult Hunter rider competes in another division where

multiple heights are offered, they may not jump higher than 2'3". Riders are ineligible for this division if they have competed at 3' or higher on any horse at any show during the current season.

**Low Pony Hunter.** Open to ponies ridden by junior exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday by December 1 of the current competition year. Judging will be based on performance, soundness, and suitability of the mount. Riders in the Low Pony Hunter division may not cross-enter into any other division with fences exceeding 2' at the same show, except for age group equitation or medal classes not exceeding 2'6". The course must include at least eight fences, with a height of 2' and spreads not exceeding the fence height. No oxers are permitted. If either the Low Children's Hunter Horse or Low Pony Hunter division has fewer than four entries, they may be combined. Ponies must have a current MHSA measurement card on file with the MHSA office prior to competing in this division unless a USEF measurement card is available. **Riders may not cross-enter into the Small/Medium Pony Hunter or Large Pony Hunter divisions at the same show."**

**Low Hunter.** Open to horses. Fence height shall be 2'6" and 2'9". Spreads not to exceed the height of the fences. To be judged on performance and soundness. Course shall consist of no less than eight fences.

**Working Hunter.** Open to horses. Fence height shall be 3' and 3'3". Spreads not to exceed the fence height. To be judged on performance and soundness. Course shall consist of no less than eight fences.

**High Children's/High Adult Hunter.** Open to horses ridden by a junior exhibitor who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year or ridden by Adult Amateur who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. Members competing in classes restricted to amateurs must meet the requirements of USEF RULE GR1306. Your signature as rider on the entry blank and annual membership form will verify that you understand and are in compliance with the rule. Fence height shall 3'3". Spreads not to exceed the fence height. To be judged on performance and soundness.

**Thoroughbred Hunter.** Open to horses that are registered with or are eligible to be registered with The Jockey Club. To be judged on performance and soundness. Course shall consist of no less than eight fences. Fences to be 2'6" and 3'. Spreads not to exceed fence height.

**Short Stirrup Hunter.** Open to ponies ridden by junior exhibitors who have not reached their 11th birthday by December 1 of the current competition year. Courses must include a minimum of 4 fences and a maximum of 8 fences, with no oxers allowed. Fence height will be 18", with spreads not exceeding the fence height. Judging will be based on performance, soundness, and suitability of the mount. Riders may not



cross-enter into any other MHSA Regional hunter, pleasure, or equitation division or class, except for Short Stirrup Equitation. Additionally, riders may not compete in any jumper classes.

**Short Stirrup Equitation.** Open to ponies ridden by a junior exhibitor who have not reached their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. A rider may not cross enter into any other MHSA Regional hunter, pleasure, or equitation division or class, except Short Stirrup Hunter. In addition, riders may not compete in any jumper classes. All shows are requested to offer the following classes: 1. Walk, Trot. 2. Walk, Trot, Canter. 3. Over Fences. No martingales allowed in under classes. A course should consist of a minimum of 4 fences and a maximum of 8 fences. No oxers may be used. Fences shall be 18". Spreads not to exceed height of fence. To be judged equally on hands, seat, control of mount, and suitability of purpose. The MHSA will present annually the MHSA Short Stirrup Equitation Merit Awards to all riders who win a total of 30 points. Points are counted 5-3-2-1 for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place toward the Merit Award. Champion and reserve champion points do not count towards Merit Awards.

**Mini Stirrup Equitation.** Open to ponies ridden by a junior exhibitor who have not reached their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. A rider may not cross enter into any other MHSA Regional division or class except Lead Line, where shows permit. Riders in this division may also not cross enter into any classes that involve cantering and/or jumping. No martingales allowed. The MHSA will present annually the MHSA Mini Stirrup Equitation Merit Awards to all riders who win a total of 25 points. Points are counted 5-3-2-1 for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place toward the Merit Award. Champion and reserve champion points do not count towards Merit Awards. A show may offer 3 or 4 of the class options below in their mini stirrup equitation division:

1. Mini-Stirrup Walk: To be judged at the walk both ways of the ring. To be judged on rider's hands, seat, guidance, control, and suitability of mount.
2. Mini Stirrup Walk-Trot: To be shown at the walk and trot both ways of the ring. To be judged on rider's hands, seat, guidance, control, and suitability of mount.
3. Mini-Stirrup Walk-Trot: To be shown at the walk and trot both ways of the ring. To be judged on suitability of the mount to be a Mini Stirrup Pony. Pony's manners are to be emphasized.
4. Mini-Stirrup Over Ground Poles: To be shown over a course of 4 ground poles at the trot. To be judged on rider's hands, seat, guidance, control and suitability of mount.

**Long Stirrup Equitation.** This division is open to horses and ponies ridden by junior exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year, as well as adult amateur exhibitors. Senior Amateur exhibitors must comply with the requirements outlined in USEF Rule GR1306. By signing the entry form and annual membership form, riders confirm their understanding and compliance with

this rule. Riders are not permitted to cross-enter into any other MHSA Regional hunter or equitation division or class, except for Pleasure Horse and Pony where allowed. Additionally, riders may not compete in jumper classes or any class with fence heights exceeding 2 feet. All shows are requested to offer the following classes: 1. Walk, Trot. 2. Walk, Trot, Canter. 3. Over Fences. No martingales allowed in under classes. A course should consist of a minimum of 4 fences and a maximum of 8 fences. No oxers may be used. Fences shall be 18" to 2'. Spreads not to exceed height of fence. To be judged equally on hands, seat, control of mount, and suitability of purpose. The MHSA will annually present the MHSA Long Stirrup

Equitation Merit Awards to all riders who win a total of 30 points. Points are counted 5-3-2-1 for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place toward the Merit Award. Champion and reserve champion points do not count towards Merit Awards.

**Lead Line.** For children seven years of age and under on a pony. To be judged on equitation and suitability of mount at a walk. No martingales allowed. No minimum entry numbers are required for points earned in a Lead Line class to count toward a MHSA Lead Line Merit Award. Children in this class are eligible to compete in Mini Stirrup Equitation where shows permit. A rider who wins a total of 10 points will be eligible for the MHSA Lead Line Merit Award. Points are counted 5-3-2-1 for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place toward the Merit Award.

**Pleasure Horse and Pleasure Pony.** Horses and ponies shall be of any breed or combination of breeds suitable for English riding and normally used for pleasure. To be shown under English tack. Martingales are prohibited. Good manners are essential both in executing the gaits and while lined up in the ring. All horses and ponies must be serviceably sound. In the English Pleasure Division, all animals over 14.2 hands are horses and all animals under 14.2 hands and under are ponies. Classes may be divided by horses and ponies. Horse and pony classes with less than three entries will be combined. Pony classes may be divided by height of ponies. Small/Medium ponies under 13.2 hands. Large ponies over 13.2 hands and not exceeding 14.2 hands. Ponies must have a current MHSA measurement card (if USEF card is not available) on file with MHSA office prior to showing in this division. Ponies must be ridden by and handled by junior exhibitors in all phases of a class. Junior exhibitors shall not have reached their 18th birthday. For the purposes of the pleasure division the term "suitability" shall mean suitability to purpose as a pleasure mount.

A show can hold no more than four classes and may not run two classes alike.

1. English Pleasure Horse or Pony Under Saddle: To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter. To be judged on suitability of horse or pony to purpose, manners, and ability to give a safe, comfortable ride.
2. English Pleasure Park Mount – Horse or Pony: To be shown at walk, trot, extended trot or similar gait and canter both ways of the ring. To be judged as to pleasurable handling and riding characteristics with emphasis on manners and gait. To back readily and stand quietly. May not be asked to hand gallop.
3. English Pleasure Horses and Ponies Over Fences: To be shown over obstacles and fences which might be found on a trail. Height to be 2' for horses and ponies. To be judged on willingness and on natural ability to jump, with emphasis on manners. Full points.
4. English Pleasure Combination Hack – Horse or Pony: To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter. At least 8, if available, to jump 2 fences at a required height 2'. To be judged on manners, willingness, suitability to purpose and ability to give a safe, comfortable ride. Full points.

Points for the pleasure division are awarded as follows: 10-6-4-3-2-1.5-1-.5. Champion 10 points and Reserve Champion 6 points. In the event of a tie for champion, horses/ponies scoring more points in the over fences class will prevail. High Score Award Division requirements are a minimum of 3 classes.

**Junior Equitation.** Open to horses and ponies ridden by junior exhibitors that have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. To be scored 5-3-2-1. Junior Equitation may be split by age or by horse/pony. If split by age, it shall be split 13 & under and 14 – 17. To be judged equally on hands, seat, and control of mount and suitability to count. The over fences class fence heights shall be 2' 2'6", and 3'. The flat class to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. At the judge's discretion, other tests may be performed. Maybe combined with the Adult Equitation if there are less than 4 entries. Additional tests may be required USEF 1-22.

**Adult Equitation.** Open to horses and ponies ridden by amateur exhibitors who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year and who are Senior Amateur members. Members competing in classes restricted to amateurs must meet the requirements of USEF RULE GR1306. Your signature as rider on the entry blank and annual membership form will verify that you understand and are in compliance with the rule. If split by age, it shall be split 18 – 35 and 36 and older. To be scored 5-3-2-1. May be combined with Junior Equitation if there are fewer than 4 entries. To be

judged equally on hands, seat, control, and suitability of mount. The fence heights for the over fences class shall be 2', 2'6" and 3'. The flat class is to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot and canter. Additional tests may be required USEF 1-22.

Fees for holding the Gittings Horsemanship, MHSA Adult Medal, MHSA Children's Pony Medal, MHSA Hunter Seat Medal on Horses, MHSA Junior Flat Medal, MHSA Low Children's Medal and MHSA Low Adult Medal are \$5.00 per entry and must be sent to the MHSA Office within 10 days after the show.

**MHSA Children's Pony Medal.** To qualify for the final competition in this event the contestant must be in the top 25 to qualify. Points to be scored 10-6-4-2-1-.5, adding one point for each entry in the class, regardless of the classification of the show. MHSA Children's Pony Medal classes held at shows beginning less than 15 days before the finals competition shall count towards qualification for the next year's finals. Entries for the annual finals competition shall close five (5) days before the date of the finals competition. Riders competing in the Children's Pony Medal may not compete in the MHSA Pony Medal or the USEF Pony Medal at the same show. Riders entering the MHSA Children's Pony Medal Final may compete in the MHSA Low Children's Horse Medal Final in the same year. This is the only other MHSA Medal Final that these riders can compete in in the same year. The MHSA Children's Pony Medal may run concurrently with the small, medium, and large children's pony division, and may be combined with the VHSA Children's Pony Medal Class.

1. Class Specifications. Open to Junior riders on ponies. Riders may not compete in the MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies at the same show. To jump 8 fences of hunter type with or without wings. The course must contain an oxer, at least one change of direction, and two of the following which may not be combined: a bending line, a narrow jump (6'-8'), a roll back turn, a fence at the end of the ring, or a long approach to a single fence. No in an out can be used. Small/medium ponies to jump 2', and large ponies to jump 2'6". Exhibitors who lose their junior status as of December 1<sup>st</sup> shall not be eligible to compete in the MHSA Children's Pony Medal classes held after the finals competition during that year. Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. To fill a class, 3 must complete the course. Only one rider per pony. The MHSA Children's Pony Medal class may be run concurrently with the MHSA Children's Pony Hunter division, the Green Glen Children's Pony Medal, and the VHSA Children's Pony Medal class. To qualify for MHSA Children's Pony Medal Finals, rider must be a member of MHSA. Those competing at the Finals need to be a USEF/USHJA member or pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee. Rider's pony for the finals must

- have a USEF Pony measurement card.
2. Each member Show shall be entitled to hold a class for the MHSA Children's Pony Medal under the following conditions:
    - a) If there are 40 or more entries the class must be divided by every other number, by height of horse or age of rider.
    - b) Application to hold the class must be filed with the MSHA prior to publication of the prize list.
    - c) MHSA Children's Pony Medal Classes held at shows beginning less than 15 days before the finals competition shall count towards qualification for the next year's finals.
    - d) Entries for the annual finals competition shall close five (5) days before the date of the finals competition.
    - e) Exhibitors who lose their junior status as of December 1<sup>st</sup> shall not be eligible to compete in the MHSA Children's Pony Medal classes qualifying classes held after the finals competition during that year.
    - f) Exhibitors may not ride in both the MHSA Children's Pony Medal and MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies at the same show.

**MHSA Hunt Seat Medal on Horses.** To qualify for the final competition in this event the contestant must be in the top 25 to qualify. Points to be scored 10-6-4-2-1-.5 adding one point for each entry in the class, regardless of the classification of the show.

1. Class Specifications. Open to junior riders on horses. To jump 8 or more fences of hunter type with or without wings. The course must contain an oxer, a combination, at least one change of direction, and two of the following which may not be combined; a bending line, a narrow jump (6'-8'), a roll back turn, a fence at the end of the ring, or a long approach to a single fence. Horses to jump 3'3". The judge may require further testing at his/her discretion, USEF Tests 1-22. Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. To fill a class, 3 must complete the course. To qualify for the MHSA Hunt Seat Medal On Horses Finals, riders must be a member of MHSA. Those competing at the Finals need to be USEF/USHJA member or pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee.
2. Each member show shall be entitled to hold a class for MHSA Hunter Seat under the following conditions:
  - a) If there are 40 or more entries the class must be divided by every other number, by height of horse or age of rider.
  - b) Application to hold the class must be filed with the MSHA prior to publication of the prize list.
  - c) MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses Classes held at shows beginning less than 15 days before the finals competition shall count towards qualification for the next year's finals.
  - d) Entries for the annual finals competition shall close five (5) days before the date of the finals competition.
  - e) Exhibitors who lose their junior status as of December 1<sup>st</sup> shall not be eligible to compete in the MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses classes

qualifying classes held after the finals competition during that year.

- f) Exhibitors may not ride in both the MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses and MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies at the same show.

**Gittings Horsemanship.** The MHSA, as part of its program to stimulate better horsemanship among young riders, will award appropriate trophies to the winners of the Gittings Horsemanship Classes at the Annual Banquet of the Association. To qualify for the finals competition in this event, the contestant must obtain 10 points among which one ribbon must be first place, during the show year. Points to be scored 5, 3, 2, 1 regardless of the classification of the show. After a contestant has qualified for the finals competition, he or she will no longer be eligible for this class for the current year.

1. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS. Open to Junior riders. The class shall be judged on performance of rider over eight or more jumps, with wings, three feet high; on seat and hands; guidance and control of the mount two of the following which may not combined: a bending line, a narrow jump (6'-8'), a roll back turn, a fence at the end of the ring, a long approach to a single fence. Two or more tests of at least the top four competitors are required. USEF Tests 1 – 22. Any exhibitor who does not participate in the testing is placed last to those exhibitors called back to test. Should more than one exhibitor fail to return for testing, they will be placed at judge's discretion. Only one rider per horse. To fill a class, 4 entries must complete the course. An Open Numerical Scoring System must be used in the first round, with each rider's score announced at the completion of their round. To qualify for Gittings Horsemanship Finals, rider must be a member of MHSA. Those competing at the Finals need to be a USEF/USHJA member or pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee.
2. Each Member Show shall be entitled to hold Gittings Horsemanship classes under the following conditions:
  - a) If there are 40 or more entries, the class must be divided by every other number.
  - b) Once qualified for the finals competition, the contestant shall be ineligible for further competition in the class for the current year.
  - c) The results of each class, including the name and address of the contestants, shall be recorded on the appropriate form and mailed to the Association's Secretary within seven days of the date of the showing of the class.
  - d) Gittings classes held at shows beginning less than 15 days before the Gittings Finals competition shall count towards qualification for the next year's finals.
  - e) Entries for the annual finals competition shall close five (5) days before the date of the finals competition.
  - f) Exhibitors who lose their Junior status as for December 1<sup>st</sup> shall not be eligible to compete in Gittings qualifying classes held after the finals competition during the year. However, these exhibitors are eligible to receive a Gittings award earned prior to the finals competition.
  - g) Horse shows offering junior hunter, children's hunter and pony hunter

divisions or sections on separate days may offer two Gittings Horsemanship classes provided they are held on different days. Riders may elect to ride either a horse or pony but may participate in only one Gittings Horsemanship per show.

- h) Application to hold the class must be filed with the MHSA prior to publication of the prize list.
- i) The Gittings class cannot be combined with any other division, class or MHSA Medal classes.

**MHSA Adult Amateur Hunter Seat Equitation.** To qualify for the final competition in this event the contestant must be in the top 25 to qualify. Points to be scored 10-6-4-2-1-.5 adding one point for each entry in the class, regardless of the classification of the show.

1. Class Specifications. This class is open to Amateur exhibitors who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of that competition year. Riders must navigate a course featuring at least 8 hunter-style fences set at 3' in height. The course must include The course must contain an oxer, a combination, at least one change of direction, and two of the following which may not be combined; a bending line, a narrow jump (6'-8'), a roll back turn, a fence at the end of the ring, or a long approach to a single fence. Horses to jump 3'. Following the jumping phase, the judges will select at least one-fourth of the class, or no fewer than six contestants (if available), to demonstrate the walk, trot, and canter. Riders must use the same horse for all phases of the class. Martingales are not permitted during the flat phase. The class will be judged on the rider's hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout the course. The judge may require further testing at his/her discretion, USEF Tests 1-22. Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. To fill a class, 3 must complete the course. To qualify for the MHSA Adult Amateur Hunt Seat Finals, riders must be a member of MHSA. Those competing at the Finals need to be USEF/USHJA member or pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee.
2. Each member show shall be entitled to hold a class for the MHSA Adult Amateur Hunt Seat Equitation under the following conditions:
  - a) If there are 40 or more entries the class must be divided by every other number, by height or horse or age of rider.
  - b) To qualify for the final competition in this event the contestant must be in the top 25 to qualify. Points to be scored 10-6-4-2-1-.5, adding one point for each entry in the class, regardless of the classification of the show.
  - c) MHSA Adult Amateur Hunter Seat Equitation classes held at shows beginning less than 15 days before the finals competition shall count toward qualification for the next year's finals.
  - d) Entries for the annual finals competition shall close five (5) days before the date of the finals competition.

- e) Each member show shall be entitled to hold a class for the MHSA Adult Amateur Hunt Seat Equitation under the following conditions:
- f) If there are 40 or more entries the class must be divided by every other number, by height or horse or age of rider.
- g) To qualify for the final competition in this event the contestant must be in the top 25 to qualify. Points to be scored 10-6-4-2-1-.5, adding one point for each entry in the class, regardless of the classification of the show.
- h) MHSA Adult Amateur Hunter Seat Equitation classes held at shows beginning less than 15 days before the finals competition shall count toward qualification for the next year's finals.
- i) Entries for the annual finals competition shall close five (5) days before the date of the finals competition.

**MHSA Low Children's Horse Medal.** To qualify for the finals competition the top 20 riders that accept their invitation and properly enter will be eligible to compete. Points to be scored 10-6-4-2-1-.5 adding one point for each entry in the class, regardless of the classification of the show.

1. The rider must be a Junior Member to receive points. Rider is not eligible to also compete in any other Equitation Finals in the same competition year except MHSA Children's Pony Medal.
  - Class Specifications. Open to junior exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday by December 1 of the current competition year. The class shall be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout over eight or more fences. The course must contain an oxer, at least one change of direction and two of the following which may not be combined: a bending line, a narrow jump (8'), a roll back turn, a fence at the end of the ring, or a long approach to a single fence. Fence height shall be 2'6". To fill a class, 3 must complete the course. In the event there are less than four entries in either the Low Children's Medal or the Low Adult Amateur Medal, these classes may be combined. Riders may not compete in classes where fences exceed 2'6" at the same show.
2. Each member show shall be entitled to hold a class for the MHSA Low Children's Hunt Seat Equitation under the following conditions
  - a) May be combined with Low Adult Medal if fewer than four entries.
  - b) MHSA Low Children's classes held at show beginning less than 15 days before the finals competition shall count toward qualification for the next year's finals.
  - c) Entries for the annual finals competition shall close five



days before the date of the finals.

**MHSA Low Adult Amateur Medal.** To qualify for the finals competition the top 20 riders that accept their invitation and properly enter will be eligible to compete. Points to be scored 10-6-4-2-1-.5 adding one point for each entry in the class, regardless of the classification of the show. The rider must be a Senior Amateur Member to receive points. Rider is not eligible to also compete in any other Equitation Finals in the same competition year.

1. Class Specification. This class is open to Amateur exhibitors who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of that competition year. Members competing in classes restricted to amateurs must meet the requirements of USEF RULE GR1306. Your signature as rider on the entry blank and annual membership form will verify that you understand and are in compliance with the rule. The class shall be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout over eight or more fences. The course must contain an oxer, at least one change of direction and two of the following which may not be combined: a bending line, a narrow jump (8'), a roll back turn, a fence at the end of the ring, or a long approach to a single fence. Fence height shall be 2'6". To fill a class, 3 must complete the course. In the event there are less than four entries in either the Low Children's Medal or the Low Adult Amateur Medal, these classes may be combined. Riders may not compete in classes where fences exceed 2'6" at the same show.
2. Each member show shall be entitled to hold a class for the MHSA Low Adult Medal under the following conditions:
  - a. May be combined with Low Children's Medal if fewer than four entries.
  - b. MHSA Low Adult Medal classes held at shows beginning less than 15 days before the finals competition shall count toward qualification for the next year's finals.
  - c. Entries for the annual finals competition shall close five days before the date of the finals.

**MHSA Low Children's Horse Medal Finals**

1. General. To be held near the end of the show year at a show or other location designated by the MHSA. The judge or judges will be approved by the MHSA. A member is only eligible to win this medal three times before they are no longer allowed to compete in the class. No rider may take part in both the MHSA Low Children's medal and the MHSA Gittings Finals in the same year nor the Low Children's Medal and the MHSA Hunt Seat Equitation Finals in the same year. To qualify for the MHSA Low Children's Medal Finals, rider must be a member of MHSA. Top 20 riders to be invited to the finals.

2. Judging Procedures. All contestants are required to perform over at least 8 fences with or without wings. Riders will be eliminated after two refusals. An Open Numerical Scoring System will be used. The top twelve (12) will be asked to back for the flat phase. To be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control of horse. The flat phase of those riders selected to show under saddle shall count 50%. Only 1 rider per horse. Martingales are prohibited in the flat phase. After the flat phase, the judge(s) will choose a minimum of 4 riders for further testing over fences (USEF tests 1 – 17 –Refer to EQ113).
3. Specifications. The contestant must ride a horse and jump at least 8 fences of hunter type with or without wings. The course must contain an oxer, at least one change of direction, and two of the following which may not be combined: a bending line, a narrow jump (6'-8'), a roll back turn, a fence at the end of the ring, or a long approach to a single fence. No in and out can be used. Jumps to be 2'6". The same horse must be shown in the Finals in the same tack in which said horse began the finals except for martingales which will not be allowed in the flat phase. The top twelve (12) will be asked back for the flat phase.

#### **MHSA Low Adult Medal Finals.**

1. General. To be held near the end of the show year at a show or other location designated by the MHSA. The judge or judges will be approved by the MHSA. No rider may take part in both the MHSA Low Adult medal and the MHSA Adult Amateur Medal Finals in the same year. To qualify for the MHSA Low Adult Medal Finals, rider must be a member of MHSA. Top 20 riders to be invited to the finals. There are no restrictions on Low Adult Amateurs competing in future events.
2. Judging Procedures. All contestants are required to perform over at least 8 fences with or without wings. Riders will be eliminated after two refusals. An Open Numerical Scoring System will be used. The top twelve (12) will be asked to back for the flat phase. To be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control of horse. The flat phase of those riders selected to show under saddle shall count 50%. Only 1 rider per horse. Martingales are prohibited in the flat phase. After the flat phase, the judge(s) will choose a minimum of 4 riders for further testing over fences (USEF tests 1 – 17 –Refer to EQ113).
3. Specifications. The contestant must ride a horse and jump at least 8 fences of hunter type with or without wings. The course must contain an oxer, at least one change of direction, and two of the following which may not be combined: a bending line, a narrow jump (6'-8'), a roll back turn, a fence at the end of the ring, or a long approach to a single fence. No in and out can be used. Jumps to be 2'6". The same horse must be shown in the Finals in the same tack in which said horse began the finals except for martingales which will not be allowed in the flat phase. The top twelve (12) will be asked back for the flat phase.

## **Hunter Schooling Rules**

1. The unsafe use of electronic devices, as determined by the competition steward in their sole discretion, including cell phones, while mounted is prohibited in all areas designated for schooling and exercise, and while lunging horses on competition grounds. Earphone(s)/Earbud(s) are prohibited in areas designated for schooling and exercise.
2. It is important to remember that all exercise areas are different in size, type of footing, and jump material provided. Furthermore, the ability of the horse and rider must always be taken into consideration as well when deciding what is permitted and not permitted during preparation.
3. In the schooling/exercise areas during the preparation before competition, a minimum of one vertical and one oxer must be provided. The ground must be in good condition. Management must provide sufficient obstacle material. The jumping area should be large enough to provide sufficient room for the training.
4. No one may hold a rail or touch a standard while it is being jumped.
5. All rails must be either in cups or totally on the ground (exception: one end of a cross rail may rest on the ground). Rails must be able to fall easily when hit.
6. If a rail is placed on the edge of a cup it must be placed on the far side of the cup, and is only allowed at an oxer if it does not cause the front rail to be higher than the back rail (i.e. offset).
7. Walk rails may be no higher than 12" at the highest point. A walk rail may be parallel to the ground with both ends in cups, or may have one end resting on the ground. Cross rails are NOT allowed. Ground rails are NOT permitted. Horses will approach and depart in a straight line only and may NOT be turned.
8. There may never be more than two (2) rails on the back of an oxer, with the lower rail equal in height to the lowest rail on the front of the oxer. If the oxer is flagged so that it may only be jumped in one direction, there may only be one (1) rail on the back.
9. Swedish Oxers are permitted with the following stipulations: a) no more than a 6" height difference (low to high points) for ponies, and b) no more than an 18" height difference (low to high points) for horses.
10. If an item (blanket, cooler, etc.) is laid over the rail of an oxer, it may be laid over the front rail. If there is more than one rail on the front of the oxer, the item may be laid over any of those rails.
11. Any action deemed not in the best interest of the horse will not be allowed

## Jumper Specifications:

**Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper.** Open to junior exhibitors who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year and Senior Amateur exhibitors who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. Members competing in classes restricted to amateurs must meet the requirements of USEF RULE GR1306. Your signature as rider on the entry blank and annual membership form will verify that you understand and are in compliance with the rule. Open to horses and ponies. The rider is not eligible to compete in any jumper classes at the same show above 1.10m. Fence height to be set at 3' (1.0m).

**Open Jumper.** Open to all juniors, adults, and professionals. Open to all horses and ponies. Fence heights to be offered with no combinations set below .90m.

1. .60m
  2. .65m
  3. .70m
  4. .75m
  5. .80m
  6. .85m
  7. .90m
  8. .95m
1. Classes to be scored under Table II, Section 1, Sections 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d) or 3; or Table III (Optimum Time). Jumpers under .90m can no longer have in and outs and they are based now on optimum time and faults. A rider/horse can be faulted for going too fast.
  2. **COMBINING JUMPER CLASSES** if less than 3 in any height section; height sections can be combined. Management has the final say as to what heights may be combined.
  3. Finals will be held at the MHSA Regional Finals. You must be a valid MHSA member to qualify for finals.

## Jumper Schooling Rules

1. It is important to remember that all exercise areas are different in size, type of footing, and jump material provided. It is also important to take into account the size of the horse and the length of his stride when determining the distance of placement rails. Furthermore, the ability of the horse and rider must always be taken into consideration when deciding what is permitted and not permitted during preparation.

2. In the schooling/exercise areas during the preparation for a competition, a minimum of one vertical and one oxer must be provided. The ground must be in good condition. Management must provide sufficient obstacle material. The jumping area should be large enough to provide sufficient room for the training.
3. No one may hold a rail or touch a standard while it is being jumped.
4. All rails must be either in cups or totally on the ground (exception: one end of a cross rail may rest on the ground). Rails must be able to fall easily when hit
5. If a rail is placed on the edge of a cup, it must be placed on the far side of the cup, and is only allowed at an oxer if it does not cause the front rail to be higher than the back rail(i.e. offset).
6. Walk rails are not permitted. Horses are not permitted to walk over cross or slant rails.
7. If a trot/canter/placement rail is used it may only be used at a vertical which may not exceed 1.30m (4'3") in height. If a rail is used on the take off side of a jump, it may be no closer than 2.50m (8'2"). If a rail is used on the landing side of a jump, it may be no closer 6.5 than 3 m (9'10"). Any rail placed 6m (19'8") or further from the take off or landing side of a jump is not to be considered a placement rail and is allowed.
8. If guide rails are used on the landing side of a jump, the closest part of the rail must be a minimum of 3 m (9'10") from the jump.
9. A cross rail may be made either: by itself, in which case the height at which the cups set may not exceed 1.30m (4'3") in height
10. Swedish Oxers are not permitted for Jumpers.
11. If space and available fence material allows and safety conditions permit, combinations may be built using correct distances. Bounce jumps may only be used with verticals and may consist of a maximum of three (3) obstacles not exceeding 1 m (3'3") in height.
12. If an item (blanket, cooler, etc.) is laid over the rail of an oxer, it must only be laid over the front rail. If there is more than one rail on the front of the oxer, the item may be laid over any of those rails.
13. The use of materials, which prove hazardous, is forbidden. Manual poling and the use of offsets are not permitted. Riders are fully responsible for any jump taken by their horse. Any action deemed not in the best interest of the horse will not be allowed.

## **Section 2. Horse Show Requirements**

- a) Competition applications and dues must be received by the MHSA office sixty (60) days prior to the competition date or that competition will NOT be recognized. Only those competition dates that have been paid will be recognized by the MHSA and listed on the horse show calendar. Competition dues are \$100 per show, per competition day. Competition managers must be current MHSA members. A MHSA show member may cancel a Regional Show by providing MHSA with written notice of cancellation. If notice is received at least 60 days prior to the first day of the show, 75% of the dues will be refunded. If less than 60 days' notice is given, no refund will be granted, and all dues paid for the show shall be forfeited. If the cancellation is due to severe weather or other acts of God, the dues paid will be refunded, less a \$25 office fee. Any other dues, fees, fines, or indebtedness owing to the MHSA is not affected by this provision.

- b) Competition application and payments for Regional Shows re-applying for the same date must be received 90 days prior to the competition date. Applications and payments not received within 90 days of the start of the competition may risk losing their previous date. Regional competitions needing to request a bye-year may do so by sending a written request to the MHSA (via email or mail) no later than 60 days prior to the start of the competition. A competition may only request one bye year. Payment of \$100 payable to the MHSA is required to hold the date for one MHSA calendar year.
- c) All horse shows that want to be MHSA Regional recognized are required to provide the Maryland Horse Shows Association a Certificate of Insurance naming the MHSA as additional insured for each horse show date. The insurance should be a minimum of \$1 million per occurrence/\$2 million aggregate.
- d) In order to be an approved MHSA Regional Horse Show, management must provide the MHSA office with a current prize list sixty (60) days prior to the competition date, so the prize list can be reviewed and approved. If the competition's prize list is not received in the office at least sixty (60) days prior to the competition date, a \$50 fine will be imposed. Any revisions, corrections, or additions to the prize list must be resubmitted prior to the competition date for final approval. The MHSA Executive Committee specifically reserves the right to withhold prize list and show approval if a prize list is not in complete compliance with all MHSA Regional rules and regulations. The MHSA is not responsible for the final content of any prize list.
- e) A horse show must offer at least six (6) Regional Divisions in order to be recognized as a MHSA Regional Horse Show.
- f) MHSA Regional Horse Show competition dates will not be awarded to USEF rated horse shows except by special permission of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee specially reserves the right to award all MHSA Regional Horse Show competitions dates. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to take away or not grant Regional recognition, if in its judgement a show or shows do not maintain a reasonable standard of conduct or safety and/or are not in or do not represent the best interest of the program. No more than two Regional Shows per weekend day will be approved. (Exception: Eastern Shore). Shows held on the same date must be located a minimum of 30 miles apart "as the crow flies".
- g) With the exception of the Regional Championship horse show, no other MHSA Regional rated horse show may have a pre-entry only requirement.
- h) Each Regional horse show must have an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) on the horse show grounds during all riding activities.
- i) Regional Horse Show Judge Requirements. Every person who judges a MHSA Regional Horse Show must have a MHSA judges card (with current MHSA membership) or USEF judges card. It is the responsibility of the show management to verify its judge's membership and to be responsible for his or her membership. It's up to the show manager to verify that the judge is licensed with either MHSA or USEF. Failure to hire an approved judge and/or submit membership fees with the show results could result in a withdrawal of show approval and/or loss of future dates. Special exception to the judge's membership rule may be achieved by submitting a written request with the proposed judge's name and qualifications to the MHSA Executive Committee for its approval, via the MHSA office at least two weeks prior to the horse show date.

- j) Regional Horse Show Steward Requirements. It is the responsibility of show management to verify its steward's membership and to be responsible for his or her membership. It's up to the show manager to verify that the steward is licensed with either MHSA or USEF. Failure to hire an approved steward and/or submit membership fees with the show results could result in a withdrawal of show approval and/or loss of future dates. MHSA Regional Program Horse Shows must have an MHSA or USEF licensed steward. See also Rule XII, Part I, Section 6. A Steward may officiate no more than four (4) MHSA Regional Program Horse Shows in a row for one horse show management.
- k) The phone number for the on-call veterinarian must be on display in the horse show office.
- l) In accordance with USEF GR845, the MHSA has adopted the following health protocol for all Regional shows effective 4/25/17. MHSA/USEF Rated shows are already covered by this same protocol.

### **SECTION 3. USEF GR844 Equine Vaccination Rule**

- 1. At Federation licensed competitions horses, more than 7 months of age, entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables. Horses not in compliance with this rule may be required to leave the competition grounds upon request by Competition Management. Documentation should consist of one of the following methods mentioned below. The frequency of vaccine administration should be per the vaccine manufacturers' or veterinarian's recommendations. It is recommended that vaccines are administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian.
- 2. In the case of vaccines administered by a veterinarian, the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide documentation from the veterinarian documenting that the horse in question received the vaccinations, name of the vaccines and date of vaccine administration.
- 3. In the case of vaccines administered by a person other than a veterinarian, the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide a receipt of the vaccine purchase which is signed by the owner, or agent with care, custody, and control of the horse; name, serial number and expiration date of the vaccine; and date of vaccine administration.
- 4. In the case of a horse that is unable to receive either of the vaccinations due to a history of adverse reactions, the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide a letter from the veterinarian on official letterhead stating that the horse in question cannot be vaccinated due to medical concerns and a log of temperatures taken twice daily for the seven days prior to entering the competition grounds. These horses must also have their temperature taken and logged twice daily while on the competition grounds. The log of temperatures should be provided to the Competition Management, steward, or technical delegate when requested.
- 5. Competition Management may not amend or enhance vaccination requirements without prior approval of the Veterinary Committee.

#### **SECTION 4. Reporting Show Results**

1. Show results must be received in the MHSA office within fourteen (14) days of the competition date. If the show results are later than the fourteen (14) day deadline, the show will incur a \$100 penalty. If the results are late for more than three times, that horse show will no longer be recognized by the MHSA. All shows that are late must pay the penalty and send the results within thirty (30) days from the competition date in order to continue being recognized by the MHSA for the remainder of the show year and the following show year. The results must be sent electronically in the USEF or ShowPro format.
2. The MHSA office must be notified immediately if a horse show is either cancelled or rescheduled. Failure to notify the MHSA office of any cancellations and/or date changed will result in the competition dues being forfeited. The procedure and rules regarding refunds for horse shows that are cancelled can be found on page 19 of Rule book in Section 6.
3. The MHSA requires all MHSA Regional horse shows to keep on file the judge's cards and results for every recognized horse show for one full year from the date of the show.
4. Show results will only be accepted by the MHSA office in a computer format that the current MHSA point program, "OrgPro" is compatible with. It is the responsibility of show management to verify its software program is an accepted program. Failure to comply could result in a withdrawal of show approval and or loss of future dates.

#### **SECTION 5. Annual High Score Awards**

To be eligible for an Annual High Score award, a horse or pony must be recorded with the MHSA and its owner must be an Individual Member in good standing. No points will be credited toward the Annual High Score Award before the horse or pony is recorded and its owner becomes an individual member. No points acquired by a horse or pony will be credited toward the Annual High Score Award during any period of time in which the owner is an Individual Member not in good standing.

Annual High Score Awards will be offered in the following divisions:

- a. Children's Hunter
- b. Adult Amateur Hunter
- c. High Children's/High Adult Hunter
- d. Low Children's Hunter Horse
- e. Low Adult Amateur Hunter
- f. Pre-Children's/Adult Hunter
- g. Small/Medium Pony Hunter
- h. Large Pony Hunter
- i. Low Children's Pony Hunter
- j. Low Hunter
- k. Working Hunter
- l. Thoroughbred Hunter
- m. Short Stirrup Hunter
- n. Short Stirrup Equitation (merit)
- o. Mini Stirrup Equitation (merit)
- p. Long Stirrup Equitation (merit)
- q. Lead Line Equitation (merit)



- r. Pleasure Horse
- s. Pleasure Pony
- t. Junior Equitation
- u. Adult Equitation
- v. Children's/Adult Jumper
- w. .60m Open Jumper
- x. .65m Open Jumper
- y. .70m Open Jumper
- z. .75m Open Jumper
- aa. .80m Open Jumper
- bb. .85m Open Jumper
- cc. .90m Open Jumper
- dd. .95m Open Jumper

Winners shall be those horses or ponies which score the highest number of points in their classifications at MHSA Regional Horse Shows from December 1<sup>st</sup> of the prior year through October 31<sup>th</sup> of the current year, except that all points won at any show which begins prior to October 31<sup>th</sup> shall count for the show year in which such show began.

No credit will be given in classes if less than three entries have shown and placed. Exception: in Hunter Classes, a minimum of three entries must have completed (per HU120) to receive full points. If a minimum of 3 entries compete (per HU119), but only two entries complete (per HU120), half points will be awarded (GR1113). Credit will be given according to the current point system.

Points in all classes will be scored as follows except MHSA Adult Amateur Hunt Seat Equitation, MHSA Children's Pony Medal, Gittings Horsemanship, MHSA Junior Flat Medal, MHSA Low Children's Hunt Seat Equitation, MHSA Low Adult Amateur Hunt Seat Equitation, Junior Equitation, Adult Equitation, Short Stirrup Equitation, Long Stirrup Equitation, and Mini Stirrup Equitation and Hunter Classics.

In the Hunter/Jumper divisions, points are determined by both the rating of the competition as well as the number of horses shown. The number of entries for the Hunter Division is determined by the number of entries shown in the first performance class of the section, except in sections where individual classes may be entered in which case the number of entries will be determined by the number of entries that competed in each individual class (HU135). Points are calculated utilizing a combination of base points and adding one point for each entry shown in the first performance class of each section.

In addition, the Champion and Reserve Champion titles are awarded to the top two of the four horses that acquired the most points performing over a regulation course with obstacles at the full height required in the section in which shown, except under the provisions of HU151. In addition to these points, only these four horses receive half points for ribbons won in Model classes and full points for ribbons won in one Under Saddle class. Exception: High Performance and Performance Hunter sections with three classes receive half points for the under saddle class, see HU135.

### MHSA Regional Point Chart

Placing	Points
Champion	2.0 times
Reserve Champion	1.2 times
1 <sup>st</sup>	10
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4
4 <sup>th</sup>	3
5 <sup>th</sup>	2
6 <sup>th</sup>	1.5
7 <sup>th</sup>	1
8 <sup>th</sup>	.5

Double points will be awarded at the annual MHSA Regional Championship Horse Show.

### MHSA Regional Classic Points

Placing	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	20
2 <sup>nd</sup>	16

3 <sup>rd</sup>	14
4 <sup>th</sup>	12
5 <sup>th</sup>	10
6 <sup>th</sup>	8
	6

7 <sup>th</sup>	
8 <sup>th</sup>	5

# RULE XII – LICENSED JUDGES

## PART I – LICENSED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

**SECTION 1. General.** *See USEF Sub-Chapter 10-B*

## PART II – LICENSED JUDGES

### SECTION 1. General

3. Licensed Judges are classified as Recognized and Learner. They must be Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members, 21 years of age or over. (Exception: Learner Judges must be 18 years of age or older.)
4. Only Licensed Judges in good standing may officiate at Recognized Competitions in those divisions covered by the rules and specifications of the current Rule Book.

### SECTION 2. MHSA Recognized Judge

An MHSA Recognized Judge will be any MHSA Senior/Senior Amateur Member, 21 years of age or over, who has completed and passed the application process. Any USEF recognized “R” or “r” judge will be automatically given MHSA Recognized Status after said person completes their licensed officials MHSA membership.

### SECTION 2. Learner Judge.

6. A Learner Judge is an Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Member, 18 years of age or older to whom the President or Secretary may grant permission, upon the request of a Recognized competition and for that competition only, to accompany a Registered Judge into the ring. Permission will not be granted for more than one Learner Judge to be in a ring at one time. The fee is \$10 which is non-refundable. The application must be made on the official form provided for that purpose and must be accompanied by the required fee. After contacting show management for permission, the individual wishing to officiate as a learner judge must obtain consent from that Registered Judge with whom he or she would be officiating. The statement on the form that the competition holds itself responsible that the individual applies for is familiar with the Association rules and is capable of observing as requested, must be signed by an Officer of the competition.
7. He or She must be familiar with the Association rules and is capable to observe as requested, must be signed by an Officer of the competition.
8. There is no limit to the number of times a person may be granted a Learner Judge’s Card. He/she shall be given a scorecard to evaluate the various entries, but a learner judge has no authority as to the merits of the competitors.
9. The necessity of giving opportunity to Learner Judges to officiate with judges of experience in the show ring is urged upon all recognized competitions as an important and cooperative duty. The recognized competition may request additional specific information about an individual’s experience before accepting him/her as a learner judge.
10. Application must be received in the MHSA Office at least 14 days prior to the start of the competition. Learner Judge’s applications received prior to the show, but less than 14 days prior will receive no credit.

## PART III – FEES

4. Initial application or re-enrollment - \$45
5. Annual renewal - \$45
6. Learner Judge - \$45

## PART IV – ENROLLMENT

### **SECTION 1. General.**

8. Applications must be made on the appropriate official enrollment form, signed by the applicant, and accompanied by the required fee which is not refundable.
9. The Licensed Officials Committee, not the applicant, will send out questionnaires concerning the applicant to such persons listed as references by the applicant and to such judges, members of Division Committees, and others as it may select. No member of the Licensed Officials Committee may serve as a reference for an applicant for a Judge's license. All questionnaires must be returned to the Committee.
10. No application will be considered unless and until 15 questionnaires are returned from members of the Association, eight of which must be licensed judges and members of an MHSA Committee.
11. All questionnaires must be received within 60 days from the start of the application.
12. In the case of those applicants whose applications are not reviewed by the Licensed Officials Committee because of an insufficient number of returned questionnaires, the Committee will advise the applicants and will hold those applications in a pending file for one more meeting of the Committee.
13. No applicant will be considered for a new division until he/she has adjudicated in at least two Recognized competitions in a division in which he/she is already licensed, and his/her name is listed in the prize list.
14. Upon expiration of any license, each applicant has five years before he/she must complete the learner judging requirements outlined in Part II, Section 4 for re-enrollment.

## PART V – APPRENTICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

7. Must apprentice a minimum of six (6) days at two separate MHSA hunter/jumper competitions
8. Must accompany a minimum of three (3) different MHSA/USEF Judges
9. Three (3) of the competitions must be managed by different management
10. Must receive three (3) positive apprentice evaluations
11. All apprentice evaluations must be completed and signed by the MHSA Judge with whom the apprentice was working.
12. Applicants MUST Attend ONE MHSA Judges clinic

## PART VI- WRITTEN EXAMINATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL

3. Applicants must pass a written Final Examination with a minimum score of 85%
4. If an Applicant fails the written test, he/she will be allowed to take the test once more. If unsuccessful the second time, retesting will not be allowed until the next available clinic offering

## PART VI – OFFICIATING REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN A LICENSE

It is the responsibility of the licensed judge to accomplish all necessary requirements for maintaining a judge's license. Any judge recognized by USEF will meet these requirements through the USEF program.

5. Complete License Maintenance Program/attend an MHSA/USEF Judges' Clinic every four (4) years
6. Pass a written examination with a minimum score of 85% every two years
7. Officiate at (at least) three (3) MHSA licensed hunter/jumper competitions every three (3) years
8. maintain MHSA membership annually

## PART IX- REGULATIONS GOVERNING JUDGES *see USEF GR1032*

1. Restrictions, Conflicts of Interest *see USEF GR1039 + GR107.*

## RULE XIII- LICENSED STEWARDS

### SECTION 1. Licensed Officials Committee

The Licensed Officials Committee shall act upon every annual renewal and promotion to Stewards. The Committee will issue licenses to each approved applicant. Licenses are valid for the current competition year only.

4. The Committee at its discretion may reinstate a steward who has allowed his/her license to lapse for one year or may require him/her to re-apply.
5. The Committee may require all Stewards who do not officiate at a Recognized Show within two (2) years after obtaining a license or for any two (2) year period thereafter, to re-apply for a license to retain their recognized status.
6. Complaints. On receipts of a protest or charge that a Steward has failed to attend the show or to perform his/her duties according to the rules, the committee shall investigate the complaint by holding a hearing. The protest or charge must be made in accordance with the provisions of Rule IX. In the event that the accused is found guilty at the

hearing, he/she may be censured, and his/her Steward's license revoked. Notice of such revocation may be published in the MHSA Newsletter. If the Steward is accused of other violations the matter shall be handled by the Enforcement Committee.

## **SECTION 2. Stewards.** *See USEF GR1033*

5. The following are required responsibilities and duties of Stewards:
  - a. Safeguard the welfare of the horse;
  - b. Protect the interests of:
    1. Competitors by ensuring a safe and fair competition environment by consistently applying the Rules; and
    2. Competition management and judges by being available for rule interpretations and serving as a liaison between Licensed Officials, and Competition Management.
  - c. When they become aware of a potential violation of MHSA rules, without waiting for a protest, investigate, and notify the appropriate individual or official, and, if not rectified, issue a yellow warning card and/or file a charge.
  - d. Assist competition management to ensure that every effort is made to provide for a safe competition.
  - e. Confirm that all judges are either licensed in the divisions to which they have been assigned and if not, report the alleged rule violation.
  - f. Report on the suitability of the competition facilities in all aspects, including stabling. The steward must commence his/her duties early enough to deal with these matters.
  - g. A steward should clearly understand that he/she has no authority in connection with the management or the judging of a competition.
  - h. Additionally, stewards should reference the Checklist available on the website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) which has additional Guidelines which should be considered when officiating at a competition.
6. Measurement: Measuring all animals required to be measured as provided for in USEF rule book, Chapter 5 of the General Rules, Measurement of Entries and if necessary, return Measurement cards to the MHSA.
  - a. Stewards are responsible for ensuring that measurements are conducted in accordance with the rules and that all required paperwork is completed in a legible manner.
  - b. Offenders could be subject to a fine or administrative penalty at the discretion of the President or his/her designee.
7. Forms: The following forms must be submitted in a timely manner to the MHSA (within ten (10) days after the last licensed day of the competition):  
Steward Report on the form furnished by the MHSA:
  - a. The report must include any offenses or violations of the rules by the competition or any exhibitors.
  - b. If the MHSA does not receive the completed report and/or attachments postmarked and/or electronically submitted within ten (10) days of the closing of the competition, the Steward will be fined a fee of \$100. For the second offense and any offense thereafter in the same competition year, said official will be fined \$250. A third offense and any offense thereafter will result in an automatic suspension from office as Steward for 90 days, in addition to the fines.

- c. Failure to pay any fine within 30 days will result in a violation of rules and the Steward will be subject to an additional \$100 late fee.
  - d. If the Steward disputes that the report was not timely filed, he/she may appeal in writing to the MHSA within 30 days of receipt of the MHSA's notice of the fine. The appeal must be accompanied by a check for \$50, payable to the Federation, which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld. The President and three members of the Licensed Officials Committee will consider the appeal and may waive a part or all of the fine upon finding of good cause of why the report was not timely filed and/or a finding that extreme hardship results from the automatic penalty. Note: only the fine may be waived. The rule violation will remain on the record for the official.
8. No steward may officiate for more than three (3) consecutive years at the same competition or at more than four (4) consecutive competitions run by the same governing body, Board of Directors or License.

## PART II- Eligibility Requirements for Steward Applicants:

- 4. Must be a current MHSA member in good standing;
- 5. Must have attained the age of 21 years;
- 6. Must have participated in a minimum of six (6) MHSA hunter/jumper competitions within the past four (4) years in one of the following capacities:
  - competitor
  - trainer
  - owner
  - official
  - competition staff member.

## PART III- Application Requirements:

The initial step in the application process will be to submit the downloadable pdf MHSA checklist to MHSA for consideration. All eligibility requirements, clearly stated on the application, must be satisfied. Applicants are encouraged to complete the requirements in the following order and within two (2) years after submission of the licensing application:

- F. **Apprentice Training:**
- Must apprentice a minimum of six (6) days at two separate MHSA hunter/jumper competitions;
  - Must accompany a minimum of three (3) different MHSA/USEF Stewards;
  - Three (3) of the competitions must be managed by different management;
  - Must receive three (3) positive apprentice evaluations;
  - All apprentice evaluations must be completed and signed by the MHSA Steward with whom the apprentice was working.
  - All practice measurement forms (5) must be completed and signed by the MHSA Steward with whom the apprentice was working.
- G. **Clinics:**
- Applicants must attend one (1) MHSA Stewards Clinic which will include the administration of a written practice test.



H. **Final Written Examination:**

- Applicants must pass a written Final Examination with a minimum score of 85%.
- If an Applicant fails the written test, he/she will be allowed to take the once more. If unsuccessful the second time, retesting will not be allowed until the next available clinic offering.

I. **Final Measurement Examination:**

- Applicants must pass a Final Measurement Examination with a minimum score of 85%.
- If an Applicant fails the written test, he/she will be allowed to take the once more. If unsuccessful the second time, retesting will not be allowed for 30 days.
- Approved Testing Measurement Examiners
  - o Kathy Meadows
  - o Hillary Gibbons-Neffs
  - o Faith McKay-Alicea
  - o RandThaw

J. **Supplemental Training:**

To include PowerPoint presentations, quizzes and other educational materials.

## **PART IV- Steward Maintenance Requirements:**

- complete License Maintenance Program every four (4) years;
- pass a written examination with a minimum score of 85% every two years;
- officiate at three (3) MHSA licensed hunter/jumper competitions every three (3) years;
- maintain MHSA membership annually.

## **SECTION 6. MHSA Regional Special Awards Specifications**

### **Challenge Trophies. See USEF GR805 + HU156**

- a) A challenge trophy is a trophy, donated to or offered by a show or the MHSA which must be won a specified number of times under specific conditions. When originally placed in competition, it becomes the property of the show committee, or the MHSA as the case may be, and cannot be withdrawn by the donor.
- b) Should a show or class be discontinued, or not held for a period of time, or cease to be a member of the Association, any un-retired challenge trophies offered at such show must be returned at the expiration of ten months to and become the property of the Association, to be awarded for further competition in a like class at another Member Show.
- c) Parties interested in donating a trophy to the MHSA must submit a written proposal to the MHSA Board of Directors. The trophy must be a Challenge trophy, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors. Trophy must be made of sterling silver, pewter, crystal or bronze, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors. A picture of the trophy should be sent to the MHSA for approval; picture can be sent via email or postal mail.
- d) Parties interested in donating a trophy to the MHSA Regional Program must submit a written proposal to the MHSA Regional Committee. The trophy must be a Challenge trophy and it must be made of sterling silver, pewter, crystal, or bronze. All trophies must be able to be engraved. A picture of the trophy must be sent to the MHSA Regional Committee for approval. The cost of the proposed trophy and the initial engraving shall be paid by the person or party donating said trophy.

All Regional Program Trophies will be engraved each year before the following year's banquet

## **SECTION 7. MHSA Regional Special Awards**

- a) **The “Waps Rip Rap” Challenge Trophy**, donated by Miles River Farm. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Pleasure Horse Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.
- b) **The “Autumn Grove Stables Pleasure Pony” Perpetual Trophy**, donated by Autumn Grove Stables. To be awarded annually by the pony recorded with the Association who acquires the most points in the Pleasure Pony Division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession
- c) **The MHSA Pony of the Year Trophy**, donated by BEST Horse Shows. To be awarded annually to the owner member who is a legal resident of Maryland to the most outstanding pony shown during the year at MHSA Regional shows.
- d) **The MHSA Horse of the Year Trophy**, donated by Endeavor Farm. To be awarded annually to the owner member who is a legal resident of Maryland to the most outstanding horse shown during the year at MHSA Regional shows
- e) **The “Just By Chance Farm” Challenge Trophy**, donated by Annie Renzetti. To be awarded annually to the owner member who acquires the most points in the Child/Adult Jumper division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

## **SECTION 8. MHSA Regional Retired Special Awards**

- a) **The “Miles River Moon Dance” Challenge Trophy**, donated by the Langfitt Family. To be awarded annually by the pony recorded with the Association who acquires the most points in the Pleasure Pony Division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession

## **SECTION 9. MHSA Regional Championship Horse Show**

The MHSA Regional Program will host a year-end championship at the end of each year.

Qualifications:

- a) A horse/pony/rider must have earned points at two regional horse shows in the MHSA Regional Division (hunter, pleasure, jumper, and equitation) that they wish to qualify for, as well as be in the top 20 and invited to participate in the final championship horse show.
- b) The same horse/pony and rider combination that competes at any of the fall indoor shows such as Pennsylvania National, Washington International (except Local Hunters) or The National Horse Show is not eligible to compete at the MHSA Regional Championship Horse Show.
- c) The qualifying date for the MHSA Regional Championship Show is to be 21 days (3 weeks) prior to the start of the show. Any points accumulated after the qualifying date will count for year end points only.
- d) All riders competing in the MHSA Regional Championship horse show must be current members of the MHSA.

## **SECTION 10. Amateur Certification Protest Procedures**

Members competing in classes restricted to amateurs must meet the requirements of USEF Rule GR1306. A protest concerning the amateur status of a Senior MHSA member may be made by an exhibitor, a trainer, a Senior MHSA member, or the parent of a junior exhibitor or junior MHSA member.

The protest must:

- a) Be in writing.
- b) Be signed by the protestor.
- c) Be addressed to the MHSA Enforcement Committee with a postmark no later than 3 days after the completion of the horse show where the alleged violation occurred.
- d) Contain the full name and address of the Senior MHSA member who allegedly violated the MHSA amateur status rule and contain a complete and definite statement including the precise details to support the protest of the non-amateur status of a Senior MHSA member. Please note that the protestor must be prepared to substantiate the protest by personal testimony at a hearing or by sworn statements, witnesses, or other evidence.
- e) Be accompanied by a deposit of \$100, made out to the Maryland Horse Shows Association.
- f) A protest which does not conform to the requirements of this section shall be ineffective. A deposit with a protest shall be refunded upon the finding that the protest does not conform to the requirements of this section.

# RULE XXIV-YELLOW WARNING CARD – STEWARD AND COMPETITION OFFICIALS

## SECTION 1: Yellow Warning Card

- a) A Yellow Warning Card may be issued by a Steward or Competition Official working in any of these capacities at the competition to any competitor, spectator or participant for improper conduct, or for non-compliance with the rules, provided the issuer considers the conduct not severe enough to cause the issuer to file formal charges pursuant to Rule VI.
- b) To issue a Yellow Warning Card, a Steward, or Competition Official must complete and sign the Yellow Warning Card.
- c) A copy of the signed Yellow Warning Card must be provided to the alleged offender at the competition either in person or by any other suitable means. A copy of the Yellow Warning Card must then be sent to the MHSA with the Steward's Report Form and noted therein.
- d) Upon receipt of the Yellow Warning Card, the MHSA will send an acknowledgement of its receipt of the Yellow Warning Card to the alleged offender advising of the provisions of this Rule.
- e) This issuance of the Yellow Warning Card is not meant to replace the filing of charges for a willful and serious violation of MHSA rules, and in no case may a Yellow Warning Card be issued for abuse of a horse in any form. It is for lesser offenses only.
- f) Immediately following receipt by the MHSA of a third Yellow Card Warning indicating that a competitor, spectator, or participant has been issued three (3) Yellow Warning Card within a sixteen (16) month period the President or the Board shall either levy a fine ranging from \$500 to \$100 or issue a formal charge pursuant to this Rule and Rule VI alleging that the rules have been violated on all or any one of said three occasions pursuant to Rule VI of the MHSA Rules. If the alleged offender is found in violation of any or all of said violations, they may be subject to the penalties set forth in Rule VII of the Rules.

**The MHSA Regional Derby** is open to any horse or pony registered at the hosting horse show. In order to receive MHSA Division points, horses/ponies and owners must be actively recorded and registered with MHSA. Riders must fill out the official MHSA Declaration Form in the horse show office to declare which MHSA division they would like to earn points towards. Heights offered are 2', 2'6" and 3', rider's discretion. HOWEVER, to earn MHSA Regional Points, a horse/pony must jump the equivalent of their rated section. 2' option for Low Pony, Small/Medium Pony, 2'6" option for Large Pony, Low Children's Horse, Low Adult, Thoroughbred, and Low Hunter. 3' option for Working Hunter, Thoroughbred Hunter, Children's Hunter and Adult Amateur Hunter. The class will be held in a two-round format. The judge will utilize the open numerical system to score competitors in the Classic Hunter Round (first round) on performance, hunter pace, jumping style, quality and substance, and movement. The 12 highest-scoring horse- and-rider combinations after the first round are eligible to return for the second round. In the second round, the Handy Hunter Round, the judge's score will be weighted by handiness and overall brilliance of pace. The pair with the highest two-round score is declared the winner.

Points will be awarded as follows for the MHSA Regional Program:

Derby Placing	Points Awarded
1 <sup>st</sup>	50
2 <sup>nd</sup>	40
3 <sup>rd</sup>	35
4 <sup>th</sup>	30
5 <sup>th</sup>	25
6 <sup>th</sup>	20
7 <sup>th</sup>	15
8 <sup>th</sup>	10
9 <sup>th</sup>	7
10 <sup>th</sup>	5
11 <sup>th</sup>	3
12 <sup>th</sup>	2

The host show will pay MHSA \$5 per entry in the class, whether they are all MHSA member's or not.