



MHSA

Maryland Horse Shows Association, Inc.

2026 Rule Book

Effective December 1, 2025

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THIS BOOK SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS EDITIONS

THE RULES PUBLISHED HEREIN ARE EFFECTIVE

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BY ANY RULE CHANGES ENACTED BY

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OR BY SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS

OR SUPPLEMENTS TO THE RULE BOOK

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BY-LAWS
of
MARYLAND HORSE SHOWS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I

The full corporate name of the association, as amended by Resolution to amend the Charter adopted by the Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, January 22, 1965 is:

Maryland Horse Shows Association, Inc.

ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Association, as set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation, are:

- a) To promote and/or conduct horse shows, forums, clinics, and other special events.
- b) To coordinate and cooperate with the show committees and exhibitors of horse shows.
- c) To work in the interest of and for the improvement of horses and in furtherance of such objects.
- d) To assign show dates to member shows and to make adequate and fair rules governing competitions and to enforce them for the common benefit.
- e) To serve and promote the best interests of members shows and exhibitors who participate in them.
- f) To license horse show judges, stewards, and other officials.
- g) To otherwise assist in connection with the exhibition of horse and ponies
- h) To protect the health, safety, and well-being of participants

ARTICLE III MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Individual Members

Individual annual members and life members shall be those admitted to membership in this Association. Membership in the MHSA is a privilege and is offered to those persons who pay their current dues, abide by the rules of the MHSA, and conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the best interests of the association.

- a) Senior Members – those members who reached their eighteenth birthday prior to December 1st of the current year, but do not possess an amateur certification. An individual Senior Member shall be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting only if (1) he/she shall have been a Member of the MHSA during the current year and (2) his/her dues for the upcoming fiscal year of the MHSA shall have been paid to and received by the MHSA before the date of such Annual Meeting.
- b) Senior Amateur Members – those members who reached their eighteenth birthday prior to December 1st of the current year and comply with USEF Rule GR1306 outlining amateur certification. Senior Amateur Members must sign the MHSA Amateur Certification clause at the time of membership registration each year to be able to compete in amateur-defined classes/divisions at MHSA recognized competitions. An individual Senior Amateur Member shall be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting only if (1) he/she shall have been a Member of the MHSA during the current year and (2) his/her dues for the upcoming fiscal year of the MHSA shall have been paid to and received by the MHSA before the date of such Annual Meeting.
- c) Junior Members – those members who have not reached their eighteenth birthday prior to December 1st of the current year, and who do not qualify as senior/senior amateur members. Junior members shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings of members but may attend such meetings.

SECTION 2. Show Memberships

Show members shall be those corporations, organizations, associations, or other conducting or holding horse or pony shows, or exhibitions in the State of Maryland, neighboring states, District of Columbia, and North Carolina which have been elected to membership by the Board of Directors with full privileges and responsibilities and shall consist of three classes.

Types of show membership:

- a) Regular Show Member
- b) Regional Show Member

SECTION 3. Annual Meetings

Annual meetings of the members of the Association shall be held within the State of Maryland at such place, time, and date in the months of November, December or January as the President may designate. At each annual meeting the Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members shall elect directors, and all annual meetings shall be general meetings. They are open for the transaction of any business proper for consideration by members of the Association and within the powers of the Association without special notice of such business except in cases in which special notice is required by statute, by the charter or the by-laws.

SECTION 4. Special Meetings

At any time in the interval between annual meetings, special meeting of the member may be called by: (1) President or (2) majority of the Board of Directors by vote at a meeting or in writing to the Secretary or (3) by the Secretary upon the written request (stating the purpose or purposes and the matters to be acted on there at) of not less than twenty percent (20%) of the Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members of the Association.

SECTION 5. Notice Of Meetings

Written, printed, or electronic notice of every annual or special meeting of members shall be given to each individual Senior/Senior Amateur Member entitled to vote at such meeting not less than fifteen days nor more than sixty (60) days before the date of such meeting. Prepaid mailing to the member's post office

address or by electronic mail, as it appears on the records of the Association, shall state the time and place of the meeting and in the case of a special meeting, the purpose, or purposes for which it is called. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except that named in the notice. Any member who attends in person waives such notice. Notice may also be waived in writing, signed, and filed with the records of the meeting (either before or after). Any meeting of members, annual or special, may adjourn from time to time to reconvene at the same or some other place and no notice need be given or any such adjourned meeting other than by announcement.

SECTION 6. Quorum

At all meetings of members, the presence in person of not less than twenty percent (20%) of the Senior/ Senior Amateur members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum. Except in cases in which it is by statute or by the charter otherwise provided, a majority of all votes cast at any meeting shall be sufficient to take authorized action upon any matter which may properly come before the meeting.

ARTICLE IV DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. Election

At the annual meeting of members, the Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members shall, by plurality vote, elect the Directors from Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members in good standing. The statement "Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members in good standing" shall not exclude any such member of the MHSA, even if these members are in the same family. The number of Directors elected, fixed by the Charter, shall be fifteen. Five (5) Directors shall be elected for a term of three years, so that only one third of the Directors will be elected at any annual meeting. Directors elected for a three-year term may not serve a consecutive term. In the event of a vacancy of the Board of Directors, the remaining Directors shall fill such vacancy by electing a Director to fill the unexpired term. *Any director who shall be absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors, without being excused by the Board, shall thereupon be subject to removal as a Director by majority vote of the Directors present at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Directors.*

SECTION 2. Honorary Directors

In addition to the elected Directors, the Directors may from time-to-time elect Honorary Directors in recognition of loyal or distinguished service rendered to the Association. *Any Honorary Director shall serve for life with full voting privileges but shall be exempt from the payment of dues and shall not be required to attend meetings.* Such Honorary Directors shall not at any given time exceed five in number. Honorary Directors shall not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum nor in determining the number of Directors required to constitute a quorum.

SECTION 3. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors and their appointed Committee shall conduct and manage the business affairs of the Association and may exercise all the powers of the Association (except such as are by statute, by the charter or by the by-laws conferred upon or reserved to the members including but not limited to the following powers:

- a) To accept members as provided in these by-laws and under the rules of the Association.
- b) To elect the officers of the Association and to remove an officer at any time with or without cause.
- c) To assign show dates to member shows and to license horse show judges, stewards and other officials deemed necessary for the operation of such shows.
- d) To establish divisions in which riders, horses, and ponies compete and to maintain official records of competing members and recorded horses and ponies.

- e) To make, alter, amend, repeal, and enforce rules governing Show Members, Individual Members, Judges, Stewards, and all other persons bound by the Association Rules
- f) After hearing, to censure, suspend, revoke and/or find the membership or license of, or expel from membership any Show Member, Individual Member, show official, rider, driver, show employee or any person or person in violation of the rules or who act in a manner deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the Association.
- g) To determine any issues concerning the interpretation or application of the by-laws.

SECTION 4. Regular Meetings

After election of the Board of Directors, those Directors so elected shall meet as soon as practice, for the purpose of organization and the transaction of other business. No written notice of such a meeting shall be necessary. Other regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on such dates and at such places within the State of Maryland as may be designated from time to time by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors meetings are not open to the general membership. Members wishing to bring business before the Board of Directors may request an opportunity to be heard at any meetings. Such a request shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Association and shall state the nature of the business to be brought before the Board.

SECTION 5. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the Secretary upon the written request of the President or five Directors. Such meetings shall be held within the State of Maryland.

SECTION 6. Notice of Meetings

Except as provided in Section 4 of this Article IV, notice of the place, day and hour of every regular and special meeting shall be given to each director at least five days before the meeting. Notice shall be by e-mail or US Postal Service mail. Any meeting of the Board of Directors, regular or special, may adjourn from time to time to reconvene at the same or some other designated place, and no notice need be given of any such adjourned meeting other than by announcement.

SECTION 7. Quorum

At all meetings of the Board of Directors, a majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Except in cases in which it is by statute, by the charter or by the by-laws otherwise provided, the vote of a majority of directors present at a duly constituted meeting shall be the act of the Board of Directors. Honorary Directors shall not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum, nor in determining the number of directors required to constitute a quorum.

SECTION 8. Removal

Any officer, director or employee of the Association may be removed at any time with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 9. Unanimous Written Consent

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-408 of the Corporations and Associations Article of the Maryland Code, as from time to time may be amended. The unanimous consent must set forth the action to be taken, must be signed by each member of the board or committee, and must be filed with the minutes of the proceedings.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Officers

The officers of the Association shall be a President, a First Vice-President, and a Second

Vice-President, all of whom shall be directors, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, neither of whom need to be a director, but must be a member. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. The Board of Directors may elect an Assistant Secretary, an Assistant Treasurer and such additional officers and employees as it may determine to be necessary. Each such officer shall hold office until a new Board of Directors has been elected or until he/she shall have resigned or have been removed.

SECTION 2. President

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of members and directors at which he/she shall be present and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Directors. The President shall appoint from the Senior/Senior Amateur Individual members in good standing committees which he/she deems necessary for the proper conduct of the Association. The President shall be a member and Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Enforcement Committee and an ex-officio member of all other committees, except that he/she shall not be a member of the Nominating Committee.

SECTION 3. Vice-Presidents 1 and 2

Each Vice-President shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as shall be assigned to him/her by the Board of Directors or these by-laws. In the absence of the President, the First Vice-President or in his/her absence, the Second Vice-President shall preside at all meetings and shall perform all other duties of the President, including committee memberships.

SECTION 4. Secretary/ Point-Keeper

The Secretary shall: (1) confirm show dates to show members in good standing; (2) give notice of all meetings of members and Directors in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws or as required by law; (3) keep minutes of such meetings; (4) keep the correspondence and all the records of the members horse, and ponies recorded with this Association; (5) furnish to the Treasurer the names of all those paid members; (6) keep custody of the seal of the Association; (7) notify all show members of the expulsion or suspension of any person and the period thereof; (8) perform such other duties as may be from time to time assigned to him/her by the President, Directors or are assigned to him/her by the by-laws and rules. In general, he/she shall perform all duties incident to the office of a Secretary of a corporation. In the absence of the Secretary the President shall perform the duties of the Secretary.

SECTION 5. Treasurer

The treasurer shall collect all monies due to the Association and shall have the care and custody of and be responsible for all funds, securities, receipts, and disbursements. Funds shall be deposited in the name of the Association in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors shall designate. The current President and Secretary shall be added to all MHSA accounts as authorized signatures. He/she shall render to the President, and the Board of Directors, whenever requested, an account of the financial condition of the Association. He/she shall make a full written financial report at each annual meeting of the Association and at all meetings of the Board of Directors. In the absence of the Treasurer, the President shall perform his/her duties.

SECTION 6. Removal

See by-laws, Article IV, Section 8

SECTION 7. Indemnification

The Association shall indemnify each present and former director of the Association against liabilities (including judgements, fines, and reasonable attorney’s fees, costs and expenses) incurred by him/her in connection with any actual or threatened action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitative or investigative (any of which is hereinafter referred to as a “proceeding”), to which he/she may be made party by reason of his/her being or having been a director or officer of the Association to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law.

Every reference herein to a director or officer shall include every director and officer and former director and officer of the Association and every person who may have served at the request of the Association as a director or officer or in a similar capacity of another corporation (stock or non-stock), partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise and, in all such cases, the heir, executors, and administrators of such director or officer.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. Appointing

Within thirty (30) days after the first meeting of the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint committees from the Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members in good standing. He/she shall designate one such member of each committee as Chairman, except that the Nominating Committee shall be appointed 45 days preceding the annual meeting. Each committee shall be required to have one meeting a year. It may be among the committee members or open to the general membership. The president shall have the power to increase or decrease the size of committees and the makeup thereof. In all committees a majority of its members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 2. The following Committees are hereby created:

- **Awards & Banquet:** The Awards and Banquet Committee shall be responsible for administering the logistics of the Annual Awards and MHSA Banquet.
- **Budgeting, Auditing, Executive and Enforcements:** This committee shall consist of the MHSA President, 1st Vice-President, and 2nd Vice- President. The President shall serve as Chairman, and in the President's absence, the 1st Vice-President shall serve as Chairman or in the 1st Vice-President's absence the 2nd Vice-President shall serve as Chairman. Members of the Board of Directors may attend any or all meetings of this committee. This committee shall keep minutes of its proceedings which shall be presented to the next meeting of the Board of Directors thereafter. The committee shall see that the MHSA books are audited, and a current financial statement is presented to the Annual Meeting and (2) advise Committee Chairmen on proposed budgetary expenditures. This committee hears protests and charges in connection with alleged violations of the Rules, (2) consider the evidence, render decisions thereon and determine and impose penalties according to the Rules. It will (1) review all decisions of Show Committees who may have rendered a decision as result of a protest or charge, (2) consider appeals by either party to a protest or charge from decisions of Show Committees and (3) in the event a Show Committee fails to hold a hearing within 15 days after a hearing thereon, this committee may take jurisdiction of the matter and take such further action as it deems necessary to have the matter finally adjudicated. This committee shall keep minutes of its proceedings which shall be presented to the next meeting thereafter of the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors.
- **By-laws and Rules:** A By-laws and Rules Committee, two of whom shall be Directors, shall consider the by- laws and Rules and recommend to the Board of Directors such additions, alterations or amendments as the Committee deems proper for the best interests of the Association, the members, exhibitors, and all others connected with the Association
- **Communications Committee:** The Communications Committee shall increase brand awareness for the MHSA through a variety of marketing mediums in order to improve member participation and attract prospective members.
- **Fundraising:** A Fundraising Committee, one of whom shall be a director, shall oversee fundraising for the Association (namely: Silent Auction, Elizabeth Solter Emerging Athlete Award)

- **Gittings Horsemanship Finals:** This committee shall oversee the administrative duties associated with hosting the annual Gittings Horsemanship Finals.
- **Hall of Fame:** A Hall of Fame Committee will consist of members, each of whom shall be appointed for a period of three (3) years. The committee is charged with creating a program for recognition for those individuals who have been outstanding in their contributions to the sport and/or the Association. Guidelines for the Hall of Fame:
 1. The Committee shall consist of not more than five Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members of the MHSA who are in good standing. The Chairman to be appointed by the President.
 2. The Committee will exercise extreme care in the selection of individuals/horses and shall not feel that it is necessary to induct new members yearly.
 3. One of the purposes of the Hall of Fame is to honor persons while they are still living. Therefore, the Committee will find a balance in its inductees.
 4. Each year, the Committee will select not more than four individuals to be considered for the Hall of Fame. The Board of Directors will vote for not more than two individuals to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.
 5. The Committee must be unanimous in its support of candidates. Each inductee must receive greater than 50% approval of the Board of Directors

Suggested Guidelines for Inductees into the Hall of Fame:

1. An individual who is or has been a member of the MHSA for at least ten (10) years.
 2. An individual born in Maryland or has been a legal resident of the state for at least ten (10) years.
 3. An individual who has made major contributions to the sport of showing horses/ponies influencing the lives of others in the horse field and/or in the guidance of the policies and dedicated service to the MHSA.
 4. To be eligible, a horse/pony must be owned by a legal Maryland resident, and should have done well not only locally, but nationally as well.
- **Horse Show Management:** To provide oversight on horse show management and resolve any issues that arise.
 - **Hunter Breeding:** This committee shall work with hunter breeding members to devise conditions, rules, and a points system conducive to hunter breeding participation with the MHSA.
 - **Junior Exhibitors and Parents:** A Junior Members Committee chaired by a member of the Board of Directors, shall consist of one or more juniors(s). Members may attend meetings of the Board of Directors **but shall not be entitled to vote at such meetings. Requests to attend any Board of Directors meetings shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Association. The Committee will work to promote an interest among juniors in the MHSA which may include special competitions such as junior jumper teams, etc. Also, the Committee will help other MHSA Committees in forums, clinics, MHSA Equitation Finals, etc.**
 - **Licensed Officials:** A Licensed Officials Committee two of whom shall be Directors shall act upon every application, for enrollment, annual renewal, promotion, reinstatement and classification of Judges and Stewards, and the Committee shall transmit to the Secretary a record of its actions and recommendations together with the application acted upon.
 - **Membership:**
A Membership Committee, two of whom shall be Directors shall review applications for membership from individual members.

- **MHSA Adult Amateur Hunter Seat Medal Finals:** The committee shall oversee the administrative duties associated with hosting the annual MHSA Adult Amateur Hunter Seat Medal Finals.
- **MHSA Children’s Pony Medal Finals:** The committee shall oversee the administrative duties associated with hosting the annual MHSA Children’s Pony Medal Finals.
- **MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses Medal Finals:** The committee shall oversee the administrative duties associated with hosting the annual MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses Medal Finals.
- **MHSA Junior on the Flat Finals:** The committee shall oversee the administrative duties associated with hosting the annual MHSA Junior on the Flat Finals.
- **MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies Medal Finals:** This committee shall oversee the administrative duties associated with hosting the annual MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies Medal Finals.
- **MHSA Thoroughbred Hunter Finals:** This committee shall oversee the administrative duties associated with hosting the annual MHSA Thoroughbred Hunter Finals.
- **Nominating:** A nominating committee shall submit nominations for elections to the Board of Directors. All nominations for Directors made by the Nominating Committee must be made in writing and delivered to the Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the annual meeting.
- **Performance:** The performance committee shall oversee the hunter, jumper, and equitation divisions to ensure that the MHSA is complying with USEF/USHJA guidelines. They will also bring recommendations to the Board of Directors on how to increase participation and awareness of these divisions at MHSA shows.
- **Recording and Measurement:** A Recording and Measurement Committee shall oversee the measurement of all ponies and horses required to be measured under the Rules and to renew and recommend procedures for the recording of hoes and ponies.
- **Regional Program:** This Regional Program Committee shall work to enforce the by-laws of the MHSA Regional Shows Program. They shall work to increase participation and awareness of this program annually. They shall also oversee the administrative duties associated with hosting the annual MHSA Regional Program Championship Show, Low Adult Hunter Medal Finals, and the Low Children’s Hunter Medal Finals.
- **Maryland Horse Industry Board Liaison:** Bring back any pertinent information to the Board of Directors in regards to the goings on of the Maryland Horse Industry Board.

ARTICLE VII BY-LAWS PROCEDURES

These by-laws may be amended or repealed, and new by-laws may be (1) the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting or (2) the members of the Association at a regular or special meeting.

In the event any portion of these by-laws is subsequently rendered invalid by an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, those portions thereof which are not affected by such legislation shall remain in full force and effect until and unless altered or repealed in accordance with the terms hereof.

RULE I – DEFINITIONS

MHSA RULES

All horse shows recognized by the Maryland Horse Shows Association, Inc., all members, exhibitors, riders, drivers, trainers, agents, grooms, handlers, spectators, and others in attendance at a recognized

show shall be governed by the rules of this Association.

In the event a show member of this Association is also a member of the United States Equestrian Federation Inc., and there is a conflict of rules, the rules of United States Equestrian Federation, Inc., shall prevail.

In the event a show member of this association (held within the boundaries of the State of Maryland) is also a member of another horse show association (excluding USEF) and there is a conflict of rules, the rules of the MHSA shall prevail.

PART I – CLASSES AND CONDITIONS

SECTION 1. Amateur Classes

1. Every contestant must be eligible to hold an amateur card issued by the USEF. *See USEF GR1306, GR1307 and GR Subchapter 13-B. More specifically: HUI137-138 and JP118.*
2. Amateur classes are restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors and have signed on their membership application that they are eligible to compete as an amateur.

SECTION 2. Ladies' Classes – See USEF GR129

SECTION 3. Local Classes

1. Entry is restricted by management as to territory of reasonable size and character and which is so described in the prize list and catalog.
2. Local classes are not considered in reckoning the Show Championships awarded on points nor do they count toward Horse of the Year Award.
3. Classes restricted to members of a club are considered “Local” unless membership is open to and easily obtainable by all exhibitors.
4. In classes which restrict entries by state such as “Maryland Bred” the word “bred” is defined as foaled in the state (not necessarily mated). For competition purposes “bred” means foaled.

SECTION 4. Maiden, Novice, and Limited

1. Maiden, Novice, and Limit classes are open to horses which have not won one/three/six first place ribbons respectively, at Regular and Local Member Competitions in the particular performance division in which they are shown.
2. The Maiden, Novice, and Limit status of riders is affected by winnings at Regular and Local Member Competitions.
 - A. The Maiden, Novice, and Limit status of riders at Regular and Local Member competitions is determined from the closing date of entries. Ribbons won in classes restricted to a particular breed will affect a rider's status. Ribbons won as a junior affect a rider's status when competing as an adult.
 - B. Ribbons won in lead-line classes and in classes where entries are not required to ride at all gaits will not affect Maiden, Novice, Limit, and Intermediate status.
 - C. In the Hunter Seat section, ribbons won in classes not to jump do not affect a rider's status in classes over jumps. However, ribbons won in classes over jumps do affect a rider's status. Ribbons won in short stirrup classes and in classes over obstacles lower than 2'3" will not be counted in determining Maiden, Novice, Limit, Intermediate or Open status.
3. The status of Maiden, Novice and Limit entries is as of the closing date of entries for any particular recognized competition.
4. A Maiden, Novice, or Limit Pair is one which has not won more than the specified number of ribbons as a pair.

5. Winnings in Four-In-Hands, Tandems, Teams, Unicorns and Pairs; and winning in Combination, Local, Local, Model, Breeding, and Futurity classes are not considered in earning the status of Maiden, Novice, or Limit horses.
6. Ponies or horses which lose their Maiden, Novice, Limit or other classification in any division or section will not regain those classifications when shown in the Hunter Pony division or Junior Hunter division. Ponies and horses shown in the Hunter Pony division or Junior Hunter division which lost their classification will not regain them when shown in any other divisions or sections, unless specific regulations are set forth (e.g., Jumper division). *See USEF GR 136*

SECTION 5. Open

1. An Open class is open to all horses of any age, size, or sex regardless of the ribbons previously won. There is no qualification for the rider, driver, and handler.

SECTION 6. Owners Classes

1. Every competitor must be an amateur and the owner or an amateur member of the owner's family unless the prize list states otherwise.
2. Owners' classes may be restricted to riders, drivers or handles who are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor.
3. Combined ownership is not permitted in Owners and Amateur Owners classes unless all owners are members of the same family. Leased horses are not eligible.

PART II – INDIVIDUALS

SECTION 1. Adult or Senior

1. An individual who has reached his/her 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year. *See USEF GR101*

SECTION 2. Agent. *See USEF GR104*

SECTION 3. Amateur. *See USEF GR 1306 + GR1307*

1. Every contestant must be eligible to hold an amateur card issued by the USEF. *See USEF GR1306 & GR1307.*
2. Amateur classes are restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor and have signed on their membership application that they are eligible to compete as an amateur.

SECTION 4. Competitor

1. The horse, rider (handler, driver) or horse/rider combination being judged depending on judging specifications for a particular competition. *See USEF GR116*

SECTION 5. Competition Staff

1. Includes and refers to the following persons: gate attendants, ring clerks, farriers, timekeepers, announcers, ringmasters, and other persons engaged directly by the competition. *See USEF GR112*

SECTION 6. Competition Officials

1. Includes and refers to the following persons: Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, Manager, Secretary, Licensed Officials, and Veterinarians. *See USEF GR113*

SECTION 7. Exhibitor

1. The owner or lessee of a horse when entered in a class where only the merits of the horse are to be considered. In Equitation classes "Exhibitor" refers to the rider. *See USEF GR121*

SECTION 8. Junior

1. An individual who has not reached his 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year.

2. The age of an individual on December 1st will be maintained throughout the entire competition year.
3. Persons born on December 1st assume the greater age on that date.
4. If a competition is in progress on any November 30th, junior status at the start of the competition will be maintained throughout that competition. *See USEF GR128*

SECTION 9. Lease

1. A registered horse may be shown under a lessee's ownership provided an official lease is registered with the Association. For points to count with respect to any competition, such agreement and fees must be received by the MHSA office on or before the first day of such COMPETITION. The lessee becomes the bona fide owner of the horse for the period of the lease. To be official, a copy of a lease must be registered with the Association and accompanied by a fee of \$20. *See USEF GR1108*

SECTION 10. Owner

1. Ownership of an MHSA recorded horse may be transferred during the competition year without affecting the animal's points provided proper authorization and fees are received by the MHSA office.
2. Authorization for transfer of ownership of a horse holding a lifetime recording with the MHSA may be submitted in the form of the original MHSA recording certificate. Authorization must be signed by the previously recorded owner. The fee for transfer of ownership is \$20.00.
3. Entries may be made in a name other than that of an individual or Horse of the Year Awards, provided such name (Stable/Farm, corporation, etc.) is registered with the Association. Horse shown under a partnership, i.e., Smith & Smith, must be duly registered. All applications for registration must be signed by each of the bona fide owners.
4. In order for points to count toward MHSA Horse of the Year Awards, at least one owner must be a MHSA member.
5. Additional owners may be included at no extra fee.

SECTION 11. Professional

1. A person who engages in the activities described in MHSA Rule I, Part II, Section 3 is considered a professional for all competitions conducted under MHSA rules. For more information, please refer to USEF GR1306.

SECTION 12. Trainer

1. Any adult or adults who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody, or performance of a horse.
2. Said person must sign the entry blank of any Recognized competition whether said person be an owner, rider, agent, and/or coach as well as the trainer.
3. Where a minor exhibitor has no trainer, a parent or guardian must sign and assume responsibility of the trainer.
4. The name of the trainer must be designated as such on the entry blank. *See USEF GR148*

SECTION 13. Young Rider. See USEF GR151

PART III – HORSES AND PONIES

SECTION 1. Age

1. For competition purposes any horse is considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling.
2. A mature horse is one that is over four years of age.
3. A junior horse is one that is four years of age or younger.

SECTION 2. Hand

1. The height of all animals is stated in hands. A hand is 4'. Horses must be over 14.2 hands.

Ponies are 14.2 hands and under.

SECTION 3. Horse

1. The term “horse” as used in these rules denotes either a horse or a pony.
2. When the term “Horse” or “Pony” is used in prize lists and catalogs of recognized competitions where height is one of the qualifications of the class, the word “Horse” denotes animals over 14.2 hands.

SECTION 4. Pony

1. Ponies are animals that do not exceed 14.2 hands.

PART IV – TERMS

SECTION 1. Competition Management

1. For the purpose of evaluating date applications, the Association will consider competition management to be the party or parties financially responsible for the competition (i.e., the entity, person or persons who will retain or disburse any profits and who will be responsible for the competition’s debts and bear any losses).

SECTION 2. Competition Year

1. For the purposes of these rules, the show year is defined as starting December 1st and ending October 31st and includes the MHSR Regional Championship Horse Show held in November.

SECTION 3. Disqualified

1. To exclude a competitor or horse, for cause, from competition in a given class, division or competition.
2. Competitors may be disqualified by the Licensed Competition.
3. If a competitor is disqualified following the completion of a class, for the purpose of determining the number of horses which have been entered, shown, and judged, said competitor’s performance shall count. If the competitor received an award, the award must be forfeited *See USEF GR117*

SECTION 4. Excused

1. To have a judge(s) grant permission to, or request that a competitor leave the class.
2. A competitor who is excused is ineligible to receive an award.
3. None of the above applies to the Jumper division. Refer to Chapter JP.

SECTION 5. Falls

1. A rider is considered to have fallen when they are separated from their horse, that has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.
2. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and the haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle and the ground. *See USEF GR122*

SECTION 6. Family

1. For competition purposes the term “family” includes spouse, parent, step-parent, child, brother, step-child, sister, half-brother and sister, aunt, uncle, niece, grandmother, grandfather, and in-laws of the same relation as stated above. *See USEF GR123*

SECTION 7. Not In Good Standing

1. Any person who has been expelled or suspended by the Association. *See USEF GR137*

SECTION 8. Shown and Judged

1. To be “shown and judged” in any class in which horses compete together, an animal must perform at all required gaits both ways of the ring in the original workout and must remain in the ring until excused by the judge. *See USEF GR147*

RULE II – MEMBERSHIPS

Membership in the MHSA is a privilege and is offered to those persons who pay their current dues, abide by the rules of the MHSA, and conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the best interest of the Association.

PART I – INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Application for individual membership, as defined in Article III, Section I, of the by-laws shall be made to the Secretary of the Association on forms provided therefor and available from the MHSA Secretary or Show Secretary. Dues for the current year must accompany the application. All memberships are non-refundable.

SECTION 2. All such applications shall be promptly recorded by the Secretary.

SECTION 3. Rights and privileges of Individual Members not available to non-members include:

1. Right to vote as Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members.
2. Eligibility to serve as Director or Committee Member.
3. Eligibility to become a licensed recognized MHSA Judge.
4. Eligibility to compete in MHSA High Score Award.
5. Eligibility as Individual Junior Member to compete in all MHSA equitation classes.
6. Eligibility as Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Member to compete in all MHSA equitation classes.
7. A fee measurement card for a horse and pony.

SECTION 4. Dues

1. Individual
 1. Annual dues for Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Members shall be \$50.
 2. Annual dues for Individual Junior Members shall be \$40.
 3. Life dues for Individual Junior, Senior, and Senior Amateurs Members shall be \$450.
2. Dues for the current year must accompany each application for membership. Dues renewals may be paid up until the Annual Meeting, and still retain voting privileges.
3. The fiscal year of all memberships shall begin December 1st.
4. The MHSA will charge a \$15 fee for all changes in status and/or duplicates of documents due to loss.
5. The MHSA will charge \$45 for all returned checks.
6. Horse Recording
 - a. Lifetime Horse/Pony Recording shall be \$50
 - b. Lifetime Farm Name shall be \$60
 - c. Transfer of ownership shall be \$20
 - d. Record of lease shall be \$20
 - e. Change of Name shall be \$35
7. All membership and recording fees are non-refundable.
8. All owners of a horse must be current members of the MHSA for points to count.

SECTION 5. An Individual Senior/Senior Amateur shall be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting only if (1) he/she shall have been a Member of the MHSA during the current year and (2) his/her dues for the upcoming fiscal year of the MHSA shall have been paid to and received by the MHSA before the date of such Annual Meeting.

PART II – SHOW MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Recognized Shows

The term recognized shows when used herein includes all shows which are members of this association. Only a recognized show in good standing may claim to operate under the rules of this association.

1. Regular Show Member

Divisions and sections of Regular Member Shows shall be classified A, B, or C for the purpose of earning points toward MHSA High Score Awards. It is mandatory that each prize list and catalog contain the proper classification of the division or section in each show on the MHSA page.

SECTION 2. Applications of Show Membership

Applications and payment of show membership must be received at least sixty (60) days prior to the show date. Application is to be sent to the Secretary on forms available from the Secretary accompanied by the current year dues for the show and its representative. When the MHSA office receives a horse show application, the horse show that is applying for sanctioning will be placed on the respective MHSA show calendar. The horse show will be marked on the calendar as PENDING until the horse show application fee has been processed and recorded as income for MHSA.

SECTION 3. Show Dates

Show dates will be assigned by the Board of Directors after the Annual Meeting and priority shall be given for previous comparable show dates to Show Members who file timely applications on or before ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Show dates shall be assigned by the Board of Directors and/or the MHSA Secretary to Show Members who file applications thereafter. In the case of a conflict the Board of Directors shall arbitrate and make a decision. Dates for Recognized Shows for the current year shall be considered in the following order:

1. Regular Member Shows
2. Regional Member Shows

SECTION 4. Dues

Show member dues are as follows for each recognized show applied for:

1. \$100 for one day show
2. \$125 for a two-day show
3. \$150 for a show three or more days
4. \$100 for a one day MHSA Regional Show
5. \$125 for a two-day MHSA Regional Show (encompasses one calendar date on show calendar)
6. \$150 for a three-day MHSA Regional Show (encompasses one calendar date on show calendar)
7. \$50 for a one-day hunter breeding show
8. The MHSA will charge a \$45 fee for all returned checks.
9. No show dates will be assigned to a show member who has not paid dues, fees, or fines owed to the MHSA.

SECTION 5. A show member shall be deemed not in good standing and shall have no rights of membership until its current year's dues have been paid.

SECTION 6. Cancellation Of Horse Shows

A MHSA show member may cancel a Recognized Show by providing the MHSA with written notice cancellation. If notice is received at least sixty (60) days prior to the first day of the show, 75% of the dues will be refunded. If less than sixty (60) days' notice is given, no refund will be allowed, and all dues paid for the canceled show shall be forfeited. If the cancellation is due to severe weather or other acts of God, the dues paid will be refunded to the show member less a \$25.00 office fee. Any other dues, fees, fines, or indebtedness owed to the MHSA is not affected by this provision.

SECTION 7. Revocation Of Show Membership

A MHSA show member may be revoked by the Board of Directors if such show fails to abide by the by-laws and rules of the MHSA for holding and conducting horse shows; or without reasonable cause, fails to hold its show(s) on the date(s) assigned to it. See also Article IV, Section 3(c) and (f) of the by-laws.

RULE III – CONDUCT OF RECOGNIZED SHOWS

PART I – GENERAL

SECTION 1. The rules of this Association take precedence over any other Association except the USEF, Inc. All divisions and sections for which rules are provided herein must be conducted accordingly. Every recognized show and every person participating therein including exhibitor, owner, lessee, manager, agent, rider, driver, handler, judge, steward, show official or employee is subject to the by-laws and rules of the MHSA and to the local rules of the show. Every person participating in any show including spectators and those in attendance recognized by this Association is subject to the provisions of Rule VI and VII whether or not the particular class in which he/she participates is operated under the Association rules. Rules for the current year will become effective December 1st and shall take precedence over any previous rules. Any recognized show which issues its prize list before December 1st and begins its show on or after December 1st shall all be governed by the current rules.

SECTION 2. Unethical Treatment of the Horse & Horse Welfare. *See USEF GR838 – HU100 – JP102*

SECTION 3. Prohibited Practices and Equipment. *See USEF GR839*

SECTION 3. Soundness. *See USEF GR840*

SECTION 4. Falls. *See USEF GR841*

SECTION 5. Retirement Ceremony. *See USEF GR812*

SECTION 6. Sweepstakes. *See USEF GR811*

PART II – SCHEDULING PROCEDURE

SECTION 1. Length of Competition. *See USEF GR829*

SECTION 2. Time Schedule. *See USEF GR830*

SECTION 3. Delay of Classes. *See USEF GR831*

SECTION 4. Interruption of Procedure. *See USEF GR832*

Cancellation of shows:

1. In the event of a storm, or other emergency rendering the condition of show grounds unsafe for the holding of a horse show, the judgement to cancel shall be between the Show Committee, and at least one Office of the MHSA. If cancelled, the Show Committee must notify exhibitors by every means available i.e., email, social media, phone, in person and the like. The show should not be cancelled unless it is impossible for horses and ponies to perform safely.

PART III – SCHOOLING

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF GR834 – HU App A-JP App A*

SECTION 2. Designated Areas. *See USEF GR835*

SECTION 3. Trail. *See USEF GR836*

SECTION 4. Hunter. *See USEF GR834- HU App A*

SECTION 5. Jumper. *See USEF GR837 + JP103 + App A*

PART IV – ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1. Dress. (Protective Headgear, Body Protecting Vest, New Saddle Attachment/Stirrup Rule) *See USEF GR801 (New Rule:Saddle Attachments. Beginning December 1, 2025, no piece of equipment shall be attached to a saddle that has a rigid upward pointing projection, hook, or similar object capable of catching a rider’s clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups. - MHSA will follow the guidelines of issuing proactive warnings during 2026 to ensure awareness. Beginning Dec. 1st, 2026, the rule will be enforced in the manner outlined within Hunter, Jumper, and Equitation prohibited tack or equipment.)*

SECTION 2. Artificial Markings and Appliances. *See USEF GR802*

SECTION 3. Use of Whips. *See USEF GR803*

SECTION 4. Electronic Communication Devices. *See HUI106.2, EQ106.7, JP113.10*

SECTION 5. Spurs. *See HUI106.6, EQ106.3, JP113.3*

PART V – ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1. Stallions. *See USEF GR824*

SECTION 2. Ponies. *See USEF GR825*

PART VI – CLASS CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. Classes for Horse and Rider. *See USEF GR813*

SECTION 2. Amateur. *See USEF GR814*

SECTION 3. Junior Exhibitor. *See USEF GR816*

SECTION 4. Ladies. *See USEF GR817*

SECTION 5. Local. *See USEF GR818*

SECTION 6. Maiden, Novice, and Limit. *See USEF GR819*

SECTION 7. Model Classes. *See USEF GR820*

SECTION 8. Owners. *See USEF GR822*

SECTION 9. Dividing Classes. *See USEF GR823*

PART VII – CHAMPIONSHIPS

SECTION 1. Awarding Championships. *See USEF GR808 + GR809*

RULE IV – DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS

See USEF GR401-414

In addition, at all MHSA Regional Shows, no injectable substances may be administered to any horse

or pony within 12 hours prior to competing.

RULE V – MEASUREMENT OF ENTRIES

PART I – CONDITIONS

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF GR501-518*

The MHSA recognizes USEF current measurement cards. USEF measurement cards may not be protested at a show rated only by the MHSA.

PART II – PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. Membership Requirements.

The owner of any animal to be measured must be a member of the MHSA.

SECTION 2. Completing the Measurement Form. *See USEF GR505 and MHSA measurement form.*

1. The official completing the form must designate on the form that the required fee has been paid. The carbon copy is given to the owner, or trainer and the original copy, along with the proper fee is returned to the MHSA office.
2. The owner will retain the carbon copy which when properly signed by the two officials who have made the measurement, is valid for 45 days.

PART III – MEASURING

SECTION 1. Measurement Device. *See USEF GR506*

MHSA Stewards must use their own USEF approved measurement stick.

SECTION 2. Measurement Surface. *See USEF GR507*

SECTION 3. Position of Animal. *See USEF GR508*

SECTION 4. Method of Measurement. *See USEF GR509 and GR510*

RULE VI – EXHIBITORS, RIDERS, DRIVERS, AND HANDLERS

PART I – RESPONSIBILITIES

EXHIBITORS ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO CHAPTER 8 WHICH INCLUDES RULES PERTAINING TO CONDUCT AT LICENSED COMPETITIONS.

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF GR1301*

SECTION 2. Duties. *See USEF GR1302*

Every exhibitor or his/her agent and trainer must sign an entry blank. In the event of his/her failure to do so, his/he first entrance into the ring as an exhibitor shall be construed as his/her acceptance of the rules of the competition involved and of the MHSA rendering him/her subject to said rules.

The following credentials must be made available to competition management and the MHSA Steward:

- a. MHSA or USEF measurement cards
- b. USEF Amateur Certifications
- c. MHSA horse recordings

If the above information cannot be verified, (with the exception of MHSA or USEF measurement cards) the exhibitor must sign a statement giving his/her name, address, the fact that he/she is in possession of the proper credentials and the reason the information is not available. These statements will be subject to the MHSA office with the results of the competition.

PART II – COMPETING

SECTION 1. Regulations Governing Showing Under Judges and Stewards. *See USEF GR1304*

1. An exhibitor may not serve as a judge, steward at any competition in which he/she exhibits, whether or not the classes are conducted under MHSA Rules.
2. No member of a judge's family nor any of the judge's clients may compete as an exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, owner or lessee in any division unless the relationship is terminated 30 days prior to the competition.
3. No member of a steward's family, nor any of the steward's clients, may take part as an exhibitor at a competition where the steward is officiating.
4. If a horse is presented to a judge by a person the judge knows is ineligible to compete under these rules, the judge may advise the ring steward that he/she believes the entry to be ineligible and request that the entry be excused, or the judge may proceed to judge the entry and file a charge under Rule VI, alleging a violation of this Rule. If the judge has any doubt of the eligibility of any entry, he/she shows the judge the entry and files a charge alleging the violation.

SECTION 2. Elimination and Withdrawal from Competition. *See USEF GR1305-GR118*

PART III – AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS

SECTION 1. Professional/Amateur Status. *See USEF GR1306 + MHSA Rule I + GR Subchapter 13-B*

SECTION 2. Amateur Certification. *See USEF GR1301 + MHSA Rule I*

PART IV – MEMBERSHIP AND DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

See USEF GR1308 + MHSA Rule II

SECTION 1. General

This Association maintains the only official record of winnings at all member shows. Application for recording shall be made on forms provided from the MHSA Secretary. Fees must accompany the application. To keep these records accurate and complete, every horse and pony must be recorded in the same name under which it is exhibited. In the event the animal is registered in a Breed Registry, such registered name must also be given. All entries two-years-old or over must be named. Unnamed entries must list sire's and dam's names and foaling date.

SECTION 2. Recording Fees

1. The recording fee for the life of the horse or pony is \$50.
2. The recording fee for Maryland Bred Pony status is \$10.
 - a. Must provide proof of having been foaled in the State of Maryland
 - b. Ponies foaled 2004 or later – stallion service certificate and foaling affidavit.
 - c. Ponies foaled 2000-2003 – veterinary and/or stallion service certificate and foaling affidavit.
 - d. Ponies foaled prior to 2000 – ONLY breed registration papers and foaling affidavit.
3. Information required for recording: Name of Pony, Sire, Dam, foaling date, sex, markings, breeder, and owner.
4. Pony must be lifetime recorded with the Association.

SECTION 3. Points Towards High Score Awards

No points will be credited to horses or ponies toward High Score Awards until they are recorded with this Association and unless they are entered under their officially recorded names. The responsibility for such recording shall rest entirely with the exhibitor. *Note: To be eligible for an award a horse and pony must be recorded with this Association and its owner of record must be a current Individual Member in good standing.*

SECTION 4. Transfer of Ownership

When a recorded horse or pony which is registered with this Association is sold a transfer of ownership must be submitted to the Secretary of the Association of the original recording certificate, properly endorsed, and stating the name and address of the purchaser. If the original certificate has been lost, a proper bill of sale from the seller to the purchase will be accepted with the request for the transfer. The charge for such transfers is \$20.

SECTION 5. Change of Name

1. The recorded name of a horse or pony not registered in a breed registry may be changed by submission of the original certificate to the Secretary of the Association with the request for such change. The fee for the change of name is \$35.
2. Directors of the MHSA may from time to time require re-recording of horses and ponies in selected categories. No charge will be made for re-recording. Failure to re-record as required by the Board of Directors shall be a violation of these Rules and shall make the horse or pony involved ineligible for High Score Awards.

SECTION 6. Registered Stable for Farm Name

Entries may be made in the name of a stable or farm for High Score Awards, provided such stable or farm is registered with the Association. All applications for registration must be signed by the bona fide owner or owners who must be individual members. The fee for each registration shall be \$60. The use of a registered name by any person other than the registered owner is prohibited and constitutes a violation of the rules.

SECTION 7. Lease Registration

A registered horse may be shown under a lessee's ownership for points provided an official lease is registered with the Association; and for points to count with respect to any show, such agreement, and a fee of \$20 must be received by the MHSA office on or before the first day of such show. The lessee becomes the bona fide owner of the horse/pony for the period of the lease (except for owners' classes).

SECTION 8. Competition Records

Competition records are available to owners of MHSA recorded points/horses, provided a written request, signed by the recorded owner, is received by the MHSA.

SECTION 9.

The MHSA will charge a \$15 fee for all changes in status and/or duplicates of documents due to the less in the above sections.

SECTION 10.

The MHSA will charge a \$45 fee for all returned checks paid for registration and documents as required by the above sections.

RULE VII – MHSA ANNUAL AWARDS

1. The Association offers annual awards in numerous divisions under the regulations set forth.
2. The purpose of these awards is to encourage participation at Member Shows. In making the awards the Association in no way implies that the winners are the best in their respective divisions, although they may well be, but it certifies that these horses and ponies properly recorded with this Association and exhibited by MHSA Individual Members, acquired the

- greatest number of points during a given year.
3. Trophies and ribbons will be given to the owners of recorded horses and ponies compiling the highest point score in their respective divisions, section throughout the year and ribbons will be given to the owners of recorded horses and ponies compiling second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth highest points score in said divisions or sections, as set forth in Part I.
 4. No points acquired by a recorded horse or pony will be credited toward the Annual MHSA High Score Awards during any period of time in which the owner of such horse or pony is not an Individual Member in good standing.
 5. In addition to the MHSA Annual Awards the following awards will also be presented: W. Gary Baker; The Glenna Wirtanen Horsemanship; Gittings Horsemanship; MHSA Hunter Seat Finals; MHSA Junior on the Flat; MHSA Adult Amateur Hunter Seat Finals; MHSA Pony Medal Finals; MHSA Children's Pony Medal Finals; John A. Wagner Jr; Dan Short Award; Belfield Distinguished Service; Short Stop; MHSA Horse Show of the Year, Elizabeth Solter Emerging Athlete Award; and Maryland Horse and Pony of the Year. All awards will be presented annually by the Association.

PART I – ANNUAL HIGH SCORE AWARDS

SECTION 1. Eligibility

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

SECTION 2. Transfer of Ownership

Ownership of a horse or pony may be transferred during the year without affecting the animal's points, the award being made to the owner as shown in the MHSA recording files at the time the animal wins its last point in the competition year.

SECTION 3. Annual High Score Awards

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

High Performance Hunter	Conformation Hunter
Green Hunter – 3'6", 3'9"	Green Hunter – 3'3"
Green Hunter – 3'	3'3" Performance Hunter
Thoroughbred Hunter 3'	3'6" Amateur Owner Hunter
3'3" Amateur Owner Hunter (Younger and Older)	
Hunter Breeding	3'3" Junior Hunter (Small and Large)
3'6" Junior Hunter (Small and Large)	Children's Hunter 3' (Younger and Older)
Small Pony Hunter	Medium Pony Hunter
Large Pony Hunter	Small/Medium Green Pony Hunter
Large Green Pony Hunter	Small/Medium Children's Hunter Pony
Large Children's Hunter Pony	Low Children's Hunter (Horse and Pony)
Low Adult Hunter	Junior/Amateur Jumper 1.20m + Above
Combined Jumper (Open/Modified)	Junior Jumper 1.10m/1.15m
Amateur Jumper 1.10m/1.15m	Junior/Amateur Jumper 1.0m/1.05m
Adult Amateur Equitation	.60m-.65m Open Jumper
.70m-.75m Open Jumper	.80m-.85m Open Jumper
.90m-.95m Open Jumper	
Adult Amateur Hunter 3' (Younger, Middle, and Older)	

SECTION 4. Terms of Competition

1. Winners shall be those horses or ponies which score the highest number of points in their classifications at Recognized Member Shows from December 1st of the prior year through October 31st of the current year. All points won at any show which begins prior to November 1st and ends after October 31st shall count for the show year in which such show began.
2. Points won at the MHSA Regional Finals Show in November will count towards the current show year.
3. Points for all Hunter divisions will count toward MHSA High Score Awards, regardless of USEF Zone 3 specifications, providing classes are run in accordance with USEF rules. Classes which are not covered under USEF rules must be run in accordance with MHSA rules for credit to be given toward MHSA High Score Awards.
4. No credit will be given in classes if less than three entries have shown and placed. See GR1113.2.b, HU120, and JP136.13.
5. No credit will be given in any class that does not count toward a division or section rating

SECTION 5. Points

Points in all classes will be scored as follows except MHSA Hunter Seat on Pony, MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses, MHSA Junior on the Flat, MHSA Adult Amateur Hunter Seat Medal, MHSA Children's Pony Medal, Gittings Horsemanship, MHSA Low Children's Medal, MHSA Low Adult Amateur Medal, Ladies Side Saddle Mount, Combined Jumper, Junior/Amateur Jumper, Open Jumpers and Hunter Classics.

In the Hunter Divisions, points are determined by both the rating of the competition as well as the number of horses shown. Points are calculated utilizing a combination of the base points per competition rating (see chart below) and adding one point for each entry shown in the first performance class. 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. *See USEF GR1132.6 and HU119*

Hunter Division Increment Chart

(based points per competition rating)

Rating	"A"	"B"	"C"
Champion	2.0 times	2.0 times	2.0 times
Reserve	1.2 times	1.2 times	1.2 times
1 st place	30	20	10
2 nd place	25	15	6
3 rd place	20	10	4
4 th place	15	6	3
5 th place	14	5	2
6 th place	13	4	1.5
7 th place	12	3	1
8 th place	11	2	.5

Hunter Division Champions will be awarded 2.0 times the total 1st place point value of the first class in that section. Reserve Champions will be awarded 1.2 times the total 1st place value of the first class in that section.

Example: B Rated show – number of entries in the first class of the division – 20 entries

1 st place	20 points plus 20 points	Total 40 points
2 nd place	15 points plus 20 points	Total 35 points
3 rd place	10 points plus 20 points	Total 30 points
4 th place	6 points plus 20 points	Total 26 points
5 th place	5 points plus 20 points	Total 25 points
6 th place	4 points plus 20 points	Total 24 points
7 th place	3 points plus 20 points	Total 23 points
8 th place	2 points plus 20 points	Total 22 points
Champion	40 points X 2.0	80 points
Reserve	40 points X 1.2	48 points

Points shall be awarded in Hunter Classics, and shall count toward MHSAs High Score Awards as follows:

Hunter Classic Points

“A” Rated		“B” Rated	
1 st place	80	1 st place	20
2 nd place	64	2 nd place	16
3 rd place	56	3 rd place	14
4 th place	48	4 th place	12
5 th place	40	5 th place	10

6 th place	32	6 th place	8
7 th place	24	7 th place	6
8 th place	20	8 th place	5
9 th place	16	9 th place	4
10 th place	12	10 th place	3
11 th place	8	11 th place	2
12 th place	4	12 th place	1

Points shall be awarded in Children’s Jumper, Adult Jumper, and Open Jumpers Year End Awards as follows:

Junior/Amateur and Open Jumpers Increment Chart

# of Exhibitors	3 – 8	9 – 15	16 – 25	26+
1 st Place	15	20	25	30
2 nd Place	10	15	20	25
3 rd Place	5	10	15	20
4 th Place	4	5	10	15
5 th Place	3	4	5	10
6 th place	2	3	4	5

Determined by the number of entries that competed in the class.

Jumper Classic Points

“A” Rated		“B” Rated	
1 st place	80	1 st place	20
2 nd place	64	2 nd place	16
3 rd place	56	3 rd place	14
4 th place	48	4 th place	12
5 th place	40	5 th place	10
6 th place	32	6 th points	8
7 th place	24	7 th place	6
8 th place	20	8 th place	5
9 th place	16	9 th place	4
10 th place	12	10 th place	3
11 th place	8	11 th place	2
12 th place	4	12 th place	1

SECTION 6.

The score of all horses and ponies shall be kept by this Association. This Association will use every care to achieve accuracy in compiling the score but shall not be liable for show errors and omissions in the marking thereof, nor responsible beyond the point of accurately figuring scores furnished by the proper authorities of each show.

SECTION 7.

In the event of a tie, the High Score Award will be awarded to each competitor.

SECTION 8.

Any question or dispute in connection with the competition will be referred to the Executive Committee whose verdict will be final.

RULE VIII – EQUITATION DIVISION

PART I – REGULATIONS

SECTION 1. Eligibility. *See USEF EQ101*

1. In equitation classes only the rider is being judged, therefore any horse that is suitable and is capable of performing the required class routine is acceptable.
2. Stallions are prohibited.
3. MAIDEN, NOVICE, LIMIT, INTERMEDIATE status of riders at Regular Member competitions is determined from the closing date of entries. Ribbons won in classes restricted to a particular breed will affect a rider's status when competing as an adult. Ribbons won in Lead-Line classes and in classes where entries are not required to ride at all gaits will not affect Maiden, Novice, Limit, & Intermediate status. In the Hunter Seat section, ribbons won in classes not to jump do not affect a rider's status in classes over jumps. However, ribbons won in classes over jumps do affect a rider's status in classes not to jump. Ribbons won in Short Stirrup classes and in classes over obstacles lower than 2'3" will not be counted in earning Maiden, Novice, Limit, Intermediate, or Open Status.

SECTION 2. Conduct. *See USEF EQ107*

SECTION 3. Division of Equitation Classes. In Hunter Seat, all classes with 40 or more entries at the beginning of the class *MAY* be divided and run as two separate classes with separate trophies and ribbons. If there are 50 or more entries at the beginning of the class, the class *MUST* be divided and run as two separate selections with separate trophies and ribbons.

1. If there are 50 or more entries remaining in a class after a class has been divided, the class must be redivided by every other number and separate trophies and ribbons must be awarded. Once a class has been redivided it cannot be divided further.
2. Money Prizes. Offering of prize money in Equitation classes for junior exhibitors and amateurs is forbidden. In equitation classes the rider is the competitor and wins the award.
3. Ribbons. In Hunter Seat Equitation classes, one ribbon must be awarded for every four competitors, but no more than ten ribbons are required.
4. For Hunter/Jumping Seat, a "California split" method, as defined in *USEF HUI58*, must be used if the class requires numerical scores.

SECTION 4. Judging *See USEF EQ102*

All MHSA Finals will be numerically scored.

PART II – HUNTER SEAT EQUITATION

SECTION 1. Position. *See EQ105*

SECTION 2. Appointments. *See USEF EQ106*

SECTION 3. Conduct. *See USEF EQ 107*

SECTION 4. Class Routine. *See USEF EQ108*

SECTION 5. Course Requirements. *See USEF EQ109*

SECTION 6. Requirements for Specific Classes. *See USEF EQ111*

The following age limit classes are suggested may vary according to local conditions: (a) juniors who have not reached their 14th birthday and (b) juniors who have reached their 14th but not their 18th birthday.

1. In Maiden, Novice, Limit and classes for 14 years and under, jumps cannot exceed 3' (or 0.90m when class specifications list fence height in metric.)
2. In Intermediate classes obstacles cannot exceed 3'3" (or 1.0m when class specifications list fence height in metric.)
3. In Open Classes and Classes for 15 to 17 years, obstacles cannot exceed 3'6" (or 1.10m when class specifications list fence height in metric) and wings are optional.
4. In Novice classes, a change of direction is required.
5. In Limit classes, a change of direction and a combination are required.
6. In Intermediate, 15 - 17 and Open classes, at least one change of direction and a combination are required.
7. Combinations are prohibited in classes restricted to riders 12 years old and under, unless required in specific Federation classes. All combinations must be numbered with a single number and the designations A and B or A, B and C on the course diagram. If only one element of a combination is being jumped, it must be the last element.
8. For all Equitation classes restricted to ponies, the first obstacle of all courses must be a vertical.
9. It is recommended that one class in each competition be held over jumper-type obstacles to encourage interest in FEI competition and one over hunter course so that riders can be judged on their ability to establish and maintain an even hunting pace.
10. In Open Equitation classes for riders 12 years of age and older, the course must include at least two changes of direction, a combination including an oxer and 1/3 of the obstacles must be oxers. In addition, all courses must include at least three of the following:
 - a. Bending Line
 - b. Narrow Jump (5'6"-8')
 - c. Roll-back Turn
 - d. Fence at the end of the ring
 - e. Long approach to a single jump
11. *Cavalettis, trot poles, or step poles are not permitted for use in competition. Exception: classes restricted to poles.*
12. The top element of all obstacles must be securely placed so that a slight rub will not cause a knockdown. If safety cups are used the top cup must be the deepest cup available. A plank may not be used as the top element of a jump.
13. FEI approved safety cups must be used for the back rail of all oxers in the competition ring.
14. The use of the FEI approved safety cups is mandatory in all warm-up/schooling areas on the back rail of all oxers. If an oxer is set so that it may be jumped in both directions, safety cups must be used on all top rails. It is the Competition Manager's responsibility to ensure sufficient FEI approved safety cups are available in each warm-up/schooling area, the competitor's responsibility to use the safety cups in the school area.

SECTION 7. Tests From Which Judges Must Choose. See USEF EQ113

Tests may be performed either collectively or individually, but no other tests may be used. Instructions must be publicly announced.

NOTE: In Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes, any exhibitor who does not participate in the testing is placed last of those competitors called back to test. Should more than one exhibitor fail to return for testing they will be placed at the judge's discretion. If exhibitors are called back collectively to test, they must remain in the ring until all exhibitors have completed the test. If riders are asked to be in the ring during the testing, riders must be able to watch the other competitor's test. Equitation tests must not have exhibitors trotting or cantering through in gate or out gate; any exhibitor choosing to trot or canter through the in-gate or out-gate must be eliminated (see EQ108). Obstacles jumped in an equitation test must have been included in the original course. Jumps must be jumped in the original direction unless otherwise specified.

1. Work collectively or individually at a walk, rising/posting trot, and/or sitting trot, and/or canter, *and/or demonstrate a two-point or half seat position at the walk or trot.*
2. Downward Transition Test:
 - a) Walk (4-5 steps)
 - b) Halt (4-6 seconds)
 - c) Halt and Back for (3-5 steps). When riders working collectively are asked to halt and then back, they should walk forward a few steps and halt again after backing and then proceed with any further instructions from the judge.
3. Question(s) regarding basic horsemanship, tack or equipment and/or conformation. The judge may ask question(s) that are appropriate for the level of expected skill of any given class or specifications.
4. Working either collectively, or individually, riders may demonstrate the lengthening or collection of strides on the flat at the walk, sitting or posting/rising trot and/or canter.
5. Figure Eight at the trot, demonstrating change of diagonals. In any Figure Eight movement, the rider should start at a center point at the halt. To finish the movement the rider is to return to the halt at same position as the point of commencement.
6. Figure Eight at the canter on the correct lead. In this movement, the rider will begin at the halt and demonstrate a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judges specify) and then restarted into a canter on the opposite lead in the center of the figure, then will proceed to the second circle on the opposite lead. The rider will halt in the center at the same point of commencement to finish the figure.
7. Jump a shortened course. The riders must jump all obstacles in the same direction of the original course unless the judge clearly states that a jump be attempted in the opposite direction of the original course. If the judge requests that a jump be used in the opposite direction it must be a vertical, and if there are ground lines, they must be correct. (See EQ 102.11).
8. Jump low obstacles at a trot as well as a canter. The maximum height of trot jump is determined as 6" lower than class requirements and is not to exceed 3' for horses and 2' for ponies. Oxers may be used as a trot jump in classes listed at 3'6" or higher.
9. Demonstrate a half- turn or a half-turn in the reverse. In all cases where a figure is requested between 2 jumps that requires a change of direction, the rider will not be charged for crossing their path nor will this count as a refusal between the obstacles.
10. Change leads on a line demonstrating simple or flying changes. The simple change is whereby the horse is brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judges specify) and then restarted into a canter on the opposite lead. The flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension.
11. Figure Eight at the canter demonstrating flying changes of leads. Like all Figure Eight movements, the rider is to first halt at a center point. The flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension. The rider will halt in the center at the same point of commencement to finish the figure.
12. Collection of strides between 2 fences. It is recommended that a line chosen for this test be not less than 70'.
 - a. For safety purposes, judges may only ask for additional strides to be added and must not ask riders to leave out a stride.
13. Work collectively or individually at the walk, posting/rising trot, and/or sitting trot, and/or canter without irons. In any case where riders are asked to perform without irons they must be allowed to walk or halt and be afforded the opportunity to cross their irons if they wish.

14. Execute serpentine at a trot and/or canter on the correct leads. If trotting, the rider is to demonstrate the changes of diagonals at the center points of the figure, if cantering, the rider should demonstrate the simple or flying changes of lead in the center of the figure. The simple change whereby the horses are brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judges specify) and then restarted into a canter on the opposite lead.
15. Canter on the counter lead on the flat. For the purposes of Hunt Seat Equitation on the flat, a counter canter is defined as a balanced canter on the outside lead. If working collectively, no more than 12 riders may counter canter at one time. Riders must complete one full revolution around the arena in each direction.
16. A canter on the counter lead may be used on the approach to a jump. For the purposes of Hunt Seat Equitation over fences, the counter canter is designed to improve balance and suppleness. When utilizing this test, rider may be asked to:
 1. Approach a single jump on a counter lead. This test requires riders make at least ONE turn or bend of a course of not less than 90* on the counter lead.
 2. Demonstrate a counter canter between 2 jumps on the course. For this test, the rider upon landing off the first jump can choose from the following acceptable options:
 - If the rider lands firstly on the inside lead, they may demonstrate a simple or flying change of lead before cantering through the first 90* turn and continue to hold the counter lead to the next jump. Either the simple or flying change is acceptable.
 - If the rider lands firstly on the outside lead, they may continue to hold the outside lead to the next required obstacle.
 - A judge cannot require a rider to land on the counter lead.
17. Demonstrate a turn on the forehand done through the halt.
18. Demonstrate a turn on the haunches done from the walk.
19. Demonstrate Shoulder-in, Shoulder-out, Haunches-in, Haunches-out, Half pass or Leg Yield at either the walk or the sitting trot.
20. Hand Gallop. A hand gallop may be used either when riders are working collectively or individually on the flat (no more than 12 riders may hand gallop at one time) and it may also be used on the approach to a jump. The rider must be in a half-seat when executing the hand gallop. A hand gallop may not be requested into or out of a related distance line.
21. Ride without stirrups over fences. The riders must be allowed to remove the irons from the saddle or cross them if they wish.
22. Demonstration ride of approximately one minute. Riders must advise the judge(s) beforehand what ride they plan to demonstrate.
23. Change horses. (Note: this is the equivalent of two tests.) Riders will only change horses for Championship classes. Riders will not be asked to ride a different horse unless they have ridden the course on their own horse first.
 - a) When a swap of horses is requested, the rider must be given a minimum of 90 seconds to do a brief flat and jump no more than two (2) schooling jumps.
 - b) Riders may be requested to jump a previous course or a portion of the previous course. Tests 1– 22 shall not be included even if included in the former course

PART III – MEDAL AND EQUITATION

SECTION 1. All MHSA Medal Classes

1. Medal classes held at shows less than 15 days prior to the final's competition shall count towards qualification for the next year's final.
2. Entries for each annual final shall close five (5) days before the date of the final's competition.
3. Application to hold any of the medal classes must be filed with the MHSA prior to publication of the prize list.
4. The results of each medal 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.
5. If there are 40 or more entries the class must be divided by every other number, by height of horse or age of rider.

SECTION 2. Gittings Horsemanship Class

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 a first place, during the show year. Points to be scored 5, 3, 2, 1 regardless of the classification of the show.

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. Riders shall be judged on seat and hands and guidance and control of the mount thru 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, riders 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.
 - a. Once qualified for the finals competition, the contestant shall be ineligible for further competition in the class for the current year.
 - b. Exhibitors who lose their Junior status as for December 1st 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. The Gittings class cannot be combined with any other division, class or MHSA Medal classes.

SECTION 3. MHSA Hunter Seat Class on Ponies.

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. *In addition, any MHSA junior member who qualifies for the USEF Pony*

*Medal Final, will be automatically qualified to compete in the MHSA Hunt Seat On Ponies Final in that same competition year (*new rule amendment)*

1. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS. Open to Junior riders on ponies. Riders may not compete in the MHSA Children's Pony Medal at the same show. To jump 8 or more fences of hunter type with or without wings. Two tests (USEF 1-9) are required during the first round. Only one rider per pony. Small ponies to jump 2'3", medium ponies to jump 2'6", and large ponies to jump 2'9". Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. To fill a class, 3 must complete the course. The MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies may run concurrently with the small, medium, and large pony division, and may be combined with the VHSA Pony Medal Class. To qualify for the MHSA Hunt Seat on Ponies Finals, the rider must be a member of MHSA.
 - a. Exhibitors who lose their junior status as of December 1st shall not be eligible to compete in the MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies qualifying classes held after the finals competition during that year.
 - b. Exhibitors may not ride in both the MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses and the MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies at the same show.

SECTION 3. 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. 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 not compete in any other MHSA Medal Finals in the same year except the MHSA Low Children's Horse Medal Final. 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 1st 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 and the VHSA Children's Pony Medal class. To qualify for MHSA Children's Pony Medal Finals, riders must be a member of MHSA. A rider's pony for the finals must have a MHSA or USEF Pony measurement card.
 - a. Exhibitors may not ride in both the MHSA Children's Pony Medal and MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies at the same show.

SECTION 4. MHSA Hunter 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 members or pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee.

- a. Exhibitors who lose their junior status as of December 1st shall not be eligible to compete in the MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses classes qualifying classes held after the finals competition during that year.
- b. Exhibitors may not ride in both the MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses and MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies at the same show.

SECTION 5. 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. *In addition, any Adult Amateur MHSA member who wins a National or State medal at 3', will automatically qualify to compete in the MHSA Adult Amateur Medal Finals in that same competition year.*

1. Class Specifications. Open to Senior Amateur riders on a horse. To jump 8 or more hunter type fences 3' in height. The course must contain and oxer, 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. The judges will then select at least one fourth of the class, but not less than six contestants, if available, to show at the walk, trot, and canter. The same horse must be shown in all phases of the class. Martingales are prohibited in the flat phase. Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. Judges may require additional tests such as those found in the MHSA Rule book in the Equitation division. To fill a class, 3 entries must complete the course. Riders may not show in any classes where fences exceed 3'3".

SECTION 6. MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal

To qualify for the final competition in this event the contestant must be in the top 30 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. Exhibitors are required to show all working gaits in both directions as well as lengthening of stride at all working gaits in each direction. The sitting trot should be a working sitting trot. Counter canter in both directions is required and no more than 12 riders may counter canter at one time. The judge may request additional tests on the flat as a group or individually. Martingales are prohibited. Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. Three (3) exhibitors are required to fill and complete the class. To qualify for the MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal Finals, riders must be a member of MHSA. Those competing at the Finals need to be USEF/USHJA members of pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee.
 - a) The MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal Class can be combined with the VHSA/EMO Junior Championship Equitation on the Flat Class.
 - b) Exhibitors who lose their junior status as of December 1st shall not be eligible to compete in the MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal classes qualifying classes held after the finals competition during that year.

- c) MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal class can be held at Regional Shows Those competing at the Finals need to be USEF/USHJA member or pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee.

SECTION 7. Fees.

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

PART IV – MHSA EQUITATION FINALS

- Qualifying classes held at showing 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 will be eliminated after two refusals in the MHSA Adult Amateur Medal, MHSA Children's Pony Medal, Gittings Horsemanship Medal, MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies, and MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses Medal.
- All finals are to be judged numerically (exception: MHSA Junior Flat Medal Final).

1. Gittings Horsemanship Final

- a. 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.
- b. Class Specifications. The contestant must be a member of the MHSA. The class shall be judged numerically on the performance of the rider over eight or more jumps, with wings, 3' in height. Riders shall be judged on seat and hands and guidance and control of the mount throughout the whole course. The course must contain an oxer, at least one change of direction, and three of the following (which may not be combined): bending line, narrow jump (6'-8'), roll back turn, fence at the end of the ring, long approach to a single fence. Jumping faults shall not be counted. Numerical scoring will be used. Riders will be eliminated after two refusals in the MHSA Gittings Horsemanship Finals. No less than 10 riders will return on the flat. All riders must show all gaits (walk, trot, and canter) in both directions, as well as lengthening of stride at all working gaits in each direction. This sitting trot should be at a working sitting trot. The counter canter in both directions is required. In addition, the judge must require a minimum of 4 riders to perform additional tests (USEF tests 1-23– Refer to EQ113).
- c. The first-place winner will not be eligible for further competition in the event.

2. MHSA Hunter Seat Finals – Ponies, Horse, and Adult Amateur

- a. 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. The winners of these competitions will be recognized at the annual banquet. The winner of the horse finals may no longer ride in the finals or qualifying classes for the finals. The first-place winner of the pony section will not be eligible for further competition in the pony section but may compete in the horse section. No rider may take part in the MHSA Pony Final and the MHSA Hunt Seat Final in the same year. There are no restrictions on Adult Amateurs competing in future events.
- b. Judging Procedures. All contestants are required to perform over at least 8 fences with or without wings. Riders will be eliminated after two refusals in the MHSA Hunter Seat Finals. A minimum of 12 riders, if available, are required to show on the flat. Numeral scoring will be

used. To be judged numerically on head, seat, guidance, and control of the 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 judges will choose a minimum of 4 riders for further testing over fences. (USEF tests 1 – 23; Ponies USEF tests 1-9 only- Refer to EQ113).

- c. Specifications. The over fences phase consists of a course of 8 or more jumps measuring at the qualifying heights, with at least one change of hand, and the same course requirements as qualifying classes. In addition, the judges must require the performance of at least 2 or more tests from at least the top four riders if available in each riding phase. These tests are listed in the MHSA Rule Book. The same horse or pony must be shown in the finals in the same tack in which such horse or pony began the finals, except for martingales, which will not be allowed in the flat phase.

3. MHSA Children's Pony Medal Finals

- a. 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. The winner will be recognized at the annual banquet. The first-place winner will not be eligible for further competition in the Children's Pony Medal but may compete in the Hunter Seat Finals on Pony and Horse and the Gittings Horsemanship Finals in future years. 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 may compete in in the same year. Judging Procedures. All contestants are required to perform over at least eight fences with or without wings. Riders will be eliminated after two refusals. Numerical scoring will be used. To be judged numerically on hands, seat, guidance, and control of the horse. A minimum of 12 riders, if available, are required to show under saddle that shall count 50%. Only 1 rider per pony. 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 1-9—Refer to EQ113).
- b. Specifications. The contestant must ride a pony and 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 and out can be used. Small/medium ponies to jump 2' and large ponies to jump 2'6". Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. The same pony must be shown in the Finals in the same tack in which such pony began the finals, except for martingales, which will not be allowed in the flat phase.

4. MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal Final

- a. 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. The winners of these competitions will be recognized at the annual banquet.
- b. Judging Procedures. All contestants are required to show all working gaits in both directions as well as lengthening of stride at all working gaits in each direction. The sitting trot should be a working sitting trot. Counter canter in both directions is required and no more than 12 riders may counter canter at one time. The judge may request additional tests on the flat as a group or individually. Martingales are prohibited. Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. *30 contestants are invited. Show management can use their discretion for the best,*

most efficient way to run the class. One suggested method is to run three heats of ten, and then to ride the final 10-12 riders together in a final heat for placings.

- c. Specifications. The same horse must be shown in any parts of the final in the same tack in which such horse began the final.

RULE IX – HUNTER DIVISION

PART I - DEFINITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1. Eligibility, Hunter Eligibility and Green Eligibility Status for Horses. See USEF HUI131 **Green Pony.** See USEF HUI140 **REMINDER:** A pony is eligible to compete as a Green Pony for a maximum of two (2) years (not necessarily consecutive), regardless of age or change to measurement status. A pony that has changed height sections in its green years may complete the green years at its new height.

SECTION 2. High Performance, Performance Working Hunter and Small Hunter Definitions and Classifications. See USEF 135

SECTION 3. Amateur Owner Hunter. See USEF 137

SECTION 4. Adult Amateur Hunter. See Zone 3 Specs and USEF HUI138.

Three MHSA High Score Awards will be given in this division, divided by rider age. One section will be offered for riders aged 18-35, and one section for riders over 35 years of age, and one section for riders over 50 years of age.

SECTION 5. Non-rated Classes. See USEF HUI130

SECTION 6. Pony Hunter. See USEF HUI140, HUI141, HUI142

Note: HUI101 Ponies Shown By Juniors Ponies shown by a junior in any rated pony hunter sections (i.e. Children's Hunter Pony, Green Pony Hunter, Regular Pony Hunter, Low Pony Hunter), MHSA Children's Pony and Pony Medals, may be shown by an adult at the same competition. (See also EQ103.4)

SECTION 7. Junior and Children's Hunter. See USEF HUI143 and HUI144, See Zone 3 Specifications for Children's Hunters.

SECTION 8. Low Adult Hunter, Low Children's Hunter, Low Children's Hunter Pony. See Zone 3 Specs for all 3 divisions as well as USEF HUI139, HUI145, HUI146.

PART II – DIVISION OF SECTIONS OF CLASSES

SECTION 1. General. See USEF HUI159

1. Any section with 50 or more entries at the beginning of the first class must be divided. If there are 50 or more entries remaining in a section after it has been divided, the section must be re-divided by every other number. Once a selection has been re-divided it may not be divided further.
2. Prize money must be doubled whenever a section is divided.
3. As an option to dividing classes by every other number, all entries may be judged as a single class and awarded prizes as follows as a California Split:

HORSE'S PLACING	PRIZE AWARDED
1 st	1 st
2 nd	1 st
3 rd	2 nd
4 th	2 nd
5 th	3 rd
6 th	3 rd

7 th	4 th
8 th	4 th
9 th	5 th
10 th	5 th
11 th	6 th

12 th	6
13 th	7 th if offered

14 th	7 th if offered
15 th	8 th if offered
16 th	8 th if offered

In earning Championship points with a California Split, the top eight horses that receive the most points in the over fences classes are awarded points for the Under Saddle and/or Model class. Championship is awarded as follows:

Horse with most points – Champion # 1 Horse with 3rd highest points – Reserve Champion # 1
Horse with 2nd highest points – Champion # 2 Horse with 4th highest points – Reserve Champion # 2

SECTION 2. Green Sections. *See USEF HUI32*

SECTION 3. Amateur Owner

When sections are divided, one section at 3'6" must be offered for Amateur Owners 18 through 35 years of age and one section for Amateur Owners over 35 years of age. Each age group must also be offered at the 3'3" height. When divided as to age of rider, no horse may compete in more than one section. Age must be given on entry blank. These sections may be further divided by age of rider or by every other number. Riders must have signed on their membership application that they are eligible to compete as an amateur. *See MHSA Rule 1, Part I, Sec 1, and USEF 137*

SECTION 4. Pony Hunter. *See HUI40, HUI41, HUI42*

SECTION 5. Junior and Children's Hunter. *See HUI43 and HUI44 and Zone 3 Specifications for Children's Hunter*

SECTION 6. Thoroughbred Hunter *See HUI35*

Limited to horses who are registered with or are eligible to be registered with The Jockey Club. To be judged on performance and soundness. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences 3' in height. Points will be awarded according to the rating of the horse show. The top 25 horses will be invited to compete in the Thoroughbred Hunter Classic to be held at a designated horse show selected by the MHSA Board of Directors. Final's course will consist of 8 or more fences set at 2'6" and 3'. May include an in and out. Two refusals will result in elimination. Prize money will be awarded in the Classic.

SECTION 7. Low Children's Hunter Horse. *See Zone 3 Specs*

1. Open to horses. To be shown by a junior exhibitor. A rider in the Low Children's Hunter division is not eligible to cross enter in any other division where the fences exceed 2'9" at the same show, except age group Equitation and Medal Classes at 3'. Riders may cross enter into Children's Hunter Pony at the same show. Course shall consist of no less than eight fences. Fence height shall be 2'6" for horses, spreads not to exceed height of fence. No combinations allowed. Suitability as a Low/Pre-Children's Hunter to be stressed.
2. To be judged on manners, performance, soundness, and suitability as a Children's Hunter.
3. A minimum of three (3) classes shall be held in any section in which a championship is offered.
4. In the event there are less than three entries in either of the Low Children's Division or the Low Adult Division, these divisions may be combined at management's discretion.

SECTION 8. Low Children's Hunter Pony. *See Zone 3 Specs*

1. Open to ponies. To be shown by a junior exhibitor. A rider in the Low Children's Hunter Pony division is not eligible to cross enter in any other division where the fences exceed 2' at the same show except age group Equitation and Medal Classes. Riders may not cross enter into Children's Pony Hunter and Low Children's Horse and at the same show. Course shall consist of no less than eight fences. Fence height shall be 2' ponies, spreads not to exceed height of fence. No combinations allowed.
2. To be judged on manners, performance, soundness, and suitability as a Children's Pony Hunter.
3. A minimum of three(3) classes shall be held in any section for which a championship is offered.
4. In the event there are less than three entries in either of the Low Children's Division or the Low Adult Division, these divisions may be combined at management's discretion.

SECTION 9. Low Adult Hunter Horse. *See Zone 3 Specs*

1. Open to horses only. To be shown by an adult exhibitor holding an USEF Amateur card. A rider in the Low Adult Hunter Division is not eligible to cross enter in any other division where the fences exceed 2'9" at the same show except age group Equitation and Medal Classes at 3'. Course shall consist of no less than eight fences. Fence height shall be 2'6", spreads not to exceed height of fence. No combinations allowed.
2. To be judged on manners, performance, soundness, and suitability as an Adult Hunter.
3. A minimum of three (3) classes shall be held in any section in which a championship is offered.

4. In the event there are less than three entries in either of the Low Children's Division or the Low Adult Division, these divisions may be combined at management's discretion.

SECTION 10. Children's Hunter Pony. *See Zone 3 Specs, USEF HU144*

1. Open to ponies. To be shown by a junior exhibitor. Small/Medium ponies, 13.2 hands and under, to jump 2' with spreads not to exceed height of fence. Large ponies, over 13.2 hands and up to 14.2 hands, to jump 2'6" with spreads not to exceed height of the fence. In and outs will not be permitted. Course shall consist of no less than eight fences. Riders may not show over 3' at the same show. Ponies may not show in the Regular or Green Pony Hunter sections at the same show. Small/Medium ponies to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 15th birthday by Dec. 1st of the current competition year. Large ponies to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday by Dec. 1st of the current competition year.
2. To be judged on manners, performance, soundness, and suitability as a Children's Hunter Pony.
3. A minimum of three (3) classes shall be held in any section in which a championship is offered.
4. In the event there are less than four (4) entries in either height section, the sections may be combined.

PART III – COURSES

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF Sub Chapter HU4 – HU109*

Horses must be shown over a minimum of eight obstacles at the required height in all "A", "B", and "C" rated sections.

SECTION 2. Course Diagrams. *See USEF Sub Chapter HU4 – HU110*

SECTION 3. Height of Obstacles. *See USEF HU111*

SECTION 4. Type. *See USEF HU112*

SECTION 5. In and Outs. *See USEF HU113*

SECTION 6. Pony Hunter. *See USEF HU114*

PART IV – ATTIRE, TACK, AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF HU105*

SECTION 2. Equipment. *See USEF HU106*

SECTION 3. Attire. *See USEF HU107*

PART V – JUDGING

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF HU118*

SECTION 2. Definition of Completed. *See USEF HU119*

SECTION 3. Definition of Competed. *See USEF HU120*

SECTION 4. Soundness. *See USEF HU121*

SECTION 5. Conformation. *See USEF HU122*

SECTION 6. Performance. *See USEF HU123*

SECTION 7. Faults. *See USEF HU124*

SECTION 8. Pony Hunter. *See USEF HU142*

SECTION 9. Junior and Children's Hunter. *See USEF HU143 and HU144. See Zone 3 specifications for Children's Hunter*

PART VI – CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

SECTION 1. Under Saddle and Hack Classes. *See USEF HU129*

SECTION 2. Green and High Performance Model Classes. *See USEF HU136*

SECTION 3. Green Hunter. *See USEF HU132 High Performance See USEF HU135 and Performance Classes.*

SECTION 4. Amateur Owner Classes. *See USEF HU137*

SECTION 5. Adult Amateur Classes. *See USEF HU138 – See Zone 3 specifications*

SECTION 6. Hunter Classics. *See USEF HU174*

SECTION 7. Pony Hunter. *See USEF HU140, HU141, HU142*

PART VII – CHAMPIONSHIPS

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF HU150*

Championships must be offered in “A”, “B”, and “C” rated sections.

PART VIII – CONDUCT

SECTION 1. Judges. *See USEF HU116 & HU118*

SECTION 2. Course Designers. *See USEF HU117*

SECTION 3. Schooling. *See USEF Hunter Schooling Rules Appendix A*

SECTION 4. Pony Hunter. *See USEF HJ123, HU142*

SECTION 5. Junior and Children’s Hunter. *See USEF HU143, HJ144. See Zone 3 specifications.*

SECTION 6. Back to Back Classes. *See USEF HU125*

SECTION 7. Jumping Order. *USEF HU126*

SECTION 8. Entry Fees. *See USEF HU127*

SECTION 9. Scheduling. *See USEF HJ117-123*

SECTION 10. Cancellations. *See USEF HJ115*

“A”, “B”, or “C” Rated sections with three (3) or more entries cannot be canceled.

SECTION 11. Prize Money. *See USEF HU160*

SECTION 12. Challenge Trophies. *See USEF HU158*

RULE X – JUMPER DIVISION

See USEF Chapter JP

PART I – COMBINED JUMPER

SECTION 1. High Score Points

MHSA High Score Awards in the Combined Jumper section will be computed based on prize money - one point for every dollar won in the class.

PART II – JUNIOR/AMATEUR JUMPER 1.0m/1.05m, JUNIOR JUMPER 1.10m/1.15m AND AMATEUR JUMPER 1.10m/1.15m

SECTION 1. General

1. Open to juniors who have not yet reached their 18th birthday as of Dec 1st of the current competition year
2. Open to adult amateurs:
 - a. Every contestant must be eligible to hold an amateur card issued by the USEF. *See USEF GR1306 & 1307.*
 - b. Amateur classes are restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor and have signed on their membership application that they are eligible to compete as an amateur.
3. Classes in Junior/Amateur 1.0m, Junior 1.10m and Amateur 1.10m will be held according to USEF Zone 3 Rules.

SECTION 2. High Score Points

MHSA High Score Points in the Junior/Amateur 1.0m/1.05m division, Junior 1.10m/1.15m division and Amateur 1.10m/1.15m division will be rated “C”. No prize money needs to be awarded.

PART III – OPEN JUMPERS

SECTION 1. General

1. Open to all juniors, adults, and professionals.
2. Open to all horses and ponies.
3. Fence heights to be offered:
 1. .60m to .65m
 2. .70m to .75m
 3. .80m to .85m
 4. .90m to .95m
4. 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)
5. Jumper classes held below .90m that are restricted to Junior and/or Amateurs, must not be scored under Table II, Sec .1 (see JP 146.2) or Table III (see JP 148). Courses must not include combinations (see JP 127).

SECTION 2. High Score Points

MHSA offers Year End Awards in the four height sections.

RULE XI – HUNTER & PONY HUNTER BREEDING

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF HU148*

SECTION 2. Hunter Breeding. *See USEF HU149*

SECTION 3. Pony Hunter Breeding. *See USEF HU150*

1. Classification:
 - Thoroughbred* – Entry must be currently registered or be eligible for registration with the Jockey Club. Tattooed mares are to be shown in Thoroughbred classes.
 - Other Than Thoroughbred* – Entry not described in (a).
 - Thoroughbred and Other Than Thoroughbred* horses may be shown in separate classes or combined in the same age group only.
2. Classes to count for High Score Awards: Best Thoroughbred, Best Non-Thoroughbred, Best

Non-Thoroughbred, Best Pony, Junior/Amateur Handler

3. General:

Any show offering a Breeding Division must be a member of the MHSA. Any show with an USEF rating may offer only one session of Hunter Breeding classes, except Pony Hunter Breeding. Shows rated only by the MHSA may offer two sessions of Hunter Breeding and Pony Hunter Breeding classes.

To be eligible for High Score Awards, the owners of entries must be members and horses recorded with the MHSA.

High Score Award points shall be awarded as follows:

- i. 1 point per horse
- ii. Win a class out of 5 horses, gets 5 points (2nd place gets 4 points; 3rd place gets 3 points, etc.)
- iii. Third place out of 3 horses would get 3 points.

No prize money is required. Shows are encouraged to offer prize money.

Classes may be divided according to sex, but all entries must have an equal opportunity to compete.

The Champion points shall be determined as follows: Best Young Horse: 2x's number of horses in the class. For example: beat 4 horses and get 8 points. Reserve Best Young Horse: 1.5x number of horses in the class. For example, beat 2 horses and get 3 points.

To be eligible for High Score Awards, said horse/pony must be registered for life for a fee of \$50.

Dress (MHSA Rule III, Part IV, Section 1.)

All entries, except foals, must be shown in a bridle.

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

1. 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.)
2. 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. MHSA will license both MHSA Recognized Hunter/Equitation Judges and MHSA Recognized Jumper Judges, beginning Dec. 1st, 2026.

SECTION 2. Learner Judge.

1. 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 application must be made on the official form provided for that purpose. 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.

2. He or She must be familiar with the Association rules and capable to observe as requested. Written approval by an Officer of the competition must be given prior to the start date.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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

1. Initial application or re-enrollment - \$45
2. Annual renewal - \$45
3. Learner Judge - \$45

(Note that all licensed officials must pay their annual MHSA membership in addition to the licensed officials' fee)

PART IV – ENROLLMENT

SECTION 1. General

1. Applications must be made on the appropriate official enrollment form, signed by the applicant, and accompanied by the required fee which is not refundable.
2. The Licensed Officials Committee, not the applicant, will send out reference questionnaires concerning the applicant to such persons listed as references by the applicant. 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.
3. No application will be considered unless and until a minimum of 3 reference questionnaires are returned from the licensed judges.
4. All performance evaluations must be received within 30 days from the completion of the horse show.
5. 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.
6. Upon expiration of any license, each applicant has five years before he/she must complete the learner judging requirements outlined in Part V for re-enrollment.

PART V – HUNTER/EQUITATION APPRENTICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. Must apprentice a minimum of six (6) days at three (3) separate MHSA hunter/jumper competitions
2. Must accompany a minimum of three (3) different MHSA/USEF Judges
3. Must judge at least two (2) Hunter Classics and two (2) Gittings Classes
4. Three (3) of the competitions must be managed by different management
5. Must receive three (3) positive apprentice performance evaluations
6. All apprentice performance evaluations must be completed and signed by the MHSA Judge with whom the apprentice was working.
7. Applicants MUST Attend ONE MHSA Judges clinic

PART V – JUMPER APPRENTICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. Must apprentice a minimum of four (4) days at two (2) separate MHSA hunter/jumper competitions
2. Must accompany a minimum of two (2) different MHSA/USEF Judges
3. Must judge at least two (2) days with Optimum Time classes held and at least two (2) days with automated timers and timing box
4. Two (2) of the competitions must be managed by different management
5. Must receive two (2) positive apprentice performance evaluations
6. All apprentice performance evaluations must be completed and signed by the MHSA Judge with whom the apprentice was working.
7. Applicants MUST Attend ONE MHSA Judges clinic

PART VI- WRITTEN EXAMINATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL

1. Applicants must pass a written Final Examination with a minimum score of 85%
2. 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.

1. Complete License Maintenance Program/attend an MHSA/USEF Judges' Clinic every four (4) years
2. Pass a written examination with a minimum score of 85% every two years
3. Officiate at (at least) three (3) MHSA licensed hunter/jumper competitions every three (3) years
If an official has both an MHSA Hunter/Equitation and MHSA Jumper license, they must officiate at (at least) three (3) MHSA licensed hunter/jumper competitions every three (3) years for EACH discipline/license.
4. 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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

1. 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 which has additional Guidelines which should be considered when officiating at a competition.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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:

1. Must be a current MHSA member in good standing;
2. Must have attained the age of 21 years;
3. 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:

A. 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.

B. Clinics:

- Applicants must attend one (1) MHSA Stewards Clinic which will include the

administration of a written practice test.

C. **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.

D. **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
 - Kathy Meadows
 - Hillary Gibbons-Neffs
 - Faith McKay-Alicea
 - Rand Thaw

E. **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) MHSAs licensed hunter/jumper competitions every three (3) years;
- maintain MHSAs membership annually.

RULE XIV – COMPETITION OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES

PART I – COMPETITION OFFICIALS

SECTION 1. Licensee – Operation of Competition. *See USEF GR1201*

SECTION 2. Manager. *See USEF GR1202*

1. An individual acting in this capacity is required to be an Individual Senior/ Senior Amateur Member of the MHSAs.

SECTION 3. Competition Secretary. *See USEF GR1203*

SECTION 4. Veterinarian. *See USEF GR1204*

SECTION 5. Course Designer. *See USEF GR1205*

PART II – COMPETITION EMPLOYEES

SECTION 1. Farrier. *See USEF GR1206*

SECTION 2. Ringmaster. *See USEF GR1208*

SECTION 3. Timekeeper. *See USEF GR1209*

PART III – DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF GR1210-GR1216*

1. Apply annually to the Association for dates for the competition. In case of conflict the Executive Committee shall arbitrate and make decisions.
2. Sixty (60) days must elapse between the date of the application and the actual holding of a Regular Member Show, a Regional Show, and a Local Member show and a Hunter Breeder Show.
3. All shows recognized by the MHSAs are required to carry General Liability Insurance
4. Shows are required to name the MHSAs as an additional named insurance. All competitions must furnish the MHSAs office at least two weeks prior to the competition a Certificate of Insurance for each day of the competition with minimum limits of \$1,000,000.00 Bodily Injury and Property Damage General Liability Insurance. An automatic fine of \$100 will be imposed on any competition for which evidence of adequate insurance is not received at least two (2) weeks prior to the competition. It shall be in order for the Association to withhold the allotment of a date at a Recognized Show which has indebtedness recognized by the Association.
5. See that animals required to be measured are correctly measured by the rules and order the measurement of any pony/horse shows height is protested by an exhibitor.

6. Pay premiums and other indebtedness of the competition within sixty (60) days. A competition must honor its checks for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the date(s) of the competition.
7. At the Association's request, a competition must furnish entry blanks, judge's cards, class sheets or any other documents within the time requested by the Association. These records must be kept by management during all sessions of the competition and retained for three (3) years.

SECTION 2. Appointment of Officials and Employees. *See USEF GR1211*

1. Every competition with an "A" rated division must have a qualified veterinarian present throughout the competition. Competitions with "B" or "C" rating may have a veterinarian on call (a veterinarian who has agreed in writing to be on call) if one is not present on the show grounds. An official veterinarian should receive the comparable consideration and remuneration as other paid officials.
2. Every show which offers a division or section with an "A" rating must have a farrier qualified in those divisions or sections, available during all performances. Competitions with "B" or "C" rating must have a farrier available at all times. A farrier may not officiate in any class in which he/she is an exhibitor.
3. Provide qualified medical personnel with no other duties, and suitable medical equipment, i.e., an EMT, doctor nurse, or certified athletic trainer on call.

SECTION 3. Prize Lists.

1. Mail prize list and entry blank to Association members, the Secretary of the Association, the competition judges, and stewards immediately upon publication.
2. In order to be an approved MHSA Horse Show, management must provide the MHSA office with a current prize list sixty (60) days prior to the competition date, or 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.
3. 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 rules and recognized. The MHSA is not responsible for the final content of any prize list.

SECTION 4. Entries. *See USEF GR1213*

SECTION 5. Protests, Charges, and Violations. *See USEF GR1218*

SECTION 6. Results. *See USEF GR1214*

All electronic results must be electronically transmitted to MHSA within ten (10) days following a Licensed Competition including all corrections, changes, and additions to the prize list. Within ten (10) days of the show:

1. Regular Member Show: First to sixth place winners, champion and reserve for all High Score rated divisions, their owners, and their rider names. First to sixth place winners for all MHSA equitation classes, riders' names, and addresses. The number of exhibitors in the first class over fences of each rated division. Send electronic results to the MHSA show secretary in the USEF format or the ShowPro format.
2. Regional Show: First to sixth place winners, champion and reserve for all High Score Regional divisions, their owners, and their rider names. First to sixth place winners for all MHSA equitation classes, riders' names, and addresses. The number of exhibitors in the first class over fences of each rated division. Send electronic results to the MHSA show secretary in the USEF format or the ShowPro format.

SECTION 7. Stabling. *See USEF GR1215*

SECTION 8. Facilities. *See USEF GR1216*

RULE XV-DIVISION/ SECTION CLASSIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

PART I – CLASSIFICATION

1. For the purpose of equalizing competition for High Score Awards, divisions and sections of Regular Member Shows fall into one of three classifications “A”, “B”, “C”, or “Regional” rated.
2. In “A”, “B”, “C” and “Regional” rated Divisions or Sections winners receive points according to the number of exhibitors in the first class over fences.
3. A Division or Section rating or classification is determined by the number of classes, amount of cash premiums offered in these classes, the number exhibitors in the first class over fences and the holding of required classes in certain divisions. Where published ratings and specifications (prize money, class specifications, etc.) do not agree, the show may correct the error in accordance with Rule XIV, Part III. Should the errors(s) not be found before the end of the show, the MHSA office will correct the ratings accordingly. No further corrections may be made.
4. A show may qualify for several different ratings. Shows will earn an “A”, “B”, “C”, or “Regional” rating in all divisions and sections; others, perhaps due to local conditions and more interest in certain breeds, may find themselves with a combination of ratings.
5. “A” rated shows must be held and judged over a minimum of two (2) days at the same show grounds. A minimum of five (5) rated hunter sections must be offered and a minimum of two performance classes from two different “A” sections must be scheduled and judged on each of the two days.
6. Each prize list and catalog shall announce the show’s rating in all divisions and sections.
7. It is recommended that at least the minimum premiums must be divided among the first four ribbon winners in each class.
8. It is recommended entry fee not exceed 10% of premiums awarded.
9. Show Committees should consult the following charts in making up their prize lists. Exhibitors, if in doubt, should check prize lists against the chart before submitting entries to a show.
10. For requirements for “A”, “B”, “C”, and “Regional” divisions or sections Ratings see Section rating in respective divisions.
11. No more than one show with the same “A” rated division or section on the same day will be recognized by the MHSA within the State of Maryland.

PART II – REQUIREMENTS FOR “A”, “B”, AND “C” RATED DIVISIONS

Division	"A"		"B"		"C"		
	# of Classes	Prize \$	# of Classes	Prize \$	# of Classes	Prize \$	
3'3" Performance Hunter	3-5	\$400	3-4	3	\$100	3	-
Green Hunter - 3'6" - 3'9"	4-6	\$500	3-4	3	\$100	3	-
Conformation	4-6	\$500	3-4	3	\$50	3	-
Green Hunter - 3' - 3'3"	4-6	\$500	3-4	3	-	3	-
Thoroughbred	3-6	-	3-4	3	-	3	-
High Performance Hunter	3-5	\$750	3-4	3	\$100	3	-

3'6" Amateur								
Owner	4-6	\$500	3-4	3	\$100	3	-	
3'3" Amateur								
Owner	4-5	\$500	3-4	3	\$100	3	-	
Adult Amateur Hunter	3-6	-	3-4	3	-	3	-	
3'6" Junior Hunter	4-5	\$500	3-4	3	\$100	3	-	
3'3" Junior Hunter	4-5	\$500	3-4	3	\$100	3	-	
Children's Hunter	3-6	-	3-4	3	-	3	-	
Low Adult Hunter	3-6	-	3-4	3	-	3	-	
Low Children's Hunter	3-6	-	3-4	3	-	3	-	
Pony Hunter	4-5	\$400	3-4	3	\$100	3	-	
Green Pony Htr	4-5	\$250	3-4	3	\$50	3	-	
Jr/Am Jumper								
1.20m + Above								
Jr Jumper 1.10/1.15m								
Am Jumper 1.10m/1.15m								
Jr/Am Jumper 1.0/1.05m								
Children's Pony Hunter								
Low Child Pony Hunter								

RULE XVI – PRIZE LISTS

PART I – GENERAL

SECTION 1. Requirements. *See USEF GR901*

The prize list of every Recognized competition must contain the following:

1. ASSOCIATION PAGE: This must occupy at least one half (1/2) page in a conspicuous position in the prize list of each Recognized Show. Each show is urged to instruct its announcer to invite the attention of the spectators to this page at each session. (See sample on next page.)
2. Rating of Divisions on the Association Page.
3. The names of Officiating Judges and MHSA Steward.
4. The names of Competition Officials.
5. The name of the Course Designer or responsible person.
6. The name of the Veterinarian or if on call, the number where he or she can be reached. If this information is not known, a statement as to where this information will be posted at the horse show.
7. Statement as to entry fees, prizes offered in each class.
8. A tentative schedule of classes.
9. Statement as to which of the MHSA Equitation of classes are to be offered.
10. Statement concerning a particular system of judging to be used.
11. The exact date and location of the horse show.

SECTION 2. Class Specifications. *See USEF GR902*

All classes offered at Recognized competitions for which specifications appear in the USEF or MHSA Rule Books must be governed by current specifications. To cover any omission, it is recommended that the prize list contain the following statement in a prominent position: **“EVERY CLASS OFFERED HEREIN WHICH IS COVERED BY THE RULES AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CURRENT MHSA RULE BOOK WILL BE CONDUCTED AND JUDGED IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH.”**

SECTION 3. Changes in Prize List. *See USEF GR903.*

(Sample ASSOCIATION PAGE)

The (name of the Show)
is operated in accordance with the current rules of
The Maryland Horse Shows Association
of which body it is a
(Give classification of membership, Rule II, Part II)
Rated
(Give ratings in all Divisions and Sections)

MARYLAND HORSE SHOWS ASSOCIATION, INC.
PO BOX 127, Hampstead, MD 21074
Phone: 410-591-0380
www.mdhsa.org / secretary@mdsha.org

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Junior/Amateur Birthday: _____ / _____ / _____

_____New _____Renew

_____ I hereby apply for Junior Membership for 20 and enclose
\$40 (17 years of age and under)

_____ I hereby apply for Senior membership for 20 and enclose \$50

_____ I hereby apply for Senior Amateur membership for 20 enclosed \$50.
(18 years of age and over). Membership 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.

Signature _____ Date _____

Membership expires November 30th of each year and must be renewed each year.

NOTE: TO QUALIFY FOR HIGH SCORE AWARDS AN ANIMAL MUST BE
REGISTERED WITH THE ASSOCIATION AND HIS/HER OWNER MUST BE A MEMBER
OF THE ASSOCIATION

RULE XVI- ENTRIES

PART I - ENTRY BLANK

SECTION 1. Requirements

1. The entry blank of each recognized competition must contain the name, age, sex, color, and in case of all horses four years old or over, the height of each horse entered in any class.
2. In breeding classes, provided a stud book exists for the horse in question, each horse must be registered in the recognized stud book of the breed and its registered number, sire and dam must be given on the entry blank.
3. Horses over two years of age must be named and the same name must be listed in all classes except those that permit nominations after the close of entries. If a horse has been recorded it must be entered under its original recorded name unless the name has been officially changed. It must also be entered under the name of the owner or lessee of record, or of the registered exhibitor name, which must appear in the catalogue. When entered by an agent, the owner's name or lessee's name must also be given.
4. Misrepresentation of a horse's identity- name, height, age, eligibility for the class, registered or recorded number or other information on an entry blank for the class in question results in the exhibitor's forfeiture of any ribbon, trophy, cash prize or other award won by such misrepresented or substituted animal. The exhibitor is liable for further penalty.

SECTION 2. Agreement. *See USEF GR907*

PART II – SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

SECTION 1. General. *See USEF GR908*

SECTION 2. Membership and Document Requirements

The following credentials must be available to competition management and the MHSA Steward:

1. Amateur Certification
2. Junior Hunter and Pony Measurement Cards

SECTION 3. Post Entries. *See USEF GR909*

SECTION 4. Substitutions. *See USEF GR910*

SECTION 5. Unpaid Entries

1. If a show is recognized by the USEF, all non-negotiable checks will be handled by the USEF.
2. The individual who issues a non-negotiable check that is not made good within 90 days will be placed "not in good standing." *See USEF GR912*

SECTION 6. Refusal of Entries

1. The addition to entries of persons suspended or expelled from the Association, a Recognized competition may refuse any entry of an exhibitor or the participation of any agent, trainer, rider, driver, or handler who has shown an objectionable attitude towards a Recognized competition or to its management.
2. Any competition that sets restrictive criteria for accepting entries must do so by using the method described in either (a) of (b) below:
 - a. Based strictly on a "First come, first served" basis.
 - b. Qualification based only on winnings, (i.e., ribbons, and/or prize money) during a specified time period, established by the competition management. The method chosen must be clearly stated in the prize list.
3. A competition recognized by the MHSA may refuse entries of horses and riders in Maiden,

Novice, Limit and Green classes if they are ineligible under MHSA Rules. Exceptions:

- a. In a class open to horses in a specified area.
- b. In a class where the winnings form part of a total score in a competition for a trophy or in classes in which the identical award may also be competed for at another Recognized competition.

SECTION 7. General Conditions. *See USEF GR827.C Jumpers*

1. Entering a class “hors concours” (without being judged) is prohibited.

PART IV – QUESTIONING AND PROTESTING

SECTION 1. Height. *See USEF GR512.*

SECTION 2. Animals Five Years of Age or Under. *See USEF GR512.2a and b*

SECTION 3. Animals Six Years of Age or Over. *See USEF GR512.1*

SECTION 4. Results of Questioning or Protesting. *See USEF GR514*

PART V – MEASUREMENT APPEAL

SECTION 1. Conditions. *See USEF GR515*

SECTION 2. Procedures. *See USEF GR516*

1. If the appeal is upheld, a measurement card is issued to animals six (6) years of age or over. The entry fees from the competition where the animal was disqualified and the \$100 deposit will be returned to the appellant, and the animal will receive credit for all points accumulated.

RULE XVIII – PROTESTS, CHARGES, AND HEARINGS

PART I – FILING AND CONTENTS

SECTION 1. A protest may be made to a Show Committee by an exhibitor, an agent, a trainer, or the parent of a junior exhibitor for any violation of these rules.

1. A protest must be:
 - a. In writing.
 - b. Signed by the protestor.
 - c. Addressed to the Secretary of the show at which the alleged violation occurred
 - d. Accompanied by a deposit of \$100, made out to Maryland Horse Shows Association, Inc.
2. When personally delivered, a protest must be presented to a member of the show committee, the show management, or the show secretary of the show at which the alleged violation occurred at a time no later than 72 hours after the last class of the horse show is completed.
3. When mailed, a protest must be presented to a member of the show committee, the show management, or the show secretary of the show at which the alleged violation occurred and postmarked no later than 72 hours after the last class of the horse show is completed.
4. 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.

SECTION 2. 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:

1. Be in writing.
2. Be signed by the protestor.
3. Be addressed to the MSHA enforcement Committee with a postmark no later than 3 days after the completion of the horse show where the alleged violation occurred.
4. 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, witness, or other evidence. A protest shall be ineffective if it does not conform to the requirements.
5. Be accompanied by a deposit of \$100, made out to the Maryland Horse Shows Association, Inc.

A deposit with a protest shall be refunded upon finding that the protest does not conform to the requirements of this section.

After an investigation as to proper amateur status of a Senior MHSA member has been initiated, and upon request by the MHSA Enforcement Committee and to the satisfaction of the MHSA Enforcement Committee, an amateur shall submit verifiable proof of amateur status. If the MHSA Enforcement Committee deems such proof insufficient, then the MHSA Enforcement Committee may initiate proceedings under MHSA Rule VI. If the protest is sustained, the deposit shall be returned to the protestor. If not sustained, the deposit shall be forfeited to the MHSA.

SECTION 3. Charges

A charge may be made to a Show Committee or to the Enforcement Committee by an official of the show, a Director or an Officer of the MHSA for any violation of these rules. A charge must be:

1. In writing.
2. Signed by the person making the charge.
3. Addressed to the Secretary of the show at which the violation occurred to the Enforcement Committee.
4. If made to a Show Committee, it must be received by a member of the committee within 72 hours of the alleged violation. If made to the Enforcement Committee; it must be received by the Association within a reasonable time.

SECTION 4. A protest or charge must state the full name and address of the accused and contain a complete and definite statement of the acts which constitute the alleged violation. Precise details regarding a violation of the rules are necessary. The maker must be prepared to substantiate the protest or charge by personal testimony at a hearing or by sworn statements, witnesses, or other evidence.

SECTION 5. A charge or protest against a Recognized Show must be referred to the Enforcement Committee through the Show Committee, Show Manager, or Show Secretary.

SECTION 6. The Association may investigate any protest, charge, or alleged violation; and may intervene in any protest and present evidence concerning any protest, charge, or alleged violation at its discretion.

PART II – NON-PROTESTABLE DECISIONS

The soundness of a horse, when determined by an official veterinarian of the show or by a judge, may

not be protested.

A judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference, may not be protested unless it is alleged to be in violation of the rules.

A protest with respect to the height of an animal may only be made to the Committee of the Show. Remeasurement shall take place immediately, to the end that there be no change in height by re-shoeing. The decision of show officials shall not be reviewable by this Association. For method of measurement see MHSA Rule III, Part I, Section 2.

PART III – HEARING

SECTION 1. Any person or show against whom a protest or charge is filed shall be entitled to a hearing. Such hearing shall be after ten days' notice to the accused except that a Show Committee may hold a hearing during or within 72 hours of a show after reasonable notice.

SECTION 2. Notice of hearing shall contain a brief statement of the facts constituting the alleged violation and shall specify the time and place at which the hearing is to be held.

SECTION 3. An accused person may attend the hearing at their option and may bring witness, sworn statements or other evidence on their own behalf.

SECTION 4. Any person who shall fail to produce evidence or testify if requested by the Enforcement Committee for a hearing may be found to be in violation of the best interests of the MHSA and hence subject to penalty under Rule VII. The self-damaging nature of any such evidence or testimony shall not excuse the failure to produce the same, or to testify on request of the Enforcement Committee.

SECTION 5. A show Committee receiving a protest or charge shall notify those directly concerned in writing and shall be given the opportunity to appear. It shall adjudicate the issue impartially, make effective its decision upon the parties in interest and report its determination to the Enforcement Committee. If the protest is sustained, the deposit shall be returned to the protestor; if not sustained, the deposit shall be forfeited to the MHSA. A Show Committee may disqualify a person and/or his/her entries at that show. In all other cases, the facts and findings and a recommendation shall be reported to the Enforce Committee for further action if deemed appropriate in its sole discretion. In the event a Show Committee cannot reach a decision regarding a protest or charge against an individual, either must be referred to the Enforcement Committee. A party to a protest or charge desiring to appeal a decision of the Show Committee to the Enforcement Committee must file such appeal in writing within fifteen (15) days of the initial decision.

SECTION 6. The Enforcement Committee shall hear protests and charges in connection with alleged violations of the rules, consider the evidence, render final decisions thereon and determine and impose penalty. It may refer any protest or charge to the Board of Directors for a hearing. The findings of a Show Committee, after a hearing, shall be reviewed by the Enforcement Committee and it may take such action as it deems necessary. In the event a Show Committee fails to hold a hearing within 72 hours of the show, the Enforcement Committee shall take jurisdiction of the matter and take such further action as may be necessary to have the matter finally adjudicated.

PART IV – SUSPENSION

The Enforcement Committee may temporarily suspend any person and/or horse/pony against whom a protest or charge has been filed from participating in any matter in the affairs of the Association or at Member Shows for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days or until the charge is determined, whichever is sooner. If the Enforcement Committee deems it necessary, it may extend the suspension for a further period not to exceed 90 days.

PART V – APPEAL

Upon the discovery of new facts not presented at a hearing, a party may request a rehearing before the Enforcement Committee. Such requests shall be in writing and shall contain a statement of the new facts on which it is based.

RULE XIX – VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

SECTION 1. The provisions of this rule shall apply at any Recognized Show to the following persons: owner, exhibitor, agent, trainer, manager, rider, driver, handler, show official, show employee (see Rule XII) or member of the family of the above, individual member of MHSA or any person who acts in a manner in violation of the rules of the Association or deemed prejudicial to its best interests. Any act at a Recognized Show in violation of the Rules by a member of the family of a person participating in the show who is described in the previous sentence, may be deemed to have been committed by such persons and subject him/her to penalties.

SECTION 2. Violations

A violation is any act prejudicial to the best interests of the Association, including but not limited to the following:

1. Violation of the rules of the Association.
2. Disqualification by a Recognized Show.
3. Penalization by another Horse Association, Humane Society or Court of Law for violation of Association Rules.
4. Acting or inciting or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the rules of the Association, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of the Association.
5. Any act committed or remark made during the show considered offensive and/or made with intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character, integrity of the judging; approaching a judge before or after a decision without obtaining permission from the show committee or steward; inspecting a judge's card without the judge's permission.
6. Failure of a Show Official to perform his/her duties at a show in accordance with the rules.
7. Failure of an exhibitor or his/her representative to sign the entry blank of a show in which he/she competes.
8. Physical assault upon a person and/or cruelty to a horse
9. Failure to obey any penalty imposed by the Association.
10. Exhibiting any horse while in the care, training, or custody of a suspended trainer
11. Riding, exhibiting, coaching, or training for the benefit, credit, reputation, or satisfaction of a suspended trainer.
12. Attempting to influence Member Shows in the selection of judges and/or steward by threat of boycott if certain judges and/or stewards are designated.

SECTION 3. Penalties

If found guilty, the accused shall be subject to such penalty as the Enforcement Committee may affirm, including but not limited to:

1. **CENSURE.** A vote of censure shall be listed under the defendant's name in the Secretary's Record of Penalties. If found guilty of further violation the defendant shall be subject to a heavier penalty than for a first offense.
2. **SUSPENSION** of such persons for any period from showing or having others show, exhibit or train for him. A suspended person is forbidden for the time specified in the sentence to hold or exercise office in the Association or in any Recognized Show, from the privilege of taking any

part whatsoever in any Recognized Show and is excluded from all showgrounds during Recognized Shows, as an exhibitor, participant, or spectator.

3. SUSPENSION for any period of the horse or horses, completely or in part owned, leased or of the stable of such person at the time of the alleged violation. The Executive Committee or the Enforcement Committee may, at a later date, remove the suspension of said horse or horses if a sale thereof is made in such manner as to be a bona fide transaction and not with the intention of relieving the suspended owner of penalty.
4. SUSPENSION for any period of any volunteer or any employed person who rides or exhibits for the benefit, credit, reputation, or satisfaction of the person disciplined.
5. EXPULSION from all Recognized Show
6. EXPULSION or SUSPENSION from membership in the Association
7. FORFEITURE of trophies, ribbons, and prize money won in connection with the offense committed.
8. SUSPENSION from office as Steward, Judge, Show Official
9. REVOCATION of Judge's or Steward's license
10. FINE

SECTION 4. Notification

Any Recognized Show which allows a suspended or expelled person to participate is itself liable to suspension or expulsion and will be notified by email or US Postal Service Mail.

SECTION 5. An officer of the Association may report disciplinary action taken by the Association to another association if in their opinion such a course is advisable for the protection of mutual interests.

SECTION 6. Reciprocity

On receipt of official notice that disciplinary action has been taken by a horse association, humane society or court of law against a person for an act which may be a violation of Association rules, an officer of this Association may make a charge against such person, and the Association after a hearing of such discipline person may take such action as it deems in its own best interest.

SECTION 7. USEF Suspension List

The MHSA adopts and recognizes the current USEF suspension list. A suspended person is forbidden for the time specified in the sentence: (1) to hold or exercise office with the MHSA or any MHSA Recognized Show, including a MHSA Regional Horse Show; (2) from taking any part in a MHSA Recognized Show, including a MHSA Regional Horse Show, as an exhibitor, participant, trainer, or spectator; and (3) is excluded from the grounds of a MHSA Recognized Show, including a MHSA Regional Horse Show, on the show dates, during schooling days or other such days prior to the start of the show for any purpose, including such things as coaching riders, training or schooling horses, or trailering horses on or off grounds.

PART VII – RECOGNIZED SHOWS

SECTION 1. The provisions of this shall apply to all Regular Member Shows.

SECTION 2. Violations

A Recognized Show will be subject to penalty by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee for violation of the rules. Violations shall be, but are not limited to, the following:

Failure to:

1. Conduct a show in accordance with Association rules.
2. Failure to obtain the required insurance.
3. Use brief standard specifications for classes.
4. Print the current MHSA page in the prize list and catalog.
5. Print the Association certificate on each entry blank.

6. Secure signature of exhibitor or his/her representative and trainer on entry blank
7. Provide qualified medical personnel with no other duties, and suitable medical equipment, i.e., and EMT, paramedic, doctor, nurse, or certified athletic trainer.
8. Have a qualified veterinarian present or on call throughout the show.
9. Have animals measured if required by rules.
10. Have a farrier present at shows that offer an "A" Division or Section.
11. Pay its indebtedness to the Association.
12. Pay premiums and other indebtedness within 60 days.
13. File lists of winners, names, and addresses of all exhibitors and of all horses and ponies and owners, mailed within ten (10) days.
14. Hold a show if a date has been requested and granted unless notice shall have been given the Association in writing sixty (60) days prior to the date.
15. Report the disqualification of a person at a show.
16. Present correct Hunter and Jumper courses.
17. Honor valid contracts with judges, stewards, other show officials and employees. Provide convenient and ample water facilities.
18. Provide adequate and sanitary toilet facilities.
19. Provide proper schooling and exercise areas.
20. Furnish the Association entry blanks, judge's card, class sheets and any other documents as requested.
21. Obtain the permission of the Association at least 30 days prior to the competition to add a division, not offer an approved division or change the rating of an approved division.
22. Hold a show at the location stated on the date application unless a request to change the location is submitted to the Association at least 60 days prior to the show date, and permission is duly given.
23. The use of Non-Recognized Judges in those divisions covered by the rules.
24. The use of judges in divisions in which they have not been enrolled.
25. The use of Non-Recognized Stewards.
26. The listing of a judge or steward in the prize list or catalog before the invitation to serve has been accepted.
27. Permitting persons or horses not in good standing to participate in any manner.
28. Permitting acts which are improper, intemperate, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, or contrary to the rules of the Association.
29. Acting in a manner prejudicial to the best interests of the Association.

SECTION 3. Penalties

A Recognized Show found guilty of a violation shall be subject to penalty including, but not limited to the following:

1. Fine.
2. Censure. A vote of Censure shall be listed under the defendant's name in the Secretary's Record of Penalties. If found guilty of a further violation the defendant shall be liable to a heavier penalty than for a first offense.
3. Suspension for any period from the list of Recognized Shows
4. Expulsion from membership in the Association

Rule XX – YEAR END TROPHIES & AWARDS

SECTION 1. Challenge Trophies. See USEF GR805 + HUI56

1. A challenge trophy is a trophy donated to or offered by a show or the MHSA which must be won a specific 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.

2. Should the 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 (10) months to and become the property of the Association to be awarded for further competition in a like class at another Member Show.
3. 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.

SECTION 2. Perpetual Trophies. *See USEF GR806*

1. A perpetual trophy is a trophy donated to or offered by a show or the MHSA, which is never awarded permanently to an exhibitor, but remains the property of and in the possession of a competition in a like class at another Member Show.
2. A perpetual trophy is a trophy donated to or offered by a show or the MHSA, which is never awarded permanently to an exhibitor but remains the property of and in the possession of a show or the MHSA, which may at its discretion present to the annual winner a replica or souvenir trophy. The conditions of such a trophy are identical with those of a challenge trophy insofar as moving from one class to another, etc. are concerned, except that previous winners need not be consulted when and if specifications are changed.

SECTION 3. Prize Ribbons. *See USEF GR807*

PART II – SPECIAL TROPHY AWARDS

SECTION 1. The “Goose Bumps” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Simcik Family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Small Pony Hunter Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 2. The “A.M. Jack Worsham” Memorial Perpetual Trophy, donated by the members of his family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Regular Pony Hunter Divisions.

SECTION 3. The “Sand Castle” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Gorman family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association accumulating the highest number of points in the Regular Medium Pony Hunter Division.

This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 4. The “Best Kept Secret” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Parker family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association accumulating the highest number of points in the Regular Large Pony Hunter Division.

This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 5. The “Rowfantina Apollo” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Morrison family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association accumulating the highest number of points in the Small/Medium Green Pony Hunter Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 6. The “Tartan Farms” Challenge Trophy, donated by Tartan Farms. To be presented annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Green Hunter Pony Divisions. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 7. The “Jane E. Tyrie” Challenge Trophy, donated by Maryland Horse and Pony Show.

To be presented annually to the member recorded with the Association that was awarded first place in the MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies Medal Finals. This trophy must be won three times by the same member for permanent possession.

SECTION 8. The “Betty Boop” Memorial Challenge Trophy, donated by the Paterakis Family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Small/Medium Children’s Hunter Pony Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 9. The “Pointer’s Run” Challenge Trophy, donated by Pembroke Pointe LLC - the Bernini Family, to be awarded annually to the pony recorded with the Association who acquires the highest number of points in the Large Children’s Hunter Pony Division.

SECTION 10. The “Hunting Horn Farm” Perpetual Trophy, donated by the Hafets Family, to be awarded annually to the pony recorded with the Association who acquires the highest number of points in the Children’s Pony Hunter Division.

SECTION 11. The “King of the Road” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Simcik Family. To be presented annually to the member recorded with the Association that was awarded first place in the MHSA Children’s Pony Medal Finals. This trophy must be won three times by the same member for permanent possession.

SECTION 12. The “Canzady’s Afty” Perpetual Trophy, donated by Michelle Price to be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Children’s Hunter Horse Division.

SECTION 13. The “Aragorn” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Kennedy Family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association accumulating the highest number of points in the Children’s Hunter - Younger Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 14. The “Fargo” Perpetual Trophy, donated by the McGinnis Family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association accumulating the highest number of points in the Children’s Hunter - Older Division.

SECTION 15. The “D. Sterett” Gittings Trophy, donated by Martha S. Breedlove. To be awarded annually to the member recorded with the Association that was awarded first place in the MHSA Gittings Horsemanship Finals.

SECTION 16. The “Linky Smith” Memorial Trophy, donated by Martha S. Breedlove. To be awarded annually to the trainer of the first-place rider in the MHSA Gittings Horsemanship Finals.

SECTION 17. The “Bandit” Challenge Trophy, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Solter. To be presented annually by a member of the Solter Family to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Small Junior Hunter Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession. Retired and re-donated in 1998 by Chiara Parlegreco. Stolen in 2012 and a replacement trophy donated by Milly Welsh.

SECTION 18. The “Frances Ann Merryman” Memorial Perpetual Trophy, donated by Beverly Abbott. To be presented annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Large Junior Hunter Division.

SECTION 19. The “Professional Horseman’s Association” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Maryland Horse and Pony Show. To be presented annually to the member recorded with the Association that was awarded first place in the MHSA Hunter Seat Medal Finals. This trophy must be won three times by the same member for permanent possession.

SECTION 20. The “Ana Bewitch” Memorial Challenge Trophy, donated by Janet A. Bradley. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the 3’3” Amateur Owner Hunter- Younger division. This trophy must be

won three times by the same owner for permanent possession. Stolen in 2012 and a replacement trophy donated by Milly Welsh.

SECTION 21. The “Second Hand News” Perpetual Trophy, donated by Wayne VanBrocklin. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Amateur Owner Hunter Division.

SECTION 22. The “Ancient Line” Perpetual Trophy, donated by Cool Meadows Farm and the Gowl Family, and awarded in memory of the horse Ancient Line. To be awarded annually to the horse recorded with the Association who acquires the highest number of points in the Amateur Owner Hunter 3’3” - Older Division.

SECTION 23. The “Certified Check” Memorial Challenge Trophy, donated by Janet A. Bradley. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Adult Amateur Hunter - Younger Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 24. The “Marcia Barr” Perpetual Trophy, donated by Carol Allen. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Adult Amateur - Older Division.

SECTION 25. The “Laura Pickett” Memorial Perpetual Trophy, donated by Leslie and Adam Persans. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest overall number of points in the Adult Amateur Hunter division.

SECTION 26. The “Billy Blitz” Memorial Trophy, presented as a Perpetual Trophy by Mr. Carl E. Shaffer, in memory of his famous hunter “Billy Blitz” will be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Hunter Divisions.

SECTION 27. The “Positive Returns” Perpetual Trophy, donated by Nicole Wood. To be awarded annually to the member recorded with the Association that receives first place in the MHSA Adult Amateur Medal Finals.

SECTION 28. The “MHSA Adult Amateur Medal Year End” Perpetual Trophy, donated by the Director Family. To be awarded annually to the member of the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the MHSA Adult Amateur Medal Division.

SECTION 29. The “Kanavas” Trophy, donated by Karolyn Rohr. To be presented annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points as a Second Year Green Hunter.

SECTION 30. The “Treasure Island” Memorial Challenge Trophy, donated by Connie Boyce Whitescarver. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the 1st Year Green horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Green Working Hunter Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 31. The “Oh So Sweet” Challenge Trophy, donated by Robin Schmuhl- Masino. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Pre-Adult Hunter Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 32. The “Promises In The Wind” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Charles T. Williams Family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Pony Jumper Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 33. The “Ferns Ruby” Challenge Trophy, donated by Raymond Coutley. To be awarded annually to the horse recorded with the Association who acquires the most points in the Children’s

Jumper division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 34. The “Rufus Gardner” Memorial Trophy, donated by the Nicholson Family and Rolling Acres Farm, to be awarded annually to the horse recorded with the Association who acquires the most points in the Combined Jumper division.

SECTION 35. The “Sin City” Challenge Trophy, donated by Quiet Haven Farm. To be awarded annually to the horse recorded with the Association who acquires the most points in the High-Performance Hunter division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 36. The “Carol Harris” Memorial Challenge Trophy, donated by her Friends. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association accumulating the highest number of points in the Pony Hunter Breeding division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 37. The “Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Gutman” Memorial Perpetual Trophy, donated by the Hubbard Family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony bred and foaled in Maryland recorded with the Association accumulating the highest number of points in the Pony Hunter Breeding Division. Retired and re- donated in 1994 by Richard J. Strauss. **Note:** Only shows that offer a full slate of pony breeding classes (*Broodmare, Foal, Yearling, 2-Year-Old, and 3-Year-Old*) will be used to tabulate the winner.

SECTION 38. The “Argyle” Perpetual Trophy, donated by the Finder family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the Thoroughbred horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Thoroughbred Hunter division.

SECTION 39. The “Maryland Pony Breeders” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Maryland Pony Breeders, Inc. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the MD Bred Pony recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the MD Bred Pony Performance Section.

SECTION 40. The “Marvin” Memorial Perpetual Trophy, donated by the Peterson Family. 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 rated shows (MHSA Horse of the Year Recipient).

SECTION 41. The “Halcyon Hawthorne” Perpetual Trophy, donated by the Schaefer Family. 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 rated shows (MHSA Pony of the Year Recipient).

SECTION 42. The “Perfect Parent” Perpetual Trophy, donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Bartko. To be awarded annually to the parent(s) of a member recorded with the Association who is chosen by the Bartko Family.

SECTION 43. The “Tulip Pond Farm” Challenge Trophy, donated by Daphne Ross. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Pre-Children’s Pony Hunter division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 44. The “Jean Tonkin Brinkley Memorial” Challenge Trophy, donated by Elizabeth Brinkley Sponseller. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the 3’ Pre- Green Hunter section. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 45. The “Lymerick” Memorial Trophy, donated by Turan Atay. To be awarded annually to the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the most points in the Adult Amateur Jumper division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 46. The “Old Guys” Challenge Trophy, donated by Lake View Farm. To be awarded annually to the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the most points in the Adult Amateur, Low Child/Adult, or Children’s Jumper divisions. If a horse accrues points in more than one

division, points not to be combined. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 47. The “MHSA Large Green Pony” Challenge Trophy, donated by Corgi Glen Farm. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Large Green Pony division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 48. The “W. Gary Baker” Memorial Perpetual Trophy, donated by friends of W. Gary Baker. To be awarded to the high point ‘A’ rated hunter from December Hunter Classic, Showplace Spring Festival, Maryland National Horse Show, Boumi Temple, and Loudoun Memorial Benefit Horse Show. Horse/pony must be MHSA lifetime recorded and owner must be a current MHSA member.

SECTION 49. The “Joe Darby” Memorial Perpetual Trophy, donated by Mike Rosser. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Green Conformation Hunter Division.

SECTION 50. The “Mark and Marshall” Challenge Trophy, donated by Alan and Jessi Lohman. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the 3’3” Performance Hunter Division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 51. The “Sin City” Challenge Trophy, donated by Quiet Haven Farm, LLC. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the High-Performance Hunter Division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 52. The “Nesbitt Family” Challenge Trophy, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Yale Silon in honor of Mary Nesbitt. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the 3’3” Pre- Green Hunter Division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 53. The “Wendelin” Challenge Trophy, donated by Felicia Russell. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Jr/AO Jumper Division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 54. The “Maizy Toltien” Challenge Trophy, donated by Ericka Caslin. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Low Children’s/Adult Amateur Jumper Division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 55. The “Pacifica” Challenge Trophy, donated by The Pickett Family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the 3’3” Large Junior Hunter Division. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 56. The “Swingtown” Challenge Trophy, donated by Quiet Haven Farm. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Adult Amateur Hunter 26 - 49 section. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

SECTION 57. The “Glena Wirtanen” Horsemanship Award, donated by Ericka Houlihan and Jessica Lohman. To be awarded annually to the MHSA member who exemplifies outstanding horsemanship skills through integrity, empathy, and extensive knowledge of horse welfare and safety, and acts as a positive role model and advocate of horsemanship in the community.

SECTION 58. The “Dan Short” Award, donated by friends of Dan Short. To be awarded annually

to the MHSA member who exemplifies exceptional dedication, sportsmanship, showmanship, and compassion. This award is open to a wide range of contributors, including riders, trainers, grooms, parents, grandparents, and anyone who positively impacts the show industry.

SECTION 59. The “Fox Creek Farm” Perpetual Trophy, donated by Fox Creek Farm. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Small 3’3” Junior Hunter Division.

SECTION 58. The “Kardinal” Perpetual Trophy, donated by Cedar Creek Farm. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Low Children’s Hunter Horse Division.

PART III - RETIRED TROPHIES

The “Grey Fox” Challenge Trophy, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Russell and Family. To be presented annually by a member of the Russell Family to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Green Hunter Pony Divisions. Retired in 1999 by Caitlin Lane.

The “Windy Willow Farm” Challenge Trophy, donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Hammond. To be presented annually by a member of the Hammond Family to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Large Pony Hunter Division. Retired in 1999 by Caitlin Lane.

The “P.H.A.” Trophy, to be presented annually to the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Jumper divisions. Retired in 2000 to the Stevens Family in memory of their daughter Allison.

The “Royal Mist” Memorial Challenge Trophy, donated by Mrs. Linda Piersol Bayley. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Regular Small Pony Hunter Division. Retired in 2004 by Samantha Schaefer.

The “Among The Stars” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Lane Family. To be presented annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Large Pony Hunter Division. Retired in 2004 by Branson Skinner.

The “Falling Weather” Challenge Trophy, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reynolds, in memory of the broodmare “Falling Weather”. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Thoroughbred and Other Than Thoroughbred Hunter Broodmare Breeding Divisions. Retired and re-donated in 1986 and 1994 by Joan Fox Miller. Retired in 2004 by Holly Hallek Patton.

The “Straus” Memorial Perpetual Trophy, presented by Mrs. Straus in memory of the great sportsman and officer of the Association, Henry L. Straus, will be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Small or Large Junior Hunter Division. (Stolen in 2012)

The MHSA Green Conformation Perpetual Trophy, donated by Rachel Kennedy and Miranda Scott. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the most points in the Green Conformation Hunter Division. (Stolen in 2012)

The “Woods Ghost” Challenge Trophy, donated by Ms. Lavinia Lee. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of overall points in the Adult Amateur Hunter Section. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession. (Stolen in 2012)

The “Elddire Farm” Perpetual Trophy, donated by Ms. Deane Lee Gutman. To be awarded

annually to the member owner of the Pony Broodmare recorded with the Association that acquires the greatest number of points in the Pony Broodmare Hunter Breeding Section. (Stolen in 2012)

The “Certified Check” Challenge Trophy, donated by Ms. Janet A. Bradley. 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. Retired and re-donated in 1995 by Daryl Insley. Retired in 2005 by Pam Titus.

The “Barry Lane - Radishes & Mint” Memorial Challenge Trophy, donated by Bobbie and Toby Gibbon. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the most points in the Regular/Conformation Working Hunter division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession. (Stolen in 2012)

The “Ross A. Kennedy” Memorial Challenge Trophy, donated by Ms. Mary Brighoff. To be presented annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Hunter Breeding Divisions. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession. Retired and re-donated in 1997 by Sallie J. Sexton. Retired in 2005 by John W. Kelly, Jr.

Persimmon Tree Farm Perpetual Trophy, donated by Carolyn Krome, awarded annually to the winner of the MHSA Hunt Seat on Horses Medal Finals. (Stolen in 2012)

Equestrian Pastimes Perpetual Trophy, awarded annually to the winner of the MHSA Adult Amateur Medal Finals. (Stolen in 2012)

The “Bruce Fales, Jr.” Memorial Challenge Trophy, originally donated by Ms. Joan A. Wilson. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association accumulating the highest number of points in the Other Than Thoroughbred Hunter Breeding Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession. Retired and re-donated in 1997 by Sally J. Sexton. Retired in 2005 by Anne M. Jones.

The “Speedwell Farm” Challenge Trophy, donated by Lezlie Reinhart. To be awarded annually to the horse recorded with the Association who acquires the most points in the Thoroughbred Yearling Division. Retired in 2006 by John W. Kelly, Jr. (Stolen in 2012)

The “Baileys Irish Cream” Challenge Trophy, presented by Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Rohr. This trophy will be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Small Hunter Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

The “Song ‘N Dance Man” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Trovato Family. To be awarded annually to 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. Retired and re-donated in 2003 by Pam B. Titus.

The “Skye Blue Walker” Challenge Trophy, donated by Anne M. Jones. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the horse bred and/or foaled in Maryland recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Non-Thoroughbred Hunter Breeding Division at shows held in the State of Maryland. To be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

The “Millpond Country Club Dues” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Butler Family. To be awarded annually to the member owner of the pony recorded with the Association that acquires the highest number of points in the Small Pony Hunter Division. This trophy must be won three times by the same owner for permanent possession.

PART V – THE GITTINGS HORSEMANSHIP AWARD

SECTION 1. The Maryland Horse Breeders Association, as part of its program to stimulate better horsemanship among the young riders of Maryland, will award appropriate trophies to the competitors that qualify for the Gittings Horsemanship Finals.

SECTION 2. The winner of the annual Gittings Horsemanship Finals competition will be presented the Gittings Trophy, donated by Martha S. Breedlove.

SECTION 3. The winning trainer of the annual Gittings Horsemanship Finals competition will be presented the Linky Smith Memorial Trophy, donated by Martha S. Breedlove.

PART VI – THE MHSA HUNTER SEAT FINALS AWARD

SECTION 1. A trophy will be presented annually by the Maryland Horse Shows Association to the winner of the MHSA Hunter Seat Finals Competition on Horses. Trophy donated by the Maryland Horse and Pony Show.

SECTION 2. A trophy will be presented annually by the Maryland Horse Shows Association to the winner of the MHSA Hunter Finals Competition on Ponies. Trophy donated by Maryland Horse and Pony Show.

PART VII—THE MHSA ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER SEAT FINALS AWARD

SECTION 1. A trophy will be presented annually by the Maryland Horse Shows Association to the winner of the MHSA Adult Amateur Seat Final Competition. Trophy donated by Nicole Wood in memory of Positive Returns.

SECTION 2. A trophy will be presented annually by the Maryland Horse Shows Association to the winner of the MHSA Adult Amateur Hunter Seat Year End Awards. Trophy donated by The Director Family.

PART VIII – THE MHSA CHILDREN’S PONY FINALS AWARD

SECTION 1. A trophy will be presented annually by the Maryland Horse Shows Association to the winner of the MHSA Children’s Pony Medal Finals. The “King of the Road” Perpetual Trophy donated by the Simcik Family.

PART IXa – THE JOHN A. WAGNER JR SPECIAL AWARD

SECTION 1. The John A. Wagner Jr Memorial Perpetual Trophy, punch bowl, donated by Mrs. Bradford Johnson and Mrs. Roxanne Rector will be awarded annually to the MHSA member who has in the opinion of the MHSA Board of Directors contributed the most to the betterment of the Association and its participants.

PART IXb – SHORT STOP CHALLENGE TROPHY – MD HORSE PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

SECTION 1. The “Short Stop” Challenge Trophy, donated by the Finnerty Family, will be awarded at the Maryland Horse Shows Association’s Annual Convention to the person who in the opinion of a special committee has consistently contributed to the betterment of our sport and our Association.

1. The person must be a member of the MHSA.
2. The person must have been active as either an owner, rider, trainer, handler or show official either currently or in the past.

3. The person must be or have been a legal resident of the State of Maryland.

PART X – ELIZABETH SOLTER EMERGING ATHLETE AWARD

SECTION 1. The “Elizabeth Solter Emerging Athlete” Memorial Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to a dedicated and knowledgeable young rider (USEF horse show age 15 – 30) who has demonstrated the enthusiasm, work ethic and aptitude necessary for success as a horseman. The award winner would have the talent and ambition to excel in the hunter/jumper industry; and must be capable of riding in the hunter, jumper, and equitation rings. Exemplary all-around performance: from riding, to horsemanship, to sportsmanship will be reviewed. The award winner will be someone who has a future as a rider in the sport, as well as a successful horseman who is viewed as a “good sport” among his/her peers. Must be a current member of the MHSA and in good standing. A \$1,000 cash bonus to be included to use as a scholarship for continued education, or in the case of a young professional, to go towards horse business-related expenses. The recipient must document and submit how the \$1,000 cash bonus was spent. Nominations to be accepted from the MHSA general membership. Winner to be chosen by a 3-person committee chosen by the President.

PART XI – BELFIELD FARM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

SECTION 1. The Belfield Farm Distinguished Service Award, donated by the Moore Family, will be awarded annually to the person who in the opinion of a special committee, appointed by the President, has shown exemplary lifelong service to the betterment of our sport and our Association.

PART XII – MARYLAND HORSE AND PONY OF THE YEAR AWARDS

SECTION 1. The Maryland Pony of the Year Award will be presented annually to the owner member who is a legal resident of Maryland to the most outstanding pony shown during the current year at MHSA rated shows. To be selected by a special committee appointed by the President. The committee shall consist of three (3) members that have no conflict of interest with the potential award winners. The pony must have shown at least five (5) times at an MHSA rated show. To be considered in selecting the winners are the pony’s average points per show, the competitions where the pony competed, and other determining factors. The winner shall be the pony that best represented the State of Maryland during the current show season.

SECTION 2. The Maryland Horse of the Year Award will be presented annually to the owner member who is a legal resident of Maryland to the most outstanding horse shown during the current year at MHSA rated shows. To be selected by a special committee appointed by the President. The committee shall consist of three (3) members that have no conflict of interest with the potential award winners. The horse must have shown at least five (5) times at an MHSA rated show. To be considered in selecting the winners are the horse’s average points per show, the competitions where the horse competed, and other determining factors. The winner shall be the horse that best represented the State of Maryland during the current show season.

PART XIIIa. - GLENA WIRTANEN HORSEMANSHIP AWARD

SECTION 1. To be awarded annually to the MHSA member who exemplifies outstanding horsemanship skills through integrity, empathy, and extensive knowledge of horse welfare and safety, and acts as a positive role model and advocate of horsemanship in the community. To be selected by a special committee appointed by the President. This committee will include the donors, Jessica Lohman and Ericka Houlihan, until that time in which they wish to no longer participate in the decision.

PART XIIIb. - DAN SHORT AWARD

SECTION 1. To be awarded annually to the MHSA member who exemplifies exceptional dedication, sportsmanship, showmanship, and compassion. This award is open to a wide range of contributors, including riders, trainers, grooms, parents, grandparents, and anyone who positively impacts the show industry. To be selected by a special committee appointed by the President. This committee shall include the close friends of Dan Short, until that time in which they wish to no longer participate in the decision.

RULE XXI – AMENDMENTS

The Rules may be amended, altered, added to or repealed and new Rules adopted by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Directors present at any duly constituted meeting of the Board of Directors.



MHSA REGIONAL PROGRAM

The Rules published herein are effective December 1st, 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. Safety Stirrup Rule- *Beginning December 1, 2025, no piece of equipment shall be attached to a saddle that has a rigid upward pointing projection, hook, or similar object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups. - MHSA will follow the guidelines of issuing proactive warnings during 2026 to ensure awareness. Beginning Dec. 1st, 2026, the rule will be enforced in the manner outlined within Hunter, Jumper, and Equitation prohibited tack or equipment.)*

ITEM 2. Reminder of Adult Pony rule, continuing from 2025 show season

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.

PART I – 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 (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). 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. Courses must include at least eight fences (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). 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 (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). 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 (See exemption at Part III,

Section 3.2). 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. Courses must include at least eight fences (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). 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. Courses must include at least eight fences (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). 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. Courses must include at least eight fences (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). **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 (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). No oxers are permitted. *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 (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2) .

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 (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2).

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 (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). 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. In addition, riders may not compete in any classes that are over 2' in height at the same show.**

Short Stirrup Equitation. Open to ponies ridden by a junior exhibitor who have not reached their 11th birthday by December 1st 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 classes that are over 2' in height at the same show.** 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 1st through 4th place toward the Merit Award. Champion and reserve champion points do not count towards Merit Awards. If either the Short Stirrup Equitation or Long Stirrup Equitation division has fewer than (4)four entries, they may be combined.

Mini Stirrup Equitation. Open to ponies ridden by a junior exhibitor who have not reached their 11th birthday by December 1st 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 1st through 4th 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 any classes that are over 2' in height at the same show.** 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 1st through 4th place toward the Merit Award. Champion and reserve champion points do not count towards Merit Awards. If either the Short Stirrup Equitation or Long Stirrup Equitation division has fewer than (4) four entries, they may be combined.

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 1st through 4th 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 18th birthday as of December 1st 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 18th birthday as of December 1st 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.

Equitation Tests From Which Judges May Choose, #s 1-23

Tests may be performed either collectively or individually, but no other tests may be used. Instructions must be publicly announced.

NOTE: In Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes, any exhibitor who does not participate in the testing is placed last of those competitors called back to test. Should more than one exhibitor fail to return for testing they will be placed at the judge's discretion. If exhibitors are called back collectively to test, they must remain in the ring until all exhibitors have completed the test. If riders are asked to be in the ring during the testing, riders must be able to watch the other competitor's test. Equitation tests must not have exhibitors trotting or cantering through in gate or out gate; any exhibitor choosing to trot or canter through the in-gate or out-gate must be eliminated. Obstacles jumped in an equitation test must have been included in the original course. Jumps must be jumped in the original direction unless otherwise specified.

1. Work collectively or individually at a walk, rising/posting trot, and/or sitting trot, and/or canter, *and/or demonstrate a two-point or half seat position at the walk or trot.*
2. Downward Transition Test:
 - d) Walk (4-5 steps)
 - e) Halt (4-6 seconds)
 - f) Halt and Back for (3-5 steps). When riders working collectively are asked to halt and then back, they should walk forward a few steps and halt again after backing and then proceed with any further instructions from the judge.
3. Question(s) regarding basic horsemanship, tack or equipment and/or conformation. The judge may ask question(s) that are appropriate for the level of expected skill of any given class or specifications.
4. Working either collectively, or individually, riders may demonstrate the lengthening or collection of strides on the flat at the walk, sitting or posting/rising trot and/or canter.

5. Figure Eight at the trot, demonstrating change of diagonals. In any Figure Eight movement, the rider should start at a center point at the halt. To finish the movement the rider is to return to the halt at same position as the point of commencement.
6. Figure Eight at the canter on the correct lead. In this movement, the rider will begin at the halt and demonstrate a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judges specify) and then restarted into a canter on the opposite lead in the center of the figure, then will proceed to the second circle on the opposite lead. The rider will halt in the center at the same point of commencement to finish the figure.
7. Jump a shortened course. The riders must jump all obstacles in the same direction of the original course unless the judge clearly states that a jump be attempted in the opposite direction of the original course. If the judge requests that a jump be used in the opposite direction it must be a vertical, and if there are ground lines, they must be correct. (See EQ 102.11).
8. Jump low obstacles at a trot as well as a canter. The maximum height of trot jump is determined as 6" lower than class requirements and is not to exceed 3' for horses and 2' for ponies. Oxers may be used as a trot jump in classes listed at 3'6" or higher.
9. Demonstrate a half- turn or a half-turn in the reverse. In all cases where a figure is requested between 2 jumps that requires a change of direction, the rider will not be charged for crossing their path nor will this count as a refusal between the obstacles.
10. Change leads on a line demonstrating simple or flying changes. The simple change is whereby the horse is brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judges specify) and then restarted into a canter on the opposite lead. The flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension.
11. Figure Eight at the canter demonstrating flying changes of leads. Like all Figure Eight movements, the rider is to first halt at a center point. The flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension. The rider will halt in the center at the same point of commencement to finish the figure.
12. Collection of strides between 2 fences. It is recommended that a line chosen for this test be not less than 70'.
 - a. For safety purposes, judges may only ask for additional strides to be added and must not ask riders to leave out a stride.
13. Work collectively or individually at the walk, posting/rising trot, and/or sitting trot, and/or canter without irons. In any case where riders are asked to perform without irons they must be allowed to walk or halt and be afforded the opportunity to cross their irons if they wish.
14. Execute serpentine at a trot and/or canter on the correct leads. If trotting, the rider is to demonstrate the changes of diagonals at the center points of the figure, if cantering, the rider should demonstrate the simple or flying changes of lead in the center of the figure. The simple change whereby the horses are brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judges specify) and then restarted into a canter on the opposite lead.
15. Canter on the counter lead on the flat. For the purposes of Hunt Seat Equitation on the flat, a counter canter is defined as a balanced canter on the outside lead. If working collectively, no more than 12 riders may counter canter at one time. Riders must complete one full revolution around the arena in each direction.
16. A canter on the counter lead may be used on the approach to a jump. For the purposes of Hunt Seat Equitation over fences, the counter canter is designed to improve balance and suppleness. When utilizing this test, rider may be asked to:
 3. Approach a single jump on a counter lead. This test requires riders make at least ONE turn

- or bend of a course of not less than 90* on the counter lead.
4. Demonstrate a counter canter between 2 jumps on the course. For this test, the rider upon landing off the first jump can choose from the following acceptable options:
 - If the rider lands firstly on the inside lead, they may demonstrate a simple or flying change of lead before cantering through the first 90* turn and continue to hold the counter lead to the next jump. Either the simple or flying change is acceptable.
 - If the rider lands firstly on the outside lead, they may continue to hold the outside lead to the next required obstacle.
 - A judge cannot require a rider to land on the counter lead.
 17. Demonstrate a turn on the forehand done through the halt.
 18. Demonstrate a turn on the haunches done from the walk.
 19. Demonstrate Shoulder-in, Shoulder-out, Haunches-in, Haunches-out, Half pass or Leg Yield at either the walk or the sitting trot.
 20. Hand Gallop. A hand gallop may be used either when riders are working collectively or individually on the flat (no more than 12 riders may hand gallop at one time) and it may also be used on the approach to a jump. The rider must be in a half-seat when executing the hand gallop. A hand gallop may not be requested into or out of a related distance line.
 21. Ride without stirrups over fences. The riders must be allowed to remove the irons from the saddle or cross them if they wish.
 22. Demonstration ride of approximately one minute. Riders must advise the judge(s) beforehand what ride they plan to demonstrate.
 23. Change horses. (Note: this is the equivalent of two tests.) Riders will only change horses for Championship classes. Riders will not be asked to ride a different horse unless they have ridden the course on their own horse first.
 - c) When a swap of horses is requested, the rider must be given a minimum of 90 seconds to do a brief flat and jump no more than two (2) schooling jumps.
 - d) Riders may be requested to jump a previous course or a portion of the previous course. Tests 1–22 shall not be included even if included in the former course

MHSA Medal Classes

1. Application to hold any of the medal classes must be filed with the MHSA prior to publication of the prize list.
2. The results of each medal 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.
3. If there are 40 or more entries the class must be divided by every other number, by height of horse or age of rider.
4. Medal classes held at shows less than 15 days prior to the final's competition shall count towards qualification for the next year's final.
5. Entries for each annual final shall close five (5) days before the date of the final's competition.

SECTION 1. Gittings Horsemanship Class

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 a first place, during the show year. Points to be scored 5, 3, 2, 1 regardless of the classification of the show.

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. Riders shall be judged on seat and hands and guidance and control of the mount thru 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, riders 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.

- a. Once qualified for the finals competition, the contestant shall be ineligible for further competition in the class for the current year.
- b. Exhibitors who lose their Junior status as for December 1st 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.
- c. 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.
- d. The Gittings class cannot be combined with any other division, class or MHSA Medal classes.

SECTION 2. 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. **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 not compete in any other MHSA Medal Finals in the same year except the MHSA Low Children's Horse Medal Final.** 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 (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). 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 1st 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 and the VHSA Children's Pony Medal class. To qualify for MHSA Children's Pony Medal Finals, riders must be a member of MHSA. A rider's pony for the finals must have a MHSA or USEF Pony measurement card.
 - a. Exhibitors may not ride in both the MHSA Children's Pony Medal and MHSA Hunter Seat

on Ponies at the same show.

SECTION 3. MHSA Hunter 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 members or pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee.
 - a. Exhibitors who lose their junior status as of December 1st shall not be eligible to compete in the MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses classes qualifying classes held after the finals competition during that year.
 - b. Exhibitors may not ride in both the MHSA Hunter Seat on Horses and MHSA Hunter Seat on Ponies at the same show.

SECTION 4. 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. *In addition, any Adult Amateur MHSA member who wins a National or State medal at 3', will automatically qualify to compete in the MHSA Adult Amateur Medal Finals in that same competition year.*

1. Class Specifications. Open to Senior Amateur riders on a horse. To jump 8 or more hunter type fences 3' in height (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). The course must contain an oxer, 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. The judges will then select at least one fourth of the class, but not less than six contestants, if available, to show at the walk, trot, and canter. The same horse must be shown in all phases of the class. Martingales are prohibited in the flat phase. Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. Judges may require additional tests such as those found in the MHSA Rule book in the Equitation division. **To fill a class, 3 entries must complete the course. Riders may not show in any classes where fences exceed 3'3".**

SECTION 5. MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal

To qualify for the final competition in this event the contestant must be in the top 30 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. Exhibitors are required to show all working gaits in both directions as well as lengthening of stride at all working gaits in each direction. The sitting trot should be a working sitting trot. Counter canter in both directions is required and no more than 12 riders may counter canter at one time. The judge may request additional tests on the flat as a group or individually. Martingales are prohibited. Class to be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout. **Three (3) exhibitors are required to fill and complete the**

class. To qualify for the MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal Finals, riders must be a member of MHSA. Those competing at the Finals need to be USEF/USHJA members or pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee.

- a. The MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal Class can be combined with the VHSA/EMO Junior Championship Equitation on the Flat Class.
- b. Exhibitors who lose their junior status as of December 1st shall not be eligible to compete in the MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal classes qualifying classes held after the finals competition during that year.
- c. MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal class can be held at Regional Shows Those competing at the Finals need to be USEF/USHJA member or pay a USEF/USHJA non-member fee.

SECTION 6. 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. 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.**

1. 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 (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). 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 any classes (hunter, jumper, equitation) 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

SECTION 7. 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 18th as of December 1st 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 (See exemption at Part III, Section 3.2). 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 (hunter, jumper, equitation) 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:

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 Medal Finals' Specifications

SECTION 8. View Specs for the following MHSA Finals in the Rated section of the MHSA Rulebook:

Junior Medal on the Flat, Hunt Seat on Horses, Gittings Horsemanship, Adult Amateur Medal, and the Children's Pony Medal.

SECTION 9. 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 25 riders to be invited to the finals. 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).
2. 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.

SECTION 10. 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 25 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.

SECTION 11. Jumper Specifications

Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper. Open to junior exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday by December 1st of the current competition year and Senior Amateur exhibitors who have reached their 18th birthday by December 1st 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 IV (Optimum Time).
 2. Jumpers under .90m can no longer have in and outs.
 3. **ALL** Jumper classes under .75m **MUST** be based on **optimum time and faults**. A rider/horse can be faulted for going too fast.
 4. **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.
 5. Finals will be held at the MHSA Regional Finals. You must be a valid MHSA member to qualify for finals.

PART II – SCHOOLING RULES

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
 12. FEI approved safety jump cups must be provided for and used on schooling jumps.

SECTION 5. 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.

14. FEI approved safety jump cups must be provided for and used on schooling jumps.

PART III HORSE SHOW REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1. Competition Applications and 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 based per singular calendar date: A one-day show is \$100, a two-day show (encompassing one calendar date) is \$125, and a three-day show (encompassing one calendar date) is \$150. 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 (see prize list requirements below). 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 and has the necessary credentials for the specified divisions. 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.
 - m) FEI approved safety jump cups are required for the back rail of all oxers in the competition ring. In addition, these jump cups are required for schooling ring standards.
 - n) If stabling is offered, one sharps container per every 50 occupied stalls must be available and easily visible.
 - o) Water must be accessible for horses shipping in and stabled on the property (where applicable).
 - p) Restrooms (portable or permanent) must be provided- 1 restroom per 50 horses entered.

SECTION 2. Prize List Requirements

The prize list of every Regional competition must contain the following:

1. Name of the Horse Show
2. The exact date and location of the horse show
3. The names of Officiating Judges and MHSA Steward
4. The names of Competition Officials
5. The name of the Course Designer or responsible person
6. The name of the Veterinarian or if on call, the number where he or she can be reached. If this information is not known, a statement as to where this information will be posted at the horse show.
7. Statement as to entry fees, prizes offered in each class
8. A tentative schedule of classes
9. Statement as to which of the MHSA Medal classes are to be offered
10. Statement concerning a particular system of judging to be used, how championships will be awarded, and how ties will be broken

SECTION 3. Class Specifications

1. All classes offered at Regional competitions for which specifications appear in the MHSA Rule Book must be governed by current specifications. To cover any omission, it is recommended that

the prize list contain the following statement in a prominent position: ***“EVERY CLASS OFFERED HEREIN WHICH IS COVERED BY THE RULES AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CURRENT MHSA RULE BOOK WILL BE CONDUCTED AND JUDGED IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH.”***

2. Show management reserves the right to decrease any course to 6 (six) or 7 (seven) jumps in the event of extreme weather conditions or to address the length of day and daylight hours. If such a change is made, the Steward must be notified and it must be documented in the Steward’s report.

SECTION 4. 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 5. 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 change will result in the competition dues being forfeited. The procedure and rules regarding refunds for horse shows are noted below in Section 7.

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 7. Cancellation Of Horse Shows

A MHSA show member may cancel a Recognized Show by providing the MHSA with written notice cancellation. If notice is received at least sixty (60) days prior to the first day of the show, 75% of the dues will be refunded. If less than sixty (60) days' notice is given, no refund will be allowed, and all dues paid for the canceled show shall be forfeited. If the cancellation is due to severe weather or other acts of God, the dues paid will be refunded to the show member less a \$25.00 office fee. Any other dues, fees, fines, or indebtedness owed to the MHSA is not affected by this provision.

SECTION 8. Revocation Of Show Membership

A MHSA show member may be revoked by the Board of Directors if such show fails to abide by the by-laws and rules of the MHSA for holding and conducting horse shows; or without reasonable cause, fails to hold its show(s) on the date(s) assigned to it. See also Article IV, Section 3(c) and (f) of the by-laws.

SECTION 9. Violations

A Recognized MHSA Regional Show will be subject to penalty by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee for violation of the rules. Violations shall be, but are not limited to, the following:

Failure to:

30. Conduct a show in accordance with Association rules.
31. Failure to obtain the required insurance.
32. Use brief standard specifications for classes.
33. Print the current MHSA page in the prize list and catalog.
34. Print the Association certificate on each entry blank.
35. Secure signature of exhibitor or his/her representative and trainer on entry blank
36. Provide qualified medical personnel with no other duties, and suitable medical equipment.
37. Have animals measured if required by rules.
38. Pay its indebtedness to the Association.
39. Pay premiums and other indebtedness within 60 days.
40. File lists of winners, names, and addresses of all exhibitors and of all horses and ponies and owners, mailed within ten (10) days.
41. Hold a show if a date has been requested and granted unless notice shall have been given the Association in writing sixty (60) days prior to the date.
42. Report the disqualification of a person at a show.
43. Present correct Hunter and Jumper courses.
44. Honor valid contracts with judges, stewards, other show officials and employees. Provide convenient and ample water facilities.
45. Provide adequate and sanitary toilet facilities.
46. Provide proper schooling and exercise areas.
47. Furnish the Association entry blanks, judge's card, class sheets and any other documents as requested.
48. Obtain the permission of the Association at least 30 days prior to the competition to add a division, not offer an approved division or change the rating of an approved division.
49. Hold a show at the location stated on the date application unless a request to change the location is submitted to the Association at least 60 days prior to the show date, and permission is duly given.
50. The use of Non-Recognized Judges in those divisions covered by the rules.
51. The use of judges in divisions in which they have not been enrolled.
52. The use of Non-Recognized Stewards.
53. The listing of a judge or steward in the prize list or catalog before the invitation to serve has been

accepted.

54. Permitting persons or horses not in good standing to participate in any manner.
55. Permitting acts which are improper, intemperate, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, or contrary to the rules of the Association.
56. Acting in a manner prejudicial to the best interests of the Association.

SECTION 10. Penalties

A Recognized Show found guilty of a violation shall be subject to penalty including, but not limited to the following:

5. Fine.
6. Censure. A vote of Censure shall be listed under the defendant's name in the Secretary's Record of Penalties. If found guilty of a further violation the defendant shall be liable to a heavier penalty than for a first offense.
7. Suspension for any period from the list of Recognized Shows
8. Expulsion from membership in the Association

PART III 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:

Children's Hunter	Adult Amateur Hunter
High Children's/High Adult Hunter	Low Children's Hunter Horse
Low Adult Amateur Hunter	Pre-Children's/Adult Hunter
Small/Medium Pony Hunter	Large Pony Hunter
Low Children's Pony Hunter	Low Hunter
Working Hunter	Thoroughbred Hunter
Short Stirrup Equitation (merit)	Short Stirrup Hunter
Mini Stirrup Equitation (merit)	Pleasure Horse
Long Stirrup Equitation (merit)	Pleasure Pony
Lead Line Equitation (merit)	Junior Equitation
Adult Equitation	Children's/Adult Jumper
.60m Open Jumper	.65m Open Jumper
.70m Open Jumper	.75m Open Jumper
.80m Open Jumper	.85m Open Jumper
.90m Open Jumper	.95m Open Jumper

1. Winners shall be those horses or ponies which score the highest number of points in their classifications at MHSA Regional Horse Shows from December 1st of the prior year through October 31th of the current year, except that all points won at any show which begins prior to October 31th shall count for the show year in which such show began.
2. No credit will be given in classes if less than three entries have shown and placed.
3. 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.

4. In the Hunter/Jumper divisions, year-end award 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. Jumper and Equitation points are calculated using the same system of base points and adding one point for each entry shown in each individual class.

5. When calculating Champion and Reserve at MHSA Regional Shows, only the first six ribbons from each class count towards Championships, regardless of the number offered (HU154.3a). The Champion and Reserve Champion titles can only be 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, exception Pleasure Horse and Pony. In addition to these points, only these four horses will receive full points for ribbons won in one Under Saddle class in terms of determining section Champion and Reserve Champion (HU155). Credit towards show Championships will be given only for the first six ribbons when points are the determining factor. Ribbons have the same value even if less than the specified six places are awarded due to lack of entries. First Place...10 points, Second Place...6 points, Third Place...4 points, Fourth Place...2 points, Fifth Place...1 point, Sixth Place...1/2 point.

MHSA Regional Point Chart

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

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

MHSA Regional Classic Points

Placing	Points
1 st	20
2 nd	16

3 rd	14
4 th	12
5 th	10
6 th	8
7 th	6
8 th	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

1. 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.)
2. 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. MHSA will license both MHSA Recognized Hunter/Equitation Judges and MHSA Recognized Jumper Judges, beginning Dec. 1st, 2026.

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 application must be made on the official form provided for that purpose. 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 capable to observe as requested. Written approval by an Officer of the competition must be given prior to the start date.
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

(Note that all licensed officials must pay their annual MHSA membership in addition to the licensed officials' fee)

PART IV – ENROLLMENT

SECTION 1. General

7. Applications must be made on the appropriate official enrollment form, signed by the applicant, and accompanied by the required fee which is not refundable.
8. The Licensed Officials Committee, not the applicant, will send out reference questionnaires concerning the applicant to such persons listed as references by the applicant. 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.
9. No application will be considered unless and until a minimum of 3 reference questionnaires are returned from the licensed judges.
10. All performance evaluations must be received within 30 days from the completion of the horse show.
11. 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.
12. Upon expiration of any license, each applicant has five years before he/she must complete the learner judging requirements outlined in Part V for re-enrollment.

PART V – HUNTER/EQUITATION APPRENTICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

8. Must apprentice a minimum of six (6) days at three (3) separate MHSA hunter/jumper competitions
9. Must accompany a minimum of three (3) different MHSA/USEF Judges
10. Must judge at least two (2) Hunter Classics and two (2) Gittings Classes
11. Three (3) of the competitions must be managed by different management
12. Must receive three (3) positive apprentice performance evaluations
13. All apprentice performance evaluations must be completed and signed by the MHSA Judge with whom the apprentice was working.
14. Applicants MUST Attend ONE MHSA Judges clinic

PART V – JUMPER APPRENTICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

8. Must apprentice a minimum of four (4) days at two (2) separate MHSA hunter/jumper competitions
9. Must accompany a minimum of two (2) different MHSA/USEF Judges
10. Must judge at least two (2) days with Optimum Time classes held and at least two (2) days with automated timers and timing box
11. Two (2) of the competitions must be managed by different management
12. Must receive two (2) positive apprentice performance evaluations
13. All apprentice performance evaluations must be completed and signed by the MHSA Judge with whom the apprentice was working.
14. 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
If an official has both an MHSA Hunter/Equitation and MHSA Jumper license, they must officiate at (at least) three (3) MHSA licensed hunter/jumper competitions every three (3) years for EACH discipline/license.
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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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

1. 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 which has additional Guidelines which should be considered when officiating at a competition.
2. 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. Offenders could be subject to a fine or administrative penalty at the discretion of the President or his/her designee.
3. 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:

- e. The report must include any offenses or violations of the rules by the competition or any exhibitors.
 - f. 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 Association, 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.
4. 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:

1. Must be a current MHSA member in good standing;
2. Must have attained the age of 21 years;
3. 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:

A. 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.
- B. **Clinics:**
- Applicants must attend one (1) MHSA Stewards Clinic which will include the administration of a written practice test.
- C. **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.
- D. **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
 - Kathy Meadows
 - Hillary Gibbons-Neffs
 - Faith McKay-Alicea
 - Rand Thaw
- E. **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 9. MHSA Regional Special Awards Specifications

Challenge Trophies. *See USEF GR805 + HUI56*

- 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 10. 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 to 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 11. MHSA Regional Retired Special Awards

- a) **The “Miles River Moon Dance” Challenge Trophy**, donated by the Langfitt Family. To be awarded annually to 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 12. 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 13. 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 \$100 to \$500 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. The host show will pay MHSA \$5 per entry in the class, whether they are all

MHSA members or not.

Points will be awarded as follows towards the MHSA Regional Program for placing in the Derby:
1st- 50pts; 2nd- 40pts; 3rd- 35pts; 4th-30pts; 5th-25pts; 6th-20pts; 7th-15pts; 8th-10pts; 9th-7pts;
10th-5pts; 11th-3pts; 12th-2pts.