

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The Rules published herein are effective December 1st, 2025 and remain in effect except as superseded by any rule changes enacted by The Board of Directors or Executive Committee or by subsequent editions or supplements to the rule book.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 (When classes are combined, a horse may only be shown by one exhibitor in the combined class). 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. (When classes are combined, a horse may only be shown by one exhibitor in the combined class). 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 that 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 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 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. (When medal classes are combined, a horse may only be shown by one exhibitor in the combined class). **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. (When classes are combined, a horse may only be shown by one exhibitor in the combined class). **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
1st	10
2nd	6
3rd	4
4th	3
5th	2
6th	1.5
7th	1

8th	.5

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

MHSA Regional Classic Points

Placing	Points
1st	20
2nd	16
3rd	14
4th	12
5th	10
6th	8
7th	6
8th	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.

7. A Learner Judge is an Individual Senior/Senior Amateur Member, 21 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Eligibility Requirements for Judge Applicants:
    4. Must be a current MHSA member in good standing
    5. Must have attained the age of 18 years
    6. Must have participated in a minimum of six (6) MHSA hunter/jumper competitions within the past four (4) years in one of the following capacities:
        - Competitor
        - Trainer
        - Owner
        - Official
        - Competition Staff Member

PART III – 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

5. Applications must be made on the appropriate official enrollment form, signed by the applicant,

and accompanied by the required fee which is not refundable.

6. Once an application has been submitted, the Licensed Officials Committee Chair will reach out to the applicant, informing them of their acceptance into the program and providing them with a list of requirements and materials needed.
7. All performance evaluations must be received within 30 days from the completion of the horse show.
8. 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.

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

SECTION 2. Stewards. *See USEF GR1033*

5. The following are required responsibilities and duties of Stewards:
   a. Safeguard the welfare of the horse;
   b. Protect the interests of:
      1. Competitors by ensuring a safe and fair competition environment by consistently applying the Rules; and
      2. Competition management and judges by being available for rule interpretations and serving as a liaison between Licensed Officials, and Competition Management.
   c. When they become aware of a potential violation of MHSA rules, without waiting for a protest, investigate, and notify the appropriate individual or official, and, if not rectified, issue a yellow warning card and/or file a charge.
   d. Assist competition management to ensure that every effort is made to provide for a safe competition.
   e. Confirm that all judges are either licensed in the divisions to which they have been assigned and if not, report the alleged rule violation.
   f. Report on the suitability of the competition facilities in all aspects, including stabling. The steward must commence his/her duties early enough to deal with these matters.
   g. A steward should clearly understand that he/she has no authority in connection with the management or the judging of a competition.
   h. Additionally, stewards should reference the Checklist available on the website www.usef.org which has additional Guidelines which should be considered when officiating at a competition.
6. Measurement: Measuring all animals required to be measured as provided for in USEF rule book, Chapter 5 of the General Rules, Measurement of Entries and if necessary, return Measurement

cards to the MHSA.

a. Stewards are responsible for ensuring that measurements are conducted in accordance with the rules and that all required paperwork is completed in a legible manner.
b. Offenders could be subject to a fine or administrative penalty at the discretion of the President or his/her designee.

7. Forms: The following forms must be submitted in a timely manner to the MHSA (within ten (10) days after the last licensed day of the competition): Steward Report on the form furnished by the MHSA:
   a. The report must include any offenses or violations of the rules by the competition or any exhibitors.
   b. If the MHSA does not receive the completed report and/or attachments postmarked and/or electronically submitted within ten (10) days of the closing of the competition, the Steward will be fined a fee of $100. For the second offense and any offense thereafter in the same competition year, said official will be fined $250. A third offense and any offense thereafter will result in an automatic suspension from office as Steward for 90 days, in addition to the fines.
   c. Failure to pay any fine within 30 days will result in a violation of rules and the Steward will be subject to an additional $100 late fee.
   d. If the Steward disputes that the report was not timely filed, he/she may appeal in writing to the MHSA within 30 days of receipt of the MHSA's notice of the fine. The appeal must be accompanied by a check for $50, payable to the Federation, which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld. The President and three members of the Licensed Officials Committee will consider the appeal and may waive a part or all of the fine upon finding of good cause of why the report was not timely filed and/or a finding that extreme hardship results from the automatic penalty. Note: only the fine may be waived. The rule violation will remain on the record for the official.
8. No steward may officiate for more than three (3) consecutive years at the same competition or at more than four (4) consecutive competitions run by the same governing body, Board of Directors or License.

PART II- Eligibility Requirements for Steward Applicants:

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

PART III- Application Requirements:

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

F. **Apprentice Training:**
   - Must apprentice a minimum of six (6) days at at least three (3) separate MHSA hunter/jumper competitions
   - Must accompany a minimum of three (3) different MHSA/USEF Stewards;

- Three (3) of the competitions must be managed by different management:
- Must receive three (3) positive apprentice evaluations;
- All apprentice evaluations must be completed and signed by the MHSA Steward with whom the apprentice was working.
- All practice measurement forms (5) must be completed and signed by the MHSA Steward with whom the apprentice was working.

G. **Clinics:**
- Applicants must attend one (1) MHSA Stewards Clinic which will include the administration of a written practice test.

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

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

J. **Supplemental Training:**
To include PowerPoint presentations, quizzes and other educational materials.

PART IV- Steward Maintenance Requirements:

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

SECTION 9. MHSA Regional Special Awards Specifications

Challenge Trophies. *See USEF GR805 + HU156*

a) A challenge trophy is a trophy, donated to or offered by a show or the MHSA which must be won a specified number of times under specific conditions. When originally placed in competition, it becomes the property of the show committee, or the MHSA as the case may be, and cannot be withdrawn by the donor.

b) Should a show or class be discontinued, or not held for a period of time, or cease to be a member of the Association, any un-retired challenge trophies offered at such show must be returned at the expiration of ten months to and become the property of the Association, to be awarded for further competition in a like class at another Member Show.

c) Parties interested in donating a trophy to the MHSA must submit a written proposal to the MHSA Board of Directors. The trophy must be a Challenge trophy, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors. Trophy must be made of sterling silver, pewter, crystal or bronze, unless

otherwise approved by the Board of Directors. A picture of the trophy should be sent to the MHSA for approval; picture can be sent via email or postal mail.

d) Parties interested in donating a trophy to the MHSA Regional Program must submit a written proposal to the MHSA Regional Committee. The trophy must be a Challenge trophy and it must be made of sterling silver, pewter, crystal, or bronze. All trophies must be able to be engraved. A picture of the trophy must be sent to the MHSA Regional Committee for approval. The cost of the proposed trophy and the initial engraving shall be paid by the person or party donating said trophy.

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

SECTION 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 Care 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.