

2024
MHJA Rule Book



President-Suz Bates-Colon
Vice-Presidents-Jennifer George & Nerice Gulino
Treasurer-Jennifer Hallmann
Secretary-Kerrin Chapman

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CONSTITUTION
Updated: May 1, 2024

Part 1-A ORGANIZATION NAME

The name of the organization shall be the
PROFESSIONAL EQUESTRIAN HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION, INC.
(hereinafter referred to as the Michigan Hunter Jumper Association or the "MHJA")
USEF is United States Equestrian Federation
MHSA is Michigan Horse Show Association
HJAM is Hunter Jumper Association of Michigan

PART 2-A OBJECTIVES

The Association is organized for the sole purpose of enhancing and stimulating the sport of riding and showing in Michigan, supported by the following objectives:

- a. To service, promote and protect the best interest of the association shows as well as the exhibitors who participate.
- b. To insure uniform and consistent standards in all association shows for the exhibitors.
- c. To make objective and fair rules governing competition and enforce the rules in relation to the objective benefit of the association shows and the exhibitor.
- d. To establish the association shows so that each individual show will provide the maximum in class opportunity to afford the exhibitor a worthwhile show trip.
- e. To assign dates and calendar shows to the best advantage of the individual exhibitor as well as the association management.
- f. To make every effort possible to help the association show managers have the best possible show, with emphasis on assisting the association stable owners and exhibitors, as well as creating and promoting high spectator interest.
- g. To promote good sportsmanship among exhibitors and spectators alike.
- h. To encourage the individual exhibitor by the association providing special awards for the total season's performance. The high score awards will be presented at an annual dinner which honors the accomplishments of the winning exhibitors, stimulating and promoting the association in its entirety.
- i. To promote continuing education by providing opportunities such as a competitive scholarship program.

PART 3-A MEMBERSHIP

The individual membership of the association shall be composed of the following:

Sec. 1. Junior Members: Those persons who have not yet reach their 18th birthday. For show purposes the age of an individual on December 1st shall be maintained throughout the entire next calendar show year. Persons born on December 1st shall assume the greater age on that date. These shall be Non-Voting members.

Sec. 2. Senior Members: Those persons who have reached their 18th birthday according to Part 3 Sec. 1. The Senior Membership is divided into two classifications:

- a. **Professional Members** are those who are deemed professional by virtue of their status as considered by the MHJA. Offspring of professional members shall be considered professional on their 18th birthday. These shall be eligible to become Voting Members. The membership status of the spouse of a professional member shall be reviewed individually. For a change of status see Article 4-A.
- b. **Adult Members** are those persons who after their 18th birthday as defined in Part 3-A. Sec 2. have not engaged in any of the following activities which would make him/her a professional. These shall be Non-Voting members. There must be no uncertainty regarding his/her status.
 1. Accepts remuneration for riding, driving, training, schooling or conducting clinics or seminars.
 2. Accepts remuneration for giving instruction in equitation or horse training. (Persons acting as counselors at summer camps, who are not hired in the capacity of riding instructors, are excluded and persons giving instruction to the handicapped)
 3. Gives instruction to any person who rides, drives or shows any horse and/or trains a horse for which activity another person will receive remuneration for this activity.
 4. Accepts remuneration for selling horses/ponies, acts as a paid agent in the sale of horses/ponies or take horses/ponies on consignment for the purpose of sale or training other than those owned wholly or in part

by him/her.

5. A person whose Adult status is in question need not be a current member of the MHJA. The signature of a person on an entry blank at a MHJA approved show compels the signatory to follow and accept the By-Laws and Rules of the MHJA, and hence the decisions of the Voting Membership, the governing body of the MHJA
6. An Adult Amateur who competes for a person OUTSIDE of his/her family may compete a maximum of one horse not owned by rider or his/her family, in jumper sections and a maximum of one horse not owned by the rider or his/her family in the hunter sections, in classes not restricted to Adult Amateurs.

PART 4-A THE VOTING MEMBERSHIP

There shall be a Voting Membership consisting of a minimum of twelve active professional members.

Sec.1. Appointments to the Voting Membership: To be appointed to the Voting Membership you must be an active professional member of the MHJA. Voting members must be current MHJA members “in good standing” for the seasons they serve as a Voting Member. Voting Members must attend the Professional Meetings for two years and support the Association. Voting Members will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting (7a Sec2) by the present Voting Membership. New Voting Members are subject to approval by a written vote of the current Voting Membership (after they’ve fulfilled the criteria as set forth in PART 7-A)

Sec.2. Duties of the Voting Membership: The Voting Membership shall have charge and control of the administrative affairs, funds and the properties of the association. The Voting Membership shall have the responsibility of making decisions in all matters pertaining to the association. The decision of the Voting Membership is final.

Sec.3. Meetings of the Voting Membership: The Voting Membership shall hold, if possible, regular monthly meetings, at a time and place fixed by the association President. Special meetings shall be called by the President whenever he deems that such a meeting is required. Notice of special meetings shall be given to all members of the Voting Membership by telephone, mail, or e- mail at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled date of such meeting.

Sec.4. Attendance of the Voting Membership: Voting Members may lose voting privileges for one meeting cycle if they miss two meetings within the yearly meeting cycle. Voting membership will be revoked if three meetings are missed within the yearly meeting cycle. Loss of voting privileges and/or voting membership will be subject to a written vote of the Voting Membership. MHJA professionals whose membership is revoked will need to attend the MHJA Meetings for one (1) year without voting privileges. After this time, they will be reviewed, and a majority vote of the existing Voting Membership will be needed to reinstate them as Voting Members. Voting Members are allowed attendance via Zoom to one meeting per calendar year in addition to January and February meetings.

Sec.5. Quorum: Six members of the Voting Membership shall constitute a quorum of the Voting Membership. Such a quorum may transact any business of the Voting Membership. In order to amend an existing Rule or Article, a two-thirds majority of the Voting Members present and voting at the meeting is required, provided that the proposed change has been presented, in the form of a motion, at a previous meeting, or has been emailed to each Voting member at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date. Without prior presentation or written notice, a two-thirds majority vote of the entire Voting Membership is necessary to amend a Rule or Article. It is suggested that all voting on matters of importance be done by written ballot and any Voting member may request a written ballot for any vote.

PART 5-A OFFICERS

Sec.1. In General: The Officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected by a majority vote of the Voting Membership. The Officers, so elected, shall serve for a two-year term and their term of office shall begin at the close of the Annual Meeting.

Sec.2. The President: Shall preside at all meetings of the Voting Membership and shall have the responsibility of making all appointments, to all committees, so designated by the Voting Membership. The President shall be the chief administrative executive of the Association and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Sec.3. The Vice President: There shall be a first Vice-President and second Vice-President. The first Vice-President shall assist the President in all matters pertaining to the administrative duties and shall conduct meetings and other duties in the absence of the President. If the President resigns or dies before his term of office expires, the first Vice-President shall automatically succeed him for the balance of the year.

Sec.4. The Secretary: The secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings of the Association. The Secretary shall oversee or delegate the following responsibilities: correspondence, membership data, the records and other

documents of the Association, keeping the Treasurer informed about new members, resignations and changes in classifications, and shall notify professional members of all professional meetings of the MHJA at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting. The Secretary shall oversee the updating of the MHJA Rule Book and its posting on the MHJA website. He shall serve as a member of the Rules, Standards and Grievance Committee. The Clerk shall assist the Secretary.

Sec.5. The Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Association and shall make expenditures in accordance with the budget and as authorized by the Voting Membership. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all receipts and disbursements, furnishing a report of this account to the Voting Membership at each meeting and shall serve as chairman of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall assume custody of and accountability for any and all types of property which the association may own at the time. The Treasurer shall oversee or delegate, collect dues, notify delinquent members and keep the Secretary informed of all delinquencies. The Clerk shall assist the Treasurer.

Sec.6. Board of Directors: The MHJA Officers shall make up the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are responsible for insuring that reasonable care is taken in administering the affairs of the Association.

Sec.7. Officer Meetings: Officer meetings are closed to the membership unless the Officers give specific permission for a person to attend.

PART 6-A COMMITTEES

Sec.1. Finance Committee: The Treasurer shall serve as chairman of the Finance Committee and may select two other members to serve with him as needed. This committee shall serve as a financial fact finding and advisory committee and shall advise the Voting Membership on all matters pertaining to the association's business affairs. This committee is empowered to approve unbudgeted expenditures that may be requested by an officer or committee chairman. Such expenditures may not exceed \$200.00 at one time.

Sec.2. The Nomination Committee: Each year the Nominating Committee will consist of the Voting Membership.

Sec.3. The Show Committee: The Horse Show Committee shall consist of the Voting Membership.

Sec.4. Rules, Standards and Grievance Committee: Each year the Voting Membership shall serve as committee members. The committee shall be large enough that any horse show several members will be present. The purpose of the committee is to clarify MHJA Rules and to work with the horse show management to handle any problems that arise in relation to MHJA Recognized Horse Shows or MHJA Rules.

Sec.5. The Scholarship Committee: The Scholarship Committee shall be made up of a Chairperson and at least three (3) other members. They will be responsible for review all scholarship applications. They will submit their recommendations to the Voting Membership. The Voting Membership shall vote to determine the scholarship recipients.

PART 7-A VOTING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Sec.1. The meeting will be held at a time and place fixed by the President of the Association.

Sec.2. There will be at least two (2) fall meetings: one to nominate and the second to elect new officers. New officers shall assume their duties at the Annual meeting which is to be held in January or February of each year. The purpose of this meeting is to elect new members to the Voting Membership, receive reports of the committee chairmen and reports of the officers.

Sec.3. Before a new professional member will be invited to a meeting, the professional member must submit two (2) recommendations from current Voting Members to the Voting Membership. Final approval to be made by the Voting Membership.

PART 8-A AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Voting Membership present and voting at the meeting, provided that the proposed change has been presented, in the form of a motion, at a previous meeting, or has been emailed to each Voting Member at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date. Without prior presentation or written notice, a two-thirds majority vote of the entire Voting Membership is necessary to amend a Rule or Article. It is suggested that all voting on matters of importance be done by written ballot and any Voting Member may request a written ballot for any vote.

PART 9-A STANDING RULES

Order of Business: Call to Order, Reading of the Minutes and Approval, Report of the Secretary, Report of the Treasurer, Report of the Committees, Old Business, New Business.

PART 10-A CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct is to be posted at the Show Secretary's stand at each MHJA Horse Show. The MHJA Code of Conduct is written to support its constitution, specifically Part 2-A Objectives. The Association is organized for the sole purpose of enhancing and stimulating the sport of riding and showing in the State of Michigan, supported by the following objectives:

- a. To service, promote and protect the best interest of the association shows as well as the exhibitors who participate.
- b. To insure uniform and consistent standards in all association shows for the exhibitors.
- c. To make objective and fair rules governing competitions and enforce the rules relative to the objective benefit of the association shows and the exhibitor.
- d. To establish the association shows so that each individual show will provide a maximum of class opportunity to afford the exhibitor a worthwhile show trip.
- e. To promote good sportsmanship among exhibitors and spectators alike.

The MHJA is founded on the solid principles of sportsmanship and competition. It endeavors to provide exhibitors and their families with a worthwhile, fair, and positive experience. The MHJA also respects the right of the equine professionals to work/ train/show and educate their clients at MHJA shows.

MHJA members believe that sportsmanlike and ethical behavior must be demonstrated to both equine and human competitors. By applying for membership in the MHJA, or entering a MHJA sanctioned event, the individual agrees to the following:

- a. Will treat other members, non-members competitors, their guests and their families with courtesy and respect at all times.
- b. Will refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct (which includes actions, gestures, or speech) in the presence of other members, professionals, non-member competitors, and their guests or families.
- c. Will refrain from the use of profanity in the presence of other members, professionals, non-member competitors, and their guests or families.

Equine professionals must recognize the level of esteem and importance they carry in the minds of their clients. A riding instructor/coach/trainer must be a good mentor and teach by excellent example and qualities and characteristics of a true horseman. Often, the equine professional is more than a mentor, they play an integral role in the development of their clients, particularly their younger riders. It is not a path to be taken lightly, but with care, thoughtfulness, and intelligence.

In addition, by accepting membership and working as professionals within the MHJA organization, professional members further agree:

- a. To ensure that the welfare of the MHJA is paramount.
- b. To ensure that every horse shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion.
- c. To conduct all business affairs with integrity, sincerity, and accuracy in an open and forth right manner
- d. To carry out professional duties with due care and diligence.
- e. To act with integrity in financial dealings with clients, other professionals, and the public.
- f. To handle business and operations in a manner which enhances the image of the MHJA.
- g. To follow MHJA protocol to deal with problem resolution at horse shows.
- h. To instill confidence among clients and the public in the horse industry, avoiding any action conducive to discrediting it or membership in the MHJA
- i. To communicate with clients and the public in a professional and responsible manner.
- j. To develop their professional knowledge and skills.
- k. To provide services conscientiously and competently.
- l. To ensure that professional actions and general conduct help maintain the prestige of horse related activities and contribute to the quality and responsibility of the horse business.

All competitors, trainers, and parents agree to the MHJA Code of Conduct when they sign the entry form and participate in a MHJA Sanctioned event. It is important that all competitors, trainers, and parents understand that the MHJA expects its competitors, trainers and parents to uphold the MHJA Code of Conduct. Failure to act accordingly will initiate the Code of Conduct infraction Protocol as outlined below.

Code of Conduct: Protocol for Handling and Reporting Alleged Infractions

1. If a competitor, trainer, parent or official of the horse show witnesses an action which they believe is contrary to the Code of Conduct, that person shall approach a member of the Rules, Standards and Grievance committee or horse show management immediately. That member of the RSG committee or management should immediately assess the facts and determine what, if any action is required, based on the following.
 - a. If the alleged infraction is in the process and witnessed by the RSG or Management that official should attempt to defuse the situation. Once the situation has settled, the RSG or official shall complete the MHJA Official Incident Report Form (available at the horse show office) and document a full account of the alleged infraction of the Code of Conduct. The attending RGS or Official shall indicate on the incident report if they feel the incident was significant enough to initiate the sanctioning procedure, or if the incident was handled to the satisfaction of all parties.
 - b. If the alleged infraction has completed before the arrival of the RSG or Management that official must determine the situation to the best of their ability by interviewing witnesses and the person in question. The RSG official will complete the MHJA Official Incident Report Form. This incident serves to document the complaint only. In order, for the complaint to be reviewed as an official complaint it must be signed by three different exhibitors/trainers/or parents in addition to the RSG or official. In the event, that the witness is the horse show judge, no other witnesses are necessary, but the judge must sign the MHJA Official Incident Report.
 - c. As part of the resolution process a RSG member and horse show management shall disclose to the alleged offending party that an incident report will be filed and allow the offending party to read and sign the report. The offending party will have an area to comment on their actions within this report.
2. All complaints will be reviewed by the MHJA officers and presented to the MHJA voting members. The voting members will determine the validity of the alleged infraction. This review will normally be completed at the next scheduled meeting of the voting members. When the voting members determine an alleged infraction is valid, that decision will be retroactive to the date on the competed incident report.

However:

1. If a situation is producing an obvious violation(s) of the Code of Conduct, and or multiple offences are occurring in succession, a RSG member along with show management may make an immediate determination that an offense has occurred.
 2. If the offending party has previous valid incident reports on file or is not altering their conduct to reflect the MHJA Code of Conduct, the RSG member must contact the MHJA officers and apprise them of the situation.
 3. If necessary, the MHJA officers will call an emergency meeting of the voting members. The voting members can then immediately validate an incident report, and initiate the Protocol for Sanctioning Violations, i.e. - provide the necessary verbal and written warnings, and if necessary fine the offending person and disallow that person further participation in MHJA sanctioned events.
3. All offenses reviewed by the voting members and deemed legitimate will remain on file for a period of two (2) years from the date of occurrence. After a period of two (2) years, the offense is expunged from the offending party's file. Any other offenses(s) shall remain on record for its own two (2) year period.

Code of Conduct - Protocol for Sanctioning Infractions

1. If the alleged infraction of the Code of Conduct is deemed legitimate by the MHJA Voting Members the offending person shall be sanctioned as follows:
 - a. The first offense shall constitute a verbal warning that such action is not tolerated at MHJA functions. This verbal warning may have been given at the horse show in question. The Voting Members will decide if the actions of the RSG Committee or show management constituted the verbal warning and contact the offending person to inform them that the Protocol for Sanctioning Code of Conduct violations has been initiated.

- b. The second offense shall constitute a written warning that such action is not tolerated at MHJA functions.
- c. The third offense shall cause the MHJA to assess a fine in the amount of \$250.00 payable to the MHJA office prior to offender being allowed to attend any MHJA function as a spectator, exhibitor, trainer, or in any other capacity. If the fine is not paid within 30 days of notification that the alleged offense was deemed legitimate the person will be added to the MHJA website NOT IN GOOD STANDING list.
- d. The fourth and each additional offense committed during the two (2) year time period shall cause the MHJA to assess a fine in the amount of \$500.00 payable to the MHJA office prior to offender being allowed to attend any MHJA function as a spectator, exhibitor, trainer, or any other capacity. If the fine is not paid within 30 days of notification that the alleged offense was deemed legitimate the person will be added to the MHJA website NOT IN GOOD STANDING list.
- e. All fines collected for infractions of the Code of Conduct will be deposited in the MHJA Scholarship fund.

RULES

Rules which pertain to the classification, conduct and operation of competitions and to general matters affecting Exhibitors, Judges and Show Officials. A knowledge of the rules of any sport is required of each participant and the exhibitor at a Recognized Competition is in no way exempt from this responsibility. A complete knowledge of and compliance with the rules are essential and the exhibitor must be fully cognizant of all the rules as well as class specifications in the Divisions in which he or she shows.

It is obvious that however complete rules may be, they never can cover all possible situations which may arise. If a matter cannot be solved by interpreting the rules to the letter, the solution to be adopted by those responsible should lie in a principle, which follows as nearly as possible the spirit of the rules.

RULE 1-A: MEMBERSHIPS

CHAPTER 1. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Article 1 A. MEMBERSHIP: Individual Membership in the MHJA is open. Upon paid application to the MHJA an individual is entitled to the following:

- a. A Membership Card
- b. Eligibility to compete for Annual Championships
- c. Participate as a Non-Voting Member of the MHJA

The MHJA maintains the only official record of membership and winnings of equitation and/or Medal riders at MHJA Recognized shows:

1. A member "In Good Standing" must
 - a. Have submitted a completed Membership Application form and paid membership dues for the current show season.
 - b. Follow all of the MHJA rules and regulations.
2. Membership Application forms are available at the MHJA website (join online or print and mail) and at MHJA recognized horse shows.
3. Membership Application forms must be completed online, mailed to the MHJA Office, or be submitted to the show secretary at MHJA Recognized horse shows.
4. All Membership Applications must include payment when submitted.

Article 2-A. MEMBERSHIP DUES: The Annual dues for membership shall be \$50.00 for all.

Article 3-A. SHOW SEASON: The Association Show Year for all purposes shall be October 1st through September 30th

Article 4-A. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS

1. A Professional who has been inactive for a period of six months and desires to be re-classified as an Adult member, must notify the Association in writing. The Voting Membership will review the request. A first time professional, for less than five years would be immediately eligible to get amateur status reinstated. For all other professionals the approval of the voting membership is required. If approved, an Adult membership card

will be issued six months from the date of approval.

2. The offspring of Professional members who have reach their 18th birthday and desire to be re-classified as an Adult member, must notify the Association in writing. The Voting Membership will review the request and make a ruling.

Article 5-A. SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Failure to comply with the rules and by-laws of this Association and/or gross violations of the ethics of sportsmanship or any cause deemed by the Voting Membership to be detrimental to the Association and its objectives shall constitute cause for suspension and/or cancellation of membership. Suspension and cancellation require a majority vote of the Voting Membership, except for delinquent dues. Anyone owing money or writing checks with non-sufficient funds to the MHJA or any MHJA Recognized Show will be considered “not in good standing” and will be suspended from any MHJA activity until the balance is paid in full. In addition, their name will be posted on the MHJA website. A collection fee of \$40.00 will be charged for all non- negotiable checks. The term “not in good standing” defines any person who has been suspended or expelled from the Association.

Article 6-A. WEBSITE LINKS

Current MHJA members In Good Standing may apply to the Voting Membership for approval to be known as an Affiliate and to have a web link established between the MHJA website and a website established by themselves or their businesses. A fee of \$100.00 per show season will be charged to each Affiliate.

CHAPTER 2. HORSE SHOW MEMBERSHIPS

Article 7-A. RECOGNIZED SHOW: Show which is approved by the MHJA. These shows are classified as Regular Member Shows, Local Member Shows, Pony Shows and C-Circuit Shows. The show season shall be from October 1 through September 30.

1. **REGULAR MEMBER SHOW** is one which has been approved by the MHJA. Points awarded at Regular Member Shows in classes which are recognized by the MHJA will count toward the MHJA Annual Championships. Regular Member Shows may be of any duration of days but must be a minimum of two (2) days. The words “MHJA Regular Member Show” must be printed on the front cover of the Prize List. The mandatory classes required are listed in Article 46-A. The show dues for a Regular Member Show are \$175.00. The Banquet Fee for a Regular Member Show is \$150.00 (Rule 1-D Chapter 2)
2. **PONY SHOWS** may be of any duration of days. The words “MHJA Pony Show” must be printed on the cover of the Prize List. Points awarded at Pony Shows in classes which are recognized by the MHJA will count toward the MHJA Annual Championships. The mandatory classes required are listed in Article 48-A. The show dues for a Pony Show are \$100.00. The Banquet Fee for a Pony Show is \$150.00 (Rule 1-D Chapter 2)
3. **LOCAL MEMBER SHOWS** have no minimum day requirements. The MHJA Medal classes must be offered but points won in any other classes will not count toward the MHJA Annual Championships. The words “MHJA Local Member Show” must be printed on the front cover of the Prize List. The dues for a Local Member Show are \$75.00. The mandatory classes required are listed in Article 42-A
4. **C-CIRCUIT SHOWS** - A C Circuit Show is a minimum of one day duration. The words “MHJA C Circuit Show” must be printed on the front cover of the Prize List. The C Circuit will offer its own Hunter & Equitation divisions, Medal classes and Annual Championships. Each C Circuit show must offer the mandatory classes listed in Article 47-A. No other recognized MHJA classes may be offered. The C Circuit show dues are \$100.00. The Banquet Fee for a C Circuit Show is \$150.00 (Rule 1-D Chapter 2)
5. **SHOW DUES** - See **MHJA Horse Show ACCREDITING CONTRACT** for a list of all fees and options. All MHJA recognized shows will pay dues as follows: Regular Member Shows-\$175.00/ C-Circuit Shows-\$100.00/ Pony Shows-\$100.00.
6. **DUES FOR COMBINED SHOWS:** If a C Circuit and Pony Show are held at the same time, at the same facility, only one (1) Banquet Fee of \$150.00 will be charged. Dues for a C Circuit and Pony show are \$175.00. If a Pony and Regular Member show are held at the same time, at the same facility, then two (2) Banquet Fees (a total of \$300.00) will be charged. Dues for a Regular Member and Pony show are \$250.00. If a C Circuit, Pony Show, and Regular Member Show are held at the same time, at the same facility, then (2) Banquet Fees (a total of \$300.00) will be charged. Dues for a C Circuit, Pony Show, and Regular Member show are \$250.00.

7. **CANCELLED SHOWS** - All cancelled shows, excluding Local Member Shows, must pay their Banquet Fee of \$130.00 per show. They will not be required to pay show dues for the cancelled show. For shows held between May 1 and September 30, one cancellation of a show date is allowed before the show date is retired and is sent back to the Voting Membership for assignment. For shows held between October 1 and April 30, the show date may be cancelled an unlimited number of times without the show date being retired.
8. **DIVISIONS OFFERED AT ALL MHJA RECOGNIZED SHOWS:** The Junior/Adult Mini Medal, Beginner Divisions and Thoroughbred Division will be offered at all recognized MHJA outdoor shows (Regular Member, Pony & C Circuit). Championship will be accumulated at these shows and will count towards an annual championship in each of the following divisions: Thoroughbred Hunter, Beginner Adult Hunter, Beginner Junior Hunter, Beginner Adult Equitation O/F, Beginner Adult Equitation OTF, Beginner Junior Equitation O/F, and Beginner Junior Equitation OTF. The Junior/Adult Mini Medal will be offered as a Medal Ride-Off Finals Class. Please note that Beginner and Thoroughbred Divisions are considered “C” Circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the rulebook and they are held at shows other than “C” shows.

Article 8-A. SHOW DATE REQUEST and CRITERIA

1. **LETTER OF REQUEST:** A letter of written request for a new horse show date must be completed and received by the MHJA Office no later than September 1. The letter should include: date requested, type of show requested, where the show will be held, list of competition management (who has financial responsibility to the MHJA), and the show manager (who is the “on site” horse show manager).
2. **CHANGES:** Any approved Horse Show requesting a change in date, venue OR Management must submit a new letter of request within 30 days of horse show. This letter of request must be approved by a majority vote of the Voting Membership in order for the Show to continue to be recognized by the MHJA.
3. **FIRST TIME LETTERS OF REQUEST FOR SHOW DATES:** In addition to completing a letter of request, it is recommended that facilities who are requesting their first MHJA recognized horse show also include pictures of: the show rings, stabling areas, and other areas to be used by horse show participants. Also new applicants should include a written description of any applicable details of the facility. This additional information will allow the Voting Membership to accurately review all first time requests. For all first time requests, the Voting Membership will appoint two Voting members (not affiliated with the requesting horse show venue) to visit the facility and confirm that the facility is as they have represented in their new show date application and that the facility meets the horse show criteria as specified by the MHJA. This visit must be done and a report to the Voting Membership must be made prior to any approval vote for the proposed new horse show date.
4. **REVIEWING LETTERS OF REQUEST:** The MHJA Officers and Horse Show Committee will review all letters of request for horse show dates annually at an administrative meeting. The outcome of the meeting will be a tentative horse show schedule, including both available and existing dates. It will also include a list of all applicants who have been determined to have met MHJA criteria and who have requested dates or renewed dates. This tentative schedule will be presented to the Voting Membership for their approval.
5. **APPROVAL OF DATES:** To receive approval to host a MHJA recognized horse show date, the applying facility and Horse Show Management team must be approved by the MHJA Voting Membership. Approved Horse Show Managers must attend the MHJA Professional & Voting Membership meetings. The MHJA Voting Membership will approve a season’s Horse Show Calendar by majority vote on a written ballot. This vote will take place prior to December 1 of the application year, at a normal MHJA Voting Membership meeting. If more than one facility requests the same horse show date and meet the MHJA Criteria, a majority vote on a written ballot of the Voting Membership will determine who is approved for the date.
6. **NEWLY AVAILABLE DATES:** In the event that any MHJA show dates become available, a notice will be given to ALL MHJA Voting Members that a date has become available. Any interested Management may then submit a letter of request for the newly available date.
7. **HORSE SHOW CONTRACT:** A MHJA Accrediting Contract must be completed by Competition Management for all approved horse shows. This Contract must be sent to the MHJA Office, along with insurance forms, and Medical Technician license at least 30 days prior to the show date. If the Horse Show dues are not completely paid within two (2) weeks of the show date, the entire dues rate will be doubled.
8. **CURRENT HORSE SHOW MANAGER:** All first-time MHJA Horse Show Managers and all Horse Shows on probation

- must hire a MHJA Horse Show Manager to act as Steward or Co-Manager on all show days that have MHJA Recognized classes. The Horse Show Manager selected to function as Steward or Co-Manager must be approved by the Voting Membership to act in this role. The Steward or Co-Manager will be listed on the Prize List.
9. **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT:** ALL Horse Show Management interested in NEW dates MUST be current MHJA Voting Members.
 10. **CRITERIA FOR MHJA REGULAR MEMBER SHOW:** Must have successfully hosted a MHJA C-Circuit Horse Show and receive application approval from the MHJA Voting Membership indicating they have met all MHJA standards set forth in the MHJA Rules for conducting horse shows.
 11. **CRITERIA FOR MHJA C-CIRCUIT SHOW:** Must have successfully hosted a MHJA Local Member Horse Show and receive application approval from the MHJA Voting Membership indicating they have met all MHJA standards set forth in the MHJA Rules for conducting horse shows.
 12. **CRITERIA FOR MHJA PONY SHOW:** Must have successfully hosted a MHJA C-Circuit Horse Show and receive application approval from the MHJA Voting Membership indicating they have met all MHJA standards set for in the MHJA Rules for conducting horse shows.
 13. **CRITERIA FOR MHJA LOCAL MEMBER SHOW:** All first-time applicants must apply to host a MHJA Local Member Horse Show. All hosts of Local Member Shows must receive approval from the MHJA Voting Membership indicating they are able to meet all MHJA standards set forth in the MHJA Rules for conducting horse shows. In addition, first-time applicants must hire a Steward or Co-Manager (Article 8-A, #8)
 14. **SUCCESSOR:** In the case of “Competition Management” retiring, or no longer capable to act as “Competition Management”, the “show” may be handed down to a successor. A successor may be a family member that is an active professional and in good standing of the MHJA. If there is no family member, the date will go back to the MHJA Voting Membership.

Article 9-A. HORSE SHOW CALENDAR

The MHJA Show Calendar is set by the Voting Membership. Shows may be held from October 1 through September 30. Dates will be assigned in the following order: 1) Regular Member Shows 2) Pony Shows 3) C-Circuit Shows

Article 10-A. HORSE SHOW PROBATION

It is in the best interest of the MHJA and its collective membership to ensure that the quality of approved shows is consistently maintained each and every season. This includes, but is not limited to, the upholding of generally accepted standards in five areas: Management, Rules and Regulation, Maintenance, Safety and Professionalism. To this end, the MHJA has implemented a procedure whereby substandard conditions may be recognized and appropriately addressed.

All complaints regarding the conditions at approved shows will be given careful consideration, provided they are submitted to the MHJA in writing within 15 days of the member show in question. However, when three or more complaints, in the form of a letter, have been lodged against the same member show, the President will call an emergency committee, consisting of the MHJA President and three officers. This meeting will determine the veracity and seriousness of the complaints with which they have been presented. If the complaints prove to be well founded, a warning letter will be issued to the Competition Management of the show in question. The letter will specify the conditions that require correction and describe the measures that must be taken to do so. The Competition Management will have two (2) weeks to respond in writing, fully describing the measures that will be taken in order to comply with the MHJA. Failure to respond will result in the loss of that show date. The horse show in question will be placed on the agenda of the first post-show season meeting for review. At this time, a simple majority vote of the Voting Membership will put the competition management on probation for a period of two (2) years. The horse show will be carefully monitored, and members will be encouraged to submit evaluation forms. The show will again be reviewed at the first post season meeting, and if the show fails to meet MHJA standards, a simple majority vote of the Voting Membership will revoke the show date.

RULE 2-A DUTIES OF SHOW OFFICIALS

The term “SHOW OFFICIALS” shall include and refer to the following persons. Competition Management, Show Manager, Secretary, Rule, Standards and Grievance Committee and Judges.

Article 11-A. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT: Competition Management can be the same entity or individual as show management. Competition Management must register with the Professional Equestrian Hunter Jumper Association Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Michigan Hunter Jumper Association or the "MHJA" on the form provided by the Association. That registration names the party or parties financially responsible for the competition, i.e., the entity, person, or persons who will retain or disburse any profits and who will be responsible for the competition's debts and bear any losses. Date approvals are issued to Competition Management, and it is Competition Management which is responsible under the Rules and is entitled to their benefits, including the protection of comparable dates. Failure to identify Competition Management correctly may result in the loss of comparable dates. Competition Management is responsible for the actions and performance of the horse show officials it retains to run its competition.

Article 12-A. SHOW MANAGER: Horse Show Managers must fulfill the requirements described in Rules 1-A, Chapter 2. They shall be responsible for the operation of the show. They shall enforce all the rules of the Association, from the time the exhibitors are admitted on the show grounds until their departure. The Horse Show Manager or Co-Manager as listed in the Prize List, or their designated representative must be in attendance at the horse show from the time stabling is offered until the conclusion of the show. The Voting Membership must approve all Co-Managers prior to the printing of the Prize List or the last MHJA meeting of the cycle. In an emergency, three MHJA Officers may appoint a Co-Manager. Other duties include:

1. Submit to the MHJA Office the Accrediting Contract and appropriate Show Dues (Article 7-A) at least 30 days prior to the show date. See Article 8-A, #7 for penalty.
2. Appoint judge(s) who fulfill the requirements listed in Article 13-A
3. Make sure that all the requirements described in Rule 4-A are met.
4. Provide a medical technician for scheduled show dates. Provide copy of technician's license.
5. Must always have a copy of the current MHJA Rule Book available for reference during the competition.
6. Provide Horse Show Insurance. All competitions must furnish the MHJA Office, at least two weeks prior to the competition, a certificate of insurance for each day of competition, with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000 third party general liability insurance and \$50,000 on equipment and property. Competitions failing to do so will not be allowed to hold the recognized competition. It is important that the certificate includes the name and date of the competition covered and it must also state that the MHJA Board of Directors is covered.
7. Horse Show Management will be fined \$50 for not collecting the \$20.00 Pony Measurement Fee. To be allowed to compete in a MHJA Pony Show, all ponies must present currently recognized MHJA Measurement cards. If a pony does not have a current MHJA Measurement card, they must be measured at that show and a measurement fee of \$20.00 will be charged to all. A valid USEF Measurement Card is also acceptable.
8. Post the names of the Rules Standards & Grievance Committee members in attendance at the show in a prominent place at the secretary's stand.
9. Send a copy of the Prize List to each judge. Furnish Judges' cards for each class.
10. Report to the MHJA office, in writing, within sixty days of the close of the show, any exhibitor whose fees are unpaid or whose check was non-negotiable.
11. Update the MHJA Web Master with web-ready results (via email) within 48 hours. Send to the MHJA Office within 7 days of completion of show any new membership/recording applications made at that show. Failure to comply will result in a \$50.00 fine to Show Management.
12. Donor Sponsors are a person/business that donate an Annual MHJA award (Medal/Grand Championship/ Championship) at the MHJA Annual Awards Banquet. Managers must do the following: a) print an appropriate listing of Donor Sponsors in show Prize List, b) display appropriate Donor Sponsor banners during the horse show, and c) provide appropriate Donor Sponsor announcements during the horse show. The Rules, Standards and Grievance Committee will monitor this. The first violation will result in a warning being given to the Manager. A second violation will result in a fine of \$100.00 that will be applied to the MHJA Scholarship Fund.
13. Send a Medal Scholarship Fee and an MHJA fee to the MHJA Office after each show. \$2.00 from each Medal rider's class entry fee will be sent to the MHJA Office and will be applied to the MHJA Scholarship Fund, and \$8.00 from each Medal rider's class entry fee will be sent to the MHJA Office and will be applied to the MHJA. EXCEPTION: The Medal Finals will NOT be charged the extra \$2.00 Scholarship Fee.

Article 13-A. JUDGES

1. No active professional member of the MHJA may judge a MHJA Regular Member or Pony Show. Judges for these Shows must have their USEF (r) rating with a USEF license for the division they are officiating. A judge may not

- officiate the same division at more than one MHJA Recognized Show for 90 days.
2. It is recommended that judges for the C-Circuit Shows have their USEF (r) rating, but it is not required. They must meet all other criteria as specified above.
 3. Exception: It is recommended that judges for the C shows and Regular Member shows that fall between October 1 and December 31, have their USEF (r) rating. These judges must meet all other criteria as described above. Same judge may not officiate 2 consecutive years in a row at the same show.
 4. Judges' cards at MHJA Recognized shows may not be looked at by anyone without permission from the judge signing the card. Anyone who would like to view the judges' card must contact the Rules Standards & Grievance Committee and Horse Show Management for permission to review the trip/class with the Judge at the conclusion of the show day.
 5. For MHJA Regular Member shows the judge does not have to have a jumper card to judge the jumpers.

Article 14-A. HORSE SHOW SECRETARY - The following are the duties of the Show Secretary

1. RESULTS: Using only the approved MHJA Horse Show computer program, the Secretary will submit to the MHJA Web Master (via email) a complete list of the winners of all recognized classes through sixth place, within 48 hours of the completion of the show. The names of animal, owner and rider, along with their MHJA numbers, must be included for points to count toward Annual Championships. This list must also include the total number of entries competing in each class. (Local Member Shows are only required to submit the results of the MHJA Medal Classes and are not required to use the MHJA program).
2. Failure to comply will result in a \$50.00 fine to Show Management. The Secretary is responsible for any corrections to the improperly submitted results.
3. The Show Secretary will collect any MHJA membership application forms/recording forms and payments. The Show Secretary will also collect any Pony Measurement Forms and payment of Pony Measurement Fees. These will be submitted to the MHJA Office within 14 days of the completion of the show. Failure to comply will result in a \$50.00 fine to Show Management.
4. The Show Secretary, or designated representative, must be on duty the day before the show starts by 1:00 PM for indoor shows and noon for outdoor shows. The closing time should be posted in a visible location as well as announced if possible.

Article 15-A. RULES, STANDARDS, AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The Rules, Standards, and Grievance Committee is also known as the RSG. There should be at least two RSG committee members present at each MHJA Recognized Show. (Part 6-A, Section 4). If two RSG members are not present, then horse show management should appoint two MHJA Professional members in attendance to serve on the RSG committee for the show. Each member is a representative of the Association and should point out in a diplomatic manner any instance in which the MHJA Rules are not enforced. They should report to the proper official any violation of rules which might invalidate a class. They should keep themselves available to the judges, exhibitors, trainers and horse show management to clarify the application of the MHJA Rules and to help answer any questions that may arise. If there is a question of an animal's lameness at a horse show, it will be up to the RSG Committee to make a judgment in conjunction with the show management. If the owner of the animal in question does not agree with the committee's decision, they may call the Show Veterinarian and his decision will be final. The RSG will also monitor Donor Sponsor announcements during the show dates.

RULE 3-A PRIZE LISTS and ENTRIES

CHAPTER 1. PRIZE LISTS

Article 16-A. REQUIREMENTS

ALL Prize List Corrections must be posted at the Secretary Stand. The Prize List of every Recognized competition must contain the following:

1. List of all officials, including judges.
2. List of divisions in which show championships are offered.
3. Schedule of classes.
4. Class specifications including fence heights and rule reference #

5. Exact date and location of the show
6. Statement of fees: stall, late stall, entry, medical, post entry (See Article 31-A, 33-A & 34-A for maximum fees)
7. Statement of show's policy on cancellation and withdrawal of entries
8. Schooling hours and policy (see Article 35-A)
9. State time for measurement of ponies
10. The cover must state the show's rating as either: MHJA Regular Member, MHJA Pony, MHJA C-Circuit or MHJA Local Member
11. Appropriate listing of all MHJA Donor Sponsors. A Donor Sponsor is a person/business that donates an annual MHJA award (Medal/Grand Championship/Championship) or makes some other significant donation to the MHJA.

CHAPTER 2. ENTRY FORMS

Article 17-A. REQUIREMENTS

1. All shows must use the CURRENT standard entry form available at www.mhja.org or by emailing the office at mhjaclerk@gmail.com and a copy will be emailed to you.

CHAPTER 3. SUBMISSION ENTRIES

Article 19-A. GENERAL

1. All entry forms must be signed by the owner or authorized agent, the exhibitor, their parent or legal guardian and the trainer.
2. The entry blank must be accompanied by a check or money order to cover stall fees, entry fees and medical fees.

Article 20-A. POST ENTRIES

1. Post entries are entries made after the advertised closing date.
2. The closing date must be clearly stated in the Prize List
3. If there is to be post entry fee, it must be clearly stated in the Prize List
4. In order for Post Entry fees to be charged, the show Prize List must be post marked or posted online at least 21 days prior to the show date.

Article 21-A. CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWAL OF ENTRIES

1. A recognized show may adopt its own policy, within the MHJA Rules, covering the refunding of fees to an exhibitor, but this policy must be stated in the Prize List, on HorseShowing.com, and posted in the show office.
2. No exhibitor, owner or agent may have an animal removed from the show grounds until all their debts have been paid in full.
3. A show may charge a maximum of \$50 per day to entries that cancel all/part of their classes for any reason including inclement weather or personal emergency. Lameness is excluded from this rule provided they are jogged in front of two Rules and Standards committee members or a licensed veterinarian and deemed lame PRIOR to the start of the classes they are scratching.

Article 22-A. REFUSAL OF ENTRIES

1. Each show has the right to refuse any entries which they deem necessary due to previous expulsion, un-sportsman-like attitude or objectionable attitude toward a given show.
2. A show may refuse entries should time or stabling become a problem, but it must be stated in the Prize List that such factors may limit the number of entries accepted.

Article 23-A. UNPAID ENTRIES

Any person who fails to make payment or make a payment for fees which is non-negotiable will be suspended from any MHJA activity, and all existing points will be forfeited until the fees are paid in full. The management of the recognized competition will report the indebtedness to the MHJA office within 60 days. The MHJA Office will then notify said person(s), by mail, and warn him that unless settlement is made within two weeks he and any horses involved will automatically be barred from taking part in any recognized competition until the indebtedness is paid. In addition, their name will be posted on the MHJA website, as a member "Not In Good Standing"

Article 24-A. MEMBERSHIP AND DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

The following credentials **MUST BE** made available to competition management:

1. **MHJA OR USEF MEASUREMENT CARDS (Pony Classes)**
2. **MHJA MEMBERSHIP AND RECORDING CARD NUMBERS** to be eligible for points towards MHJA Annual Championships.

RULE 4-A CONDUCT OF RECOGNIZED SHOWS

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL

Article 25-A. RULES

1. Every recognized show and every person participating therein, including exhibitors, owners, lessee, managers, agents, riders, judges, stewards, show officials and employees, are subject to the constitution and rules of the MHJA and the local rules of the show.
2. The MHJA has an obligation to its membership to ensure the safety and well-being of all riders and horses.
3. The MHJA will refer to the USEF rulebook for any situation not covered by its rules.

Article 26-A. CRUELTY AND ABUSE OF A HORSE

1. Cruelty and the abuse of a horse by any person at a Recognized competition are forbidden.
2. The Rules, Standard and Grievance Committee should report any violation to the Horse Show Management and the MHJA. Any action(s) against a horse or competitor, which are deemed excessive, may be punished by official warning, elimination or other sanctions which may be deemed appropriate.
3. The following acts are included under the words Cruelty and Abuse but are not limited thereto:
 - a. excessive use of a whip on any horse - no more than 3 hits per disobedience
 - b. withholding feed or water for prolonged periods
 - c. inhumane treatment of a horse
 - d. any striking of the horse's head

Article 27-A. DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS

No horse shall be shown in any class at a recognized show of the MHJA if it has been administered, in any manner, any forbidden substance. A forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer or local anesthetic which might affect the animal's performance.

Article 28-A. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR

1. **ALL Riders** riding at MHJA horse shows must wear an ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet while mounted anywhere on the horse show grounds. (Pursuant to USEF rulebook)
2. **THE MHJA MAKES NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, ABOUT ANY PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR, AND CAUTIONS RIDERS THAT SERIOUS INJURY MAY RESULT DESPITE WEARING PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR AS ALL EQUESTRIAN SPORTS INVOLVE AN INTRINSIC ELEMENT OF RISK**

Article 29-A. CLASS SCHEDULE

All recognized MHJA shows must state in their Prize Lists the schedule for each day's events. The schedule must be followed. If there is to be a change in the schedule, there must be sufficient notice given to all exhibitors and trainers.

Article 30-A. WARM-UP CLASSES

Paid Warm-Up classes may be held as part of a recognized competition only if they are judged. Medical personnel must be present during the classes.

Article 31-A. MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Each recognized show must provide an EMT, EMT Specialist, Medical First Responder (MFR) or a Paramedic for all scheduled performances. It is recommended that they be present on schooling day. In addition, horse show management must have proof that the **Medical Technician is appropriately licensed**. The horse show management **must** provide a copy of this proof to the MHJA Office within 15 days prior to the show. A fee of \$15.00 per entry shall be charged as an EMT fee. The Office/EMT fee includes the \$15.00 EMT fee.

Article 32-A. POSTED ORDER OF GO

When a pre-established order of go is used, the order in which the riders are to compete must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. If there is a conflict with a rider who is competing in two rings at the same time or riding more than one mount in the same class, the exhibitor must contact the starter and request posting in a more convenient position.

Article 33-A. STABLING REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

All MHJA Regular Member, C, and Pony shows must provide stalls with fronts, and the Prize List must state if doors are provided. Stabling fees shall be a maximum of \$100.00 for a 2-day show, \$125.00 for a 3-day show, and \$140.00 for a 4-day show. Show management has the right to charge a late stall reservation penalty provided the policy for the late fee is clearly stated in the Prize List, i.e.: closing date and amount of penalty charged. Stall reservations will open 60 days prior to schooling day of each show for MHJA Members. Tack stall fee may not exceed \$125 for a 2-day show, \$150.00 for a 3-day show, and \$175.00 for a 4-day show.

Article 34-A. CLASS FEES

The maximum fee for ALL classes is \$22.00 at Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony shows provided the class is entered no later than the day before it is scheduled. Derby or Classic exempt. Exception See 34-A #4

Exceptions:

1. Medal Classes will charge a \$30.00 fee, exception see 34-A #4. \$10.00 from each Medal entry fee must be sent to the MHJA Office. \$2.00 will be applied to the MHJA Scholarship Fund, and \$8.00 will be applied to the MHJA general checking account.
2. For the Final Medal Ride-Off the class fee maximum is \$30.00. No \$10.00 fee charged.
3. For jumper classes offering a 50% payback the class fee maximum is \$25.00
4. Classes added the same day they are schedule to be held may incur up to a \$5 per class fee over and above the entry fee. It is the hope that this fee will encourage everyone to enter their classes no later than the day before it is schedule so that management can have a better idea of the size of the day, thus allowing plenty of time to make changes to the schedule if necessary.

Article 35-A. SCHOOLING

All recognized MHJA shows must allow schooling in the rings to be used in the horse show, over fences that simulate those to be used in the show. Caution should be used in setting diagonal lines. In addition, there must be an appropriate schooling area near the show rings. The ground should be properly maintained during the show. If schooling over the course would be detrimental to the footing because of weather conditions, the schooling shall be at the discretion of show management and the Rules and Standards Committee. For safety, all holes and ditches should be well marked or covered. It is recommended that at least one vertical and one spread fence with sufficient poles and USEF breakaway cups and/or wooden pins be provided. The times when schooling will be allowed in the show rings must be stated in the Prize List. There will be no schooling over a Medal course once it has been set.

Article 36-A. VEHICLES

No person under the age of 16 or without a valid driver's license may drive motorized vehicles on the show grounds. This includes, but is not limited to golf carts, mopeds, etc.

Article 37-A. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. A sound system reaching schooling and stabling.
2. A ring starter at his post at least 15 min. before each class.
3. An adequate supply of water.
4. Sufficient ventilation in stabling area.
5. Courses must be posted by the in gate at least one hour prior to the start of the class. They must be clearly visible to the mounted rider.
6. Adequate sanitary provisions
7. Six ribbons for each class and Championship and Reserve ribbons for each division championship.
8. A Veterinarian and a Blacksmith should be on call.
9. A competent course designer.
10. A copy of the MHJA Rule Book and the USEF Rule Book must be available at the secretary stand, either printed or

online.

11. Stopwatches or electronic timing equipment available for all jumper classes.
12. Donor Sponsor banners appropriate to the type of show (Regular Member, C Circuit, Pony) must be displayed to the public during the show dates.
13. Announcements citing each appropriate Donor Sponsor must be made at least once during each show day.
14. Scholarship donation announcements must be made daily during the show.

RULE 5-A MHJA SHOWS

CHAPTER 1. MHJA DIVISIONS

Article 38-A. NUMBER OF CLASSES

1. **Hunter Divisions** - Each division must offer:
 - a. a minimum of 2 classes over fences and one under saddle
 - b. a maximum of 3 classes over fences and one under saddle
2. **Equitation Divisions** - Each division must offer:
 - a. one class over fences
 - b. one class on the flat
 - c. Additional classes are not permitted.
3. **Jumper Divisions** - Each division must offer:
 - a. at least two classes to be held on different days.
 - b. maximum of 3 classes offered per show.

Article 39-A. MHJA RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS AND MEDAL CLASSES

These classes must be offered, and points will be awarded for the MHJA Annual Championships in the Recognized Divisions listed here. No other MHJA Recognized Classes may be offered.

1. HUNTER DIVISIONS for REGULAR MEMBER SHOWS shall be:

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Green Hunter 1 st yr & 2 nd year | 2) Performance Hunter 3' or 3'3" | 3) High Performance Hunter |
| 4) Junior Hunter 14 Yrs & Under | 5) Junior Hunter 15-17 Yrs | 6) Children's Hunter |
| 7) Novice Junior Hunter | 8) Low Children's Hunter | 9) Open Adult Hunter |
| 10) Limit Adult Hunter | 11) Novice Adult Hunter | 12) Adult Hunter 50 & Over |
| 13) Adult Hunter 18-49 | 14) Non- Professional Hunter | 15) Baby Green Hunter |
| 16) Beginner Junior Hunter | 17) Beginner Adult Hunter | 18) Thoroughbred Hunter |

2. HUNTER DIVISIONS for C CIRCUIT SHOWS shall be:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Primary Junior Hunter | 2) Primary Adult Hunter | 3) Intermediate Junior Hunter |
| 4) Intermediate Adult Hunter | 5) Beginner Junior Hunter | 6) Beginner Adult Hunter |
| 7) Very Green Hunter | 8) MHJA Crosspole Hunter | 9) Thoroughbred Hunter |

3. HUNTER DIVISIONS for PONY CIRCUIT SHOWS shall be:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1) Novice Pony Hunter | 2) Short Stirrup Hunter | 3) Small/Medium Pony Hunter |
| 4) Large Pony Hunter | 5) Unrestricted Children's Pony Hunter | 6) Children's Sm/Med Pony Hunter |
| 7) Children's Large Pony | 8) Beginner Junior Hunter | 9) Beginner Adult Hunter |
| 10) Thoroughbred Hunter | | |

4. EQUITATION CLASSES for REGULAR MEMBER SHOWS shall be:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Junior Equitation 15-17 | 2) Junior Equitation 14 & Under | 3) Limit Junior Equitation |
| 4) Novice Junior Equitation | 5) Low Children's Equitation | 6) Open Adult Equitation |
| 7) Limit Adult Equitation | 8) Novice Adult Equitation | 9) Low Adult Equitation 18-49 |
| 10) Low Adult Equitation 50 & Over | 11) Beginner Adult Equitation | 12) Beginner Junior Equitation |

5. EQUITATION CLASSES for C CIRCUIT SHOWS shall be:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Primary Junior Equitation | 2) Primary Adult Equitation | 3) Intermediate Junior Equitation |
| 4) Intermediate Adult Equitation | 5) Beginner Junior | 6) Beginner Adult |
| 7) MHJA Crosspole | | |

6. **EQUITATION CLASSES for PONY CIRCUIT SHOWS** shall be:
 - 1) Short Stirrup Pony Equitation
 - 2) Novice Pony Equitation
 - 3) Children's Pony Sm/Med Equitation
 - 4) Children's Pony Large Equitation
 - 5) Pony Equitation 12 & Under
 - 6) Pony Equitation 13-17
 - 7) Beginner Junior Equitation
 - 8) Beginner Adult Equitation
7. **MHJA MEDAL CLASSES for REGULAR MEMBER SHOWS** shall be:
 - 1) Open Junior Medal
 - 2) Limit Junior Medal
 - 3) Open Adult Medal
 - 4) Limit Adult Medal
 - 5) Young Riders Medal
 - 6) Junior/Adult Mini Medal
 - 7) Low Adult Medal
 - 8) Low Children's Medal
8. **MEDAL CLASSES for C CIRCUIT SHOWS** shall be:
 - 1) Intermediate Junior Medal
 - 2) Intermediate Adult Medal
 - 3) Junior/Adult Mini Medal
9. **MEDAL CLASSES for PONY CIRCUIT SHOWS** shall be:
 - 1) Pony Mini Medal
 - 2) Pony Medal
 - 3) Junior/Adult Mini Medal
 - 4) Children's Pony Medal
10. **JUMPER DIVISIONS for REGULAR MEMBER SHOWS** shall be:
 - 1) Low Children's/Adult
 - 2) High Children's/Adult
 - 3) Schooling
 - 4) Modified
 - 5) Low Schooling

Please note that the Beginner and Thoroughbred Divisions are considered "C" circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the Rule book and they are held at shows other than "C" Shows.

CHAPTER 2. COMBINING CLASSES

*****ALL CLASSES:** If the class has been combined and there are still less than 3 entries they will still receive ½ points per Rulebook. When a class has LESS than three (3) entries and is awarded half points, blue ribbons won in that class will count as half of blue ribbon.

***** All MEDALS:** If the Medals have been combined and there are still less than 4 entries the medals will receive ½ points. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.

CLASSES THAT CAN BE COMBINED to combine with Divisions listed in Rulebook Page 13

A. REGULAR MEMBER SHOWS "Combining Classes"

1. EQUITATION

- a. Novice Junior & Novice Adult (fence heights are adjusted)
- b. Limit Junior & Limit Adult (fence heights are adjusted)
- c. Junior 15-17 & Junior 14 & U & Open Adult (fence heights are adjusted)
- d. Beginner Junior & Beginner Adult
- e. Low Children & Low Adult

2. HUNTER

- a. Green Hunter, High Performance Hunter (fence heights are adjusted to proper heights)
- b. Limit Adult & Children's Hunter (fence heights adjusted to proper heights)
- c. Junior 14 & Under, Junior 15-17, Open Adult Hunter
- d. Beginner Junior & Beginner Adult
- e. Novice Junior & Novice Adult
- f. Low Children's Hunter, Adult 18-49 & Adult 50/O

3. JUMPER

- a. Children's/Adult Jumper & High Children's/Adult Jumper (where fences are adjusted)

4. MEDALS

- a. Open Junior & Open Adult (fence heights are adjusted)
- b. Limit Junior & Limit Adult (fence heights are adjusted)
- c. Low Adult & Low Children's

B. C CIRCUIT SHOWS

1. EQUITATION

- a. Primary Junior & Primary Adult
- b. Intermediate Junior & Intermediate Adult (Medals may NOT be combined)
- c. Beginner Junior & Beginner Adult - must be combined if there are not enough to fill.

2. HUNTER

- a. Primary Junior & Primary Adult
- b. Intermediate Junior & Intermediate Adult
- c. Beginner Junior & Beginner Adult

C. PONY SHOWS

1. EQUITATION

- a. Pony 12 & Under - Pony 13-17 (fence heights are adjusted to proper heights)
- b. Children's Small/Medium Pony & Children's Large Pony (fences are adjusted to proper heights)
- c. Beginner Junior & Beginner Adult - must be combined if there are not enough to fill

2. HUNTER

- a. Small/Medium Pony, Large Pony (fences are adjusted to proper heights)
- b. Children's Small/Medium Pony & Children's Large Pony (fences are adjusted to proper heights)
- c. Beginner Junior & Beginner Adult - must be combined if there are not enough to fill

CLASSES THAT CANNOT BE COMBINED

a. REGULAR MEMBER SHOWS

1. EQUITATION

- a. Young Riders Medal
- b. Junior/Adult Mini Medal

2. HUNTER

- a. Baby Green
- b. Non-Professional
- c. Thoroughbred

3. JUMPER

- a. Low Schooling Jumper
- b. Schooling
- c. Modified

b. C CIRCUIT SHOWS

1. HUNTER

- a. Very Green
- b. Thoroughbred

2. EQUITATION

- a. Intermediate Adult Medal
- b. Junior/Adult Mini Medal

c. PONY SHOWS

1. EQUITATION

- a. Short Stirrup
- b. Novice Ridden Pony
- c. Pony Medal
- d. Pony Mini Medal
- e. Junior/Adult Mini Medal
- f. Children's Pony Medal

2. HUNTER

- a. Novice Pony
- b. Unrestricted Children's Pony Hunter
- c. Thoroughbred Hunter

CHAPTER 3. INDOOR SHOWS

Article 40-A. Two Day Indoor Shows

Prize Lists for two-day shows may be published with no more than two over fences classes per division. During the horse show, an additional class may be added to the schedule if permission is granted by both the Rules, Standards & Grievance committee and show management.

Article 41-A. Three- day Indoor Shows

Prize Lists may be published following the Regular Member Format listed in Article 16-A

CHAPTER 4. LOCAL MEMBER SHOWS

Article 42 A. RECOGNIZED CLASSES

The following classes are recognized by the MHJA and may be offered. Qualifications for the Final Medal Ride-Off can be made in these classes.

1. MHJA MEDAL CLASSES shall be:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Open Adult (Regular Member) | 2) Limit Adult (Regular Member) |
| 3) Open Junior (Regular Member) | 4) Limit Junior (Regular Member) |
| 5) Young Riders (Regular Member) | 6) Intermediate Junior (C Circuit) |
| 7) Low Adult (Regular Member) | 8) Intermediate Adult (C Circuit) |
| 9) Pony Medal (Pony Circuit) | 10) Pony Mini Medal (Pony Circuit) |
| 11) Junior/Adult Mini Medal | 12) Low Children's (Regular Member) |

RULE 6-A. RECORDING HORSES AND PONIES

Article 43-A. RECORDING

The MHJA maintains the only official record of the winnings of horses, ponies and equitation riders at MHJA Recognized Shows.

1. To keep these records consistent, a horse or pony must be recorded in the same name under which it is to be exhibited at horse shows.
2. The name of the individual appearing on the Horse Recording Application as "Owner" or "Lessee" must be a current MHJA member "In Good Standing".
3. An additional Farm name may be added to the Recording Application, at no additional cost, provided one of the owners is a member.
4. Horses may be recorded online on the MHJA website or mail applications are available at the MHJA Website and at MHJA Recognized horse shows. There can be considerable lag time in points catching up if a horse is recorded at the show.
5. Recording Fee is \$15.00
6. For horse show points to count towards the Annual MHJA Championships, the Recording Application must be postmarked to the MHJA Office or submitted to the MHJA Show Secretary by the last day of that competition. There will be no exception to this rule for any reason; it is safest to complete your recording online where you will receive date/time proof that it has been done.

Article 44-A. CHANGE OF NAME

The recorded name of an animal may be changed by submitting a name change request in writing to the MHJA Office, an email to mhjaclerk@gmail.com with the horse's MHJA number and the new and old name is sufficient. To be eligible for points, a recorded animal may not be exhibited under its new name until the name change request has been received by the office. It is important that you make sure the show has the new name as well.

Article 45-A. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Ownership of a MHJA recorded horse or pony may be transferred without affecting the animal's points earned, provided that the new owners inform the MHJA office in writing of the transfer, an email to mhjaclerk@gmail.com with new and old owner is sufficient. To be eligible for points the animal may not be shown under its new ownership until the transfer information is received at the MHJA office. A new Recording Fee will not be charged for the remainder of the current show season. It is important that you make sure the show has the new owner listed as well.

RULE 7-A. ANNUAL MHJA CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AWARDS

CHAPTER 1. RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS

Article 46-A. RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS FOR REGULAR MEMBER SHOWS

1. HUNTER DIVISIONS

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Green Hunter 1st yr & 2nd year | 2) Performance Hunter 3' or 3'3" | 3) High Performance Hunter |
| 4) Junior Hunter 14 Yrs & Under | 5) Junior Hunter 15-17 Yrs | 6) Children's Hunter |
| 7) Novice Junior Hunter | 8) Low Children's Hunter | 9) Open Adult Hunter |
| 10) Limit Adult Hunter | 11) Novice Adult Hunter | 12) Adult Hunter 50 & Over |
| 13) Adult Hunter 18-49 | 14) Non- Professional Hunter | 15) Baby Green Hunter |
| 16) Beginner Junior Hunter | 17) Beginner Adult Hunter | 18) Thoroughbred Hunter |

2. EQUITATION DIVISIONS

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following, both On The Flat (OTF) and Over Fences (O/F)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Junior Equitation 15-17 | 2) Junior Equitation 14 & Under | 3) Limit Junior Equitation |
| 4) Novice Junior Equitation | 5) Low Children's Equitation | 6) Open Adult Equitation |
| 7) Limit Adult Equitation | 8) Novice Adult Equitation | 9) Low Adult Equitation 50 & Over |
| 10) Low Adult Equitation 18-49 | 11) Beginner Adult Equitation | 12) Beginner Junior Equitation |

3. JUMPER DIVISIONS

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1) Low Children's Adult | 2) High Children's Adult | 3) Schooling | 4) Modified | 5) Low Schooling |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|

Article 47-A. RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS FOR C CIRCUIT SHOWS

1. HUNTER DIVISIONS

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Very Green | 2) Primary Junior | 3) Primary Adult | 4) Intermediate Junior | 5) Intermediate Adult |
| 6) MHJA Crosspole | 7) Thoroughbred | | | |

2. EQUITATION DIVISIONS

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following, both On The Flat (OTF) and Over Fences (O/F)

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Primary Junior | 2) Primary Adult | 3) Intermediate Junior | 4) Intermediate Adult | 5) MHJA Crosspole |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|

Article 48-A RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS FOR PONY SHOWS

1. HUNTER DIVISIONS

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1) Short Stirrup Pony | 2) Novice Pony | 3) Small/Medium Pony | 4) Large Pony |
| 5) Children's Small/Medium Pony | 6) Children's Large Pony | 7) Unrestricted Children's Pony | |
| 8) Thoroughbred | | | |

2. EQUITATION DIVISIONS

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following both On The Flat (OTF) and Over Fences (O/F)

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Short Stirrup | 2) Novice Pony | 3) Children's Small/Medium Pony | 4) Children's Large Pony |
| 5) 12 & Under | 6) 13-17 Years Old | | |

CHAPTER 2. ELIGIBILITY

Article 49-A. HUNTER AND JUMPER DIVISIONS

The "Owner" or "Lessee" of the animal must be a current MHJA Member "In Good Standing" (Article 1-A) and the horse or pony must be recorded each show season with the MHJA (Rule 6-A)

Article 50-A. EQUITATION CLASSES

The equitation riders must be current MHJA member "In Good Stand" (Article 1-A)

CHAPTER 3. TERMS OF COMPETITION

Article 51-A. ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Winners of the Annual Championships are the horses, ponies and equitation riders who have been awarded the most points in each MHJA Recognized Division throughout the MHJA show season.

Article 52-A. BREAKING ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP TIES

In the event of a tie for an Annual Championship, it will be broken as follows:

1. Equitation Division: The Championship will be awarded to the rider with the most blue ribbons
2. Hunter Divisions: The Championship will be awarded to the horse with the most points over fences.
3. Jumper Divisions: The Championship will be awarded to the horse/pony with the most blue ribbons
4. If a tie for Championship in a Division still remains, equal awards will be presented to the competitors.
5. In the event of a tie for any of the reserve placements (second thru sixth), equal awards will be presented to each competitor.

CHAPTER 4. TABULATION OF POINTS Article 53-A. ELIGIBILITY

1. For points to count with respect to any competition, the following materials must be postmarked to the MHJA Office or submitted to the MHJA Show Secretary on or before the last day of the competition.

POINTS ARE NOT RETROACTIVE for any reason.

- a) Membership Application (completed and paid in full)
- b) Recording Form for the horse (completed and paid in full)
- c) Change of Name Request (completed-no charge) and at MHJA office
- d) Transfer of Ownership (completed-no charge) and at MHJA office
- e) Addition of Farm Name to Recording Form (completed-no charge)
2. Only points earned for that competition or after that date will count toward the Annual MHJA Division Championships
3. **POINTS WILL BE NOT CREDITED toward an Annual MHJA Championship IF:**
 - a) The MHJA recorded name of the horse and its recording number do not appear in the horse show competition records. The horse’s name and recording number must appear on the horse show entry forms and result sheets.
 - b) The MHJA number of the equitation rider is **not** included on the entry blank and competition results.
 - c) Less than **three** entries have competed in the Equitation class or first class of a division/section.
 - d) Classes run were not in accordance with MHJA rules or recognized by the MHJA
 - e) It is determined that the animal or rider has competed in a class that they are not eligible to complete in. If the error is caught at the show, the placings in the classes will be adjusted. No adjustment will be made in the placings at previous shows.

Article 54-A. INCREMENT SYSTEM

1. **POINTS** will be awarded toward Annual Championships as follows:

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>3-6 Entries</u>	<u>7-15 Entries</u>	<u>16-25 Entries</u>
First	15 Points	20 Points	25 Points
Second	10 Points	15 Points	20 Points
Third	5 Points	10 Points	15 Points
Fourth	4 Points	5 Points	10 Points
Fifth	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Sixth	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points

A minimum of 3 competitors must **compete** in the first class of a division to have points awarded in any of the classes in that division. Points are awarded according to the number of horses to compete (jump at least the first jump) in the first Hunter Over Fences class in that division at the show, even if there are less horses competing in this division during the remaining days of the show. HOWEVER, if there are more horses competing the second day, the Increment number will remain according to the **FIRST CLASS OF THE DIVISION**. Exception: Beginner Hunter, MHJA Crosspole, Very Green, Baby Green, Performance, Non-Professional, Unrestricted Pony, Novice Pony, Schooling and Modified Jumper divisions where ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the division. Beginner Jr & Adult must be combined if there are not enough to fill (3 per section)

2. SPLITTING CLASSES

- a. Classes will be split if there are 26 or more entries. Exception: Short Stirrup Hunter, Short Stirrup Equitation, MHJA Crosspole Hunter, MHJA Crosspole Equitation, Beginner Hunter, Beginner Equitation and the Junior/Adult Mini Medal will be split at 16.
- b. If there are 26 or more entries in a class (16 for Short Stirrup, Beginner & MHJA Crosspole), the class will be judged as a single class and the top twelve entries will be awarded two sets of six ribbons. If there are over 30 Short Stirrup Hunter, Short Stirrup Equitation, Beginner Hunter, Beginner Equitation and the Junior/Adult Mini Medal entries the class will be judged as a single class and the top eighteen entries will be awarded 3 sets of six ribbons. This is known as "California Style" (See USEF rulebook)
 - a) Points will be awarded as follows:
 - 1) Total number of entries in the class will be divided by two
 - 2) If necessary, the number will be rounded up

3. ONE HALF POINTS AWARDED

In Schooling Jumper, Modified Jumper classes, Very Green, Baby Green, Performance, Non-Professional, Unrestricted Pony, Novice Pony and all Beginner divisions, MHJA Crosspole Hunter & Equitation, Intermediate Adult Medal, and Junior/Adult Mini Medal classes, one-half points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class. Beginner Junior & Adult must be combined if there are not enough to fill either division by the start of the division.

***** All CLASSES - if there are less than 3 entries in a class after divisions have been combined per Rulebook "Combining Classes": then 1/2 points will be awarded.**

***** All MEDALS: If the Medals have been combined and there are still less than 4 entries the medals will receive 1/2 points. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.**

Article 55-A. FINALIZING RESULTS

Scores will be kept in the MHJA Office and posted on the MHJA website. Results furnished by the MHJA Regular Members, C Circuit and Pony shows shall be the sole basis upon which scores are figured. The Association tally thus derived shall be the final authority in determining the winners. The MHJA shall use every care to achieve accuracy in compiling the scores. Members have the responsibility to monitor their points throughout the show season. Any participant wishing to dispute the tabulation may do so by using the "report a points issue" feature on the MHJA.org website.

All corrections to MHJA membership, recording, show data and points listings must be made prior to October 1 at which point they will become final (before the Annual Awards Banquet). Changes and corrections to MHJA data will not be made to past seasons.

RULE 8-A DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROCEDURES

CHAPTER 1. ELIGIBILITY

For further details on specific Division requirements, see the Division specifications the Regular Member, C Circuit or Pony shows

Article 56-A. FOR ALL DIVISIONS

1. A rider who is eligible to compete in a division at the start of the show year will remain eligible to compete in that division for the remainder of the show year, regardless of the number of blue ribbons he or she may win in the current show year.
2. Ribbons (points) awarded at MHJA C-Circuit Shows **do not** affect a rider's eligibility at MHJA Regular Member & Pony Shows.
3. Ribbons awarded in MHJA & USEF PONY classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility at MHJA Regular Member Shows.
4. Ribbons won at MHJA Pony and MHJA Regular Member shows **do** affect a rider's eligibility at MHJA C-Circuit Shows.

Article 57-A. ADULT RIDERS

1. Adult riders may compete mounted on ponies, in any classes for which they are eligible, only if the fence heights do not exceed 3'. This applies to both Regular Member and C-Circuit classes.

2. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes DO affect an adult rider's eligibility.

CHAPTER 2. GENERAL DEFINITIONS

Article 58-A. USEF POINTS

For MHJA purposes, any division classes that are rated divisions (USEF or USHJA) at USEF Rates shows those points will be tallied as follows:

1st =10 Pts 2nd =6 Pts 3rd =4 Pts 4th =2 Pts 5th =1 Pt 6th =1/2 Pt

Article 59-A. USHJA and USEF Classes

Any and all USEF and USHJA rated classes will affect a rider's eligibility in MHJA Classes.

Article 60-A. SPLITTING CLASSES

1. If there are 26 or more entries in a class (16 for Short Stirrup, Beginner, MHJA Crosspole & Junior/Adult Mini Medal, the class will be judged as a single class and the top twelve entries will be awarded two sets of six ribbons. This is known as "California Style"
2. Both sets of top six placing will receive points toward Show Championships and Annual Championships. However, points will be awarded as follows:
 - a) the total number of class entries divided by two
 - b) if necessary, the number will be rounded up

CHAPTER 3. INDIVIDUAL SHOW CHAMPIONSHIPS

Article 61-A. REQUIRED CHAMPIONSHIPS: It is required that all MHJA Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony Shows offer Show Championships in all MHJA recognized Hunter & Jumper divisions.

Article 62-A. SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATIONS: The Show Champion and Reserve Champion titles shall be awarded to two of the four horses which have acquired the most points performing in classes over fences in the division. In addition to these points, only these four horses shall receive points toward the Show Championship for ribbons won in the under-saddle class.

Article 63-A. SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP POINT VALUES:

Show championships to be calculated on a point system: 10-6-4-2-1-1/2 for all sections

Article 64-A. TIES: If there is a tie for Champion or Reserve, the horse with the most points over fences wins. If the horses are still tied, there will be a hack-off, which will be judged as described for under saddle classes or if all tied parties agree it may be decided by the flip of a coin.

RULE 9-A COURSE

CHAPTER 1. FOR ALL CLASSES

Article 65-A. COURSE ALTERATION: Except in the case of inclement weather, broken equipment, rule violation or similar emergency, a course will not be altered except by written permission of all exhibitors. If one or more original fences are rendered unusable during a class and no duplicate exists, management may substitute fences which approximate as nearly as possible the original.

Article 66-A. DIVISION DESCRIPTION: Description, including height of fences for all divisions, must be stated in the Prize List as well as the reference number for detailed rules in the rulebook.

Article 67-A. POSTING COURSES: Courses must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. The course diagram must show the obstacles which must be taken, in the order indicated by numbers. An arrow is to be used to indicate the direction in which each obstacle is to be taken. When the distance between fences in a Hunter Course is 90' or less from base to base, the distances must be posted on the course chart.

Article 68-A. COURTESY CIRCLE: If the area of the courtesy circle is to be restricted by a mandatory line, it must be

indicated on the course diagram and a corresponding barrier must be erected on the course. This policy must be stated in the Prize List and announced at least one hour prior to the start of the class.

CHAPTER 2. MEDAL CLASSES

Article 69-A. COURSE DESCRIPTION: Must be a figure eight course of not less than six obstacles, which must include one combination (except Pony Medal and Pony Mini Medal, Junior/Adult Mini Medal & Low Adult) and two changes of lead, after the first fence. A ground line must be in place for ALL fences in classes where fence heights do not exceed 3'. In the classes where fence height is 3'3" or higher, 50% of the fences may be set without a ground line. All MHJA Medal classes will be run as "open numerical scoring" with a score being announced immediately at the conclusion of their trip. **For indoor shows a combination is not required except for Open Junior & Open Adult Medals.** Medal classes will use points earned at MHJA approved horse shows to qualify riders for the year end medal ride off. A minimum of 4 competitors must compete and complete the course in order to earn full points. Any medal that cannot be combined further, may run with less than 4 competitors for 1/2 (half) points.

CHAPTER 3. EQUITATION CLASSES

Article 70-A. COURSE DESCRIPTION: All equitation courses must have at least six obstacles and a change of lead.

CHAPTER 4. HUNTER DIVISIONS

Article 71-A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Fences shall simulate obstacles found on the hunting field, such as, natural post and rail, brush, stone wall, white board fence or gate, chicken coop, aiken, hedge, oxer, etc.
2. Oxers are not to be square. A 3" difference is required for the back element. A ground line is recommended for all fences.
3. A chicken coop hinged at the top and free at the bottom and jumps such as triple bars and hogs back, striped rails, targets and any spread over 4' are prohibited.
4. Every course must contain at least six obstacles with at least four different type fences and all wings at least 12" higher than the fence, pen jumps excepted. The top element of all fences must be securely placed so that a slight rub will not cause a knockdown and must be equally secure for all fence heights in the same class. The inside dimensions of a cup for a 4" pole must be a minimum of 1 1/2" deep and 3" across. USEF/FEI approved safety cups and/or wooden pins for the back rail of all oxers must be used.
5. In Handy Working Hunter classes, fences must simulate those found in hunting country. There must be two changes of lead and one combination. Horses are required to trot over a fence toward the end of the course and may be asked to lead over a fence.
6. It is suggested that the Handy Hunter class be open to the following: High Performance Working Hunters, Junior Hunters, Open Adult Hunters, and Small/Medium or Large Pony Hunters.

RULE 10-A EQUITATION DIVISIONS

Article 72-A. Eligibility: Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes do not affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat do affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. Only the rider is to be judged. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes DO affect an adult rider's eligibility.

Article 73-A. Section Specifications

1. **OVER FENCES:** Except for refusal, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the fault of the rider's ability. Martingales are optional. Any or all of the competitors may be called back to perform any appropriate tests included in the class specifications.
2. **ON THE FLAT:** Competitors shall enter the ring and proceed at least once around the ring at each gait and on command, reverse and repeat. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Martingales are not permitted. Any or all riders may be asked to perform any tests included in the class specifications. All tests must be on the flat.
3. **COURSES** - See Rule 9-A
4. **TESTS** - See Rule 11-A

RULE 11-A EQUITATION TESTS

The following are the tests from which the judges must choose. Tests may be performed collectively or individually, but no other tests may be used. Instructions must be publicly announced. If exhibitors are called back collectively to test, they must remain in the ring until all exhibitors have completed the test.

1. Work collectively or individually at a walk, rising/posting trot, and/or sitting trot, and/or canter.
2. Downward Transition Test: a) Walk (4-5 steps) b) Halt (4-6 seconds) c) Halt and Back for (3-5 steps). When riders working collectively are asked to halt and then back, they should walk forward a few steps and halt again after backing and then proceed with any further instructions from the judge.
3. Question(s) regarding basic horsemanship, tack or equipment and/or conformation. The judge may ask question(s) that are appropriate for the level of expected skill of any given class or specifications.
4. Working either collectively, or individually, riders may demonstrate the lengthening or collection of strides on the flat at the walk, sitting or posting/rising trot and/or canter.
5. Figure Eight at the trot, demonstrating change of diagonals. In any Figure Eight movement, the rider should start at a center point at the halt. To finish the movement the rider is to return to the halt at same position as the point of commencement.
6. Figure Eight at the canter on the correct lead. In this movement, the rider will begin at the halt and demonstrate a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horses are brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judge specifies) 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 the ground lines 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 horses is brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judge specifies) 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.
12. Collection of strides between 2 fences. It is recommended that a line chosen for this test be not less than 70'. For safety purposes, judges may only ask for additional strides to be added and must not ask rider to leave out a stride.
13. Work collectively or individually at the walk, posting/rising 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. This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judge specifies) 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 rider-invented gymnastic exercise designed to improve balance and suppleness. When utilizing this test, rider may be asked to: 1. Approach a single jump on a counter lead. This test requires riders make at least ONE turn or bend of a course of not less than 90* and not more than 120* on the counter lead. (Insert diagram). 2. Demonstrate a counter canter between 2 jumps on the course. For this test, the rider upon landing off the first jump can choose from the following acceptable options: a) If the rider lands firstly on the inside lead, he/she may demonstrate a simple or flying change of lead before cantering through the first 90*-120* turn and continue to hold the counter lead to the next jump. Either the simple or flying change is acceptable. b) If the rider lands on the outside lead, he/she may continue to hold the outside lead to the next required obstacle. c) 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 in both directions 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 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 he/she plans 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 he/she has ridden the course on his/her own horse first. a) When a swap of horses is requested, the rider must be given a minimum of 90 seconds to do a brief flat and jump no more than two (2) schooling jumps. b) Riders may be requested to jump a previous course or a portion of the previous course. Tests 1 - 22 shall not be included even if included in the former course.

RULE 12-A. MHJA MEDAL CLASSES

CHAPTER 1. IN GENERAL, FOR ALL MEDAL

CLASSES Article 74-A. ELIGIBILITY

1. MHJA Membership if NOT required to compete in MHJA Medal Classes however membership is required in order to be eligible for points or to qualify for a final Medal ride-off. Membership must be completed on or before the final day of the show in which you wish to receive credit.
2. RIBBONS WON IN MEDAL CLASSES do not affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes.
3. Winning the Limit Medal Ride-off class does not eliminate a rider from competition in the Limit Equitation division

Article 75-A. QUALIFYING CLASSES

1. MHJA Medal qualifying classes can be offered at all MHJA Local Member, MHJA Regular Member, MHJA C Circuit and MHJA Pony shows.
2. To be a qualifying class, four eligible competitors must complete the course. Exception: Junior/Adult Mini Medal & Intermediate Adult Medal.
3. If the Medals have been combined and there are still less than 4 entries the medals will receive ½ points. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
4. Only one rider per horse.
5. Courses - All Medals require a combination at outdoor shows EXCEPT Pony, Pony Mini, Junior/Adult Mini, Low Adult Indoor shows a combination is not required except for Open Adult Medal & Open Junior Medal

Article 76-A. MEDAL RIDE-OFF

A Medal Ride-Off will be held for each medal division at a designated MHJA Show at the end of the show season. There will be no Medal Qualifying classes held at this show.

1. TO QUALIFY FOR THE FINAL MEDAL RIDE-OFF A RIDER MUST:
 - a. Top 15 point earners in all Medals will be qualified for Final Medal Ride

- b. MHJA Medal ride-off classes will accept 15 riders, entries will be decided by highest point accumulation until 15 are accepted. Letters or emails will be sent to each qualifier with a deadline for entry. If you are not entered by the deadline, we will invite the next person down the list by point accumulation until we reach the target number of competitors for that Medal Final. For the MHJA Intermediate Adult Medal and MHJA Junior/Adult Mini Medal - One half points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class.
 - c. In the event of a tie for the 15th position, all riders holding that rank will be invited to participate in the medal ride-off.
2. A RIDER WHO WINS A FINAL MEDAL RIDE OFF CLASS two times is no longer eligible to compete in that Medal. EXCEPTIONS: A rider who wins the Young Riders Medal, Open Adult Medal, or Open Junior Medal ride-off class two times may continue to compete in that Medal competition next season.

Article 77-A. Tests

Two or more tests of the top four competitors are required. See Rule 11-A for a list of tests.

Article 78-A. Medal Class Scoring

All MHJA Medal Classes are to be run on the Open Numerical Scoring System. All rounds will have an announced score at the completion of their course.

RULE 13-A HUNTER DIVISIONS

Article 78-A Section Specifications

- 1. Over Fences:
 - a. Horses are to be judged on manners, jumping style and way of moving over the course.
 - b. Martingales are optional.
 - c. Courses - See Rule 9-A
- 2. Under Saddle:
 - a. Horses are to be judged at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.
 - b. Manners to be emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized.
 - c. Judged on performance and soundness.
 - d. Martingales are not permitted.
 - e. Horses not to hand gallop except in the High Performance Working Hunter Division.
(NO MORE THAN EIGHT HORSES TO HAND GALLOP AT A TIME)

RULE 1-B REGULAR MEMBER SHOWS

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROCEDURE AND DEFINITIONS

A Regular Member Show is one which has been approved by the MHJA. Points awarded at Regular Member Shows in classes which are recognized by the MHJA will count toward the MHJA Annual Championships. Regular Member Shows may be of any duration of days, but must be a minimum of two days. The mandatory class requirements are listed in Rule 5-A.

Article 1-B. DUES AND SHOW DEFINITIONS: The show dues for a MHJA Regular Member Show is \$175.00. The show is also required to pay a Banquet Fee of \$150.00. See Rule 1-A, Chapter 2 for penalties and rules.

Article 2-B PRIZE LISTS AND ENTRIES: The words “MHJA Regular Member Show” must be printed on the front cover of the Prize List

Article 3-B POINTS AWARDED

- 1. Points awarded at all MHJA Regular Member Shows are cumulative for horse and rider eligibility
- 2. Points won at MHJA Regular member Shows do affect a riders eligibility at MHJA Circuit and Pony Shows

Article 4-B JUDGES: No active member of the MHJA may judge a MHJA Regular Member Show. Judges for these shows must have their USEF (r) rating with a USEF license for the division they are officiating. Except months Oct-Apr Jumper Judge. See Article 13-A

Article 5-B DIVISIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. HUNTER DIVISIONS

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Green Hunter | 2) Performance Hunter 3' of 3'3" | 3) High Performance Working 3'6" |
| 4) Junior Hunter 14 Yrs & Under | 5) Junior 15-17 Yrs | 6) Novice Junior Hunter |
| 7) Novice Adult Hunter | 8) Children's Hunter | 9) Limit Adult Hunter |
| 10) Open Adult Hunter | 11) Non- Professional Hunter | 12) Adult Hunter 50 & Over |
| 13) Beginner Junior Hunter | 14) Beginner Adult Hunter | 15) Baby Green Hunter |
| 16) Adult Hunter 18-49 | 17) Low Children's Hunter | 18) Thoroughbred Hunter |

2. EQUITATION CLASSES

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following, both On The Flat (OTF) and Over Fences (O/F)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Junior Equitation 14 & Under | 2) Junior Equitation 15-17 Yrs | 3) Limit Junior |
| 4) Novice Junior | 5) Novice Adult | 6) Limit Adult |
| 7) Open Adult | 8) Beginner Junior | 9) Beginner Adult |
| 10) Low Adult 18-49 | 11) Low Adult 50 & Over | 12) Low Children's |

3. JUMPER DIVISIONS

The Association offers Annual Championships in the following:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1) Low Children's Adult | 2) High Children's Adult | 3) Schooling |
| 4) Modified | 5) Low Schooling | |

4. MEDAL CLASSES

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Young Riders Medal | 2) Limit Junior Medal | 3) Open Junior Medal |
| 4) Limit Adult Medal | 5) Open Adult Medal | 6) Low Children's Medal |
| 7) Low Adult Medal | 8) Junior/Adult Mini Medal | |

RULE 2-B REGULAR MEMBER EQUITATION DIVISIONS

CHAPTER 1. IN GENERAL FOR ALL EQUITATION CLASSES (See Rule 10-A)

Article 6-B ELIGIBILITY (See Article 72-A)

Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **DO NOT** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat **DO** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes **DO** affect an adult rider's eligibility. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to earn MHJA annual awards points. The number of competitors is decided on a division basis. **EXCEPTION:** Beginner Junior Equitation and Beginner Adult Equitation division. Only one rider per horse will be allowed in any recognized equitation class. Adults who have had a prolonged period of riding/showing inactivity may be eligible to start showing with a clean slate and be eligible for lesser divisions, a letter must be written to the MHJA Board asking for a review of your previous show record. The RSG committee may also grant permission for a rider to show at a currently running show provided they feel there is a good chance this person's situation will result in a "clean slate". If granted at a show the rider must still write a letter to the board for review before they may show a second time. If the board determines this person not eligible for a "clean slate" then points will be revoked for the show that was already completed.

Article 7-B. JUDGING OF CLASSES (See Article 73-A)

Only the rider is to be judged

1. **OVER FENCES:** Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the fault of the rider's ability. Martingales are optional. Any or all of the competitors may be called back to perform any appropriate tests included in the class specifications.
2. **ON THE FLAT:** Competitors shall enter the ring and proceed at least once around the ring at each gait and on command, reverse and repeat. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Martingales are not permitted. Any

or all riders may be asked to perform any tests included in the class.

3. Courses (See Rule 9-A)

4. Tests (See Rule 11-A)

Article 8-B. COMBINING OF REGULAR MEMBER EQUITATION CLASSES (See Rule 5-A Chapter 2)

The following classes may be combined if there are less than 3 entries in the class.

1. Novice Adult and Novice Junior may be combined.

2. Limit Adult and Limit Junior may be combined.

3. Open Adult, Junior 15-17 and Junior 14 Years and Under may be combined.

4. Low Adult 18-49, Low Adult 50 & Over and Low Children's may be combined.

5. MEDAL CLASSES

a) Limit Junior & Limit Adult Medals may be combined. Limit Adult fences will be adjusted.

b) Open Junior & Open Adult Medals may be combined. Open Adult fences will be adjusted.

c) Low Adult and Low Children's

CHAPTER 2. REGULAR MEMBER EQUITATION CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

Article 9-B. BEGINNER JUNIOR EQUITATION offered at B and Pony Shows this is a "C" Division

1. DESCRIPTION

a. This division must be offered at all outdoor Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony Shows. It may be offered at Regular Member, C Circuit, and Pony indoor shows.

b. Beginner Junior and Beginner Adult divisions may be combined. **MUST** be combined if there are not enough to fill.

c. Annual championships are offered.

d. ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class, classes must be combined when entries are available.

2. ELIGIBILITY

a. Open to Junior riders who have not won three blue ribbons in a Recognized Equitation class at MHJA, MHSA or USEF shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Riders do retain their Beginner status for the current show season. This Rule to supersede all other rules.

b. Riders having won in the Beginner Junior division do not lose their Novice or Primary status.

c. Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect a rider's eligibility in Beginner.

d. Riders having won three blue ribbons in Beginner Junior Equitation on the flat are still eligible to compete in the Beginner Junior Equitation Over Fences classes. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **DO NOT** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat **DO** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat.

e. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Open Hunter or Equitation divisions at MHJA, MHSA or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. Open divisions include: MHJA, MHSA, and USEF Pony Medals, Small, Medium or Large Pony Hunter divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 years, Junior Hunters, Junior Equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 years. MHJA Open Junior Medal and USEF Medals.

f. Riders may not cross enter into any divisions that require jumping 2'6" or higher. Jumping 2'6" or higher will make a rider immediately ineligible for this division.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

a) Fence Height 2'

b) Courses to be simple in nature

c) No oxers

d) No In & Outs

e) Only vertical jumps allowed and no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height.

D. COMBINING CLASSES - See Article 8-B

Article 10-B. Beginner Adult Equitation: although offered at B & Pony shows this is a "C" Division

1. DESCRIPTION

a. This division must be offered at all outdoor Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony shows. It may be offered at

Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony indoor shows.

- b. Beginner Junior and Beginner Adult divisions must be combined if less than 3 in either division.
- c. Annual Championships are offered.
- d. ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to adult riders who have not won 6 blue ribbons in a Recognized Equitation class at MHJA, MHSA or USEF shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Riders do retain their Beginner status for the current show season. This Rule to supersede all other rules.
- b. Riders having won in the Beginner Adult division do not lose their Novice or Primary status.
- c. Riders having won 6 blue ribbons in Beginner Adult Equitation on the flat are still eligible to compete in the Beginner Adult Equitation over fences classes. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **DO NOT** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat **DO** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat.
- d. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Open Hunter or Equitation divisions at MHJA, MHSA or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. Open divisions include: MHJA, MHSA and USEF Pony Medals, Small, Medium or Large Pony Hunter divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 years, Junior or any Adult Hunters, Junior Equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 years or any Adult Equitation, MHJA Open Junior or any Adult Medal, and USEF Medals.
- e. Riders may not cross enter into any divisions that require jumping 2'6" or higher. Jumping 2'6" or higher will make a rider immediately ineligible for this division.
- f. Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect a rider's eligibility in Beginner.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

- a. Fence Height: 2'
- b. Courses to be simple in nature
- c. No oxers
- d. No In & Outs
- e. Only vertical jumps allowed and no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height.

4. ON THE FLAT: No Tests

5. COMBINING CLASSES: See Article 8-B

Article 11-B. NOVICE JUNIOR EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Open to Junior riders, who have not won three blue ribbons in any recognized equitation classes over fences at MHJA Regular Member shows. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **DO NOT** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat **DO** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. Blue Ribbons won in MHJA Medal Classes do not affect a rider's Novice Junior Equitation Eligibility.
- b) This division is not open to any riders who have shown in classes that require a rider to jump 3'3" or higher. Competing in classes 3'3" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
- c) Exception: riders may enter into the Children's Hunter Division & Classic at USEF shows.
- d) Riders in this division **MAY** enter the Limit Equitation division.
- e) Riders in this division **MAY NOT CROSS ENTER** in the Open Equitation divisions (15-17 Yrs & 14 & Under Yrs or Open Medal
- f) Riders **MAY** enter the Young Riders Medal
- g) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.

2. OVER FENCES: Fences to be 2'6" to 2'9". No Tests

3. COMBINING CLASSES - See Article 8-B

Article 12-B. LIMIT JUNIOR EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Open to Junior riders who have not won six blue ribbons in any recognized equitation classes over fences at MHJA Regular Member & USEF shows. (Article 59-A). Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **do not** affect a

rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat **do** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. Winning the Final Limit Medal Ride Off class does not eliminate a rider from competition in the Limit Equitation Division, unless it is the rider's sixth blue ribbon. Blue Ribbons won in MHJA Medal Classes do not affect a rider's Limit Junior Equitation Eligibility. Blue ribbons won in MHJA Low Children's Equitation and Novice Junior Equitation do not affect riders eligibility.

- a) This division is not open to any riders who have shown in classes which require the rider to jump 3'6" or higher.
 - b) Competing in classes 3'6" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
 - c) Riders in this division **may** cross enter in the Open Equitation Divisions.
 - d) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
2. **OVER FENCES:** Fences to be 2'9" to 3'. No Tests
 3. **COMBINING CLASSES.** See Article 8-B

Article 13-B. OPEN JUNIOR EQUITATION 14 YEARS AND UNDER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to all junior riders 14 years of age and under
 - b. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
2. **OVER FENCES:** Fences not to exceed 3'. Tests 1-21 (Rule 11-A)
 3. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B

Article 14-B. OPEN JUNIOR EQUITATION 15-17 YEARS

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to all junior rider 15-17 years of age
 - b. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
2. **OVER FENCES:** Fences not to exceed 3'3". Tests 1-21 (Rule 11-A)
 3. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B

Article 15-B. LOW ADULT EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to adult riders. Not open to professionals.
 - b. This division is NOT open to any riders who have shown in classes that require the rider to jump 3'3" or higher at the same show.
 - c. Riders may NOT cross enter in Open Adult Equitation or Open Adult Hunter at the same show
 - d. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
2. **OVER FENCES:** Fences to be 2'6". No Tests
 3. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B

Article 15-B.1 LOW CHILDREN'S EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to Junior riders on horses or ponies. Riders showing in this Division may not cross enter into any classes that require rider to jump 3' or higher at the same show.
 - b. This division is NOT open to any riders who have shown in classes that require the rider to jump 3'3" or higher at the same show.
 - c. Riders may NOT cross enter into Open Junior Equitation or Open Junior Hunter at the same show
 - d. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
2. **OVER FENCES:** Fences to be 2'6". No Tests
 3. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B

Article 16-B. NOVICE ADULT EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Open to adult riders who have not won three blue ribbons in equitation classes over fences at MHJA Regular Member shows. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat **do** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes **DO** affect an adult rider's eligibility.

- b) This division is not open to any riders who have shown in classes that require a rider to jump 3'3" or higher. Competing in classes 3'3" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
 - c) EXCEPTION: Riders may enter into the Adult Amateur Hunter Division & Classic at USEF shows
 - d) Riders may **not** cross enter in the Open Equitation Divisions.
 - e) Riders **may** cross enter in the Limit Equitation and Hunter Division.
 - f) Not open to professionals
 - g) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
4. **OVER FENCES:** Fences to be 2'6" only. No Tests
5. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B

Article 17-B. LIMIT ADULT EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) This division is open to all adult riders who have not shown 3'6" or higher. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat **do** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes **DO** affect an adult rider's eligibility. EXCEPTION: Ribbons won in divisions not exceeding 2'6" **DO NOT** affect an adult rider's eligibility. Winning the Final Limit Medal Ride Off class does not eliminate a rider from competition in the Limit Equitation Division, unless it is the rider's sixth blue ribbon.
 - b) Competing in classes 3'6" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
 - c) Riders in this division may cross enter into the MHJA Open Equitation Divisions at the same horse show.
 - d) Riders may not cross-enter into classes jumping 3'3" or higher at the same show.
 - e) An adult can request in writing that the Voting Membership review his/her status to determine his/her eligibility to compete in Limit Adult Equitation for the show season.
 - f) Not open to professionals
 - g) A Minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
2. **OVER FENCES:** Fences to be 2'9". No Tests
3. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See (Article 8-B)

Article 18-B. OPEN ADULT EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to adult riders
 - b. Not open to professionals
 - c. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
2. **OVER FENCES:** Fences to be 3'. Tests 1-19 (Rule 11-A)
3. **ON THE FLAT:** Tests 1-5, 8 (Rule 11-A)
4. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B

Article 19-B. MHJA OPEN JUNIOR MEDAL See Rule 12-A

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to all Junior riders
 - b. Medal classes will use points earned at MHJA approved horse shows to qualify riders for the year end medal ride off. A minimum of 4 competitors must compete and complete the course in order to earn full points. Any medal that cannot be combined further, may run with less than 4 competitors for 1/2 (half) points
 - c. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
2. Fences not to exceed 3'3" in height. Course: A combination is required at all shows
3. Tests 1-21 (Rule 11-A)
4. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B
5. To fulfill all requirements listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes

Article 20-B. MHJA OPEN ADULT MEDAL - See Rule 12-A

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to all amateur adult riders
- b. Not open to Professionals
- c. Medal classes will use points earned at MHJA approved horse shows to qualify riders for the year end medal ride off. A minimum of 4 competitors must compete and complete the course in order to earn full points.

- d. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
- 2. Fences not to exceed 3'. Course: A combination is required at all shows
- 3. Tests 1-21 (Rule 11-A)
- 4. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B
- 5. To fulfill all requirements listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes

Article 21-B. MHJA LIMIT JUNIOR MEDAL - See Rule 12-A

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to Junior riders who fulfill the same eligibility requirements as outlined Article 12-B
- b. Medal classes will use points earned at MHJA approved horse shows to qualify riders for the year end medal ride off. A minimum of 4 competitors must compete and complete the course in order to earn full points. Any medal that cannot be combined further, may run with less than 4 competitors for 1/2 (half) points.
- c. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
- 2. Riders may cross enter into the Open Junior Medal
- 3. Fences not to exceed 3' in height. Course: A combination is not required at Indoor Shows
- 4. Tests 1-14 & 17-18. Test 9 is eliminated. (Rule 11-A)
- 5. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B
- 6. To fulfill all requirements listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes

Article 22-B. MHJA LIMIT ADULT MEDAL See Rule 12-A

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to amateur adult riders who fulfill the same eligibility requirements as outlined in Article 17-B
- b. Not open to Professionals
- c. Medal classes will use points earned at MHJA approved horse shows to qualify riders for the year end medal ride off. A minimum of 4 competitors must compete and complete the course in order to earn full points. Any medal that cannot be combined further, may run with less than 4 competitors for 1/2 (half) points.
- d. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
- 2. Riders may cross enter in the Open Adult Medal
- 3. Fences to 2'9". Course: A combination is not required at Indoor Shows
- 4. Tests 1-14 & 17-18. (Rule 11-A)
- 5. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B
- 6. To fulfill all requirements listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes

Article 23-B. MHJA YOUNG RIDERS MEDAL See Rule 12-A

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to Junior riders 14 years of age and under.
- b. Medal classes will use points earned at MHJA approved horse shows to qualify riders for the year end medal ride off. A minimum of 4 competitors must compete and complete the course in order to earn full points. Any medal that cannot be combined further, may run with less than 4 competitors for 1/2 (half) points.
- c. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
- 2. Riders may compete on ponies but the course will not be adjusted
- 3. Fences not to exceed 2'9". Course: A combination is not required at indoor shows
- 4. Tests 1-21 (Rule 11-A)
- 5. Cannot be combined with other classes
- 6. To fulfill all requirements listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes

Article 24-B MHJA JUNIOR/ADULT MINI MEDAL

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to Junior and Adult riders who have not won 3 blue ribbons in a recognized Equitation class at MHJA, MHSA or USEF shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes, do not affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat DO affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes DO affect an adult rider's eligibility. Riders may not have shown in any Open Hunter or Equitation divisions at MHJA, MHSA or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows.
- b. Riders do retain their status for the current show season.

- c. Riders who have won do not lose their Novice or Primary status.
 - d. Riders may not cross enter into any divisions that require jumping 2'6" or higher. Jumping 2'6" or higher will make a rider IMMEDIATELY INELIGIBLE for this division.
 - e. Medal classes will use points earned at MHJA approved horse shows to qualify riders for the year end medal ride off. A minimum of 4 competitors must compete and complete the course in order to earn full points. Any medal that cannot be combined further, may run with less than 4 competitors for 1/2 (half) points.
 - f. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
2. Fence Height: 2'
3. Course:
- a. No oxers
 - b. No In & Outs. No combinations
 - c. Only vertical jumps allowed. No part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height
 - d. Courses to be simple in nature
4. TESTS 1-8. Judges are encouraged to test the top 4 riders. (See Rule 11-A)
5. To fulfill all requirements listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes
6. This Medal must be offered at all outdoor Regular Member, C Circuit, and Pony shows. It may be offered at Regular Member, C Circuit, Pony, and Local Member indoor shows.

Article 25-B MHJA LOW ADULT MEDAL See RULE 12-A

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to adult rider who have not shown in classes requiring them to jump 3'3" or higher at the same show.
 - b. Riders may NOT cross enter into Open Adult Equitation, Open Adult Medal or Open Adult Hunter at the same show
 - c. Not open to Professionals
 - d. Medal classes will use points earned at MHJA approved horse shows to qualify riders for the year end medal ride off. A minimum of 4 competitors must compete and complete the course in order to earn full points. Any medal that cannot be combined further, may run with less than 4 competitors for 1/2 (half) points.
 - e. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
2. Fences to be 2'6".
3. Tests 1-8 & 10 (Rule 11-A)
4. To fulfill all requirements listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes

Article 25-B-1 MHJA LOW CHILDREN'S MEDAL See RULE 12-A

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to Junior Riders on horses or ponies. Riders showing in this Division may not cross enter into any classes that require rider to jump 3' or higher at the same show. This Division may be combined with MHJA Low Adult Medal.
2. Fences to be 2'6".
3. Medal classes will use points earned at MHJA approved horse shows to qualify riders for the year end medal ride off. A minimum of 4 competitors must compete and complete the course in order to earn full points. Any medal that cannot be combined further, may run with less than 4 competitors for 1/2 (half) points.
4. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
5. Tests 1-8 & 10 (Rule 11-A)
6. To fulfill all requirement listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes

RULE 3-B HUNTER DIVISIONS

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL FOR ALL HUNTER CLASSES See Rule 13-A

Article 26-B. HUNTER OVER FENCES CLASSES

Horses to be judged on manners, jumping style and way of moving over the course, For course requirements See Article 71-A. Martingales are optional.

Article 27-B. HUNTER UNDER SADDLE CLASSES

Horses are to be judged at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Manners to be emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. Judged on performance and soundness. Martingales are not

permitted. Horses not to hand gallop except in the High Performance Working Hunter Division. (No more than eight horses to hand gallop at a time)

Article 28-B. REGULAR MEMBER COMBINING HUNTER CLASSES See Rule 5-A Chapter 2
Classes may be combined, as specified, if there are less than 3 entries in either class. When the sections or divisions are combined the fence heights must be changed accordingly. The following Sections or Divisions may be combined.

1. Green & High-Performance Working Hunter may be combined. Fence heights will be adjudged to the proper heights.
2. Limit Adult & Children's Hunter may be combined.
3. Novice Junior & Novice Adult may be combined.
4. Junior Hunter 14 & Under, Junior Hunter 15-17 Years & Open Adult may be combined.
5. Beginner Junior Hunter & Beginner Adult Hunter may be combined.
6. Low Children's Hunter, Adult 18-49 & Adult 50/O

Article 29-B. MHJA ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

A minimum of 3 competitors in the first class must compete in order to have points awarded for that section of the division. Points for the section are awarded according to the number of horses competing the course in the first Hunter Over Fences class in that section at the show, even if there are less or more horses competing in this section during the remaining days of the show. Exception: Beginner Junior Hunter and Beginner Adult Hunter divisions where ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class. See Points Tabulation section in this rulebook.

CHAPTER 2. REGULAR MEMBER HUNTER CLASS

SPECIFICATIONS.

Article 30-B. BABY GREEN HUNTER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to horses in their first or second consecutive year of showing. Horses may compete in the Baby Green Hunter and Very Green Hunter divisions during the same year.
- b. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis. (See Article 29-B) Fence Height: 2'6". **Cannot be combined with other classes.**
- c. A baby green horse may compete in classes where the fence heights exceed 2'9" and maintain their eligibility for the current show season only. At the completion of the show season, the baby green horse, regardless of whether it was in its first or second year of showing in the division, is no longer considered a baby green horse. Said horse would also lose its first-year green eligibility per Article 31-B
- d. Horses may compete in classes with fences not exceeding 2' for two years and still be eligible for Baby Green and Very Green status.

Article 31-B. GREEN WORKING HUNTER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) A **First Year Green Hunter** is a horse of any age in its first year of showing over fences higher than 2'9"
 - b) A **Second Year Green Hunter** is a horse of any age in its second year of showing over fences higher than 2'9"
 - c) Open to all riders
 - d) Horses may show in classes which the fence height specifications do not exceed 2'9" for two show years and still be eligible to compete in the green division the following show year.
 - e) Horses may compete in under saddle classes and equitation on the flat classes without affecting their Green Status
 - f) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis See Article 29-B
- 2. DIVISION OF SECTIONS:** To be offered as a single combined year end Championship.
- 3. COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B
- 4. FENCE HEIGHT:** 3' for First Year and 3'3" for Second Year Horses

Article 32-B. HIGH PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER

- 1. ELIGIBILITY:** Open to horses of any age regardless of their showing experience. Open to all riders.
- 2. FENCE HEIGHT:** 3'6"

3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** May be combined with Green Hunter - See Article 28-B

Article 33-B. PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** open to horses of any age regardless of their showing experience. Open to all riders.
2. **FENCE HEIGHT:** 3' OR 3'3" Choice, you may jump 3' in one class and 3'3" in another - no restriction
3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** Cannot be combined.

Article 34-B JUNIOR WORKING HUNTER

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

- a. Open to all Junior Riders
 - b. Ponies may compete in this Division if there are no Pony Hunter classes offered at the same show.
 - c. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis- See Article 29-B
2. **DIVISION OF SECTIONS:** To be divided as follows:
- a) Junior Hunter - Riders to be 14 Years and Under
 - b) Junior Hunter - Riders to be 15-17 years of age
3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B
4. **FENCE HEIGHT:** 3' TO 3'3"

Article 35-B. NOVICE RIDDEN JUNIOR HUNTER

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

- a) Open to junior riders who have not won three blue ribbons over fences in hunter classes at MHJA Regular Member shows. In addition, riders may not have won 30 points in recognized hunter classes at USEF Shows (Article 59-A). Winning 30 USEF points will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for that division.
 - b) Riders in this division may not cross enter into the MHJA Junior Hunter Division (14 & Under or 15-17 yrs) or the MHJA Open Junior Equitation Division (14 & Under or 15-17 yrs). Riders **may not** have shown in any classes that require the rider to jump 3'3" or higher. Competing in classes 3'3" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
 - c) **EXCEPTION:** Riders may cross enter into the Children's Hunter Division & Classic at USEF recognized shows
 - d) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis - See Article 29-B
2. **FENCE HEIGHT:** 2'6" TO 2'9"
3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 36-B. CHILDREN'S HUNTER

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

- a) Open to all junior riders
 - b) This division is not open to any riders who have shown in classes which require the rider to jump 3'6" or higher. Competing in classes 3'6" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
 - c) Riders in this division may cross enter into the MHJA Junior Hunter Division (14 & Under or 15-17 Yrs) during the current show year. However, riders then become ineligible to compete in the MHJA Children's Hunter Division the following show season.
 - d) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis - See Article 29-B
2. **FENCES:** 2'9"-3'
3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 37-B. NOVICE RIDDEN ADULT HUNTER

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

- a) Open to adult riders who have not won three blue ribbons over fences in hunter classes at MHJA Regular Member shows. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes **DO** affect an adult rider's eligibility. In addition, riders may not have won three blue ribbons in recognized hunter classes at MHS or 30 points in USEF Shows (Article 59-A). Winning 30 USEF points will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for that division.
- b) Riders **may not** have shown in any classes that require the rider to jump 3'3" or higher. Competing in classes 3'3" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
- c) **EXCEPTION:** Riders may cross enter into the Adult Amateur Hunter Division & Classic at USEF recognized shows
- d) Riders in this division **may not** cross enter into the MHJA Open Adult Hunter Division

- e) Not open to Professionals
 - f) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis - See Article 29-B
2. **FENCE HEIGHT:** 2'6" to 2'9"
 3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 38-B. ADULT HUNTER 18-49

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Open to adult riders 18-49 years of age
 - b) Riders **may not** cross enter into the Open Adult Hunter or the Open Adult Equitation divisions, or any classes requiring the rider to jump 3'3" or higher at the same show.
 - c) Riders **may** cross enter into **either** the Novice Adult Hunter or the Limit Adult Hunter divisions at the same show, but **not** both
 - d) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis - See Article 29-B
2. **FENCES:** 2'6" No In and Outs
 3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 39-B ADULT HUNTER 50 & OVER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Open to adult riders 50 years of age and older
 - b) Riders **may not** cross enter into the Open Adult Hunter or the Open Adult Equitation divisions, or any classes requiring the rider to jump 3'3" or higher at the same show
 - c) Riders **may** cross enter into **either** the Novice Adult Hunter or the Limit Adult Hunter divisions at the same show, but **not** both
 - d) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis - See Article 29-B
2. **FENCES:** 2'6" No In and Outs
 3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 40-B. LIMIT ADULT HUNTER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Open to adult riders
 - b) Riders in this division **may not** cross enter into the MHJA Open Adult Division at the same horse show
 - c) Riders **may not** show in any classes that require the rider to jump 3'3" or higher at the same horse show
 - d) Not open to Professionals
 - e) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis - See Article 29-B
2. **FENCES:** 2'9" to 3'
 3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 41-B. OPEN ADULT HUNTER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Open to adult riders
 - b) Riders **may not** cross enter into the Limit Adult Hunter Division at the same show.
 - c) Not open to Professionals
 - d) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis - See Article 29-B
2. **FENCES:** 3' to 3'3"
 3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 42-B. NON- PROFESSIONAL HUNTER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Open to junior and adult riders
- b) Not open to Professionals
- c) A minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis.

2. **FENCES: 3'**
3. **Cannot combine with other classes**

Article 43-B BEGINNER JUNIOR HUNTER - Please note that Beginner Divisions are considered "C" Circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the rulebook and they are held at shows other than "C" Shows

1. **DESCRIPTION**

- a) This division must be offered at all outdoor Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony shows. It may be offered at Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony indoor shows
- b) Beginner Junior and Beginner Adult division must be combined if not enough to fill at the first class of the division
- c) Annual Championships are offered
- d) ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class

2. **ELIGIBILITY**

- a) Open to Junior riders who have not won three blue ribbons in a Recognized Hunter class at MHJA (excluding Short Stirrup), MHSA or USEF shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Riders do retain their Beginner status for the current show season. Riders having won in the Beginner Junior division do not lose their Novice or Primary status.
- b) This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Children's Hunter, Children's Equitation, Open Hunter, Open Equitation at MHJA, MHSA or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. Children's divisions include Children's Hunter, Children's Pony Hunter, Children's Pony Equitation and Children's Medals. Open divisions include: MHJA, MHSA and USEF Pony Medals, Small, Medium or Large Pony Hunter divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 years, Junior Hunters, Junior Equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 years, MHJA Open Junior Medal and USEF Medals.
- c) Riders may not cross enter into any divisions that require jumping 2'6" or higher. Jumping 2'6" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
- d) Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect a riders eligibility in Beginner.

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

- a) Fence Height 2'
- b) Courses to be simple in nature.
- c) No oxers
- d) No In & Outs
- e) Only vertical jumps allowed, and no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height.

4. **UNDER SADDLE:** To be judged at the Walk, Trot & Canter. No Tests

5. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 44-B. BEGINNER ADULT HUNTER: Please note that Beginner Divisions are considered "C" Circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the rulebook and they are held at shows other than "C" shows.

1. **DESCRIPTION**

- a) This division must be offered at all outdoor Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony shows. It may be offered at Regular member, C Circuit and Pony indoor shows.
- b) Beginner Junior and Beginner Adult divisions must be combined if less than 3 in either division.
- c) Annual Championships are offered.
- d) ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in a class

2. **ELIGIBILITY**

- a) Open to Adult riders who have not won 9 blue ribbons in a Recognized Hunter class at MHJA, MHSA or USEF shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes **DO** affect an adult rider's eligibility. Riders do retain their Beginner status for the current show season. This Rule to supersede all other rules.
- b) Riders having won in the Beginner Adult division do not lose their Novice or Primary status
- c) This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Open Hunter or Equitation divisions at MHJA, MHSA or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. Open divisions include: MHJA, MHSA and USEF Pony Medals, Small, Medium or Large Pony Hunter divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 years or any Adult Equitation, Junior Hunters or any Adult Hunter, Junior Equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 years, MHJA Open Junior or any Adult Medal, and USEF Medals.

d) Riders may not cross enter into any divisions that require jumping 2'6" or higher. Jumping 2'6" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.

e) Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect a riders eligibility in Beginner

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

a) Fence Height: 2'

b) Courses to be simple in nature

c) No oxers

d) No In & Outs

e) Only vertical jumps allowed and no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height

4. **UNDER SADDLE:** To be judged at a Walk, Trot & Canter. No Tests

5. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 44-B. LOW CHILDREN'S HUNTER

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

a) Open to horses/ponies shown by a junior rider. Riders showing in this division may not cross enter into classes requiring them to jump 3' or higher at the same show.

b) Over Fences: 2'6" - No In & Out - No Tests

c) Can be combined with Adult 18-49 and Adult 35/O

Article 45-B THOROUGHBRED HUNTER

Please note that Thoroughbred Hunter Division is considered "C" Circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the rulebook and it is held at shows other than "C" shows. Points earned at any MHJA Show in the Thoroughbred Hunter Division will count for the Year End Thoroughbred Hunter Division Award.

1. Eligibility - Open to all riders on horses that have completed the MHJA Thoroughbred Verification Registration Form and have been confirmed to be Thoroughbred Breeding. It is the responsibility of the owner to submit the correct paperwork to be eligible for this division.

RULE 4-B REGULAR MEMBER JUMPER DIVISIONS

Chapter 1. GENERAL PROCEDURE

Article 46-B GENERAL: Jumpers may be of any breed, height or sex. The Jumpers will be divided into divisions as described in Chapter V. All MHJA Regular Member Shows must offer a minimum of two classes in each division. If there are only two classes in a division, they must be offered on different days. All MHJA Jumper classes will be held in accordance with MHJA & USEF Rules.

Article 47-B POLICY: A competitor cannot enter the ring until the course and judge are ready. However, riders may inspect the course on foot prior to commencement of the class at the manager's discretion. If there is to be an Order of Go, it must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. To minimize delays, management may permit a rider to compete ahead of his posted order in the first round, provided that he then competes in the timed jump-off in the order originally posted. However, to minimize delays, a rider may be permitted to go ahead of his posted order in the jump-off.

Article 48-B. INDIVIDUAL SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP: It is required that all MHJA Regular Member Shows offer a Championship for each of the recognized Jumper Divisions. Show Champion and Reserve will be determined on the basis of points awarded as described in Article 63-A

Article 49-B. TIES: In the event of a tie for other than first place, the tie shall be broken by the time taken to compete.

Chapter 2. SCORING

Article 50-B. GENERAL: Jumpers are scored mathematically, based on penalty faults incurred between the starting line and finish line. Penalty faults include disobediences, falls, knockdowns, touches and time penalties. For a complete description of the faults refer to the USEF Rule Book (JP 144)

Article 51-B. START AND FINISH OF COURSE: A start line must be established at least 12' from the first obstacle and a finish line 24' from the last obstacle, each indicated by two markers at least 12' apart. Horses must cross the start line between the markers in the proper direction mounted and to compete they must cross the finish line between the markers in the proper direction, mounted. It is very important that a rider does not begin his round until the judge and the timekeepers are ready. Therefore, the rider must wait until he is given an audible signal from the official to begin the course.

Article 52-B. TIMING, TIME ALLOWED & TIME LIMIT: Time is measured from the instant the horse's chest reaches the start line until it reaches the finish line. The Time Allowed to compete must be announced and posted prior to the start of the class. After the first competitor has completed his round, the time allowed and the competitor's time should be announced. The time allowed may be adjusted by the judge, but only after consultation with the course designer. The time allowed may only be adjusted after the first competitor completes the course without a disobedience and not later than following the third competitor to compete. Time faults awarded in the jump-off are penalized one fault for each second over the time allowed. The Time Limit to compete is double the time allowed. You must break the timers 45 seconds after the audible signal is given. (Refer to the USEF Rule Book)

Chapter 3. JUMPER COURSES

GENERAL: Well-designed courses are the prime requisite for all successful jumper classes. There must be at least one change of direction in every course, including jump-off courses. Every course must contain a minimum of eight obstacles. Each obstacle of a combination is counted as one.

Article 53-B. OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS

1. Rails must be at least eight feet long
2. Brush obstacles must have a clearly visible rail placed above or beyond them
3. A ground line must be in place for **ALL** fences in classes where fence heights do not exceed 3'
4. Single rail obstacles must not exceed 4'
5. Fences may not be raised more than 3" per Jump-Off

Article 54-B. SPREAD OBSTACLES: A spread jump is an obstacle which has dimension of width from front to back as well as the dimension of height. Spread obstacles are measured from their two outermost extremities on a line parallel to the ground. A solid element (i.e. coop or wall) may not be used as part of the further most element. The front element may never be higher than the back element.

Article 55-B. COMBINATIONS: A combination is composed of two, three or more obstacles with a maximum inner distance between them of 39'. At least one combination must be included in all MHJA recognized jumper classes.

Article 56-B. MEASURING OF COURSES: Accurate measuring of courses is essential. Courses should be measured with a measuring wheel or with a tape. All courses must be measured at competitions offering over \$2500.00 in the Jumper Divisions.

Article 57-B. TIME ALLOWED: The time allowed to compete should be calculated from actual measurement of the course's length for all rounds and jump-offs. The time allowed is based on a speed of 360 yards per minute for all Jumper Divisions.

Chapter 4. CLASS CONDITIONS: For a complete description of Class Conditions refer to the USEF RULE BOOK

Article 58-B. TABLE I: Time does not apply for any purpose under Table I. In the event of equality of faults for the first place, successive jump-offs will be held.

TABLE OF FAULTS

JP144 Table of Jumping Faults

1. Knockdown:
 - a. Of obstacle or standard with any portion of horse, rider or equipment, when jumping that obstacle,

- b. one or more feet in the water or on the lath, when the lath is being judged,
- c. or knockdown of rail placed over a water obstacle. 4 Faults
- 2. Knockdown of automatic timing equipment, other designated markers on start and finish lines 4 Faults
- 3. First disobedience anywhere on course 4 Faults
- 4. Second cumulative disobedience anywhere on course (Exception: classes designated for horses five years of age and under where penalty is 4 faults) Elimination.
- 5. Third cumulative disobedience anywhere on course in classes designated for horses five years of age and under Elimination.
- 6. Exceeding Time Allowed (for each commenced second over the Time Allowed) 1 Fault
- 7. A horse resisting for 45 consecutive seconds Elimination
- 8. Taking more than 45 seconds to jump the first obstacle after the time of the round has begun Elimination.
- 9. Taking more than 45 seconds to jump the next obstacle on course Elimination.
- 10. Fall of horse and/or rider (except Fault and Out Classes and other classes with special rules) Elimination
- 11. Jumping an obstacle before it is reset, or without waiting for signal to proceed Elimination.
- 12. Starting before judge's signal to proceed Elimination.
- 13. Jumping an obstacle before crossing start line unless said obstacle is designated as a practice obstacle or after crossing the finish line, whether forming part of the course or not Elimination
- 14. Off course Elimination
- 15. Leaving the enclosure of a closed obstacle incorrectly Elimination
- 16. Rider and/or horse leaving the arena before finishing the course (Exception: JP137.1) Elimination.
- 17. Any competitor at the end of his/her round who does not leave the arena through the designed gate (e.g. jumping out of the arena) Elimination.
- 18. Actions against a horse deemed excessive (For example: excessive use of whip or spurs at any time within the arena.) Elimination
- 19. Exceeding the Time Limit Elimination

Article 59-B. TABLE II - KNOCKDOWN CLASSES

Faults and eliminations are scored exactly as in Table I except touches are not penalized and one or more feet in the water obstacle or on the marking strip of a water jump incurs four faults

Article 60-B. TABLE III

Faults converted into second. 1 fault incurred when jumping an obstacle, for knocking down a boundary flag, for putting one or more feet in the water, or on the marking lath are penalized by adding four seconds for each occurrence. 2. A time limit of 120 secs will be automatically applied (180 sec for courses over 600m) See USEF JP 144.4

Article 61-B. TABLE IV - OPTIMUM TIME - To be used as an option for the MHJA Children's Adult Jumper Divisions Classes are scored on Faults under USEF Table II, however, ties are broken on the basis of Optimum Time JP148 TABLE IV—Optimum Time Classes. Classes are scored on Faults under Table II, however, all ties are broken on the basis of Optimum Time.

- 1. Optimum Time in First Round (Table IV Sec. 1)—The first round is decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. In the case of equality of faults, ties will be broken on the following basis: an "Optimum Time" (defined as 4 seconds less than the Time Allowed for the course) will be posted on the course plan; the horse with the time on course closest to this Optimum Time (over or under) will prevail in the tie, next closest next, etc.
- 2. Optimum Time in First Jump-Off a. Table IV Sec. 2 (a)—The first round and first jump-off are decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. In case of equality of faults, ties will be broken on the following basis: an "Optimum Time" (defined as 4 seconds less than the Time Allowed for the course) will be posted on the course plan; the horse with the time on course closest to this Optimum Time (over or under) will prevail in the tie, next closest next, etc. b. Table IV Sec. 2 (b)—The first round and first jump-off are decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. If a competitor has gone clean in the first round, the competitor will, without leaving the ring, upon an audible signal, commence the designated jump-off course. In the case of equality of faults in the jump-off, ties will be broken on the following basis: an "Optimum Time" (defined as 4 seconds less

than the Time Allowed for the course) will be posted on the course plan; the horse with the time on course closest to this Optimum Time (over or under) will prevail in the tie, next closest next, etc. If there are no clear rounds, a jump-off, scored as described above, will take place among those tied for first place. c. Table IV Sec. 2 (c)—The first round and first jump-off are decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed if any [Note: The use of a time allowed is optional in the initial round.]. If a competitor has gone clean in the first round, he will, upon crossing the finish line, commence the designated jump-off, with time starting as the horse crosses the finish line for the initial course. In the case of equality of faults in the jump-off, ties will be broken on the following basis: an “Optimum Time” (defined as 4 seconds less than the Time Allowed for the course) will be posted on the course plan; the horse with the time on course closest to this Optimum Time (over or under) will prevail in the tie, next closest next, etc. If there are no clear rounds, a jump-off, scored as described above, will take place among those tied for first place.

Article 62-B. JUMP OFF PROCEDURES

1. JUMP OFFS MAY BE CONDUCTED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

- a) Sec (a) After all competitors have completed the first round, any competitors tied for first place will commence the jump-off course
- b) Sec (b) If a competitor has gone clean in the first round, he remains in the ring and upon audible signal, commences the jump-off course. If there are no initial clean rounds and a tie exists for first place, a jump-off is held.

CHAPTER 5. REGULAR MEMBER JUMPER CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

The MHJA Prize List must specify the Table and Section under which each class is to be scored. Refer to the USEF Rule Book for a complete description of Jumper Rules. The maximum height and spread must be stated in the Prize List for all jumper classes.

Article 63-B. FENCE RESTRICTIONS

1. Heights & Spread Levels

- a. Fences 2’9” in height
- b. Fences 3’0” in height and 3’0” in spread
- c. Fences 3’3” in height and 3’3” to 3’9” in spread
- d. Fences 3’6” in height and 3’6” to 4’0” in spread
- e. Fences 3’9” in height and 3’9” to 4’3” in spread
- f. Fences 4’0” in height and 4’0” to 4’6” in spread

2. SPREADS

At all Levels, to be considered a spread, the fence must be 2” to 6” wider than the height.

3. TRIPLE BARS

Triple Bars may be up to 12” wider than the height listed.

Article 64-B. MHJA LOW CHILDREN’S ADULT JUMPER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to Junior & Adult riders
- b. NOT open to Professionals

2. FENCE DIMENSIONS: 2’9” to 3’0” in height and up to 3’6” in spread.

3. Riders in this division may not cross enter into High Children’s Adult Jumper Division at the same show on the same horse, HOWEVER, rider may cross enter into the High Children’s Adult Jumper division on a different horse at the same show. Riders in this division may NOT cross enter into the Modified Jumper Division on any horse.
4. Can combine with High Children’s Adult Jumper with fences at appropriate heights.
5. Three riders must compete in a class for points to be awarded.
6. Open to all tables except Table II.1a and Table III

Article 65-B. HIGH CHILDREN’S ADULT JUMPER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to junior & adult riders
- b. NOT open to Professionals

2. **FENCE DIMENSIONS:** 3'3" to 3'6" in height and 3'3" to 4'0" in spread
3. Riders in this division may not cross enter into the Low Children's Adult Jumper at the same show on the same horse. Rider may cross enter into the Low Children's Adult Jumper on a different horse at the same show
4. Can combine with Low Children's Adult Jumper with fences at appropriate heights.
5. Three riders must compete in a class for points to be awarded.

Article 66-B. LOW SCHOOLING JUMPER

1. **ELIGIBILITY** - Open to all horses & riders
2. **FENCE DIMENSIONS:** 2'9" in height
3. Open to all tables except Table II.1a and Table III
4. Cannot combine with other classes.
5. Three riders must compete in a class for points to be awarded.

Article 67-B. SCHOOLING JUMPER

1. **ELIGIBILITY** - Open to all horses and riders
2. **FENCE DIMENSIONS:** 3'3" to 3'6" in height and 3'3" to 4'0" in spread
3. Cannot combine with other classes.
4. Three riders must compete in a class for points to be awarded.

Article 68-B. MODIFIED JUMPER

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Open to all horses and riders
2. **FENCE DIMENSIONS:** 3'9" to 4'0" in height and 3'9" to 4'6" in spread
3. Cannot combine with other classes.
4. If less than three riders compete in a class, ½ points will be awarded.

RULE 1-C. MHJA C-CIRCUIT

Chapter 1. GENERAL PROCEDURE AND DEFINITIONS - ELIGIBILITY: Riders winning 3 Blue Ribbons in a USEF or USHJA recognized division will become ineligible to compete in a "C" Circuit Division of the equivalent height the following year.

Article 1-C. GENERAL: A MHJA C Circuit Show is one which has been elected to membership in the MHJA and shall be governed by the Constitution and Rules of the Association. A C Circuit Show is a minimum of one day duration. The C Circuit will offer its own unique Hunter & Equitation divisions, Medal classes and Annual Championships. These divisions and Medal classes will not be held at MHJA Regular Member and Pony Shows, exception Beginner Divisions. Each C Circuit Show must offer mandatory classes as described Rule 5-A. No other Recognized MHJA classes may be offered.

Article 2-C DUES AND SHOW DATE APPLICATIONS: The Show Dues for a MHJA C Circuit show are \$100.00 and to pay a Banquet Fee of \$150.00. If a Pony and a C Circuit Show are held on the same weekend and are run by the same facility, only one Banquet Fee of \$150.00 is charged. Dues for a Pony and C Circuit show are \$175.00. If a Regular Member and a C Circuit show are held on the same weekend and are run by the same facility, the Banquet Fee is \$300.00. Dues for a C Circuit and Regular Member show are \$250.00. If a C Circuit, Pony, and Regular Member show are held on the same weekend and run by the same facility, the Banquet Fee is \$300.00. Dues for a C Circuit, Pony, and Regular Member show are \$250.00 See Article 8-A #7 for penalties and rules governing show date applications.

Article 3-C. PRIZE LISTS AND ENTRIES: The words "MHJA C Circuit Show" must be printed on the Prize List cover page. It is mandatory that the Prize List contain the specifications as outlined in Rule III. The Entry Form shall be governed by Rule 3-A

Article 4-C. POINTS AWARDED

1. Points awarded at all MHJA C Circuit shows are **cumulative** for horse and rider eligibility.
2. Points won at MHJA Circuit shows **do not** affect a rider's eligibility at MHJA Regular Member and Pony shows.
3. However, points won at MHJA Regular Member and Pony Shows **do** affect a rider's eligibility at MHJA C Circuit Shows
4. For Equitation classes, a minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.

5. For Hunter classes, a minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded for class. Points are awarded according to the number of horses judged in the first Hunter Over Fences class in that division at the show, even if there are less horses competing in this division during the remaining days of the show.
6. EXCEPTION: Intermediate Adult Medal, Junior/Adult Mini Medal, all Beginner Divisions and MHJA Crosspole: ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class.
7. All MEDALS: If the Medals have been combined and there are still less than 4 entries the medals will receive ½ points. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.

Article 5-C. ANNUAL C CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS See Rule 7-A

1. Points will be awarded toward the MHJA Annual Championships for ribbons won in all recognized C Circuit classes as described in Rule 7-A Chapter 4
2. Annual Championships will be awarded in the following Recognized Divisions:
 - a. Primary Junior Equitation - Over Fences & Flat
 - b. Intermediate Junior Equitation - Over Fences & Flat
 - c. Primary Adult Equitation - Over Fences & Flat
 - d. Intermediate Adult Equitation - Over Fences & Flat
 - e. Intermediate Adult Hunter
 - f. Intermediate Junior Hunter
 - g. Primary Adult Hunter
 - h. Primary Junior Hunter
 - i. Very Green Hunter
 - j. Thoroughbred Hunter
 - k. Beginner Junior Hunter
 - l. Beginner Junior Equitation - Over Fences & Flat
 - m. Beginner Adult Hunter
 - n. Beginner Adult Equitation - Over Fences & Flat
 - o. MHJA Crosspole Hunter
 - p. MHJA Crosspole Equitation - Over Fences & Flat

Article 6-C. INDIVIDUAL SHOW CHAMPIONSHIPS: It is required that all C Circuit shows offer Show Championships in all MHJA Recognized Hunter divisions. To be awarded as described in Article 64-A

Article 7-C. JUDGES: It is recommended that judges for MHJA C-Circuit shows have their USEF “r” rating but it is not required. Judges must meet other criteria as specified in Article 13-A

Chapter 2. C CIRCUIT GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Article 8-C. GENERAL

1. COURSES for all divisions shall follow the specifications as outlined in the MHJA Rule Book - Rule 9-A
2. SUGGESTED DISTANCES between fences in a line for all Primary and Intermediate classes should be based on 11 ½ feet per stride
3. No exhibitor may participate in a recognized MHJA C Circuit division if they have jumped in any classes that require the rider to jump higher than stated in the class restrictions. Jumping higher than the restricted division height makes a rider **immediately ineligible** to compete in that division. Additionally, any exhibitor that has competed in any class listed in the MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-A, Chapter 2, Article 59-A will be automatically ineligible to compete in a recognized MHJA C Circuit division.
 - a. **PRIMARY DIVISION: May not jump 2’9” or higher**
 - b. **INTERMEDIATE DIVISION: May not jump 3’ or higher**
4. Riders winning 3 blue ribbons in a recognized USEF or USHJA division will become ineligible to compete in a C Circuit division of the equivalent height the following year.

Article 9-C. HUNTER CLASSES: Shall be run in accordance with the following Rules: Rule 8-A Chapter 3, Rule 9-A Chapter 4 and Rule 13-A

Article 10-C. EQUITATION CLASSES: Shall be run in accordance with Rule 8-A, Rule 9-A, Rule

10-A and Rule 12-A Tests 1-5, 8 (See Rule 11-A). Only one rider per horse will be allowed in any recognized equitation class.

Article 11-C. MANDATORY CLASSES

1. Hunter Divisions - 2 Over Fences & 1 Under Saddle
2. Equitation Divisions - 1 Over Fences & 1 On the Flat

RULE 2-C C-CIRCUIT EQUITATION DIVISIONS

Chapter 1. General

Article 12-C. COMBINING EQUITATION CLASSES See Rule 5-A Chapter 2

1. Intermediate Junior Medal and Intermediate Adult Medal may **NOT** be combined.
2. Beginner Junior and Beginner Adult may be combined.
3. Primary Junior and Primary Adult may be combined.
4. Intermediate Junior and Intermediate Adult may be combined.
5. Junior/Adult Mini Medal may **NOT** be combined with any other Medal.

Chapter 2. C-CIRCUIT EQUITATION CLASS SPECIFICATIONS See Rule 10-A

Article 13-C. BEGINNER JUNIOR EQUITATION

1. DESCRIPTION

- a. This division must be offered at all outdoor Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony shows. It may be offered at Regular Member, C-Circuit and Pony indoor shows.
- b. Beginner Junior and Beginner Adult divisions may be combined. **MUST** be combined if there are not enough to fill.
- c. Annual Championships are offered.
- d. ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class, classes must be combined when entries are available.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to Junior riders who have not won three blue ribbons in a Recognized Equitation class at MHJA, MHSA or USEF shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Riders do retain their Beginner status for the current show season. This Rule to supersede all other Rules.
- b. Riders having won in the Beginner Junior division do not lose their Novice or Primary status.
- c. Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect a rider's eligibility in Beginner.
- d. Riders having won three blue ribbons in Beginner Junior Equitation on the flat are still eligible to compete in the Beginner Junior Equitation Over Fences classes. Ribbons won in Equitation on the Flat classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in Equitation over Fences classes and Equitation On the Flat **DO** affect a riders eligibility on the flat.
- e. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Open Hunter or Equitation division at MHJA, MHSA, or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. Open divisions include: MHJA, MHSA and USEF Pony Medals, Small, Medium or Large Pony Hunter divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 years, Junior Hunters, Junior Equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 years, MHJA Open Junior Medal, and USEF Medals. A rider becomes immediately ineligible to compete in this division if they have participated in any class listed in MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-1, Chapter 2, Article 59-A.
- f. Riders may not cross enter into any division that requires jumping 2'6" or higher. Jumping 2'6" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

- a. Fence Height 2'
- b. Courses to be simple in nature.
- c. No oxers
- d. No In & Outs
- e. Only vertical jumps allowed, and no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height.

4. ON THE FLAT: No Tests

5. COMBINING CLASSES: See Article 8-B

Article 14-C. Beginner Adult Equitation:

1. DESCRIPTION

- a. This division must be offered at all outdoor Regular Member, C Circuit, and Pony shows. It may be offered at Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony indoor shows.
- b. Beginner Junior and Beginner Adult divisions must be combined if less than 3 in either division.
- c. Annual Championships are offered.
- d. ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to adult riders who have not won 6 blue ribbons in a Recognized Equitation class at MHJA, MHSA or USEF shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Riders do retain their Beginner status for the current show season. This Rule to supersede all other Rules
- b. Riders having won in the Beginner Adult division do not lose their Novice or Primary status
- c. Riders having won three blue ribbons in Beginner Adult Equitation on the flat are still eligible to compete in the Beginner Adult Equitation over fences classes. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes and equitation on the flat **do** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat.
- d. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Open Hunter or Equitation divisions at MHJA, MHSA or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. Open divisions include: MHJA, MHSA and USEF Pony Medals, Small, Medium or Large Pony Hunter divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 years, Junior or any Adult Hunters, Junior equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 years or any Adult Equitation, MHJA Open Junior or any Adult Medal, and USEF Medals. . A rider becomes immediately ineligible to compete in this division if they have participated in any class listed in MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-1, Chapter 2, Article 59-A.
- e. Riders may not cross enter into any divisions that require jumping 2'6" or higher. Jumping 2'6" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
- f. Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect a rider's eligibility in Beginner.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

- a. Fence Height: 2'
 - b. Courses to be simple in nature.
 - c. No oxers
 - d. No In & Outs
 - e. Only vertical jumps allowed, and no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height.
4. **ON THE FLAT:** No Tests
5. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 8-B & Article 10-B

Article 14.5-C MHJA CROSSPOLE EQUITATION

- a. Riders who participate in the MHJA Crosspole Hunter and Equitation are in their first or second year of showing.
- b. Riders who participate in MHJA Crosspole division may cross enter into the Short Stirrup Equitation, Beginner Equitation division, Pony Mini Medal, and Junior/Adult Mini medal for one MHJA season only. At the end of that MHJA show season, regardless of whether it was a rider's first or second year competing in the MHJA Crosspole division, they will become ineligible to ride in the MHJA Crosspole division the following show season. Blue Ribbons won in the Crosspole division do not affect any division except the Crosspole division.

Article 15-C. PRIMARY EQUITATION DIVISION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to riders who have not won 6 blue ribbons in **any** recognized equitation classes. Ribbons won in Primary Equitation affect a rider's Primary Equitation status but not their Intermediate Equitation Eligibility. Ribbons won in Intermediate Equitation do affect a rider's Primary Equitation Eligibility. Ribbons won in Equitation On the Flat classes **do not** affect a riders eligibility in Equitation Over Fences but do affect a riders eligibility on the flat. However, ribbons won in Equitation Over Fences classes **do** affect a rider's eligibility in Equitation On The Flat classes. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes **do** affect an adult rider's eligibility.
- b. Competing in any classes 2'9" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** to compete in this division.
- c. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have appoints awarded.
- d. A rider becomes immediately ineligible to compete in this division if they have participated in any class listed in MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-1, Chapter 2, Article 59-A.

2. **DIVISION OF CLASSES:** To be divided as follows:
 - a. Primary Adult Hunter - open to adult riders
 - b. Primary Junior Hunter - open to junior riders
3. **OVER FENCES**
 - a. Fence Height: 2'3"
 - b. Only the rider to be judged.
4. **ON THE FLAT:** Only the rider to be judged at the walk, trot & Canter
5. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 12-C

Article 16-C. INTERMEDIATE EQUITATION DIVISION

1. **ELIGIBILITY**
 - a. Open to riders who have not won 9 blue ribbons in **any** recognized equitation classes. Ribbons won in Equitation On The Flat classes **do not** affect a riders eligibility Equitation Over Fences but do affect a riders eligibility on the flat. Ribbons won in Equitation Over Fences classes **do** affect an adult rider's eligibility.
 - b. Competing in any classes 3' or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** to compete in this division.
 - c. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete/class to have points awarded.
 - d. A rider becomes immediately ineligible to compete in this division if they have participated in any class listed in MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-1, Chapter 2, Article 59-A.
2. **DIVISION OF CLASSES:** To be divided as follows:
 - a. Intermediate Adult Equitation - open to adult riders
 - b. Intermediate Junior Equitation - open to junior riders
3. **OVER FENCES**
 - a. Fence Height: 2'6"
 - b. Only the rider to be judged
4. **ON THE FLAT:** Only the rider to be judged at the walk, trot & canter
5. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 12-C

Chapter 2. C CIRCUIT INTERMEDIATE MEDAL CLASSES: See Rule 12-A

Article 17-C. ELIGIBILITY

1. Open to all riders who have not won 9 blue ribbons in **any** recognized equitation classes. Ribbons won in Equitation On The Flat classes **do not** affect a riders eligibility in Intermediate Medal classes. However, ribbons won in Intermediate Medal classes **do** affect a rider's eligibility in the Equitation On the Flat classes.
2. Competing in any classes 3' or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** to compete in this division.
3. A rider becomes immediately ineligible to compete in this division if they have participated in any class listed in MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-1, Chapter 2, Article 59-A.

Article 18-C. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

These classes shall be governed by the Rules of the Association as described in the MHJA Rule Book

1. **DIVISION OF CLASSES:**
 - a. **INTERMEDIATE ADULT MEDAL**
 1. Open to adult riders
 2. ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class
 3. The top 15 point accumulators in this class during the season will qualify to compete in the Medal Finals
 4. To fulfill all requirements listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes
 5. A combination is not required at indoor shows for Intermediate Medals
 6. TESTS: 1-8 & 10 See Rule 11-A
 - b. **INTERMEDIATE JUNIOR MEDAL**
 1. Open to junior riders
 2. To fulfill all requirements listed in Rule 12-A MHJA Medal Classes
 3. A minimum of 4 competitors must complete the course in order to qualify for the Medal Finals
 4. If the Medals have been combined and there are still less than 4 entries the medals will receive ½ points. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
 5. TESTS: 1-8 & 10 See Rule 11-A
 - c. **JUNIOR /ADULT MINI MEDAL**

1. See Article 24-B
 2. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 12-C
- Article 19-C. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** See Rule 9-A and Rule 11-A

1. **FENCE HEIGHT:** 2'6"
2. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Must be a figure eight course of not less than six obstacles, which must include one combination and two changes of lead after the first fence.

Article 20-C. MEDAL QUALIFYING CLASSES: MHJA Intermediate Junior, Intermediate Adult Medal and Junior/Adult Medal Qualifying Classes will be offered at all MHJA C-Circuit shows.

Article 21-C. MEDAL RIDE-OFF

1. See Article 76-A. Winning the Intermediate Final Medal Ride-Off class **does not** eliminate a rider from competition in the Intermediate Equitation division

Chapter 1. General: See Rule 13-A

RULE 3-C C CIRCUIT HUNTER DIVISIONS

Article 22-C COMBINING HUNTER CLASSES: See Rule 5-A Chapter 2

1. Intermediate Junior & Intermediate Adult may be combined.
2. Primary Junior & Primary Adult may be combined.
3. Beginner Junior & Beginner Adult may be combined.

Chapter 2. C CIRCUIT HUNTER CLASS

SPECIFICATIONS Article 23-C.

PRIMARY WORKING HUNTER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to riders who have not won 6 blue ribbons in **any** recognized hunter classes over fences. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes **do** affect an adult rider's eligibility.
- b. Ribbons won in Primary Hunter affect a rider's Primary Hunter status but not their Intermediate Hunter Eligibility. Ribbons won in Intermediate Hunter **do** affect a rider's Primary Hunter Eligibility.
- c. Competing in any classes 2'9" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** to compete in this division.
- d. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
- e. A rider becomes immediately ineligible to compete in this division if they have participated in any class listed in MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-1, Chapter 2, Article 59-A.

2. DIVISION OF CLASSES: To be divided as follows:

- a. Primary Adult Hunter - open to adult riders
- b. primary Junior Hunter - open to junior riders

3. FENCE HEIGHT: 2'3"

4. COMBINING CLASSES: See Article 22-C

Article 24-C. INTERMEDIATE WORKING HUNTER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to riders who have not won 9 blue ribbons in **any** recognized hunter classes over fences. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior Classes **do** affect an adult rider's eligibility.
- b. Competing in any classes 3' or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** to compete in this division.
- c. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded.
- d. A rider becomes immediately ineligible to compete in this division if they have participated in any class listed in MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-1, Chapter 2, Article 59-A.

2. DIVISION OF CLASSES: To be divided as follows:

- a. Intermediate Adult Hunter - open to adult riders

b. Intermediate Junior Hunters - open to junior riders

3. **FENCE HEIGHT:** 2'6"

4. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 22-C

Article 25-C. BEGINNER JUNIOR HUNTER

Please note that Beginner Division are considered "C" Circuit divisions even though you may see language above them in other parts of the rulebook and they are held at shows other than "C" shows.

1. DESCRIPTION

- a. This division must be offered at all outdoor Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony Shows. It may be offered at Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony indoor shows.
- b. Beginner Junior and Beginner Adult divisions must be combined if not enough to fill at the first class of the division.
- c. Annual Championships are offered.
- d. ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class

2. ELIGIBILITY

- e. Open to Junior riders who have not won three blue ribbons in a Recognized Hunter class at MHJA, MHSA or USEF shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Riders do retain their Beginner status for the current show season. Riders having won in the Beginner Junior division do not lose their Novice or Primary status.
- f. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Children's Hunter, Children's Equitation, Open Hunter, Open Equitation at MHJA, MHSA or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. Children's divisions include Children's Hunter, Children's Pony Hunter, Children's Pony Equitation and Children's Medals. Open divisions include: MHJA, MHSA and USEF Pony Medals, small Medium or Large Pony Hunter divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 years, Junior Hunters, Junior Equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 years, MHJA Open Junior Medal, and USEF Medals. A rider becomes immediately ineligible to compete in this division if they have participated in any class listed in MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-1, Chapter 2, Article 59-A.
- g. Riders may not cross enter into any divisions that require jumping 2'6" or higher. Jumping 2'6" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
- h. Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect a rider's eligibility in Beginner.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

- a. Fence Height: 2'
 - b. Courses to be simple in nature.
 - c. No oxers
 - d. No In & Outs
 - e. Only vertical jumps allowed and no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height
4. **UNDER SADDLE:** To be judged at the Walk, Trot & Canter. No tests
5. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 26-C. BEGINNER ADULT HUNTER

Please note that Beginner Divisions are considered "C" Circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the rulebook and they are held at shows other than "C" Shows.

1. DESCRIPTION

- a. This division must be offered at all outdoor Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony shows. It may be offered at Regular Member, C Circuit and Pony indoor shows.
- b. Beginner Junior and Beginner Adult divisions must be combined if less than 3 in either division
- c. Annual Championships are offered
- d. ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in a class

2. ELIGIBILITY

- e. Open to Adult riders who have not won 9 blue ribbons in a Recognized Hunter class at MHJA, MHSA or USEF shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes **do** affect an adult rider's eligibility. Riders do retain their Beginner status for the current show season. This Rule to supersede all other rules.
- f. Riders having won in the Beginner Adult division do not lose their Novice or Primary status
- g. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Open Hunter or Equitation divisions at MHJA, MHSA or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. Open divisions include: MHJA, MHSA and USEF Pony Medal, Small, Medium

or Large Pony Hunter divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 years or any Adult Equitation, Junior Hunters or any Adult Hunter, Junior Equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 years, MHJA Open Junior or any Adult Medal and USEF Medals. A rider becomes immediately ineligible to compete in this division if they have participated in any class listed in MHJA Rule Book, Rule 8-1, Chapter 2, Article 59-A.

- h. Riders may not cross enter into any divisions that require jumping 2'6" or higher. Jumping 2'6" or higher will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this division.
- i. Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect a rider's eligibility in Beginner.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

- a. Fence Height: 2'
 - b. Courses to be simple in nature
 - c. No oxers
 - d. No In & Outs
 - e. Only vertical jumps allowed and no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height
4. **UNDER SADDLE:** To be judged at the Walk, Trot & Canter. No Tests
5. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** See Article 28-B

Article 26.5-C. MHJA CROSSPOLE HUNTER

- a. Riders who participate in the MHJA Crosspole hunter and Equitation are in their first or second year of showing.
- b. Riders who participate in MHJA Crosspole division may cross enter into the Short Stirrup and Beginner divisions only, and for one MHJA season only. At the end of that MHJA show season, regardless of whether it was a rider's first or second year competing in the MHJA Crosspole division, they will become ineligible to ride in the MHJA Crosspole division the following show season. Blue Ribbons won in the Crosspole division do not affect any division except the Crosspole division.
- c. ½ Points if less than 3 compete

Article 27-C. VERY GREEN HUNTER

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to horses in their first or second consecutive year of showing. Horses may compete in the Baby Green Hunter and Very Green Hunter divisions during the same year.
 - b. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded. This is decided on a division basis See Article 29-B
 - c. A Very Green horse may compete in classes where the fence heights exceed 2'9" and maintain their eligibility for the current show season only. At the completion of the show season, the Very Green horse, regardless of whether it was in its first or second year of showing in the division, is no longer considered a Very Green horse. Said horse would also lose its first-year green eligibility per Article 31-B
2. **FENCE HEIGHT: 2'3"** Cannot be combined with other classes.
3. **COMBINING SECTIONS:** Cannot be combined with other classes.

RULE 1-P. PONY SHOWS

Chapter 1. GENERAL PROCEDURE AND DEFINITIONS

A Pony Show is one which has been elected to the membership in the MHJA and shall be governed by the Constitution and Rules of the Association. A Pony Show is a minimum of one day duration. The Pony circuit will offer its own unique Hunter and Equitation divisions, Medal classes and Annual Championships. These divisions and Medal classes will not be held at MHJA Regular Member or C Circuit Shows. Each Pony Show must offer the mandatory classes as required in Rule 5-A. No other Recognized MHJA classes may be offered.

Article 1-P. DUES AND SHOW DATE APPLICATIONS: The show dues for a MHJA Pony show is \$100.00. The show is also required to pay a Banquet Fee of \$150.00. If a Pony and C Circuit show are held on the same weekend and are run by the same facility, only one Banquet fee of \$150.00 is charged. Dues for a Pony and C Circuit show are \$175.00. If a Pony and Regular Member show are held together, the Banquet Fee is \$300.00. Dues for a Pony and Regular Member show are \$250.00. If a Pony, Regular Member, and C Circuit show are held on the same weekend and are run by the same facility, (2) Banquet Fees of \$300.00 is charged. Show dues for a Pony, Regular Member, and C Circuit show will be \$250.00. See Article 8-A #7 - For penalties and

rules governing show date applications.

Article 2-P. PRIZE LISTS AND ENTRIES: The words “MHJA Pony Show” must be printed on the Prize List cover page. It is mandatory that the Prize List contain the specifications as outlined in Rule 3-A. Entry form shall be governed by Rule 3-A

Article 3-P. POINTS AWARDED

1. Points awarded at all MHJA Pony Shows are cumulative for horse and rider eligibility.
2. Points won at MHJA Pony Shows do affect a rider’s eligibility at MHJA C Circuit shows, but do not affect eligibility at MHJA Regular Member shows.
3. For Equitation classes, a minimum of 3 competitors must compete/class in order to have points awarded.
4. For Hunter classes, a minimum of 3 competitors must compete to have points awarded for that class. Points are awarded according to the number of horses judged in the first Hunter Over Fences class in that division at the show, even if there are less horses competing in this division during the remaining days of the show.
5. EXCEPTION: Pony Mini Medal, Junior/Adult Mini Medal and all Beginner Divisions: ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in the class. Please note that Beginner Divisions are considered “C” Circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the rulebook they are held at shows other than “C” Shows.

Article 4-P. CHAMPIONSHIPS: It is required that all Pony shows offer Individual Show Championships in all MHJA recognized hunter divisions. To be awarded as described in Article 63-A

Annual MHJA Pony Championships will be awarded in the following recognized divisions:

A. PONY HUNTER DIVISIONS:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Novice Pony | 2. Large Pony | 3. Small/Medium Pony |
| 4. Short Stirrup | 5. Children’s Large Pony | 6. Children’s Small/Medium Pony |
| 7. Unrestricted Children’s Pony Hunter | | |

B. PONY EQUITATION DIVISIONS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Children’s Large Pony | 2. Children’s Sm/Med Pony | 3. Novice Pony |
| 4. Short Stirrup | 5. 12 Yrs & Under | 6. 13 Yrs & Over |

Article 5-P JUDGES: Judges must have their USEF “r” rating with a USEF license for the division they are officiating in and be from out of state. See Article 13-A

Article 6-P. ELIGIBILITY

1. All Pony Divisions are open to Junior Riders, mounted on ponies, not exceeding 14.2 hands.
2. No rider over 12 years of age may compete on a Small Pony except in Unrestricted Children’s Pony Hunter
3. No rider over 14 years of age may compete on a Medium Pony except in Unrestricted Children’s Pony Hunter
4. Entries must be handled in all phases of the class by Juniors.
5. No ponies may be entered in any pony classes unless they possess a current Measurement Card See Article 7-P and Rule 1-P Chapter 2
6. See Rule 8-A Chapter 1

Article 7-P. HEIGHT OF DIVISION OF PONIES

1. Small Ponies - not to exceed 12.2 hands.
2. Medium Ponies - not to exceed 13.2 hands.
3. Large Ponies - not to exceed 14.2 hands.

Article 8-P. COURSES - See Rule 9-A

1. **IN AND OUTS** are not allowed in Novice Ridden Pony, Children’s Pony, Unrestricted Children’s Pony Hunter, and Short Stirrup Divisions and are optional in all other Pony Divisions. The distances must be altered for each height division, as described below, even in the case that they are combined into one class.

ONE STRIDE IN AND OUTS:

Small Ponies - 19-20 ft Medium Ponies - 21-22 ft Large Ponies - 23-24 ft

TWO STRIDE IN AND OUTS:

Small Ponies - 28.5’-30’ Medium Ponies - 31.5’-33’ Large Ponies - 34.5’-36’

2. **The SUGGESTED DISTANCE** between fences in a line for all Pony classes should be calculated as follows: Short Stirrup, Novice, Unrestricted Children's Pony Hunter, and all Children's Pony Divisions on a basis of 12' per stride. Open Pony Divisions:
 3. Small: On a basis of 10' per stride Medium: On a basis of 10'6" per stride Large: On a basis of 11'3" per stride
 4. If the distance between fences is less than 72', the distance must be adjusted for each fence height
 5. When the distance between fences in a hunter course are 90' or less from base to base, the distance must be posted on the course chart.
6. **The SCHOOLING DAY - SUGGESTED DISTANCES:** at a MHJA Pony Show should be based on 12 feet per stride for all pony heights.

Article 9-P. GENERAL

CHAPTER 2. MEASUREMENT OF PONY ENTRIES

1. **Measurement Card:** All ponies entered in performance classes at a Recognized MHJA Show must have a current Measurement Card. An animal must be measured every show season until it is six years old, at which time it will receive a permanent card. Any animal under six years of age that possesses a measurement card from the beginning of the show year, may continue to show at that height for the remainder of the show year, regardless if it should grow.
2. **Measurement Procedure:** Two Professionals from the Rules Standards and Grievance Committee must measure the pony. In their absence, a judge or veterinarian may officiate. The Prize List must state the time(s) and place where measurement will take place. The show management must provide an aluminum measuring stick with all direction levels. A Fee of \$20.00 will be charged for measuring any animal.

Article 10-P. PROTESTS

If an exhibitor wants to question the height of a pony, the following steps must be taken:

1. The protest must be made by an exhibitor of an animal or the trainer of the animal showing in the same division as the protested animal at the horse show.
2. The protest must be made by the end of the first day the division classes are held.
3. The protest must be accompanied by \$100.00 to be refunded, if it is determined that the animal is showing in the wrong division.
4. The animal will be measured by two RSG Committee members and the horse show judge will oversee the measurement. An USEF approved stick will be used. The animal will be measured as described in the USEF Rule Book. Measurement will take place (1) one hour after the last class of the division or (1) one hour after the last class of the horse show.
5. If the animal needs a blacksmith and it is beyond the means of the horse show to have one available, the animal may continue to compete the rest of the horse show. However, the animal cannot show again until it has been measured as described above. Any expense for the blacksmith will be the responsibility of the owner.
6. The animal must be jogged for soundness. If there is a discrepancy about soundness a veterinarian must be called at the owner's expense.
7. If it is determined that an animal is showing in the wrong division, all points awarded are nullified and the animal is barred from showing in that division.
8. If the owner of the animal wishes to appeal the measurement, they may do so in accordance with the rules of the USEF

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANIMALS WITH VALID USEF MEASUREMENT CARDS CANNOT BE PROTESTED

CHAPTER 3. GENERAL DESCRIPTION - PONY SHOWS

Article 11-P. NUMBER OF CLASSES

1. Hunter Divisions: Each Division must offer:
 - a. a minimum of 2 classes over fences and one under saddle
 - b. a maximum of 3 classes over fences and one under saddle
2. Equitation Divisions: Each division must offer:
 - a. One class over fences

- b. One class on the flat
- c. Additional classes are not permitted.

Article 12-P. RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS AND MEDAL CLASSES

The following Recognized Divisions and Medal Classes must be offered: Ponies will be awarded for the MHJA Annual Championships in the Recognized Divisions listed here. No other MHJA Recognized Classes may be offered.

Hunter Divisions shall be:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1) Small/Medium Pony | 2) Large Pony | 3) Short Stirrup Pony | 4) Novice Pony |
| 5) Children’s Sm/ Med Pony | 6) Children’s Large Pony | 7) Unrestricted Pony Hunter | |
| 8) Beginner Junior | 9) Beginner Adult | 10) Thoroughbred | |

Equitation Divisions shall be:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Pony Eq 12 & Under | 2) Pony Eq 13-17 | 3) Short Stirrup Pony Eq | 4) Novice Pon Eq |
| 5) Children’s Sm/Med Eq | 6) Children’s Large Eq | 7) Beginner Junior | 8) Beginner Adult |

Medal Classes shall be:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) MHJA Pony Medal | 2) MHJA Pony Mini Medal | 3) MHJA Children’s Pony Medal |
| 4) MHJA Junior/Adult Mini Medal | | |

RULE 2-P PONY SHOW EQUITATION DIVISIONS

Chapter 1. General - See Rule 10-A

Article 13-P. COMBINING EQUITATION CLASSES: See Rule 5-A Chapter 2

1. Pony Equitation 13-17 years and Pony Equitation 12 and Under may be combined
2. Children’s Small/Medium Pony Equitation and Children’s Large Pony Equitation may be combined.
3. Pony Medal and Pony Mini Medal **may not** be combined.
4. Beginner Junior Equitation & Beginner Adult Equitation may be combined.
5. Junior/Adult Mini Medal **may not** be combined with any other Medal.
6. Novice Pony Equitation **may not** be combined.

Article 14-P. Beginner Junior Equitation: Please note that Beginner Divisions are considered “C” Circuit divisions even though you may have seen language about them in other parts of the rulebook and they are held at shows other than “C” shows. See Article 9-B

Article 15-P. Beginner Adult Equitation: Please note that Beginner Divisions are considered “C” Circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the rulebook and they are held at shows other than “C” Shows. See Article 10-B

Article 16-P. OPEN PONY EQUITATION

To be divided as follows:

1. **ELIGIBILITY**
 - a. 12 YR and UNDER: Open to junior riders 12 yr and under
 - b. 13-17 Years: Open to junior riders 13-17 yr of age
 - c. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete/class to have points awarded.
2. **FENCE HEIGHT:**
 - a. Large Ponies - 2’9”
 - b. Medium Ponies - 2’3”
 - c. Small Ponies - 2’
 - d. TESTS 1-19 (USEF EQ 112)
3. **ON THE FLAT** - Tests 1-5, 8, 9 (USEF EQ 112) and Rule 11-A
4. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 13-P

Article 17-P. SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

- a. Open to Junior riders 11 yrs and under
- b. These riders may not have won three blue ribbons in a Recognized Equitation class at MHJA, MHSA or USEF Shows prior to October 1 of the preceding year. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes **do** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. Riders CANNOT jump in classes that require the rider to jump higher than 2'3". Qualified riders do retain their Short Stirrup status for the current show year.
- c. Riders having won in the Short Stirrup Division do not lose their Novice status.
- d. Riders having won nine blue ribbons in Short Stirrup Equitation on the flat are still eligible to compete in the Short Stirrup Equitation Over Fences classes.
- e. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Open Hunter or Equitation divisions at MHJA and/or USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. Open divisions include: MHJA & USEF Pony Medals and Small, Medium or Large Pony Hunter Divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & under or 12-17 years, Junior Hunters, Junior Equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 years, MHJA Open Junior Medal & USEF Medal at USEF shows. Short Stirrup riders cannot cross enter into the Children's Pony Equitation, Children's Pony Hunter divisions, or Children's Pony Medal.
- f. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- a. Fence Height:
 - 1. Large ponies at 2'
 - 2. Small/Medium ponies at 18"
 - b. **Courses**
 - 1. Courses to be simple in nature.
 - 2. No diagonal lines, but a single jump on the diagonal is permitted.
 - 3. No Tests
 - 4. No In & Outs
 - 5. Only vertical jumps allowed & no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height.
3. **ON THE FLAT:** No Tests
4. Cannot be combined with other classes

Article 18-P. NOVICE RIDDEN PONY EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to junior riders who have not won three blue ribbons over fences in Equitation classes at MHJA Pony or Regular Member shows. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes **do** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat
- b. Ribbons won in Novice Pony Equitation affect only the Novice Pony Equitation, Beginner Equitation and Short Stirrup Pony Equitation Division.
- c. ~~Ribbons won in the Short Stirrup division do not affect a rider's eligibility for this division.~~
- d. Riders may not cross enter into open equitation divisions
- e. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Open hunter, jumper or equitation divisions at MHJA and USEF Pony (Article 59-A) or Regular Member shows. Open divisions include: MHJA & USEF Pony Medals, Small, Medium or Large Pony Hunter Divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 yrs., Junior Hunters, Junior Equitation 14 & under or 15-17 yrs., MHJA Open Junior Medal & USEF Medal classes, USEF Jumper divisions or ANY class requiring the rider to jump higher than 2'6". Jumping higher than 3' at ANY show will make a rider **immediately ineligible**. You will be immediately ineligible if you jump 2'6 or higher; winning 3 blue ribbons at MHJA or USEF shows makes you ineligible the following year, with the exception of Short Stirrup and Opportunity Class ribbons.
- f. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete/class in order to have points awarded.

2. OVER FENCES

- a. Fence Height: 2' for all ponies
 - b. No In & Out
 - c. No oxers
 - d. No Tests
3. **ON THE FLAT:** Only the rider to be judged. No Tests
4. Cannot be combined with other classes.

Article 19-P. CHILDREN'S SMALL/MEDIUM PONY EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to junior riders mounted on small or medium ponies. Riders may not have won six blue ribbons over fences in equitation classes at MHJA Pony or Regular Member shows. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes **do** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. A rider may only compete in one section of Children's Pony Equitation (either Small/Medium or Large) at the same show.
- b. Ribbons won in the Short Stirrup or Novice Pony Equitation divisions do not affect a rider's eligibility for this division.
- c. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete/class in order to have points awarded.

2. FENCE HEIGHT

- a. Small & Medium Ponies - 2'
- b. No In & Out
- c. No Tests

3. **ON THE FLAT:** Only the rider to be judged. No Tests

4. **COMBINING CLASSES** - See Article 13-P

Article 20-P. CHILDREN'S LARGE PONY EQUITATION

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to junior riders mounted on large ponies. Riders may not have won six blue ribbons over fences in equitation classes at MHJA Pony or USEF, MHJA Regular Member shows. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes **do** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. A rider may only compete in one section of Children's Pony Equitation (either Small/Medium or Large) at the same show.
- b. Ribbons won in the Short Stirrup or Novice Pony Equitation divisions do not affect a rider's eligibility for this division.
- c. Competing in a class that requires a rider to jump 3' or higher immediately makes you ineligible for this division.
- d. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete/class in order to have points awarded.

2. FENCE HEIGHT

- a. Large Ponies - 2'6"
- b. No In & Outs
- c. No Tests

3. **ON THE FLAT:** Only the rider to be judged. No Tests

4. Combining Classes - See Article 13-P

Article 21-P. MHJA PONY MEDAL See Rule 12-A

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to Junior riders mounted on ponies.
- b. One rider per pony

2. FENCE HEIGHT

- a. Large Ponies - 2'9"
- b. Medium Ponies - 2'3"
- c. Small Ponies - 2'

3. **QUALIFYING:** To be a qualifying class, 4 competitors must complete the course. See Article 76-A

4. If the Medals have been combined and there are still less than 4 entries the medals will receive ½ points. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.

5. **TESTS** 1-21 and Rule 11-A

6. Cannot be combined with other classes.

Article 22-P. MHJA PONY MINI MEDAL - See Rule 12-A

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to Junior riders mounted on ponies.
- b. One rider per pony
- c. Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect a rider's eligibility for this class. Riders cannot "point out" with MHJA points during the show season.
- d. Riders may not have won three blue ribbons in equitation classes at MHJA Pony or Regular Member shows.
- e. Riders may not have competed in MHJA Small/Medium or Large Pony Hunter, Pony Equitation 12 & Under, Pony Equitation 13-17, or Pony Medal. Riders may not cross enter into these divisions.

- f. Riders may not have won 30 points in recognized equitation classes at USEF shows (not including Short Stirrup). Winning 30 USEF points will make a rider **immediately ineligible** for this class.
 - g. MHJA Pony Mini Medal wins do affect a riders Short Stirrup and Novice Equitation status.
2. **FENCE HEIGHT** -2'
 - a. Stride set at 12'
 - b. No In & Outs
 - c. No oxers
 3. **QUALIFYING:** To be a qualifying class 4 competitors must complete the course. See Article 76-A
 4. If the Medals have been combined and there are still less than 4 entries the medals will receive ½ points. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.
 5. **TESTS:** 1-8 Judges are encouraged to test the top 4 riders. See Rule 11-A
 6. Cannot be combined with other classes.

Article 22-1-P. MHJA CHILDREN'S PONY MEDAL

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to junior riders mounted on small, medium, or large ponies. Riders may not have won six blue ribbons over fences in equitation classes at MHJA Pony or Regular Member shows. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes **do not** affect a rider's eligibility in equitation classes over fences. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences classes **do** affect a rider's eligibility on the flat. A rider may only compete in one section of Children's Pony Medal (either Small/Medium or Large) at the same show.
- b. Ribbons won in the Short Stirrup do not affect a rider's eligibility for this division..
- c. A minimum of 4 competitors must complete/class in order to have points awarded.
- d. If the Medals have been combined and there are still less than 4 entries the medals will receive ½ points. Ribbons won in Medal classes do not count toward blue ribbon count for equitation eligibility.

2. FENCE HEIGHT

- a. Small & Medium Ponies - 2'; Large Ponies - 2'6"
- b. No In & Out
- c. **TESTS:** 1-8. Judges are encouraged to test the top 4 riders. See Rule 11-A
- 3. **ON THE FLAT:** Only the rider to be judged. No Tests
- 4. **COMBINING CLASSES** - See Article 13-P

Article 23-P. JUNIOR/ADULT MINI MEDAL

1. See Article 24-B

RULE 3-P PONY HUNTER DIVISIONS

Chapter 1. GENERAL - See Rule 13-A

Article 24-P. COMBINING OF HUNTER CLASSES: See Rule 5-A Chapter 2

1. Small/Medium Pony Hunter & Large Pony Hunter may be combined.
2. Children's Small/Medium Pony Hunter & Children's Large Pony Hunter may be combined.
3. Beginner Junior Hunter & Beginner Adult Hunter may be combined.
4. Novice Pony and Unrestricted Children's Pony **may not** be combined.

Chapter 2. PONY HUNTER CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

Article 25-P. PONY HUNTERS

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to ponies of any age
 - b. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
2. **DIVISION OF CLASSES:** This division will be divided as follows:
 - a. Small/Medium Pony Hunters
 1. Small not to exceed 12.2 hands
 2. No rider over 12 years of age may compete on a small pony
 3. Medium not to exceed 13.2 hands
 4. No rider over 14 yr may compete on a medium pony
 - b. Large Pony Hunters
 1. not to exceed 14.2 hands
 2. No rider over 17 yr may compete on a large pony

3. **FENCE HEIGHT**
 - a. Small Ponies - 2'
 - b. Medium Ponies - 2'3"
 - c. Large Ponies - 2'9"
4. **COMBINING CLASSES:** See Article 24-P

Article 26-P. CHILDREN'S PONY HUNTERS

1. **DIVISION OF SECTIONS** - To be divided as follows:
 - a. Children's Large Pony Hunters
 - b. Children's Small/Medium Pony Hunters
2. **ELIGIBILITY**
 - a. Open to junior riders mounted on ponies.
 - b. Riders in this division may cross enter into the MHJA Open Pony Hunter division during the current show season. However, those riders then become ineligible to compete in the MHJA Children's Pony Hunter division the following year. Riders may not have won six blue ribbons over fences in hunter classes at MHJA Pony or Regular Member shows
 - c. Riders jumping in classes that require the rider to jump 3' or higher makes you immediately ineligible for this division.
 - d. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded
3. **FENCE HEIGHT**
 - a. Large Ponies - 2'6"
 - b. Small-Medium Ponies - 2'
4. No In and Out
5. Combining Classes - See Article 24-P

Article 27-P. NOVICE PONY HUNTER

1. **ELIGIBILITY**
 - a. Open to junior riders mounted on ponies.
 - b. Ribbons won in Novice Pony Hunter affect only the Novice Pony Hunter, Beginner Hunter and Short Stirrup Pony Hunter Division
 - c. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any Open hunter, jumper or equitation divisions at MHJA and USEF Pony (Article 59-A) or Regular Member shows. Open divisions include: MHJA & USEF Pony Medals, Small/Medium or Large Pony Hunter Divisions, Pony Equitation 11 & Under or 12-17 yrs, Junior Hunters, Junior Equitation 14 & Under or 15-17 yr, MHJA Open Junior Medal & USEF Medal classes, USEF Jumper divisions or ANY class requiring the rider to jump higher than 2'6". These riders may not have won 3 blue ribbons in hunter classes at any MHJA Pony or Regular Member show. Jumping higher than 3' at ANY show will make a rider **immediately ineligible**.
 - d. Riders having won in the Novice Pony Hunter Division do not lose their Children's Pony Hunter status
 - e. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded
2. **FENCE HEIGHT** - 2' for all
3. No In & Out
4. No oxers
5. Cannot be combined with other classes

Article 28-P. SHORT STIRRUP PONY HUNTER

1. **ELIGIBILITY**
 - a. Open to Junior riders, 11 years and under
 - b. These riders may not have won 9 blue ribbons in Recognized hunter classes over fences at MHJA, MHS or USEF Shows (Article 59-A) prior to October 1, of the preceding year. But riders do retain their Short Stirrup status for the current Show Year. The rider CANNOT jump in classes that require the rider to jump higher than 2'3"
 - c. Riders having won in the Short Stirrup Division do not lose their Novice status
 - d. This division is not open to any riders who have shown in any open hunter or equitation divisions at MHJA and USEF Pony or Regular Member shows. For list of Open divisions see Short Stirrup Equitation. Short Stirrup riders cannot cross enter into the Children's Pony Hunter or Children's Pony equitation divisions.
 - e. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.
2. **FENCE HEIGHTS**

- a. Large Ponies - 2'
- b. Small/Medium Ponies - 18"

3. COURSE DESIGN

- a. To be simple in nature
- b. No diagonal lines, but a single jump on the diagonal is permitted.
- c. No Tests
- d. No In & Outs
- e. Only vertical jumps are allowed & no part of the top pole may exceed the maximum fence height.
- f. No oxers

4. UNDER SADDLE - To be judged at the Walk, Trot & Canter. No Tests

5. Cannot be combined with other classes.

Article 29-P. BEGINNER JUNIOR HUNTER: Please note that Beginner Divisions are considered "C" Circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the rulebook and they are held at shows other than "C" shows. See Article 42-B

Article 30-P. BEGINNER ADULT HUNTER: Please note that Beginner Divisions are considered "C" Circuit divisions even though you may see language about them in other parts of the rulebook and they are held at shows other than "C" Shows. See Article 43-B

Article 31-P. UNRESTRICTED CHILDREN'S PONY HUNTERS

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Open to junior riders mounted on ponies.
- b. There is no age restriction for pony size other than rider must be a junior.
- c. A minimum of 3 competitors must compete in order to have points awarded.

2. FENCE HEIGHT

- d. Large Ponies - 2'6"
- e. Small/Medium Ponies - 2'

3. No In and Out

4. COMBINING CLASSES: May not be combined.

CHAPTER 1. SPECIAL AWARDS

RULE 1-D. ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

An Annual Awards Banquet will be held each year to honor the Annual Champions and Final Medal Ride-Off Winners. In addition, the following awards will be presented.

1. ARLENE BATES TOYNE MEMORIAL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD -

Members to nominate juniors and adults and the Voting Membership to vote on a Junior Winner and an Adult Winner

2. JIM AND PAT ALDER EQUITATION AWARD (Grand Champion Equitation Award)

To be awarded to the equitation rider winning the most points in one of the following Regular Member divisions by combining both flat and over fences points: Junior Equitation 15-17, Junior Equitation 14 & Under, Open Adult Equitation

3. GRAND CHAMPION HUNTER

To be awarded to the horse who accumulates the most points in one of the following Regular Member divisions: Green Hunter, High Performance Hunter, Junior Hunter 14 & Under, Junior Hunter 15-17, Open Adult Hunter. A Reserve award is presented to the horse with the next highest total in any one of those divisions.

4. GRAND CHAMPION JUMPER

The horse who accumulates the most points in one of the Regular Member Jumper divisions: Low Children's/Adult Jumper, High Children's/Adult Jumper, Schooling Jumper or Modified Jumper

5. GRAND CHAMPION ADULT HUNTER

To be awarded to the horse who accumulates the most points in one of the following Regular Member Hunter divisions: Open Adult Hunter, Limit Adult Hunter, Novice Adult Hunter, Adult Hunter 18-49 or Adult Hunter 50 & Over

6. GRAND CHAMPION JUNIOR HUNTER

To be awarded to the horse that accumulates the most points in one of the following Regular Member divisions: Junior Hunter 14 & Under and Junior Hunter 15-17.

7. GRAND CHAMPION PONY HUNTER

To be awarded to the Pony who accumulates the most points in one of the following Pony divisions: Large Pony Hunter or Small/Medium Pony Hunter. A Reserve award is presented to the pony with the next highest total in any one of those divisions.

8. GRAND CHAMPION PONY EQUITATION

To be awarded to the rider with the most points over fences and on the flat in one of the following Pony divisions: Pony Equitation 12 & Under, Pony Equitation 13-17

9. GRAND CHAMPION "C" CIRCUIT HUNTER

To be awarded to the horse accumulating the most points in either the Primary or the Intermediate Hunter division. Special Award donated by Wyldeewood Tack Shop

10. HORSEMANSHIP AWARD

Riders will be nominated, and the Voting Membership will vote on nominees.

11. HIGH POINT THOROUGHBRED AWARD

Presented to the TB, which is identified by having MHJA Thoroughbred Card, who has the most points in any one hunter or jumper division of divisions which are held at Regular Member shows Only. Thoroughbred Lifetime Registration: \$20.00.

12. GRAND CHAMPION NOVICE CHILDREN'S HUNTER

The horse who accumulates the most points in one of the following Regular Member divisions: Low Children's Hunter, Novice Junior Hunter, or Children's Hunter.

CHAPTER 2. SPONSORS for Annual Championships and BANQUET FEES

1. Horse Show Management must agree to pay a Banquet Fee for every horse show Recognized by the MHJA (except Local Member) In return, the horse show management will be invited to present some Annual Championship Awards at the MHJA Annual Awards Banquet. The number of presentations depends upon availability.

- a. Regular Member shows will pay a Banquet Fee of \$150.00 per show.
- b. C Circuit shows will pay a Banquet Fee of \$150.00 per show
- c. Pony shows will pay a Banquet Fee of \$150.00
- d. Local Member shows will not be required to pay a Banquet Fee
- e. If a Pony and a C-Circuit show are given by a facility on the same weekend a Banquet Fee of \$150.00 will be required
- f. If a Pony & Regular Member show are given by a facility on the same weekend a Banquet Fee of \$300.00 is required
- g. If a Pony, Regular Member show, and C Circuit show are given by a facility on the same weekend a Banquet fee of \$300.00 will be required.

2. The Sponsorship Fee for an Annual Championship for the MHJA Annual Championships presented at the MHJA Annual Awards Banquet is set at \$100.00 per championship. Sponsorships are greatly appreciated.