



## **Rules and Regulations**

**January 2020**

# Horse Show Point System Rules

1. All riders must be paid members of the Mountaineer Hunter/ Jumper Association and the appropriate nomination fee for each horse must be paid PRIOR TO the time the points are won for the points to count toward yearly awards. Nomination fees will be used to defray costs of year-end awards and routine operating expenses.

In addition, all fees must be paid in full to the show in which the rider received points for the points to count. Any rider with a show bill not paid in full within two weeks of the close of the show will forfeit the points earned at that show.

2. Points are based on a horse/rider combination except for the following divisions in which the points accrue to the rider: Walk-Trot Hunter, Canter Cross Rails Hunter, Short Stirrup Hunter, Long Stirrup Hunter, Beginner Rider Hunter, all equitation divisions, and Horse divisions where the horse will accrue points when shown by any MHJA member

Members selecting any of the following divisions - Walk Trot Hunter, Canter Cross Rails Hunter, Short Stirrup Hunter, Long Stirrup Hunter or Beginner Rider Hunter - must pay one horse nomination fee when joining, but can ride any horse throughout the year. Points will accrue by rider.

If the member rides more than one horse in a show in one of the above divisions, only the ribbons won on the originally nominated horse will count toward points. If none of the horses ridden is the nominated horse, then the horse on which the first ribbon is won in the first class will be used for the remaining classes to determine which ribbons count for points at that show.

3. Each horse/rider combination may be eligible for a maximum of two hunter division year-end awards with the exception of Very Green, Pre-Green, OTTB, Canter Cross Rails and WalkTrot. The hunter divisions selected must meet the two division ruling as described below. Horse/rider combinations in Very Green, OTTB or Pre-Green may cross nominate in two additional hunter divisions.

Canter Cross Rails and Walk-Trot riders cannot nominate into other divisions.

The two divisions must be "back-to-back" in fence heights. A division level cannot be skipped. See "Class Descriptions". If a rider wishes to switch any division within the current year, all points will be lost in the division that is dropped. Points in the new division will be accumulated only from the date of the change.

4. The point year will begin on November 1st and ends on October 31st of the following year.

Rider's age eligibility is determined by the rider's age on November 1 of the point year.

5. Nominating and membership forms will be available at each show and meeting, or by requesting them from the Point Secretary. Membership forms are also available at our website - [www.mhja.us](http://www.mhja.us).

6. There must be a least three entrants in the first class of a division in order for each of the classes in the division to count for points. The points will count as follows:

1st place 7 points	4th place 3 points
2nd place 5 points	5th place 2 points
3rd place 4 points	6th place 1 point

Points will be determined according to the number of entries in the first class over fences in each division as follows:

3 to 6 entries.....	single points
7 to 11 entries.....	double points
12 to 17 entries.....	triple points
18 or more entries.....	quadruple points

This system will apply to all MHJA sanctioned shows.

7. Each show will offer champion and reserve champion for all divisions except for equitation; however, the champions will not accrue any additional points. Year-end awards will offer champion and reserve champion in all divisions.
8. If a rated show offers a Pre-Children's division, points earned in this division will count for year-end points in the MHJA Children's division as long as the horse and rider combination is nominated.

If a show offers the WPaPHA Adult Hunter division and does not offer a MHJA Adult division, then the WPaPHA Adult Hunter division will count for points in the MHJA Adult division as long as the horse and rider combination is nominated.

9. In order to qualify for points for the annual MHJA Championships, the following fence heights must be observed in each division.

Open Hunter.....	2'6", 2'9", 3'
Pre-Green Hunter.....	2'9" - 3'
Adult Amateur Hunter.....	2'9"
Low Adult Hunter.....	2'3"
MHJA Adult Hunter.....	2'6"
Children's Hunter (horse).....	2'9"
Children's Pony Hunter.....	2', 2'3", 2'6"
Intermediate Hunter.....	2'6"
Low Children's Hunter.....	2'6"
Low Intermediate Hunter.....	2'3"
Very Green.....	2'3"
OTTB.....	2'6"
Short Stirrup Hunter.....	2'
Long Stirrup Hunter.....	2'
Beginner Rider Hunter.....	2'
Canter Cross Rails Hunter.....	12" Cross rails
Walk-Trot Hunter.....	12" Cross rails
Puddle Jumper.....	2'3"

Beginner Jumper.....	2'6"
Hopeful Jumper.....	2'9"
Training Jumper.....	3'
Schooling Jumper.....	3'3"

10. The equitation divisions and their respective fence heights will be as follows:

Adult Equitation.....	2'9"
14—17 Equitation.....	2'6" - 2'9"
Under 14 Equitation.....	2'3" - 2'6"
Long Stirrup Equitation.....	2'
Short Stirrup Equitation.....	2'
Canter Cross Rails.....	12" cross rails
Walk-Trot Equitation.....	12" cross rails

11. If a rider's amateur status changes to professional within the point year, any amateur division points are forfeited.

An amateur is defined as a person of at least 18 years of age that has NOT received any remuneration. Remuneration is defined as compensation or payment in any form such as cash, goods, sponsorships, discounts or services; reimbursement of any expenses; trade or in-kind exchange of goods or services such as board or training.

A professional accepts remuneration and rides, exercises, instructs, drives, shows, trains, assists in training, gives lessons, schools, provides consultation services, or conducts clinics or seminars.

12. Riders in entry level divisions - Walk Trot Hunter, Canter Cross Rails Hunter, Beginner Rider Hunter, Short Stirrup Hunter, Long Stirrup Hunter, and horse/rider combinations in Beginner Jumper will only be eligible in each of these divisions for two years. For example - a rider may show in Walk Trot for two years and then show in Canter Cross Rails for two years and then in Beginner Rider for two years, etc.

## Horse Show Sanctioning Rules

All shows must comply with these rules or will not be considered for sanctioning in the following point year.

1. The “point year” used to accumulate points for high score awards is November 1st through October 31st of the following year. The placing of a show in the appropriate “point year” shall be based upon its first day of operation.
2. Any show desiring to be a member of the MHJA must submit its prize list not less than forty-five (45) days prior to its first day of operation along with an application fee of \$40 for approval by the MHJA officers.

Any group that offers more than two horse shows to be considered for sanctioning within a point year, will have the application fee reduced to \$35 per show.

3. Member shows must send a prize list, the results and class sheets which affect the awards within 14 days after the horse show to the Point Secretary. Any member show that fails to submit the foregoing documentation within 30 days following its closing will not be approved for sanctioning in the next “point year”.
4. The show must have proper management with a gate crew, jump crew, secretary, well designed courses with proper footing, inviting jumps with reasonable distances, adequate time for schooling or a separate schooling area with at least 2—3 jumps of adequate size, good stabling, an adequate PA system, qualified judges, proper medical personnel and a concession stand with food and beverage service starting at 7 AM.
5. All sanctioned horse shows must include a MHJA membership form in their prize list and also make these available at the secretary’s desk.
6. Shows will be sanctioned on a TIER SYSTEM which is based on the duration of the show, the type of venue, and the number of points divisions which are offered.

Up to 2 shows will be sanctioned per date or weekend.

If the number of divisions offered is reduced by show management after the show is approved, and additional show, offering more MHJA divisions may be approved by vote of the MHJA board of directors.

## **The Tier System Defined:**

Tier 1 shows- the following criteria must be met to qualify as a Tier 1 show.

- Multiple day show (2 or more showing days) in one location with suitable overnight stabling
- If only offering hunter classes, then at least 14 of the 18 hunter divisions must be offered.
- If offering jumper divisions, then at least 3 of the 5 divisions must be offered

Tier 2 shows- these are the one day shows that do not meet the criteria for Tier 1 or the multiple day shows that do not offer enough MHJA points divisions.

# Class Descriptions

## **Open Hunter Division**

Open to all horses and riders. Fence heights to be 2'6", 2'9" and 3'. Rider may only compete at one fence height and that height must be declared on your membership form. May cross enter into any eligible hunter division.

## **Very Green Hunter Division**

Open to horses in their first two years of showing over fences (not dependent on the horse/rider combination). Fences 2'3". Judged on performance and soundness. Simple changes of lead not to be penalized.

## **Pre-Green Hunter Division**

Open to horses that have never shown over fences higher than 3'. Horses are eligible to nominate in this section for two years only and are no longer eligible for Very Green. Fences 2'9".

## **OTTB Hunter Division**

Open to Thoroughbred horse that have a visible lip tattoo or proper documentation. Judged on an even hunting pace, manners and jumping style. Fences 2'6".

## **Adult Amateur Hunter Division**

To be shown by riders who are no longer eligible to compete as Junior exhibitors. Ponies may be shown by Adults, suitability to count. Fences 2'9" - 3', spreads not to exceed fence heights. May cross nominate into MHJA Adult, Intermediate or Open.

## **MHJA Adult Hunter Division**

Open to Amateur riders. Fences 2'6". May cross nominate into Low Adult, Low Intermediate, Intermediate, Adult Amateur or Open.

## **Low Adult Hunter Division**

Open to Amateur riders 18 years or older. Fences 2'3". May cross nominate into MHJA Adult, Intermediate, Low Intermediate or, if eligible, Long Stirrup.

### **Children's Hunter Division (horse)**

To be shown by Junior exhibitors. Height of fences is 2'9". Spreads not to exceed fence height. May cross nominate into Intermediate, Low Children's or Open.

### **Children's Pony Hunter Division**

To be shown by Junior exhibitors. Height of fences is 2' for small ponies, 2'3" for medium and 2'6" for large. Spreads not to exceed fence height. May cross nominate into Low Intermediate. Medium and large ponies also have the option to cross into Intermediate or Low Children's. Large ponies may cross into Open.

### **Intermediate Hunter Division**

Open to Juniors or Amateurs. Fences 2'6". To be judged on performance and soundness. Juniors can cross **nominate** into Children's Hunter (horse), Children's Pony Hunter (if eligible), Low Intermediate, Low Children's or Open. Amateurs can cross enter into Low Adult, MHJA Adult, Low Intermediate, Adult Amateur or Open.

### **Low Children's Hunter Division**

Open to Juniors. Fences 2'6". To be judged on performance and soundness. May cross nominate into Low Intermediate, Intermediate, Children's Hunter (horse), Children's Pony Hunter (if eligible) or Open.

### **Low Intermediate Hunter Division**

Open to Juniors and Amateurs. To be judged on performance. Fences 2'3". Juniors may cross nominate into Beginner Rider, Children's Pony Hunter, Short Stirrup, Long Stirrup, Intermediate or Low Children's. Amateurs may cross enter into Beginner Rider, Intermediate, MHJA Adult, Long Stirrup or Low Adult.

### **Short Stirrup Hunter Division**

Open to riders 12 years of age and under with limited experience. Height of fences 2'. May cross-nominate into Beginner Rider or Low Intermediate. Any rider nominating in this division may not compete for MHJA points on any horse in any other division, except Beginner Rider or Low Intermediate.

### **Long Stirrup Hunter Division**

Open to riders 13 years of age and over with limited experience. Fences 2'. May cross nominate into Beginner Rider, Low Intermediate or Low Adult. Any rider nominating in this division may not compete



for MHJA points on any horse in any other division, except Beginner Rider, Low Intermediate or Low Adult.

### **Beginner Rider Hunter Division**

Open to horses or ponies ridden by Juniors or Amateurs with limited experience. To be judged on performance. Fences 2'. May cross nominate into Short Stirrup, Long Stirrup or Low Intermediate. Any rider nominating in this division may not compete for MHJA points on any horse in any other division, except Short Stirrup, Long Stirrup or Low Intermediate.

### **Canter Cross Rails Hunter Division**

Open to beginner riders only. If the division size is excessive, then the division may be split, based on rider's age, into 8 years and under and 9 years and over. Riders will be required to canter a course of cross rails not to exceed 12" in height. Manners, way of going and suitability of rider to mount to be judged. May not cross nominate into any other division.

### **Walk-Trot Hunter Division**

Open to beginner riders only. If the class size is excessive, then classes may be split, based on rider's age, into 8 years and under and 9 years and over. Riders to trot cross rail course. Manners, way of going and suitability of rider to mount to be judged. Cross poles not to exceed 12" in height. May not cross nominate into any other division.

### **Puddle Jumper**

Open to green horses and ponies and/or novice riders. Fences 2'3". Horse/rider combinations in this division can only cross enter into Beginner Jumper. Horse/rider combinations are only eligible in this division for two point years. All classes will be held under USEF Optimum Time Table. Excessive speed will be penalized. Jumping combinations will be no less than three strides.

### **Beginner Jumper Section**

Open to all horses and riders with limited experience. Fences will be 2'6" with spreads not to exceed the height of the fence. May cross enter into Hopeful Jumper. To be run under USEF specifications set by sanctioned shows. Nominate for only 2 years.

### **Hopeful Jumper Section**

Open to all horses and riders. Fences will be 2'9" with spreads not to exceed fence height. May cross enter into Beginner Jumper or Training Jumper. To be run under USEF specifications set by sanctioned shows.

### **Training Jumper Section**

Open to all horses and riders. Fences will be 3' with spreads not to exceed the height of the fence. To be run under USEF specifications set by sanctioned shows. May cross enter into Hopeful Jumper or Schooling Jumper.

### **Schooling Jumper**

Open to all horses and riders. Fences will be 3'3" with spreads not to exceed the height of the fence. To be run under USEF specifications set by sanctioned shows. May cross enter into Training Jumper.

### **Adult, 14-17 and Under 14 Equitation**

Each equitation section is open to the age appropriate rider. Riders in Short Stirrup Hunter, Long Stirrup Hunter, Beginner Rider Hunter, Walk-Trot Hunter or Canter Cross Rails Hunter can not be nominated in any of the above equitation divisions.

### **Short Stirrup Equitation**

Open only to riders in Short Stirrup Hunter.

### **Long Stirrup Equitation**

Open only to riders in Long Stirrup Hunter.

### **Canter Cross Rails Equitation**

Open only to riders in Canter Cross Rails Hunter.

### **Lead Line**

Open to riders 7 years and younger. Lead line riders may not nominate for any other divisions. Riders will join and nominate for \$20. If they are part of a family membership then the nomination is \$10

Lead line riders will be recognized for their participation at the Year End Awards banquet.