



**2022 - 2023**  
**Rules and Regulations**  
**Unrated Divisions**

Updated November 2022

## Summary of Changes

1. Edited rulebook to add: In addition to ALL nomination fees, ALL membership fees will be used to defray the costs of year-end awards.
2. Edited rulebook to add verbiage to clarify the Extremely Green Rider division's points will follow the rider and will not be based on the horse/rider combination.
3. Edited rulebook to change point year from November 1st - October 31st to December 1st - October 31st.
4. Edited rulebook to remove restriction from nominating in BOTH the UNRATED and RATED circuits. Members nominated in both must declare which circuit they want the MHJA Endless Summer Horse Show points to count for at the time of nomination.
5. Edited rulebook to clarify that three entries must be entered and COMPLETE the first class over fences for points to count for that division.
6. Edited rulebook to add that the MHJA will refer to USEF rules in regard to Professional's rescinding their Professional Status and wanting to sign up as an Amateur.
7. Edited rulebook to remove a two-year nomination cap on the Beginner Jumper Division. Added the Extremely Green Hunter, Extremely Green Rider, Very Green, and Pre-Green divisions to the 2-year nomination cap rule.
8. Edited rulebook to add: Proper tack and attire should be followed in accordance with USEF rules.
9. Edited rulebook to add: No horseshow dates will be held for venues. Sanctioning dates are on a first come, first served basis, and will only be held when payment is received.
10. Edited rulebook to add: Show Sanctioning fees will be based on the number of shows held, and will be discounted with multiple show dates.
11. Edited rulebook to add: Any new venue/horse show management applying for MHJA Sanctioning will have a probationary period. During this period, an MHJA representative will be present at their first horse show to ensure that the show is running safely and in accordance with MHJA values. If any complaints are made from members regarding any show, a representative will attend their next horse show to help guide the show back into compliance. If complaints are still made, sanctioning will be pulled.

12. Edited rulebook to change: MHJA will sanction up to TWO shows per date, regardless of Tier status. The exception to this in the weekend of the MHJA Endless Summer Horse Show, in which no other shows will be sanctioned.
13. Edited rulebook to clarify: see each division description for cross-nomination allowances and fence heights.
14. Edited rulebook to add: Walk Trot will now be split into Walk Trot Ground Poles, Walk Trot Cross Rails and Walk Trot Equitation. Eligible members may sign up for all three. A minimum of four Ground Poles and six Cross Rails must be offered at sanctioned shows.
15. Edited rulebook to add: If a fence height range is offered for jumper divisions, the highest fence height in the range will be observed for points.
16. Edited rulebook to change: Hopeful Jumper will now be Low Training Jumper.
17. Edited rulebook to change: A Family Membership will not be offered. All members must pay a membership and nomination fee, with the exception of Leadline.
18. Edited rulebook to add: Initial nomination fee covers three Divisions (two Hunter/Jumper and one Equitation). Two additional divisions may be added for \$10 each, for a maximum total of five divisions. Divisions must follow the 3” rule in fence heights.

## 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. Membership and 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, Extremely Green Rider, all equitation divisions and Horse divisions where the horse will accrue points when shown by any MHJA member: Open Hunter, OTTB Hunter, Extremely Green Hunter, Very Green Hunter and Pre-Green Hunter.

Members selecting any of the following divisions - Walk Trot Hunter, Canter Cross Rails Hunter, Extremely Green Rider, 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 five (5) division year-end awards** to include hunters, equitation and jumpers. Walk-Trot riders cannot nominate into other divisions.

The divisions must be “back-to-back” in fence heights (3” rule). 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 December 1st and ends on October 31st of the following year.

Rider’s age eligibility is determined by the rider’s age on December 1st of the point year.

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

6. At least three exhibitors must be entered and complete 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 - 5 points	4th place - 1 point
2nd place - 3 points	5th place - 1/2 point
3rd place - 2 points	6th place - 1/4 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, with the exception of Walk-Trot.

**Walk-Trot Ground Rail and Cross Pole awards will be based on levels. Points needed to receive year-end awards are: Gold = 70, Silver = 35, Bronze = 15.**

A high point super sparkly award will be given to the high point Walk-Trot rider accruing the most points in both Walk-Trot Ground Rails and Walk-Trot Cross Poles. Walk-Trot Equitation will be awarded first through eighth place medals.

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" , 2'9, 3'
Short Stirrup Hunter.....	2'
Long Stirrup Hunter.....	2'
Beginner Rider Hunter.....	2'
Extremely Green Rider.....	18"
Extremely Green Horse.....	18"
Canter Cross Rails Hunter.....	12" Cross rails
Walk-Trot Ground Poles.....	Ground Poles
Walk Trot Cross rails.....	12" Cross rails
Puddle Jumper.....	2'3"
Beginner Jumper.....	2'6"
Low Training 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.....	2'6"
14—17 Equitation.....	2'6"
14 Equitation.....	2'3"
Long Stirrup Equitation.....	2'
Short Stirrup Equitation.....	2'
Canter Cross Rails.....	12" cross rails
Walk-Trot Equitation.....	Ground Poles or Cross Rails

\*\*The 3" Rule in regards to back to back fence heights will have exceptions made for Age Dependent Equitation Divisions\*\*

11. If a rider's amateur status changes to professional within the point year, any amateur division points are forfeited. The MHJA will follow USEF guidance in regards to Amateur vs Professional rules.

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, Extremely Green Rider, Beginner Rider Hunter, Short Stirrup Hunter, Long Stirrup Hunter) and the following horse divisions (Extremely Green Hunter, Very Green, Pre-Green and Puddle Jumpers) will be capped at a two-year nomination. 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 Be-

ginner Rider for two years, etc.

13. Proper tack and attire should be followed per USEF guidance.

## 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 December 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.

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. Any new venue or horse show management applying for sanctioning will be placed on a probationary period. An MHJA representative will be present at their first horse show to observe and make sure the show is running safely and in accordance with MHJA values. If any complaints are made in regards to any ongoing shows, a representative will attend their next horse show to guide them back into compliance. If complaints are still made, then sanctioning will be pulled.
6. All sanctioned horse shows must include a MHJA membership form in their prize list and also make these available at the secretary’s desk.
7. No show will be allowed to hold sanctioning the same weekend as the MHJA Endless Summer Horse show.
8. 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.

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 three of the five 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" or 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 that is in compliance with the 3" back-to-back fence height rule.

## **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. May cross enter into any eligible hunter division that is in compliance with the 3" back-to-back fence height rule.

## **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". May cross enter into any eligible hunter division that is in compliance with the 3" back-to-back fence height rule.

## **OTTB Hunter Division**

Open to Thoroughbred horses that have a visible lip tattoo or proper documentation. Judged on an even hunting pace, manners and jumping style. Fence heights to be 2'6", 2'9" or 3". May cross enter into any eligible hunter division that is in compliance with the 3" back-to-back fence height rule.

## **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. Horse/Rider combination may cross nominate into MHJA Adult, Intermediate, OTTB, Open and Pre-Green, if eligible.

## **MHJA Adult Hunter Division**

Open to Amateur riders. Fences 2'6". Horse/Rider combination may cross nominate into Low Adult, Low Intermediate, Intermediate, Adult Amateur, OTTB, Open, and if eligible, Very Green or Pre-Green.

## **Low Adult Hunter Division**

Open to Amateur riders 18 years or older. Fences 2'3". Horse/Rider combination may cross nominate into MHJA Adult, Intermediate, Low Intermediate, OTTB, Open or, if rider 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 OTTB, Open, and if eligible,

Pre-Green.

### **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, Low Children's and Open. If eligible, Ponies can also cross enter into Very-Green or Pre-Green (Large Only).

### **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. Eligible horses can also nominate in OTTB, and if eligible, Very Green or Pre-Green.

### **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, or if eligible, Very Green or Pre-Green.

### **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. Horse/Rider combinations may also cross nominate into Open, OTTB, or if eligible, Very Green.

### **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. Horse/Rider combinations CANNOT cross nominate into Extremely Green Hunter.

### **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. Horse/Rider combinations CANNOT cross nominate into Extremely Green Hunter.

### **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, expect Short Stirrup, Long Stirrup or Low Intermediate.

### **Extremely Green Rider Division**

This division is open to riders who have never jumped in classes exceeding 2'3". No more than SIX entries to canter at one time. Breaking to trot and slight mistakes will not be heavily penalized. Fences 18". Competitors in this division may cross enter into Canter Crossrails and, if eligible, Extremely Green Hunter. Riders may nominate for this division for two years.

### **Extremely Green Hunter Division**

This division is open to horse/ponies of any age who have never jumped in classes exceeding 2'3". No more than SIX entries to canter at one time. Fences 18". Entries in this division may cross enter into any other division not to exceed 2'3" that they are otherwise eligible for. Breaking to trot and slight mistakes will not be heavily penalized. Horses/ponies may nominate for this division for two years.

### **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. A minimum of six jumps must be observed. Can cross enter into Extremely Green Rider and if eligible, Extremely Green Hunter.

### **Walk-Trot Hunter**

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. Year-end awards by points earned. Riders must nominate one horse but are eligible to receive points on any horse (1 horse per show).

**Points needed to receive year-end awards are: Gold = 70, Silver = 35, Bronze = 15**

A high point super sparkly award will be given to the high point rider accruing the most points in each Walk Trot Division. Riders may cross nominate into any Walk Trot Division:

**WALK/TROT GROUNDPOLES:** To be shown over a simple course with a minimum of four (4) poles on the ground. The poles should be trotted and riders may walk on the corners to re-establish control if needed. Slight mistakes will not be heavily penalized.

**WALK/TROT X-RAILS:** Open to all ages. There must be a minimum of six (6) fences. Ground lines are required. Flower boxes and brush boxes are optional.

**WALK/TROT EQUITATION** classes to count for points.

### **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, or any eligible hunter/equitation division that follows the back-to-back fence height rule. 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 either Puddle or Low Training Jumper, or any eligible hunter/equitation division that follows the back-to-back fence height rule. To be run under USEF specifications set by sanctioned shows.

### **Low Training 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, or any eligible hunter/equitation division that follows the back-to-back fence height rule. 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 Low Training Jumper or Schooling Jumper, or any eligible hunter/equitation division that follows the back-to-back fence height rule.

### **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, or any eligible hunter/equitation division that follows the back-to-back fence height rule.

### **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 cannot be nominated in any of the above equitation divisions. An exception to the back-to-back fence height rule will be allowed. Fence heights will be 2'6" for Adults, 2'6" for 14-17 and 2'3" for Under 14.

### **Short Stirrup Equitation**

Open only to riders in Short Stirrup Hunter. Fence heights 2'.

### **Long Stirrup Equitation**

Open only to riders in Long Stirrup Hunter. Fence heights 2'.

### **Canter Cross Rails Equitation**

Open only to riders in Canter Cross Rails Hunter. Fence Heights 12".

### **Walk Trot Equitation**

Open only to rider in Walk Trot (Ground Poles or Cross Rails).

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