



2023 - 2024
Rules and Regulations
Unrated Divisions

Updated September 2023

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 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 - 7 points	5th place - 2 points
2nd place - 5 points	6th place - 1 point
3rd place - 4 points	7th place - 1/2 point
4th place - 3 points	8th 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 Beginner Rider for two years, etc.

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

In accordance with USEF rule GR838, the use of the whip/stick/crop must be used in the proper place (behind the leg). Use of the whip forward of the leg (shoulder/neck/poll or face), is prohibited and can be cause for elimination in a class regardless of class or rider level. Excessive use of whip, as deemed by show management or judge, will result in elimination.

14. Horses/ponies must be serviceably sound as deemed by show management or the judge per USEF rule GR840.

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 \$50 for approval by the MHJA officers.

Sanctioning can be submitted no earlier than September 15 for the following competition year. No dates will be sanctioned without payment.

Managers that sanction 10 or more shows per year will pay a flat fee of \$400 for the year. Please submit all of your horse show dates and the payments to be sanctioned. This can be a combination of rated and un-rated horse show dates.

Shows that are run in their entirety on consecutive days will incur two sanctioning fees.

No show dates will be held with payment and are on a first come first served basis.

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”.

Results **MUST** be sent in PDF format.

Any results that are sent late or in any format other than PDF will be charged a \$50 fee for the first offense and \$100 for any second offenses. A third offense will result in revocation of sanctioning.

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 that has never run a horse show, will be placed on 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 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. There will no longer be a tiered horse show system. MHJA will sanction two horse shows per day with the exception of the days for the MHJA Endless Summer show, which is stated in number 7 (above).
9. Any complaint for a sanctioned show must be submitted in writing using the online form found on the Rules page of the website (www.mhja.us). Before the complaint is reviewed by the executive board, you must pay a \$25 fee using the PayPal payment link on the same page. Any horse show receiving two or more rule violations will be required to hire a MHJA show supervisor to help guide the show back into compliance.

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.