



2024-2025
Rules and Regulations
Updated January 2025

**Summary of Changes
Unrated**

****all changes are in RED throughout rulebook****

1. Edited rulebook to add:

Membership fee's:

Professional Membership - \$40

Junior/Amateur Membership - \$30

Leadline - \$20

Nomination Fee's

\$20 - Includes 3 divisions

**\$35 - Includes \$20 nomination (3 divisions) and \$15 for 1 additional
division**

**\$50 - Includes \$20 nomination (3 divisions) and \$30 for 2 additional
divisions**

2. Edited rulebook to add: Riders showing in both the Unrated and Rated Circuits must declare at time of membership which circuit they would like their MHJA Endless Summer Horse Show points to count for. Points for this show can not be accrued in BOTH circuits

3. Edited rulebook to add:

Nominating and membership forms will be online via a Google Form. QR Codes and/or links to the form will be available at each show and meeting, online at www.mhja.us, or by requesting them from the Point Secretary.

4. Edited rulebook to add: Point System Updates

This system will apply to all MHJA sanctioned shows. The MHJA Endless Summer show will automatically count for double points using the following scale:

1st place - 14 points

5th place - 4 points

2nd place - 10 points

6th place - 2 points

3rd place - 8 points

7th place - 1 point

4th place - 6 points

8th place - 1-2 point

Edited rulebook to clarify: Year-end awards will offer champion through 8th place, with the exception of Walk-Trot.

Walk-Trot Ground Rail, Cross Pole and Equitation awards will offer Champion through 8th place, and then additional medals based on levels. Points needed to receive year-end award medals (after 8th place) are: Gold = 70, Silver = 35, Bronze = 15

- 5. Edited rulebook to clarify: Nomination cap's will out outlined in each division applicable.**
- 6. Edited rulebook to add: Open Hunter will be split into High Open Hunter and Low Open Hunter. Fence heights and cross nominations outlined in division specifications.**
- 7. Edited rulebook to add: Horse Show Sanctioning applications will be accepted starting September 15th of the prior point year. Shows submitting applications prior to September 15th will not be accepted. No dates will be held from year to year. Sanctioning is a first come, first served basis and dates will not be held without payment and application.**
- 8. Edited rulebook to add: Show Sanctioning fee's will be \$50 per show. and any show sanctioning 10+ shows will pay a flat fee of \$400. Shows that duplicate class lists over a 2-day period will pay for 2 show's.**
- 9. 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.**
- 10. Edited rulebook to add: It is suggested that all MHJA shows have a USEF Recorded or Registered judge, but shows that are not USEF sanctioned may select a judge from the approved judges list (see website); this list consists of Professional Horseman. Request for permission to use a judge that is not listed on the "approved judges list" must be made at least 90 days in advance. Only a Professional Horseman may be requested. Responsibility for meeting the above requirements lies entirely with horse show management, and not with the MHJA. You must contact one of the officers of the Association for approval of anyone not on the list. Failure to comply with this rule may result in loss of MHJA points, loss of horse show dates and or fine. Judge selections must either be accompanied on Sanctioning form, or notification submitted to the MHJA Point Secretary no less than 14 days prior to the show. Changes must be made to the Point Secretary as soon as possible.**
- 11. Edited rulebook to change: MHJA will sanction up to TWO shows per date. The exception to this in the weekend of the MHJA Endless Summer Horse Show, in which no other shows will be sanctioned.**
- 12. Edited rulebook to add: Member shows must send a prize list and the results in PDF format and/or class sheets which affect the awards within 14 days after the horse show to the Point Secretary.**

- 13. Edited rulebook to add: All sanctioned horse shows must include a QR code and/or link to the MHJA membership form in their prize list and also make these available at the secretary's desk.**
- 14. Edited rulebook to clarify: see each division description for cross-nomination allowances and fence heights. Changes are outlined in red.**
- 15. Edited rulebook to add: Puddle and Beginner Jumper classes will run under USEF Optimum Time specifications. Low Training, Training and Schooling Jumper's will offer 1 optimum time class per division.**

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.

Membership fee's:

- Professional Membership - \$40
- Junior/Amateur Membership - \$30
- Leadline - \$20

Nomination Fee's

- \$20 - Includes 3 divisions
- \$35 - Includes \$20 nomination (3 divisions) and \$15 for 1 additional division
- \$50 - Includes \$20 nomination (3 divisions) and \$30 for 2 additional divisions

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, per circuit, to include hunters, equitation and jumpers. 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.

Riders showing in both the Unrated and Rated Circuits must declare at time of membership which circuit they would like their MHJA Endless Summer Horse Show points to count for. Points for this show can not be accrued in BOTH circuits.

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 online via a Google Form. QR Codes and/or links to the form 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	7 th place - ½ point
4 th place - 3 points	8 th place - ¼ 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. The MHJA Endless Summer show will automatically count for double points using the following scale:

1st place - 14 points	5th place - 4 points
2nd place - 10 points	6th place - 2 points
3rd place - 8 points	7 th place - 1 point
4 th place - 6 points	8 th place - 1-2 point

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 through 8th place, with the exception of Walk-Trot. **Walk-Trot Ground Rail, Cross Pole and Equitation awards will offer Champion through 8th place, and then additional medals based on levels. Points needed to receive year-end award medals (after 8th place) are: Gold = 70, Silver = 35, Bronze = 15**
8. If a show offers a Pre-Children's division, points earned in this division will count for year-end points in the MHJA Low 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 Year End Awards, the following fence heights must be observed in each division.

High Open Hunter.....	2'9", 3'
Low Open Hunter.....	2'3", 2'6"
Pre-Green Hunter.....	2'9" - 3'
Adult Amateur Hunter.....	2'9"
Low Adult Hunter.....	2'3"
MHJA Adult Hunter.....	2'6"
Children's Hunter.....	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. **Division nomination caps will be outlined in each division specifications.**

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

Horse Show Sanctioning Rules

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

1. Horse Show Sanctioning applications will be accepted starting September 15th of the prior point year. Shows submitting applications prior to September 15th will not be accepted. No dates will be held from year to year. Sanctioning is a first come, first served basis and dates will not be held without payment and application.
2. The “point year” used to accumulate points for high score awards is December 1st through October 31st of the following year.
3. 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 per show for approval by the MHJA officers. Shows that duplicate class lists over a 2-day period will pay for 2 show’s.
Any group that offers more than 10 horse shows will pay a flat fee of \$400.
4. Member shows must send a prize list and the results in PDF format and/or 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”.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. All sanctioned horse shows must include a QR code and/or link to the MHJA membership form in their prize list and also make these available at the secretary’s desk.
8. It is suggested that all MHJA shows have a USEF Recorded or Registered judge, but shows that are not USEF sanctioned may select a judge from the approved judges list (see website); this list consists of Professional Horseman. Request for permission to use a judge that is not listed on the “approved judges list” must be made at least 90 days in

advance. Only a Professional Horseman may be requested. Responsibility for meeting the above requirements lies entirely with horse show management, and not with the MHJA. You must contact one of the officers of the Association for approval of anyone not on the list. Failure to comply with this rule may result in loss of MHJA points, loss of horse show dates and or fine. Judge selections must either be accompanied on Sanctioning form, or notification submitted to the MHJA Point Secretary no less than 14 days prior to the show. Changes must be made to the Point Secretary as soon as possible.

9. No show will be allowed to hold sanctioning the same weekend as the MHJA Endless Summer Horse show.
10. The MHJA will sanction no more than two (2) shows PER DAY regardless of number of classes offered or length of show.

Class Descriptions

High- Open Hunter Division

Open to all horses and riders. Fence heights to be 2'9" or 3'0" Rider may only compete at one fence height and that height must be declared on your membership form. May cross nominate into any eligible hunter division that is in compliance with the 3" back-to-back fence height rule.

Low- Open Hunter Division

Open to all horses and riders. Fence heights to be 2'3" or 2'6" Rider may only compete at one fence height and that height must be declared on your membership form. May cross nominate 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 nominate into any eligible hunter division that is in compliance with the 3" back-to-back fence height rule, with the exception of Extremely Green Hunter. Horses may nominate in this division for 2 years.**

Pre-Green Hunter Division

Open to horses that have never shown over fences higher than 3'. Fences 2'9". May cross nominate into any eligible hunter division that is in compliance with the 3" back-to-back fence height rule. Horses are eligible to nominate in this section for 2 years.

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. Fence heights to be 2'6", 2'9" or 3". May cross

nominate 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, High or Low 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, Low Open or, if rider eligible, Long Stirrup and Beginner Rider.

Children's Hunter Division

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, High or Low Open, and if eligible, Pre-Green or Children's Pony Hunter.

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 Children's Hunter, Intermediate, Low Children's, High or Low Open. If eligible, Ponies can also cross nominate 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, Children's Pony Hunter (if eligible), Low Intermediate, Low Children's or High or Low Open. Amateurs can cross nominate into Low Adult, MHJA Adult, Low Intermediate, Adult Amateur or High or Low 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 nominate into Beginner Rider, Intermediate, MHJA Adult, Long Stirrup or Low Adult. Horse/Rider combinations may also cross nominate into Low 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 Extremely Green Rider, Extremely Green Hunter Beginner Rider, Low Intermediate. Any rider nominating in this division may not compete for MHJA points on any horse in any other division, except Extremely Green Rider, Extremely Green Hunter 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 Extremely Green Rider, 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 Extremely Green Rider, Extremely Green Hunter 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 Extremely Green Rider, 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 Extremely Green Rider, Extremely Green Hunter, Short Stirrup, Long Stirrup or Low Intermediate. Riders may nominate for this division for 2 years.**

Extremely Green Rider Division

This division is open to riders who have never jumped in classes exceeding 2'3". Breaking to trot and slight mistakes will not be heavily penalized. Fences 18". Competitors in this division may cross nominate into Canter Crossrails, if eligible Extremely Green Hunter, OR Short/Long Stirrup, and Beginner Rider. Riders may nominate for this division for 2 years.

Extremely Green Hunter Division

This division is open to horse/ponies of any age who have never jumped in classes exceeding 2'3". Fences 18". Breaking to trot and slight mistakes will not be heavily penalized. **Entries in this division may cross nominate into Canter Crossrails, Extremely Green Rider or Very Green Hunter. Horses/ponies may nominate for this division for 1 year.**

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 6 jumps must be observed. **Can cross nominate into Walk Trot Cross Poles, Extremely Green Rider and if eligible, Extremely Green Hunter. 2 year nomination cap.**

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. **2 year nomination cap.**

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. **Can cross nominate in Walk/Trot Cross Poles**

WALK/TROT Cross Poles: Open to all ages. There must be a minimum of six (6) fences. Ground lines are required. Flower boxes and brush boxes are optional. **Can cross nominate into Walk Trot Groundpoles or Canter Cross Rails.**

WALK/TROT EQUITATION Ground poles and Cross Poles 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 nominate into Beginner Jumper, or any eligible hunter/equitation division that follows the back-to-back fence height rule. **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 nominate into either Puddle or Low Training Jumper, or any eligible hunter/equitation division that follows the back-to-back fence height rule. **All classes will be held under USEF Optimum Time Table. Excessive speed will be penalized. Jumping combinations will be no less than three strides.**

Low Training Jumper Section

Open to all horses and riders. Fences will be 2'9" with spreads not to exceed fence height. May cross nominate 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, with one class being Optimum Time.**

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, with one class being Optimum Time.** . May cross nominate 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, with one class being Optimum Time.** May cross nominate into Training Jumper, or any eligible hunter/equitation division that follows the back-to-back fence height rule.

Equitation Divisions:

Riders can nominate for ONE equitation division

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.