



**Rules and
Regulations
Rated Circuit
2023-2024**

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, 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, - 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) divisions for year-end awards including hunters, equitation and Jumpers.

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

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 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.

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	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.
8. The Rated Circuit will have its own calendar. Some shows will be on both the Rated and Unrated calendars.
9. In Order to qualify for points for the annual MHJA Championships, the following fence heights must be observed in each division.

RATED Circuit

- Green Working Hunter.....3'-3'9"
- Amateur Owner.....3'3"- 3'6"
- JR. Working Hunter..... 3'3" – 3'6"
- Baby Green Hunter.....2'-2'3"
- Very Green Hunter.....2'6"
- 15-17 Equitation.....3'-3'6"
- 14 & Under Equitation.....2'9"-3'
- Intermediate Low Children's Hunter...2'6"
- Short Stirrup Hunter.....2'
- Children's Equitation.....3'
- Adult Amateur Hunter2'9"-3'
- Adult Equitation.....2'9"-3'
- OTTB.....2'6-3'
- Children's Hunter.....2'9-3'
- Short Stirrup Equitation.....2'
- Intermediate Children's Equitation.....2'6"
- Intermediate Low Adult Hunter.....2'6"
- Intermediate Low Adult Equitation.....2'6"
- Children's Pony Hunter.....2', 2'3, 2'6"
- Children's Pony Equitation.....2',2'3.2'6"
- Pony Hunters.....2'3-3'
- Pony Equitation.....2'3-3'

Jumpers

- Level 1 Jumper - 0.75 m - 0.90 m : (2'6" – 2'9")
- Level 2 Jumper - 0.95 m - 1.00 m : (3'-3'3")
- Level 3 Jumper - 1.05 m and above (3'5" and up)

10. 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.

11. Riders in entry level divisions - Walk Trot Hunter, Canter Cross Rails Hunter, Short Stirrup Hunter, 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.

12. 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

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

Class Descriptions

Rated Circuit

- 1. Very Green Hunter** – 1st year and 2nd year – (Fences 2'3" – 2'6") Open to horses and ponies in their first or second year of showing over fences. Horses and ponies nominated in this division are not eligible for year-end High Score Awards in any other division where the fence height exceeds 2'6". Very Green Hunters are eligible for year-end High Score Awards for two (2) consecutive competition years only.
- 2. Baby Green Hunter** – (Fences 2'-2'3") Open to horses and ponies in their first or second year of showing over fences. Horses and ponies nominated in this division are not eligible for year-end High Score Awards in any other division where the fence height exceeds 2'3". Very Green Hunters are eligible for year-end High Score Awards for two (2) consecutive competition years only.
- 3. Adult Amateur Working Hunter** – (Fences 2'9- 3'), spreads not to exceed fence height.) Horses to be shown by riders who are no longer eligible to compete as Junior Exhibitors and are in possession of current USEF Amateur Certification. Ponies may be shown by adults; suitability to count. Riders may not compete in any other classes at the same competition where fences exceed 3'3. Horses may be shown by a different rider in any other division or class in which they are eligible at the same competition.
- 4. Junior Working Hunter** – Rated Division. (Fences 3'3 - 3'6") Open to riders who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year. Horses shown in this section may cross-enter into another section, if otherwise eligible. Riders may not cross-nominate into the Children's Hunter division. No horse may be shown in this section unless the owner possesses a current Measurement Card or Certified Card of a valid measurement form issued by USEF. Entries must be handled by a junior exhibitor in all phases of a Junior Class. Exhibitors may not show more than two horses in any class. Whether pinned separately or together, the points for the 3'3 section and the 3'6 section will be combined for year end points calculation.
- 5. Pony Working Hunter** –(Fences 2'3 – 3') Sections are limited to ponies 14.2 hands and under and riders who have not yet reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year. No rider may show more than three ponies in any one-height section. Suitability of pony for a rider shall be determined by the height and weight of the rider in relation to the size of the pony as well as the compatibility of the rider and pony. Riders may cross enter into the Junior Working Hunter division.
- 6. Children's Working Hunter** – (Fences 2'9"-3'), spreads not to exceed fence height) Horses to be shown by Junior Exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current show year. Riders may cross enter only into age group Equitation. Riders are not eligible to compete in classes where fences exceed 3'3". Riders may not cross-nominate into the Junior Working Hunter or the Intermediate Low Children's Rider divisions.
- 7. Children's Hunter Pony** –Sections are limited to ponies 14.2 hands and under not showing in the rated Pony Working Hunter division, and ridden by a Junior Exhibitor not showing over fences exceeding 3' at that show. Ponies to be shown by Junior Exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current show year. Large ponies to jump 2'6. Small and medium ponies to jump 2'. All spreads are not to exceed fence heights. Riders in

this division are eligible for Children's Pony Equitation and Low Intermediate Children's. Ponies in this division may be nominated to the Short-Stirrup with a different rider.

- 8. Short-Stirrup Hunter** – (Fences 18" - 2') Open to riders 12 years of age and under. Riders in this division may not cross enter into any other division except Short-Stirrup Equitation. Riders nominating for year-end High Score Awards in this division may also nominate in Short-Stirrup Equitation only.
- 9. OTTB** – (Fences 2'6" or 3') Open to horses that qualify as Off The Track Thoroughbreds. Proof at the horse show is necessary. The year end award will combine both 2'6" and 3' heights. A horse will not be allowed to accrue points in both heights at one show. If the horse jumps both fence heights at one show, then the 3' height will be the only result accrued for points towards the year end award.
- 10. Intermediate Low Children's Hunter**– (Fences 2'6") Open to Junior riders on horses or ponies. Riders in this division are eligible for Intermediate Low Children's Equitation. Horses may be shown by a different rider in any other division or class in which they are eligible at the same competition.
- 11. Intermediate Low Adult Hunter** – (Fences 2'6") Open to Adult riders. Ponies may be shown by Adults, suitability to count. Cross nomination of the rider, on this or any other horse, into Adult Amateur Working Hunter division is prohibited. Adults nominated for this division may nominate for Intermediate Low Adult Equitation. Horses may be shown by a different rider in any other division or class in which they are eligible at the same competition.
- 12. Junior Working Hunter** - (Fences 3'3 - 3'6") Open to riders who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year. Horses shown in this section may cross-enter into another section, if otherwise eligible. Riders may not cross-nominate into the Children's Hunter division. No horse may be shown in this section unless the owner possesses a current Measurement Card or Certified Card of a valid measurement form issued by USEF. Entries must be handled by a junior exhibitor in all phases of a Junior Class. Exhibitors may not show more than two horses in any class. Whether pinned separately or together, the points for the 3'3 section and the 3'6 section will be combined for year end points calculation.

JUMPER DIVISIONS – Horse/rider combination can only nominate for 1 Level. Multiple divisions at horse shows could count for Each Level.

Level 1 Jumper – Fences 0.75 m - 0.90 m

Level 2 Jumper – Fences 0.95 m - 1.00 m :

Level 3 Jumper - Fences 1.05 m and above

Equitation/Rider/Equitation Divisions

1. **Adult Equitation** – Open to riders who are no longer eligible to compete as Junior Exhibitors, in possession of current USEF Amateur Certification. Only one rider per horse or pony. Two or more tests of the top four riders may be required. On the Flat –Horses to be shown at the walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. (Tests 1-9) Over Fences – Horses to be shown over a course of no less than eight obstacles at 2'9"-3'.
2. **Children's Equitation** – The following classes will count towards year-end High Score Awards: Children's Equitation, Fox Smith Medal, State Line Tack National Children's Medal.(fences 2'9"-3')
3. **15 to 17 Equitation**– (Fences 3'3 or 3'6") For children who have reached their 15th but not their 18th birthday in the competition year who are competing in the Junior Hunter division. Children nominated for any other division with jumps under 3' may get points ONLY in the Flat Sections of this equitation division. NOTE: Points earned in equitation classes other than the Age Specific equitation classes will be attributed to their own particular divisions, i.e. Children's Equitation, Pony Equitation, Short Stirrup Equitation, Intermediate Low Children's Rider.
4. **14 and Under Equitation** - (Fences 3'–3'6") For children who have not reached their 14th birthday in the competition year who are competing in the Junior Hunter division. Children nominated for any other division with jumps under 3' may get points ONLY in the Flat Sections of this equitation division.
5. **Pony Equitation** – Rated Division. The following classes will count towards year-end awards: USEF Pony Medal, Pony Equitation, WIEC for Ponies. (fences 2'3" – 3')
6. **Children's Hunter Pony Equitation** – Open to ponies 14.2 hands and under ridden by a Junior exhibitor. Same restrictions as the Children's Hunter Pony Division.
7. **Short-Stirrup Equitation** – (Fences not to exceed 2') Open to riders 12 years of age and under. Riders nominating for year-end High Score Awards in this division may also nominate in Short-Stirrup Hunter.
8. **Intermediate Low Children's Equitation**- (Fences 2'6) Open to Junior riders on horses or ponies. Rider may only nominate for Intermediate Low children's hunter and/or children's pony hunter.
9. **Intermediate Low Adult Equitation**- (Fences 2'6) Open to Adult riders. Ponies may be shown by Adults, suitability to count. Rider may only nominate for Intermediate Low Adult Hunter.
10. **Walk/Trot** - Open to all ages. Year end awards by points earned. Riders may show in both of the divisions to accrue points. Riders must nominate one horse, but are eligible to receive points on any horse. Riders in this division are not eligible to nominate in Canter Xrails.

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 W/T rider accruing the most points.

WALK/TROT GROUNDPOLES: To be shown over a simple course with a minimum of four 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 four (4) fences. Ground lines are required. Flower boxes and brush boxes are optional.

11. **Canter X-Rails:** Open to all ages. There must be a minimum of four (4) fences. Ground lines are required. Flower boxes and brush boxes are optional. Riders in this division are not eligible to nominate in walk/trot.