

2022

**RULES OF THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HUNTER/JUMPER ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**(herein called "SWVHJA" or the Association)**

**RULE I - DEFINITIONS**

1. A Junior is an individual who has not reached his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. The age of the individual on December 1<sup>st</sup> will be maintained throughout the entire competition year. Persons born on December 1<sup>st</sup> assume the younger age on that date.
2. Amateur Status: Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, a person is an amateur for all competitions conducted under these rules who after his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, as defined in Rule I.2 above, has not engaged in any of the following activities which would make him/her a professional:
  - a. Accepts remuneration for riding, showing in halter/in hand, training, schooling or conducting clinics or seminars.
  - b. Accepts remuneration for giving riding or driving lessons, lessons in showmanship, instructions in equitation or horse training. (Persons acting as counselors at summer camps, who are not hired in the exclusive capacity of riding instructors are excluded and persons giving instruction and training to the handicapped).
  - c. Accepts remuneration for employment in other capacity (e.g., secretary, bookkeeper, veterinarian, groom, farrier) and gives instruction, rides, drives, shows, trains or schools horses, other than horses actually owned or leased by him/her, when his/her employer or a member of the family of said employer or a corporation which a member of his/her family controls, owns, boards or trains said horses.
  - d. Accepts remuneration for the use of his or her name, photograph or other form of personal association as a horseman in connection with any advertisement or article (including but not limited to clothing, product, equipment, etc.) to be sold.
  - e. Accepts prize money in equitation or showmanship classes.
  - f. Rides, drives or shows, any horse for which he/she or a member of his/her family or a corporation which a member of his/her family controls, receives remuneration for boarding, training, riding, driving or showing. (A family member of a trainer may not absolve themselves of this rule by entering into a lease or any other agreement for a horse owned by a client of the trainer.)
  - g. Gives instruction to any person or rides, drives or shows any horse, for which activity another person in his/her family or corporation which a member of his/her family controls will receive remuneration for the activity. (A family member of a trainer may not absolve themselves of this rule by entering into a lease or any other agreement for a horse owned by a client of the trainer.)
  - h. Accepts remuneration for selling horses/ponies, acts as a paid agent in the sale of horses/ponies or takes horses/ponies on consignment for the purpose of sale or training other than those owned wholly or in part by him/her or by a member of his/her family or farm/ranch/syndicate/partnership/corporation which he/she or a member of his/her family controls.
  - i. Advertising professional services, such as training or giving lessons by way of business cards, print ads, or internet.

The following activities do not affect the amateur status of a person who is otherwise qualified:

- a. The writing of books or articles pertaining to horses.
- b. Accepting remuneration for officiating as a judge, steward, technical delegate, course designer, announcer or participating as a TV commentator, or accepting bona fide remuneration for services as a veterinarian, groom, farrier, tack shop operator or breeder, or for accepting bona fide remuneration for boarding services.
- c. Accepting reimbursement for any expenses directly related to the horse (ie. farrier/vet bills, entries) however, does not include travel, hotel, room and board or equipment.
- d. Accepting a token of appreciation, other than money, for riding, driving or showing in halter/hand. (Note: Horse board, prize money, partial support or objects of more than \$300 are considered remuneration, not small tokens of appreciation.) (Also note: accepting any amount of money, whether more or less than \$300, is considered remuneration.) Prize money won by an amateur-owner

- rider/driver/handler in any class (other than equitation or showmanship) is not considered remuneration.
- e. Having the occupation of veterinarian, groom, farrier or owning a tack shop or breeding or boarding stable in itself, does not affect the amateur status of a person who is otherwise qualified.
  - f. Any person who is serving an internship for college credit through his/her respective, accredited college program, and who has never held professional status, can accept reimbursement for expenses without profit.

If a person violates or does not comply with the above, he/she will not be eligible to compete in amateur classes and will not be entitled to an award in such classes and will be deemed guilty of a violation in the event he/she does compete.

In the event a person is found to be a professional as a result of a protest or charge made in connection with a competition, all awards won by such person in amateur classes at such competition and subsequent competitions shall be forfeited and returned to the competition and the person shall be subject to further disciplinary action.

The trainer may be subject to disciplinary action if an exhibitor who shows as an amateur is protested, and that protest is sustained, and it is determined that the trainer had knowledge of their professional activities.

3. Competition Staff includes and refers to the following persons: Secretary, Gate Attendants, Veterinarian, Course Designers, Timekeepers, Farriers, Announcers, Ringmasters, and other persons engaged directly by the competition.
4. Competition Officials includes and refers to the following persons: Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, Manager, Judges, and Stewards.
5. For the purpose of evaluating date applications, this Association will consider Competition Management to be the party or parties financially responsible for the competition (i.e., the entity, person or persons who will retain or disburse any profits, and who will be responsible for the competition's debts and bear any losses).
6. For the purposes of these rules, the Competition Year is defined as starting December 1<sup>st</sup> and ending November 30.

## **RULE II – MEMBERSHIP**

### **CHAPTER 1. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

1. Life Members  
Individuals may become Life Members upon a single payment of the then current Life Member subscription fees published by the Association. Life members shall have all the rights and privileges of Individual Members, but shall be exempt from annual dues. Life members shall have all the rights and privileges of Individual Members, but shall be exempt from annual dues.
2. Senior Members  
Senior Members are those individual members who are 18 years of age or older as of December 1st of the current competition year. Their annual dues are per the current schedule published by the Association. Membership includes any SWVHJA publications that are made available.
3. Collegiate Members  
Collegiate Members are those individual members who are at least 17 years of age but not older than 22 years of age as of December 1st of the current competition year. This membership category is specifically for those students who are undergraduate students in colleges or universities who want to belong to the association while they are at school. This membership offers a one-time fee payment, per the current schedule published by the Association, that is good for the four years a student is in school or until the end

of the competition of their 22<sup>nd</sup> year.. This membership is non-refundable. This membership is a non-voting membership.

4. Junior Members

Junior Members are those individual members who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. Their annual dues are per the current schedule published by the Association. Membership includes any SWVHJA publications that are made available. Persons born on December 1<sup>st</sup> assume the younger age on that date.

**RULE II – MEMBERSHIP**  
**CHAPTER 2. COMPETITIONS MEMBERSHIPS**

1. GENERAL

- a. Applications for competition dates of SWVHJA Recognized competitions must be made on the form provided by the Association. The form must be signed by an officer of the Recognized competition requesting the date, and a check covering the application fee(s) must be included. Upon approval of the date, the application fee becomes non refundable. Recognition of the dates should be considered a privilege not a right and all entities are expected to uphold the mission statement and rules of the Association. The Association reserves the right to sanction a competition up to and including the denial of date requests for failure to maintain these expectations.
- b. A SWVHJA Recognized division cannot be added or substituted once the prize list has been published.
- c. Only five (5) SWVHJA recognized dates per show year will be awarded to any one financially responsible agent, excluding USEF recognized shows.

2. PROCEDURES

- a. The comparable dates of established recognized competitions will not be awarded to other competitions in subsequent years within the distances set forth below provided that applications for dates in the following competition year are received in the association's office by October 15.
- b. If two or more applications for the same date(s) are made by new competitions only the application first received will be approved, provided all other requirements for recognition are met.
- c. Thirty days must elapse between the date of application and the actual holding of a competition. If possible, 45 days notice should be given when canceling a show.
- d. The Association shall withhold the allotment of a date to a recognized competition which has indebtedness recognized by this Association.
- e. While traditional dates will be honored (provided that all applications are completed and filed correctly), only one horse show will be recognized on a given date **excluding USEF recognized shows**.
- f. In order to secure a date on the calendar, the Manager and/or a representative of the show must attend the Show Manager's meeting and the Annual membership meeting both of which take place the day of the awards banquet. Non-compliance with this rule will result in a minimum \$100 fine for each show date, and the possibility of the show dates being forfeited by the non-attending show manager, including all application fees previously submitted. These dates will be then open for application by the normal process.
- g. Show dates are awarded to the horse show as an entity comprising the show, the management, and the location. No one element may take claim to the date separately. If a special situation arises that might warrant a change in an approved show (date, location, or management) a request must be submitted to the Executive Secretary for review and approval by the Board.
- h. In the event of extenuating circumstances that would merit a change to the show date or location (e.g. outbreaks of disease, unsafe conditions due to unusual weather, other *unusual* facility /show management problems, etc.), the Association must be notified immediately. The Association will work with the show to

attempt to find a reasonable resolution, but cannot guarantee that each request will be granted. This provision is intended to allow for changes, which in the opinion of the Board, would best serve the needs and safety of the membership.

- i. Only shows within the state of Virginia or shows residing in a border town will be granted recognition.

### **RULE III - CONDUCT OF RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS**

#### **CHAPTER 1. GENERAL**

1. Each Recognized competition must have a current copy of the Association Rule Book available for reference at all times during the competition. In cases in which a rule is not delineated in the SWVHJA rulebook, USEF rules will apply.
2. Management must enforce all rules of the Association from the time entries are admitted to the competition grounds until their departure.
3. Any recognized competition which issues its prize list before December 1st and begins its show after December 1st is governed by the rules as in effect on December 1st of that year.
4. In SWVHJA recognized competitions that are also USEF/USHJA recognized, USEF rules take precedence. A current copy of the USEF rule book should be accessible by the horse show office.
5. At a SWVHJA recognized competition, the judge's decision is final.
6. Length of Competition - a competition may not hold classes more than 14 hours out of any 24 hour period from the start of the first class to the finish of the last class, including intermissions. Warm up sessions, judged or unjudged, are included except sessions held at the beginning of the day where no fee is charged. No classes may be started after midnight.
7. Animal welfare – in keeping with the most current USEF rules (see current USEF rules for a complete listing of prohibited acts), the following acts are prohibited:
  - a. Riding an exhausted horse
  - b. Excessive pressuring of a tired horse
  - c. Riding or lunging an obviously lame horseSpecial consideration must be paid to those horses who share multiple riders at one horse show, so as not to create a circumstance as described above.
8. At the discretion of horse show management, post entries to recognized hunter and jumper divisions may/may not be allowed after the division has begun. Post entries will NOT be allowed in Medal classes after the start of the class.
9. Classic requirements – for all show management offering Hunter Classics, double points will be awarded to exhibitors providing the following requirements are met:
  1. \$150 in prize money must be offered the second course must consist of a minimum of 10 fences
  2. there are 10 or more entries in the class
10. Six (6) ribbons must be awarded in each recognized class. Championship and Reserve Championship ribbons must be awarded in each recognized division, with the exception of Jumper divisions.
11. It is recommended that the Show Committee encourage back-to-back rounds and to enforce the USEF gate rule.
12. Interruption of Procedure - No Championship can be awarded in any division unless two out of the three scheduled classes in that division have been placed. If a competition is in progress and must be stopped due to storm, loss of daylight, or other emergency, the Show Committee will decide whether to recommence, cancel, or combine classes.

13. Competition Management must provide a sufficient area for schooling horses. A separate schooling area is recommended for each ring. Adequate lighting must be provided in schooling areas used after dark. Schooling areas must have a minimum of two jumps. Three jumps are recommended; a trotting fence, a vertical and an oxer. Ground lines should accompany each jump. Schooling areas for jumpers must contain painted rails. Schooling areas should be located away from in gates and parking areas.
14. To maintain safe schooling sessions in show rings before and during the competition, management may choose to allow only groups of 10 horses in a show ring at the same time for 5 minutes per group. This policy, if it is to be used, must be stated in the prize list and monitored by Gate Attendants.
15. All riders riding in Hunter, Jumper, and Hunter Seat Equitation sections, while riding anywhere on the competition grounds, must wear properly fitting protective headgear which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place.
16. Horses may not be exhibited in the competition ring or schooled in the designated warm up areas after the official hour of sunset unless lighting is provided that assures full and complete visibility.
17. All recognized shows must have an EMT, or qualified emergency medical personnel, present during all sessions of the horse show. It is strongly encouraged that the EMT be present during schooling sessions.
18. All recognized shows should have a farrier on call.
18. Splitting of divisions or classes
  - a. Any division with thirty-one (31) or more entries at the beginning of the first class must be divided equally into two sections.
  - b. Prize money must be doubled whenever a division is divided.
  - c. As an option to dividing classes by every other number, all entries may be judged as a single class and awarded prizes as follows:

Horse's Placing	Prize Awarded	Horse's Placing	Prize Awarded
1	1	7	4
2	1	8	4
3	2	9	5
4	2	10	5
5	3	11	6
6	3	12	6

In reckoning Championship points, the top eight horses that receive the most points in a split division in the Over Fences Classes are awarded points for the Under Saddle Class.

The Championship in a split division is awarded as follows:

- Horses with most points - Champion Section A
- Horse with second highest points - Champion Section B
- Horse with third highest points - Res. Champion Section A
- Horse with fourth highest points - Res. Champion Section B

19. Championships

The Champion and Reserve Champion titles are awarded to the top two of the four horses which acquire the most points over fences. Only those four horses will be awarded under saddle points toward the Championship. All under saddle points, however, will count toward the SWVHJA Year End High Score awards. In case of a tie score, the Championship/Reserve is awarded to the horse that accumulated the most points over fences. If the horses are still tied, they may hack to break the tie or flip a coin.

**RULE III - CONDUCT OF RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS  
CHAPTER 2. COMPETITION OFFICIALS & DUTIES**

1. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

It is the duty of the Board of Directors of the recognized competition, or their Show committee, to enforce all the rules of the Association from the time entries are admitted to the competition grounds until their departure.

2. **MANAGER**

An individual acting in the capacity of Show Manager is required to be Individual Senior Member of SWVHJA unless the competition is also recognized by USEF and/or VHSA. A thorough knowledge of the rules of the Association is one of the requisites of a person serving as a show manager. A manager can not serve as judge of his own competition. A member of a manager's family cannot officiate as judge at said manager's competition.

3. **COURSE DESIGNER**

The Hunter and/or Jumper course designer, or his designated representative, must be present at all sessions of a competition and be available to report to the judge at any time that the course is ready in all respects. The Hunter course designer is responsible for the correctness of the course and must give consideration to any suggestions made by the judge. The Jumper course designer is responsible for laying out the course, building the obstacles and for the measurement of the course. **COPIES OF THE COURSES MUST BE GIVEN TO THE JUDGES.**

4. **COMPETITION SECRETARY**

An individual(s) who processes entries or performs such other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors, the Show Committee, and/or Manager.

5. **COMPETITION OFFICIALS**

Competition Officials includes and refers to the following persons: Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, Manager, Judges, and Stewards.

6. **COMPETITION STAFF**

Competition Staff includes and refers to the following persons: Secretary, Gate Attendants, Veterinarian, Course Designers, Timekeepers, Farriers, Announcers, Ringmasters, and other persons engaged directly by the competition.

**RULE III - CONDUCT OF RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS  
CHAPTER 3. DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT**

1. **GENERAL**

- a. Apply annually to the Association for dates for the competition. Uphold the mission statement and rules of the Association. Show management is required to make every effort to correct problems which may arise during the course of a recognized competition or be subject to review and/or discipline pursuant to Rule II, Chapter 2. Competition Memberships.
- b. Show manager must confirm with prospective judge that they are not judging more than three (3) other SWVHJA recognized shows in the calendar year (excluding jumper judges). Extenuating circumstances will be addressed by the Board.
- c. Competitions are required to hold three (3) SWVHJA Recognized divisions. If a 3' hunter division is offered, both the Adult and Hunter Seat Medals as well as the Children's and Adult Hunter divisions must be offered. The Pony Medal must be offered if the Pony Hunter division is offered. **EXCEPTION 1:** If a show does not offer a division with fences 3' or higher, the show is not required to offer the SWVHJA Junior and Adult Medal classes. **EXCEPTION 2:** One (1) ring A shows are not required to hold the Medal classes to keep their recognition.
- d. Management is strongly encouraged, for one day shows, to group all Medals and Equitation on the Flat classes as closely together as possible to facilitate combining those classes if necessary.

- e. The prize list for competitions must be printed and/or available online to exhibitors at least fourteen (14) days prior to the competition.
- f. At the Association's request, furnish entry blanks, judge's cards, class sheets, or any other documents within the time requested by the Association. These records must be kept on the competition grounds during all sessions of the competition and be retained for 1 year.
- g. Be responsible for the construction of courses.
- h. Provide a secretary's office with adequate personnel and proper communication between secretary, announcer, in-gate, each ring, and stable.
- i. Provide proper schooling areas.
- j. Permit any owner or trainer stabled on grounds of a competition to haul in hay or grain for his own use and, with management's permission, use any farrier or veterinarian of his choice.
- k. If management accepts unpaid entries, it does so at its own risk and the Association will not be responsible for the collection of fees.
- l. A back number for each competitor must be provided.
- m. Ensure that no entry will compete until or unless the exhibitor or his agent and trainer has signed an entry blank.
- n. A Recognized competition is not limited to classes listed in the Rules. If a special class is offered which is not included in the Rules, the prize list must furnish detailed specifications.
- o. Prevent manual poling with unauthorized poles or the abuse of a horse anywhere on the grounds.

## 2. PRIZE LISTS

- a. A copy of the prize list should be received by the SWVHJA office at least fourteen (14) days prior to the competition.
- b. It is recommended that Show Management mail prize lists to all SWVHJA members. Otherwise, they should make sure prize lists are thoroughly distributed throughout the membership region. Tack stores, other horse shows are good means for wide distribution.
- c. It is recommended that Show Management make the prize list available online.

## 3. RESULTS

- a. Each competition must forward full results, postmarked within 10 days of the competition, indicating the winners, the names of all horses and owners and all corrections, changes and additions to the prize list. This material is needed in order that winnings of exhibitors may be included in the Association's permanent records.
- b. The secretary of a competition must, within 10 days of the competition, send to the Association names of all ribbon winners and number of entries in the SWVHJA Medal classes.
- c. Competitions offering Medal, Junior and Adult Equitation on the Flat classes must make a complete report, including the number of competitors in each class, to the Association in order that SWVHJA memberships can be checked and credit given winners.
- d. Class lists may not be used as results forms; only ribbon winners names should appear on results forms.

## 4. FACILITIES

- a. Convenient and ample water facilities must be provided.
- b. Adequate and sanitary toilet facilities must be provided.
- c. Food and drinking water must be provided on grounds.

## 5. STABLING

- a. Stalls provided must be of sturdy construction, in good condition, and safe for horses and ponies. The recommended minimum dimensions for box stalls are 9' wide by 9' deep by 7' high, or comparable square footage. It is essential that the covering over the stalls is weatherproof.
- b. At competitions which offer overnight stabling, adequate lighting in the stabling area must be provided.
- c. At competitions which offer overnight stabling, adequate drinking water for the horses must be provided within a reasonable distance of the stabling.

**RULE III - CONDUCT OF RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS  
CHAPTER 4. PRIZE LIST**

**1. REQUIREMENTS**

- a. There must be a statement as to being recognized by SWVHJA. All classes offered at Recognized competitions for which specifications appear in the Rule Book must be governed by current specifications, to the end that uniformity will prevail in the competition and in the adjudication. To cover any omission the prize list SHOULD contain the following statement in a prominent position: "EVERY CLASS OFFERED HEREIN WHICH IS COVERED BY THE RULES AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CURRENT SWVHJA RULE BOOK WILL BE CONDUCTED AND JUDGED IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH."
- b. The exact date and location of competition must be listed.
- c. Entry blanks must contain a waiver to be signed by each exhibitor or his agent or trainer.
- d. Names of the officiating judges should, if possible, be listed.
- e. Manager's name and contact phone number must be listed.
- f. The name of the Hunter and Jumper Course Designer(s), or responsible person(s), should, if possible, be listed.
- g. There must be a statement as to entry fees, prizes offered in each class, any applicable administrative fees, and stabling fees.
- h. A map and/or directions to the competition grounds must be included.
- i. A statement as to type of stabling and whether stall doors will be provided must be included.
- j. For shows providing overnight stabling, the name and phone number of a local veterinarian must be stated in the prize list and posted during the show.
- k. If SWVHJA Medal classes are offered, specifications for these must be included in the prize list. Please note that all participants in Medal classes must be current members of the Association.
- l. There must be a timetable of classes by sessions. Show Managers are encouraged to design a class schedule to fill the needs of all potential exhibitors, keeping in mind the region from which they are drawing.

**2. CHANGES IN PRIZE LIST**

If the prize list must be changed after it has been distributed to potential exhibitors the following procedures must be followed:

- a. If errors are discovered prior to the competition, notify potential exhibitors in writing and/or when they arrive at the competition.
- b. Recognized classes may not be added to the time schedule once the prize list has been published.

**RULE IV – INFRACTIONS / PROTESTS / PENALTIES**

**1. INFRACTIONS**

**a. Competitions**

The Association may assess fines and/or penalties for the following horse show management related infractions and/or others not noted below:

1. Failure to abide by the mission statement and rules of the Association.
2. Unsafe or hazardous conditions on the show grounds.
3. Unsafe or hazardous jump materials or construction in the show and/or schooling arenas/areas.
4. Improperly maintained or unsafe footing.
5. Improperly posted course diagrams or lack thereof
6. Use of incorrect SWVHJA division specifications in horse show prize list or at a recognized show.
7. Failure to correct any SWVHJA division specifications infractions prior to the beginning of a class.
8. Failure to send a copy of the prize list to the office at least two weeks prior to the horse show.
9. Failure to return results to the office no later than ten days following the horse show.
10. Failure to properly apply for correct dates. This includes late forms, improperly filled out forms, omission of payment, and other application infractions.



b. Exhibitors

The Association may assess fines and/or penalties for the following exhibitor related infractions and/or other infractions not noted below:

1. Entering a horse in a class for which it is not eligible.
2. Entering a medal class without membership dues paid prior to the class.
3. Entering a rider in a class for which they are not eligible.
4. Improper conduct occurring at a SWVHJA recognized horse show or other SWVHJA sponsored event.

Infractions which occur at a SWVHJA recognized horse show must be reported within ten (10) days of the violation for the board to have authority to assess penalties.

The Board will determine the fine and/or penalty on the horse show management, exhibitor, or other entity who has violated the rules.

The Board will notify the horse show management, exhibitor, or other entity who has violated the rules, within four (4) weeks of the violation about the fines and/or penalties imposed.

2. PROTESTS

Any member can file a protest with the Board accompanied by a non-refundable \$100 fee as per the process outlined in Article IX, Section 3 of the By-Laws.

3. PENALTIES

Penalties imposed by the Board may include fines, suspensions, and/or other penalties as deemed appropriate for specific infractions, as follows but not limited to:

- a. Warning with suggestions for improvement.
- b. Second warning, as above, and a fine of at least \$150.
- c. Suspension or loss of date recognition.

## **RULE V - HUNTER DIVISION**

1. GENERAL

- a. For a Hunter division at a one-day show to count fully, a minimum of three (3) entries must enter and compete in all classes of the division. Three (3) entries must complete the first over fences class of the division. That is, if there are eliminations in subsequent classes of the division, the other exhibitors will not be penalized.
- b. At a recognized competition where a division is held over two days, if there are less than three exhibitors the second day, year-end high score award points will still apply to all classes in the division.
- c. To be judged on performance, manners, and way of going.
- d. Martingales of any type are prohibited in under saddle classes.
- e. Boots and bandages are prohibited. In the case of inclement weather, show management may permit the use of bell boots only.
- f. No one may enter the under saddle portions of a recognized hunter division that has not competed in at least one over fences class.

2. COURSES

- a. Fences shall simulate obstacles found in the hunt field, such as a natural post and rail, brush, stone wall, board fence or gate, coop, aiken, oser, etc. A hunter course should include a combination and at least one change of direction. Fences may vary 2" over or under the required class heights.
- b. In a hunter class over fences, distances between fences should be set on 12' multiples where conditions (i.e. ring size, footing, location of out gate, terrain, etc.) and fence height allow. The suggested distance for an in-and-out when used in a ring is 24' to 26' and on an outside course 26' to 28'.
- c. In hunter classes under saddle, fences should not obstruct the safe conduct of the class.

- d. Every course must have at least seven (7) obstacles of which 30% must be oxers.
- e. 50% or more of the obstacles must be at least the required height and none may be more than 2" over or under. (Exception: first obstacle or a brush obstacle)
- f. In classes where SWVHJA course requirements have not been met and the violation has not been observed and corrected prior to the first competitor's performance, the class must be completed without altering the course. If it is a dangerous situation, the issue must be corrected and the exhibitor(s) be given the option of re-riding the course.
- g. Two different courses are required in all SWVHJA recognized divisions.
- h. Courses must be posted at least a half (1/2) hour before scheduled time of class. The diagram of the course must show the obstacles which must be taken in the order indicated by numbers. An arrow is used on the diagram to indicate the direction in which each obstacle is to be taken. THE DISTANCES BETWEEN RELATED FENCES MUST BE NOTED ON THE POSTED COURSE DIAGRAM IF LESS THAN ninety (90) feet. In-and-Outs in hunter courses are numbered consecutively not (a) and (b).
- i. If the area of the courtesy circle is to be restricted by a mandatory line, the line must be indicated on the diagram. This policy must be announced before the start of the class.
- j. Striped rails and square oxers are prohibited in hunter courses.
- k. All obstacles must be at least 10' wide (preferably 12' wide) or have wings at least 30" that are at least 12" higher than the obstacle.
- l. The back element of an oxer must be 3" higher than the front element. A ground line (i.e., pole, brush, flower box, straw bales) is required for all obstacles
- m. An in and out may never be used at the start of a course. The distance may be altered during a class requiring different fence heights.

## **RULE VI - PONY HUNTER DIVISION**

### **1. GENERAL**

- a. Recognized Pony divisions, including Pony Medal, are open to any age junior regardless of the size of the pony.
- b. For a Pony Hunter Division to count fully, a minimum of 3 entries per class must complete the course in at least two (2) over fences and one (1) under saddle class.
- c. At a recognized competition where a division is held over two days, if there are less than three exhibitors the second day, year-end high score award points will still apply to all classes in the division.
- d. No one may enter the under saddle portion of a recognized pony division that has not competed in at least one over fences class.
- e. Ponies competing in the recognized Pony Hunter divisions must be shown by a junior.
- f. Ponies shown in the pony hunter sections may not be shown by an adult in a recognized division at the same competition
- g. Small ponies are not to exceed 12.2 hands, medium ponies are over 12.2 and do not exceed 13.2 hands, large ponies are over 13.2 and do not exceed 14.2 hands.
- h. Judged on performance and soundness. Manners and suitability of a pony to the rider will be emphasized. Extreme speed is penalized. Judges must penalize but not necessarily eliminate an entry not having such manners and suitability.

### **2. COURSES**

- a. Recommended distances for small and medium ponies are multiples of 12'. Recommended distances for large ponies are multiples of 11 ½'. The recommended distances for ponies are useful where conditions (i.e., ring, size, footing, location of out gate, terrain etc.) warrant.
- b. Lines with distances of less than 72' must be adjusted for each height section.

c. Suggested distances are listed below:

# of Strides	Small	Medium	Large
1	20	22	24
2	30	31-32	34
3	38-40	42-43	45-46
4	46-48	48-50	57-58
5	58-60	60-62	69-70
6	70-72	72-74	80-81
7	82-83	84-86	91-92
8	94-86	96-98	103-104

Note 1:

AT A USEF RECOGNIZED COMPETITION ANY PONY SHOWING IN ANY CLASS RESTRICTED BY HEIGHT, INCLUDING SWVHJA PONY HUNTER CLASSES, SCHOOLING PONY ETC., MUST SHOW A CURRENT MEASUREMENT CARD FOR THE PONY OR BE MEASURED BEFORE COMPETING IN A PONY HUNTER CLASS.

Note 2:

As the SWVHJA specifications do not align with USEF Children's Pony Hunters, Green Pony Hunters, or Pony Hunter divisions, points earned in these divisions will not accumulate towards SWVHJA year-end awards.

#### **RULE VII - JUMPER DIVISION**

1. The jumper course should provide the exhibitor with a fair opportunity to demonstrate his horse's abilities and training. The good course should enable the capable, carefully schooled horse and the skillful rider to demonstrate their superiority. The first criterion of a good course is its suitability to the capabilities of horses which will jump it and to the conditions of the class. Height and width of jumps are not the only important factors; of equal or greater significance are the color and the construction of jumps, distances between jumps and the relation between height and width. It is therefore imperative that the course designer be a knowledgeable individual with experience in the jumper division. The Association encourages Show Managers to avail themselves of this assistance. Also the USEF will provide the pamphlet "Planning the Jumper Division" for a small fee.
2. Courses must consist of at least eight (8) obstacles in the first round. At least three out of the eight efforts must be spreads. Jump-off courses must consist of at least six (6) obstacles. Course charts must be posted at least a half (1/2) hour before the class and must include the time allowed in the first round and in the jump-off. The start and finish markers must be clearly marked on the course chart.
3. Show managers should remember that jumper classes offer great spectator appeal because of the ease of understanding the scoring system. Therefore, management is encouraged to offer jumper classes in a separate area, ring or even on a separate day.
4. All classes recognized by the Association shall be scored under USEF Tables I-IV. While Table II classes are perhaps the most popular, Show Managers are encouraged to offer classes scored under other tables in order to promote and enhance rider education.
5. When feasible, Show Management should offer prize money in jumper classes.
6. Championships in jumper divisions, except in the Children/Adult Amateur division, are discouraged. No champion and reserve points will be awarded toward year end high point awards.
7. In case of disputes, SWVHJA shall abide by the current USEF Rule Book, a copy of which should be located in the horse show office.

8. For full points to be awarded in jumper classes, three (3) entries are required to complete the class.
9. At "A" shows, which are recognized by SWVHJA, points from any level 5 (1.15/1.20m) or above class will count towards the SWVHJA Level 5 division.
10. Money won in any jumper class at a SWVHJA recognized show will count towards the Show Jumper of the Year award.
11. Heights:  
The following fence dimensions *are approximate equivalents in metric and English units*. Spreads should be no greater than the height of the fence. Any full width square oxer may be set 5 cm (2") lower than the height indicated. Triple Bars may be up to 30 cm (12") wider than the height listed.

0.70 m = Fences 2'3" in height  
 0.75 m = Fences 2'5" in height  
 0.80 m = Fences 2'7" in height  
 0.85 m = Fences 2'9" in height  
 0.90 m = Fences 2'11" in height  
 0.95 m = Fences 3'1" in height  
 1.00 m = Fences 3'3" in height  
 1.05 m = Fences 3'5" in height  
 1.10 m = Fences 3'7" in height  
 1.15 m = Fences 3'9" in height  
 1.20 m = Fences 3'11" in height  
 1.25 m = Fences 4'1" in height  
 1.30 m = Fences 4'3" in height  
 1.35 m = Fences 4'5" in height  
 1.40 m = Fences 4'7" in height  
 1.45 m = Fences 4'9" in height  
 1.50 m = Fences 4'11" in height  
 1.55 m = Fences 5'1" in height  
 1.60 m = Fences 5'3" in height

## RULE VIII - EQUITATION

### 1. EQUITATION ON THE FLAT

- a. Riders do not have to be members of SWVHJA to compete. However, for points to count, membership must be applied for on or before the show date.
- b. Three entries are required to fill a SWVHJA Equitation on the Flat class for points to be awarded.

### 2. MEDALS

- a. All contestants in SWVHJA Medal classes *must* be members prior to riding in the class in order for points to count towards finals qualification. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to ensure their membership status is up to date prior to competing. For riders who have competed in a Medal class without being a member, current dues and a fine may be assessed at the Board's discretion.
- b. SWVHJA Medal contestants may compete throughout the year. The top twenty (20) point earners (including ties), with a minimum of 10 points, will be invited to compete in the Medal Finals.
- c. In SWVHJA Medal classes four entries are required to fill the class with a minimum of three to complete the class. If either the Hunter Seat Medal or the Adult Medal does not have four entries these classes must be combined.
- d. The courses for all of the Medal classes must be posted at least one-half hour prior to the start of the class.

- e. For all qualifying classes and for the finals in the SWVHJA Hunter Seat Medal and the SWVHJA Adult Medal divisions, the course must include two (2) changes of direction, one combination, and a minimum of three oxers.
- f. SWVHJA Medals may not be combined with any other association's Medal classes.
- g. Recognized Pony divisions, including Pony Medal, are open to any age junior regardless of the size of the pony.
- h. The SWVHJA Annual Show will not offer a final qualifying Medal classes. The last qualifying class will be at the final regular member show posted on the calendar.

### 3. Finals

- 1. The classes held at the SWVHJA Medal Finals are as follows:
  - a. Pony Medal Finals
  - b. Hunter Seat Medal Finals
  - c. Adult Medal Finals
- 2. The courses for all of the Medal Finals classes must be posted at least one-half hour prior to the start of the class.
- 3. For the finals in the SWVHJA Hunter Seat Medal and the SWVHJA Adult Medal divisions, the course must include two (2) changes of direction, one combination, and a minimum of three oxers.
- 4. The winners of the SWVHJA Pony Medal Finals, the SWVHJA Hunter Seat Medal Finals and the SWVHJA Adult Medal Finals are eligible to compete again in the Finals after sitting out for a period of two (2) years.

## RULE IX – YEAR END AWARDS

### CHAPTER I. PURPOSE

The Association offers annual High Score Awards in all its recognized divisions. The Association has also established two special annual awards:

#### **The Guy Burkholder Adult Sportsmanship Award:**

The Guy Burkholder Adult Sportsmanship Award is awarded annually at the Southwest Virginia Hunter/Jumper Awards Banquet in honor of Mr. Guy Burkholder, former Director of Riding at Hollins University. This is awarded to an *adult* member of SWVHJA who exemplifies sportsmanship, fairness, and comradery, qualities that are important to Mr. Burkholder. The Board nominates and votes upon candidates. Members with suggestions for nominations are encouraged to communicate their suggestions to a Board member for consideration.

#### **The Iris McNeil Junior Sportsmanship Award:**

The Iris McNeil Junior Sportsmanship Award is awarded annually at the Southwest Virginia Hunter/Jumper Awards Banquet in honor of Virginia horsewoman, Mrs. Iris McNeil. This is awarded to a *junior* member of SWVHJA who exemplifies sportsmanship as a rider and exhibitor at horse shows. The Board nominates and votes upon candidates. Members with suggestions for nominations are encouraged to communicate their suggestions to a Board member for consideration.

#### **Hall of Fame:**

Additionally, the Association may from time to time choose to recognize people, horses or ponies, or other “entities” with nomination to the SWVHJA Hall of Fame. The SWVHJA Hall of Fame recognizes those who have had a significant impact on the continued development of SWVHJA or have achieved notable excellence in their area of expertise/competition. The Board nominates and votes upon candidates. Members with suggestions for nominations are encouraged to communicate their suggestions to a Board member for consideration.

## RULE IX – YEAR END AWARDS

### CHAPTER II. ELIGIBILITY

- 1. Horses must be recorded with the Association in order to be eligible for Year End Awards. Horses are recorded when a completed official application accompanied by the current recording fee is received in the SWVHJA office OR is given to the horse show secretary at a recognized competition.
- 2. The owner of a recorded horse must be a current individual member of SWVHJA to be eligible for Year End Awards.

3. Ownership of a recorded horse may be transferred during the competition year without affecting the animal's points provided proper authorization and fees are received by SWVHJA. A transfer of ownership must be submitted accompanied by the current transfer fee.
4. Leased horses may be shown in the name of the lessee, providing the horse is recorded, and the lessee is an individual member.
5. Options if you are leasing a horse:
  - a. Leave the horse recorded under the owner's name. Ensure that the owner is a current member.  
**Note:** horse must be shown under recorded owner's name as owner, not the lessee's name.
  - b. Transfer the horse to lessee's name.  
**Note:** horse must be shown under lessee's name as owner. Lessee must be current member.
6. Horses may be shown in a farm name provided the farm has been recorded. A farm is recorded when a completed application, accompanied by the current recording fee, is received in the SWVHJA office OR is given to the horse show secretary at a recognized competition. To be eligible for Year End Awards, the listed farm owner must be a current individual member.
7. The recorded name of a horse may be changed by submission of an application accompanied by the current fee.

**RULE IX – YEAR END AWARDS**

**CHAPTER III. TERMS OF COMPETITION AND DETERMINING WINNERS**

1. No credit will be given for classes where judging specifications are not in accordance with SWVHJA rules.
2. No credit will be given in classes if less than three entries have competed. (Exception: At a recognized competition where a division is held over two days, if there are less than three exhibitors the second day, year-end high score award points will still apply to all classes in the division.)
3. In SWVHJA Medal classes four entries are required to fill the class with a minimum of three to complete the class for credit to be given.
4. In classes of three entries, when one entry is eliminated, points for that class count toward the show championship, but not the Year End Award.

**RULE IX – YEAR END AWARDS**

**CHAPTER IV. POINT VALUE**

1. In Hunter, Equitation on the flat, and Jumper classes points shall be as follows at regular member shows:

Place	3-10 Participants	11-20 Participants	21+ Participants
1	10	15	20
2	6	9	12
3	4	6	8
4	2	3	4
5	1	1.5	2
6	0.5	0.75	1
Champion	20 additional points	30 additional points	40 additional points
Reserve Champion	14 additional points	21 additional points	28 additional points

~~Points will be doubled in applicable USEF recognized show classes and the SWVHJA Annual show, with the exception of Medal classes, and they will not be based on the number of entries in the division. Jumper classes that meet or exceed SWVHJA specifications will count towards year-end awards. Jumper points will be doubled in applicable USEF recognized show classes.~~

2. Jumper classes that meet or exceed SWVHJA specifications will count towards year-end awards.
3. Classes where participation is limited to a particular geographic area will not be awarded points.

**CHAPTER V. TABULATION OF POINTS**

1. Scores of all recorded horses will be kept in the SWVHJA office by the Executive Secretary. Results from member competitions are forwarded to the Association office, and will be the sole basis upon which scores are figured.

2. SWVHJA point accumulation starts December 1st and will end at the Annual Show/ Medal Finals.
3. Point discrepancy deadlines:
  - Point discrepancies from shows December through February must be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Point discrepancies from shows March through May must be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Point discrepancies from shows June through August must be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Point discrepancies from shows September through November must be submitted by November 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - All points are final, following any necessary audits, on November 30<sup>th</sup> following each competition year.
4. Any member wishing to dispute tabulation must appeal the issue in writing addressed to the Association Office. Members may request an audit of their points by applying in writing to the Association. No member may request an audit of another member's points.