

# Vermont Hunter Jumper Association

## 2021 Rulebook

### Class Specifications, Constitution & By-Laws

\*Page numbers remain consistent with annual Omnibus.

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2021

## Specifications for VHJA Recognized Classes and Divisions

The Association annually offers High Score Championship Awards and Perpetual Trophies in numerous divisions and classes to encourage participation in VHJA shows. The awards consist of: Champion ribbon and trophy/prize, Reserve Champion ribbon and trophy/prize, and ribbons for 3rd through 6th or 8th places, as entries warrant, to be presented at the annual awards banquet. In making the awards, the Association certifies that the winning entries were qualified (competing in at least 3 different VHJA- sanctioned shows) and acquired the greatest number of points during a given year, in the specified division or class.

### *FINALS & SHOWCASE QUALIFICATION & SPECIFICATIONS*

#### *MEDAL FINALS*

The Medal Finals' wins are not counted toward year-end results or points. Riders who win the finals of the VHJA Junior Medal, VHJA John Corley Medal, VHJA Adult Medal, VHJA Modified Adult Medal, VHJA Novice Medal, VHJA Pony Medal, VHJA Hopeful Medal, VHJA Children's 2' Medal, VHJA Long Stirrup Medal, and the VHJA Short Stirrup Medal twice (2 times) will no longer be eligible to compete in this class. Please see the Medals section of the rulebook for specifications on specific Medal classes.

1st... 10 points	4th... 5 points	7th... 2 points
2nd... 8 points	5th... 4 points	8th... 1 point
3rd... 6 points	6th... 3 points	

**BEGINNER/ ADVANCED BEGINNER FINALS:** To be eligible for the Beginner/ Advanced Beginner Equitation Final all riders must show in their respective equitation division at any VHJA Recognized Show within the current competition year. Before qualifying for and entering a Beginner/Advanced Beginner Final, riders must be either a current VHJA member OR pay a \$10 non-member rider registration fee. A rider must compete in three shows, and VHJA membership is required prior to competing for year-end awards. Not USEF/NEHC rated. To be pinned 1-10.

#### *HUNTER FINALS*

To be eligible for a Hunter Final all horses or ponies must show in their Hunter class prior to the Final of that height class. All horses and ponies must pay a \$10 non-member horse/rider registration fee before qualifying for and entering a Hunter Final, OR be a current VHJA member and Horse registered under a current member. All Horses or ponies must show in the second over fences class of their respective Hunter division at the Finals Show. The second over fences class score serves as the first round score of the Hunter Final and will determine the order of go in the Final Round. The order of go will be in reverse order (lowest score goes first). The same horse/rider combination must show in both rounds of the Final. Oxers are at the discretion of the show management for the 2' Hunter Final. Professionals are eligible to show in a Hunter Final. Not USEF/NEHC rated. To be pinned 1-10.

#### *JUMPER FINALS*

To be eligible for a Jumper Finals all horses or ponies must show in their respective jumper class at that show. All horses and ponies must pay a \$10 non-member horse/rider registration fee before qualifying for and entering a Jumper Finals, OR be a current VHJA member. Points earned in the VHJA Jumper Finals classes will count for double points (2x) towards the year-end division championships. A horse or pony must compete in three shows, and VHJA horse registration is required prior to competing for year-end awards. Show jackets are encouraged. Not USEF/NEHC rated. To be pinned 1-10.

## ***EQUITATION CLASSES and DIVISIONS***

**101. LEADLINE:** Open to riders 8 years old and under to be led by an adult on foot. To walk and trot individually at the judge's discretion. All riders will receive a BLUE ribbon. All riders who are VHJA members and who participate in at least three (3) shows will receive a Champion ribbon as a year-end award. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**102. BEGINNER EQUITATION:** Open to riders 18 years of age and under who have not previously competed in any class requiring canter or hand gallop. To be asked to walk and trot ONLY both ways of the ring. Children riding in this class are not eligible to ride in any class in the show, which requires a canter. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Managers may split the class at their discretion.

**103. BEGINNER HORSEMANSHIP:** Open to horses and ponies ridden by children 18 years old and under as of December 1st who have not previously competed in classes requiring a canter or hand gallop. To be shown at a walk and trot ONLY; both ways of the ring. Judges will ask a question of each contestant. To be judged as an equitation class. Children riding in this class are not eligible to ride in any class in the show which requires a canter. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Managers may split the class at their discretion.

**104/ 105. BEGINNER TROT POLES:** Open to riders who are eligible for the Beginner Classes. Entries to ride a simple course of 4 sets of ground poles at a trot. To be judged as an equitation class with an emphasis on control. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Points in classes 104 and 105 to be combined with classes 102 and 103 for one year-end award.

**110. ADVANCED BEGINNER EQUITATION:** For riders under 18: rider not eligible for any classes other than those designated as ADVANCED BEGINNER at the same horse show. Riders to canter one at a time or in small groups. Open to horses and ponies. Judged on hands, seat, and ability to control mount. Not USEF/NEHC rated. One year-end award for classes 110, 111, 112 & 113.

**111. ADVANCED BEGINNER HORSEMANSHIP:** For riders under 18; rider not eligible for any classes other than those designated as ADVANCED BEGINNER at the same horse show. Riders to canter one at a time or in small groups. Open to horses and ponies. Judged on manners, suitability, and performance. The judge will ask one question of each contestant. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Year-end award.

**112/113. ADVANCED BEGINNER EQUITATION OVER FENCES:** For riders under 18 not eligible for any classes other than those designated as ADVANCED BEGINNER at this horse show. To be shown over four cross-rails not to exceed 12" in height. Simple changes of lead are acceptable. To be judged as an equitation class. Not USEF/NEHC rated. One year-end award for classes 110, 111, 112 & 113

**250. SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION/FLAT:** Open to riders 12 years of age and under who may not compete in any other equitation class or division at any show and have not ever competed in a jumping class over 18" in height. To be judged at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. No more than eight riders to canter at one time. May be asked to halt and back. VHJA/ NEHC rated.

**251/252. SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION OVER FENCES:** Over fences class will include a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 fences not to exceed 18". Simple changes will be deemed acceptable. VHJA/ NEHC rated. Not USEF rated. One year-end award for 250, 251 & 252.

**354. LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION FLAT:** Open to riders 13 years of age and over who may not compete in any other equitation class or division at any show and have not ever competed in a jumping class over 18" in height. To be judged at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. No more than eight riders to canter at one time. May be asked to halt and back. Can be combined with the Short Stirrup division if entries warrant at show management's discretion. VHJA rated. One year-end award for classes 354, 355 & 356.

**355/ 356. LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION OVER FENCES:** Open to junior and amateur riders 13 years of age and over who may not compete in any other equitation class or division at any show and have not ever competed in a jumping class over 18" in height. Simple changes will be deemed acceptable over fences. Over fences class will include a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 fences not to exceed 18". Can be combined with the Short Stirrup division if entries warrant at show management's discretion. VHJA rated. One year-end award for classes 354, 355 & 356.

**357. HOPEFUL EQUITATION FLAT:** Open to junior and amateur adult riders who have not competed in a division at a show requiring entries to jump over 2.80m/2'7" in the past two (2) years. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. Not more than 8 entries to canter at one time.

**358/359. HOPEFUL EQUITATION OVER FENCES:** Open to junior and amateur adult riders who have not competed in a division at a show requiring entries to jump over 2.80m/2'7" in the past two (2) years. Simple changes are deemed acceptable. Over fences class will include a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 fences not to exceed 2'. Cross rails are acceptable, no oxers or combinations. No person entered may have previously in the current show season competed in any other class requiring entries to jump over 2'3". Minimal Fill: No gates, walls, rolltops or coups. Not USEF/NEHC rated. One year-end award for classes 357, 358, 359.

**453. MODIFIED ADULT EQUITATION FLAT:** Open to amateur adult riders age 18 years or older. To be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Not USEF rated.

**451./452.. MODIFIED ADULT EQUITATION OVER FENCES:** Open to amateur adult riders age 18 years or older on horses or ponies. Riders may not cross-enter into any other class or division that exceeds 2'9" at the same show. To be shown over a course of not less than 6 obstacles at 2'3"-2'6". No in and out. One horse per rider. Not USEF rated. ONE YEAR-END AWARD for class 451, 452 & 453.

**CHILDREN'S EQUITATION:** Each rider will choose one fence height at a given show. Riders who compete at 2'6" or 3' in this division and win one blue ribbon are no longer eligible to compete at a lower fence height in this division. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**350. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION FLAT 2':**For riders under 18 as of December first of the previous year who have not competed over fences exceeding 2'3" at the same show. One year-end award for classes 350, 351 & 352.

**351/ 352. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION OVER FENCES 2':**For riders under 18 years of age as of December 1st of the previous year who have not competed over fences 2'3" at the same show. To compete over a course of a minimum of 6 fences not to exceed 2' in height. No in and out. One year-end award for classes 350, 351 & 352.

**550. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION FLAT 2'6" :**For riders under 18 years of age, who in the previous year have not competed over fences 3' or higher. One year-end award for classes 550, 551 & 552.

**551/ 552. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION OVER FENCES 2'6" :**For riders under 18 years of age, who in the previous year have not competed over fences 3' or higher. To compete over a course of a minimum of 6 fences not to exceed 2'6" in height. No in and out. One year-end award for classes 550, 551 & 552.

**750. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION FLAT 3'0' :**For riders under 18 as of December 1st of the previous year. No other limitation as to rider, except for riders who win one blue ribbon at this level are not eligible to compete in Children's Equitation 2'6".

**751/ 752. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION OVER FENCES 3'0' :**For riders under 18 as of December 1st of the previous year. No other limitation as to rider, except for riders who win one blue ribbon at this level are no longer eligible to compete in Children's Equitation 2'6". To be shown over a course of a minimum of 6 fences not to exceed 3'. The course must include two changes of direction and may include an in and out. One year-end award for classes 750, 751 & 752.

**850. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION FLAT 3'3' :**riders under 18 as of December 1st of the previous year. No other limitation as to rider, except for riders who win one blue ribbon at this level are not eligible to compete in Children's Equitation 3'

**851/ 852. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION OVER FENCES 3'3' :**For riders under 18 as of December 1st of the previous year. No other limitation as to rider, except for riders who win one blue ribbon at this level are no longer eligible to compete in Children's Equitation 3'. To be shown over a course of a minimum of 6 fences not to exceed 3'3". The course must include two changes of direction and may include an in and out. One year-end award for classes 850, 851 & 852.

**659. ADULT HUNTER SEAT EQUITATION FLAT:**Open to adult amateur riders 18 years of age or older as of December 1st of the previous year. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. USEF Tests 1-19.

**660/ 661. ADULT HUNTER SEAT EQUITATION OVER FENCES:**To be shown over a course of not less than 8 obstacles not to exceed 3'. The course must include one combination, which includes an oxer and two changes of direction after the first fence. Only one horse per rider. Not USEF rated. One year-end award for classes 659, 660 & 661.

### **MEDAL CLASSES**

A current VHJA membership is required for competition in any VHJA Medal class. Show managers who allow non-VHJA members to participate in VHJA medal classes will be assessed a fee of \$30 (equal to the individual membership fee) per each non-member who participates in a VHJA medal class. The show manager may pass this fee on to the exhibitor. Non-members who ride will forfeit all and any rights to points or wins accrued and will be stripped of ribbons or medals awarded. Other competitors will be moved up in the order and receive points/wins accordingly.

All VHJA Medal classes require a minimum of 2 riders to complete the course for a Medal to be awarded. Show managers have the right to combine VHJA Medal Classes of the same height at their discretion. Shows may run a VHJA Medal class if it does not fill (2 riders) for member experience. The ride may count towards the rider's "three shows required for qualifying for Finals if 10 points are not achieved. A ride/win in a Medal that does not fill does NOT count towards the Year-End Award.

At the year-end banquet Medal class riders will receive a bronze medal for one win, a silver medal for two wins, and a gold medal for three or more wins. The rider with the greatest number of medal wins will be awarded the year-end trophy. In the event of a tie, the rider who has acquired the greatest number of points throughout the horse show season, (as per the chart below,) shall win the year-end trophy.

**270. VHJA SHORT STIRRUP MEDAL:**Open to riders 12 years and under who are VHJA members and eligible for the Short Stirrup equitation class. To be shown over a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 8 fences not exceeding 18" in height, spread not to exceed height, with one of the following options to be part of the course: a bending line or rollback turn. No combinations. Simple changes will be deemed acceptable. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**271. VHJA LONG STIRRUP MEDAL:** Open to junior and amateur riders 13 years of age and over who may not compete in any other equitation class or division at any show and have not ever competed in a jumping class over 18" in height with one of the following options to be part of the course: a bending line or rollback turn. No combinations. Simple changes will be deemed acceptable. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Can be combined with the Short Stirrup division if entries warrant at show management's discretion. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**272. VHJA HOPEFUL MEDAL:** Open to riders who are VHJA members and who are eligible for the Hopeful Equitation class. Simple changes are deemed acceptable. Cross rails are acceptable, no oxers or combinations. Over fences class will include a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 fences not to exceed 2'. Cross rails are acceptable, no oxers or combinations. No person entered may have previously in the current show season competed in any other class requiring entries to jump over 2'3". Minimal Fill: No gates, walls, rolltops or coups. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**353. VHJA CHILDREN'S 2' MEDAL:** For riders who are VHJA members, under 18 and eligible for Novice equitation as of December 1st of the previous year. Riders may only compete in this division for two (2) horse show seasons. To compete over a course of a minimum of 6 fences not to exceed 2' in height. No in and out. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**470. VHJA NOVICE MEDAL:** Open to junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday and are VHJA members. Riders may not cross-enter into any class which exceeds 2'9" at the same show. The same rider/pony combination can compete in both the Novice and the Pony Medal classes at the same show or at the Finals in the same year. Riders are not to cross-enter into the VHJA Junior Medal. All riders are to compete over a course of a minimum of 6 fences at a height not exceed 2'6", spread not to exceed height, no in and out. One or more tests required of the top 4-6 riders. USEF Tests 1-8. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Riders who win the finals of the VHJA Novice Medal twice (2 times) will no longer be able to compete in this class.

**471. VHJA PONY MEDAL:** Open to junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday and who are VHJA members. Riders compete on ponies who are 14.2 hands and under. No junior over 12 years of age may compete on a small pony. No junior over 14 years of age may compete on a medium pony. Riders entered in this class are not to cross-enter into any class with fences exceeding 3' at the same show. Suitability of pony and rider will be emphasized. To be shown over a course of not less than 6 obstacles at 2' or 2'6". Riders must declare if they are jumping 2' or 2'6" at each show. No in and out. Two USEF tests 1-10 are to be included during the first round. Only one rider per pony. Riders may also not compete in any Medal finals that exceed 3' in the same year. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Riders who win the finals of the VHJA Pony Medal twice (2 times) will no longer be eligible to compete in this class.

**472. MARSHALL & STERLING CHILDREN'S MEDAL-PONY:** Open to Junior Riders on ponies that are not competing at the same show in any class in which the fences exceed 3'. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences at the required height with at least 2 changes of direction after the first fence. A combination is optional, and must be adjusted according to fence heights. Two or more tests of the top four competitors are required. The same pony must be used in all phases. Only one rider per pony (riders may not ride in more than one height section of the class). Three riders must complete the course in order for points to count. The rider must be a member in order for points to count toward qualifying for the Finals. No cross-entry of rider into the Back On Track Children's Horse Medal at the same show. May be combined with Sore No More Children's Horse Medal and/or Dover Saddlery Adult Medal. (Fence heights are suggested, and should be used whenever possible. If Children's Hunter Pony specifications differ, show management may offer fence heights according to those specifications. Recommended fence heights are 2' for small/medium, 2'6" for large. NOT VHJA POINTED FOR YEAR-END AWARD.

**473. VHJA MODIFIED ADULT MEDAL:** Open to adult amateur riders age 18 years or older on horses or ponies. To be shown over a course of at least 6 obstacles at 2'3"- 2'6". Riders are not to cross-enter into any other class or division that exceeds 2'9" in the same show. Two changes of direction required after the first fence. One horse per rider. No in and out. To be judged using the Open Numerical Scoring System.

**476. MARSHALL & STERLING 2'6" CHILDREN'S MEDAL:** Open to Junior Riders on horses or ponies that are not competing at the same show in any class in which the fences exceed 3' or higher. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences at the required height including a combination and at least two changes of direction after the first fence. Two or more tests of the top four competitors are required. The same horse must be used in all phases. Only one rider per horse. Three riders must complete the course in order for points to count. The rider must be a member in order for points to count toward qualifying for the Finals. No cross entry of rider into the M&S Children's Pony Medal at the same show. May ONLY be combined with M&S 2'6" Adult Medal.

**478. MARSHALL & STERLING 2'6" ADULT MEDAL:** Open to Adult Amateur Riders that are not competing at the same show in any class with fences 3' or higher. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences at 2'6" including a combination and at least two changes of direction after the first fence. Two or more tests of the top four competitors are required. The same horse must be used in all phases. Only one rider per horse. Three riders must complete the course in order for points to count. The rider must be a member in order for points to count toward qualifying for the Finals. May ONLY be combined with M&S 2'6" Children's Medal.

**671. VHJA JUNIOR MEDAL:** Open to junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday as of Dec. 1st of the previous year and who are members of VHJA. To be held over a course of at least 8 obstacles not to exceed 3'. Two changes of hand (changes of lead) and a combination, including an oxer are required. One or more tests of the top 4 contestants are required. USEF Tests 1-19. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Riders may not cross-enter into the VHJA President's Medal at the same show or at the VHJA Equitation Finals. Horse show management reserves the right to combine same height VHJA Medals if there are fewer than required number of entries to fill the class.

**672. BACK ON TRACK CHILDREN'S HORSE MEDAL:** Open to Junior Riders on horses that are not competing at the same show in any hunter or equitation class in which the fences exceed 3'. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences at 3' the required height including a combination and at least two changes of direction after the first fence. Two or more tests of the top four competitors are required. The same horse must be used in all phases. Only one rider per horse. Three riders must complete the course in order for points to count. The rider must be a member in order for points to count toward qualifying for the Finals. No cross entry of rider into the Marshall & Sterling Children's Pony Medal at the same show. May be combined with Dover Saddlery Adult and/or Pony Medal. NOT VHJA POINTED FOR YEAR-END AWARD.

**673. VHJA ADULT MEDAL:** Open to adult amateur riders over 18 who are VHJA members. To be held over a course of at least 8 obstacles not to exceed 3'. Two changes of hand (change of lead) and a combination, including an oxer are required. One or more tests of the top 4 contestants are required, (USEF Tests 1- 19). The same horse must be used in all phases. Only one rider per horse. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Horse show management reserves the right to combine same height VHJA Medals if there are fewer than required number of entries to fill the class.

674. **DOVER SADDLERY ADULT MEDAL:**Open to Adult Amateur Riders. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences at 3' including a combination and at least two changes of direction after the first fence. Two or more tests of the top four competitors are required. The same horse must be used in all phases. Only one rider per horse. Three riders must complete the course in order for points to count. The rider must be a member in order for points to count toward qualifying for the Finals. May be combined with Child Horse and/or Pony Medal. NOT VHJA POINTED FOR YEAR-END AWARD.

675. **NEHC ADULT/AMATEUR HUNTER SEAT MEDAL:**All exhibitors must present a valid membership card before the class, and show secretaries must record this number. There must be at least four (4) competitors in each class. Open to adult amateur members of the New England Horseman's Council, (NEHC). All contestants are required to perform over at least 8 fences not to exceed 3'. One or more individual tests of the top four contestants may be requested at the judge's discretion. (USEF current tests 1-19). To fill a class, at least four competitors must complete the course. Not VHJA Pointed.

<b>NEHC ADULT AMATEUR MEDAL POINTS</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Points</b>
A first place win qualifies you for the Finals, (NEF). A total of 10 points qualifies you for the Finals.	1st	10	4th	2
Once you qualify for the Finals, you are no longer eligible to compete in that section of Medal Classes.	2nd	6	5th	1
	3rd	4	6th	1/2

770. **VHJA JOHN P. CORLEY HORSEMANSHIP MEDAL CLASS:**Open to junior and amateur adult riders who are members of VHJA. All contestants are required to perform over at least 8 fences not to exceed 3'3" with or without wings. A minimum of 8 riders, if available, are required to show at a walk, trot and canter. To be judged on seat, hands, guidance and control of the horse. The under saddle performance of those riders selected to show under saddle shall count 50%. Only one rider per horse. USEF Tests 1-19. To be judged using the Open Numerical Scoring System.

771. **NEHC JUNIOR HUNTER SEAT MEDAL CLASS:**All exhibitors must present a valid membership card before the class, and show secretaries must record this number. Once a contestant has qualified, they are no longer eligible for the qualifying classes. Open to Junior members of the New England Horsemen's Council who have not reached their 18th birthday. All contestants are required to perform over at least 8 fences not to exceed 3'3". One or more individual tests of the top 4 contestants may be requested at the judge's discretion. (USEF current tests 1-19). To fill a class, at least 4 competitors must complete the course. One (1) win required to qualify for the Finals. NOT VHJA POINTED FOR YEAR-END AWARD.

774. **MARSHALL & STERLING JUNIOR/AMATEUR HORSEMANSHIP MEDAL:** Open to Juniors and Amateurs. No cross entry restrictions. Over fences phases to be shown over a minimum of 8 fences at 3'3" including at least one combination (a double and a triple are preferred) and two changes of direction after the first fence. A Liverpool is encouraged. At least 12 riders, if available, to return to show on the flat. Flat phase to include the working walk, working trot sitting, working trot rising, work trot rising showing a lengthening of stride, working canter, working canter showing a lengthening of stride, and the counter canter (no more than 12 to counter canter at the same time). The same horse must be used in all phases. Running martingale or standing martingale allowed in the jumping phase. No martingales allowed in the flat phase. Change of bridle is permissible between phases.

870. **VHJA PRESIDENT'S MEDAL CLASS:** Open to Junior and Adult Amateur riders who have not reached their 18th birthday and who are members of VHJA. Competitors may not compete in the VHJA Junior Medal Class. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences not to exceed 3'6" including a combination and at least two changes of direction after the first fence. One or more tests of the top 4 competitors are required. USEF Tests 1-19. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system.

871. **MARSHALL & STERLING JUNIOR MEDAL (3'6"):** Open to Junior Riders. To be shown over minimum of 8 fences at 3'6" including a combination and at least two changes of direction after the first fence. Two or more tests of the top four competitors are required. The same horse must be used in all phases. Only one rider per horse. Three riders must complete the course in order for points to count. The rider must be a member in order for points to count towards qualifying for the Finals. May not be combined with any other M&S Medal. Not VHJA pointed for Year-End Awards.

## **HUNTER & PLEASURE CLASSES**

**100. OPEN MODEL HUNTER:** Open to horses and ponies. To be shown in hand and move on the line. To be judged on conformation, quality, substance, way of going and soundness. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**120. BEGINNER PLEASURE:** Open to horses and ponies ridden by children 18 years old and under as of December 1st of the previous year who have not previously competed in classes requiring a canter or hand gallop. To be shown at a walk and trot ONLY. To be judged on manners, suitability of the mount for the rider and performance. Children riding in this class are not eligible to ride in any class in the show which requires a canter. Not USEF rated.

**121. ADVANCED BEGINNER PLEASURE:** For riders under 18 not eligible for any classes other than those designated as ADVANCED BEGINNER at this horse show. Riders to canter one at a time or in small groups. Open to horses and ponies. Judged on manners, suitability, performance, and quality. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**122. HUNTER PLEASURE:** Open to all horses or ponies of the hunter type ordinarily used for pleasure purposes with no limitations as to status of rider. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Light contact with the horse/pony's mouth is required. To be judged on manners, performance, quality, presence and soundness. May be divided by Horse and Pony at discretion of the show management. May be pointed separate for Year-End Awards by Horse and Pony at the discretion of the VHJA Board of Directors. Not USEF rated.

**124. NEHC OPEN PLEASURE CLASS:** Open to members and non-members. Open to all horses ordinarily used for pleasure purposes with no limitations as to the status of the rider or place of residence. To be shown at a walk, trot/jog and canter/lope. Will be required to back. Shall be judged on manners, performance and quality in that order. Loose rein on command of judge only but without loss of contact.

**400. HUNTER HACK:** The Hunter Hack horse or pony should move in the same style as a Working Hunter. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. At the judge's discretion, not more than 8 horses, if available, may be asked to hand gallop one way of the ring. Horses are required to jump two fences of standard white rails or rustic (natural) rails, not to exceed 2'3" in height set 48' to 84' apart with ground lines. To be scored as a working hunter as follows: fences 60%, performance 40%. May be divided by Horse and Pony at discretion of the show management. May be pointed separate for Year-End Awards by Horse and Pony at the discretion of the VHJA Board of Directors. No martingales permitted. Not USEF rated.

### **HUNTER DIVISIONS**

#### **Specifications for all Hunter Classes**

Open to horses, stallions, mares and geldings. Amateur Adults may ride ponies in hunter classes where fences do not exceed 3'3". However, ponies cannot be cross-entered into the rated Regular and Green Pony Hunter Sections at the same competition.

**Adults or Professionals may not ride ponies in any USEF or VHJA rated Pony classes (Pony Hunter, Pony Hack, Pony Pleasure, Green Pony Hunter, Children's Hunter Pony, Young Hunter Pony) in the same show at which a junior competes on that pony.**

Spreads in all over fences (O/F) classes are not to exceed fence height. Hunter Divisions will consist of one under saddle class and at least two over fences classes.

**HANDY HUNTER CLASSES:** At Show Managers' discretion, one of the two over fences classes in any hunter division may be run as a Handy Hunter Class, or a Handy Hunter Class may be added to any division as a third O/F class. Handy Hunter Class to jump same height as specifications for the division to which it is added (with same limitations as regards to in & out). In the Handy Hunter Class two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion). When a Handy Hunter Class is included, points will count toward show championship and Year-End awards. Handy Hunter Class will be numbered as next number in sequence for that division (for example: 203: Short Stirrup Handy Hunter Over Fences).

**HUNTER OVER FENCES:** To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height. To be judged on performance and soundness unless otherwise noted.

**HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:** To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Light contact with the horse's/pony's mouth is required. Horses/ponies should be obedient, alert, responsive, and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. May be asked to hand-gallop at the discretion of the judge but no more than 8 to hand-gallop at one time. Martingales are not permitted. Green and non-rated hunter sections will not be asked to hand-gallop.

**HANDY HUNTER OVER FENCES:** To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; Two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion).

**200. SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:** To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. Not more than 8 entries to canter at one time. NEHC rated. Not USEF rated.

**201/ 202. SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER O/FENCES:** Open to riders 12 years of age or under. Rider is not to compete in any other class that requires jumping fences higher than 18". To be shown over a course of a minimum of 4 fences or a maximum of 8 fences at a height of 18". The fences shall be cross rails or verticals with no combinations. Shall be judged on performance and soundness. Simple changes will be deemed acceptable. NEHC rated.

**203. SHORT STIRRUP HANDY HUNTER:** To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; Two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion)



- 300. LONG STIRRUP HUNTER UNDER SADDLE :** Open to riders 13 years and over. Rider is not to compete in any other class that requires jumping fences higher than 18". To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. Not more than 8 entries to canter at one time. Can be combined with the Short Stirrup division if entries warrant at show management's discretion.
- 301/ 302. LONG STIRRUP HUNTER O/FENCES:** Open to riders 13 years and over. Rider is not to compete in any other class that requires jumping fences higher than 18". To be shown over a course of a minimum of 4 fences or a maximum of 8 fences at a height of 18". The fences shall be cross rails or verticals with no combinations. Shall be judged on performance and soundness. Simple changes will be deemed acceptable. Can be combined with the Short Stirrup division if entries warrant at show management's discretion.
- 303 LONG STIRRUP HANDY HUNTER:** To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; Two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion) Can be combined with the Short Stirrup division if entries warrant at show management's discretion.
- 310. PRE-CHILDREN'S HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:**Open to horses and ponies (stallions prohibited). To be ridden by junior riders who still qualify as a Novice rider as of December 1st of the previous year. Riders may only compete in this division for two (2) horse show seasons. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. To be judged on manners, performance & soundness. VHJA rated. Not USEF/NEHC rated.
- 311/312. PRE-CHILDREN'S HUNTER O/FENCES:** Open to horses and ponies (stallions prohibited). To be ridden by junior riders who still qualify as a Novice rider as of December 1st of the previous year. To be shown over a course of six to eight fences 2' -2'3" in height. No in and out. Riders may not cross-enter into Children's Hunter Divisions, Regular Pony Divisions, or into any other class over fences that exceed 2'6". Riders may only compete in this division for two (2) horse show seasons. VHJA rated. Not USEF/NEHC rated.
- 313. PRE-CHILDREN'S HANDY HUNTER:**To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; Two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion).
- 314. PRE-ADULT HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:**Open to horses and ponies (stallions prohibited). To be ridden by adult amateur riders. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. Riders may not cross-enter into Adult Amateur Hunter Divisions or into any other class over fences that exceed 2'6". May be combined with the Pre-Children's Hunter if entries warrant at show management's discretion. To be judged on manners, performance & soundness. VHJA rated. Not USEF/NEHC rated.
- 315 /316. PRE-ADULT HUNTER OVER FENCES:** Open to horses and ponies (stallions prohibited). To be ridden by adult amateur riders. To be shown over a course of six to eight fences 2' -2'3" in height. No in and out. Riders may not cross-enter into Adult Amateur Hunter Divisions or into any other class over fences that exceed 2'6". May be combined with the Pre-Children's Hunter if entries warrant at show management's discretion.
- 317. PRE-ADULT HANDY HUNTER:**To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; Two or more of the following must be included: Trot fence, halt, back, dismount, rollback turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion). Riders may not cross-enter into Adult Amateur Hunter Divisions or into any other class over fences that exceed 2'6". May be combined with the Pre-Children's Hunter if entries warrant at show management's discretion.
- 380. HOPEFUL HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:** Open to all horses and ponies. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. One year-end award for all sections 380, 381, 382 & 383.
- 381./382. HOPEFUL HUNTER O/FENCES:** Open to all horses and ponies. Horse/rider combination may not cross-enter into any class which exceeds 2'3" at the same show. -Ponies may not cross-enter into Children's Hunter Pony division. To be shown over a course of not less than 6 obstacles at 2' - no oxers, no in and out. Simple changes will be deemed acceptable. Minimal Fill: No gates, walls, rolltops or coups. Not USEF/NEHC rated. One year-end award for all sections 380, 381, 382 & 383.
- 383. HOPEFUL HANDY HUNTER:**Open to all horses and ponies who are not competing in any classes which exceed 2'3" at this show. Ponies may not cross-enter into Children's Hunter Pony division. To be shown over a course of not less than 6 obstacles at 2'; two or more of the following must be included:trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion). No in and out.Simple changes will be deemed acceptable. Not USEF/NEHC rated. One year-end award for all sections 380, 381, 382 & 383.
- 406. CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY UNDER SADDLE:**To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Light contact with the pony's mouth is required. Ponies should be obedient, alert, responsive, and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. May be asked to hand-gallop at the discretion of the judge but no more than 8 to hand-gallop at one time. Martingales are not permitted. NEHC rated.
- 407/ 408. CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY O/FENCES:**To be shown by junior exhibitors under 18 years of age. Height of fences small/medium ponies 2', large ponies 2'6", spreads not to exceed fence height. Same pony/rider combination cannot show in any other (USEF) rated division except Equitation. Ponies may be shown by another rider in any other division or section at the same show. Ponies may not cross enter into Regular Pony hunter division and Children's Hunter Pony riders may not cross enter into any other class where fence heights exceed 3'3" at the same show. To jog for soundness at the discretion of the judge. NEHC rated.

**409. CHILDREN'S HANDY HUNTER PONY:**To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; Two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion).

**414. SPECIAL WORKING HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:**To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring.

**415/ 416. SPECIAL WORKING HUNTER O/FENCES:**Fence Height 2'6". Open to Horses and Ponies. No in and out. To be judged on performance and soundness. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**417. SPECIAL WORKING HANDY HUNTER:**To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; Two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion).

**1002 MARSHALL & STERLING BIT O' STRAW HUNTER CLASSIC:** (2'6") Open to Junior and Amateur riders. No cross entry of horse/pony or rider into the M&S Children's or Adult Hunter Classic. No cross entry of rider into any rated hunter division. Fences 2'6".

**126. VHJA YOUNG HUNTER FUTURITY / FLAT:**Entries must be pre-nominated and paid before the first go. Nomination fee (which includes all horse show futurity class entries) will be \$150.00. The VHJA Board of Directors will waive the nomination fee for any horse/pony that has been adopted from a certified horse rescue (any breed) or any recognized Thoroughbred Retirement Organization one time. Owners must provide proof of adoption/rescue with the futurity application in order for the fee to be waived. Open to horses and ponies 6 years of age or younger (age advances as of January 1st of the current show year; owners may be asked to show proof of horse's age). Horses/ponies may be of any breed or sex. The futurity may be divided between horses and ponies if entries warrant at the VHJA Board's discretion. Riders may be of any age; adults may ride ponies; stallions must be ridden by adults. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Light contact with the horse's/ pony's mouth is required. Horses/ponies should be obedient, alert, responsive, and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. Martingales are not permitted. Results of each individual "go" will be kept secret. All placings for the year will be announced and ribbons and a monetary award of a percent of total entries to the top three (60%, 30%, 10%) will be made at the Annual Banquet. Shows are encouraged to run the Futurity class.

**422. YOUNG WORKING HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:** To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring.

**423/ 424. YOUNG WORKING HUNTER O/FENCES:**Open to horses and ponies 6 years of age or younger or in their first or second year of showing over fences (except for in Hunter Hack Horse or Pony). No restrictions as to rider. Adults may ride ponies. Must declare if you are showing 2' or 2'6" at each show. Both sections must jump the same course with same obstacles set at the different heights. No in and out. To be judged on performance and soundness. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**425. YOUNG HANDY WORKING HUNTER:**To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion).

**426. YOUNG WORKING HUNTER MODEL:**Open to horses and ponies 6 years of age or younger or in their first year of showing. To be shown in hand and move on the line. To be judged on conformation, quality, substance, way of going and soundness. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Points earned in this class will apply to Young Working Hunter show championship and year-end award.

**504. LOW WORKING HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:**To be shown at a walk, trot, and canter, both ways of the ring. To be judged on performance and soundness. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**505/ 506. LOW WORKING HUNTER O/FENCES:**Open to all horses and ponies. Fence height 2'9". To be judged on performance and soundness. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

**507. LOW HANDY WORKING HUNTER:**Open to all horses and ponies with a fence height of 2'9". To be shown over 6-8 fences; two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion). One year-end award for classes 504,505,506 & 507.

**604. CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE UNDER SADDLE:**To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses/ponies should be obedient, alert, responsive, and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. May be asked to hand gallop at the discretion of the judge but no more than eight to gallop at one time. Martingales are not permitted. NEHC rated.

**605/ 606. CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE O/FENCES:**To be shown by junior exhibitors under 18 years of age. Height of fences 3', spreads not to exceed fence height. Same horse/rider combination cannot show in any other rated division except equitation. Horses may be shown by another rider in any other division or section at the same show except Junior Hunter. To jog for soundness at the discretion of the Judge. NEHC rated

**607. CHILDREN'S HANDY HUNTER HORSE:**To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion).

**612. ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:**To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Light contact with the horse's/pony's mouth is required. Horses/ponies should be obedient, alert, responsive, and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. May be asked to hand gallop at the discretion of the judge but no more than eight to gallop at one time. Martingales are not permitted. NEHC rated.

**613/ 614. ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER O/FENCES:**To be ridden by adult amateurs who are no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors. Horse/rider combinations are not eligible for any other USEF rated classes. Horses may be shown by a different rider in any other division or class at the same competition. To be judged on performance, soundness, manners, way of going, size of rider to mount and suitability as an Adult Amateur Hunter. Horses and ponies may be jogged for soundness at Judge's discretion. Height of fences 3', spreads not to exceed height of fence. If 3 or more entries are received by the date entries close, the division must be split 18-34 and 35+. Ponies may be ridden by adults, suitability to count. NEHC rated.

**615. ADULT AMATEUR HANDY HUNTER:**To be shown over 6-8 fences at VHJA shows at the required height; Two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion).

**900. MODIFIED ADULT HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:** Open to horses and ponies ridden by adult amateurs 18 years of age or over. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. One year-end award for all sections of 900, 901, 902, and 903.

**901/ 902. MODIFIED ADULT HUNTER O/FENCES:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by adult amateurs 18 years of age or over. Riders may not cross-enter into any other class or division that exceeds 2'9" at the same show. To be shown over a course of not less than 6 obstacles 2'3"- 2'6". No in-and-out. Not USEF/NEHC rated. One year-end award for all sections of 900, 901, 902, and 903.

**903. MODIFIED ADULT HANDY HUNTER:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by adult amateurs 18 yrs. of age or over. To be shown over a course of not less than 6 obstacles 2'3"- 2'6".; two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion). No in-and-out. Not USEF/NEHC rated. One year-end award for all sections of 900, 901, 902, and 903.

### **JUMPER DIVISIONS**

See page for Jumper Showcase Specifications.

Please note: As USEF A-rated competitions now use metric fence heights and class names in all jumper classes, VHJA includes the following comparison chart to facilitate comparison with our divisions:

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

**490/ 491/ 492/493. PUDDLE JUMPERS:** Open to all riders on horses or ponies. Horse and rider combination not to compete at the same show at over .80 m/2'7". Fence height not to exceed .70 m/2'3", no in and out. USEF Table II.

**485/ 486/ 487/488. ELEMENTARY JUMPER:**Open to all horses and ponies. Adults may ride ponies. Horse and rider combination are not to compete at the same show over fences to exceed .90 m (3'). To be shown over a course of at least 8 jumps at .80m/2'7" with spreads not to exceed the height of the fences. USEF Table II. Not NEHC/USEF rated. Year end award.

**680/ 681/682/683. SCHOOLING JUMPER:**Open to all horses and ponies of any breed or height. No limitations as to rider. To be shown over a course of at least 8 jumps .85 m to .90 m (2'9"-3') with spreads not to exceed fence height. USEF Table 11 Sec 2 (a-c). Level 1 Not NEHC/USEF rated. Year end award.

**780/781/782/783. LOW JUMPER:**Open to all horses and ponies of any breed or height. Open to amateurs, juniors and professionals over a course of at least 8 jumps .90 m to 1.00 m (3' to 3'3") with spreads not to exceed the height of the fences. USEF Table 11 Sec 2 (a-c), Level 2. Not NEHC/USEF rated. Year end pointed.

**880/ 881/ 882/ 883 OPEN JUMPER:** Open to all horses and ponies of any breed or height. No limitation as to rider. To be shown over a course of at least eight jumps 1.10 m /3'6" with a maximum spread of 3'6". USEF Table 11 Sec 2(a-c), Level 3. Not USEF/NEHC Rated. Year end award.

*UNPOINTED CLASSES (NO VHJA YEAR-END AWARDS)*

**MAIDEN/NOVICE/LIMIT/INTERMEDIATE EQUITATION**

Maiden, Novice and Limit classes are open to junior riders that have not won 1/3/6 first place ribbons respectively competing in equitation classes at USEF recognized shows. Intermediate classes are open to junior riders who have not won 12 blue ribbons over obstacles 3'3" or higher. Ribbons won in Leadline classes and in classes where entries are not required to ride at all gaits will not affect Maiden, Novice, Limit and Intermediate status. Ribbons won in classes not to jump do not affect a rider's status in classes over jumps. However, ribbons won in classes over jumps do affect a rider's status in classes not to jump. Ribbons won in classes with less than six (6) entries do not affect a rider's status. Ribbons won in short stirrup classes and in classes over obstacles lower than 2'3" will not be counted in reckoning Maiden, Novice, Limit, Intermediate or Open status.

**453. MAIDEN EQUITATION FLAT:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders 17 years old and under. Not to have won 1, blue ribbon in an equitation class at a USEF recognized show. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. (USEF Tests 1).

**454. MAIDEN EQUITATION O/FENCES:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders 17 years old and under. Not to have won 1 blue ribbon in an equitation class at a USEF recognized show. To be shown over a course of at least 6 fences not to exceed 2'6".

**553. NOVICE EQUITATION FLAT:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders 17 years old and under. Not to have won, 3 blue ribbons in an equitation class at a USEF recognized show. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. (USEF Tests 1- 7).

**554. NOVICE EQUITATION O/FENCES:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders 17 years old and under. Not to have won 3 blue ribbons in an Equitation class at a USEF recognized show. To be shown over a course of at least 6 fences not to exceed 2'9".

**653. LIMIT EQUITATION:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders 17 years old and under. Not to have won 6 blue ribbons in an equitation class at a USEF recognized show. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. (USEF Tests 1- 7).

**654. LIMIT EQUITATION O/FENCES:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders 17 years old and under. Not to have won 6 blue ribbons in an equitation class at a USEF recognized show. To be shown over a course of at least 6 fences not to exceed 3'.

**753. INTERMEDIATE EQUITATION FLAT:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders 17 years old and under, and who have not won 12 blue ribbons over obstacles 3'3" or higher at a USEF recognized show. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. (USEF Tests 1- 13).

**754. INTERMEDIATE EQUITATION O/FENCES:**Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders 17 years old and under. Not to have won 12 blue ribbons over obstacles 3'3" or higher at a USEF recognized show. To be shown over a course of at least 6 fences not to exceed 3'3".

VHJA Classes & Divisions which are no longer offered but have history in our organization can now be found on our website at

<https://www.vhja.org/resources/archives/retired-divisions-trophies/>

# Rulebook : Constitution & By-Laws

Please read the rules and specifications carefully before you participate. It is the responsibility of the competitor to fully understand all applicable rules, regulations, and specifications before entering and competing in VHJA affiliated shows. It is recommended that you carry this rulebook with you to shows.

## CONSTITUTION OF VERMONT HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION, INC.

### ARTICLE I Name & Mission

#### Section 1

The name of the association shall be the VERMONT HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED, hereinafter referred to as VHJA.

#### Section 2

The Vermont Hunter Jumper Association (VHJA) is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization which exists to promote and reward fun, educational, and competitive experiences in horsemanship and sportsmanship while respecting the welfare of the horse and our members. Our organization operates under the guidelines of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) and the New England Horsemen's Council (NEHC). Our mission is to provide a framework for safe competitions within which our members, at all levels, can set and attain goals on our circuit which may act as a gateway to regional and national competitions. VHJA encourages integrity, professionalism, camaraderie, sportsmanship and responsibility in all aspects of our organization.

### ARTICLE II Membership

#### Section 1

Upon reading and accepting the VHJA Constitution and By-Laws all persons who are interested in improving and standardizing Hunter/Jumper activities in the State of Vermont shall be eligible for membership. Membership is open to persons interested in the purposes of this Association who have evidenced that interest by application to the Secretary for membership and by payment of the annual dues. Members enjoy the privileges of participation in the business of VHJA meetings, receipt of pertinent mailings of the Association, receipt of the VHJA Omnibus and Rule Book and eligibility for participation in the VHJA High Score Award System, except as otherwise provided herein. Membership shall be of the following types:

Individual – an Adult (18 years of age or older as of 12/1 of the previous year) Junior (non-voting); a member under 18 (as of 12/1 of the previous year)

Family-includes up to two (2) adults and their children who have not reached their 18th birthday as of 12/1 of the previous year. (Children under 18 not to vote)

Life – (an individual of any age); life members must submit a signed membership form annually.

Trainer-any adult who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody or performance of a horse. Said person must sign the entry blank of any Recognized Competition whether said person be owner, rider, agent and/or coach as well as trainer. Where a minor exhibitor has no trainer, a parent or guardian must sign and assume responsibility of trainer. The name of the trainer must be designated as such on the entry blank.

Affiliate Farm/Club: Includes 1 Trainer Membership. Available to any farm that wishes to affiliate with VHJA. Listed on Affiliate Farm page of the VHJA website. 2 annual publications on the VHJA social media pages will highlight the list of affiliates.

#### Section 2

Annual dues shall be paid on application for membership. Annual dues become payable December 1st of each year. Memberships may consist of individuals, juniors, families, life or trainers. The Board of Directors shall establish annual dues on a yearly basis.

#### Section 3

Membership is annual and shall be renewed each year upon receipt of the annual dues and a completed and signed membership form. Life members shall complete and sign a membership form annually.

#### Section 4

No part of the organization's net earnings may inure to the benefit of any person having a personal or private interest in the activities of the organization.

#### Section 5

Those members abusing or misusing their privileges of membership may have their membership revoked by the Board. The person(s) making the complaint(s) shall do so by filing a protest following the VHJA Grievance Process. Any member having their membership revoked by the Board of Directors may appeal this decision at the next General meeting.

I. Dues shall be non-refundable for any membership revoked by the Board of Directors.

### ARTICLE III Board of Directors

#### Section 1

The Board of Directors shall include the Officers, including the President, Vice President, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 9 directors elected by the general membership and up to two appointed by the President. A majority of the voting Board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If a quorum is not available, those Directors present may conduct business on a tentative basis, which may be ratified later by the absent Directors. The Board of Directors shall be the governing board of the Association and in all respects shall have the authority to act for and on behalf of this Association. The only restriction on their actions shall be that they shall not take any action contrary to specific direction voted by the members at an annual or specific meeting. All officers and directors must be current VHJA members in good standing.

## **Section 2**

All elected Directors (9) shall serve without compensation and be elected every two years. The appointed Directors (2) shall serve without compensation and be appointed every year. Directors may serve 3 consecutive terms.

## **Section 3**

Membership is annual and shall be renewed each year upon receipt of the annual dues and completed and signed membership form. Life members shall complete and sign a membership form annually.

## **Section 4**

Duties of Directors:

The Board of Directors shall take whatever action is deemed necessary, without membership vote, to carry out the primary purpose and intent of the VHJA membership. However, the Board may not overturn a direct majority vote of the membership. The Board of Directors shall review policy issues affecting the Association and make recommendations to the general membership regarding such issues. By formal resolution of the Board of Directors, specific duties of the President may be delegated to other persons. If the President and Vice-President are absent or unable to act, the

Board of Directors shall designate one of its members to act as President, and he/she shall have the full power of the President. The Board of Directors may appoint committees of two or more representatives to exercise the powers of the Board of Directors.

The Directors are expected to attend all meetings. A director must also serve on at least 1 committee. If a Director should miss 3 consecutive meetings without adequate reason, he/she may be asked to resign by the President.

## **Section 5**

Directors shall be notified of all Directors meetings at least seven days before each meeting.

## **Section 6**

Any dispute arising in the Association, including meaning of the By-Laws, shall be settled by the Board of Directors until the next general meeting. At this time their decision shall be brought before the membership for a vote. This decision shall be entered into the minutes as a precedent unless an amendment to the By-Laws is deemed necessary.

## **ARTICLE IV Officers**

### **Section 1**

The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

### **Section 2**

The President and Vice President shall be elected every two years by the members and shall hold office during the ensuing two years until their successors shall be elected. The Secretary and Treasurer will be appointed by the president each year and shall hold office during the ensuing year until their successors shall be appointed. In the event that there is a vacancy in the office of the Treasurer, Secretary or Vice President, during the year, the President will appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

### **Section 3**

The same person may hold the office of Secretary and Treasurer.

### **Section 4**

Duties of the Officers: The President shall:

Be elected every two (2) years.

Hold office for no more than three (3) consecutive terms.

Preside over all meetings of the Association and all meetings of the Board of Directors. Appoint all committees deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Call all Board/Membership meeting(s) as needed.

Sign, together with the Secretary and Treasurer, all contracts and obligations of the Association.

Hire, upon approval of the Board of Directors, a certified CPA, non-profit CPA preferred, to file state and federal taxes every year. Be an Ex-Officio member of all committees of the Association except the nominating committee.

Have the same powers and duties as all members of the Board of Directors.

Appoint a Prize List Editor, for one year, and ratified by the Board of Directors, to whom all prize lists will be sent for correction. The Prize List Editor will receive yearly compensation of \$300.00.

Appoint an auditor to review the financial records of the VHJA when or as deemed necessary.

The Vice-President shall:

Be elected every two (2) years.

Hold office for no more than three (3) consecutive terms.

Perform all duties imposed on him/her by the President/Board of Directors.

Have all powers conferred on the President when for any cause the President is unable to act.

The Secretary Shall:

Be appointed by the President.

Take minutes of all general and Directors' meetings. The Secretary may appoint someone to take minutes. Keep all records and correspondence of this Association.

Will handle issuance of membership cards to Regular Members and the recording and issuance of numbers to entries in the Award System.

Compute riders/equine points throughout the show season for point standings/awards.

Serve on the Rules Committee.

The Treasurer Shall:

Be appointed by the President.

Collect all monies due the Association and shall have the care and custody of and the responsibility for such funds of the Association. Deposit

Association monies in such banks as the directors shall designate.  
Provide all necessary financial information to the hired CPA for annual state and federal filings.  
Keep proper books of account showing the disposition of funds as may pass through his/her hands.  
Make an annual written financial report to the membership and monthly reports to the Board of Directors. This report shall cover the fiscal year beginning December 1 and ending November 30.  
Disburse funds as payment of bills up to \$500 without prior approval; payment of all bills over \$500 must be approved by the President or Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE V Board of Directors' Committees and Corresponding Subcommittees

### Section 1

**The Rules Committee** – Shall consist of the President or Vice President, Secretary and at least 3 members.

**Rules** – Shall peruse the rules of the Association and make recommendations based on their findings or on suggestions by the directors or membership; Shall review the points for year-end awards annually to certify same; Shall, without imperative to seek the approval of the membership, be empowered to correct typographical, punctuation, and grammatical errors, and to make changes in order to eliminate inconsistencies or redundancies, without changing the intent of the rules, in all sections of the Rulebook.

**Grievance Committee** – Chairperson of this committee shall be appointed by the President when and as such need may arise. Shall hear any and all protests in accordance with the VHJA grievance process (By-laws, Rule II)

**Nominations Committee** – Shall compose a slate of officers and directors for member approval annually at the Annual Meeting.

**The Competition Committee** -

**Horse Show Committee (VHJA pointed shows)** - Shall oversee all horse shows which affiliate with VHJA, including but not limited to: assign show dates, organize annual show managers' meeting, edit prize lists, assure that all shows communicate results to VHJA secretary and send applicable fees to VHJA treasurer, and generally serve as liaison to all affiliated show managers. Committee chair shall receive horse show applications.

**VHJA Finals Committee** - Shall organize and run VHJA Finals Horse Show; all members of the Board of Directors shall serve on this committee.

**Young Hunter Futurity Committee** - Shall organize and oversee the VHJA Young Hunter Futurity Program.

**The Communications Committee** -

**Omnibus** - Every effort will be made to publish an OMNIBUS annually in concert with the horse show committee.

**Publications** - Shall include publications to the membership annually, including but not limited to: newsletters, finals program and banquet program.

**Outreach** - Shall serve as a liaison to other publications and organizations.

**Website** - Shall be responsible for oversight, maintenance and development of the VHJA website.

**Member Benefits** - Shall oversee recruitment of new members and promotion of non-chartered member benefits.

**The Education Committee** - Shall oversee, organize, promote and execute the VHJA's educational programs consistent with the VHJA mission and its charter as a non-profit organization.

**VHJA Scholarship** - Shall promote and award the VHJA scholarship annually.

**Workshops, lectures and clinics** - Shall create, organize and promote such activities as the committee deems viable.

**Sarah Hadley Horsemanship Challenge** - Shall organize and carry out the Sarah Hadley Horsemanship Challenge annually.

**Cloverleaf Scholarship** - Shall organize and distribute this scholarship.

**The Finance Committee** - Shall be chaired by the VHJA Treasurer.

**Budget** - Shall prepare a yearly budget and present it to the Board of Directors for approval.

**Sponsorship** - Shall solicit sponsors for VHJA and report such activities to the Board of Directors.

**Fundraising** - Shall organize and execute any and all VHJA sanctioned fund-raising activities, including but not limited to: concession sales, clothing sales, Banquet Raffle and Silent Auction.

**The Banquet Committee**

**Banquet** - Shall organize and run the VHJA Annual Banquet, including but not limited to: venue, meal, decorations, fundraising and music.

**Awards** - Shall acquire and prepare all year-end awards (ribbons and trophies) including perpetual trophies and special awards.

**Video** - Shall create and present the annual video.

**The Nominations Committee**

**Nominations** - for all offices and directorships to be filled at the Annual Meeting shall be made by the

Nominations Committee. Any member wishing to run for office shall submit his/her name to the nominating committee at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting.

Additional committees/sub-committees shall be created as needed by the President or Board of Directors for the execution of purposes within the scope of the Association.

## ARTICLE VI Meetings

### Section 1 Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting shall be held annually between the months of November and February, and with a minimum of thirty (30) days notice to the membership prior to the meeting.

The Annual Banquet will be held during the month of January or February.

### Section 2

Special Meetings of the VHJA may be called by: The President

A majority vote of the Board of Directors at any meeting of the Board.

The Secretary, upon receipt of any petition signed by eight members of the VHJA who are in good standing.

### **Section 3**

All Special Meetings shall be at such time and place as the Board of Directors designates and need not be at the registered office.

### **Section 4**

A quorum at Special Meetings shall be all voting members in attendance.

### **Section 5**

Written notices of all Special Meetings must be mailed or emailed to each member at least (7) seven days before such meeting.

### **Section 6**

Regular Board of Directors and Committee meetings shall be held when deemed necessary.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Section 1**

Officers (except Secretary and Treasurer) and Directors shall be elected by vote during the annual meeting. Nominations for all offices and Directorships to be filled shall be made by the Nominations Committee. Any member wishing to run for office shall submit his/her name to the nominating committee at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting. No names submitted by the nominating committee can be removed from the ballot without a written withdrawal request by the nominee.

### **Section 2**

In the event no candidate receives a majority, the membership shall vote again, considering only the two candidates who received the highest number of votes.

### **Section 3**

The Nominations Committee shall submit a list of nominees for Officers and Directors at each Annual Meeting. Any member wishing to run for office shall submit his/her name to the nominating committee at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting. No person shall be listed, unless the nominee has consented to his/her name being submitted and is a member in good standing.

## **ARTICLE VIII Amendments**

### **Section 1**

The Constitution and By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed at any annual or special meeting of the Association by a two-third's vote of the membership in attendance at such meeting, provided the membership has been notified of the proposed change, by mail or email, at least seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the holding of such meeting. Any proposed rule changes must be submitted to the Secretary by the deadline approved by the Board of Directors. Any rule change proposals are encouraged to be made throughout the year. Class Specifications may be altered, amended or repealed at any annual or special meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the membership in attendance at such meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX Voting**

### **Section 1**

Each Individual, Life and Trainer member shall have one vote. Each Family membership adult shall have one vote. Each member must be present in order to exercise his vote, (no proxy votes shall be allowed) and must be in good standing.

## **ARTICLE X Fiscal Year Dues & Affiliation Fees**

### **Section 1**

The fiscal year of the VHJA shall be December 1-November 30. Dues are based on the fiscal year, being due and payable to the Secretary before points will start accumulating toward year-end awards. Any points accrued prior to the time at which current membership payment is received will not be counted. The dues shall be such sums as the Board of Directors shall fix annually by vote and are subject to change on a yearly basis.

## **ARTICLE XI Conduct of Meetings**

### **Section 1**

Robert's Rules of Order shall provide the standard conduct for Association meetings.

## **ARTICLE XII Dissolution**

### **Section 1**

The VHJA may be dissolved by the written consent of a majority of the total voting members. In the event of dissolution of the Association, whether voluntary or involuntary, none of the property of the Association, nor any proceeds thereof, or any assets of the Association, shall be distributed to any member of the Association. After payments of all debts and creditors, the property shall be liquidated and assets shall be donated to an equine charity as voted upon by the membership. All perpetual trophies given through the Association shall be returned to the donors.



## BY-LAWS OF VERMONT HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION, INC.

VHJA shows and participants are governed by NEHC rules and United States Equestrian Federation rules, in addition to the VHJA rules. Members are responsible for a working knowledge of the rules of their governing bodies, VHJA, NEHC and USEF. Failure to comply with these rules shall render members liable to penalties. The VHJA show season is December 1st through November 30th of the following year.

### RULE I-RULES GOVERNING VHJA HORSE SHOWS

#### A. APPLICATION FOR HORSE SHOW AFFILIATION

A completed application for affiliation for any show, including selection classes/divisions to be held, must be accompanied by a check for the required amount. A completed show application with the correct fee will be recorded as of the date received. By making such application, it shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Association. All show related material from management must be made in writing. The VHJA Board of Directors reserves the right not to accept a show date application based on previous problems with a show or management or if the applicant is not a member in good standing. VHJA Recognized shows may only be held in the state of Vermont. Horse shows outside of the state of Vermont may become affiliates of only VHJA Medal classes. Shows that just affiliate for VHJA Medals (in-state or outside of the state of Vermont) are exempt from the two shows on the same date restriction and will be assessed a fee commensurate with the medals-only affiliation. Fully affiliated horse shows enjoy the privileges of receipt of the VHJA Rule Book, receipt of the VHJA mailing list, participation in the VHJA Show Managers Meeting and the right to advertise their shows as being conducted according to the rules of the VHJA. Competitors competing in any/all VHJA Medal Classes must be current paid members of VHJA before competing. Show managers who allow non VHJA members to participate in VHJA medal classes will be assessed a fee of \$30.00 (equal to the individual membership fee) per each non-member who participates in each/any VHJA medal/s. The show manager may pass this fee along to the exhibitor.

VHJA offers horse show managers three levels of affiliation. Non-USEF and Non-NEHC affiliated horse shows may apply for VHJA affiliation. The level of affiliation applied for is at the discretion of the horse show manager.

Level 1: USEF & VHJA Affiliation Horse shows that are fully pointed in all recognized VHJA divisions and classes (including VHJA medals) and may hold USEF medal classes. Show may also affiliate with NEHC and hold NEHC Medals as well as Marshall & Sterling League classes. Level 1 horse shows to be governed by USEF, NEHC and VHJA rules. This affiliation applies to Vermont horse shows only. All Level 1 shows must use the VHJA numbering system. Any show failing to use the current VHJA numbering system will pay an additional affiliation fee of \$100 per show.

Level 2: VHJA & NEHC Affiliation(no USEF affiliation); Horse shows that are fully pointed in all VHJA divisions and classes (including VHJA medals) but do not assess a USEF federation fee per horse. Level 2 horse shows are not eligible to hold USEF medals or USEF pointed classes. Horses are not required to have a USEF identification number to compete. Judges and stewards at these shows are not required to be USEF rated, but must be NEHC rated. If show management wishes to hire judges or stewards that are unrated by USEF, they must be NEHC rated. Level 2 horse shows to be governed by NEHC and VHJA rules. This affiliation applies to Vermont horse shows only. All Level 2 shows must use the VHJA numbering system. Any show failing to use the current VHJA numbering system will pay an additional affiliation fee of \$100 per show.

#### Level 3: VHJA Medal Class Affiliation:

Horse shows that are affiliated for points in VHJA medal classes only. Competitors riding in VHJA medal classes at Level 3 shows must be VHJA members. Level 3 shows may be held outside the state of Vermont.

#### Levels 1 & 2 VHJA shows:

- enjoy the privileges of receipt of the VHJA rule book, receipt of the VHJA mailing list, participation in the VHJA annual meeting and show managers meeting, and the right to advertise their shows as being conducted according to the rules of VHJA
- must be held in Vermont
- are subject to the same affiliation fee/s with VHJA

#### B. ASSIGNMENT OF SHOW DATES

Show dates are reserved until February 1st of the following year ONLY for shows that were held in the previous show year. Application for affiliation of any previously affiliated show must be filed with the Secretary prior to January 1st of each year or such show will automatically lose the reservation of their comparable date of the year before and be considered a new show. The Secretary will handle applications for new show dates in order of receipt of written applications. The VHJA Board of Directors retains the right to not accept an application based on conflict with another show already applied for. A show that reserves a date by payment of fees and then decides not to hold a show at any time during the show year does not receive a refund. Affected membership must be notified in writing (postcard) by show management of said show at the show management's expense. Extenuating circumstances and natural disasters causing cancellation may be discussed with the Board of Directors. The date reserved becomes an open date for that show year. Another show may use that date.

#### C. MANAGER & SECRETARY RULE

The Show Manager must be a member of the VHJA. Manager and/or Secretary of all shows MUST attend the mandatory Manager's Meeting in late winter/early spring. If neither the Manager nor Secretary is able to attend, they must meet with the Competition Committee within 30 days of the mandatory Managers' Meeting or their show will not be VHJA pointed. New shows applied for after the mandatory Manager's Meeting must meet with the Competition Committee.

#### D. LOCATION OF SHOW

A Member Show will be held within the boundaries of Vermont.

## E. JUDGES & STEWARDS

### 1. JUDGES

- A. All VHJA Hunter/Jumper shows must use USEF approved judges who are qualified to judge classes offered. (See USEF Rule Book). To use judges not approved by USEF, a show must apply in writing to VHJA. A USEF guest judge may only be used with prior approval of the VHJA Board of Directors at Hunter/Jumper shows. Approval must be received in writing from the Board at least 60 days prior to the show date except for emergency situations.
- B. No person will be allowed to judge at two (2) VHJA Hunter/Jumper shows unless the interval between the two shows is a minimum of thirty (30) days. A judge may not officiate at the same show two years in a row.

### 2. STEWARDS

- A. All shows must have as representative of VHJA and USEF, a Steward whose responsibilities include but are not limited to, informing the show committee of any rule infractions, making rule interpretations and receiving protests as per part J,2(c) of the VHJA Rule Book.
- B. A Steward's report must be filed within seven (7) days with the VHJA Secretary and the show manager on the forms provided by VHJA and USEF. Included in this report must be comments on inadequate jump or ring fences and facilities (such as in and out gates), rule violations, handling of errors in prize list (see By-Laws, Rule H).
- C. All VHJA shows must use Stewards who are licensed by USEF/NEHC. To use a Steward not licensed by USEF, a show must apply in writing to the VHJA Secretary and to the USEF Secretary for permission.
  - (a) Show Manager must submit the names of Judges and Stewards as soon as they are hired to the VHJA Competition Committee.
  - (b) The Show Manager must assure that each Judge and Steward has a copy of the prize list at least ten (10) days prior to that show.
  - (c) If a Judge or Steward cannot officiate for any reason the fact must be reported by the show management to the VHJA Secretary and USEF immediately. If possible, a written statement must be obtained from the Judge or Steward and submitted to the Secretary.
  - (d) In a Finals Class, when issues of safety arise, horse show management, in conjunction with the show steward, may adjust the order of go or the call back order

## F. PRIZELIST

### 1. Approval and submission of prize list to VHJA.

One (1) copy of the prize list must be emailed to the Prize List Editor in final form by March 1 of the show year in order to be included in the Omnibus. Prize lists whose wording differs in any way from the requirements of VHJA, USEF and/or NEHC will require correction. A minimum of two (2) weeks is required for approval before printing. When extensive correction is necessary, more time will be required. In the event a show fails to comply, upon instructions of the Board of Directors, the Secretary shall notify all members that the show is not recognized by VHJA and points will not apply toward VHJA awards. Once the prize list has been approved by the prize list editor, show manager must submit the prize list, entry form and other supporting documents to the Omnibus Editor no later than March 15.

#### A. Required content of prize list:

- (a) If a USEF affiliated show, then the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. page must be included (downloadable from the USEF website).
- (b) If a USEF affiliated show, list the USEF competition number, classification of competition, and ratings of divisions or sections on the USEF page.
- (c) Show Manager must create an entry form that meets the requirements of affiliated organizations be they USEF, VHJA and/or NEHC. Include space for VHJA number(s).
- (d) Prize list must include Judge's name, rating, qualifying organization(s) and divisions they will be judging.
- (e) Name and address of USEF/NEHC Steward.
- (f) Name, address and phone number of all show management officials including Show Manager, Secretary and course designer.
- (g) Name of veterinarian on-call and telephone number where he/she can be reached during competition.
- (h) The following statement must be published in BOLD type for all Regular Competitions (does not apply to local member shows): **Life, senior active and junior active members shall be eligible to participate in all classes at Regular Competitions, Eventing Competitions at the Preliminary Level or above and Combined Driving Competitions at the Advanced Level, Dressage, Reining and Vaulting Competitions and Endurance Rides. A non-member may participate as a handler, rider, driver, owner, lessee, agent, coach or trainer at Regular Competitions, Eventing Competitions, Dressage Competitions, Reining Competitions and Combined Driving Competitions upon payment of a \$30 non-member registration fee.**

**Participants in the following classes are exempted from the Requirements of this rule: 1) leadline; 2) exhibitions; 3) games and races; 4) classes for 4-H members; 5) walk trot and academy classes (academy classes are classes limited to horses used regularly in a lesson program); 6) USDF introductory level tests, pas de deux and quadrille classes; 7) NRHA Endorsed Reining Competitions. 8) Opportunity classes, 9) citizens of other nations who have proof, in English, of current membership in good standing of their own National Federation, 10) USEA beginner novice division; and 11) assistant handlers in Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes.**

- (i) Prize list must state: Exhibitors in all classes must be attired in appropriate show attire. Appropriate attire does not include T-shirts, tank tops or shorts.
- (j) Prize list must include complete class descriptions and judging specifications for all classes offered that are not included in USEF/VHJA/NEHC Rule Books. Any class at a VHJA approved show that is similar in specs to an existing VHJA pointed class must change the title of the class and add "NO VHJA POINTS".
- (k) Statement as to entry fees, prizes offered and registration fees.
- (l) Prize lists must state when and how prize money will be paid.
- (m) Statement concerning post entries.

- (o) Statement as to which of the USEF Medal Classes and USEF Classes are to be offered.
- (p) Statement concerning a particular system of judging to be used.
- (q) Name, exact date and location of show.
- (r) A map and/or directions to the show grounds.
- (s) For local member competitions, the designation "LOCAL COMPETITION MEMBER" must be on the cover.
- (t) Statement as to type of stabling, whether stall doors will be provided, stall fee and instructions concerning arrival and removal of horses.
- (u) The prize list for competitions offering "A" rated hunter sections must state that stabling will be offered and the cost must be included on the entry blank.
- (v) Statement as to method for establishing a jumping order for jumping classes.
- (w) Statement as to method for breaking ties for other than first place in jumper classes.
- (v) The prize list for competitions offering "A" rated hunter sections must be printed and available to exhibitors at least fifteen (15) days prior to the closing date of entries.
- (x) Name of farrier, either on grounds or on-call, and phone number.
- (z) As an added protection against any omissions in class specifications it is recommended that if show is affiliated with organizations other than VHJA, the following statement be included in a prominent place: "Every class offered herein is covered by the rules and specifications of the current USEF, VHJA, NEHC (or other) Rule Books and will be conducted and judged in accordance therewith."
- (aa) Shows must print the USEF helmet rule in the prize list. (or on Common Rules List when prize list appears in Omnibus)
- (bb) Time and place for measuring and schooling.
- (cc) Listing of affiliations with USEF/VHJA/NEHC or other organizations and show or division rating (AB,C, Local Show).
- (dd) Statement; "junior" riders may be asked to show proof of age.
- (ee) VHJA Membership Application shall be included in prizelist (or in Omnibus).
- (ff) Emergency rescue number printed in prize list with before and after hours.

#### G. DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZE LIST

The prize list must be sent to the prize list editor by March 1 and the Omnibus editor by March 15 for inclusion in the Omnibus. Otherwise, prize list must be mailed or e-mailed to the VHJA membership at least fourteen (14) days prior to the show or the deadline of post entries if post entries are charged.

#### H. ERRORS IN PRIZE LIST DISCOVERED AFTER PRINTING

If an error is detected, notice must be given to VHJA members by newsletter, postcard or via email if discovered up to ten (10) days before the show. If errors are discovered after that date, notify exhibitors in writing when they arrive to pick up their numbers.

#### I. REQUIREMENTS OF SHOW DAY

##### 1. There must be on the grounds:

- (a) VHJA Rule Book
- (b) United States Equestrian Federation Rule Book
- (c) NEHC Rule Book if affiliated with NEHC
- (d) USEF approved measuring stick for horses and ponies furnished by the Steward.
- (e) Furnish the Judge in each class a scorecard CONTAINING EXACT CLASS SPECIFICATIONS (from the VHJA Rule Book), except rated hunter classes in which case only the percentage of conformation must be noted. Fence heights must be noted for unrated classes. Method of breaking ties in jumper classes must be included. Course must be supplied for hunter and jumper classes.
- (f) The exact number of horses actually competing in each class when the gate is closed must be recorded by the Secretary and Judge; not the number of horses signed up for the class.
- (g) Forms supplied by the VHJA Secretary for the Steward's required report.
- (h) Provide on the show grounds qualified medical personnel with no other duties and suitable medical equipment during scheduled schooling sessions over fences and during all scheduled performances. Qualified medical personnel are defined as a person who is currently certified or licensed in their profession and trained in pre-hospital trauma care. EMT/paramedics would serve as the highest qualified for that responsibility followed next by doctors, nurses and/or certified athletic trainers (certified by National Athletic Trainers Association). An ambulance must be on the grounds or on call. Competitions *using more than three performance areas simultaneously*, and all first year A or AA rated competitions, must have *at least one* additional person who is CPR certified to assist the medical personnel of record for that competition. *The additional person may have other duties related to the competition provided they can be immediately available to respond to an emergency.* This person must be identified to officials and staff. *Dressage arenas do not count as performance areas. If more than six performance areas are used simultaneously there must be at least two additional people who are CPR-certified to assist the medical personnel of record for that competition.* An operational telephone and/or other emergency call priority system must be provided by the competition. Management must post in the office and by the telephone and/or emergency call equipment emergency telephone numbers plus directions to the competition which could be quickly relayed to the off- site responder. USEF will impose a fine on recognized competitions failing to comply with this rule.

- J. VETERINARIAN who has agreed in writing to be on call if one is not present on the show grounds. Each recognized USEF show with an A or B rating must have a qualified veterinarian present throughout the show. Shows with C rated divisions and local shows may have a veterinarian on call. (One who has agreed in writing to be on call). The name of the veterinarian on call and phone number of where he/she will be staying during the competition. If not known, the prize list must state where this information will be posted during the competition. Telephone number must be posted at the Secretary's stand.
- K. FARRIER: Every show which offers a division or sections with an A or B rating must have a farrier qualified in those divisions or sections available during all performances. Shows with a C rated divisions and local shows may have a farrier on call. (One who has agreed in writing to be on call). The name of the farrier on call and phone number of where he/she will be during the competition. If not known, the prize list must state where this information will be posted during the competition. Telephone number must be posted at the Secretary's office.
- L. Badges for Judges and Officials.
- M. Adequate public address system.
- N. Accurate timing equipment
- O. Proof of insurance
- P. Competition management shall place a minimum of one sharps container per each competition, whether or not stabling is provided. Notice to trainers: USEF rule states: "Competition management may fine any individuals including trainers, owners, exhibitors, or their agents up to \$100 for improper disposal of needles or other sharp disposable instruments." Competition management will place a notice of this requirement either in its prize list or on a specific handout given to trainers upon check in at the competition.
- Q. GENERAL
1. No entries may be accepted after and all fees must be paid before the first horse enters the ring including classes that require individual workouts. Any show which accepts entries without payment of the requisite entry fee(s) does so at its own risk.
  2. All specifications not covered in the VHJA Rule Book shall be in accordance with the rules of governing organizations. At any show affiliated with USEF the rules of that organization shall prevail over these rules.
  3. Protests must be handled as follows; at a show affiliated with the USEF, protests concerning infraction(s) of USEF rules must be handled according to USEF rules. Protests concerning infraction(s) of only VHJA rules (which are not covered by USEF) must be handled according to VHJA rules. (See By-Laws, Rule II, Grievance Process)
  4. Measurement cards are required to be checked for VHJA classes for which entries call for ponies (i.e. Hunter Pleasure Pony, Hunter Hack Pony) In order to participate in a Pony Hunter class at a USEF recognized competition; the person exhibiting the animal must be in possession of one of the following:
    - (a) Certified Measurement Card applied for prior to December 1, 1987; or
    - (b) Copy of a valid measurement form (i.e. measurement performed within preceding forty-five (45) days;
    - (c) Measurement Card issued by the USEF bearing the date of August 15, 1991 or thereafter.
  5. No smoking or vaping on the show grounds.
- R. SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES
- Entries must be made in writing and signed by the Exhibitor, Owner/Agent, Trainer and/or Coach. Failure to do so may invoke a \$250.00 (two hundred fifty dollar) fine.
- S. LIGHTNING RULE
- If lightning is observed and reported, the determination as to whether to suspend the show will be conducted by a majority vote of the EMT, the Steward, and the Show Manager. These same three officials will collectively determine when it is appropriate and safe for the show to resume.
- T. POST SHOW REPORTS
1. File report to VHJA Secretary as outlined by the VHJA Competition Committee within seven (7) days. If this is not done within the allotted time, additional penalties may be imposed including, but not limited to, loss of affiliation. Any exception to this rule will be made only by vote of the Board of Directors pending written or email receipt within ten (10) days of the close of the show, a request for additional time due to hardship. The VHJA Secretary may require further correspondence to clarify results. A response is required within seven (7) business days of being contacted. The report must contain
    - (a) A copy of the final prize list.
    - (b) A list for each class with exact number of entries judged
    - (c) Results from each class. Results shall list full name of horse, owner(s) and rider of all entries with their VHJA numbers and placing(s).
    - (d) Shows affiliated with NEHC may use the NEHC form, which covers USEF and VHJA.
    - (e) Any VHJA forms submitted at the horse show, including VHJA membership, Futurity forms and dues.
- U. Report any protests and disciplinary measures.
- V. Monies due VHJA.

## RULE II- GRIEVANCE PROCESS

A. To promote the best interests of VHJA exhibitors and shows alike, it is essential that all rules be adhered to. At any time, members are encouraged to make inquiries regarding rules and results with a Steward or the Rules Committee without paying fees. Deviation from and infraction of VHJA rules shall be subject to penalties, which may include, but not be limited to: fines, censures and/or suspension or loss of affiliation/membership at the discretion of the Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors. VHJA will support USEF and/or NEHC in any disciplinary action/s against an exhibitor/s which involve sportsmanship, the good conduct of shows, or indebtedness, and will extend these actions to all VHJA Affiliated shows. At all shows, which must be affiliated with USEF, the rules of USEF shall prevail over VHJA rules. At a show affiliated with the USEF, protests concerning infraction(s) of USEF rules must be handled according to USEF rules. Protests concerning infraction(s) of VHJA Rules, which are not covered by the USEF, must be filed in accordance with the VHJA Grievance Process.

Where a conflict exists that is not covered by USEF rules, the protest will be handled as follows:

1. Any rider, handler, exhibitor, owner, agent, trainer or parent of a junior exhibitor, or the VHJA Board of Directors may file a protest with the Steward of a VHJA recognized show or with the VHJA Rules Committee alleging violation of any VHJA rule(s). The protest must contain all information as specified below and must be:
  - (a) In writing. A protest must state the full name and address (if known) of the accused, must list each rule alleged to have been violated, must include a complete statement of the acts which constitute the alleged violation, and must include an explanation of what damages were sustained by the protester. The maker of the protest must be prepared to substantiate the allegation at a hearing if one is deemed necessary by the Rules Committee. The proponent of a protest has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence.
  - (b) Signed by the protester.
  - (c) Accompanied by a deposit of \$100 if made by a VHJA member or the parent of a junior exhibitor member or \$200 if made by a non-member; said deposit will be refunded in the event the protest is sustained. In the event that the protest is not sustained, the fee shall revert to the agency that processed the protest.
  - (d) Received by the Steward or the Show Manager within 48 hours of the alleged violation or received by the Rules Committee. The protest must be received by the VHJA Secretary by the tenth (10) business day following the last recognized day of the competition, or by the tenth (10) business day following the date on which the alleged violation occurred if it occurred other than at a VHJA recognized show.
2. When a protest is submitted to the show steward, the protest will be ruled on by the Show Steward. If the Show Steward cannot reach a decision on a protest, the protest fee, the original protest, all affidavits and other appertaining papers, and a complete record of the hearing shall be submitted to the Rules Committee for action.
3. When a hearing is deemed necessary by the Rules Committee, the maker of the protest must be prepared to substantiate the allegation in person. The accused show/individual and maker of the protest will be sent a notice of a hearing and it will contain a brief statement of the facts constituting the alleged violation, the VHJA rule(s) allegedly violated and the time and place at which the hearing is to be held. This notice will be sent within thirty (30) days by certified mail from receipt of the protest by the Association. The accused show/individual may attend his/her hearing, with or without counsel, and may bring witnesses, and/or submit notarized statements of other evidence on their behalf.
4. The accused show/individual or protester may request a continuance of a scheduled hearing. A request for a new hearing date must be made in writing and received at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the hearing date. Requests for hearing date changes will only be granted at the discretion of the Rules Committee upon good cause shown. Prior engagements of counsel may or may not be considered good cause. The protest will be dismissed and the matter will be considered closed without opportunity for appeal should the protester fail to attend the hearing without giving prior notice to the Rules Committee unless the protester can show reason for not notifying the Committee due to a last minute emergency. The Rules Committee's ruling regarding closure due to lack of attendance will be final.
5. The Rules Committee will make a ruling. A written summary of the ruling outlining the facts and ruling of the protest will be submitted to the VHJA Secretary. A copy will be sent to the protester and accused.
6. If the show/individual wishes to appeal this decision to the Board of Directors, they must file an appeal accompanied by a deposit of \$100 if made by a VHJA member or the parent of a junior exhibitor member or \$200 if made by a non-member; said deposit will be refunded in the event the appeal is upheld. The ruling of the Board of Directors is final. A protest appeal must be filed within 30 days of the committee ruling. The Board of Directors will review whether the rules in question were interpreted and applied appropriately, but will not re-hear all of the facts of the case.
7. Upon discovery of new facts not discoverable by due diligence prior to a hearing, a party may request a re-hearing before the Rules Committee. This request must be in writing and must contain a statement of new facts upon which it is based, and must be accompanied by \$100 fee if made by a VHJA member or the parent of a junior exhibitor member or \$200 if made by a non-member. If the Rules Committee elects to uphold the protest following a re-hearing, the total fees paid may be refunded. Re-hearings will not be granted as a matter of right but are at the discretion of the Rules Committee.
8. Withdrawal of a protest or charge. If, prior to a hearing being held, the maker of a protest wishes to withdraw it, he or she must make written application to the Rules Committee. If a protest is withdrawn, the protest fees will be non-refundable.

## B. NON-PROTEST-ABLE DECISIONS

1. The soundness of a horse, when determined by an official veterinarian of the competition or by the judge, is not protest-able.
2. A judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference or opinion, is not protest-able unless it is alleged to be in violation of USEF rules. Such protest must be made to the show steward or USEF.
3. A protest questioning the height of a horse or pony may only be made to the show steward, and must be done on the same day of competition.

C. **INDEBTEDNESS** Any indebtedness to a VHJA show or to VHJA owed by an exhibitor, owner, rider, trainer, agent, or member, shall be settled within thirty (30) days or fourteen (14) days for bad checks. No points toward annual high score awards will be credited to that exhibitor for that show or any subsequent show held while indebtedness is outstanding. No membership applications received from said persons may be accepted until such indebtedness is cleared up. Life memberships can be suspended due to indebtedness. Show management must report such indebtedness to VHJA Secretary within five (5) weeks of show date.

D. **VIOLATIONS:** A violation is an act prejudicial to the best interests of the Association, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Violation of the Rules of the Association
2. Disqualification by a Recognized Show
3. Penalization by another Horse Association, Humane Society or Court of Law for violation of Association Rules
4. Acting or inciting or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the rules of the Association, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, intemperate or prejudicial to the best interests of the Association.
5. Any act committed or remark made in connection with the show considered offensive and/or made with intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the judging or licensed officials; approaching a Judge before or after a decision without first obtaining permission from the Show Committee or Steward; inspecting a Judge's card without the permission of the Judge; or public verbal abuse of competition officials.
6. Failure of a Judge or Steward to perform his duties at a show in accordance with the rules.
7. Failure of an exhibitor or his representative to sign the entry blank of a show in which he/she competes.
8. Physical assault upon a person and/or cruelty to a horse.
9. Failure to obey any penalty imposed by the Association.
10. Exhibiting any horse while in the care, training or custody of a suspended trainer.
11. Riding, exhibiting, coaching or training for the benefit, credit, reputation or satisfaction of a suspended person.
12. Participating in any manner at a recognized competition while not in good standing.
13. Failure to pay indebtedness to the Association or to an affiliated show.

## E. PROTESTING OF STANDINGS

All members and parents of a junior member are encouraged to check the up-to-date point standings throughout the season. If a person believes that the results were not entered correctly and that there is a discrepancy in the point standings, they must notify the VHJA Secretary of the problem so that results can be verified; no fee will be charged. If the member or parent of a member disagrees with the decision of VHJA once the results have been verified, the member or parent of a member may file a protest by following the VHJA Grievance Process. The protest must be filed within 10 days after being notified of VHJA's finding. In the event of member error, a member may fill out an Application for Circumstantial Points Eligibility Form to appeal the board for points to be counted. Deadlines will be set by the Board of Directors throughout the season for appealing standings. No deadline may be less than 2 weeks after results are posted on the website and members are notified via general email distribution. Standings are non-protestable after the deadline has passed.

## RULE III – VHJA HIGH SCORE CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

### A. AWARDS

1. The Association annually offers High Score Championship Awards in numerous divisions and classes to encourage participation in VHJA shows. The awards in all classes/divisions, EXCEPT LEADLINE AND VHJA MEDAL CLASSES, shall consist of: Champion ribbon and trophy/prize, Reserve Champion ribbon and trophy/prize and ribbons for 3rd up to 8th place, as entries warrant.
2. The decision of how many places for year-end awards to award in each class/division will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors of VHJA and will be decided on at a board meeting prior to the publication of the list of winners. The number of horses/riders that have accumulated points, the number of points accumulated (relative to other divisions), the typical number of entries per show in a given division, and other objective data will be used to make this determination. The spirit of this rule is to be inclusive and reward owner/riders for effort and achievement and not to obligate the Board to cut off the number of ribbons awarded at an arbitrary total. The Board's decision regarding the number of ribbons to be awarded per division/class shall be considered final. In addition, the Association will certify that all winners of year-end awards (except LEADLINE AND VHJA MEDAL CLASSES: see below) shall meet the following criteria:
  - (a) horse's registrar/rider is a VHJA member in good standing (paid) for the calendar year of the award;
  - (b) horse/rider has a point registration completed and paid for prior to participation in competition in which points are earned;
  - (c) horse/rider is eligible according to VHJA rules and specifications to compete in the division/class of the award;
  - (d) horse/rider has competed in AT LEAST THREE VHJA affiliated (pointed) shows in the division/class of the award in the calendar year of the award. If a jumper division is offered only at three shows in given season, an exception will be made to count only two shows' points toward the year-end awards.

3. LEADLINE awards will only be subject to the first, second, and third criteria (a,b,c) and all entrants who meet these criteria and who have participated in at LEAST THREE (3) LEADLINE classes during the calendar year shall earn a year-end award.

4. MEDAL awards will be subject to the first, second, and third criteria above. (a,b,c). In the VHJA MEDAL CLASSES each qualified win per medal division will be recorded. At the final award banquet, Medal Class riders will receive a bronze medal for one win, a silver medal for two wins, and a gold medal for three (3) or more wins. Medal Class riders are subject to criteria a, b, c (NOT d) listed above. The exhibitor with the most Medal wins will receive the end-of-year trophy for the class. In the event that no exhibitor wins three Medals, the exhibitor with the most number of Medals wins will earn the trophy (as per above). At all VHJA-affiliated and Medal-affiliated shows, in order for a Medal win to be awarded, a minimum of two (2) riders must complete the course.

5. An exhibitor must accumulate 10 points or compete in three shows in a medal class to qualify for the VHJA Finals. Points will be awarded if a minimum of two riders complete the course. The Medal class does not need to fill to count towards three shows for qualifying for Finals, though no qualifying or year-end points will be awarded. A ride in a Medal class that does not fill may only count towards a riders three (3) shows for qualifying for Finals.

1st... 10 Points	4th... 5 Points	7th... 2 points
2nd... 8 Points	5th... 4 Points	8th... 1 Point
3rd... 6 Points	6th... 3 Points	

6. The categories in which awards are offered are listed under their respective classes/divisions under Section B of this Rule. The categories may be expanded or deleted by majority vote of the members at the annual meeting. All awards will be made at an annual awards banquet.

**B. AWARD TITLES:** The classes/divisions listed below will receive YEAR-END AWARDS when they have been held at 3 or more VHJA sanctioned shows in one competition year. If a division is not offered at three shows in a given season, an exception can be made to count only two shows' points toward the year-end award. This is at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The Finals Classes are not to count towards the annual point or medal total.

**EQUITATION CLASSES**

LEADLINE

**EQUITATION DIVISIONS**

BEGINNER EQUITATION  
 ADVANCED BEGINNER EQUITATION  
 SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION  
 LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION  
 CHILDREN'S EQUITATION 2'  
 CHILDREN'S EQUITATION 2'6"  
 CHILDREN'S EQUITATION 3'  
 CHILDREN'S EQUITATION 3'3"  
 MODIFIED ADULT EQUITATION

**HUNTER AND PLEASURE CLASSES**

BEGINNER PLEASURE  
 ADVANCED BEGINNER PLEASURE  
 HUNTER PLEASURE  
 HUNTER HACK  
 VHJA YOUNG HUNTER FUTURITY

**MEDAL CLASSES**

VHJA SHORT STIRRUP MEDAL  
 VHJA LONG STIRRUP MEDAL  
 VHJA MODIFIED ADULT MEDAL  
 VHJA CHILDREN'S 2' MEDAL  
 VHJA NOVICE MEDAL  
 VHJA PONY MEDAL  
 VHJA ADULT MEDAL  
 VHJA JUNIOR MEDAL  
 VHJA JOHN CORLEY HORSEMANSHIP  
 VHJA PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

**HUNTER DIVISIONS**

SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER  
 LONG STIRRUP HUNTER  
 PRE-CHILDREN'S HUNTER  
 PRE-ADULT HUNTER  
 MODIFIED ADULT HUNTER  
 CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY  
 CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE  
 ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER  
 SPECIAL WORKING HUNTER  
 LOW WORKING HUNTER  
 YOUNG WORKING HUNTER  
 HOPEFUL HUNTERS

**JUMPER DIVISIONS**

PUDDLE JUMPERS  
 ELEMENTARY JUMPER  
 SCHOOLING JUMPER  
 LOW JUMPERS  
 OPEN JUMPER

## C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. AWARDS: YEAR-END AWARDS shall be given in every VHJA recognized class or division as previously listed whenever that class or division is offered a minimum of three (3) times in a given show season. If a division is not offered at three shows in a given season, an exception can be made to count only two shows' points toward the year-end award. This is at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Winners shall be those entries who score the highest number of points in their award categories.

2. ELIGIBILITY: No equitation points will be credited for year-end awards before an equitation rider has submitted a membership application and paid the membership fee and therefore holds a current membership for the show year in which points accrue. Life members must fill out a membership application each year in order to have equitation points accrue. No hunter/jumper/pleasure points will be credited for year-end awards before a horse/pony, belonging to or leased by a current member, has been registered and paid for year-end point registration. A registration fee is required for each horse/pony that a current member wishes to put forward for points to accrue toward year-end awards. If a life member wishes to register a horse/pony for points, they do so at the same cost as annual members. All fees must be paid by **check or money order** (show managers and VHJA Secretary cannot accept cash for horse/pony registration or annual membership fee). Membership and registrations must be current and paid **prior** to the equitation rider and/or horse/pony shows in any classes or divisions if points are to be credited for year-end awards. Show Secretaries may require proof of membership and/or horse/pony registration to be submitted with show entries. The burden of proof for current membership is on the members who should carry their VHJA card or a copy of their card or a copy of their completed membership application signed by the show Secretary.

In summary:

In order to earn points for year-end awards, prior to entering a class in a VHJA sanctioned show, you must:

- Complete a VHJA membership application,
- Pay annual membership fee and/or horse/pony registration fee by check or money order to the VHJA Secretary or to the Show Secretary at the show where you wish to compete,
- Save a dated receipt of this transaction,
- Keep a copy of your VHJA membership card to present upon request.

3. AMATEUR CARDS: Amateur cards accepted from either USEF, NEHC or other organizations for applicable classes.

4. DEFINITION OF HORSE AND PONY: The term horse as used in these rules denotes either a horse or pony.

(a) When the term horse or pony is used or intended in prize lists or Recognized Shows where height is one of the qualifications of the class, the word horse denotes animals over 14.2 hands. (A mature horse is one that is over four (4) year of age).

5. TERMS OF COMPETITION

(a) No credit will be given for classes whose specifications are not in accordance with VHJA rules. No credit will be given for a class which does not appear on the approved list. (Rule III)

(b) No credit will be given for a point class which is restricted in any way (that is a class which is not open) unless the point class(es) which is complementary to said restricted class is also offered, so that all entries have equal opportunity to acquire points.

(c) Credit will be given for the first eight place ribbons only, regardless of the number of ribbons offered. For points to count in Hunter Seat Equitation, shows must offer both flat and over fences classes.

(d) Exhibitors must wear the correct show number for a class to count for points.

(e) Equitation divisions **must** include two over fences classes, with the exception of the VHJA finals.

6. POINT VALUE: Points in all classes, except where otherwise provided in these rules, will be scored as follows for year-end awards:

<b>Exhibitors</b>	<b>Placings</b>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	1							
2	2	1						
3	3	2	1					
4	4	3	2	1				
5	5	4	3	2	1			
6	6	5	4	3	2	1		
7-10	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	.5
11-14	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
15-18	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
19-22	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
23-26	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
27 & Over	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5



