

Rules & regulations 2026

General show rules

The management may add, cancel, combine or divide classes. All judge's decisions are FINAL. The USEF rulebook may be used to resolve any questions. Martingales or tie-downs are prohibited in all under saddle classes. Alcohol or controlled substances are prohibited both for humans and horses and the use of such is cause for expulsion from show grounds without refund of entry fees.

Stallions - may only be shown by riders/handlers 18 & over. They cannot be shown in Beginner W/T/C.

Rider Attire - **All 17 & under riders in ALL divisions and ALL seats are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified helmets, including lead-line riders, when mounted. (Regardless of seat and will not be penalized) Riders of all ages must wear helmets when mounted outside of the show ring. Riders must wear proper attire for all classes entered, with the exception of Therapeutic Riding-class. Classes will not be held for tack or clothing changes without prior notice to management. Even with notice, holds should be limited to approximately 4 minutes. Class will be called if hold is too long.

Tack – Horses should have appropriate tack for discipline being shown. For example, flat saddles and full bridles for saddleseat. Huntseat riders must use bridles or plain leather halters for showmanship classes.

Points & Awards - 1 award and 6 ribbons per class .

Points are calculated as follows:

# of entries	1 st place	2 nd place	3 rd place	4 th place	5 th place	6 th place
4 & up	7	5	4	3	2	1
3 & under	5	3	2	-	-	-

*Only HRC members in good standing may accrue points. Same horse/rider combination must show at a minimum of 2 HRC shows and same division for points to count for year-end awards. Points will be considered final one week after publication, excluding printing or addition errors.

Membership dues - Membership application forms received the day of the show MUST be submitted and paid in full at the time of registration. Payment must be in the form of cash or separate check. Membership form must be correctly filled out with date of birth for juniors before the start of classes. *No points will be awarded retroactively!

Pre-entries- pre-entries must be received by 9 p.m. the Friday prior to the show, no exceptions. To be eligible for pre-entry rate, entries must be received on time and be complete. No numbers will be issued without payment and proof of current coggins. Please mail early, no phone entries! Pre-Entrants may add a class on the day of the show for pre-entry prices.

Post-entries- are defined as:

(A) Entries received after 9 p.m. the Friday prior to the show.

(B) Entries submitted the morning of the show.

All entries must be paid by Cash, Venmo, Check, or a blank, signed check prior to receiving an entry number.

*****RETURNED CHECKS***** a service charge of \$25 per check will be levied. All monies owed to HRC must be remitted within 15 days of the date of the dunning notice. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of points accumulated toward year-end awards in all divisions shown at the show in which the check was received.

Coggins test- a legible copy of a current, (within 1 Year) negative coggins test must be submitted for each horse or pony entered in the show. For your and our convenience, a copy may be left

with the show manager, and will be kept on file to be used at all HRC shows. **if copy is outdated (over 1 year), or illegible, no entry number will be issued.*

Entry number- One new entry number will be issued to each horse and rider combination for the 2026 season. Lost numbers will result in an additional number fee of \$5.

Cross Entries – Cross entries are permitted where horse and/or rider is eligible for that division. See Division Specifications and/or Class Specifications.

Adding/dropping classes- Use the add/drop form and fill it out completely. Please be courteous and drop or add classes as early as possible. Post-entrants may add classes on the day of the show at post-entry price. Each class can be added and/or dropped only once. No refunds for additional requests.

Juniors- riders shall be 17 and under as of January 1st of this show year. Juniors shall not show stallions. Juniors are required to wear helmets in all under saddle classes and will not be penalized for doing so.

Adults- riders 18 years of age as of January 1st of this show year. Adults are strongly urged to wear helmets in all classes and will not be penalized for doing so.

Horses- kickers must be marked by a red ribbon on the tail (available at entry booth). Any horse endangering the safety of another horse, rider, show official, or spectator will be excused from the class and/or show. Illness, lameness, unruliness, or signs thereof, shall be cause for dismissal from the ring.

Gaited horses - are welcome to show in all eligible divisions but rider must be attired appropriately for that division and horses must be able to perform the appropriate gaits. i.e. Hunt attire – trot/canter, Western – jog/lope. Breed attire and alternate gaits permitted in Walk/Trot/Jog or Adult classes.

Complaints- Show complaints should be presented to the show manager by the end of the show. If the problem is not resolved by the end of the show, the complaint must be submitted in writing, dated, signed and received by the show manager within seven days after the show. Complaints must be registered by the individual, legal guardian or trainer involved. Complaints will be addressed by the board at the next meeting. The Board's decision will be based on their interpretation of the rules.

Division Ties – Day end and year end ties will be determined by the division's equitation class results.

Division Specifications

1. **Leadline 3 – 7** - open to riders 3 to 7 years of age as of January 1st, of this show year. Exhibitors must be able to safely ride the walk and trot/jog independently without assistance. One handler/leader per exhibitor. Exhibitors will show at the walk and individually at the trot or jog. Leaders are to be on foot and must be over 18 years old and an experienced handler. *Tank tops, shorts, open-toed shoes or sandals, bare feet are not acceptable attire for handlers. Lead-Line riders are eligible to compete in Lead Line classes only. Equitation class is to be judged with emphasis on equitation. Suitability class is to be judged with emphasis on pleasure and suitability of horse or pony to rider. Trail Class is to be judged with emphasis on the rider's efforts and control of his/her horse.

2. **Leadline 8 – 12** - open to riders 8 to 12 years of age as of January 1st of this show year. (See Leadline 3 - 7 for division/class specifications).

3. **Walk/trot/jog**- walk/trot/jog divisions for riders who cannot canter or lope or have never cantered or loped at any show or on any show grounds. Shows are defined as any event where equitation classes are offered or where equitation is part of the judging criteria. If you wish to ride in walk/trot and do not qualify but have extenuating circumstances, please contact the board in

advance of your first show. Rider's age is as of January 1st of this show year. Horse/rider combination is eligible to ride in Walk/Trot/Jog Games and Purina class. Walk/Trot/Jog riders cannot cross enter into any walk/trot/canter division classes, including Showmanship.

4. **Huntseat** – walk/trot/canter divisions that are split according to age – Junior (17 & under) and Senior (18 & over) Beginner W/T/C riders are not eligible for this division.

5. **Western**- a walk/jog/lope division for all ages. Helmets are optional for riders 18 years and over but juniors must wear a helmet. A junior horse/pony 5 years of age and under (USEF states for competition purposes any horse is considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling), ridden western, may be ridden two handed with a bosal or appropriate snaffle. No horse or pony older than 5 years of age may do so.

6. **Therapeutic Riding** - for physically or mentally challenged riders. Riders may not enter in any other divisions.

7. **Green horse**- a walk/trot/jog class for "green" horses who are in their 1st or 2nd season of showing under saddle. These horses are not eligible for any other divisions with the exception of Driving. Rider may enter individually where eligible. Horses in this division have never cantered at any show.

8. **Beginner Walk/Trot/Canter** – a beginner division for all ages and seats. Division is limited to riders who have never cantered or loped at any show or on any show grounds prior to this show season. Rider may not enter in any other classes or divisions, with the exception of driving and Horsemanship Classic. Horses/ponies may be shown by another rider in other divisions or classes at the same show. Riders are eligible for this division for one year.

9. **Games divisions** – (Open and Walk/Trot/Jog) no day-end championship awarded. *games divisions include all Command, Mint Julep, and **Sit-a-buck** classes. *Helmets, pants and boots are mandatory for all riders, all seats, all ages, in all games classes!

10. **In Hand** – Open to horses, ponies and miniature horses that are not being shown under saddle. All classes will be shown in hand. Equines may not cross enter into other classes with the exception of driving and leadline. Handlers may enter in other classes with another horse where eligible, but they are not eligible for the Spectators & Grooms class. In Hand Showmanship winners may compete in the Showmanship Challenge.

11. **Adult** – Open division where rider and horse may cross enter where eligible into other divisions with the exception of Walk/Trot/Jog, Therapeutic Riding-Class or Lead Line. Rider must be 18 or over.

12. **Masters Walk/Trot** – Open walk/trot division where rider must be 50 or over as of January 1st. Rider may cross enter into other walk/trot or walk/trot/canter divisions where eligible.

Class Specifications

1. **Trail**- trail course will close at an announced time. Riders are responsible for completing the trail class. No refunds will be given to riders who do not complete the class in a timely manner. Leadline trail must be completed by lunch break, leadline and Therapeutic riders will be given preference in line.

2. **Equitation Limit**- (Walk/Trot/Jog) Open to walk/trot/jog riders who have not won 3 or more blue ribbons in equitation at any show (HRC and non-HRC) in any year prior to today's show.

3. **Showmanship**- classes shall be judged on the exhibitor's ability to show a horse/pony in hand with an emphasis in fitting (i.e. cleanliness of horse, tack and attire.) Horses should remain in ring until judge's card is turned in to ringmaster. Entrants must ask ringmaster for permission to leave ring before end of class. This class is not a halter class, conformation of the horse/pony not to count. To be shown in a suitable halter or bridle and proper attire for handler. i.e. no silver on halter for Huntseat and Walk/Trot classes.

4. **Showmanship Challenge**- exhibitors placing first in each showmanship class (all divisions) from any HRC or affiliated show in a calendar year will be eligible to participate in the Showmanship Challenge at the HRC September Open Show. Note: exhibitor must be a member of HRC in good standing to qualify. Same horse/handler combination must be used in the challenge class. No substitution of horse or exhibitor is allowed. Winner will be announced at the Awards Banquet. **This class will be judged by both judges.**

5. **Purina Senior Challenge**- a walk/trot/jog class for all horses/ponies over the age of 15 as of January 1st of this show year. Sponsored by Hanson Grain and Purina Feeds.

6. **Open Driving**- Horse/Pony to be shown at a walk, collected trot and working trot. Exhibitors may be asked to back up. Junior drivers must have a header. All juniors in cart must wear a helmet. Headers are optional for Adult drivers. Shown only single in harness.

7. **Pleasure Driving**- Horse/Pony to be shown at a flat-footed walk, pleasure trot and a working trot. Exhibitors must stand quietly and back readily. A junior driver must have a header. All juniors in cart must wear a helmet. Headers are optional for Adult drivers. Shown only single in harness.

8. **Spectator Leadline** – for any rider who has not competed in any other class that day with the exception of costume. To be shown at a walk-only and led by a qualified adult handler.

9. **Spectators & Grooms** – for any rider that has not competed in any class that day with the exception of costume. To be shown at the walk and trot/jog only. Proper show attire is not required, however, helmets are required.

10. **Mint Julep** – game class where the exhibitor with the most water in their cup wins after being asked to complete different maneuvers.

11. **Command** – game class where last rider remaining wins. Played like Simon Says that the command must be completed on the word "now".

12. **Sit-a-buck** –riders ride bareback(pants are required and chaps are not allowed) with a piece of paper "buck" (provided by HRC) under their thigh. The last rider with their paper wins.

13. **Horsemanship Classics** - (In Hand, Open and Walk/Trot/Jog) Horsemanship is judged on the rider's appearance and position in the saddle, and their ability to control their horse, as indicated by the horse's performance in the maneuvers prescribed in the class. The horse should move naturally, quietly and smoothly throughout their performance. The horse and rider should give the appearance of confidence and ease of movement. The judge will be looking specifically at the basic riding position, the smoothness and correctness of the class maneuvers, and the correctness of the pattern which will be posted that date. Rail work to be performed first, judge may excuse riders before pattern. Top 3 places will receive voucher for monetary prize – 1st place 25%, 2nd place 15%, and 3rd place 10% of class entry fees. Special entry fee of \$25.

14. **HRC Specialty – Price and prizes same as horsemanship classic**

- **May – Versatile Horse/Pony** – Walk/trot/jog class where rider will ride western first direction of the ring and then ride the second direction in English tack. Each rider is allowed 1 groom and all equipment will be brought in by the groom at the beginning of class. The tack change will be 4 minutes and happen in the center of the ring.
- **July –Bareback Equitation** - Walk/trot/jog class where riders will ride bareback and be judged on their equitation. Equitation will be based on horse's bridle and rider's attire. All seats may be asked to post at the judge's discretion.
- **September – Pro-AM** – Walk/trot/jog class where 2 riders (at least one must be an amateur rider) will each ride one direction of the ring at designated gaits. Change of riders will take place in the ring and the class will be judged as a pleasure class.

Please note: Highlighted areas are changes or additions to the rules since last posting.