



**MISSISSIPPI HUNTER JUMPER
ASSOCIATION**

**2021-2022 RULE BOOK
and
SHOW PACKET**

**Mississippi Hunter Jumper Association
P.O. Box 13904
Jackson, MS 39236-3904**

MHJA DIVISION SPECIFICATIONS

Fence heights listed below apply to MHJA sponsored Horse Shows. At a USEF rated show, fences will be set to meet USEF division specifications.

HUNTER DIVISIONS

Points toward annual awards will be given in the following sections:

SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER – Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders twelve (12) years and under. A rider may not compete at the same show in any class where fences exceed 2’3”. Fences 18”–2’. Riders may cross enter in their age group equitation.

LONG STIRRUP HUNTER – Open to horses and ponies ridden by riders over twelve (12) years of age. A rider may not compete at the same show in any class where fences exceed 2’3”. Fences 18”–2’.

MHJA PONY HUNTER - Open to ponies ridden by a junior rider. USEF age rules apply. MHJA Pony Hunter will be held as three sections according to pony size. Sections with less than three ponies will be combined. Pony riders who compete in Children’s Hunter Pony, Green Pony Hunter, or Regular Pony Hunter classes at affiliated shows will receive points in the appropriate MHJA Pony Hunter height section. Fences 2’ for small and medium ponies, 2’6” for large ponies.

PRE-CHILDREN’S HUNTER – Open to any junior rider on a horse or pony. A rider may not compete at the same show in any class where fences exceed 2’9”. Fences 2’6”.

PRE-ADULT HUNTER – Open to any adult amateur rider on a horse or pony. A rider may not compete at the same show in any class where fences exceed 2’9”. Fences 2’6”.

MODIFIED CHILDREN’S HUNTER – Open to any junior on a horse or pony. A rider may not compete at the same show in any class where fences exceed 3’. Fences 2’9”.

MODIFIED ADULT HUNTER – Open to any adult amateur on a horse or pony. A rider may not compete at the same show in any class where fences exceed 3’. Fences 2’9”.

BABY GREEN HUNTER – Open to horses and ponies in their FIRST or SECOND year of showing. Open to horses which have not shown 3’ or higher. Fences 2’6”.

2’ OPEN NON-PRO HUNTER- Open to all horses and amateur riders. No restrictions. Specs for USHJA 2’ Divisions apply. Fences 2’.

2'6" OPEN HUNTER- Open to all horses and riders. Specs for USHJA 2'3" and 2'6" Divisions apply. Fences 2'6"

GREEN HUNTER 3' & 3'3" – A Green Hunter has two competition years of eligibility once it competes at 3'. Fences 3'

3'6" GREEN HUNTER Horses are eligible in their 1st and 2nd year of jumping 3'6" or higher. Fences 3'6".

PERFORMANCE HUNTER- 3' & 3'6" Open to all horses and riders. Fences 3' and 3'6" as entered.

CHILDREN'S HUNTER – Open to horses and ponies ridden by a junior rider. Horse/Rider may not cross enter in classes exceeding 3'3". Fences 3'.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER – Open to horses and ponies ridden by an amateur rider. Horse/Rider may not cross enter in classes exceeding 3'3" Fences 3'.

JUNIOR HUNTER– Open to horses ridden by a junior. Junior Hunter 3'3" and 3'6" will be combined for year-end awards. Fences 3'3" or 3'6".

AMATEUR OWNER HUNTER - Open to horses ridden by an amateur rider. The horse must be owned by the rider, or a member of the rider's family. AO Hunter 3'3" and 3'6" will be combined for year-end awards. Fences 3'3" or 3'6".

EQUITATION CLASSES

Points toward annual awards will be given in the following sections, separately on the flat and over fences:

SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION – Flat and Over Fences - open to riders twelve (12) years of age and under. The rider is not eligible for any other classes at the same show where the fences exceed 2'3". No testing. Fences 18"-2'.

LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION – Flat and Over Fences - open to riders over twelve (12) years of age. The rider is not eligible for any other classes at the same show where the fences exceed 2'3". Fences 18"-2'.

PRE-CHILDREN'S EQUITATION Open to junior riders. A rider may not compete at the same show in any class where fences exceed 2'9". Fences 2'6".

PRE-ADULT AMATEUR EQUITATION – Open to amateur riders. A rider may not compete at the same show in any class where fences exceed 2'9". Year-end awards for flat and over fences. Fences 2'6".

AGE GROUP EQUITATION – Age groups may be combined if there are fewer than 3 entries in any section. Fences and tests at the level indicated for each age group; points to be awarded in the appropriate age group for annual awards.

EQUITATION 11 & UNDER – Flat and Over Fences. Tests 1-8. Fences 2’3”.

EQUITATION 12–14 – Flat and Over Fences. Tests 1–13. Fences 2’6”– 2’9”.

EQUITATION 15–17 – Flat and Over Fences. Tests 1–16. Fences 3’.

ADULT AMATEUR EQUITATION – Flat and Over Fences. Open to amateur riders. Tests 1–16. Fences 3’.

MISSISSIPPI HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION HORSE MEDAL

Open to junior and amateur members of the MHJA. Application for membership must be made and membership fee paid before entering the class. Class requirements are similar to the THIS and ARIAT 3’ Medal Classes. Points determine those eligible for competing in the MHJA HorseMedal Final Class. Tests 1–16. Fences 3’. Horses may not compete at the same show in classes where fences exceed 3’3”.

MISSISSIPPI HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION 2’6” MEDAL

Open to junior and amateur members of the MHJA. Application for membership must be made and membership fee paid before entering the class. Class requirements are similar to the MHJA horse medal. Points determine those eligible for competing in the MHJA 2’6” Medal Final Class. Tests 1–13. Fences 2’6”. Horses may not compete at the same show in classes where fences exceed 2’9”.

MISSISSIPPI HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION PONY MEDAL

Open to junior riders on ponies who are members of the MHJA. Application for membership must be made and membership fee paid before entering the class. Class requirements are the same as for the USEF Pony Equitation Classes except that only three riders must enter and complete the course.

Riders may continue to compete after winning a medal since points determine those eligible for competing in the MHJA Pony Medal Final Class. Tests 1–9. Fences 2’ for small and medium ponies, 2’6” for large ponies.

MHJA MEDAL FINALS – All riders receiving points in MHJA Pony Medal, MHJA 2’6” Medal, and Horse Medal classes during the show year shall be considered eligible for the MHJA Medal Final classes. No Entry Fee. MHJA Medal Final classes to be held at the last MHJA sponsored show of the show year.

MHJA ACADEMY - MHJA Academy classes are open to beginner riders who have not jumped higher than 2' at any horse show. Riders may not cross enter into any other classes at a horse show where they compete in the MHJA Academy classes, including age equitation classes. To be judged on Equitation, emphasis on safety and control.

WALK/TROT - riding on the flat at the walk and trot.

WALK/TROT/CANTER – riding on the flat at all three gaits

TROT X RESTRICTED– Trot a course of cross rails. Only riders who have never cantered a course in competition are eligible for restricted Trot X.

TROT X- Trot a course of cross rails.

X to VERTICAL – Trot X and canter out oververtical. (****LHJA MINI STIRRUP)

MHJA MINI STIRRUP – Riders on horses or ponies canter a course of six to eight jumps. Not to exceed 12" in height.

PRE-LONG/ SHORT STIRRUP- Canter a course. Fences 18". Riders in these classes are not eligible to compete in Walk/Trot, Walk/Trot/Canter and Trot X.

JUMPER DIVISIONS

Points toward annual awards will be given in the following sections:

HOPEFUL JUMPER – Open to any horse or pony/ rider combination who does not jump higher than 1m at the same show. Fences- .75m. Points will be recognized at affiliated shows where fences are 0.75m in height, only one division will be recognized.

LOW SCHOOLING JUMPER – Open to all riders on horses and ponies. 0.85- 0.90m. Points will be recognized at affiliated shows where fence heights are 0.85m – 0.90m, only one division will be recognized.

HIGH SCHOOLING JUMPER – Open to all riders on horses. 1m. Points will be recognized at affiliated shows where fence heights are 1-1.10m, but only one division of the same name will be recognized.

CHILD/ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER – Open to horses or ponies ridden by a junior or adult amateur rider. 1.00m.

OPEN 1.15M JUMPER – Open to all riders on horses. 1.15m.

JUNIOR/AMATEUR JUMPER – Open to horses ridden by a junior or amateur rider. 1.15m.

JUMPER HEIGHTS

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	

At all heights, to qualify as a spread fence, the fence must be 5 cm (2") up to 15 cm (6") wider than the height. At least three out of the eight efforts must be spreads. (see JP122.6). Any full width square oxer may be set 5 cm (2") lower than the height indicated.

ANNUAL TROPHIES

Points are earned according to the following specifications. Totals also to include points earned in equitation and medal classes. Permanent trophies are kept by the winner until the end of the show year when they are returned to the Association for presentation to the next winner.

The **C.B. Rutledge Memorial Trophy** is given to the Pony rider accumulating the most points annually in MHJA recognized pony divisions, any size pony.

The **John H. Bianchi Memorial Trophy** is given to the Children's rider accumulating the most points annually riding in MHJA rated hunter and equitation divisions. Qualifying divisions are as follows: Modified Children's Hunter, Children's Hunter, and age group equitation.

The **James N. McLeod Memorial Trophy** is given to the Junior Hunter rider accumulating the most points annually in MHJA rated hunter and equitation divisions qualifying divisions are as follows: Junior Hunter and age group equitation classes.

The **Kurt Allen Baskin Memorial Trophy** is given to the Adult Amateur Hunter rider accumulating the most points annually in MHJA rated hunter and equitation divisions qualifying divisions are as follows: Modified Adult Hunter, Adult Hunter, and Adult Equitation.

The **Providence Hill Farm Memorial Trophy** is given to the Amateur Owner Hunter rider accumulating the most points annually in MHJA rated hunter and equitation divisions qualifying divisions- Amateur Owner Hunter and Adult Equitation.

The **Radio Flyer Child/Adult Amateur Jumper Trophy** is given to the junior or adult amateur competing in Child/Adult Amateur jumper who accumulates the most points annually in MHJA jumper divisions qualifying divisions are as follows: High Schooling Jumper, and Child/Adult Jumper.

The **Annie Laurie and Bob Hearin Sportsmanship Award** is given to a member of the MHJA who best exemplifies the qualities of good sportsmanship. Some characteristics to be considered may include fairness, attitude, helpfulness to others, care of animals, and dedication to the sport of riding and showing horses. Three members in good standing of the Association shall be required to complete the nomination form. A member may nominate only one person each year. Nominations shall be submitted in writing as specified by the announcement of the award each year. Election shall be voted on at the Annual Awards Banquet by MHJA members in good standing.

The **Laurie McRee Equestrian of the Year Award** is given to a member of the MHJA whose yearlong performance has demonstrated outstanding horsemanship and has contributed to the overall improvement of the hunter/jumper equestrian discipline. This honor is awarded at the discretion of the MHJA Board of Directors.

MHJA SPECIAL RULES

1. At least three (3) horses or ponies must compete in a class for points to be earned toward annual awards.
 - a. Hunter Sections: Three (3) horses must complete a course in the division and three horses must contest the under-saddle class.
 - b. Jumper Sections: Three horses must compete. A horse is considered to have competed when he has entered the ring and been present when the start signal is given. If 3 horses are not available per division, that division can be combined with a division of same height (within 3") and pinned accordingly with points to be given in the appropriate division.
2. The following sections can be combined at MHJA shows if one of the sections does not have the minimum number of entries (three) required to hold the section. Points will be allowed in the section in which the horse/rider meets the entry specifications:

- a. Short Stirrup Hunter & Long Stirrup Hunter
- b. Small, Medium & Large MHJA Pony Hunter
- c. Children's Hunter and Adult Amateur Hunter
- d. Junior Hunter and Amateur Owner Hunter
- e. Age Group Equitation sections (11 & Under, 12-14, 15-17 and Adult Equitation)

3. Dividing Sections: The MHJA holds rated sections separately when a minimum of three (3) horses are entered in each section.

4. California Split: MHJA Academy Classes and Short Stirrup & Long Stirrup Divisions with more than 8 riders will be placed using a California Split. The judge creates two separate orders using alternating numbers in the following manner: the highest score is first in Section A, the second highest score is first in Section B, the third highest score is second in Section A, the fourth highest score is second in Section B, and so on until all placings are awarded. The Championship is awarded as follows: Horse with most points- Champion Number 1. Horse with second highest points - Champion Number 2. Horse with third highest points - Reserve Champion Number 1. Horse with fourth highest points - Reserve Champion Number 2.

5. The Jumper Division- Tables must be printed in the prize list and posted with the courses at the show.

6. After a prize list has been mailed, show management may add a section which receives end of year points by notifying recipients of the prize list at least ten days prior to the horse show date. Notification may be by US mail, email, MHJA website posting or other accepted electronic media.

7. Horses or ponies may not enter an under-saddle class of a hunter section unless they have entered an over fences class in that section. Entries not to be judged are not allowed at any MHJA show.

8. A horse or pony may compete with only one rider in any class at the same show. Exception- Academy classes and warm up classes.

9. Classics and Derby Classes- Horses must compete in a complete qualifying hunter or jumper division to be eligible. Jumpers must compete in at least two jumper classes at the show to be eligible for a jumper classic. Adds and scratches to a classic may not be made once the class has begun.

10. Points: MHJA members are awarded points for placing in MHJA sponsored or recognized shows. These awards are presented at the annual awards banquet.

- a. Only those current in their MHJA membership at the time of the competition are eligible for points toward annual awards.

- b. To be eligible for an annual award, the rider (equitation classes) and horse (hunter and jumper classes) must compete in at least one MHJA sponsored show during the show year.

11. In Hunter and Jumper sections, it is the horse which accumulates points. Membership at the time of competition is required of the owner and the rider for a horse to receive points toward annual awards.

12. In Equitation sections, it is the rider who accumulates points. Membership is required only for the rider (and not the owner) to be eligible for points toward annual awards.

13. In Hunter sections, Academy classes and Jumper divisions, the Champion horse will receive 10 additional points; Reserve Champion will receive 5 additional points.

14. Points are tabulated at MHJA shows in this manner:

First Place	10 points
Second Place	6 points
Third Place	4 points
Fourth Place	2 points
Fifth Place	1 point
Sixth Place	1/2 point

In hunter sections, only the top four (4) horses with points over fences are eligible to receive points toward Champion and Reserve Champion in the under-saddle classes. When points are totaled, should there be a tie, the horse with the most points over fences is the Champion.

In jumper sections, ties shall remain tied, and the tied horses will receive equal points.

15. For MHJA end of year awards, the Point Chairman shall use the following scale for tabulation of points:

MHJA Sponsored Show	2 x point value
MHJA Recognized Show	1 x point value
USEF Recognized Show	1 x point value

16. All riders are required to wear ASTM certified helmets or USEF regulation headgear while mounted on the grounds of MHJA horseshows.

17. A negative Coggins must be presented before numbers will be issued. Coggins must be valid according to the laws of the state in which the

competition is held. It is not the responsibility of the show office to keep a record of Coggins.

18. Any MHJA sponsored or recognized show will be conducted in accordance with USEF rules, except those modified by MHJA rules as listed in this Show Packet. The MHJA honors all suspensions and penalties imposed by the USEF.

19. The MHJA Board of Directors reserves the right to limit the number of classes to be held at a MHJA recognized show.

20. In the event of a dispute at a MHJA member show, a written protest may be filed with the Show Manager or any member of the MHJA Board of Directors. The protest must be accompanied with a \$50.00 protest fee and filed within 49 hours of the conclusion of the horse show where the protested action occurred. The Hearing Committee of the MHJA Board will consider the protest within 14 days and recommend action to the Board of Directors.

21. When the MHJA affiliates with a horse show of another association, points toward annual awards may be earned only in divisions where class specifications are identical to those of the MHJA. Exceptions: In hunter divisions, the fence heights may vary 3"; in jumper divisions, the fence heights may vary .05 meters. Fence heights for MHJA Pony Hunter may vary up to 6".

22. This rulebook will be the authority in any conflict. In matters not covered by MHJA rules, or when the rules conflict, the USEF rulebook shall take precedence.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR HORSE SHOW APPROVAL

The MHJA will recognize unrated horse shows whose management is a current MHJA member. **The MHJA disclaims any and all liability for personal injury incurred by riders, visitors, invitees, trespassers or others at a show sponsored or recognized by the MHJA.**

For MHJA members to obtain recognition of a proposed show and to qualify as a recognized MHJA show for end of year awards, show management must comply with the following procedures:

1. To apply for MHJA recognition, a MHJA member should mail or email a letter of application and an application fee of \$50.00 to the MHJA post office box or email address. An alternate date may also be requested at the time of application in the event of cancellation of the show date (see #2). The application form and fee must be emailed or mailed and received 30 days in advance of the proposed show date. Applications will be considered in order of receipt. Barn shows will be limited to five shows per year by the same sponsor. Paypal shall also be an acceptable means of payment. The MHJA Paypal

account is misshunterjumperassoc@gmail.com.

When more than one horse show applies for MHJA recognition on the same date, the MHJA will recognize the first application received. No shows will be recognized for affiliation on the same date of another recognized show if they are within a 150-mile radius. No horse show will be recognized on a date on which the MHJA is sponsoring a horse show.

2. To receive approval of the show date from the MHJA Affiliated Show Committee, said date to be acknowledged by the committee by letter, email, or telephone within five (5) days of the receipt of the application.

Once approved, a barn show can be cancelled (and money refunded) only for reasons beyond the control of show management (ex. inclement weather, cancellation by the judge).

If a show must be cancelled and an alternate date has not been designated, show management will be allowed to request another show date during the same horse show year as the existing date. If a new date is agreed upon by show management and the MHJA, show management may utilize the existing prize list but must inform all members in writing or by email of the rescheduled show date. This written notification must be sent at least two weeks prior to the date of the rescheduled show. If a cancellation notice or rescheduling request is not received by the Affiliated Show Committee within the same show year as the cancelled show, show management will forfeit the original application fee and begin the entire show approval process again.

3. Submit for approval by the Affiliated Show Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the horse show:

- a. A draft of the proposed schedule.
- b. Name of the judge who must be an equine professional or a USEF approved judge.
- c. Name of the show manager; and
- d. Name of the show secretary.

4. Receive approval of the information listed above – before printing and mailing the prize list. The MHJA will provide mailing addresses and email addresses of MHJA members.

5. Mail or email a prize list to the judge and all members of the MHJA. The prize list must be postmarked or emailed at least two weeks prior to the date of the show. The prize list must contain the following:

- a. Five (5) hunter sections recognized by the MHJA. Sections listed in the current MHJA Show Packet as receiving end of year awards are

recognized sections (See MHJA Class Specifications). One jumper section may be substituted for one of the required hunter sections. MHJA approval is contingent on the sections and classes conforming to the descriptions contained in this Show Packet.

- b. The MHJA Horse Medal Class and MHJA Pony Medal Class being offered if possible.
- c. Name, date, and location of the show, including directions.
- d. Name of judge, course designer and show manager.
- e. Name and address of the show secretary.
- f. Entry blank stating entry fees, closing date of entries and policy regarding post entries. If late fees are to be charged for class.
- g. Changes made after registration, that policy should be indicated.
- h. Tentative schedule of classes showing fence heights.
- i. Number of ribbons offered per class and policy regarding championships and reserve championships.
- j. Statement noting when and where schooling will be allowed.
- k. Information about availability of concessions.
- l. The following statements:

“A negative Coggins must be presented before numbers will be issued. Coggins must be valid according to the laws of the state in which the competition is held.”

“Hard hats are required of all riders while on the grounds of a MHJA horse show. All riders are required to wear USEF regulation headgear.”

6. Ensure that the following provisions are available at the show:
 - a. Ample stabling, with lighting and bedding available for sale, for all shows lasting longer than one day.
 - b. Clean water, restrooms and a telephone on the show grounds.
 - c. Secretary's office/desk with adequate personnel.
 - d. Adequate communication between horse show personnel.
 - e. A current MHJA Show Packet.
 - f. MHJA Membership applications
 - g. Back numbers and string for exhibitors
 - h. Adequate and safe schooling area large enough for two fences.
 - i. Show ring large enough that at least 8 fences may be safely used by horses and riders.

- j. Jumps that meet USEF specifications for hunter and jumper courses.
- k. Courses posted at least 1 hour before the start of classes.
- l. A paddock master at the in-gate.
- m. Farrier and veterinarian on call, names and telephone numbers readily available in show office.
- n. Adequate medical resources on the show grounds throughout the horse show; name and contact information to be posted in the show office.

THE MHJA DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL LIABILITY FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURY INCURRED BY RIDERS, VISITORS, INVITEES, TRESPASSERS OR OTHERS DURING A MHJA AFFILIATED BARN SHOW.

7. Within 30 days of completion of the show, submit to the MHJA copies of the prize list, class sheets for all classes, medal and pony medal result cards and completed championship sheets indicating winners through sixth place. To provide a permanent record in the case of dispute, show management must also maintain the official records of the show for two calendar years. **Results can be mailed to: MHJA, P.O. Box 13904, Jackson, MS 39236 or emailed to points@mhja.info**

8. Report to the MHJA Treasurer all outstanding monies.

9. Failure to adhere to these specifications will result in disallowance of affiliation at shows by the offending sponsor in the next calendar year.

APPROVAL FOR USEF RATED SHOWS

1. Recognition must be 30 days in advance of the requested horse showdate. The MHJA will provide requesting management with an information/affiliation form to be completed with the request.

2. ALL current members of the MHJA MUST receive a prize list via mail or email. Email addresses and mailing addresses will be provided by the MHJA at the time approval is given

3. The MHJA will not recognize any show on a date conflicting with a MHJA sponsored horse show.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Fontaine Bowie
Vice President	Missie Strong
Treasurer	Bill Felder
Secretary	Shannon Rushton

Jennifer Emerson
Julie Frost
Samantha Harrison
Alex Johnson
Emily Johnson
Michael Kelly
Carrie Miele
Ronica Palato
Avery Price
Stephanie Strachan
Olivia Walt
Jane Claire Williams