

Hunter Rules

*Rule changes or clarifications in bold print

General

1. Classes will follow US Equestrian Federation (USEF) rules except where otherwise noted.
2. Age group for the hunter divisions shall be as follows: Adults 18 years and older, Children and Juniors 17 years and younger.
3. Proper show attire is required. Hard soled shoes or boots and protective headgear must be worn by ALL riders in both the schooling ring and in competition. Riders under the age of 18 must be wearing an ASTM-SEI approved helmet with safety harness in place and fastened at all times when mounted. **Helmet must be properly fitted.**
4. **Cannot use Peacock stirrups for any classes.**

Registration- WWHSA Clubs

5. Each club or organization will pay WWHSA a membership fee each year by the February meeting, which allows their members to register to ride for points, and allows the club to advertise their show in the annual handbook.

Exhibitors

6. Riders must be members of a WWHSA club, and have registered and paid fees before any points may be earned. Non-registered riders will be charged a \$5.00 non-member fee at each show which will go directly into the WWHSA treasury.
7. The exhibitor must show at a minimum of **two** WWHSA show in the same class and discipline in order to qualify for a year-end award.
8. No Junior shall be allowed to exhibit a stallion that is two years or older.
9. Any contestant withdrawing from a class after entering shall forfeit their entry fee, except in case of incapacitating sickness or injury to himself or his/her horse, or serious illness or death in the contestant's family.

Pointing Rules and Procedures

10. Exhibitors may register with WWHSA before the show season, or at their first horse show, however, no point will be counted from shows attended prior to their registration.
11. Competitors must enter their horse using the same name at each show in order for points to be counted.
12. Points will be awarded through six placings and will be awarded on a graduated basis, depending on the number of entries in the class. Points for first through sixth place are as follows:

Up to 8 entries: 10, 8, 5, 4, 3, 2 points

9-15 entries: 15, 10, 8, 5, 4, 3, points

16+ entries: 20, 15, 10, 8, 5, 4 points

WWHSA recommends that the judge also recognize a reserve (7th) place, in the even that another rider becomes disqualified after placings have been made. Any ties in points at year-end will be broken by giving the advantage to the rider who earned more points in over fences classes, and then to the rider who showed at more shows.

13. If a person rides in, or enters a horse in a division where they are not eligible, they will be disqualified and no points will be earned.
14. Equitation classes are judged on the rider, and points follow the rider in these classes. Hunter classes are judged on the horse and points follow the horse in these classes. Points are accumulated in both flat classes and over fences classes in each division. Pros shall not enter equitation classes unless they are riding as a courtesy.

Judges and Judging

15. A judge may not live within 60 miles of the show site. Judges hired to judge second rings (i.e., beginner riders/ground poles) are excluded from the 60-mile rule.
16. Judges may judge only two WWHSA approved hunter shows per season. The show management must inform the judge of this rule when they hire them, and shall provide the judge with a copy of the WWHSA rules along with their judging contract. Judges are not required to hold a judge's card.
17. Judges may not judge someone who has lessoned or done a clinic with them within the last 60 days. Riders have the option of riding a courtesy round for schooling only (no points or ribbons), at the same price charged for regular entries. Judges may give lessons or clinics following a show.
18. The judge shall have the authority to remove any piece of equipment that does not conform to USEF rules. If a person has a physical handicap where the rider needs special aids, the rider may be allowed to use that at the discretion of the show management, who will then inform the judge.
19. The judge's decision is final.

Horse Show Management

20. Each show must offer all WWHSA hunter divisions in order to be an approved show. A division consist of one under saddle class and one or more over fences classes. Exceptions: for divisions that have no equitation classes (example: Green, Open), there must be one under saddle class and two over fences classes. At this time, the Open Hunter Division is optional at shows, due to low entries.
21. Fence heights listed are a maximum. At the show management's discretion, fence heights may be adjusted down for poor weather or arena conditions. However, the fence height cannot be changed after the first horse/rider in a class has completed the course.

22. The secretary of each show shall send placings to the point keeper with three (3) weeks of the show, with all show results being turned in no later than October 1st. It is recommended that points be sent to the point keeper via Certified Mail or email. If not sent in this manner, club member will accept responsibility for possible loss of said results. A \$20.00 late fee will be imposed if the three-week deadline is not met. If the late fee is not paid, the show will be omitted from membership the following year.
23. In case of a tie at a show where Championships are being offered, the rider who earned the most points in the over fences' classes will be determined the winner. If still ties, the equitation points outweigh the hunter points.
24. All show fees, including stabling fees, office fees, entry fees, etc. must be listed on the show bill and must be adhered to. No hidden charges or increased fees may be charged to exhibitors.
25. A \$5.00 fee will be charged to each exhibitor who is not registered with WWHSA, with the fee going directly to the WWHSA treasury.

Conduct

26. All exhibitors are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship. If an exhibitor wishes to speak to the judge, the rider may do so by receiving permission from the show management. The judge will dismiss anyone from the ring that displays unsportsmanlike conduct. If necessary, further disciplinary action can be taken by the WWHSA board of directors.
27. Any exhibitor who does not pay their show or stabling fees will be considered not in good standing with the WWHSA and will not be eligible for year-end awards.

Complaints

28. All complaints to the WWHSA must be submitted in writing and must be accompanied by a \$10.00 fee. The complaint must be sent within 7 days of the time it was lodged to a member of the disciplinary committee. If the complaint is verified, the money will be refunded. If voted down, the money will stay in the WWHSA treasury. The complaints will be decided by a quorum.
29. Any questions regarding these rules and the corresponding class rules shall be sent in writing to the WWHSA President. The President, Vice President(s), Secretary and Treasurer shall review and answer said questions.

Awards

30. All awards shall be presented at the designated year-end awards ceremony at the time and place announced by the WWHSA.

Class Rules and Qualifications

31. Cross rail classes and ground pole classes are not considered to be over fences classes when determining eligibility for class divisions.

32. Courtesy rounds will be permitted at the same cost per class and only with the show management's approval. Courtesy rounds are not judged and no points will be awarded.
33. Equitation classes are judged on the rider and therefore a rider may NOT enter an equitation class on more than one horse. Hunter classes are judged on the horse and therefore a horse may NOT be shown in the same class under two or more different riders at the same show. Riders who violate these rules will be disqualified from the class and will receive no points for that class.
34. WWHSA recommends a warm-up class be offered at each fence height, with open entry until the fence height changes. This will be a paid entry, and will be judged, but can be done anytime throughout the day during a particular fence height. Judge will keep the card until the fence height changes then pin the class. Rider shall notify the judge when riding the warm-up and not the division class, prior to entering the ring.
35. No martingales shall be used in any flat classes.

WWHSA Approved Hunter Divisions

1. **Walk/Trot Equitation:** Rider of any age who has never shown in any English canter class or over fences prior to January 1st of the current year. Classes in this division may include trot over a course of ground poles and walk/trot on the flat. Judged on the rider's ability. Riders who win a Grand or Reserve year-end award in this division for two consecutive years are no longer eligible to compete for WWHSA points in this division if they are 10 years or older. Courtesy circles will not be required in these classes. Horse/rider combination may show no higher than the cross rail division.
2. **Open Cross rail Hunter:** Rider of any age. Horse/rider combination may show in division up to 2' but not above. Over fences and under saddle classes may be included. Horse/rider combination may not show in this division for more than two years. Flat classes will be conducted as a walk/trot class, over fences are to be a trot or controlled canter. Trotting shall not be penalized in the over fences classes.
3. **Open Cross rail Equitation:** Rider of any age. Horse/rider combination may show in division up to 2' but not above. Over fences and under saddle classes may be included. Horse/rider combination may not show in this division for more than two years. Flat classes will be conducted as a walk/trot class, over fences are to be a trot or controlled canter. Trotting shall not be penalized in the over fences classes. **Open only to Amateurs.**
4. **Beginner Rider Hunter:** Rider of any age in their first year of showing over fences OR who hasn't won three blue ribbons over fences at 1'6" or above prior to January 1st of the current year. Status maintained throughout the year. No combinations allowed, fences not to exceed 1'6" and shall not include fillers such as brush, flower boxes or

gates. Rider may not enter classes of 2'3" or above. Over fences and under saddle classes may be included. Riders who win a Grand or Reserve year-end award in this division for two consecutive years are no longer eligible to compete in this division.

5. Beginner Rider Equitation: Same qualifications and limitations as above, judged on the rider.
6. Novice Rider Hunter: Rider of any age who hasn't won six blue ribbons at 2' or above prior to January 1st of the current year. No combinations allowed, fences not to exceed 2'. Rider may not enter classes of 2'6" or above. Over fences and under saddle classes may be included. Riders who win a Grand or Reserve year-end award in this division for two consecutive years are no longer eligible to compete in this division.
7. Novice Rider Equitation: Same qualifications and limitations as above, judged on the rider.
8. WWHSA Mini Medal: An equitation class open to any age amateur rider. No ride-off work will be required; however, a simple test may be worked into the original course. Fence height to be no higher than 2'. No combinations allowed. Horse/rider combination may not show in classes of 2'6" or above. Rider may only compete in one Medal class per show (cannot do Mini Medal and Medal classes at the same show).
9. Green Hunter: Open to horses that are in their first or second year of showing over fences. Fences to be 2'. No combinations allowed. Over fences and under saddle classes may be included. Horse may not be entered in classes of 2'6" or above.
10. Schooling Hunter: Open to riders of any age, and to any horse of pony. Fences to be 2'. Two over fences classes and one under saddle class shall be included. Horse may not be entered in classes of 2'6" or above.
11. Low Adult Hunter: Rider age 18 or older as of January 1st of the current year. Fences to be 2'. Horse and rider combination may not show in classes where the fences are 2'6" or above. Over fences and under saddle classes may be included.
12. Low Adult Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
13. Adult Hunter: Rider age 18 or older as of January 1st of the current year. Fences to be 2'3". Over fences and under saddle classes may be included. Flat classes may be combined with Juniors, if two or less are entered per class.
14. Adult Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
15. Children's Hunter: Rider age 17 and under as of January 1st of the current year. Fences 2'3". Horse and rider combination may not enter classes of 2'9" or above. Over fences classes and under saddle classes may be included.
16. Children's Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
17. Junior/Amateur Hunter: Fences 2'6". Over fences and under saddle classes may be included. Flat classes may be combined with Adults, if two or less are entered per class.

18. Junior / Amateur Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
19. Open Hunter: Rider of any age. Fences to be 2'6" to 2'9". Must have a minimum of two over fences classes and one flat class, as there is no corresponding equitation class.
20. WWHSA Medal Class: An equitation class open to any age amateur rider. Rider may not compete in this class and the Mini Medal at the same show. Show management has the option and is encouraged to have a test ridden by the top contestants in the class. The judge and/or show management will pick the test(s) from the options allowed by USEF (the number of riders testing may vary from show to show based on the amount of time available). Fences to be 2'6". This is an over fences class only.
21. Jumper: Two Jumper divisions will be offered: Low Jumper at 2', and Open Jumper at 2'3". Show management shall list on their show bill the fence heights and table (i.e.: timed 1st round, or clean rounds returning for jump off).
22. Leadline: Open to riders age 12 and under. Rider shall not be eligible to enter any other riding classes. *Note: there will be a \$5 entry fee at each show for this class, and a one-time registration fee of \$10 if riding for year-end awards. Non-member fee does not apply to leadline riders who do not register for year-end awards.
23. WWHSA Benefit Open W/T Hunter: This class is open to all horses and riders. Entry fees will go directly to the WWHSA treasury, to help pay for year-end awards.
24. WWHSA Benefit Open W/T/C Hunter: This class is open to all horse and riders. Entry fees will go directly to the WWHSA treasury, to help pay for year-end awards.

Year-end Hunter Awards

Riders earning point in the listed Hunter divisions shall be eligible for year-end awards. The following divisions shall be recognized at the WWHSA year-end banquet with a Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, and 3rd through 5th placings, with the exception of Leadline and WWHSA W/T and WTC Hunter Benefit classes. Leadline riders will receive a year-end trophy and WWHSA Benefit class riders will receive ribbons at the year-end banquet.

Leadline
Walk/Trot Equitation over poles
Walk/Trot Equitation on the flat
Open Cross Rail Hunter
Beginner Rider Hunter
Beginner Rider Equitation
Novice Rider Hunter
Novice Rider Equitation
WWHSA Mini Medal
Green Hunter
Schooling Hunter
Low Adult Hunter
Low Adult Equitation
Adult Hunter
Adult Equitation

Children's Hunter
Children's Equitation
Junior Hunter
Junior Equitation
Open Hunter
WWHSA Medal
Low Jumper
Open Jumper

Dressage Rules

General

1. Classes will follow USEF rules except where otherwise noted.
2. Proper show attire is required for dressage. Boots and appropriate headgear must be worn by all riders in both the schooling ring and in competition. Hunter attire is also acceptable.

Registration- WWHSA Club

3. Each Club or organization will pay WWHSA a membership fee each year by the February meeting.

Exhibitors

4. Each dressage rider who wishes to rider for points MUST do the following: complete a registration form and pay a fee which allows the rider to compete at WWHSA dressage shows for points. One rider may register multiple horses at no additional cost within the same discipline. Additional discipline may be added for an extra fee. Registration forms and proper fees must be mailed to WWHSA treasurer, and fee must be paid before points can be accumulated. Non-registered riders will be charged a \$5.00 non-member fee which will go directly to the WWHSA treasury.
5. The exhibitor must be a member of a WWHSA club or organization for their points to count. Riders do not have to own the horse that they show, however, the rider must be registered for their points to be counted.
6. No Junior exhibitor (17 years and younger) shall exhibit a stallion that is two years or older.
7. Any contestant withdrawing from a class after entering shall forfeit his/her entry fee, except in the case of incapacitating sickness or injury to himself or his horse, or serious illness or death in the contestant's family.

Pointing Rules and Procedures

8. The exhibitor must show at a minimum of **two** WWHSA show in the same class and discipline in order to qualify for a year-end award.
9. Exhibitors may register with WWHSA before the show season, or at their first horse show, however, no point will be counted from shows attended prior to their registration.
10. Competitors must enter their horse using the same name at each show in order for points to be counted towards that horse.
11. Point will be awarded through six placings and will be awarded on a graduated basis, depending on the number of

entries in the class. Point for first through sixth place are as follows:

Up to 8 entries: 10, 8, 5, 4, 3 2 points

9-15 entries: 15, 10, 8, 5, 4, 3, points

16+ entries: 20, 15, 10, 8, 5, 4 points

Any ties in points at year-end will be broken by awarding one point for each rider beaten in classes where the tied riders have placed

12. If a person rides in, or enters a horse in a division where they are not eligible, they will be disqualified and no points will be earned.
13. Once a rider competes in a W/T/C class, they are not eligible to earn year end points in W/T classes for that year.

Judges and Judging

14. A judge may not live within 60 miles of the show site.
15. Judges may judge only two WWHSA approved dressage shows per season. The show management must inform the judge of this rule when they hire them, and shall provide the judge with a copy of the WWHSA rules along with their judging contract. Judges are not required to hold a judge's card, but it is recommended that the judge hired for dressage should be a minimum of "L" qualifications.
16. Judges may not judge someone who has lessoned or done a clinic with them within the last 60 days. Riders have the option of riding a test for comments only (no points or ribbons), at the same price charged for regular entries. Judges may give lessons or clinics following a show.
17. In Sport Horse in-hand classes, horses are to be exhibited using the triangle pattern, and worked clockwise.
18. The judge shall have the authority to remove any piece of equipment that does not conform to USEF rules. According to USEF rules, fly hoods ARE permitted to protect horses from insects, they should be discreet in color, and should not cover the horse's eyes. The judge or a representative may ask to remove the hood for inspection following the completion of the test, to ensure that nothing prohibited has been added (i.e.: ear plugs). If a person has a physical handicap where the rider needs special aids, the rider may be allowed to use that at the discretion of the show management, who will then inform the judge.
19. The judge's decision is final.

Horse Show Management

20. When tabulating, test scores should be carried out to two decimal points. Do not round up.
21. Each show must offer at least five approved classes to be an approved WWHSA dressage show.
22. The secretary of each show shall send placings to the point keeper with three (3) weeks of the show, will all show results being turned in no later than October 1st. It is recommended that points be sent to the point keeper via Certified Mail or email. If not sent in this manner, club

member will accept responsibility for possible loss of said results. A \$20.00 late fee will be imposed if the three-week deadline is not met. If the late fee is not paid, the show will be omitted from membership the following year.

23. All exhibitors are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship. If an exhibitor wishes to speak to the judge, the rider may do so by receiving permission from the show management. The judge will dismiss anyone from the ring that displays unsportsmanlike conduct. If necessary, further disciplinary action can be taken by the WWHSA board of directors.

Complaints

24. All complaints to the WWHSA must be submitted in writing and must be accompanied by a \$10.00 fee. The complaint must be sent within 7 days of the time it was lodged to a member of the disciplinary committee. If the complaint is verified, the money will be refunded. If voted down, the money will stay in the WWHSA treasury. The complaints will be decided by a quorum.
25. Any questions regarding these rules and the corresponding class rules shall be sent in writing to the WWHSA President. The President, Vice President(s), Secretary and Treasurer shall review and answer said questions.

Awards

26. All awards shall be presented at the designated year-end awards ceremony at the time and place announced by WWHSA.

Class rules and qualifications

1. **Sport Horse in-hand**: In this division, points will be earned by the horse when placing in any Sport Horse in-hand class, and being exhibited by a handler who is registered with the WWHSA. Weanlings and yearlings are to be shown in a halter, horses two years and older shall be shown in a bridle. All horses shall be presented to the judge on a clockwise triangle pattern as defined by the USDF.
2. **Walk/Trot Suitability under saddle**: In this division points will be earned by the horse, when being exhibited by any registered WWHSA member. Horses will be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. Horses showing in a walk/trot suitability class may not enter classes above intro level.
3. **Suitability under saddle**: In this division points will be earned by the horse, when being exhibited by any registered WWHSA member. Horses will be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Horses entering this class may not also enter the Walk/Trot suitability class.
4. **Dressage Equitation**: In this division points will be earned by a WWHSA rider, while riding any horse. Two classes will be offered; a walk/trot equitation class for riders showing only in the Intro Level classes, and a walk/trot/canter equitation class for riders showing in Training Level and above.

5. **Intro Level, Maiden Class**: The Maiden class is for horses and/or riders in their first year of competing in dressage. Test to be ridden will be Intro Level Test A only. Status is maintained throughout the year.
6. **Intro Level**: Open to any age rider. Points are awarded to a horse/rider combination and will be combined from all Intro Level tests ridden, excluding Maiden. Class will be divided between junior and adult riders. Riders who win a Grand or Reserve Championship at year-end for two consecutive years are no longer eligible to compete in this division.
7. **Training Level**: Open to any age rider. Points are awarded to a horse/rider combination. Points will be awarded separately for each of the training level tests towards year-end awards.
8. **First Level**: Open to any age rider. Points are awarded to a horse/rider combination. First through fifth place ribbons will be awarded to year-end winners for each test, Grand and Reserve Champion will be awarded to the horse/rider combination who has the most point of all three tests combined.
9. **Second Level**: Open to any age rider. Points are awarded to a horse/rider combination. First through fifth place ribbons will be awarded to year-end winners for each test, Grand and Reserve Champion will be awarded to the horse/rider combination who has the most point of all three tests combined.
10. **Intro Western Dressage**: Intro Western dressage classes may be offered and the exhibitor shall inform the show committee in advance of which test(s) they plan to ride. Open to any age rider. Points are awarded to a horse/rider combination and will be combined from all Intro Level tests ridden. Riders who win a Grand or Reserve Championship at year-end for two consecutive years are no longer eligible to compete in this division.
11. **Basic Western Dressage**: Basic Western dressage classes may be offered and the exhibitor shall inform the show committee in advance of which test(s) they plan to ride. Open to any age rider. Points are awarded to a horse/rider combination and will be combined from all Basic Level tests ridden.
12. **Western W/T Suitability**: In this division points shall be earned by the horse, when being exhibited by any registered WWHSA member. Horse will be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring in western attire. Horses showing in a walk/trot suitability class may not enter classes above intro level.
13. **Western Suitability**: In this division points shall be earned by the horse, when being exhibited by any registered WWHSA member. Horse will be shown at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring in western attire. Horses entering this class may not also enter the Walk/Trot suitability class.
14. **Western Dressage Equitation**: In this division points will be earned by a WWHSA rider, while riding any

horse. Two classes will be offered; a walk/trot equitation class for riders showing only in the Intro Level classes, and a walk, jog, lope equitation class for riders showing in Basic Level and above.

15. WWHSA Benefit Open Walk/Trot Suitability: A walk/trot suitability class that is open to all riders of any age or level. Entry fees will go directly to the WWHSA treasury to help pay for year-end awards.

WWHSA Dressage Awards

The following classes may be offered at WWHSA Dressage shows. In each class, points may be earned towards a year-end award. The top riders and horses in each division will be recognized at the annual WWHSA banquet.

Sport Horse In Hand
Walk/Trot Suitability under saddle
Suitability under saddle
Walk/Trot Dressage Equitation
Dressage Equitation
Intro Level, Maiden
Intro Level, Junior
Intro Level, Adult
Training Level Test 1
Training Level Test 2
Training Level Test 3
First Level Overall: Grand and Reserve
First Level: ribbons 1-5 for each test 1-3
Second Level Overall: Grand and Reserve
Second Level: ribbons 1-5 for each test 1-3
Musical Freestyle, 17 and under
Musical Freestyle, 18 and over
Western Dressage (percentage score of tests ridden)
Western W/T Suitability
Western W/T Equitation

Special Awards

Rider Performance award: This award is given to a rider who receive two scores of 60% or higher from two different judges, from two different rides, at two different shows. The rider must be registered with WWHSA at the time said scores are earned. The scores may be earned on one or more horses. Rider must compete in an equitation class at the same show where the qualifying scores are earned. A rider may earn this award only once at each level, and may earn this award in any order (does not need to start with Intro Level, for example). Scores do not need to be earned in a single year to qualify.

Horse Performance award: This award is given to a horse who receives two scores of 60% or higher from two different judges, from two different rides, at two different shows. The horse must be ridden by a WWHSA registered rider at the time scores are earned. The scores may be earned with one or more riders. Horse must also compete in a Suitability or an In Hand class at the same show where qualifying scores are earned. A horse

may earn this award only once at each level, but will start at the level currently showing, and may not drop down a level. Scores do not need to be earned in a single year to qualify.

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Medals: Rider must be a WWHSA member when scores are earned. Scores may be achieved over time, need not be earned in a single year. Scores may be earned on one or more horses, and can be earned by the rider in any order.

1. Bronze Medal Rider Award (Intro Level)
Must have 6 scores of 60% or higher
Two at Intro A from two different judges
Two at Intro B from two different judges
Two at Intro C from two different judges
2. Silver Medal Rider Award (Training Level)
Must have 6 scores of 60% of higher
Two at Training test 1 from two different judges
Two at Training test 2 from two different judges
Two at Training test 3 from two different judges
3. Gold Medal Rider Award (First Level)
Must have 6 scores of 60% of higher
Two at First test 1 from two different judges
Two at First test 2 from two different judges
Two at First test 3 from two different judges
4. Platinum Medal Rider Award (Second Level)
Must have 6 scores of 60% of higher
Two at Second test 1 from two different judges
Two at Second test 2 from two different judges
Two at Second test 3 from two different judges