

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 groups 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.

Registration-WWHSAs clubs

4. 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

5. 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.
6. The exhibitor must show at a minimum of two WWHSA shows in the same class and discipline in order to qualify for a year end award.
7. No Junior (17 years or younger) shall be allowed to exhibit a stallion that is two years or older.
8. Any contestant withdrawing from a class after entering shall forfeit his/her 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

9. Exhibitors may register with WWHSA before the show season, or at their first horse show, however, no points 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.
11. 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 pointsWWHSA recommends that the judge also recognize a reserve (7th) place, in the event 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.

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. 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 round.

Judges and Judging

14. A judge may not live within 60 miles of the show site. Judges hired to judge second rings (ie. beginner riders/ground poles) are excluded from the 60 mile rule.
15. Judges may judge only two WWHSA approved hunter shows per season. The show management must inform the judge of this rule when they hire him/her, 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.
16. Judges may not judge someone who has lessened 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 the day following a show.
17. 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 he/she needs special aids, he/she may be allowed to use that at the discretion of the show management, who will then inform the judge.
18. The judge's decision is final.

Horse Show Management

19. Each show must offer all WWHSA hunter divisions in order to be an approved show. A division consists 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 or more over fences classes. **At this time, the Open Hunter division is optional at horse shows, due to low entries.**
20. 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.
21. The secretary of each show shall send placings to the point keeper within 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 e-mail. 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 late fee is not paid, the show will be omitted from membership the following year.

22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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

25. All exhibitors are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship. If an exhibitor wishes to speak to the judge, he or she 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.
26. 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

27. 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.
28. Any questions regarding these rules and the corresponding class rules shall be sent in writing to the WWHSA President. The President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer shall review and answer said questions.

Awards

29. 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

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

32. 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 be receive no points for that class.
33. 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 class and not the division class, prior to entering the ring.
34. 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 year end award in this division are no longer eligible to compete for WWHSA point in this division if they are 10 years or older. Courtesy circles will not be required in these classes.
2. Open Crossrail Hunter: Rider of any age. Horse/rider combination may show in divisions 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 not to be penalized in the over fences classes.
3. Beginning 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.
4. Beginning Rider Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
5. 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.

6. Novice Rider Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
7. 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 heights 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 at the same show). A Mini Medal Finals class will be held at the final WWHSA hunter show of the season. This class will be open to anyone who has placed first through fourth at a qualifying medal class at any previous show of the year, AND who has paid their registration fee to WWHSA on or before the date of qualifying. Points from qualifying classes will determine 70% of the rider's total score, and the Finals class will be worth 30% of the rider's total score in determining year end award winners.
8. 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.
9. Schooling Hunter: Open to riders of any age, and to any horse or 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.
10. 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.
11. Low Adult Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
12. 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.
13. Adult Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
14. 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 and under saddle classes may be included.
15. Children's Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
16. Junior Hunter: Rider age 17 or under as of January 1st of the current year. Fences 2'6". Over fences and under saddle classes may be included. Flat class may be combined with Adults, if two or less are entered per class.
17. Junior Equitation: Same qualifications as above, judged on the rider.
18. 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.
19. 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. A medal finals class will be held at the last WWHSA hunter show of the season. This class will be open to any rider who has placed first through fourth in a qualifying medal class at any previous show of the year, AND who has paid their registration fee on or before the date of qualifying. Points from qualifying classes will determine 70% of the rider's total score, and the finals class will be worth 30% of the rider's total score in determining year end awards.
20. Jumper: Two Jumper divisions will be offered; Low Jumper at 2' to 2'3", and Open Jumper at 2'6" or above. Show management shall list on their show bill the fence heights and table (ie: timed 1st round, or clean rounds return for timed jump off)
21. Leadline: Open to riders age 12 and under. Rider shall not be eligible to enter any other riding classes. ***Note: For 2020 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.**
22. **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.**



Year End Hunter Awards

Riders earning points 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 Open W/T Hunter. All registered Leadline riders will receive a year end trophy, and WWHSA W/T winners will receive ribbons at the year end banquet.**

All participants in Cross rail and Beginning Rider divisions shall receive recognition at Year End Awards Banquet.

Leadline

Walk/Trot Equitation over poles

Walk/Trot Equitation on the flat

WWHSA Benefit Open W/T Hunter U/S

Open Crossrail Hunter

Beginning Rider Hunter

Beginning 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

Special Awards

Sportsmanship: A sportsmanship award will be made at the WWHSA year end awards ceremony.

Sportsmanship nominations can be submitted by anyone with a brief description as to why the nominee deserves recognition. Nominations must be turned in to the WWHSA president by September 15th.

Nominees MUST be a member of a WWHSA club or organization.

Friend of the Horse: A Friend of the Horse award will be made at the WWHSA year end awards ceremony. Nominations can be submitted by anyone with a brief description as to why the nominee deserves recognition. Nominees can be any person (vet, farrier, trainer, etc.) who has displayed in some way that he or she fits the description "friend of the horse".

Nominations must be turned in to the WWHSA president by September 15th. Nominees DO NOT have to be a member of a WWHSA club of organization.

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 clubs

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 ride 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 disciplines may be added for an extra fee. Registration forms and proper fees must be mailed to the 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. Exhibitors must show and place at a minimum of two recognized WWHSA dressage shows during the season in order for their points to count towards year end awards.
9. Exhibitors may register with WWHSA before the show season, or at their first horse show, however, no points 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. Points will be awarded through six placings and will be awarded on a graduated basis, depending on the number of exhibitors in the class. Points for first through sixth place are as follows:
 - up to 8 exhibitors: 10, 8, 5, 4, 3, 2 points
 - 9 -15 exhibitors: 15, 10, 8, 5, 4, 3 points
 - 16+ exhibitors: 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 a division where they are not eligible, he/she will be disqualified and no points will be earned in that division.

Judges and Judging

13. Judges may not live within 60 miles of the show site.
14. Judges may judge only two WWHSA approved dressage shows per season. The show management must inform the judge of this rule when they hire him/her, and will provide the judge with a copy of the WWHSA rules along with their judging contract. Judges are not required to hold a judges card, but it is recommended that the judge hired for dressage should be a minimum of "L" qualifications.
15. 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 the day following a show.
16. In Sport Horse In-hand classes, horses are to be exhibited using the triangle pattern, and worked clockwise.
17. 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 make ask to remove the hood for inspection following the completion of the test, to ensure that nothing prohibited has been added (ie: ear plugs). If a person has a physical handicap where he/she needs special aids, he/she may be allowed to use them at the discretion of the show committee, who will then inform the judge.
18. The judge's decision is final.

Horse Show Management

19. When tabulating, test scores should be carried out to two decimal points. Do not round up.
20. Each show must offer at least five approved classes to be an approved WWHSA dressage show.
21. The secretary of each show shall send placings to the point keeper within three weeks of the show, with all results turned in no later than October 1st. It is recommended that points be sent via certified mail or e-mail. If not sent in this manner, the club 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 late fee is not paid, the show will be omitted from membership the following year.

Conduct

22. All exhibitors are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship. If an exhibitor wishes to speak to the judge, he 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

23. 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.
24. Any questions regarding these rules and the corresponding class rules shall be sent in writing to the WWHSA president. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall review and answer said questions.

Awards

25. 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 patter 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.
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 may be divided between junior and adult riders.
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 test 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 points 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 points of all three tests combined.
10. Musical Freestyle: Open to any age rider. Two classes will be offered; one for ages 17 and under, one for ages 18 and over. Classes will be pinned according to percentage within the two age groups, regardless of the level being ridden. Freestyles will be scored on technical execution as well as artistic impression. Any ties in scores will be broken by the higher artistic score. Slightly modified USDF score sheets will be used for Training Level, First Level and Second Level. Introductory Level musical freestyles are also encouraged, and WWHSA will provide score sheets for this level, similar to the other score sheets. At Intro Level, canter is optional, but may not exceed one 20 meter circle in each direction. If canter is performed on one lead at Intro Level, it must also be performed on the opposite lead. At all levels there will be no penalty for exceeding five minutes, however, it is encouraged to keep freestyles to a five minute maximum.

Exhibitors may show more than once in the freestyle, as long as they ride a different horse. It can be the same level or a different one, as it is judged on a horse/rider combination. Exhibitors have the option of riding their freestyles in less than the whole arena, in the event that they have been practicing their routine in a different sized arena.

Exhibitors are permitted, but not required, to wear costumes if they desire. Costumes should conform to all safety standards, i.e. proper footwear and head protection, and should not be distracting from the overall performance.

Exhibitors should be prepared to supply

a method to play their own music, or should contact the show committee to see what equipment is available for use.

11. **Western Dressage**: Western dressage classes will be offered, but the exhibitor shall inform the show committee in advance of which test(s) they plan to ride.
12. **Western W/T Suitability**: In this division points shall 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 in western attire.
13. **Western W/T Equitation**: In this division points shall be earned by a WWHSA registered rider while riding any horse in western attire. Riders shall be judged on their equitation at a walk and trot both ways of the ring.

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, 17 and under

Intro Level, 18 and over

Training Level Test 1

Training Level Test 2

Training Level Test 3

First Level Overall: Grand & Reserve

First Level: ribbons 1-5 for each test 1-3

Second Level Overall: Grand & Reserve

Second Level: ribbons 1-5 for each test 1-3

Musical Freestyle, 17 and under

Musical Freestyle, 18 and over

Western Dressage

Western W/T Suitability

Western W/T Equitation

Special Awards

Rider Performance Award: This award is given to a rider who receives 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 qualifying scores are earned. A rider may earn this award only once at each level, and may earn this award in any order (do 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 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 one 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 2 different judges
two at Intro B from 2 different judges
two at Intro C from 2 different judges
2. Silver Medal Rider Award (Training Level)
must have 6 scores of 60% or higher
two at Training Test 1 from 2 judges
two at Training Test 2 from 2 judges
two at Training Test 3 from 2 judges
3. Gold Medal Rider Award (First Level)
must have 6 scores of 60% or higher
two at First Test 1 from 2 judges
two at First Test 2 from 2 judges
two at First Test 3 from 2 judges
4. Platinum Medal Rider Award (Second Level)
must have 6 scores of 60% or higher
two at Second Test 1 from 2 judges
two at Second Test 2 from 2 judges
two at Second Test 3 from 2 judges

Sportsmanship and Friend of the Horse Awards
See section at the end of Hunter rules

