

## 2021 MHJA CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

FOR HORSE SHOW PURPOSES, THE AGE OF AN INDIVIDUAL ON DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> WILL BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE CURRENT COMPETITION YEAR (DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> TO NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>). A PERSON BORN ON DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> WILL ASSUME THE GREATER AGE ON THAT DATE. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS REACHED HIS/HER 18<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY AS OF DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> OF THE CURRENT COMPETITION YEAR IS AN ADULT. IN ANY CLASS THAT SPECIFIES AMATEUR RIDERS, AMATEUR CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED.

### HUNT SEAT EQUITATION SECTION

ALL CLASSES JUDGED ON HANDS, SEAT, GUIDANCE AND CONTROL OF THE HORSE. FOR COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS, PLEASE CHECK THE EQUITATION SECTION OF THE CURRENT USEF RULE BOOK for sections 1-7 AND **check the Zone 6 specifications on the USHJA web site for how Junior equitation classes may be combined and special specifications if they are combined. See 2021 Zone 6 specs for new heights of Age Group Equitation.**

1. OPEN EQUITATION 11 AND UNDER (FLAT). Open to riders who have not reached their 12th birthday.
2. OPEN EQUITATION 11 AND UNDER (OVER FENCES). Open to riders who have not reached their 12th birthday. **Fences 2'-2'6"** - **See Zone specs**. See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and tests.
3. OPEN EQUITATION 12-14 (FLAT). Open to riders who have reached their 12th but not their 15th birthday.
4. OPEN EQUITATION 12-14 (OVER FENCES). Open to riders who have reached their 12th but not their 15th birthday. **Fences 2'9"-3'3"** - **See Zone specs** See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and Tests.
5. OPEN EQUITATION 15-17 (FLAT). Open to riders who have reached their 15th but not their 18th birthday.
6. OPEN EQUITATION 15-17(OVER FENCES). Open to riders who have reached their 15th but not their 18th birthday. **Fences 3' – 3'6"** - See Zone 6 specs -. See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and Tests.
7. ADULT EQUITATION 18 and OVER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th but not their 36th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'3". See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and Tests.
8. LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION, 17 AND UNDER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to junior riders who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/CEF recognized

show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider who is eligible as of December 1, shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, distances will not be adjusted. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter section are requested to hold at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.

9. LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION 18 AND OVER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday, and who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/CEF recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, distances will not be adjusted. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter section are requested to hold at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
10. SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION. Open to junior riders who have not reached their 12th birthday and have not won six first place ribbons over fences 2'6" or higher. A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. No rider may cross enter at the same show between Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation and Long Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or between Short Stirrup Hunter/Equitation and any class where height of fences exceeds 2'6". Open to horses and ponies; manners emphasized and extreme speed penalized. **Fences not to exceed 2"**, oxers and combinations prohibited. In flat classes no more than 8 entries may canter at one time and hand gallop is prohibited. Shows offering a Short Stirrup Hunter section are requested to hold at least one Short Stirrup Equitation class.
11. Masters Equitation (Rusty Stirrup) - Open to amateur riders who have reached their 30th birthday. Amateur certification required. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'6". Fences not to exceed 2'3". Combinations and oxers prohibited. Only the name has changed – the specs are exactly the same.
12. Starter Equitation Open to Junior riders and Amateur riders who have not reached their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'6". Fences not to exceed 2'3". Combinations and oxers prohibited.

**PLEASE NOTE: Starter, Masters and Short Stirrup sections may be combined. If the sections are combined, riders will be awarded points in the section they originally entered. If there are fewer than three entries in any section , it may be combined with the section that has the next fewest entries. If Short Stirrup is combined with either Master's or Starter, height of fences will not exceed 2'. If a show's specifications allow riders 30 and over to enter Starter classes, riders 30 and over may ride in both Masters and Starter but will not receive credit for any points won in Starter.**

13. MODIFIED CHILDREN" S/ ADULT EQUITATION. Open to Junior riders who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and amateur riders who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Riders in this section may not cross enter into any section where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Height of fences to be 2'9". USEF test 1-7.
14. MHJA HUNT SEAT MEDAL CLASS. Open to junior and amateur riders who are current members of the MHJA. Application for membership must be made directly to the MHJA. To be shown over a course of not less than 8 obstacles not exceeding 3' in height which must include one combination, one change of direction, and one long approach to a fence. Two or more tests of the top four riders are required, USEF Tests 1-14. Only one rider per horse. Amateur riders in this class may cross enter into classes where fences are 3'6" or higher. Junior riders in this class may not cross enter, at the same show, into classes where fences are 3'6" or higher unless they are in their first year of showing over fences 3'6" or higher; except for the Medal Final class, where they may cross enter if otherwise qualified. First through fourth place winners shall be eligible to compete in the MHJA Hunt Seat Medal Final. The final for this class may be held at a horse show to be announced at the beginning of the year. The Final shall consist of a course of not less than 8 obstacles not exceeding 3' in height which must include one combination, one change of direction, and one long approach to a fence. All exhibitors shall return for a flat phase. Following the flat phase, two or more tests of the top four riders are required, USEF Tests 1-14. The winner of the final will receive a perpetual trophy. Qualifying for the Medal shall start with the first MHJA Medal class held after the Medal Finals of the previous year and end at the last show prior to the finals of the current year. In the event no final class is held, the perpetual trophy shall be awarded to the rider who has accumulated the most points in the MHJA Hunt Seat Medal class throughout the year.
15. MHJA MINI-MEDAL. Open to junior and amateur riders who are current members of the MHJA. Application for membership must be made directly to the MHJA. Cross entry at the same show into any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9" is prohibited. To be shown over a course of at least 8 fences 2'6" in height. Two tests (USEF Tests 1-8) are required in the first round. If there are 8 or more entries at the beginning of the class, two or more tests of the top four riders are required, USEF Tests 1-8. Only one rider per horse. A final for this class may be held at a horse show designated by the MHJA Board of Directors. Riders who win a first, second, third or fourth place in the Mini-Medal will be eligible for the finals. The final will consist of a first round of at least 8 fences 2'6" in height. The top four riders will return to be tested at the judge's discretion from tests 1-8. Exhibitors who qualify in both the Mini-Medal and the MHJA Medal may ride in only one final. Qualifying for the Mini-Medal shall start with the first MHJA Mini-Medal class held after the Mini-Medal Finals of the previous year and end at the last show prior to the finals of the current year. If no final class is held, the year-end award for the medal will be awarded on points accumulated during the show year

**FOR THE 2021 SHOW SEASON ONLY, ANYONE WHO QUALIFIED IN 2020 WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO RIDE IN THE MEDAL FINAL FOR WHICH THEY QUALIFIED. THE NAMES OF RIDERS WHO QUALIFIED IN 2020 WILL BE LISTED ON THE MHJA WEB SITE. FOR ANYONE WHO DID NOT QUALIFY IN 2020, NORMAL QUALIFICATION APPLIES IN**

**2021. IN 2021, THE MEDAL FINALS WILL BE HELD AT THE MID STATES FALL SHOW, SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2021.**

## **HUNTER SECTION**

***For sections 1-23, check the current USEF Rule Book for complete USEF specifications and on-line at USHJA.org for Zone 6 specifications.***

1. COMBINED GREEN WORKING HUNTER 3'0" – 3'3". USEF Rule HU (Old Pre-Green. Horses required to jog.)
2. COMBINED GREEN WORKING HUNTER 3'6" – 3'9". USEF Rule HU.
3. HIGH PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER. See USEF Rule HU.
4. PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER 3'3 " -3'6" USEF Rule HU.
5. COMBINED AMATEUR OWNER WORKING HUNTER.
6. COMBINED AMATEUR OWNER WORKING HUNTER 3'3" Fences 3'3". See USEF Rule HU.
7. COMBINED JUNIOR WORKING HUNTER
8. COMBINED JUNIOR HUNTER 3'3" USEF Rule HU.
9. COMBINED PONY WORKING HUNTER USEF Rule HU.
10. CHILDREN ARE WORKING HUNTER HORSE. 14 and Under USEF Rule HU. Zone 6 specs.
11. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER HORSE. 15 -17 USEF Rule HU Zone 6 specs  
Open to horses that are to be ridden by Junior exhibitors. Zone 6 specs.
12. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER PONY. Open to ponies shown by a junior rider. Riders may not cross enter into USEF rated classes at the same show where the height of fences exceeds 3'3". Zone 6 specs.
13. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 18 – 35: Zone 6 specs.
14. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 36 – 49: Zone 6 specs.
15. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 50 AND OVER See Zone 6 specs for rules on combining. Zone 6 specs apply.

16. USHJA 2' Hunter. Fences 2', oxers are optional, combinations are not permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.
17. USHJA 2'3" Hunter. Fences 2'3", oxers are optional, combinations are not permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.
18. USHJA 2'6" Hunter. Fences 2'6", combinations are permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.
19. USHJA 2'9" Hunter. Fences 2'9". Combinations are permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.
20. USHJA 3' Hunter. Fences 3', combinations are permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.
21. LOW ADULT AMATUER HUNTER (USHJA LOW ADULT) Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Open to horses and ponies.. Not to jog. Height of fences 2'6".
22. LOW CHILDREN'S HUNTER (USHJA LOW CHILDREN'S). Open to riders who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Open to horses and ponies. Not to jog. Height of fences 2'6"

***Low Children's and Low Adult are now USHJA Zone Year End Awards. The specifications are online at USHJA under Zone 6 Specifications.***

23. THOROUGHbred HUNTER. May be USEF recognized or an unrecognized section. USEF fences 3', unrecognized 2'9". MHJA will count points from either USEF TB hunter sections or unrecognized TB hunter sections for the year end award. *PLEASE NOTE – Exhibitors who are interested in points for Zone 6 Horse of the Year award for TB Hunter should make sure they show in the USEF approved sections. These are not offered at all shows.*
24. LONG STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER 17 AND UNDER, HORSES OR PONIES. Open to junior riders who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/EC recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, manners emphasized, extreme speed penalized. Hand gallop is prohibited in under saddle classes. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter section are requested to offer at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
25. LONG STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER 18 AND OVER, HORSES OR PONIES. Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/EC recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider, who

is eligible as of December 1, shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, manners emphasized, extreme speed penalized. Hand gallop is prohibited in under saddle classes. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter section are requested to offer at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.

26. SHORT STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER, HORSES OR PONIES. Open to junior riders who have not reached their 12th birthday and have not won six first place ribbons over fences 2'6" or higher. A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. No rider may cross enter at the same show between Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation and Long Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or between Short Stirrup Hunter/Equitation and any class where height of fences exceeds 2'6". Open to horses or ponies; manners emphasized, and extreme speed penalized. **Fences not to exceed 2'**, oxers and combinations prohibited. In under saddle classes no more than 8 entries may canter at one time and hand gallop is prohibited. Shows offering a Short Stirrup Hunter Section are requested to offer at least one Short Stirrup Equitation class.

27. LOW JUNIOR/AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER. Open to junior riders and amateur riders no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Amateur certification required. Horse/rider combinations entered in Low Junior/Amateur may not cross enter into Modified Children's/Adult or into classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'6". Riders may, if otherwise qualified, enter the Modified Children's/Adult on a different mount. Riders may also enter classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'6" on another mount. To be judged on performance and soundness, emphasis on manners. Height of fences 3'. Entries not to jog for ribbons. If there are 20 or more entries at the start of the first class of the section, management must split the section and award two sets of ribbons and two championships.

28. MASTERS HUNTER (RUSTY STIRRUP) - Open to amateur riders who have reached their 30th birthday. Amateur certification required. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'6". Fences not to exceed 2'3". Combinations and oxers prohibited. Open to horses and ponies. No jog. Only the name has changed, the specifications remain the same.

29. STARTER HUNTER. Open to Junior riders and Amateur riders who have not reached their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'6". Fences not to exceed 2'3". Combinations and oxers prohibited. Open to horses and ponies. No jog.

***PLEASE NOTE: Starter, Masters and Short Stirrup sections may be combined. If the sections are combined, riders will be awarded points in the section they originally entered. If there are fewer than three entries in any section, it may be combined with the section that has the next fewest entries. If Short Stirrup is combined with either Master's or Starter, height of fences will not exceed 2'. If a show's specifications allow riders 30 and over to enter Starter classes, riders 30 and over may ride in both Masters and Starter but will not receive credit for any points won in Starter.***

30. MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER. Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. No horse/rider cross entry at the same show between this section and the Low Junior/Amateur section or any class where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Riders may cross enter into other sections on a different horse. The horse may cross enter into other sections with a different rider. Not to jog. Height of fences 2'9".

31. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S HUNTER. Open to junior riders who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Open to horses and ponies. No horse/rider cross entry at the same show between this section and the Low Junior/Amateur section or any class where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Riders may cross enter into other sections on a different horse. The horse may cross enter into other sections with a different rider. Not to jog. Height of fences 2'9"

*PLEASE NOTE: If there are less than six entries in either the Modified Adult Hunter section or the Modified Children's Hunter section, they may be combined. If there are six or more entries in both sections, they must be held separately.*

32. BABY GREEN WORKING HUNTER. Open to horses in their first two years of showing. Horses entered in this section may not cross enter into classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Fences 2'6". No combinations, no hand gallop, no jog.

## **JUMPER SECTIONS**

All sections except pony jumpers are open to horses and ponies and are to be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF and Zone 6 Rules and Regulations.

1. .70 - .75m JUMPER
2. .80-.85m Jumper
3. .90m -.95m JUMPER
4. 1.0m JUMPER
5. 1.05m and 1.10m JUMPER
6. 1.15m JUMPER
7. 1.20m and 1.25m JUMPER
8. 1.30m and above JUMPER - All classes for 1.30m and above jumpers.
9. PONY JUMPER. USEF rules apply, including cross-entry restrictions.

10. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S JUMPER Open to junior riders. Fence height .85m (2'9") to .95m (3'1").
  11. MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER Open to amateur riders. Fence height .85m (2'9") to .95m (3'1").
  12. LOW CHILDREN'S JUMPER Open to junior riders. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.0m – 1.05
  13. LOW ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER. Open to amateur riders, USEF Amateur certification required. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.0m – 1.05.
  14. HIGH CHILDREN'S JUMPER. Open to junior riders. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.10-1.15m
  15. HIGH ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER. Open to amateur riders, USEF Amateur certification required. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.10 -1.15m
- PLEASE NOTE: Children's and Adult Jumper riders – please check online at USHJA under Zones for any new the Zone 6 specs.*
16. JUNIOR JUMPER. Open to junior riders. Must be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF Rules and Regulations.
  17. AMATEUR OWNER JUMPER. Open to Amateur riders, USEF Amateur Certification required. See USEF Rule JP. Must be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF Rules and Regulations.
  18. THOROUGHBRED JUMPER

## **OPPORTUNITY CLASSES**

**To be eligible for a year-end award from the MHJA, you will need to join the MHJA as a competition member. Opportunity Classes will follow all requirements set forth under the MHJA Year End Awards Program.**

Opportunity classes were developed by the USEF as a place to introduce people to the horse show world without the expensive membership fees. **To be eligible for a year-end award from the MHJA, you will need to join the MHJA as a competition member to be eligible for points in sections judged on the rider (equitation classes.) to be eligible for an award in the Hunters, both the owner of the horse and the rider of the horse must be competing members of the MHJA.** Entries in Opportunity classes are not required to have USEF/USHJA membership or pay non-member fees; and their mount is not required to be registered with USHJA or be recorded with USEF, or microchipped to participate. Entries are required to pay all other fees. If riders or horses enter any other



classes at a show, except other Opportunity classes, they ARE required to have all necessary memberships and requirements. Here are the rules/requirements for Opportunity classes:

- Riders in Opportunity classes may not show in any USEF rated classes at that horse show. Riders may cross enter into unrated classes for which you are eligible provided the height of fences does not exceed 2'6", but rider then has to be a USEF/USHJA member or pay the non-membership fees; and pay the drug and zone fees.
  - If the rider has **EVER** shown in a USEF rated Hunter, Jumper or Hunt Seat Equitation class they are ineligible to show in Opportunity classes. If they have a question about this, please check with the show secretary.
  - You have to show in at least **two** MHJA approved shows to be eligible for a year-end award.
  - For the Opportunity classes, attire may consist of proper hunter/jumper show attire or the following: breeches with paddock boots and half chaps; jodhpurs with paddock boots; or breeches and boots. Jumpers may wear a polo shirt or other shirt with sleeves and a collar. Hunter/Equitation riders may wear a shirt with tie or a show shirt with a choker. Depending on the weather, they may wear a close-fitting sweater, jacket or vest. All riders must wear SEI/ASTM approved head gear.
  - Any USEF rules regarding walk-trot classes shall automatically become part of the Opportunity specifications. Equitation classes are judged on control of mount, appropriate pace, steering and effective position of rider. Hunter classes judged on performance, manners of mount, and suitability at this level of competition.
1. SHORTEST STIRRUP EQUITATION/HUNTER OPPORTUNITY, Open to junior riders who have not reached their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Riders in this section may not cross enter into any other section or class at the same horse show, except classes on the flat and under saddle for which they are otherwise eligible. Classes may consist of unmounted showmanship, walk/trot, walk/trot/canter and cross rails. Cross rail courses shall be 6 to 8 "fences" twice around the ring on the rail, with no diagonal lines. Trotting not to be penalized in cross rail classes. In flat/under saddle classes, no more than 6 entries to canter at one time. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. ALL Shortest Stirrup Classes - Equitation and Hunter- shall be counted equally for one year-end award. If a rider has more than one entry in a Shortest Stirrup Hunter class, only the top placing entry will be counted.
  2. OPPORTUNITY HUNTER. Open to any rider who is eligible for Opportunity classes. Fences not to exceed 2'6". No combinations. Any Opportunity Hunter class other than Shortest Stirrup Opportunity will count for this award. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. ALL Opportunity Classes - Hunter- shall be counted

equally for one year-end award. If a rider has more than one entry in an Opportunity Hunter class, only the top placing entry will be counted.

3. OPPORTUNITY EQUITATION. Open to any rider who is eligible for Opportunity classes. Fences not to exceed 2'6". No combinations. Any Opportunity Equitation class other than Shortest Stirrup Opportunity will count for this award. Judged on hands, seat, guidance and control of mount. ALL Opportunity Classes – Equitation - shall be counted equally for one year-end award.