



February 2019

2019 MHJA CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

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 1-8, 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.

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 not to exceed 2'6". Combinations are prohibited. 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 not to exceed 3'. 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 not to exceed 3'6". See USEF Rule EQ for course requirements and Tests.
7. ADULT EQUITATION 18 - 35 (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. ADULT EQUITATION 36 AND OVER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to amateur riders who have reached their 36th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'3". See [USEF Rule EQ](#) for course requirements and Tests.



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9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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 1'9""", 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.
12. 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.
13. Starter Equitation Open to Junior riders and Amateur riders who have not reached their 30th birthday. No rider cross entry at the same show between this section and



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any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'6". Fences not to exceed 2'3". Combinations and oxers prohibited.

Starter and Masters' sections may be combined. If the sections are combined, riders 29 and under will be awarded points in the Starter section and riders 30 and over will be awarded points in the Masters' section. 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.

14. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S EQUITATION. Open to Junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday. 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](#).
15. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S / ADULT EQUITATION. *Open to junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday and amateur riders who have reached their 18th 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 tests 1-7](#)*
16. 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. ***In 2019, the Medal Final shall be held at the Mid States Fall Horse Show in Mason City, Iowa.***



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17. **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 ([USEF 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. ***In 2019, the Medal Final shall be held at the Mid States Fall Horse Show in Mason City, Iowa.***

HUNTER SECTION

For sections 1-21, 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 Hunter](#) (Old Pre-Green. Horses required to jog.)
2. **COMBINED GREEN WORKING HUNTER 3'6" – 3'9"**. [USEF Rule HU Hunter](#)
3. **HIGH PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER**. See [USEF Rule HU Hunter](#).
4. **PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER 3'3"** USEF [USEF Rule HU Hunter](#).
5. **PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER 3'6"** USEF [USEF Rule HU Hunter](#).
6. **COMBINED AMATEUR OWNER WORKING HUNTER**.
7. **AMATEUR OWNER WORKING HUNTER 3'3"** Fences 3'3". USEF rules allow the high amateur-owner, low amateur-owner and junior hunter 3'6" and junior hunter 3'3" to be combined if necessary. See [USEF Rule HU Hunter](#).



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8. COMBINED JUNIOR WORKING HUNTER
9. JUNIOR HUNTER 3'3" [USEF Rule HU Hunter](#)
10. COMBINED PONY WORKING HUNTER [USEF Rule HU Hunter](#)
11. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER HORSE. 14 and Under [USEF Rule HU Hunter](#) and [Zone 6 specs](#)
12. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER HORSE. 15 -17 [USEF Rule HU Hunter](#) and [Zone 6 specs](#)
13. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER PONY. Open to ponies shown by a junior rider. [Zone 6 specs](#)
14. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 18 – 35: [Zone 6 specs](#)
15. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 36 – 49: [Zone 6 specs](#)
16. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 50 AND OVER. Open to horses and ponies ridden by amateurs who are no longer eligible to compete as a Junior exhibitor. [Zone 6 specs](#)

USHJA Hunter Specifications

Check USHJA website for any changes.

These sections are now USHJA Zone and Stirrup Cup award classes. Sections to consist of 3-5 classes, one of which must be an under saddle. All sections must be open to horses and ponies.

17. USHJA 2' Hunter
Fences 2', oxers are optional, combinations are not permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.
18. 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.
19. USHJA 2'6" Hunter
Fences 2'6", combinations are permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.



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20. USHJA 2'9" Hunter

Fences 2'9", combinations are permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.

21. USHJA 3' Hunter

Fences 3', combinations are permitted. To be shown over a course of at least eight (8) fences.

22. BEST YOUNG HORSE – USEF HU` Open to horses competing in the yearling, two year old and three year old Hunter Breeding Classes. Horses will earn points from these three age groups. Placings won in Best Young Horse Championship and Best Young Horse Reserve Championship at horse shows not to count for the year-end award.

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 18th 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



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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 1'9", 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 30th 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.

Starter and Masters sections may be combined. If the sections are combined, riders 29 and under will be awarded points in the Starter section and riders 30 and over will be awarded points in the Masters section. If sections of Masters and Starter are



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offered held separately, and the horse show's rules allow for riders over 30 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. LOW ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER (USHJA LOW ADULT) Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday and are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Open to horses and ponies. No horse/rider rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9" (Exception – Equitation at 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 2'6"

31. LOW CHILDREN'S HUNTER (USHJA LOW CHILDREN 'S) Open to riders who have not reached their 18th birthday. Open to horses and ponies. No horse/rider cross entry at the same show between this section and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". (Exception – Equitation at 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 2'6"

If there are less than six entries in either the Low Adult Hunter section or the Low Children's Hunter section, they may be combined. **If after combining, there are 12 or more entries, they must be split. Suggested method of splitting a California Split.** If there are six or more entries in both sections, they must be held separately.

32. MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER. Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday and are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. No horse/rider 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"

33. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S HUNTER. Open to junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday. Open to horses and ponies. No horse/rider 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"

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 after combining, there are 12 or more entries, they must be split. Suggested method of splitting**



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a **California Split**. If there are six or more entries in both sections they must be held separately.

34. **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 SECTION

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 and 1.05m JUMPER**
5. **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"). **No horse/rider combination cross entry into classes where fences exceed 1.15m at the same horse show.**
11. **MODIFIED ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER** Open to amateur riders. Fence height .85m (2'9") to .95m (3'1"). **No horse/rider combination cross entry into classes where fences exceed 1.15m at the same horse show.**
12. LOW CHILDREN'S JUMPER Open to junior riders. See Zone 6 specifications.
1.00m – 1.05



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13. LOW ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER. Open to amateur riders, USEF Amateur certification required. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.00m – 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

Children's and Adult Jumper riders – please check online at USHJA under Zones for the 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 / AMATEUR JUMPER. Open to Amateur riders, USEF Amateur Certification required. See [USEF Rule JP](#) for specs on Amateur Jumpers. 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, the RIDER 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 Hunter section (judged on the horse), the OWNER of the horse must be an MHJA Competition member.

*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 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. **Riders entered in Opportunity classes who are over 17 years of age do not have to be Safe Sport Certified; horses and ponies shown only in Opportunity classes do not have to be***



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micro chipped. If riders or horses enter into anything other than Opportunity, they must meet the Safe Sport and Microchip requirements. The following are the rules/requirements for Opportunity classes:

- **Opportunity classes are for entry level riders.**
- *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. **This means if you have shown in a flat section of an age group equitation class (11 and under, 12-14, 15-17 or Adult), Children's Hunter pony, or rated Pony, you are technically ineligible for Opportunity classes. Once you have shown in a rated class, regardless if it's Hunter, Jumper, or Equitation, you are ineligible for ANY Opportunity classes.** Please direct any questions regarding this requirement to the show secretary.*
- **You have to show in at least three (3) MHJA approved shows to be eligible for a year-end award.**
- **A class MUST have "Opportunity" in its title for points to be counted towards Opportunity Awards.**
- ATTIRE for the Opportunity classes 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 Opportunity classes shall automatically become part of the opportunity specifications. Equitation classes are judged on control of mount, appropriate pace, steering and effective position of the rider. Hunter classes judged on performance, manners of mount, and suitability at this level of competition.



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1. SHORTEST STIRRUP EQUITATION/HUNTER OPPORTUNITY, Open to junior riders who have not reached their 11th birthday. Riders in this section may ***cross-enter into other Opportunity classes where fences do not exceed 1'6" such as Cross Rails. They may also cross-enter into other classes under saddle or on the flat for which they are eligible. Riding in any flat or under saddle class which is USEF or USHJA rated automatically makes a rider ineligible for Opportunity classes. See eligibility requirements above.*** 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 Hunter Opportunity will count for this award. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. To be eligible for points in the Opportunity Hunter Section, the OWNER of the horse/pony must have an MHJA Competition membership.

2. 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 Equitation Opportunity will count for this award. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. To be eligible for points in the Opportunity Equitation Section, the RIDER of the horse/pony must have an MHJA Competition membership.