



February 2019

## OPPORTUNITY CLASSES

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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 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 Please direct any questions regarding this requirement to the show secretary.**



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- • **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.

### **2019 OPPORTUNITY CLASS SPECIFICATIONS**

- 1. **SHORTEST STIRRUP EQUITATION/HUNTER OPPORTUNITY**, Open to junior riders who have not reached their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Riders in this section **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.



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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.

## ***2019 YEAR END AWARDS PROGRAM***

**To be eligible for a year-end award from the MHJA, riders 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.**

The following Opportunity classes will be awarded MHJA Year End Awards if there are valid participants and the section has been held in at least three MHJA approved shows. All MHJA horses and/or riders are eligible provided they have followed the requirements set forth in the MHJA Year End Awards Program.

### **OPPORTUNITY CLASSES**

1. Opportunity Shortest Stirrup Equitation/Hunter
2. Opportunity Hunter\*
3. Opportunity Equitation\*

\* For year-end awards, if the number of participants warrants, these classes may each be divided into two (2) sections by using an age-adjustable split.