

Judge's Packet 2010

Montana Hunter Jumper Association Approved Show

Thank you for judging this Montana Hunter Jumper Association approved show. Your participation and decisions are very important to our membership and competitors.

Please Keep in Mind the Following:

1. Your discretion and judging confidentiality is important. Please speak up if the set-up of the judge's area is not private enough. Please do not converse with competitors or spectators until the show is over.
2. Conservatively colored protective horse boots and leg wraps ARE allowed in all equitation over fence classes. Please do not penalize.
3. USEF rules apply to all classes. In case of conflict between USEF and MHJA, MHJA rules will prevail.
4. Large flat classes must be split into two working groups for safety.
5. If you see anything that is unsafe, including improper course design, distances, footing, or jump configuration, please notify the show manager immediately.
- 6. Do not be afraid to discipline or bar from further participation a rider who appears to be riding a horse to exhaustion.**
7. Please feel free to ask for comfort items such as food, drink, sunscreen, bathroom breaks etc.

Thank you again for you participation. We hope you have a pleasant experience in Montana.

EXCERPTS FROM RULES 2010

SECTION IV: CONDUCT OF SHOWS

1. Any person showing at an MHJA approved show is responsible for knowing and abiding by MHJA rules and regulations.
2. At approved shows, only the classes recognized by MHJA will count toward year-end awards.
3. Fifty percent or more of the obstacles must be at least the height listed on the show premium and none may be more than 2" over or under the stated height.
4. Shows may allow schooling over the show fences at announced times prior to the judged classes. This information must be provided in the show premium. Shows are encouraged to divide schooling time between a low fence group and a high fence group.
5. All shows must offer warm-up fences outside the show arena before and during all jumping classes. The MHJA recommends having at least two schooling fences- one cross-rail and one oxer. Placement of the schooling fences should allow them to be jumped individually. Schooling fences should be flagged for safety. (Red on the right; white on the left.)
6. USEF Rules will be used as a guideline. In case of conflict between USEF and MHJA Rules, MHJA Rules will prevail.
7. Show Premiums must designate MHJA approved classes and provide MHJA membership information.
8. All MHJA shows must offer membership applications throughout the show (according to Section I). These applications should be located where the Show Secretary is accepting entries and assigning numbers.
9. All MHJA show must have MHJA protest forms available throughout the show. These forms should be located where the Show Secretary is accepting entries and assigning numbers. Any member is allowed to fill out a protest form concerning a member, a non-member or show management. While the MHJA does not charge a fee for submitting a protest, the member **MUST** sign the protest form. Protests will be reviewed by the entire Board of Directors and, if necessary, corrective action taken.
10. MHJA reserves the right to do drug testing at any MHJA member show. At an unannounced show, the attending vet will determine the collection process and test random horses. For further information on Drug Testing, please see Section VII.

11. Cruelty or abuse to a horse by any person at any MHJA show is forbidden. The show management, the Judge, or any Board Member of the MHJA may bar the violator from further participation at the show, and/or cancel that person's membership in the MHJA. The Association considers it cruel to exhaust a horse as demonstrated by a horse exhibiting sourness, tail switching, profuse sweating, refusing to jump, and other signs of exhaustion. The Association shall consider the weather conditions and the horse's physical fitness in its decision. Action and penalties to be determined by the MHJA Board of Directors.
12. Any MHJA show failing to follow the rules of MHJA or to contribute to a safe and satisfactory experience to all exhibitors will be subject to loss of recognition.
13. MHJA requires shows to mandate that **all** riders wear approved ANSI-approved protective headgear with attached harness at all times when mounted on the show grounds. It is the responsibility of adult riders and parents/legal guardians of children to examine the various styles/designs available and make an informed selection of their protective headgear.
14. Jumping order must be posted in a conspicuous place at least one half hour before the class. The jumping order must be legible to a mounted rider. If a jumping order is used throughout the section, a systematic rotation of the starting list must be employed so that a complete cycle is made during the competition.
15. After the gate person has called a rider to the ring, a rider has two (2) minutes to enter the ring before elimination. Management may permit a rider to compete out of order to minimize delays and in case of class conflicts.

SECTION V: ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT

1. All riders are required to wear: (1) ANSI-approved protective headgear with attached harness; and (2) riding boots (i.e. knee length English-style boots, jodhpur boots or paddock boots).
2. Hair should be neat and worn so the competitor's number shows at all times.
3. English saddles are required.
4. No mounted exhibitor may wear or carry an electronic communication device (i.e., cell phone, pager, walkie talkie, etc.) while in the competition ring. The penalty for violating this rule if observed by the judge may be elimination from the class during which the device was worn or carried. (Exception: a handicapped participant may use electronic devices subject to prior approval by show management.)

5. HUNTER ATTIRE:

- a. Clothing should be neat and conservative in color. When possible, entrants are encouraged to show in proper riding attire: boots, breeches, and riding coat in addition to a hard hat with harness. Ladies usually wear a rat-catcher shirt with choker or stock tie. Gentlemen wear a collared shirt and tie or stock tie.
- b. Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are recommended. Flashes, dropped nosebands and figure eight (8) nosebands are prohibited.
- c. A judge may penalize for non-conventional types of bits or nosebands.
- d. Martingales are not permitted in Equitation on the flat, Hunter Hack, or under saddle classes according to the USEF rules.
- e. Use of boots and bandages on a horse are prohibited in all Hunter classes. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the show management when weather and footing conditions dictate.
- f. Horses should be clean and neat. Braiding is encouraged but optional.

6. JUMPER ATTIRE:

- b. Riders are encouraged to wear regulation attire. However, long, short or sleeveless shirts are acceptable if the shirt has a collar.
- c. Boots and bandages are allowed.

7. EQUITATION ATTIRE:

- d. Entries in these classes are being judged on the rider's ability rather than personal attire. Riders are encouraged to wear conservative colored riding coats, breeches or jodhpurs, boots and helmets.
- e. Spurs, crops, or bats are optional.
- f. Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are recommended. Flashes, dropped nosebands and figure eight (8) nosebands are prohibited.
- g. A judge at his or her discretion may choose to penalize a horse with non-conventional bits, or nosebands.
- h. Martingales are permitted in classes over obstacles and in the jumping phase of classes requiring both jumping and flat work. They are prohibited on the flat in any class or phase.
- i. Boots or conservative colored bandages on horses are permitted.

SECTION VI:

REQUIRED DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

HUNTER DIVISIONS

A Hunter division consists of at least two Hunter Over Fences classes at the same height and one Hunter Under Saddle class. The Champion and Reserve Champion horses are determined from the four horses that have accumulated the most points in the Over Fence

Classes. These four Horses will receive under saddle points. The horse with the most points is champion. The horse with the second highest total of points is reserve champion. In case of a tie score, the champion and/or reserve champion is awarded to the horse with the higher point total over fences.

The classes are run over a course of at least eight fences traditionally set on a twelve-foot stride (for horses). Possible obstacles include verticals, oxers and in-and-outs. The fences should resemble those found in the hunt field. Hunter fences are generally composed of rails, gates, pickets, coops, brush boxes, and roll tops. Hunter fences are generally natural wood, brown, white, or green in color. These courses should not have spooky fences or difficult turns. Hunter courses test the quality of the horse over the jump rather than the boldness or difficulty of the course.

Fifty percent or more of the obstacles must be at least the height listed on the show premium and, of those, none may be more than 2" over or under the maximum stated height. A 3' class means the maximum height of any obstacle on the course is 3'2". In all classes 3'0 and above horses must be jogged for soundness.

Hunter classes with fences at 2'3" or lower may NOT include the use of oxers, in-and-outs, or solid fences.

Green Hunter Division (Pony and Horse) – This division is restricted to ponies (14.2 hands and under) and horses in their first or second year of showing. The maximum height is 2'3". Ponies and horses will be judged together as one class. Ponies and horses showing in the Green Hunter Division may compete in levels higher than 2'3" during one season and still be eligible for points in the Green Hunter Division for that year. Ponies and horses that have not shown above 2'3" in their first year of showing are still eligible to compete in the Green Hunter Division in their second year of showing.

18" Hunter – This division will consist of Walk/Trot Under Saddle and two classes of Walk/Trot over 18" fences with cantering optional. This division is restricted to horse/rider combinations that do not compete in classes with fence heights above 2'3" in any Hunter or Jumper divisions at that show.

2'0' Short Stirrup Hunter Division - This division is restricted to *junior riders* where the horse/rider combination does not compete in classes over fences above 2'3" in the Hunter divisions at that show.

2'0' Long Stirrup Hunter Division - This division is restricted to *adult amateur riders* where the horse/rider combination does not compete in classes over fences above 2'3" in the Hunter divisions at that show.

2'3" Pony Hunter Division - This division is restricted to ponies (14.2 hands and under) and is open to all pony riders, subject to suitability, pony to rider, as determined by

the judge's discretion. Exhibitors in the Pony Divisions must submit a pony card when entering their ponies. (USEF, Canadian or MHJA cards will be accepted)

2'3" Hunter Division

2'6" Hunter Division

2'6" Children's Hunter Division - This division is restricted to horses and ponies ridden by juniors.

2'9" Hunter Division

2'9" Adult Amateur Hunter Division - This division is restricted to horses and ponies ridden by persons classified as amateur riders under MHJA or USEF rules. Riders cannot accrue points in this division until the Association has a signed Amateur Status form. This form is located on the back of the Membership application.

3'0" Hunter Division - This Division requires the Judge to request the riders jog their horses for soundness upon completion of the class.

3'3" Hunter Division - This Division requires the Judge to request the riders jog their horses for soundness upon completion of the class.

3'6" Regular Working Hunter Division - This Division requires the Judge to request the riders to jog their horses for soundness upon completion of the class.

EQUITATION DIVISIONS

These classes will be judged on the rider's hands, seat and control of mount over fences and/or on the flat. The points to be awarded in these classes are as follows: 1st – 10, 2nd – 8, 3rd – 6, 4th – 5, 5th – 4, 6th – 3, 7th – 2, 8th – 1. These divisions will consist of one class on the flat, one class over fences and one medal class. They will be placed to eight (8) places. The fence heights for the Open Equitation will be 3'0". The fence heights for the Junior/Amateur Equitation Division will be 2'6". The fence heights for the Pony Division will be 2'3". Pony equitation classes are open to all pony riders.

The Equitation Medal Class will be judged with the same specifications as the over fence class. After all horses have completed the course, the top four riders will be brought back to work on the flat and over fences with special tests given at the judge's discretion. Five dollars (\$5) of each rider's entry fee will go to the MHJA for the Medal Finals.

At the final show of the year, the top six riders earning points in Medal classes at one or more shows are eligible to ride in the Medal Finals. Five dollars (\$5) of the entry fee for the Medal Finals class will go to the MHJA. The rider must use the same horse during all phases of the Medal Finals Class.

All riders who have qualified for the Equitation Medal Finals Ride Off shall compete over two courses of 8 to 10 fences with at least two changes in direction. The fences in the Open Equitation Medal Finals will be 3'0" in height and 2'9" to 3'3" in width. The fences in the Junior/ Adult Amateur Equitation Medal Finals will be 2'6" in height and 2'3" to 2'9" in width. The fences in the Pony Medal Finals Class will be 2'3" in height and 2'0" to 2'3" in width. The order of go in Round One will be drawn and this round will count for 50 % of the rider's score. The order of go for Round Two will be the reverse of Round One and will count for 50 %.

After the completion of Round Two, riders may be asked to perform additional tests at the discretion of the judge. The work-off score will be added to each rider's total. Awards and ribbons will be awarded through 8th place.

Open Hunt Seat Equitation Division

1. Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat
2. Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences 3'0"
3. Hunt Seat Equitation **Medal** Class 3'0"

Junior/Amateur Hunt Seat Equitation Division

1. Junior/AA Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat
2. Junior/AA Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences 2'6"
3. Junior/AA Hunt Seat Equitation **Medal** Class 2'6"

Pony Equitation

1. Pony Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat
2. Pony Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences 2'3"
3. Pony Hunt Seat Equitation **Medal** Class 2'3"

JUMPER DIVISIONS

Jumper Divisions consist of two or more classes of the same title at the same height. Competitors will earn points in each approved class; however, a division champion will only be awarded at shows that offer more than one class per specified division.

These classes are run over a course of eight to ten fences. Obstacles may include verticals, oxers, and combinations. Jumper fences are generally composed of rails, gates, panels, walls and rolltops. Jumper courses generally have brightly colored fences and may use flowers, decorations, and painted rails and panels. Courses are traditionally set on a 12' striding between fences. All MHJA approved jumper classes 2'6" and under must be run as optimum time classes. Optimum time is determined as 4 seconds less than the time allowed; once the class has begun, the optimum time may not be changed. This rule also applies to Pony Jumpers. Show managers are highly encouraged to apply this rule to lower non-MHJA classes as well. For classes over 2'9" in height, managers are encouraged to include longer and shorter distances.

Fifty percent or more of the obstacles must be at least the height listed on the show premium and, of those, none may be more than 2” over or under the maximum stated height. A 3’ class means the maximum height of any obstacle on the course is 3’2”.

Time allowed may be adjusted at the sole discretion of the judge if he or she feels it is inaccurate, but only after consultation with the course designer. However, the time allowed may be adjusted only once during the early rounds of a given competition, and never later than after the 3rd competitor to complete the course without a disobedience. The time allowed can never be lowered so that time faults will be awarded to any previous competitor that has completed the course without disobedience.

1. Scoring can be Table I (touch Classes), Table II (Knockdown Classes) , Table III (Faults Converted to Seconds) or Table V (optimum time).
2. Classes should state the time allowed as determined by the course length.
3. Electric timers may be used in conjunction with the flag person to mark the start and finish of the jump-off time.
4. All shows are required to time the first round of jumper classes to break ties in equal number of faults for horses not involved in a jump-off.
5. Ties for first place should be broken with a timed jump-off over a shortened course.

2’3” – 2’6” Pony Jumper Division - This division is restricted to ponies (14.2 hands and under) and is limited to junior riders. Exhibitors in the Pony Divisions must submit a pony card when entering their ponies. (USEF, Canadian or MHJA cards will be accepted)

2’3” Jumper Division

2’6” Jumper Division

2’6” Children’s Jumper Division – This division is restricted to horses and ponies ridden by juniors.

2’9” Jumper Division - Level 0

3’0” Adult Amateur Jumper Division - This division is restricted to horses and ponies ridden by persons classified as amateur riders under MHJA or USEF rules. Riders will not accrue points in this division until the Association has a signed Amateur Status form. This form is located on the back of the Membership application.

3’0” Jumper Division - Level I

3’3” Jumper Division - Level II

3’6” Jumper Division - Level III

3'9" Jumper Division - Level IV

4'0" Montana Hunter Jumper Association Grand Prix

This class will consist of two rounds. A third round jump-off will be used to break ties for first place.