



***Western Hudson Valley
Professional Horsemen's
Association
Rule Book 2025-2026 Edition***

Updated 10/14/2025

2025 Officers:

President	Jessica Williams
Vice President	Annette Mohr/Dani Moraski
Treasurer	Denise Dahms
Recording Secretary	Chris Higgins Barricella
Corresponding Secretary	Jessica Abrams

For any questions, go to WHVPHA.org or email
whvpha@gmail.com

Rules and Regulations

- I. Points
 - a. Points accrue from September 1, 2025 to August 1, 2026, with finals in September 2026. Points in all divisions at participating shows will be awarded for each class as follows: **1st-10pts, 2nd-6pts, 3rd-4pts, 4th-2pts, 5th-1pt, 6th-1/2pt**
 - b. A rider must be registered as a WHVPHA member for points to count. A rider will be given a two week grace period after competing for the first time in a season to join as an active WHVPHA member for points to count.
 - c. 30 days after posting points, the points will become final and no point disputes will be considered. Any disputes from the last horse show of the season will be given 15 days from the date of posting.
It is the exhibitor's responsibility to monitor the website and keep track of their own points.
 - d. Any point issues can be directed to the following email: whvphapoints@gmail.com
- II. Year End Point Qualifications
 - a. Only top 10 shows for each rider/horse in respective divisions will appear in the standing and count towards year end awards.
 - b. There will no longer be a rule that you must do a certain number of horse shows to qualify- will go strictly by points and your top 10 shows.
 - c. Riders may receive a year end award in more than one division.
- III. Restricted Division
 - a. Restricted Division- a division that **can not** be combined with any other division because of the specifications cited in WHVPHA rulebook.
 - b. Restricted Divisions are as follows: Leadline, Mini-Stirrup, Modified Junior/Amateur, Short/Long Stirrup, Pleasure, and Pre Junior/Amateur.
 - c. All divisions (restricted and others) will now run as their own height section without forced combining for points. Full points will be awarded when 3 or more competitors compete. Half points will be awarded when 2 competitors compete.
 - d. Should an extenuating circumstance arise, as in only 1 competitor in each height section should enter, this must be brought to the attention of the horse show committee for determination of problem solving.
 - e. Leadline may run with 1 rider for half points.
 - f. Restricted divisions **must** be split if there are 8 or more entries. **Each split is required to have up to 6 riders before making a 3rd split (ie: 11 riders should be split 6/5 rather than 4/4/3).** Once a split has been made and the division has begun, full points will be awarded despite possible mishaps (rider fall/off, injury to horse/rider).
- V. Competition Eligibility
 - a. The same horse/rider combination is allowed to move up with a two-time grace period. They may move back down if they are not ready, but if they continue to show at the higher height, then they are no longer eligible for the lower division. Each year the height restriction resets. Competition eligibility will be determined at the first show that the rider competes at.
 - b. After a rider starts the current competition year in a division of the WHVPHA series, that rider does not lose eligibility in the WHVPHA series if they move up at a show outside the WHVPHA series.
- VI. USEF Guidelines
 - a. **It is important to remind all members that WHVPHA Inc. sanctioned horse shows are to be conducted according to USEF guidelines. The USEF Rulebook is readily available @ USEF.org and merits a review by all members.**
 - b. **All members Should familiarize themselves with USEF Guidelines, particularly those pertaining to Horse Welfare and Safe Sport.**
Regarding Horse Welfare: USEF Rule Book states: "Cruelty, abuse, or unethical treatment of a horse is one of the most egregious violations under the Federation's Rules."
Regarding Safe Sport: The USEF Rule Book states: "The USEF is committed to creating a safe environment for our competitors."
Please contact a member of the board with any concerns.

VI. Class Specifications

It has been decided by the board and horse show committee that all host farms must now offer a red/blue round to offset the adjustment of hunter class offerings and shorter schooling break availability. Please be sure to include a red/blue class in your prize lists going forward if you do not already do so.

a. Equitation Divisions

Leadline (4 and under): Open to riders 4 yrs and under, not to show in any other division or class where riders perform without a handler. Judged on equitation at both walk and trot. The division will consist of 3 classes (**walk left, walk right, walk/trot**) Two-point may be requested. No questions to be asked as a tie breaker. **All classes in leadline must be pinned as stated above for points, not tied for 1st place.**

Leadline (5-8): Open to riders 5-8 yrs old, not to show in any other division or class where riders perform without a handler. Judged on equitation at both walk and trot. The division will consist of 3 classes (walk, walk/trot, walk/trot off lead). **All classes in leadline must be pinned as stated above for points, not tied for 1st place.**

This section is also open to riders with disabilities over the age of 8, up to trainer's discretion.

Pre-Mini Stirrup: This division is intended for those riders that are not yet ready to show independently but have advanced past Leadline. Limited to 1-2 years of participation. Emphasis will be on equitation, safety, and suitability of horse/pony. Martingales and boots are permitted. Each horse/rider has the option to have a handler. Riders will be asked to demonstrate the walk and the trot. May be asked to sit the trot, display their half seat, circle, etc. The division will consist of 3 classes [2 flat classes (1 eq, 1 pleasure) and 1 hunter poles]

It should be clearly stated and announced at the start of each section for clarity of hunter vs equitation.

Mini Stirrup: Open to riders who have not cantered or jumped larger than a crossrail in a show. Martingales & boots permitted. The division will consist of 4 classes [2 flat classes (1 eq, 1 pleasure) and 2 over poles (1 eq, 1 hunter)].

It should be clearly stated and announced at the start of each section for clarity of hunter vs equitation.

Modified Junior/Amateur Equitation: Open to all beginner type riders. Trotting of crossrails is permitted. Height of crossrails not to exceed 18". Cannot cross enter into any other jumping division. Martingales & boots permitted. The division will consist of 3 classes. (1 flat, 2 fences)

Short/Long Stirrup Equitation: Open to all beginner type riders that have never shown 2' or over. Must be split if entries warrant by age of rider, 12 yrs and under and 13 yrs and over. Boots permitted. Simple changes are permitted. The division will consist of 3 classes. (1 flat, 2 fences)

Pre Junior/Amateur Equitation: Open to all riders that have not shown 2' or over. May not cross enter into Jr/Ammy classes. Fences to be set max 18". Fill needs to be kept to a minimum. No oxers. Simple changes are permitted. No Martingales on the flat. The division will consist of 3 classes. (1 flat, 2 fences)

2' Junior/Amateur Equitation Low: Open to all horses or ponies ridden by Amateur or Junior riders. Fences 2'. The division will consist of 3 classes. (1 flat, 2 fences)

2'3" Junior/Amateur Equitation Medium: Open to all horses or ponies ridden by Amateur or Junior riders. Fences 2'3". The division will consist of 3 classes. (1 flat, 2 fences)

2'6" / 3' Junior/Amateur Equitation High: Open to all horses or ponies ridden by Amateur or Junior riders. Fences 2'6" or 3'. *Heights will be judged together.* The division will consist of 3 classes. (1 flat, 2 fences)

b. Jumpers

Jumpers: Open to all horses and ponies. The rider may pick their height of 2', 2'6", or 3'. All heights will be judged together. The division will consist of 3 classes.

c. Hunter Divisions

Modified Junior/Amateur Hunter: Open to all beginner type riders. Trotting of crossrails is permitted. Height of crossrails not to exceed 18". Cannot cross enter into any other jumping division. Martingales permitted. The division will consist of 3 classes. (1 under saddle, 2 fences)

Short/Long Stirrup Hunter: Open to all beginner type riders that have never shown 2' or over. Must be split if entries warrant by age of rider, 12 yrs and under and 13 yrs and over. Simple changes are permitted. The division will consist of 3 classes. (1 under saddle, 2 fences)

Pre Junior/Amateur Hunter: Open to all riders that have not shown 2' or over. Riders may remain in this division for multiple years. May not cross enter into Children/Adult classes. Fences to be max 18". Jump fill needs to be kept to a minimum. Simple changes are permitted. No Martingales on the flat. The division will consist of 3 classes. (1 under saddle, 2 fences)

Schooling Hunter (2' or 2'3) Open to all horses, ponies, and riders with no restrictions. *Offered fence heights at 2' or 2'3". Heights will be judged together. Simple changes are permitted. No oxers.* Cannot be combined with any other hunter division. The division will consist of 3 classes. (2 over fences, 1 under saddle)

PHA Hunter (2'6 or 2'9): *Open to all horses, ponies, and riders with no restrictions. Offered fence heights at 2'6" or 2'9" with oxers. Heights will be judged together.* Cannot be combined with any other hunter division. The division will consist of 3 classes. (2 over fences, 1 under saddle)

2' Junior/Amateur Hunter Low: Open to all horses or ponies ridden by Amateur or Junior riders. Fences 2'. The division will consist of 3 classes. (2 over fences, 1 under saddle)

2'3 Junior/Amateur Hunter Medium: Open to all horses or ponies ridden by Amateur or Junior riders. Fences 2'3. The division will consist of 3 classes. (2 over fences, 1 under saddle)

2'6" / 3' Junior/Amateur Hunter High: Open to all horses or ponies ridden by Amateur or Junior riders. Fences 2'6" or 3'. *Heights will be judged together.* The division will consist of 3 classes. (2 over fences, 1 under saddle)

Pleasure: Open to all horses, ponies and riders with no restrictions. The division will consist of 3 classes.

The League/M&S Classes:

Medals will be stand alone classes.

Classic (Pony, Horse, Pre-Child/Adult, Low/Novice) point class to be the second class in the designated height division followed by a separate classic round.

The Bit O Straw Classic must be a stand alone 2 round classic.

Tiny Bit O' Hunter Derby (2'0" with 2'4" high options) and Bit O' Straw Hunter Derby (2'6" with 2'10" high options) should consist of a Round 1 Classic, Round 2 Handy.

Hunt & Go Format permitted at show management discretion as long as clearly stated what is each part of the course.

New for 2025-2026 season:

Short Stirrup and Leadline are being offered by The League. Awaiting specs and will be up to host farm discretion if offered.