



**The Ohio
Professional
Horsemen's Association**
FOUNDED OCTOBER 1980

RULE BOOK
2009/2010

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2009 – 2010
OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President

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Membership Secretary

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Treasurer

KAREN LENEHAN
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Executive Director
MARGE FERNBACHER
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Board of Directors

2009 – 2010 Term

Lee Cosma
Margaret Kruse
Susan Lloyd
Kim Segedy
Megan Udelson

2009 – 2011 Term

Pat Bostwick
Cory Corrigan
Tom Lewis
Pat Swann

2009 – 2012 Term

Charles Kinney
Cindy Foster
Sergio Jimenez
Peg Lefelhocz

Honorary Directors

Laddie F. Andahazy
Hugh Kincannon
Howard Lewis
Gabor Francia-Kiss*
Laddie G. Andahazy* *deceased

COMMITTEES

Membership

Kim Segedy
Karen Lenahan
Pat Swann

Grievance

Howard Lewis
Cindy Foster
Sergio Jimenez

Horse Show

Lee Cosma
Cindy Foster
Howard Lewis
Susan Lloyd
Kim Segedy
Megan Udelson

Aid to Professional Members

Liz Scoville
Pat Swann

Newsletter

Sharon Allison
Marge Fernbacher

Sponsorship

Karen Lenahan
Sharon Allison
Cody Lewis
Margaret Kruse

ARTICLES AND BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Association shall be **The Ohio Professional Horsemen's Association.**

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

This Association is organized for the following purposes:

1. To meet and serve the specialized needs of professional horsemen, exhibitors, and supporters in our area.
2. To promote good sportsmanship and ethical conduct among all members of the Association.
3. To create a healthy environment for young people with emphasis on learning responsibility, self-discipline, and self-initiative.
4. To encourage all members to play an active role in the Association and to promote a feeling of camaraderie among all horse people.
5. To sponsor such educational activities as forums, clinics, movies, and the publication of informative articles.
6. To raise the quality of local horse shows. To improve the local caliber of horses and riders to make them competitive at the national level.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS & DUTIES

PRESIDENT

The elected President will be a current professional member of the O.P.H.A. and shall be the executive office of the association, and shall preside over the Board of Directors meetings. S/he will be responsible for appointing all committees, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. S/he will be responsible to perform such duties & obligations deemed necessary by the Association. S/he will delegate jobs to Vice President or the appropriate officer. The President may call a meeting of the Board of Directors or of the general membership. The President has the authority to sign all contracts and written obligations of the Association.

VICE PRESIDENT

The elected Vice President will be a current professional member of the O. P. H. A. S/he will take over all duties of the President in his/her absence. The Vice President will carry through all requests of the President.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall give notice of the meetings, keep minutes of all meetings, and conduct the correspondence of the Association. S/he will be the keeper of its documents and records.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall collect all monies due the Association. S/he shall have the care and custody of and be responsible for the funds of the Association, which s/he shall deposit in the name of the Association in such financial institutions as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Any payment made by the Association must be by check, signed by both the President and the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall submit a detailed financial report annually and at such other times as the Board of Directors may direct. S/he will file the appropriate IRS documents.

CHAMPIONSHIP POINT SECRETARY

The Championship Point Secretary shall keep a record of all points accumulated for High Score Awards. S/he shall mail out application requests for shows, and collect fees for member shows, which shall be turned over to the Treasurer. S/he shall mail out mailing lists, rule book, and any medals necessary to member shows.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Membership Secretary shall send out membership cards; collect dues; and turn over all monies to the Treasurer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is comprised of current professional members of the O. P. H. A., with the right to vote.

ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP Except for charter members, professional members shall be admitted only upon approval of the Membership Committee. The committee shall screen applications very closely to eliminate those not directly connected with the horse industry.

GRIEVANCE Duties of the Grievance Committee are to consider, investigate, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors, concerning actions of any person or group deemed detrimental to the best interests of the members of the Association. The Committee shall act on any and all grievances filed and will convey their findings at the next official association meeting.

HORSE SHOW This committee makes instant decisions as a group at shows when questions/problems arise. They shall decide on any extraordinary circumstances regarding date approvals or changes, and will have the last word on point/member eligibility.

SCHOOLING SHOW It shall be the duty of the Schooling Show Committee to propose the rules for the school divisions and any necessary rule changes.

NEWSLETTER It shall be the duty of the committee to organize and publish the newsletter. Find sponsors, encourage advertising, and collect monies due and turn them over to the treasurer.

AID TO PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS The duty of the committee is to consider applications for financial assistance.

SPONSORSHIP The purpose of the Sponsorship Committee shall be to find sponsors for the spring and fall horse shows, collect monies due and turn them over to the treasurer. Send horse show sponsors a prompt thank you note.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

1. There will be a minimum of three professional meetings per year.
2. One or more open meetings may also be held each year.
3. Any non-professional member wishing to have an issue discussed or rule proposed at a meeting should submit same in writing to an officer or board member.

ARTICLE – VI

O. P. H. A. HORSE SHOW POINT SYSTEM RULE

1. Owners, lessees, and equitation riders must be current members of the O. P. H. A. at the time the points are won for the points to count towards year-end awards.
2. Points remain with the horse when bought or sold, providing that new owner is a member of the O. P. H. A.
3. Each years point system begins on December 1st, and is in effect through the following calendar years fall O. P. H. A. show; which shall be the last show of the year.
4. Ten dollars must be sent for each horse with a nomination form before points will be counted toward yearly awards. This will be used to defray the cost of awards and expenses.
5. Nominating and membership forms will be available at each show, at meetings or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the **Membership Secretary**.
6. Points will be counted as follows:
7. 1st place..... 10 points 4th place 2 points
2nd place 6 points 5th place 1 point
3rd place 4 points 6th place 1/2 point

Effective December 1, 1994, points will be determined according to the number of entries in the first class over fences in each section. Sections with 3 to 11 entries will receive single points; 12 to 17 entries shall receive double points; and 18 or more entries shall receive triple points. This system shall apply to all O. P. H. A. approved shows regardless of USEF rating or location.

CLASSES & DESCRIPTIONS

In order to qualify for points for the annual O. P. H. A. Championship and/or High Score Awards, the **minimum height** for fences must be observed in each division. All O.P.H.A. shows (except Schooling Show/Academy classes) will be conducted under USEF rules. See USEF Rule Book and Zone specifications for divisions offered at USEF rated shows.

PRE-GREEN HUNTER: A Pre-Green Hunter is a horse of any age in its first or second year of showing over 3' to 3'3" fences at USEF Regular Member or Canadian Equestrian Federation shows or any national or international competition. Fences not to exceed 3'3". A 3' section must be offered and a 3'3" section may be offered. Horses may only compete in one height section at a show, but may alternate from one show to another. Once a horse has shown 3'6" he is not eligible to compete in the Pre-Green Hunter division, regardless of age. Exception: green reinstatements. **Pre-Green may not be reinstated.** Horses nominated for OPHA awards may only receive points in this division for two years.

GREEN WORKING HUNTER: Horses nominated for High Score Awards may receive points in this division for two years: once as a first year horse (fences 3'3" to 3'6"), and once as a second year horse (fences 3'6" to 3'9"). See USEF Rule Book for additional specifications.

REGULAR WORKING HUNTER: See USEF Rule Book for class specifications. Fences 3'6" to 4'.

LOW ADULT HUNTER: Open to amateur riders. Cross entry between the Low Adult section and the Amateur Owner section is prohibited. **Same horse/rider combination may nominate for only one of the following: Low Adult Hunter, Adult Amateur Hunter, Amateur Owner Hunter.** Fences 2'6".

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER: Horses to be ridden by amateurs. Riders may not compete in any other classes at the same competition where fences exceed 3'3", except Adult Amateur Jumper and Amateur Owner Hunter. Any rider showing in the Amateur Owner Hunter division may compete 1 different horse in the Adult Amateur Hunter division and must own or have a USEF lease of said horse. Fences 2'9" to 3', spreads not to exceed fence heights. Ponies may be shown by

Adults, suitability to count. Entries need not be jogged for soundness. An unrestricted Children's/Adult Hunter division may be offered open to all Amateurs and Juniors, with fences not to exceed 3'3". **Same horse/rider combination may nominate for only one of the following: Low Adult Hunter, Adult Amateur Hunter, Amateur Owner Hunter.** Fences 2'9" to 3', spreads not to exceed fence height.

AMATEUR OWNER HUNTER: See USEF Rule Book for class specifications. Fences 3'3" to 3'6".

ADULT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT: Open to all amateur riders.

N. A. R. H. A. ADULT EQUITATION: Open to all amateur riders except Amateur Owners. To be shown over a course of 8 fences at 3' with an in and out and 2 changes of direction. To fill the class, 3 competitors must complete the course. Additional testing of the top 4 riders required (tests at judge's discretion). If a show does not offer a separate N.A.R.H.A. class, Ariat points will count as N.A.R.H.A. points.

JUNIOR WORKING HUNTER: See USEF Rule Book for class specifications. Fences 3'3" - 3'6".

THE O. P. H. A. HUNTER SEAT MEDAL: Open to Junior members who have not yet reached their 18th birthday. To be shown over a course of not less than 8 fences at 3'6", with two changes of direction. In addition, the course must include at least two of the following: an in and out, an end jump, a narrow jump, a wingless jump, a broken line, a roll back, a triple combination, a bounce. Additional testing of the top 4 riders required; test(s) at the judges discretion. To fill the class 3 competitors must complete the course. Horses need not be nominated.

CHILDREN'S HUNTER: To be ridden by a Junior exhibitor. Neither horse nor rider may enter into the Junior Hunter section at the same show. Riders may not cross enter into any class in which fences exceed 3'3" at the same show, except Medal classes, age group equitation classes and Children's Jumper classes. Fences 2'9" to 3'3", spreads not to exceed fence height. Entries need not be jogged for soundness.

CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY: Open to ponies ridden by a Junior exhibitor. **Riders may not cross enter into any classes in which fences exceed 3'3" at the same show, except Medal classes, age**

group equitation and Children's Jumper. Ponies may not compete in the Children's section if also entered in the pony division at the same show. The combination pony/rider is not eligible for USEF rated classes at the same show. Fences 2' for small and medium and 2'6" for large ponies; spreads not to exceed fence height. No in and outs. Ponies need not be jogged for soundness.

CHILDREN'S EQUITATION ON THE FLAT: Open to all riders eligible for the Children's Hunter section.

FOX SMITH MEMORIAL MEDAL CLASS: Open to riders eligible for the Children's Hunter division. To be shown over a course of not less than 8 fences at 3', with two changes of direction. In addition, the course must include at least two of the following: an in & out, an end jump, a narrow jump, a wingless jump, a broken line, a roll back. Additional testing of the top 4 riders required; test(s) at the judge's discretion. To fill the class, 3 competitors must complete the course. Horses need not be nominated. Show Circuit Magazine points count for Fox Smith points.

PONY HUNTER: OPHA shows offering the Pony Hunter division will be required to change the distances of in and outs and lines less than 100 feet to accommodate the different size of pony strides. Fences 2'3" small, 2'6" medium, 2'9" to 3' large. The exhibitor may be asked to validate the size of the pony.

GREEN PONY HUNTER: A Green Pony Hunter is a pony not exceeding 14.2 hands, of any age, in its first year of showing in any classes that require ponies to jump the regulation height or higher in their respective sections (2'3" small, 2'6" medium, 2'9" large).

PONY EQUITATION ON THE FLAT: Open to all riders eligible for the Pony Hunter section.

DICK GASCOIGNE MEMORIAL PONY MEDAL: Open to riders eligible for the Pony Hunter division. To be shown over a course of not less than six obstacles at fence heights 2'3" small, 2'6" medium, 2'9" to 3' large. Two tests (USEF 1 – 9) are required during the first round. Only one rider per pony permitted. To fill the class, 3 competitors must complete the course. Ponies need not be nominated. USEF Pony Medal points count for Gascoigne points.

LOW CHILDREN'S HUNTER: To be ridden by a Junior exhibitor. Riders may not cross enter into any class in which fences are 3' or higher. Fences 2'6". Entries need not be jogged for soundness.

LOW CHILDREN'S EQUITATION ON THE FLAT: Open to all riders eligible for the Low Childrens Hunter section.

SHORT STIRRUP: Open to riders 11 years of age and under. Riders may not cross enter into any other OPHA recognized section at the same show except age appropriate under saddle classes. Points received in all classes go with the rider. If a rider shows more than one horse or pony in the Short Stirrup division at the same show, only the highest scoring mount's points will be awarded to that rider for that show. Fences 2', oxers and in & outs not permitted.

CHILDREN'S JUMPER: Open to horses and ponies ridden by a junior exhibitor. Horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into any Junior Jumper section at the same show. Riders may cross enter into the Low Junior Jumper section on a different horse. Riders may not compete above 1.30m (4'3") in any open class at the same show. Sections may be divided by age of rider or by horse/pony, and may be combined with Adult Jumper if so stated in prize list. Fences 1.10m (3'6"); shows may offer 1 class at 1.15m (3'9").

ADULT JUMPER: Open to horses and ponies ridden by Amateurs. All exhibitors must show USEF amateur certification. Horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into any Amateur Owner Jumper section at the same show. Riders may cross enter into the Low Amateur Owner Jumper section on a different horse at the same show. Riders may not compete above 1.30m (4'3') in any open class at the same show. Sections may be divided by age of rider or horse/pony and may be combined with Children's Jumper if so stated in prize list. Fences 1.10m (3'6"); shows may offer 1 class at 1.15m (3'9").

JUNIOR JUMPER: See USEF Rule Book for class specifications. Fences 1.5m to 1.25m (3'9" to 4').

AMATEUR JUMPER: See USEF Rule Book for class specifications. Fences 1.15 m to 1.25m (3'9" to 4').

OPEN JUMPER: At shows that do not offer Open Jumper classes; but do offer modified jumper classes with no restriction on eligibility; those modified jumper points will count toward the Open Jumper year end award. Fences 1.5m to 1.55m (3'9" to 5').

HUNTER BREEDING: See current USEF Rule Book for individual class specifications.

SPECIAL CLASSES: Hunter and Jumper Classics and other special classes will be awarded OPHA points, provided the class in no way restricts entries (by requiring membership in a particular association, for example). Mini-prix and other classes open to all jumpers will be awarded open jumper points.

Regardless of the number of entries in the first class over fences, the OPHA will sanction any class to count for year end awards only if there are a minimum of three entries. In classes over fences, three entries must complete the course. Exception: If there are enough exhibitors to split a division in the 1st performance class and less than 3 exhibitors in subsequent classes OPHA points will count.

In compliance with USEF ruling on headgear, all juniors riding in Hunter, Jumper and Hunter Seat Equitation sections at OPHA shows may not ride anywhere on the show grounds without protective headgear (including harness secured and properly fitted) passing current USEF standards. Any rider violating this rule at any time will be prohibited from further riding until headgear is properly in place. All riders competing or schooling over fences must wear ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear .

Sections for High Score Honors only:

SCHOOLING SHOW/ACADEMY DIVISIONS:

The OPHA will sanction a limited number of schooling shows during the year which will offer at least three of the following divisions: **Walk/Trot X-Rails, Walk/Trot/Canter X-Rails, Limit Rider, Novice Rider.**

SCHOOLING SHOWS CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & RULES

WALK/TROT X-RAILS: Open to all ages. Twice around the outside only. Flower boxes and brush boxes not permitted as ground lines.

WALK/TROT/CANTER X-RAILS: Open to all ages. Twice around the outside only. Flower boxes and brush boxes not permitted as ground lines.

LIMIT RIDER: Fences 1'6" to 2'. Oxers not permitted.

NOVICE RIDER: Fences 2'3" to 2'6". Oxers optional.

RULES

1. In order to receive points for High Score Honors riders must be current members, and must be nominated. Horses need not be nominated.
2. Riders nominated for other OPHA rated divisions are not eligible for Schooling Show High Score Honors.
3. Riders may nominate for and receive points in **two** chronological divisions at the same time.
4. Points will not carry from one division to the next. The rider will, however, be eligible for year end awards in all nominated divisions.
5. A riders age will be determined according to USEF rules – age as of December 1st of the current competition year.
6. The OPHA will recognize a limited number of Schooling Shows per year. Other OPHA shows may offer any or all of the Schooling Show Divisions, but points will not count toward year end awards.
7. Horse shows applying for OPHA Schooling Show recognition must offer at least 3 of the 4 listed divisions.
8. There will be two over fences, one under saddle, and one flat equitation class in each division. It is recommended that all four classes count equally towards the Championship.
9. At least 3 entries per class for points to count.
10. Points will follow the **rider** in all divisions

JUDGING

1. Standing martingales **will** be permitted in all classes.
2. Only six to canter at one time in Walk/Trot/Canter divisions.
3. Riders in Walk/Trot X-Rails may trot in and canter out of lines, but should exhibit control and return to the trot before the next line.
4. In the Walk/Trot/Canter, Limit and Novice sections, trotting to obtain a simple change of lead is permitted and is not to be penalized.

O. P. H. A. HORSE SHOW REQUIREMENTS

ATTENTION HORSE SHOW MANAGERS: The following specifications must be met in order to be an OPHA approved show and to have points count toward the year end high score awards.

1. All horse show dates must be applied for in writing on the appropriate form, available on line at OPHA.org, and submitted with payment of \$50 per show to OPHA, P. O. Box 23421, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023. Address labels for mailings to members available on request.
 - A. Past OPHA horse show dates will be protected from year to year for horse shows following the procedures below:
 - B. Show dates occurring from the end of the current season through April 30th of the new season must be applied for by Sept. 1st.
 - C. Show dates from May 1st through the end of the new season must be applied for by February 1st.
2. Any new horse shows wishing OPHA approval must apply in writing on the appropriate form.
3. A check for \$50.00 made payable to the OPHA must be sent to the OPHA Championship Point Secretary **at least 30 days prior** to the date of the show.
4. Prize list and show results, including number of entries in OPHA rated classes, must be sent to the OPHA Championship Point Secretary, **within 10 days** of the close of the show. Failure to send results will incur a \$100.00 fine. Failure to return results within three months will prevent next year's protected date approval.
5. Only one OPHA rated show will be allowed within 75 miles on the same day **unless** the party holding the protected show date agrees to waive the restriction.
6. It is suggested that all OPHA shows have a USEF Recorded or Registered judge, but shows that are not USEF sanctioned may apply for permission to use an unrated judge. Requests for permission must be made at least 60 days in advance of show date.
7. Loss of points for failure to meet the above requirements is the responsibility of horse show management, and does not lie with the OPHA.
8. Any Extraordinary circumstances on date approvals or changes will be handled by the Horse Show Committee.
9. With the exception of Schooling Show/Academy classes all OPHA shows will be conducted under USEF rules.