



Class Specifications

From the Ohio Professional Horsemen's Association Rulebook 2022 / 2023

This is an abbreviated version of the OPHA Rulebook intended to give show managers and judges of unrated (by USEF/USHJA) shows a quick reference to class and division specifications.

Please refer to the Rulebook for information on membership, points, cross-entry restrictions, and general horse show requirements. The OPHA Point Secretary may also be consulted as questions arise (please call or text Heather Lampman at 440-479-7905; or email hflampman@gmail.com).

www.opha.org

NOTE:

Nonpayment of Entries and/or Horse Show Fees. OPHA point shows that accept entries without the payment of the required fees do so at their own risk. However, if a person makes payment for fees that is not negotiable, the horse show/horse show manager may report the name and address of the person in writing or email to the OPHA within 30 days of notification of denied payment, providing the names of the horses and the names and owners/riders for which the non-negotiable funds were to cover. The OPHA will not be involved in collection of funds owed to the horse show; however, horses/riders will not receive OPHA points until the OPHA receives confirmation from the horse show/horse show manager that payment has been received. Payment must be received within 10 days from the time of notification of denied payment, unless some other arrangement with the show management has been made. Once the show manager has notified OPHA that payment has cleared, points will be restored. Disagreement about whether an account has been paid will be referred to the Horse Show Committee.

DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

Minimum height for fences must be observed in each division.

Two entries must compete for a class to count for OPHA points. In classes over fences, “competed” means that the first fence has been judged with a score recorded on the judge’s card. **Exceptions:** (1) If there are enough exhibitors to split a division in the first performance class and fewer than two exhibitors in subsequent classes OPHA points will count. (2) NARHA and Fox Smith Medals as described below. (3) There is no minimum for Hunter Breeding classes. In flat classes, “competed” means that the entries have been judged (are shown as having been in the ring on the judge’s card, regardless of whether they receive an award).

VERY GREEN HUNTER: Open to horses and ponies in their first year of showing over fences at 2’6”. Fences 2’6”. Also called Baby Green Hunter in some organizations.

GREEN HUNTER 3’ AND 3’3”.

GREEN HUNTER 3’6” AND 3’9”.

HIGH PERFORMANCE HUNTER: Horses are not restricted by age or showing experience. Fences minimum 3’9”.

PERFORMANCE HUNTER: Fences 3’3” or 3’6”.

LOW ADULT HUNTER: Open to amateur riders. Fences 2’6”. This division is called Intermediate Adult Hunter in some organizations.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER: Horses to be ridden by amateurs. Fences 3’, spreads not to exceed fence heights. Ponies may be shown by Adults, suitability to count.

AMATEUR OWNER HUNTER: See USEF & USHJA Rule Books for class specifications. Fences 3’3” or 3’6”.

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

LOW ADULT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT: Open to amateur riders eligible for the Low Adult Hunter division.

N.A.R.H.A. ADULT EQUITATION: Open to all Amateur members. To be shown over a minimum of eight fences 2’9” to 3’ in height, spread not to exceed fence height. The course may be either a hunter or jumper type and must include at least two changes of direction and a combination. Water obstacles are not permitted. A numerical score must be announced at the completion of the first round. Top four riders are required to return for further testing (USEF tests 1-17). There is no minimum requirement to fill the class. If a show does not offer the N.A.R.H.A. class, points in one class with corresponding specifications (e.g., Ariat Medal) will count as N.A.R.H.A. points.

MICHAEL RHEINHEIMER LOW CHILDREN’S/LOW ADULT MEDAL: Open to riders eligible for Low Children’s and Low Adult Hunter section. To be shown over a minimum of eight fences 2’6” in height, spreads not to exceed fence height, and must include at least two changes of direction. A numerical score must be announced at the completion of the first round. Top four riders are required to return for further testing (USEF tests 1-17). If a show does not offer the Mike Rheinheimer Medal, points in one class with corresponding specifications will count as Mike Rheinheimer Medal points.

JUNIOR WORKING HUNTER: See USEF & USHJA Rule Books for class specifications. Fences 3’3” or 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 four riders is required; test(s) are at the judge’s discretion (USEF tests 1-17). Horses need not be nominated. If a show does not offer the O.P.H.A. Medal Class, points in one class with corresponding specifications (e.g., USEF Medal) will count as O.P.H.A. Medal points.

CHILDREN’S HUNTER: To be ridden by a Junior exhibitor. Fences 3’, spreads not to exceed fence height.

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

FOX SMITH MEMORIAL MEDAL CLASS: Open to all Junior members who have not competed in a national medal finals with fences at 3’6”. To be shown over a minimum of eight fences 2’9” to 3’ in height, spreads not to exceed fence height. The course may be either a hunter or jumper type and must include at least two changes of direction and a combination. Water obstacles are not permitted. A numerical score must be announced at the completion of the first round. Top four riders are required to return for further testing (USEF tests 1-17). There is no minimum requirement to fill the class. Horses need not be nominated. If a show does not offer the Fox Smith Medal class, points in one class with corresponding specifications (e.g., THIS Medal) will count as Fox Smith Medal points.

LOW CHILDREN’S HUNTER: To be ridden by a junior exhibitor. Fences 2’6”. This division is called Intermediate Children’s Hunter in some organizations.

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

Note: Ponies shown by a junior in any pony division (Pony Hunter, Green Pony Hunter, Children's Pony Hunter) or in a pony medal class may not be shown by an adult at the same competition, except in breeding classes in-hand.

CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY: Open to ponies ridden by a Junior exhibitor. Fences 2' for small and medium and 2'6" for large ponies; spreads not to exceed fence height.

CHILDREN'S PONY EQUITATION ON THE FLAT: Open to all riders eligible for the Children's Pony Hunter Section. Rider may nominate for points in only this class or the Pony Equitation on the Flat class.

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 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.

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 tests 1-17, excluding test 13) are required during the first round. Only one rider per pony permitted. Ponies need not be nominated. If a show does not offer the Gascoigne Pony Medal class, points in one class with corresponding specifications (e.g., USEF Pony Medal) will count as Gascoigne Pony Medal points.

SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER: Open to riders 12 years of age and under. Riders age 12 who are eligible for Short Stirrup under OPHA rules may earn points for Short Stirrup in the Limit Rider division only at shows where the Short Stirrup division is limited to riders 11 years old and under, as long as the rest of the division specifications match. Fences 2', oxers and in & outs not permitted.

SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION ON THE FLAT: Open to riders eligible for the Short Stirrup Hunter division. Riders age 12 who are eligible for Short Stirrup Equitation on the Flat under OPHA rules may earn points for this class in the Limit Rider Equitation on the Flat only at shows where this class is limited to riders 11 years old and under, as long as the rest of the class specifications match.

BEGINNER JUMPER 2'3" - 2'6" (0.7 - 0.8 m): Horse/rider combination may not earn points in any other OPHA Jumper division except for Intermediate Children's Jumper or Intermediate Adult Jumper.

INTERMEDIATE CHILDRENS/ADULT JUMPER: Open to junior/amateur riders. Fence height 2'9" – 3' (0.85 – 0.95 m). This division is called Novice Children's/Adult Jumper in some organizations.

LOW CHILDRENS JUMPER: Open to junior riders. Fence heights to be set at 1.00–1.05 m (3'3"–3'5").

CHILDREN'S JUMPER: Open to horses and ponies ridden by a junior exhibitor. Fences 1.10–1.15 m (3'6"–3'9").

JUNIOR JUMPER: See USEF & USHJA Rule Books for class specifications. Fences 1.20-1.25 (3'11"–4'1"); 1.30-1/35 (4' 3"–4' 5"); or 1.40-1.45 (4' 7"–4' 9").

LOW ADULT JUMPER: Open to amateur riders. Fence heights to be set at 1.00 m (3'3").

ADULT JUMPER: Open to horses and ponies ridden by Amateurs. Fences 1.10–1.15 m (3'6"–3'9").

AMATEUR JUMPER: See USEF & USHJA Rule Books for class specifications. Fences 1.15 m to 1.25 m (3'9" to 4' 3"–4' 5"); or 1.40-1.45 (4' 7"–4' 9").

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 1.20 m to 1.55 m (3'11" to 5').

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

SCHOOLING RIDER CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & RULES

These classes are geared toward riders in a lesson program who are just starting to go to horse shows, or moving up in level of difficulty. Safe, simple courses are recommended. Emphasis will be placed on suitability of mount to rider's ability level. Safety will be the foremost concern in these classes. Demonstrating control of mount is extremely important. Excessive speed will be penalized and may cause elimination from the show ring.

Horses and riders in the Schooling Divisions must follow current USEF tack and equipment rules, **except standing martingales will be permitted in all classes in all Schooling Rider divisions.**

LEADLINE: This division is for riders 8 years of age and under who have never shown in any equestrian discipline. Rider may not enter in any other class or division except Hunter Breeding. "Special needs" riders may have age requirements waived by show committee. Leadline Riders must compete in two shows to be eligible for an award.

WALK/TROT GROUNDPOLES: To be shown over a simple course with a minimum of four poles on the ground. The poles should be trotted, and riders may walk in the corners to re-establish control if needed. Slight mistakes will not be heavily penalized. Participants are no longer eligible once the rider has competed in any other OPHA division or classes, except for Walk/Trot/Canter Groundpoles.

WALK/TROT/CANTER GROUNDPOLES: To be shown over a simple course with a minimum of four poles on the ground. The poles should be cantered, and riders may trot in the corners to re-establish control if needed. Slight mistakes will not be heavily penalized. Participants are no longer eligible once the rider has competed in any other OPHA division or classes, except for Walk/Trot Groundpoles. In flat classes in this division, no more than six entries to canter at one time.

WALK/TROT X-RAILS: Open to all ages. There must be a minimum of four (4) fences. Ground lines are required. Flower boxes and brush boxes are optional.

WALK/TROT/CANTER X-RAILS: Open to all ages. There must be a minimum of four (4) fences. Ground lines are required. Flower boxes and brush boxes are optional. In flat classes in this division, no more than six entries to canter at one time.

PRE-LIMIT RIDER (fence height 1'6"): Course may be trotted. Slight mistakes will not be heavily penalized. In flat classes in this division, no more than six entries to canter at one time. Riders may also compete for points in either the Walk/Trot/Canter division or Limit Rider division. This division is called Walk/Trot/Canter 18" at some shows.

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

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

INTRO JUMPER: Open to riders eligible for the Limit Rider and Novice Rider divisions. Points will follow the rider for OPHA, regardless of how points are awarded at individual shows for that show's championship. If a rider shows more than one horse or pony in the Intro Jumper division at the same show, only the highest scoring mount's points will be awarded to that rider for that show. Speed classes (USEF Table III) will not count for OPHA points. Jumps at 2', no oxers, and no combinations of fewer than three strides.

Schooling Rider Medal

Open to riders of all ages participating in Limit or Novice Rider. Fences offered at 2' and 2'3" (oxers not permitted). Minimum 7 jumps. Roll back, broken or bending lines are permitted. One test (USEF 1 – 8) is required and should be included in the course (except #5). Distances to be set as per all other 2' and 2'3" divisions. Shows may offer two Schooling Rider Medals, one at each height, but riders may not enter both classes.

MISC. SCHOOLING RIDER RULES

1. Horse shows applying for OPHA Schooling Show recognition must offer at least 3 of the 4 listed divisions.
2. 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 toward the Championship.
3. In all Schooling Divisions, at least two entries per class must compete for points to count. In classes over fences, "competed" means that the first fence has been judged with a score recorded on the judge's card. In flat classes, "competed" means that two entries have been judged (are shown as having been in the ring on the judge's card, regardless of whether they receive an award).
4. Points will follow the **rider** in all divisions. If a rider shows more than one mount in a Schooling Show section, only the highest scoring mount's points will count for that rider at that show.

JUDGING

1. Standing martingales **will be permitted** in all classes.
2. Only six to canter at one time in Walk/Trot/Canter and Pre-Limit Rider 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, Pre-Limit Rider, Limit Rider, and Novice Rider sections, trotting to obtain a simple change of lead is permitted and is not to be penalized.
5. It is recommended that show management print out the OPHA specs for Schooling Rider classes to provide to the judges.