



**Mid Illinois Sport Horse Organization Rule Book**

**Current as of July 2021**

## 1. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors are posted on the organization's website, [www.midilsporthorseorg.com](http://www.midilsporthorseorg.com)

## 2. Membership

### • Individual Membership: \$35.00

Allows the member to compete for MI-SHO End of Year awards;

Allows the member to vote on all matters put up for a vote at membership meetings;

Pony Club or 4 H Members can receive a \$5 discount on their initial individual membership.

### • Family Membership: \$50.00

Allows members of an immediate family residing at the same residence to compete for MI-SHO End of Year (EOY) awards. This includes college students that may be residing away from home.

Allows a family 2 votes per family membership on all matters put up for a vote at membership meetings. One family member can proxy the vote for the second family member. All declared family members receive MI-SHO discounts where applicable.

### • Non-Participating Membership: \$15.00

Allows member full membership privileges, but would not be eligible for End of Year Awards;

Allows the member to vote on all matters put up for a vote at membership meetings.

## 3. Member Shows

***Show managers are advised to submit their show applications and pay nomination/recognition fees of \$40 per show as early as possible to secure show dates and to benefit from publication of dates on MISHO's website, [www.midilsporthorse.org](http://www.midilsporthorse.org)***

- Under no circumstances will a show be granted MI-SHO recognition after the competition has been held.
- When more than one show is held in a competition year by the same show management under the same name, each show is considered a separate entity.
- To reserve a show date from the previous year, a show's management must register the show with the MISHO show secretary by **February 15** of the new competition year.
- The manager of any horse show for which MI-SHO affiliation is desired must register the show with the MISHO show secretary and pay the necessary registration fee.
- A horse show's prize list must state that the show is recognized by MI-SHO. If this information is not included in the prize list, MI-SHO will not award points to the show's exhibitors.
- Printed or electronic show results must be received by, or online results made available to the MI-SHO point secretary, within **14 days** of the completion of the competition.
- Results should include class numbers and name/description, count of competitors per class, horse's name, rider's name and age, if available, and class placings.

#### 4. Conduct of Member Shows

- Failure to submit show results (either printed or electronic) within **14 days** of the completion of a competition may result in the denial of points for that show. Shows that do not comply with this rule may become ineligible for subsequent MI-SHO recognition.
- Failure to return or make available the show results within 14 days of the completion of the show will result in a \$20.00 fine to show management. *MI-SHO will not recognize any subsequent shows held by said management until the debt is settled and show results have been received by the show secretary.*

#### 5. Holding a Recognized Member Show

- Show Fees - There is a \$40.00 fee to hold a MI-SHO recognized show. The points earned during the show will have a single point value. Show fees must be received by the MI-SHO secretary at least 30 days prior to the show.
  - *Recognition benefits will include a database mailing to all of our members to notify them of the show, listing on the MI-SHO web site and Facebook page \* Membership roster/contact information will be provided to the show organizers upon request.*
- **Eventing/Combined Test-Derby competitions** will not themselves be recognized and are exempt from paying show fees for 2021. However, individual member participation in recognized USEA event and MI-SHO approved mini event competitions will be recognized. As such, it is the individual member's responsibility to notify the show secretary of their participation and their individual placing results. *\* Approved events will be listed on the MI-SHO calendar of events.*
- The only show eligible for double points is one organized and hosted by MI-SHO.
- Request to hold a MI-SHO recognized show should be received by the MI-SHO secretary 60 days prior to the day of the show. Any exceptions must be approved by the board. Under no circumstances will shows be granted recognition after the competition has been held.
- Two horse shows occurring on the same day(s) may not both be recognized by MI-SHO unless they are at least 50 miles apart. At the discretion of the MI-SHO board, two shows may occur on the same day if the two shows involved offer different classes, such as a dressage show and a hunter show. In case of conflict, the show whose application and payment is received first by the MI-SHO secretary will be given priority. If both shows' applications and payments are received by the MI-SHO secretary at the same time, the show which has used the date previously will be given priority.
- Competitions may have "local" or "closed" classes. These classes are designated by the show management to be open only to horses/students of the facility. These classes will not receive MI-SHO Points. Similarly, competitions may have breed specific classes; however, these classes will not receive MI-SHO Points.
- Show management may reserve the right of declining to receive an entry and to return any fee before the opening of the competition. They shall have the right, without being liable for compensation or damages, to prohibit any person from attending or showing a horse in the ring.

- Show management may reserve the right to cancel any of the classes which do not fill or to divide or combine any class or classes should the best interests of the show require it. The judge may hold preliminary trials in order to reduce the number of riders for final competition.
- Adequate warm-up areas must be provided with a minimum of 2 warm-up fences for the hunter/jumpers. Warm up jumps must include ground poles.

***Shows offering O/F classes that are above the max height recommended for the division will not have those classes recognized by MI-SHO for the End of Year Awards.***

## **6. Course Requirements**

As laid out in further detail below, certain requirements are necessities when building and competing over a Hunter, Jumper, or Equitation course. MI-SHO expects show management to comply with these and USEF rules during accredited MI-SHO competitions.

**MI-SHO reserves the right to refuse to recognize a competition that fails to abide by proper course and show requirements. MI-SHO follows all USEF rules and defers to the USEF rulebook for any specific rules not laid out here.**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING JUMPING COURSES - STRIDING IN A COURSE**

For all disciplines, related distances on a course, i.e. lines, bending lines, combinations, etc., must be measured accurately for the average stride of a horse.

The average stride of a horse is **12 feet long**.

**6 feet** must be accounted for **both** landing and take-off (an additional 12 feet total).

Accordingly, if a course designer wants to set a 4-stride line it would be calculated as follows:

4 strides x 12 feet = 48 feet apart

Add 6 ft for landing and 6 ft for take-off for a total of: 60 feet apart .

Thus, a 4-stride line must be set at 60 feet apart.

### **Here is a list of measurements for popular related distances:**

1 stride: 24 feet apart

2 stride: 36 feet apart

4 stride: 60 feet apart

5 stride: 72 feet apart

6 stride: 84 feet apart

Once can properly set these distances by “walking out” the line.

Become comfortable with what it takes for you to cover 3 feet with one step.

Typically, to count out one stride, a person will take four, 3 foot steps.

Taking our 4-stride line example then, one would walk out “5 sets” of 12 feet.

An easy way to do this is to put out 1 finger when you hit your first set of 4 steps, then another finger out for your next set of 4, all the way up until you hit 5 extended fingers.

Additionally, ground poles must be in place in front of all jumps.

## **JUMPERS**

On the USEF website, all rules re: Jumpers and Jumper classes can be found in chapter “JP Jumper Division.” <https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rulebook>

If looking for a particular topic/issue, Subcategories Include:

Jp-1: General

JP-2: Eligibility

JP-3: Section Specifications

JP-4: Levels of Difficulty

JP-5: Course Requirements

JP-6: Scoring

JP-7: Jumping Faults and Scoring Tables

Important Pull-Out Points from JP-5 Course Requirements

## **JP124 JUMPER COURSES**

There must be at least one change of direction in every course including jump offs.

## **JP 125 SPEAD OBSTACLES**

MISHO recommends that all courses have at least three spread obstacles. Spread jumps must exceed the height by a minimum of 2” and a maximum of 6”.

## **JP131 SPEED, TIME ALLOWED, TIME LIMIT, and OPTIMUM TIME**

The Time Allowed is based on a minimum speed of 325 meters per minutes (360 yards per minute). The Time Allowed must be announced and posted prior to the start of the class.

Time Limit: The Time Limit is defined as double the Time Allowed. Going over the Time Limit results in elimination.

Optimum Time: For classes scored under Table IV, the optimum time is defined as 4 second less than the Time Allowed.

Faults/Eliminations:

Under JP-7, JP 144, a handy table of jumping faults is available. This table proves useful for judges and competitors to understand how their round was scored or why their round resulted in an elimination. [See pg. 959 of Jumper Division Chapter in USEF Rulebook]

Variations of Jumper Classes:

Full information on the various types of jumper rounds is provided in JP-7 Jumping Faults and Scoring Tables. Particularly, look specifically at JP 145-148 within subchapter 7 for jumper classes most suited for MI-SHO rated competitions.

- JP145: Table II – Classes Scored on Faults and Time
- JP146: Table II – Classes Scored on Faults Only
- JP 147: Table III – Faults Converted into Seconds
- JP148: Table IV – Optimum Time Classes

As a useful reference, here is a short form overview of the most common jumper classes.

#### **TABLE A [Table II, Sec. 2(a) and (b)]**

These classes are typically the most common and are run over two rounds. In the first round, only consider going clear without going over the time allowed. All horses tied for first place after round one (zero-faulters in most cases) go on to the shortened jump-off course, or round two. The jump-off course can either be immediately after course one for a rider (Table II, Sec. 2(b)) or delayed, to be run after all riders complete round one (Table II, Sec. 2(a)). The goal of the jump-off is to keep all rails up while going as fast as you can. Horses are placed by faults first, then time.

**\*\*A horse, however fast, cannot beat a horse that jumps clear\*\***

Each rail down, or a refusal, is 4 faults. Faults are also awarded for going over the time allowed (one fault for each second or portion thereof, over the time allowed).

#### **TABLE A [Table II, Sec. 1]**

No jump-off occurs in a Table 11, Sec. 1 class. Instead, the time from the first round determines the placings. This is why this type of class is often called a “speed round.” Thus, the strategy in this type of class is to go as quickly as you can with no faults from the start.

#### **POWER AND SPEED [Table II, Sec. 2(c)]**

This variation of jumper class is run over a single class, with the jump-off incorporated into the second half of the round. Typically, these classes have more jumping efforts than either Table II, Sec. 2(a) or (b) or Table II, Sec. 1 – usually around 14 efforts. This is because the “first round” of a power and speed class consists of the first 7-8 jumps, with the “second round” being the latter half of the course. Every horse competes over the first round, but only those who have not accumulated any faults in the first half go on to finish the second part of the course, or “jump off.” All in all, it is essentially a jump-off class where the jump-off is completed without stopping.

A rider knows they have made it to the second round, if, after the last fence of the first half is jumped, no bell or whistle sounds. If the judge does sound the bell or whistle, the horse must stop and exit the ring. The bell or whistle indicates faults were picked up in the first half.

#### **TABLE C [Table III]**

The main distinction of Table III classes and the others is that faults are converted to time. This gives a horse

with a rail the opportunity to still beat a horse with a clear round. Each class is run over one course. For each rail down, instead of 4 faults, 4 seconds are added to the time. The horse with the fastest time wins.

## **HUNTERS**

On the USEF website, all rules re: Hunters and Hunter classes found in chapter “HU Hunter Division.”  
<https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rulebook>

If looking for a particular topic/issue, Subcategories most applicable to MI-SHO Include:

- HU-1: Definitions and Eligibility
- HU-2: Division of Sections or Classes
- HU-3: Courses
- HU-4: Attire, Tack, and Equipment
- HU-5: Judging
- HU-6: Class Specifications
- HU-8: Conduct

### Important Pull-Out Points from HU-3 Courses

## **HU120 GENERAL**

All jumping obstacles must be set at the required height for the class. The “required height” may have a variance of no more than 2’ over or under. Exceptions:

- a. Trot fences may not exceed 3’ in height and spread for horses and 2’ in height for ponies in classes restricted to ponies;
- b. The first fences of any hunter course – meaning, in practice, the first fence may be smaller.

USEF rules dictate and MI-SHO encourages, that horses show over a minimum of 8 fences set to required height. **MI-SHO requires at least one change of direction (change of lead) in every course.**

**EXCEPTIONS:** Cross rail hunter divisions and Short Stirrup hunter divisions may opt to include courses with zero changes of direction at the discretion of show management. If changes of direction are included in any Cross rail or Short Stirrup hunter class, simple lead changes shall not be punished.

NO course may have exhibitors trotting or cantering through the in-gate or out-gate; any exhibitor choosing to do so will be eliminated.

Crossing a track between obstacles shall constitute a disobedience and will be penalized by judges – UNLESS the course diagram so calls for it.

## **HU123 TYPE**

A minimum 2” difference is required for the back element of an obstacle (oxer). A ground line is required for all obstacles.

## **HU124 IN AND OUTS**

An in and out (two jumps set for one or two strides) is considered as two obstacles in the required number of

obstacles. It must NEVER be used at the start of a course.

#### Important Pull-Out Points from HU-4 ATTIRE, TACK, AND EQUIPMENT

##### **HU126 TACK**

Martingales are prohibited in any under saddle class.

Snaffles, pelhams, and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands are required.

\*\*Judges are allowed to penalize for unconventional snaffles, pelhams, or full bridles including, but not limited to, hunter gags and kimberwicks.

##### **HU127 EQUIPMENT**

All artificial appliances, including but not limited to, boots, wraps, and bandages are prohibited.

#### **EQUITATION**

On the USEF website, all rules re: Equitation and Equitation classes found in chapter “EQ Equitation Division.”

<https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rulebook>

If looking for a particular topic/issue, Subcategories most applicable to MI-SHO Include:

EQ-1: Regulations for All Seats

EQ-2: Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Section

#### Important Pull-Out Points from EQ-2 HUNTER/JUMPING SEAT EQUITATION SECTION

##### **EQ107 CLASS ROUTINE**

The performance/judging begins when the horse enters the ring.

Competitors are allowed to circle once before approaching the first obstacle.

The following constitute faults at the judge’s discretion:

- Loss of stirrups
- Loss of reins

Elimination results from the following:

- Fall or hose/rider
- Three cumulative refusals
- Off course
- Trotting or cantering through in or out gate

Flat Classes: Martingales not allowed on the flat for any class unless class specifications specifically allow for their use.



Riders must proceed at least once around the ring at each gait and, on command, reverse and repeat.

## **EQ 108 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

USEF requires and MI-SHO encourages all equitation over fences classes to contain at least 6 obstacles.

Verticals can be jumped in either direction provided ground lines are correct.

For classes where participants are 13 years of age and older, USEF requires and MISHO encourages the course to include at least 2 changes of direction and the addition of at least three of the following:

- Bending line
- Narrow jump (5'6"-8')
- Roll back turn
- Fence at the end of the ring
- Long approach to a single jump

**EXCEPTIONS:** Cross rail equitation divisions may opt to include courses with zero changes of direction at the discretion of show management. If changes of direction are included in any Cross rail equitation class, simple lead changes shall not be punished.

## **7. Judges**

*Please refer to USEF GR 1304 for full judging rules.*

- A judge may not adjudicate at any competition in which a member of his or her family, a client of the judge, or any of the judge's horses, is competing.
- No horse may be shown before a judge who has received, or contracted to receive, remuneration for the sale, purchase, or lease of any horse to or from, or for the account of, the exhibitor in the 30 days preceding the competition.
- No exhibitor may show before a judge who boards, rides, or trains (for horse showing purposes) any horse under the exhibitor's ownership, or lease, in the two months preceding the competition.
- MI-SHO recommends that a judge not adjudicate at more than one (1) member show within a radius of 100 miles within a 60-day period.

### **Instruction for Judges:**

- When you are officiating as a Judge in the Hunter or Hunter Seat Equitation divisions you may not be a competitor, coach, trainer, rider, handler, lessor, lessee, or manager at the same competition. However, you may compete as a rider in jumper classes that you are not judging.
- When you are officiating as a Judge in the Hunter or Hunter Seat Equitation divisions, none of the following may compete as a trainer, coach, competitor, rider, owner, handler, lessor or lessee in either the Hunter or the Hunter Seat Equitation divisions in a class in which you are officiating at that competition, unless the relationship is terminated, or the transaction is completed, at least 30 days prior to the competition: a client, your trainer, a client of your trainer,

a horse trained or shown by you or a member of your family, a horse sold by you.

## 8. Competitor Specifications

- a. A child or junior competitor is anyone who has not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1st of the current show year.
- b. An adult amateur competitor is any amateur not eligible to compete as a child/junior.
- c. A master competitor is any adult amateur that has reached his or her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday before December 1st of the current show year.
- d. Dressage and Eventing classes/competitions are open to all competitors regardless of age/amateur status.
- e. The rider must declare their eligibility at the beginning of the show year on their application or renewal form.
  - i. Professional
  - ii. Master
  - iii. Amateur Adult
  - iv. Child/Jr.

## 9. Tack and Riding Apparel

- All riders must wear a SEI approved helmet (with a harness) while mounted. All riders must have foot apparel with a hard, flat heel.
- Riders may wear proper show attire if they choose. They may also show in a polo shirt or other appropriate shirt.
- Horses may not wear protective boots/wraps (except in equitation and jumper classes). Horses are not permitted to wear protective boots/wraps in dressage classes.
- Martingales are not allowed on the flat or under saddle classes.

## 10. Horse Welfare

The following acts are prohibited under USEF RULES, HU 102

- Riding an exhausted horse
- Excessive pressuring of a tired horse
- Riding or lunging an obviously lame horse
- Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, aisle, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds. The use of a whip must be for a good reason, done at the appropriate time, in the proper place and with appropriate restraint. Excessive whipping will not be tolerated.
- Any striking of the horse's head

- Repeated jerking on the reins and sawing on the bit unless applied to an unruly horse that is jeopardizing his own safety or the safety of his rider
- Improper use of the bit resulting in bleeding, broken skin or broken mucous membrane
- Excessive use of spurs or spurring that result in broken or bleeding skin
- Rapping the legs of a horse with the blunt end of a riding crop or any other implement
- Use of any substance to induce temporary heat causing hyper-sensitization
- Poling
- Use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jumps
- Use of electronic shock devices in schooling or showing
- Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices with the exception of kicking chains while a horse is in transport. This does not prohibit the use of rubber or plastic exercising devices.
- Showing a horse with hypersensitive, raw or bleeding sores around the cornets, pasterns, legs or body
- Use of a laser beam device anywhere on the competition grounds unless in recognized therapeutic manner
- Withholding of feed or water for prolonged periods
- Letting blood from a horse other than by a veterinarian for diagnostic purposes
- Inhumane treatment of a horse in the stall, aisle, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds by any person

Determination of commitment of any of the above acts will be made by a veterinarian, if present. If a licensed veterinarian is not present, determination will be made by the show judge. Decision by the show judge will be final. Complaints may be brought to the show host who will then refer to the show judge for investigation and a decision. Decisions will be sent to the MI-SHO Board of Directors. Any one determined by the show judge to have committed any of the above Horse Welfare infractions will be asked to cease competition for 24 hours in any MI-SHO recognized show and will forfeit any points earned in classes the day of the infraction as well as forfeit any class fees paid for classes excused from that show day.

## 11. General Rules

- a. Mid Illinois Sport Horse Organization defers to the USEF rules unless specified here.
- b. The MI-SHO board has the authority to make amendments to these rules when warranted for the clarification of any rule or it in the best interest of the organization.
- c. All decisions made by Management are final.
- d. Show year will run December 1st through November 30th. Members will receive points retroactively to December 1st if their membership form is received by March 1st. After March 1st, points will be accrued starting at the date of membership.**
- e. Protests:
  - i. A judge's decision, representing his individual preferences, is not open to protest unless it is alleged to be in violation of the rules.
  - ii. The soundness of a horse, when determined by an official veterinarian of the show or by the judge, is not open to protest.
  - iii. Any protest involving interpretation of MI-SHO rules must be received electronically or in writing by the Board of Directors within two weeks of the ending date of the show.
  - iv. Once it is received the Board of Directors will meet within 30 days and make a ruling.

- v. If the protest is upheld the Points Secretary will contact the show, and if necessary, results will be changed. Any competitor affected by the changed results will also be contacted and notified.
  - vi. If the protest is not upheld, the protestor will be required to pay a \$35.00 fee to MI-SHO. If the protest is upheld, no fee will be charged.
  - vii. The protestor will be notified of the results by a member of the Board of Directors.
- f. Competitors who fail to satisfy a debt at a MI-SHO recognized event or who have a returned check due to insufficient funds, will receive a written or electronic notice from MI-SHO stating that the competitor has ten (10) day to satisfy the debt with either cash, money order or a cashier's check payable to the show secretary. If, after ten (10) days, the debt remains unsatisfied, MI-SHO will 1) ban the competitor from MI-SHO recognized events or earning points at MI-SHO recognized shows until the debt is paid and 2) inform all show managers and secretaries of MI-SHO recognized shows that, under MI-SHO rules, they are not to accept the competitor's points towards the MI-SHO EOY awards until full payment has been made.
- g. Anyone bringing a horse/pony on to the show grounds must present a negative Coggins test.

## RECOGNIZED EOY DIVISIONS

**Hunter Divisions.** *Note: No equitation classes will count towards these EOY Awards. Competitors must attempt/complete the course in at least one class over fences in a division to be eligible to earn points in the under saddle classes.* USEF rules and class specifications are followed at all MISHO competitions except as noted below. If a show offers more than one division under the same name (i.e. beginner cross rail and open cross rail), the highest total points earned from only one division will count for EOY awards. Breed specific divisions will not count toward EOY awards.

- **Newcomer Walk/Trot Rider** is open to any child or amateur adult in their first or second year of showing regardless of the horse being ridden. This is a walk/trot only division; no rider may cross enter into any canter divisions at the same show (excluding dressage classes). *Exception: Equitation classes will count towards this EOY award. Rider does not need to compete over fences to qualify for this EOY award.*  
Fence Height: trot a pole and/or cross rail not to exceed 2' at the highest point
- **Cross Rails** is horse or pony ridden by a child or an **amateur** adult. This is a canter division; however, no penalty will be assessed for trotting the over fence classes provided a separate "Cross Rails Trot- only" division is not offered at the same show. When a show host offers two separate divisions for Cross Rails that specify a Trot-Only Division and a Canter Division, riders may cross enter in each of these divisions but will be required to canter in the Cross Rails Canter Division. No mount/rider combination may cross enter into divisions over 2' at the same show for point consideration in either Cross Rails, (Trot or Canter), and the division ridden with fences over 2'. Riders may cross enter into cross rails but must compete "NOT TO BE JUDGED" and will not accrue points in the Cross Rails Division when showing in divisions at fence height higher than 2' at the same show. Trot-only cross rail divisions will not count toward this EOY award.  
Fence Height: 18" to 2'
- **Short Stirrup Hunter** is a horse or pony of any age or show experience ridden by a **child/junior** who has not reached their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1st of the current show year. Riders may not have shown over 2'. Suggested course consists of 8 fences with no combinations.

Fence Height: not to exceed 2'

- **Children's Hunter Pony** is a pony less than or equal to 14.2 hh and may be ridden by a **junior** competitor. A small pony is 12.2 H and under; a medium pony is 12.3 H to 13.2 H; a large pony is 13.3 H to 14.2 H.

Fence Height: not to exceed 2'6" (Small & medium ponies – 2' – 2'3"; large ponies – 2'6")

- **Beginner Rider** is open to any horse or pony ridden by a child/junior or **amateur** adult rider who has not won three blue ribbons over fences of 2' or higher at any recognized horse show including local, rated, and open shows before December 1 of the current show year (Equitation classes included). Ribbons won in Short Stirrup do not affect the rider's status for this division. Beginner Riders must declare their eligibility at the beginning of the show year. Riders may cross enter 2'6" classes but may not show as a Beginner Rider after competing in any over fences class in which fence height is above 2'6".

Fence height: 2'

- **Master Rider Hunter** is open to any horse or pony ridden by an **amateur** adult exhibitor who has reached his or her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday before December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year. Riders may not cross-enter any division with fences higher than 2' at the same show.

**IF** no Master division is offered at a show, points can be earned from placing in any 2' division (or 2'3" division if not eligible to compete in the 2' classes). You can only earn points from one division per show towards the Masters EOY awards. Points will not count towards two EOY divisions (i.e. Beginner and Master) at one show. The rider is responsible for contacting the Point Secretary to identify which division they want their points to count toward.

Fence height: 2'

- **Baby Green Hunter** is open to any horse or pony in its first or second year of showing over fences at any recognized show including local, rated, and open shows before December 1 of the current show year.

Fence Height: 2'-2'3"

- **Low Hunter** is open to any horse or pony ridden by a child/junior or an adult competitor. Schooling hunter classes will not count toward this division

Fence Height: 2'3" – 2'6"

- **Limit Rider** open to any horse or pony ridden by a junior or **amateur** adult who has not won six blue ribbons over fences at any recognized show including local, rated, and open show before December 1 of the current show year. (Equitation classes are included.) Ribbons won over fences 2'3" or lower do not affect the rider's eligibility for this division. Limit riders must declare their eligibility at the beginning of the show year. Riders may cross enter 2'6" classes in the same show but may not show in Limit classes after competing in classes 3' or higher.

Fence Height: 2'6"

- **Amateur Adult Hunter** is any horse or pony ridden by an **amateur** adult competitor. The same rider/horse (pony) may not compete at the same show in any class (equitation excepted) in which the

fence height exceeds 3'3". The rider may compete on a different horse or pony at the same show in any other division or section for which the rider/horse (pony) combination is eligible. Courses will not be adjusted for ponies  
Fence Height 2'9" - 3'.

- **Children's Hunter** is open to any a horse or pony ridden in all phases of competition by a **Junior** exhibitor. The same rider/horse (pony) may not compete at the same show in any class (equitation excepted) in which the fence height exceeds 3'3". The rider may compete on a different horse or pony at the same show in any other division or section for which the rider/horse (pony) combination is eligible. Horses and ponies entered in the Child/Junior Hunter division may not cross enter into Beginner Rider Hunter, Children's Hunter Pony, or Limit Rider Hunter divisions at the same show. Courses will not be adjusted for ponies.  
Fence Height: 2'9" – 3'.
- **Open Hunter** is open to any horse or pony ridden by a child/junior or an adult competitor.  
Fence Height: 2'9" – 3'.

### **Jumper Divisions:**

*Classes to be scored under Table 1; Table II, Section 2, 3, or 4; or Table IV.*

- **Beginner Rider Jumper** is open to any Junior or Amateur Adult rider. Riders may not cross-enter any division with fences higher than .75m (2'5") at the same show.  
Fence height: .60 to .70 m (2' – 2'3")
- **Intro/Novice Jumper** is open to any horse/rider combination. Horse and rider combinations may not cross-enter any division with fences higher than 3' at the same show.  
Fence height: 0.75 - 0.80 m (2'6")
- **.85-.95 m Jumper** is open to any horse/rider combination. Cross-entry into other divisions or classes is permitted unless otherwise stated in prize list, or prohibited by these rules.  
Fence height: .85 - .95 m (2'9" – 3')
- **1.0 m and Above Jumper** is open to any horse/rider combination. Cross-entry into other divisions or classes is permitted unless otherwise stated in prize list, or prohibited by these rules.  
Fence height: 1.0 m and above (3'3" and higher)

### **Hunter Derby Division:**

Open to any horse or pony ridden by either a child/junior or an adult competitor. The points must be earned by the same horse/rider combination to qualify for the End of Year awards.

**Equitation Divisions:** *Note, only the equitation classes ridden within each division will count towards these EOY Awards.*

**Medal Equitation Classes will count toward Equitation EOY awards.** If the medal classes are open to all riders, points earned will count toward the riders chosen division of the same height. (Riders must be eligible

to compete in the equitation division) Medal classes that limit participation by age, type horse or organizational membership will not count toward EOY awards. Competitors must complete the course in at least one class over fences in a division to be eligible to earn points in the under saddle classes.

- **Cross Rail**
- **Short Stirrup**
- **Beginner Rider**
- **Limit Rider**
- **Master Rider**
- **Advanced** (any equitation classes ridden at 2'9" and above will count toward this EOY award)

### **Dressage Divisions:**

Open to any horse or pony ridden by either a child/junior or an adult competitor. The points must be earned by the same horse/rider combination to qualify for the End of Year awards. Recognized tests will be any USDF or USEF test. Combined Test dressage tests will not count towards this EOY award. Horse and rider combinations may enter up to two consecutive levels. If a show offers a specific test more than once each show day (i.e. Intro B and Charity Class Intro B), the highest score earned from only one test will count for EOY awards. MI-SHO reserves the right to combine classes/levels for EOY awards.

- **Intro**
- **Training Level**
- **First Level and above**

### **Eventing Division:**

- Events will be conducted under guidelines published by the USEF/USEA. Eventing competitions consists of three distinct tests during which a competitor rides the same horse throughout. The tests will include dressage, cross-country and stadium jumping. The following levels of competition may be offered: Advanced, Intermediate, Preliminary, Training, Novice, Beginner Novice, Starter (Introductory Eventer) and Green as Grass. See USEF/USEA rules for specifications.

Events are open to any horse or pony ridden by either a child/junior or an adult competitor. The points must be earned at a recognized USEA event or mini event approved by MI-SHO by the same horse and rider combination to qualify for the EOY awards. It is the individual member's responsibility to report his or her own scores to the show secretary on the MI-SHO Eventing Score Report form within 20 days of the competition. Scores must have the signature of the show secretary or organizer, or the USEA result summary from the USEA website (or comparable website results) may be submitted.

EOY awards for Eventing divisions will be as follows and will be separated into child/junior and adult competitor:

- Training Level and above
  - Beginner Novice and Novice
  - Starter and Green as Grass
- **Combined Tests/Eventing Derby:** competition consists of two distinct phases during which a competitor rides the same horse throughout. The tests will include dressage and jumping. The jumping

phase can either be Stadium jumping or a derby round.

Events are open to any horse or pony ridden by either a child/junior or an adult competitor. The points must be earned at an event recognized by MI-SHO by the same horse and rider combination to qualify for the EOY awards. EOY awards will be divided into Junior and Adult.

MI-SHO reserves the right to combine classes/levels for EOY awards.

## 12. End of Year (EOY) Awards

Awards will be presented to the owners of those horses competing in the hunter/ jumper classes and the riders competing in the hunter derby/equitation/dressage/Eventing classes earning the six highest standings in divisions listed in the current rule book.

***MI-SHO reserves the right to combine any divisions for the EOY awards for any reason. If nominations warrant, the divisions may be divided at the discretion of the board.***

***\*\*To be eligible for a division's EOY award, a horse/rider must have received points in that division in at least two shows during that show year.\*\****

- The point secretary will use every care to achieve accuracy in computing the standings, but neither the secretary nor the association will be liable for the failure of any show management to file the results of their show, nor for errors or omissions in the marking thereof, nor responsible beyond the point of accuracy in computing the final standings from the results submitted by the proper authorities of each show.
- Only those points earned at MI-SHO recognized shows conducted under the rules and regulations of the association will be included in reckoning the standings. Exception: Points for Eventing EOY award may be earned at any recognized USEA Event or MI-SHO approved mini event.
- Any horse ridden by a member will be eligible for EOY awards. Horses ridden by non-members will not accrue points for EOY awards. Points earned during any hunter or jumper class will be issued to the horse for EOY awards. Points earned during equitation classes will be awarded to the rider for EOY awards. Dressage/Eventing/Hunter Derby points will be issued to the horse/rider combination.
- A horse/rider combination may only receive one dressage, and/or one eventing award per competitive season. If a rider is eligible for more than one award in either dressage, or eventing, then the highest award or the award at the highest level is received.

- MI-SHO POINT SYSTEM

Classes with less than 3 entries at a local show will be awarded half the designated points.

PLACING	THREE OR MORE IN A CLASS	LESS THAN THREE IN A CLASS
FIRST	6	3
SECOND	5	2.5
THIRD	4	



FOURTH	3	
FIFTH	2	
SIXTH	1	

- Riders/Mounts who are eliminated in any over fences class, regardless of number of competitors in the class, will not accrue points towards EOY awards in that Division for that class. The following constitute elimination: three refusals, off course, jumping a course before it is reset, bolting from the ring, fall of horse or rider, stopping for loss of shoe or broken equipment.
- In addition, for Eventing competitors only, 3 points will be awarded for a clear cross country round and 1 point will be awarded for completing an event.
- The hunter competitors must attempt/complete the course in at least one class over fences in a division to be eligible to earn points in the under saddle classes.
- Members will receive points retroactively to December 1<sup>st</sup> if their membership form is received by March 1<sup>st</sup>. After March 1<sup>st</sup>, points will be accrued starting at the date of membership.
- There is no back dating of the points allowed. If a competitor joins during the middle of the show year/after March 1st, they will only be allowed to earn points from that date forward.

### 13. Ties

In the event of a tie for the EOY awards for either the Champion or Reserve Champion the following method will be used to break the tie:

#### Hunter Division

Most 1<sup>st</sup> places won over fences

Most 1<sup>st</sup> places won

#### Dressage

Average of the two highest dressage scores

Most 1<sup>st</sup> places won

#### Jumpers

Most 1<sup>st</sup> places won

#### Eventing

Per USEA rule