



Mid Illinois Sport Horse Organization

Rule Book

Current as of January 2016

1. Membership

- **Individual Membership:** \$25.00

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:** \$40.00

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

2. General Rules

- Mid Illinois Sport Horse Organization defers to the USEF rules unless specified here.
- 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.
- All decisions made by Management are final.
- **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 Mar 1st, points will be accrued starting at the date of membership.**
- Protests:
 - A judge's decision, representing his individual preferences, is not open to protest unless it is alleged to be in violation of the rules.
 - The soundness of a horse, when determined by an official veterinarian of the show or by the judge, is not open to protest.
 - 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.
 - Once it is received the Board of Directors will meet within 30 days and make a ruling.
 - 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.

- 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.
 - The protestor will be notified of the results by a member of the Board of Directors.
- 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.
 - Anyone bringing a horse/pony on to the show grounds must present a negative Coggins test.

3. Competitor Specifications

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

4. Horse Welfare

The following acts are prohibited under USEF RULES, HU 102

- Riding an exhausted horse.
- Excessive pressuring of a tired horse.
- Riding or lungeing 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 MISHO 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 MISHO 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.

5. 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 11th 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 50th birthday before December 1st 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"

- **Novice Child/Adult Hunter** is open to any horse or pony ridden by an **amateur** exhibitor who has never competed over fences in any class in which fence height exceeds 3'3". The number of ribbons won previously does not affect the rider's eligibility for this division. A rider may cross-enter Children's Hunter, Amateur Adult Hunter, or any other 3' division at the same show but may not ride the same horse entered in this division.

Fence height: 2'9"

- **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:**

Open to any horse or pony ridden by either a child/junior or an adult competitor. Classes are to be scored under Table I; Table II, section 2, 3 or 4 or Table IV.

- **Beginner Jumper** is open to any horse/rider combination in their first or second year of showing jumpers at any recognized show including local, rated, and open shows below 0.70 m before December 1 of the current show year.

Fence height: 0.60 m (2')

- **Intro/Novice Jumper** is open to any horse/rider combination in their first or second year of showing jumpers at any recognized show including local, rated, and open shows at 0.70 m and above before December 1 of the current show year.

Fence height: 0.70 - 0.80 m (2'3" – 2'6")

- **Child/Adult Jumper** is open to any horse/rider combination.

Fence height first round: 0.95 m (3'0). Fences may not be raised to more than 1.15 m (3'9)

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.

- **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.

- **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. Into B and Charity Class Intro B), the highest score earned from only one test will count for EOY awards. *We do have two day dressage shows that offer the same class each day*

- **Intro**

- **Training Level**

- **First Level and above**

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

6. 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.***

- 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.
- MISHO 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 each starter in front of whom you finish. Example: Placing 3rd of 9 with a clean round: 4 + 6 + 3 = 13 Pts. Finishing 7th of 12 with a fault on the cross country round: 5 Pts.

- 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 1st if their membership form is received by March 1st. After Mar 1st, 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.

7. 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 1st places won over fences

Most 1st places won

Dressage

Average of the two highest dressage scores

Most 1st places won

Jumpers

Most 1st places won

Eventing

Per USEA rules

8. 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.
- The 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.

9. Holding a Recognized Show

- Show Fees

SINGLE POINT VALUE-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.

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 and inclusion in MI-SHO Horse Network advertising

EVENTING COMPETITIONS will not themselves be recognized and are exempt from paying show fees. 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.

**Eventing competitions will not receive a database mailing of MISHO members to notify them of the show or inclusion in MI-SHO Horse Network advertising unless they pay a \$25 advertising fee* Approved events will be listed on the MI-SHO calendar of events.*

THE ONLY DOUBLE POINT SHOW WILL BE HELD BY THE MI-SHO ORGANIZATION

- 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.
- To reserve a show date from a previous year, the show management must register the show with the MI-SHO Horse Show Secretary by February 15.
- Show fees must be received by the MI-SHO secretary at least 30 days prior to the show.
- The show bill must state that the show is a MI-SHO recognized show. Failure to do so will result in no points being scored by the organization.
- 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.
- Typed or computer generated show results must be received by, or made available online, to the MI-SHO point secretary within 20 days of the completion of the show. Results will include the class name and number, number of entries, horse's name, rider's name and age, class placement and dressage scores, if applicable. Failure to return or make available the show results within 20 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.*
- USEF rules have precedence and any classes not covered by MI-SHO rules will be governed by USEF rules.

- 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.
- All entries must be accepted on the same basis in any class. It is not permissible for a show to accord free/reduced entries or free transportation or other expenses to one exhibitor and not to another.
- 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.
- Show management must designate and clearly mark an area away from the horses for the spectators to safely view the show.
- No oxers or in-and-outs may be used as a first fence of a line or course in any hunter class. An in and out is a combination of two jumps placed in such a way that on a normal 12-foot stride, the horse is expected to take 1 or 2 stride(s) between the jumps. Current USEF recommendations are that NO combinations be included in classes where the fences are set at less than 2’6”.
- Ground poles must be in place in front of all jumps.
- For Hunter classes: At least 75 percent of the obstacles must be at the *exact height*, spread across the height range specified for the division. The remaining 25 percent may vary up to a total of 2” below the minimum height as specified for the division.
- 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.

10. Regulations for Judges

- MI-SHO recommends that a judge not adjudicate at more than one member show within a radius of 100 miles within a 60 day period.

(Per USEF GR 1304)

- No horse may show before a judge who has received or has contracted to receive a remuneration for the sale, purchase or lease of any horse to or from, or for the account of said person within a period of 30 days prior to the show unless the sale or purchase has been made at public auction.
- No one may show before a judge who boards, rides, or trains (for horse show purposes) any horse under said person's ownership or lease within a period of 30 days prior to the show. Stud fees are excluded.
- No rider may compete in an equitation or dressage class before a judge with whom she, has been instructed, coached, or tutored with or without pay within 30 days of the show. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities such as Pony Clubs, **unless private instruction is given**, will not be considered as instruction, coaching or tutoring.
- No rider may compete in an equitation class before a judge by whom her parents, guardian or instructor has had any financial transaction in connection with the instruction, sale, lease, board or training of a horse within three months of the date of the show unless the sale or purchase has been made at public auction.
- 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.