

MHJA Eligibility Requirements

Updated November 2010

General MHJA Requirements:

The following requirements apply to all MHJA activities
(Regular Member or B-Circuit, C-Circuit, and Pony)

- A. All riders must wear ASTM/SEI approved riding helmets while mounted anywhere on the show grounds.
- B. To be eligible to earn points towards the Annual MHJA Division Championships, an exhibitor MUST be a current MHJA member “in good standing”. In addition, to have points accumulate towards MHJA Division Championships (other than equitation), the horse or pony must also be recorded with the MHJA for the show season.
- C. To become an MHJA member, a Member application form must be completed and submitted with a dues payment of \$30.00 per member.
- D. All horses and ponies, regardless of breed, are eligible to be recorded by the MHJA for a show season. All horses and ponies must be recorded with an MHJA member “in good standing” listed as owner or lessee. The Recording fee is \$10.00 per horse and payment must be submitted with a completed Recording application.
- E. Membership application forms and horse Recording forms are available at the MHJA office, on the MHJA website, in MHJA show prize lists, and at MHJA Recognized Horse Shows. These forms may be mailed to the MHJA office or submitted to Show Secretaries at MHJA Recognized Horse Shows. For Annual Championship points or Medal qualifications to count, forms must be postmarked or submitted prior to/or on the last day of the competition.
- F. A rider who is eligible to compete in a division at the start of the show season will remain eligible to compete in that division for the entire show season, except in instances where the rules provide an “immediately ineligible” clause. If a rider violates that clause, the rider is immediately ineligible to continue showing in that particular division.
- G. A Junior member is a person who has not yet reached their 18th

birthday. The age of an individual on December 1, shall be the age that person maintains throughout the entire show season. Persons born after December 1, shall assume the greater age for the entire show season.

H. Amateur (Adult) Members are those persons who after their 18th birthday have not engaged in any of the following activities which would make him/her a professional. There must be no uncertainty regarding his/her status:

1. accepts remuneration for riding, driving, training, schooling or conducting clinics or seminars.
2. Accepts remuneration for giving instruction in equitation or horse training. (Persons acting as counselors at summer camps, who are not hired in the capacity of riding instructors, are excluded and persons giving instruction to the handicapped
3. Gives instruction to any person who rides, drives, or shows any horse and/or rides or trains a horse for which activity another person will receive remuneration for this activity
4. Accepts remuneration for selling horses/ponies, acts as a paid agent in the sale of horses/ponies or takes horses/ponies on consignment for the purpose of sale or training other than those owned wholly or in part by him/her
5. A person whose Adult status is in question need not be a current member of the MHJA. The signature of a person on an entry blank at an MHJA approved show compels the signatory to follow and accept the By-Laws and Rules of the MHJA, and hence the decisions of the Voting Membership, the governing body of the MHJA.

I. Professional members are persons over the age of 18, who are deemed professional by the MHJA Voting Membership. These Professional members are people who have engaged in activities which would make them a professional.

J. Offspring of Professional members shall be considered professionals on their 18th birthday. However they may write to the MHJA Voting Membership requesting reclassification as an Amateur.

K. The MHJA Voting Membership shall review the membership status of the spouse of a Professional member individually.

L. A Professional member, who has been inactive for at least six months and desires to be reclassified as an Amateur, must notify the MHJA Voting Membership in writing. The Voting Membership will review this request and if approved, an Amateur membership will be issued six months after the approval date.

- M. Ribbons (points) awarded at the C-Circuit shows DO NOT affect a rider's eligibility at Regular Member B-Circuit shows and Pony shows. Ribbons (points) awarded in MHJA Pony and USEF Pony classes DO NOT affect a rider's eligibility at Regular Member shows. Ribbons (points) awarded at Pony and Regular Member shows DO affect a rider's eligibility at C-Circuit shows.
- N. Ribbons won in equitation on the flat classes DO NOT affect the rider's eligibility in equitation over fences classes. However, ribbons won in equitation over fences DO affect the rider's eligibility in equitation on the flat.
- O. Ribbons won in MHJA Junior classes DO affect an adult rider's eligibility.
- P. For points to count towards Annual MHJA Equitation Championship Division Awards, three riders must have been judged in the class. EXCEPTION: Beginner Junior Equitation & Beginner Adult Equitation where ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in a class.
- Q. For points to count towards Annual MHJA Hunter Championship Division Awards, three riders must have been judged in the class. Points are awarded according to the number of horses judged in the first Hunter Over Fences class in that division at the show, even if there are less horses competing in this division during the remaining days of the show. EXCEPTION: Beginner Junior Hunter & Beginner Adult Hunter where ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in a class.
- R. Medal Classes: A minimum of 4 competitors must complete the course in order to qualify the winner for the Medal Finals. EXCEPTION: Pony Mini Medal, Junior/Adult Medal, and Intermediate Adult Medal: during the season for these medals, the top 15 point accumulators for each will qualify to compete in the Medal Finals. ½ points will be awarded if there are less than 3 competitors in a class.
- S. Jumper Divisions: A minimum of three competitors must complete the course in a class in order to have points awarded. EXCEPTION: Modified Jumper- If less than three competitors complete the course in a class, ½ points will be awarded.
- T. Reinstatement of a Green status (Very Green, Baby Green, First Year Green, Second Year Green): If circumstances arise, a letter to request reinstatement of a green status can be written to the MHJA Voting Membership. The letter must be sent by December 1.

- U. All MHJA members MUST agree to follow the MHJA Code of Conduct
 - 1) Members will treat other members, non-member competitors, their guests, and their families with courtesy and respect at all times.
 - 2) Members will refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct (which includes actions, gestures, or speech) in the presence of other members, professionals, non-member competitors, and their guests or families.
 - 3) Members will refrain from the use of profanity in the presence of other members, professionals, non-member competitors, and their guests or families.

- V. Those accepting membership and working as professionals within the MHJA organization further agree:
 - 1) to ensure that the welfare of the MHJA is paramount
 - 2) to ensure that every horse shall at all times be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion
 - 3) to conduct all business affairs with integrity, sincerity and accuracy in an open and forth right manner
 - 4) To carry out professional duties with due care and diligence
 - 5) to act with integrity in financial dealings with clients, other professionals, and the public
 - 6) to handle business and operations in a manner which enhances the image of the MHJA
 - 7) to follow MHJA protocol to deal with problem resolution at horse shows
 - 8) to instill confidence among clients and the public in the horse industry, avoiding any action conducive to discrediting it or membership in the MHJA
 - 9) to communicate with clients and the public in a professional and responsible manner
 - 10) to develop their professional knowledge and skills
 - 11) to provide services conscientiously and competently
 - 12) to ensure that professional actions and general conduct help maintain the prestige of horse related activities and contribute to the quality and responsibility of the horse business