



The Ohio Professional Horsemen's Association

FOUNDED OCTOBER 1980

**RULE BOOK
2021 / 2022**

www.opha.org

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2020 – 2021
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POINT SYSTEM RULES

1. Owners, lessees, and equitation riders must be current members of the O.P.H.A. at the time the points are won for the points to count toward year-end awards.
2. Points remain with the horse when bought or sold, providing that new owner is a member of the O.P.H.A.
3. Each year's point system begins on December 1st and is in effect through October 31 of the following year. The dates of the final horse show that counts for points will be announced in the calendar.
4. A nomination fee must be paid for each horse with a nomination form before points will be counted toward yearly awards. This will be used to defray the cost of awards and expenses.
5. Nominating and membership forms are available for printing on the website (www.opha.org) or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the **Membership** Secretary. Forms might be available at horse shows, but forms are NOT to be turned in to the show secretary, unless a special arrangement has been made with O.P.H.A. and members informed in advance. Memberships and horse nominations can also be done online at www.opha.org, click the "Join" tab. Membership/nomination begins on the postmark date or when the credit card transaction is complete.
6. Points will be counted as follows:

1st place:	10 points	4th place:	2 points
2nd place:	6 points	5th place:	1 point
3rd place:	4 points	6th place:	1/2 point

7. Points will be determined according to the number of entries in the first class over fences in each section in hunter classes (except for Performance Hunter and High-Performance Hunter). Sections with 3 to 11 entries will receive single points; 12 to 17 entries shall receive double points; and 18 or more entries shall receive triple points. The same point system will apply to equitation classes, jumper classes, and Performance and High-Performance Hunter classes. This system shall apply to all O.P.H.A. approved shows regardless of USEF rating or location.
8. The OPHA abides by USEF rules and guidelines for suspended members. If any member of the OPHA is currently on the USEF Suspension List, that member as well as anyone doing business for or acting on behalf of said member, will not be permitted to attend or participate in any capacity at any OPHA sanctioned horse show, regardless of rating. Failure to comply will result in being asked to immediately vacate the horse show as well as a retraction of any points or awards earned. Please refer to rule GR704 in the USEF rulebook for addition details.

In compliance with USEF ruling on headgear, all persons riding at OPHA shows may not ride anywhere on the show grounds without ASTM/SEI-approved protective headgear (including harness secured and properly fitted). Riders will be prohibited from further riding until headgear is properly in place.

DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

In order to qualify for points for the annual O.P.H.A. Championship and/or High Score Awards, the **minimum height** for fences must be observed in each division. All O.P.H.A. divisions and classes will be run in accordance with O.P.H.A. rules. A nominated horse or pony must compete in its respective division at a minimum of two horse shows per year for points to count toward year-end awards.

Regardless of the number of entries in the first class over fences, the OPHA will sanction any subsequent class in a division to count for year-end awards only if a minimum of two entries have competed. 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 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).

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.

When a division is required to be held over two days (only at USEF AA & A [Premier and National] shows) and entry requires payment with a division fee (High Performance, Green, Amateur Owner, Junior, Pony, and Green Pony), if there are fewer than two (2) exhibitors on the second day, OPHA points will count.

Points will be awarded for hunter and jumper classics (not Derbies). The number of entrants for OPHA points in hunter classics is determined by the number of entrants in a) the first round of a stand-alone classic or b) the class in the division designated by the horse show as the first round of the classic.

Please also refer to the current USEF and USHJA Zone 5 Rule Books for any further clarifications.

VERY GREEN HUNTER: Open to horses and ponies in their first year of showing over fences at 2'6". Fences 2'6". Horses and ponies may not earn year-end points in any division with fences at 3' or higher in the same year and may only receive points in this section for one year. This division is called Baby Green Hunter in some organizations; always double check fence height and other specifications.

GREEN HUNTER 3' AND 3'3": A 3' / 3'3" Green Hunter is a horse of any age in its first or second year of showing over 3' to 3'3" fences at USEF Regular Member or Canadian Equestrian Federation shows or any national or international competition. Horses may only compete in one height section at a show, but may alternate from one show to another. Once a horse has shown 3'6" he is not eligible to compete in the Green Hunter 3' section. A horse is still eligible for the 3'3" section until it competes at 3'6" for the fifth time, then it becomes a 3'6" Green Hunter. Horses nominated for OPHA awards may only receive points in this division for two years. See USEF & USHJA Rule Books for additional specifications.

GREEN HUNTER 3'6" AND 3'9": Horses nominated for High Score Awards may receive points in this division for two years: once as a 3'6" horse and once as a 3'9" horse. See USEF & USHJA Rule Books for additional specifications.

HIGH PERFORMANCE HUNTER: Horses are not restricted by age or showing experience. See USEF & USHJA Rule Books for class specifications. Fences minimum 3'9".

PERFORMANCE HUNTER: Individual classes may be entered. See USEF & USHJA Rule Books for class specifications. Fences 3'3" or 3'6".

LOW ADULT HUNTER: Open to amateur riders. **The same horse/rider combination may nominate for only one of the following: Low Adult Hunter, Adult Amateur Hunter, Amateur Owner Hunter.** Fences 2'6". This division is called Intermediate Adult Hunter in some organizations; always double check fence height and other specifications.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER: Horses to be ridden by amateurs. Any rider showing in the Amateur Owner Hunter or Amateur Owner Jumper division may earn year-end points with 1 different horse in the Adult Amateur Hunter division. Fences 3', spreads not to exceed fence heights. Ponies may be shown by Adults, suitability to count. An unrestricted Children's/Adult Hunter division may be offered open to all Amateurs and Juniors, with fences not to exceed 3'3". **Same horse/rider combination may nominate for only one of the following: Low Adult Hunter, Adult Amateur Hunter, Amateur Owner Hunter.**

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. Rider may nominate for points in only this class *or* the Adult Equitation on the Flat.

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).

JUNIOR WORKING HUNTER: See USEF & USHJA Rule Books for class specifications. A junior rider may earn points in Children's Hunter and Junior Hunter on different horse(s) for one year. In subsequent years, the same horse/rider combinations cannot earn points for both divisions again. 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. A rider in Children's Hunter may only earn points with one Children's Hunter Pony in the same year. A rider may earn points in Children's Hunter and Junior Hunter on different horse(s) for one year. In subsequent years, the same horse/rider combinations cannot earn points for both divisions again.

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. 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". Riders may not earn points in any division on the same horse in which fences exceed 2'6" or on another horse in any division where fences exceed 3'3". This division is called Intermediate Children's Hunter in some organizations; always double check fence height and other specifications.

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 will not receive year-end points in that pony division if 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. Children's Hunter Pony riders are limited to earning year-end points on a maximum of one (1) different pony in the Green or Regular Pony Hunter section and one (1) horse in the Children's Hunter horse section at the same competition and in any division with fences not to exceed 3'5". 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: Open to riders 12 years of age and under. Points received in all classes go with the rider; however, the horse must be nominated. If a rider shows more than one horse or pony in the Short Stirrup division at the same show, only the highest scoring mount's points will be awarded to that rider for that show. 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 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; always double check fence height and other specifications.

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

CHILDREN'S JUMPER: Open to horses and ponies ridden by a junior exhibitor. Fences 1.10 m (3'6"). Shows might offer 1 class at 1.15 m (3'9"); this class will count for year-end points.

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").

ADULT JUMPER: Open to horses and ponies ridden by Amateurs. Fences 1.10 m (3'6"). Shows might offer 1 class at 1.15 m (3'9"); this class will count for year-end points.

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

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.

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

SCHOOLING SHOWS - CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & RULES

The OPHA will sanction a limited number of schooling shows during the year which will offer at least three of the following divisions: **Walk/ Trot X-Rails, Walk/Trot/Canter X-Rails, Pre-Limit, Limit Rider, Novice Rider**. In addition, the **Schooling Rider Medal** and the **Intro Jumper Division** may be offered.

Points needed to receive year-end awards are: Gold = 50, Silver = 30, Bronze = 17.

Points needed to receive year-end awards for Leadline only are: Gold = 30, Silver = 20, Bronze = 10.

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 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. This class must be placed on the judge's card regardless of ribbons awarded. Gold Level: 30 points, Silver Level 20 points, Bronze level 10 points

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..

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.

PRE-LIMIT RIDER (fence height 1'6"): No more than six entries to canter at one time. Course may be trotted. Slight mistakes will not be heavily penalized. 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.

The following will receive points toward year-end awards as outlined in Point System Rules, No. 6 and 7:

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 range, but riders may not enter both classes.

RULES

1. In order to receive points for High Score Honors riders must be current members and have selected Schooling divisions on their membership form. Horses need not be nominated.
2. Riders nominated for other OPHA rated divisions are not eligible for Schooling Show High Score Honors.
3. Points will not carry from one division to the next. The rider will, however, be eligible for year-end awards in **two** chronological divisions at the same time, except as noted for Leadline and Groundpole divisions on page 7. Points may be earned in both Walk/Trot Groundpoles and Walk/Trot/Canter Groundpoles.
4. A rider's age will be determined according to USEF rules – age as of December 1st of the current competition year.
5. The OPHA will recognize a limited number of Schooling Shows per year. Other OPHA shows may offer any or all of the Schooling Show Divisions, but points will not count toward year-end awards.
6. Horse shows applying for OPHA Schooling Show recognition must offer at least 3 of the 4 listed divisions.
7. 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.
8. 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).
9. 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.**

O.P.H.A. HORSE SHOW REQUIREMENTS

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

1. All horse show dates must be applied for in writing on the appropriate form, available online at OPHA.org, and submitted with payment of \$50 per show to OPHA, P. O. Box 23421, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023. Address labels for mailings to members available on request.
2. Any horse shows wishing OPHA approval must apply in writing on the appropriate form.
3. A check for \$50.00 made payable to the OPHA must be sent to the OPHA Championship Point Secretary **at least 30 days prior** to the date of the show.
4. Prize list and show results, including number of entries in OPHA rated classes, must be sent to the OPHA Championship Point Secretary, **within 10 days** of the close of the show. Failure to send results will incur a \$100.00 fine. Failure to return results within three months will prevent next year's protected date approval.
5. Only one OPHA rated show will be allowed within 75 miles on the same day **unless** the party holding the protected show date agrees to waive the restriction.
6. It is recommended that all OPHA shows have a USEF Recorded or Registered judge. Shows that are not USEF sanctioned may select from our OPHA Approved Judges list, consisting of professional horsemen. Request for permission to use a judge that is not listed on the "approved judges" list must be made at least 90 days in advance. Only a professional horseman may be requested. This list is located on our website (www. opha.org) under docs & forms.
7. Loss of points for failure to meet the above requirements is the responsibility of horse show management.
8. Any extraordinary circumstances on date approvals or changes will be handled by the Horse Show Committee.
9. **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.