



***NORTHERN ILLINOIS***

***HUNTER & JUMPER***

***ASSOCIATION***

***2025***

# Northern Illinois Hunter & Jumper Association

## Rules and Regulations for the 2025 show season

President: Valerie Buesching (2024 - 2025)  
31150 N. Gilmer Rd.  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
847-826-6005

Vice President: Jennifer Heldt (2025 – 2026)  
619 Majic Way  
Marengo, IL 60152  
630-709-4797

Secretary/Treasurer: Anna Van Gilder (2024 – 2025)  
1510 W. Northwest Hwy  
Palatine, IL 60067  
224-239-0222

### NIHJA Directors effective December 1, 2024 for the 2025 show season:

**Maureen Zahler** (2025-2026)  
847-846-5176

**Alexa Maiello** (2025-2026)  
630-945-7870

**Sari Polokow** (2024-2025)  
773-983-6652

**Barb Mangler** (2024-2025)  
847-361-4974

**Dean Battaglia** (2024-2025)  
815-245-1058

**Jessica Battaglia** (2024-2025)  
815-245-0242

**Alexis Bumbar** (2025-2026)  
630-542-3122

**Kelly Fendl** (2025-2026)  
630-373-5308

### Administrative Positions

Points Secretary: **Jessica Battaglia**  
815-245-0242

Junior Spokesperson: **Sahana Agrawal**

Website Maintenance: **Jennifer Heldt**  
630-709-4797

Website: **www.nihja.net**

Honorary Board Advisor **Nancy Zeis**  
847-922-2543

Stewards: **(NIHJA approved list)**

The above Officers and Directors will be collectively known as the Executive Board members. The Executive Board Members will act as members of the Show Standards Committee for all 2025 scheduled NIHJA shows.

## 1. Membership - Equal Opportunity

- A. There are no geographic limitations to memberships on individuals, stables, horses and/or shows.
- B. All persons wishing to have a NIHJA show and meeting NIHJA requirements will receive equal opportunity in obtaining a show date, subject to rules and regulations.
- C. The Annual Meeting will be open to all members and to the public. Two - (2) weeks prior notice of the Annual Meeting will be provided to the membership via email.

## 2. Executive Board:

- A. Officers - There shall be three (3) officers of the Northern Hunter Jumper Association (hereinafter "NIHJA"), President, Vice President and Treasurer. In order to be eligible for these positions, one must be a member in good standing (current member of NIHJA with no outstanding money owed) of NIHJA (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Officers").
- B. Directors. There shall be eight (8) Directors of the NIHJA. In order to be eligible for the position of Director, one must be a member in good standing of NIHJA (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Directors").
- C. The term "Executive Board" shall refer to the Officers and Directors of NIHJA collectively. The Executive Board shall be elected by a majority vote at a meeting of the membership, who are in good standing, held each October (hereinafter referred to as the "Annual Meeting") and each newly elected term will commence on the first day of December following the Annual Meeting.
- D. Officer terms shall be two (2) years and no one person may hold one position (President Vice President or Treasurer) more than 4 terms. Officers must first hold the position of Director for at least 2 terms.
- E. Director terms shall be 2 years in duration and half will be elected in even years and half will be elected on odd years.
- F. The Executive Board may take disciplinary action, when a member of the Executive Board is absent from a meeting of the Executive Board duly called and set by the President, more than three (3) meetings. Such disciplinary action may include be is not limited to a warning, a fine or dismissal from the Officer or Director position.
- G. **Vacancies:** In the case in which an Officer or a Director should have to vacate their position or be removed pursuant to Rule 2, The President with the approval of the Executive Board will appoint a member to fill the remainder of the term left vacant. In the case of the position of President is vacated, then the Vice President will assume the vacancy and make the necessary appointment to fill the office of Vice President.
- H. **Administrative:** The President shall appoint an Association Secretary, a Website Administrator and an Association Points Secretary. In addition, the President may appoint a Junior Spokesperson, and a Membership Liaison.
- I. **Association Secretary's Responsibility:** The Association Secretary shall carry out all administrative matters under the direct supervision of the President. The Association Secretary shall maintain the NIHJA Membership database and provide this database to the Association Points Secretary for every show.

- J. **Association Point Secretary's Responsibility:** The Association Points Secretary shall compile the points after every show and post them on the website as soon as possible. The Association Points Secretary is also responsible for maintaining the list of measurements for Pony, Small, and Large Hunter Divisions.
- K. **Treasurer's Responsibility:** The Treasurer shall have the responsibility to audit and submit a Treasury Report at the Annual Meeting and at all Executive Board Meetings, and pay any bill affiliated with NIHJA. The NIHJA Treasurer is also responsible for paying all expenses incurred by NIHJA from the NIHJA bank account. The Executive Board is authorized by the membership to direct the Treasurer to the money collected from Annual memberships, Annual Award Sponsors, Show Management fines, Show date fees and other miscellaneous income for the following purposes:
- a) Annual **Membership Mailings:** Postage, printing and miscellaneous office supplies expenses.
  - b) NIHJA **Medal Finals:** Invitation, Exhibitor party with a cap of 50% up to \$350 dollars, and flowers for Medal winners.
  - c) **NIHJA Annual Awards Banquet:** Invitations, Programs, DJ, Banquet Hall, Perpetual Trophy engraving and year-end Division Awards.
  - d) **Compensation:** The Association Secretary, Website Administrator, and the Association Points Secretary, the Web Site Manager and the Association Secretary will each be awarded paid a stipend of \$1,000 to be paid in two (2) increments of \$500. The first of these payments will be made after 10 horse shows; the second will be made after NIHJA Finals, no later than October 15th.
  - e) **Website:** Annual website hosting expense, Domain name, as well as additional programming that might be needed with the Executive Board's approve.
  - f) **Miscellaneous:** All other expenses incurred must be approved by the Executive Board all members of the Executive Board and must benefit or be used for the sole purpose of NIHJA. (Example: NIHJA measuring sticks).
- L. **Disciplinary Action:** The Executive Board shall act on all questions of discipline and any questions of interpretation of the bylaws, Rules and Regulations. The Executive Board is empowered to take any disciplinary action for violation of any of the by-laws, Rules or Regulations in the nature of specified fines, suspensions, warnings, etc.

The Executive Board may change no rules, rule changes can only be made by a majority vote of at the Annual Meeting.

### **3. Dues & Fees:**

- A. The Annual fee for individual membership and eligibility for Equitation Points and High Point Horse shall be \$30.00. Family membership, for up to three (3) horses, each with eligibility for Equitation Points and High Point Horse shall be \$50.00. Horse nominations are not allowed to be changed after initial registration. Additional horses must be registered separately. Family memberships get up to three (3) votes when applicable. If less than three (3) riders are nominated under a family membership, then each rider receives one (1) vote. The NIHJA Trainer membership shall be \$20.00 and will not include any horse nominations.

Additionally, in order for a member rider and their nominated horse's points to count, their trainer of record must be an NIHJA Individual member, a NIHJA Trainer member or the nominated trainer on a Stable Membership. A NIHJA Trainer membership will not include any nominated horses. A NIHJA Stable membership will be for horses only and will include one trainer.

An exhibitor must be on the current NIHJA membership list provided to the Show Secretary and if not on that list must become a member at that horse show for their points to count or to ride in a Medal class. If indeed the membership dues have been duplicated the NIHJA treasurer will refund any duplicate dues paid.

All NIHJA Members are expected to abide by the NIHJA Member Code of Conduct at all times. (NIHJA Member Code of Conduct can be found on the last page of the Rule Book) *\*added Oct 2022*

- B. Annual dues for each stable member shall be \$50.00. Stable membership includes up to ten (10) High Point nominations owned by the same stable. Individuals owning multiple horses may also utilize stable membership. Stable memberships include one Trainer nomination and receive one vote.
- C. The fee for NIHJA recognition of horse shows will be \$50.00 per day and per 1/2-day. A \$100 dollar fee, to be paid at the time the date is awarded, with the balance payable by March 1. This fee will be forfeited if the show is not held. If the fee is not paid in full by March 1 the show date awarded may be forfeited and the date may be awarded to another applicant. Forfeited show dates must be picked up thirty (30) days prior to the awarded show date.
- D. Transfer of Ownership: In the event of transfer of ownership of a horse during the show season, point accumulation will continue if a \$ 10.00 fee is paid to NIHJA and the horse is registered in the name of the new owner with NIHJA.
- E. Non-Members: It will be the responsibility of each show management to collect a \$50.00 non-membership fee from each entry not a current NIHJA member. The fees collected must be given to the Association or Points Secretary at the end of each horse show. Payment of this fee does not entitle any rider to enter a Medal Class. Nonmember fee = rider per horse.

Additionally, as all points are recorded throughout the show season, a non-member shall be given the option to pay a \$100.00 fee and the NIHJA Membership fee for rider and/or horse nomination to the Association in order to earn retroactive points to be counted towards a year end award, no refund of previously paid non-member fees will be awarded. The request and payment must be received no later than two (2) weeks following the completion of the NIHJA Finals. *\*amended Oct 2021*

- F. Medal Rider Fees: Show Management will pay NIHJA \$5.00 per rider competing in each of the NIHJA Medal classes held at the horse show.

#### **4. USEF Rules:**

USEF Rules may be applied unless otherwise stated by the rules of NIHJA within this book.

#### **5. By-Laws:**

- A. Annual Meetings: The Annual Meeting will be held in October of each year. Two (2) weeks notice of the Annual Meeting and Proposed Rule Changes will be provided to all NIHJA Members.
- B. Horse Show Meeting: The Horse Show Meeting will be held in October or November of each year. Two (2) weeks notice of the Horse Show Meeting will be provided to all NIHJA Members. All parties interested in holding a NIHJA show will be able to apply for a show date at this time.
- C. Amendments of By-Laws: The by-laws of NIHJA may be amended only by a 3/4 majority vote of all members of the Association.
- D. Rules & Regulations: Rules and Regulations of the Association may be amended by a majority vote at an annual Meeting. Should a rule change occur, the rule must remain in place for a period of 2 years before any change can be made to that rule. Proposed Rule Changes will be sent to all NIHJA members two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting but will not exclude new proposals brought forth from the floor at the Annual Meeting.
- E. Quorum: A minimum of five (5) Board Members is required to constitute a quorum at Executive Board meetings.
- F. Protest: the Executive Board will handle questions of protest and discipline. Protests at shows shall be made to both the Show Secretary and a Show Steward in writing. This is to be accompanied by a check payable to NIHJA for \$25.00. This check will be refunded if the protest is determined to be valid by the Executive Board Members. After completion of the show, protests may be made in writing within 72 hours to the President or the Association Secretary accompanied by a check for \$25.00 payable to NIHJA. Minors may protest. Trainers and exhibitors should be aware of all NIHJA rules. Should discrepancies occur causing riders to lose accrued points, NIHJA will not be responsible.
- G. Membership Lists: Are made available to any member of the Association upon request, but cannot be used, given out or sold for solicitation purposes.

#### **6. Awards:**

- A. Annual Awards Dinner: An Annual Awards Dinner will be held each year at which time the Annual High Point Awards, Sportsmanship Awards and Horse-Show of the Year Award will be made.
- B. Junior Sportsmanship Award: A Sportsmanship Award will be given at the end of each year to a Junior rider based upon the junior's attitude, sportsmanship and horsemanship for the entire show season. The Vice-President will select five (5) amateur adults from different stables who will be responsible for selection of the individual most worthy of this award. The Vice-President will make sure that this selection is completed one month prior to the Awards Banquet.
- C. Amateur Adult Sportsmanship Award: A Sportsmanship Award will be given at the end of each year to the Amateur Adult rider based on the individual's attitude, sportsmanship and horsemanship for

the entire show season. The President and the Junior Spokesperson(s) will select five (5) Juniors from different stables that will be responsible for selecting the individual most worthy of this award. The President will make sure that this selection is completed one month prior to the Awards Banquet.

- D. NIHJA Horse-Person of the Year Award: This award will be given to the individual whom the membership feels has contributed the most to the Association. Ballots will be emailed to all members for their vote.
- E. NIHJA Horse-Show of the Year Award: This award will be given to the show and show management whom the membership deems most worthy of special recognition. Ballots will be emailed to all members for their vote. All recognized NIHJA Horse Shows are eligible for this award.
- F. Special Awards: Special Awards may be provided by the Executive Board.
- G. Perpetual Trophies: An attempt will be made to obtain perpetual trophies in all divisions. Perpetual trophies may not be retired.
- H. Trophy Replacement: The Board reserves the right to identify trophies that need to be replaced due to the age/condition while preserving the history of the trophy.

## **7. Recognized Shows:**

- A. The annual show season shall start December 1 and continue through the Final Show - which will be no later than the second weekend of October - with the board's approval. Stewards for the NIHJA Finals Horse Show will be comprised of a group of three (3) NIHJA Board Members, no USEF Steward required. The weekend prior to the final show date will be an off-weekend.
- B. To participate in the show date lottery, you must represent or be the management of that show for the entire length of the horse show. The show must be billed under that show management name. Show Managers must be present throughout the entire horse show. Only one (1) person per applicant can select a show date.
- C. There shall be no co-recognition with other Hunter and Jumper associations with the exception of USEF and USHJA.
- D. Fees for NIHJA recognition are as stated in Section 3C.
- E. Show management requesting dates at the Annual Meeting must meet the following requirements. Show Management eligible for the first drawing must be a member in good standing in the current year and have held a recognized NIHJA show with at least 40 NIHJA member riders. Failure to meet the 40 NIHJA member rider minimum for one year will not result in the loss of first round draw eligibility. Failure to meet the 40 NIHJA member rider minimum for two consecutive years will result in a loss of first round draw eligibility. If Show Management will not meet the 40 NIHJA member rider minimum and chooses to cancel the show, the deadline to cancel the show without penalty will be Monday prior to the competition at 5pm. The NIHJA President, NIHJA Association Secretary and all trainers of received entries and stall reservations must receive notification of cancellation by that time. Show Management will incur a fine of \$250 if this rule is violated. Exceptions will be considered by the NIHJA Board in cases of extreme circumstances.

Competition Calendar- The 2025 NIHJA Board will suggest the 2026 calendar of available show dates and mail the suggested dates to show managers with the Annual Meeting agenda.

The Show season will be divided into two (2) separate horse show draw seasons:

- 1) A winter season ending on April 15
- 2) A summer season ending with NIHJA Finals.
- 3) The number of summer horse show dates will be at most 11 plus NIHJA Finals (12 total). There may be 6 winter horse show dates.

Management that has been continually fined for contract infractions will not be able to draw from the first lottery winter or summer draws. A second lottery draw for winter or summer will be open to all Show Management desiring to host a show. Show facility will be limited to host only two (2) shows per season, unless due to an emergency type situation (closure or quarantine of a facility, loss of use of facility, safety concerns at a facility) and the approval of the NIHJA Board a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) show may be hosted at the facility.

The NIHJA Finals have no restrictions on facilities and may be the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) show at any facility meeting the requirements of our Association and with the capabilities to host the event. A majority vote of the Executive Board can make exceptions to show date availability. "Good Standing" is determined at the discretion of the Executive Board. Any applications for show dates after the Annual Meeting will be awarded to the residual requests kept from the lottery.

- F. Show Managements will be limited to no more than two (2) draws for recognized shows per season. All Show Management must inform the NIHJA President and Executive Board by December 1 of the location of their NIHJA show. If the location of the declared facility changes, the NIHJA board must approve and requires 30 days change notice.
- G. Simultaneous NIHJA recognized shows are permitted provided they are greater than 50 miles apart. Simultaneous recognized shows within the 50-mile limit may be permitted provided the Show Management's of both shows agree.
- H. Cancellations, change of show dates and new show dates will be permitted provided the new show date does not conflict with any NIHJA rules and the Show Management sends notice by postcard or letter via first class mail or email to all current members at least thirty (30) days prior to the invalid show date. Failure to do so will result in loss of recognition at future shows for the remainder of that show season and for the following show season, forfeiture of any fees paid, and further disciplinary or punitive action as the Executive Board may see fit. Horse shows cannot be traded, sold or transferred. Any cancellations will be awarded to the next party on the waiting list.
- I. At a recognized show, the decision of the show steward(s) is final and supersedes all others made by the Show Management. Two (2) NIHJA Board Members will be appointed official stewards at a NIHJA Horse Show, however if one of the appointed Stewards is not available another NIHJA Board Member present at that Show may be appointed an acting steward.
- During a NIHJA competition should a competitor, trainer or parent wish to approach the judge a NIHJA Steward must be contacted and be present.
- J. Mandatory and Optional Divisions, see Section 8K.
- K. Either two (2) day or three (3) day shows are allowed. A two (2) day show must be held on Saturday and Sunday, a three (3) day show must be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, however an exception may be made to accommodate a show date that falls on a major holiday (i.e. Easter Sunday). There are to be no more than two recognized shows in any month when there are four (4) Saturdays or



four (4) Sundays in that month, and no more than three recognized shows in a month when there are five (5) Saturdays or five (5) Sundays in that month. When the Finals are in September, there may be three (3) shows. There may not be more than two (2) shows in any three week period. The Finals may be four (4) full days. The final horse show must have a minimum of 2 rings. The five (5) NIHJA Medal Finals requires two (2) "R" Judges.

- L. The NIHJA Board reserves the right to refuse show dates to applicants who do not meet the Show Standards listed in Appendix A. Applicants must meet all standards sixty (60) days prior to the Horse Show date.
- M. All recognized shows must conform to the NIHJA standards for recognized shows (Appendix A) and sign the appropriate Show Agreement.
- N. A \$50.00 penalty for each violation of a NIHJA Show Standard, NIHJA rule or USEF rule may be assessed by the Executive Board.

## **8. Show Management Responsibilities**

- A. Judges: All judges must be recognized by USEF and all judges' names must be submitted to the Association President and/or Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the show otherwise there will be up to a \$500 fine imposed. No judge shall judge more than one (1) NIHJA recognized show during the Winter Season and no more than two (2) NIHJA recognized shows during the Summer Season per year. No judge shall judge any show within fifty (50) days of the last show he/she has judged during the Summer Season. Judge's names submitted by the Show Management's are to be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis if conflicts should arise. If a second judge is called in at the last minute, it will not count as a second show judging. Regardless of the reason for the change, the Executive Board MUST approve all changes in judges otherwise there will be up to a \$500 fine imposed. All judges at Finals must be "R" rated in H, J, and H/E and cannot have judged any other NIHJA show that year. The Executive Board must approve the judges for the Medal Finals sixty (60) days prior to the show and requires that two (2) "R" Judges judge the five (5) Medal Finals. *\*amended Oct 2022*
- B. In the event of a time problem with a show, a second judge may be utilized with both permission and judge approval given by a majority of the Show Standards Committee present.
- C. Prize Lists: Prize lists for all shows must be posted to the NIHJA website (nihja.net) not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the show date. Prize lists will be emailed to all NIHJA members to the email address provided on the membership form. Members are also offered the option to request paper copies of prize lists to be sent to them via US Postal Service by selecting this option on their NIHJA Membership form, show managements are required to send prize lists via the members preferred option. Non-compliance will result in a fine of \$50 against Show Management.
- D. Awards: Prizes and six (6) ribbons will be offered for all Hunter, Equitation, Jumper, Ground Poles, Cross rails, Short-Stirrup, Long-Stirrup and Rusty Stirrup Classes. Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons are mandatory if championships are offered. Prizes for championships for Hunter, Equitation, Jumper, Ground Poles, Cross rails, Short-Stirrup, Long-Stirrup and Rusty Stirrup are mandatory. *\*amended Oct 2022*
- E. Headgear: Any mounted individual cannot ride anywhere on the show grounds without wearing headgear passing the testing standards. The harness must be secured and if such headgear has a brim, it must be flexible or semi-flexible. Any rider violating this rule, at any time, must immediately be prohibited from further riding until the headgear is properly in place. (USEF Rule).

- F. All NIHJA recognized shows must have Membership forms available to competitors. These forms will be provided by NIHJA or are available online at nihja.net.
- G. Show management must be responsible for the knowledge of all NIHJA and USEF rules and have the rule book present on the premises AT ALL TIMES.
- H. The new NIHJA membership forms, checks or cash from new NIHJA memberships, all collected non-member fees, all collected Medal fees, and all protests must be either given in person to the NIHJA President, NIHJA Secretary/Treasurer or NIHJA Point Secretary at the end of the show, or mailed to the NIHJA Secretary/Treasurer with a postmark dated no later than the Tuesday following the horse show. Failure to provide the materials within the specified time will incur a fee consistent with Section 7 letter N.
- I. The list of non-members (including trainers), list of results by class, list of Champion and Reserve Champion prizes for each division, list of entries by number, list of entries by trainer, and all judge's cards must be either given in person to the NIHJA President, NIHJA Secretary/Treasurer or NIHJA Point Secretary at the end of the show, or mailed to the NIHJA Point Secretary with a postmark dated no later than the Tuesday following the horse show. Additionally, the Show Secretary must provide, for all combined classes, which age group each rider belongs in or which division each horse belongs in. Failure to provide the materials within the specified time will incur a fee consistent with Section 7 letter N.
- J. Non-member fees collected as per Section 3E must be given to the Points Secretary, President or the Association Secretary at the end of each show or mailed to the Secretary/Treasurer with a postmark dated no later than the Tuesday following the show.
- K. Rule Violations: Show Management is required to notify the Association or Points Secretary on or before the return of the points of any violation and the details thereof. A committee of three (3) Executive Board members shall be approved by the President as a Rules Committee and determine whether or not Executive Board action is necessary and shall notify the show competitor of such ruling. (See Section 2G and Section 5E)
- L. Division: Recognized shows must offer the thirty-three (33) Mandatory Divisions and the five (5) Medal Classes as shown below with a minimum of three (3) classes per hunter division, two (2) classes per equitation division, two (2) classes per jumper division and can select any other NIHJA divisions, classes, or any other divisions or classes as necessary. The selection is left to the discretion of the individual Show Management. Three (3) riders must **complete** the course for the over fences classes and three (3) riders must **complete** the under saddle class in order for Champion and Reserve Champion points to be awarded for any Hunter, Jumper or Equitation division. If a division does not fill with 3 riders (Equitation), 3 horses (Jumper) or 3 horses (Hunter) and are listed in the under Combining Divisions they **MUST** be combined with the exception of the Long Stirrup, Rusty Stirrup and Beginner Adult divisions. *\*amended Oct. 2020* If there are less than three (3) riders entered or less than three (3) riders completing any of the classes in the division only class points will be awarded and there will be no division Champion or Reserve Champion points awarded. *\*amended Oct. 2019*

**a) Mandatory Divisions:**

- 1) **Low Junior Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'9". Ponies may enter the Division but will not be allowed to cross enter into the Pony Hunter classes at the same competition. Riders **may** cross enter into the High Junior Hunter classes at the same show. *\*Name change Oct 2024*
- 2) **High Junior Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 3'0". Ponies may enter the Division but will not be allowed to cross enter into the Pony Hunter classes at the same competition. Riders **may** cross enter into the Low Junior Hunter classes at the same show. *\*Name change Oct 2024*
- 3) **Amateur-Adult Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 3'0". Open to any adult rider who is of amateur eligibility.
- 4) **Low Working Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'9".
- 5) **Training Jumpers** – Fence height 3'.
- 6) **Low Junior Equitation** - Fences not to exceed 2'9". Ponies may enter the Division but will not be allowed to cross enter into the Pony Hunter classes at the same competition. Riders may not cross enter into the High Junior Equitation classes at the same show. *\*Name change Oct 2024*
- 7) **High Junior Equitation** - Fences not to exceed 3'. Ponies may enter the Division but will not be allowed to cross enter into the Pony Hunter classes at the same competition. Riders may not cross enter into the Low Junior Equitation classes at the same show. *\*Name change Oct 2024*
- 8) **Modified Child Equitation** - Fences not to exceed 2'6". The Horse/Rider Combination cannot show higher than 2'9" at that show.
- 9) **Modified Adult Equitation** - Fences not to exceed 2'6". The Horse/Rider Combination cannot show higher than 2'9" at that show.
- 10) **Amateur Adult Equitation** - Fences not to exceed 2'9". Open to any adult rider who is of amateur status.
- 11) **Low Jumper** – Fences not to exceed 2'9". The only other Jumper Divisions a horse and rider combination can cross enter are the Training Jumper and the High Training Jumper or the Schooling Jumper and Training Jumper or the Puddle Jumper and the Schooling Jumper at that show.
- 12) **Pony Hunter** - For ponies 14.2 hands and under only. Fences do not exceed 2'0" for small ponies; 2'3" for medium ponies; and 2'6" for large ponies. Also, lines do not need to be adjusted but is strongly recommended. A NIHJA measurement card may substitute for an USEF measurement card.

Ponies can cross-enter in Children's Hunter classes. Winnings in this division will not affect the rider's Children's Hunter division status. Ponies may not enter the Pony Hunter Division if they are entered in any Junior Hunter Division at the same competition. *\*amended Oct 2021*

Ages for the pony riders are as follows: 12 years and under may ride Small Ponies; 14 years and under may ride medium ponies, and Juniors 17 and under may ride large ponies. An adult rider is allowed to ride a pony in the Long Stirrup and Beginner Adult divisions even if the same pony is being ridden by a child in the Pony Divisions.

- 13) **Pony Equitation** – (See Pony Hunter for standards, change Hunter to Equitation).
- 14) **Pre-Green Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'6". Open to horses showing in their first year only. If a horse has shown 3 shows or less for the current season, an owner can petition in writing the board for reinstatement of their horse's pre-green status no later than 2 weeks after the completion of NIHJA Finals. If reinstatement is granted, the horse will lose any points earned during the current season. A horse's pre-green status is not affected if it has only shown the Schooling Hunters or the Training Hunters. *\*revisions made Oct 2021*
- 15) **Training Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'6". Entries in this division do not affect a horse's pre-green status.
- 16) **Open Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 3'0".
- 17) **Short Stirrup Equitation** - This will consist of W/T, W/T/C and O/F classes. Fences not to exceed 1'6". Open to children 12 & under. Riders may cross enter in only the Beginner Rider Division and Junior Hunter Flat, Pony Hunter Flat, Children's Hunter Flat, Limit Rider Hunter Flat. Warm-up rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the O/F class. Martingales are allowed in all Short-Stirrup classes.
- 18) **Short Stirrup Hunter** - This will consist of two (2) O/F classes and one (1) U/S class. Fences not to exceed 1'6". Open to children 12 & under. Riders may cross enter in only the Beginner Rider Division, and Junior Hunter Flat, Pony Hunter Flat, Children's Hunter Flat, Limit Rider Hunter Flat. Warmup rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the O/F class. Martingales are allowed in all Short-Stirrup classes.
- 19) **Modified Adult Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'6". The Horse/Rider Combination cannot show higher than 2'9" at that show.
- 20) **Modified Childrens Hunter** – Fences not to exceed 2'6". The Horse/Rider Combination cannot show higher than 2'9" at that show.
- 21) **Beginner Adult Rider Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'0". Open to adult riders who are of amateur status. Riders must not have shown higher than 2'6" at any Association recognized competition and may not show higher than 2'3" at that show. *\*amended Oct 2023*
- 22) **Beginner Childrens Rider Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'0". Riders must not have shown higher than 2'6" at any Association recognized competition and may not show higher than 2'3" at that show. *\*amended Oct 2023*
- 23) **Beginner Adult Rider Equitation** - Fences not to exceed 2'0". Riders must not have shown higher than 2'6" at any Association recognized competition. Open to adult riders who are of amateur status. Riders may not cross enter into the Limit Adult Equitation Division *\*amended Oct 2022*

- 24) **Beginner Childrens Rider Equitation** - Fences not to exceed 2'0". Riders must not have shown higher than 2'6" at any Association recognized competition. Riders may not cross enter into the Limit Childrens Equitation Division. *\*amended Oct 2022*
- 25) **Limit Adult Rider Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'3". Riders cannot show higher than 2'6" at that show. Open to adult riders who are of amateur status.
- 26) **Limit Childrens Rider Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'3". Riders must not have shown higher than 2'6" at any Association recognized competition. *\*amended Oct 2022*
- 27) **Limit Adult Rider Equitation** - Fences not to exceed 2'3". Riders cannot show higher than 2'6" at that show. Open to adult riders who are of amateur status. Riders may not cross enter into the Beginner Adult Equitation Division.
- 28) **Limit Childrens Rider Equitation** - Fences not to exceed 2'3". Riders must not have shown higher than 2'6" at any Association recognized competition. Riders may not cross enter into the Beginner Childrens Equitation Division. *\*amended Oct 2022*
- 29) **Long Stirrup Hunter** - This will consist of two (2) O/F classes and one (1) U/S class. Fences not to exceed 1'6". Open to any riders 13 -35 years. Riders may cross enter in only the Beginner Rider Division, and Amateur-Adult Hunter U/S, Childrens Hunter U/S, Novice Hunter U/S, Adult Hunter U/S, Amateur-Adult Equitation Flat, Non-Pro Hunter U/S, Limit Rider Hunter U/S. Warm-up rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the O/F class. Martingales are allowed in all Long-Stirrup classes.
- 30) **Long Stirrup Equitation** - This will consist of W/T, W/T/C and O/F classes. Fences not to exceed 1'6". Open to any riders 13-35 years. Riders may cross enter in only the Beginner Rider Division, and Amateur-Adult Hunter U/S, Childrens Hunter U/S, Novice Hunter U/S, Adult Hunter U/S, Amateur-Adult Equitation Flat, Non-Pro Hunter U/S, Limit Rider Hunter U/S. Warm-up rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the O/F class. Martingales are allowed in all Long-Stirrup classes.
- 31) **Rusty Stirrup Hunter** – Open to Riders 36 yrs. and over. Riders may cross enter in only the Beginner Rider Division, and Amateur-Adult Hunter U/S, Novice Hunter U/S, Adult Hunter U/S, Amateur-Adult Equitation Flat, Non-Pro Hunter U/S, Limit Rider Hunter U/S. Warm-up rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the O/F class. Martingales are allowed in all Rusty Stirrup classes *\*division added Oct 2019*
- 32) **Rusty Stirrup Equitation** – Open to Riders 36 yrs. and over. Riders may cross enter in only Beginner Rider Division, and Amateur-Adult Hunter U/S, Novice Hunter U/S, Adult Hunter U/S, Amateur-Adult Equitation Flat, Non Pro Hunter U/S, Limit Rider Hunter U/S. Warm-up rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the O/F class. Martingales are allowed in all Rusty Stirrup classes. *\*division added Oct 2019*

- 33) **NIHJA Childrens Mini-Medal Class** - Fences 2'3". Riders may not show higher than 2'9" in any class for the current year. Riders may not enter any other Medals classes at the same horse show.
- 34) **NIHJA Childrens Medal Class** – Fences 2'9". Riders may not show higher than 3' in any class for the current year. Riders may not enter any other Medals classes at the same horse show.
- 35) **NIHJA Adult Mini-Medal Class,** - Fences 2'6". Riders may not enter any other Medals classes at the same horse show.
- 36) **NIHJA Junior Medal Class** – 17 & Under. Fences 3'0". Riders may not enter any other Medals classes at the same horse show.
- 37) **NIHJA Senior Medal Class** - 18 & Over. Fences 3'0". Riders may not enter any other Medals classes at the same horse show.

**b) Optional Divisions:**

- 1) **Maiden Hunter** (formerly Children's Hunter) - For horses and ponies. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Open to junior or amateur adult riders who have not won six (6) blue ribbons, over fences, prior to December 1, 2024 at a recognized Hunter/Jumper Association show. Ribbons won in classes under 2'6" do not affect eligibility. Eligible Junior/Amateur Hunters can cross enter.
- 2) **Thoroughbred Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'9".
- 3) **Adult Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'9". Open to any adult rider who is of amateur status.
- 4) **High Training Jumper** - Fence height 3'3". Open to all Junior, Amateur or Professional riders. *\*amended and renamed Oct. 2020*
- 5) **Combined Jumper** – Fence height 3'6" - 3'9", with 20% of jumps at 3'9".
- 6) **Non-Thoroughbred Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'9".
- 7) **Small Hunter** - For horses under 16.0 hands. Fences not to exceed 3'0". A NIHJA measurement card may substitute for an USEF measurement card.
- 8) **Large Hunter** - For horses 16.0 hands and over. Fences not to exceed 3'3". A NIHJA measurement card may substitute for an USEF measurement card.
- 9) **Non-Pro Working Hunter** – Division will be run at two (2) different fence heights, 2'9" and 3', rider must elect only one (1) fence height in which to compete at that competition. Judging for both fence heights will be combined on 1 (one) judge's card. Open only to non-professional riders, who do not compete in divisions with conflicting height restrictions. *\*amended Oct 2021*

- 10) Regular Working Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 3'6". Horses that have previously earned the status of Second year Green in any Hunter-Jumper Association show must now be classified as Regular Working Hunter.
- 11) Schooling Hunter** - Fences not to exceed 2'0". Open to any horse or pony. Entries in this division do not affect a horse's pre-green status. *\*Division added Oct 2021*
- 12) Schooling Jumper** – Fences not to exceed 2'6". The only other Jumper Divisions a horse and rider combination can cross enter are the Puddle Jumper and Low Jumper divisions or the Low Jumper and Training Jumper divisions. *\*Division Name changed Oct 2020*
- 13) Puddle Jumper** – Fences not to exceed 2'3". The only other Jumper divisions a horse and rider combination can cross enter are the Schooling Jumper and the Low Jumper divisions at that show. *\*Division added Oct 2020*
- 14) Ground Poles Hunter** - Open to Riders of any age. This division will consist of two (2) over poles classes and one (1) U/S class. The course will be once around over a course consisting of 4 ground poles, ground poles will be set between 2 wing standards and be judged at either the trot or canter. The U/S class will be judged at the Walk, Trot only. Warm up rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the O/P class. Martingales are allowed in all Ground Poles classes. *\*division added Oct 2022*
- 15) Ground Poles Equitation** - Open to Riders of any age. This division will consist of two (2) over poles classes and one (1) U/S class. The course will be once around over a course consisting of 4 ground poles, ground poles will be set between 2 wing standards and be judged at either the trot or canter. The U/S class will be judged at the Walk, Trot only. Warm up rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the O/P class. Martingales are allowed in all Ground Poles classes. *\*division added Oct 2022*
- 16) Cross Rails Hunter** - Open to Riders of any age. This division will consist of two (2) Cross Rails O/F classes and one (1) U/S class. The course will be once around over a course consisting of 4 cross rails and will be judged at the trot or canter. The U/S class will be judged at the Walk, Trot only. Warm up rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the start of the O/F class. Martingales are allowed in all Cross Rails classes. *\*division added Oct 2022*
- 17) Cross Rails Equitation** - Open to Riders of any age. This division will consist of two (2) Cross rRails O/F classes and one (1) U/S class. The course will be once around over a course consisting of 4 cross rails, and will be judged at the trot or canter. The Flat class will be judged at the Walk, Trot only. Warm up rounds may be allowed at the discretion of the Show Management provided it is announced prior to the start of the start of the O/F class. Martingales are allowed in all Cross Rails classes. *\*division added Oct 2022*
- 18) Novice Hunter**: Open to any horse or pony. Fences not to exceed 2'3" *\*division added Oct 2024*

M. Class Splits. See USEF Rule Book. There is a mandatory California split with class sizes of 18 or more riders at fence heights of 2'3" and above. In classes 2' and below, it is the discretion of horse show management to determine the number of competitors they wish to split at. *\*amended Oct 2023*

- N. **Championships:** Championships shall be awarded only when there are a minimum of three (3) classes in Hunter Divisions, and two (2) classes in Equitation and Jumper Divisions. Championship and Reserve places will go to the two (2) top horses/riders in a division and must be in the top four (4) over fences to qualify, with the exception of the Short Stirrup and Long Stirrup Hunter & Equitation Divisions. In order to be eligible for Champion and Reserve Champion, the rider or horse MUST be entered in the entire division; it is not necessary to ride in each class as long as there is the minimum of three (3) riders completing each class. Post entries are not allowed; once a class has been held no horse/rider may go back and pay the entry fee in order to qualify for Championship points.
- O. **Hunter Divisions:** When any Hunter Division is offered, a minimum of three (3) classes, two (2) over fences and one (1) under saddle must be held to offer a Champion and Reserve Champion, otherwise the number of classes is optional. Mandatory Hunter Divisions requires a minimum of three (3) classes.
- P. Adults can ride Ponies, but not in the Pony division or if it is shown in the Pony division. **Exception:** An adult can ride a pony in the Long Stirrup or Beginner Adult divisions even if the pony is shown in the Pony divisions.
- Q. **Equitation Divisions:** The following applies to all Equitation divisions except for Short-Stirrup, Long Stirrup and Rusty Stirrup Equitation Divisions. Courses for these classes must be different from any of the Hunter courses used in a particular show. All Equitation over fence classes must have at least eight (8) fences with at least two (2) changes of direction. Equitation divisions will consist of two (2) classes, one (1) over fences class and one (1) flat class. Champion and Reserve Champion points are not awarded for any of the Equitation Divisions with the exception of Short Stirrup and Long Stirrup Equitation Divisions.
- R. **Jumper Classes:** Not more than three (3) NIHJA Rated Jumper classes per day can be offered. **Exception to this rule:** If there is a safety issue with darkness or weather, classes may be moved to a different day. The number of classes per day does not include Pony Jumpers, Puddle Jumpers, Schooling Jumpers or Low Jumpers or any additional Jumper Classics, Jumper Derbies or Open Jumper classes offered.
- S. **Medal Classes:** All NIHJA shows must offer NIHJA Senior, Junior, Children's, Children's Mini & Adult Mini Medal Classes. All Medals Class riders MUST be current members of NIHJA. The rider must have a current NIHJA membership (and must be a member in good standing) prior to riding in any of the NIHJA Medal Classes.

Four (4) riders must complete the Medals course in order for the class to be awarded full points. If under 4 riders complete the course, then a half point system will go into effect. See below. No Medal class will combine with any another Medal class. Medal riders who win a medal class with a half point system will not automatically qualify for Medal finals.

Points under the half point system will be awarded in Medals classes with less than 4 riders completing the course as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 5 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2 points



The top twenty (20) Senior, Junior, Children's and Mini riders will be invited to the Medal Finals ride - off. The top twenty (20) positions will be filled first by medal winners, then by top point winners. In the event of a tie for the 20th (position) rider, the tied riders will be invited.

The class will be held over a course of at least eight (8) fences, including at least one (1) combination. (No combination is required for the Mini Medals course). There must be at least two (2) changes of direction. At least four (4) riders who have completed the course will be called back by the Judge for a work - off at the Judge's discretion. The Mini Medals test may be incorporated into the course, excluding finals where a minimum of four (4) riders may be called back at the judge's discretion.)

The Medal course must not be posted until schooling is closed. The order of go as well as the course must be posted one (1) hour before the class begins. The courses used for the Medal Classes MUST be different from any other Hunter, Jumper or Equitation course used at that show. The Medal courses are to be approved by the stewards before it is posted. NIHJA will provide the medals for all Medal Classes.

**NOTE:** Medals are open to all riders all year long, however a rider may not cross enter into one of the larger medals at any one show. If a rider wins the class in one of the larger medal classes, they cannot ride in any subsequent lower height Medal classes and cannot ride in the lower height Medal Finals for a period of five (5) years or a petition to the Board for approval. *\*Amend Oct 2024*

T. Price Ceiling: The only class price ceiling NIHJA controls is the Medal Class at \$25.00 per entry. NIHJA will receive \$5.00 per medal rider payable from each horse show. NIHJA encourages Show Management to keep prices consistent throughout the show year; however, prices at the "Finals" must be no higher than the average prices charged throughout the year. Show Management will define "per entry."

U. Combining Divisions: If a division does not fill with 3 riders (Equitation), 3 horses (Jumper) or 3 horses (Hunter) and are listed in the under Combining Divisions they **MUST** be combined with the exception of the Long Stirrup, Rusty Stirrup and Beginner Adult divisions. *\*amended Oct. 2020*

The following divisions or classes **must** be combined with their respective division as shown if they are not filled: *\*Amend Oct 2024*

- 1) Low Junior Hunter and Adult Hunter 2'9"
- 2) Low Junior Equitation and High Junior Equitation
- 3) High Junior Hunter and Amateur Adult Hunter
- 4) Small Hunter and Large Hunter
- 5) Modified Childrens Equitation and Modified Adult Equitation
- 6) Modified Childrens Hunter and Modified Adult Hunter

The following classes **MAY** be combined:

- 1) Short, Long, Rusty Stirrup Hunter
- 2) Short Long, Rusty Stirrup Equitation
- 3) Beginner Adult Hunter and Beginner Childrens Hunter
- 4) Beginner Adult Equitation and Beginner Childrens Equitation
- 5) Limit Adult Hunter and Limit Childrens Hunter *\*amend Oct 2023*
- 6) Limit Adult Equitation and Limit Childrens Equitation *\*amend Oct 2023*

**\*In any combined division a horse may only compete once in the class.**

All combined divisions must be in accordance with regulation height. (For example, if Large and Small Hunters were to be combined, respective fence heights would not be compromised. The two divisions would simply be judged together. In this case, all Large Hunters would be required to show at 3'3", then the fences must be adjusted for the Small Hunters to show at 3'.) When these divisions are combined, points earned will be credited to the entry in their respective division. Divisions not listed above may not be combined.

- V. Medical and Ambulance Services: Show Management must provide Emergency Medical Treatment (EMT), EMS or paramedic at their show solely dedicated to the NIHJA Horse Show.

#### **9. High Point Awards:**

- A. Awards may be offered in any division listed in Section 8. However, any division which has not been utilized at 25% of the recognized shows held throughout the show season, will not have a Year End High Point Award for the year.
- B. No credit will be given for classes, divisions or shows that are not conducted in accordance with NIHJA rules. In the case of Short-Stirrup Equitation and Short-Stirrup Hunter classes, all points will count for Year End Awards even if a full division is not held.
- C. Qualifications: Horses and riders who are current members of NIHJA are eligible for High point Awards in all NIHJA divisions for which they are qualified and in which they choose to compete, provided the applicable nomination forms and fees stated in Section 3 have been turned over to the Association or Points Secretary.
- D. The top eight (8) placed horses/riders in each qualifying division will be presented with an Annual Award including Championship and Reserve Championship. In addition, the horse receiving the most points for the show year, in any given Hunter division will receive the annual High Point Hunter Award, and another horse with the next highest point total, in any given Hunter division will receive the Reserve High Point Hunter Award. The same will apply to the horse receiving the most points for the show year in any given Jumper division, that horse will receive the annual High Point Jumper Award, and another horse with the next highest point total, in any given Jumper division will receive the Reserve High Point Jumper Award. *\*added Jumper awards Oct 2021*
- E. Membership forms are available online or from the Association or Points Secretaries and must be provided at all NIHJA shows to interested participants by the Show Management.
- F. Membership forms should be mailed or handed directly to either the Association or Points Secretary. The Show Secretary is permitted to accept Membership forms and fees for the Association and/or Points Secretaries.
- G. A single nomination fee allows a horse to qualify in any NIHJA division if the horse properly meets the division's qualifications.

H. Points Awarded - points will be awarded as follows:

First Place	10 points
Second Place	6 points
Third Place	4 points
Fourth Place	2 points
Fifth Place	1 point
Sixth Place	1/2 point
Division Champion	20 additional points
Reserve Champion	12 additional points

**NOTE:** Champion and Reserve Champion points are not awarded for Equitation Divisions with the exception of the Short Stirrup, Long Stirrup and Rusty Stirrup Equitation Divisions.

### **NIHJA MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Members/Professionals are expected to behave in a Sportsmanlike way when attending NIHJA events. By attending a NIHJA event, I agree to:

1. Respect the sport, play fairly with integrity, and follow the rules set forth by NIHJA.
2. Respect the decisions of officials and show management. If the need arises, appropriately address situations with the appointed NIHJA steward.
3. Demonstrate good Sportsmanship before, during, and after the competition.
4. Refrain from the use of abusive language.
5. Not engaging in any behavior that would jeopardize the health, safety and well-being of any participant, trainer, coach, official, spectator, or animal.

If you think a member (trainer or competitor) has violated the Code of Conduct in any way, please consult a NIHJA steward so your concern can be addressed with the NIHJA Board. The NIHJA Board will review all concerns and determine if a violation of the code of conduct has occurred.

If a violation has occurred, the NIHJA board will contact the member via email and US mail. A fine could be assessed, in an amount to be determined. The member will not be considered a member in good standing until the fine is paid. This means the member may not attend any NIHJA events and may not accumulate any additional points towards year end awards. If a professional is not a member in good standing, their clients' points would also not be counted.

## APPENDIX A

### NIHJA Show Standards

1. NIHJA Executive Board is responsible for assigning stewards to each show. It will be show management's responsibility to confirm attendance of a NIHJA certified steward at each show and to have their names posted in the horse show office.
2. The show arena or field must be a minimum of 10,000 square feet indoor and 14,000 square feet outdoors.
3. Fences and cups must be in accordance with USEF rules.
4. There must be a minimum schooling area of 80'x60' and cannot be designated as a spectator area. Schooling fences must consist of at least one vertical and one spread with adequate poles and cups.
5. The time for schooling should be shown on the prize list.
6. There must be adequate parking.
7. A concession stand is recommended and should be available throughout the show.
8. The office must be accessible and provide a sufficient number of prize lists, entry forms, and NIHJA nomination forms.
9. The public address system must carry throughout the show grounds, schooling area and stabling facility as well as the show ring.
10. There must be an adequate ring crew available as well as a Paddock Master.
11. Emergency telephone numbers must be posted by the phone.
12. The show must not run longer than 12 hours in any day from the starting time listed on the show bill. For every half-hour over the 12 hours allowed, a \$50.00 fine will be imposed. Also, an additional fine will be incurred if the show is incomplete.
13. NIHJA show grounds must have a minimum of four toilets and must be cleaned each day of the show.
14. Courses should run 60-75 seconds.
15. Courses for the day must be posted by the start of the show (with the exception of the Medals Classes). Courses must be posted in sight of a mounted rider and show the direction of the fences as well as the distances between the fences for the Hunter classes.
16. The Medal Course must be approved by the stewards before it is posted.
17. Any course requiring a posted order of go, as well as the medal courses, must be posted one hour before the classes commence as noted in USEF rules.
18. The Medal courses must not be posted until schooling is closed.
19. The stalls must be at least 80 square feet.
20. Bathing facilities for horses must be provided.
21. The names of the stewards must be announced at least once each day and must be posted in the horse show office.
22. The Judge's names must be submitted to the Association Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the show date.
23. The Executive Board must approve the judge for the Medals Finals sixty (60) days prior to the show.
24. Prize lists must be emailed to all current members not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the show date.
25. All NIHJA shows must have a current NIHJA rule book present on the premises AT ALL TIMES.
26. Protests must be submitted with judge's cards, exhibitor's list and championship point calculation sheets to the NIHJA President, Points Secretary or Association Secretary at the end of each show, if they were submitted during the show.
27. Prize list must specify all charges to be incurred per entry.
28. The board may impose additional fines, as they deem necessary.

29. List of 3 Farriers phone numbers available in the Horse Show office unless you have a Farrier on call.
30. Horse show management must control motorized vehicle for safety.
31. Show Management must provide Emergency Medical Treatment (EMT), EMS or paramedic at their show solely dedicated to the NIHJA Horse Show.
32. It will be Show Management's responsibility to minimize arena delays & conflicts, prioritizing arenas, and accommodating multiple rides to provide for a smooth-running horse show.