



**ARKANSAS
HUNTER JUMPER
ASSOCIATION**

Etiquette Guidelines

Division Rules

General Association Rules

Etiquette Guidelines

Having fun and staying safe while learning are the goals of a schooling show. AHJA strives to prepare our riders who have the goal of competing at rated shows as well as provide a safe learning experience for those that may prefer to attend the smaller schooling shows. We hope you enjoy and learn from this information.

Horse Show Etiquette

- Horse show etiquette is mostly made up of unwritten rules, common sense and consideration for yourself and others. Being reckless and not thinking about others can make it dangerous for horses and riders.
- Pay attention to your surrounding at all times. If you see a dangerous situation you should leave the area immediately. Every year we have new competitors. A rider's first show is most likely the parent's first show as well. More experienced riders and parents should look out for the novice. Be tactful and considerate if you feel you need to give advice. Remember, you were new once!
- The secretary, gate staff, judge or any other show staff are there to help. If you have grievances or complaints, first discuss the issue with your trainer. If you feel more should be done then request to talk with the Show Manager. Most show staff are volunteers and may not be able to address your complaint. They are there to assist in making sure the show runs smoothly. We expect and ask our volunteers working a show to be considerate and respectful of the competitors and their families. Respect and consideration go both ways.

Parking at Horse Shows

- At schooling shows, stalls may be limited; therefore, many riders get their horses ready at their trailer. Always leave sufficient distance between trucks and trailers to allow movement for horses and riders as well as having space for horses to be tied to trailers. If you park too closely, you may find a horseshoe-sized dent in the side of your truck or trailer when you return.
- It is extremely important to drive slowly at equestrian competitions. Riders will be moving to and from the arena and you never know when you might run into a spooky horse. Do not walk directly behind a horse. Remember that horses and riders should always have the right-of-way at a horse show. It is traditional to place a red bow or ribbon on the tail of a horse who is known to kick, so watch for that, but all horses can kick!

Schooling and/or Warming up

- One of the most congested areas on the show grounds is the schooling area. Whether you have one schooling area or multiple schooling areas these are to be used for warming up prior to your ride. The schooling ring is not for learning new things or fixing bad habits.
- Riders and trainers should take as little time as possible to warm up. Do not hog the schooling area as it prevents other riders from warming up their horses.
- Give wide berth to others when schooling. You can often hear riders yelling "Heads Up" or calling a certain fence before approaching it. You can call "inside or outside" when riding in opposite directions of another rider. Proper way to pass head on is left shoulder to left shoulder.
- Don't block traffic. Never walk two horses side by side or stop along the rail.
- Excessive use of the stick is frowned upon. Do not use a stick in front the girth including on a shoulder
- Use good judgment: if your horse is misbehaving, leave the ring.
- Never sit or stand on a jump, or hold or touch a standard or pole while horses are jumping. Never jump a jump if someone is holding a rail or adjusting a fence.
- Know correct distances for placing poles away from a jump. If you are using a ground line, make sure its placement is correct.

In the Show Ring

- Always respect your fellow competitors, judges and show staff.

- Always walk into and out of the arena. Trotting or cantering through the in gate is grounds for being disqualified.
- Make just courtesy circle before starting a course. A second circle may be counted as a refusal.
- If you have a refusal, go back to the jump. You are allowed three refusals, after which you will be excused.
- Please exit promptly if the announcer tells you that you have gone off course or are excused.
- If you fall off in the ring, do not remount. Leave the ring on foot.

Riding Attire

It is always important to remember that you are being judged not just on your riding, but also on your presentation.

- ASTM approved helmets must be worn by anyone while on a horse. Black is preferred. The chin strap must be fastened properly.
- Hair should be worn neatly. (Riders with short hair may find it necessary to use bobby pins or barrettes to keep their hair from escaping the helmet.)
- Girls in jodhpurs may wear their hair in two braids; ribbons may be worn on the braids but must not obscure the rider's number.
- A polo shirt or show shirt and hunt coat is appropriate.
- Refrain from wearing anything too form fitting or revealing. (The USEF rule book calls for shirts with collars and sleeves in the show ring.)
- Shirt must be tucked in and belts should be worn.
- Riders may wear breeches with tall boots or half-chaps or jodhpurs with paddock boots. Jodhpur straps and garters are recommended for children wearing jodhpurs and paddock boots.
- Boots and half-chaps should be polished.
- Black gloves are always appropriate (and can help hide unwanted hand movements.)
- Crops should not exceed 18 inches in length.

Horse Turnout

The first impression means a lot when you walk into the ring. A clean horse and tack represent you and your barn in a positive manner and show respect for the sport.

- Horses should be groomed thoroughly and/or bathed to remove stains before entering the show ring.
- A neatly pulled mane, trimmed ears and muzzle will show your horse to an advantage.
- Tack should be clean. (This includes the bit - it should not be green!)
- Tack should be conventional and appropriate for the division; a fitted white fleece show pad is the correct choice for the hunter ring; whereas square pads are permitted in the jumper ring. Flash and figure 8 nose bands are not appropriate for hunters.

In the Office

Be courteous to the office staff! They are volunteers and are there to help the show run smoothly. If you have an issue, ask the show manager.

- Take all necessary information (number of stalls, how you are splitting the costs, whether you schooled the night before, etc.) with you to the office.
- Make sure that your name and your horse's name are spelled correctly and see that the correct rider is listed for each division. Make sure that your entry form is legible.
- Entry forms should be sent prior to the show, but if it is not possible, be sure to turn in your forms before you begin schooling. Some shows will not allow you into the schooling area before all releases are signed. (We use back numbers to indicate this.)

At the Gate

Pay attention and help the gate staff keep the show moving. It will make for a more pleasant day for everyone involved.

- State your number and class you are entering to the gate staff (#123, Low Hunter I). Judges do not have class lists, only judges' cards, so informing the gate person as you enter will help insure that you are judged on the correct card.
- Sign up for the jump order. If you are not in the jump order, you will be placed last. Some shows allow you to do this a couple of classes ahead. If you are already in the jump order, stay out of the way until it is your time to ride. Do not crowd the gate.
- Do not keep everyone waiting. Be at the gate when it's your turn to go – and if you decide not to ride (“scratch”), let the gate and office staff know ahead of time.
- BE COURTEOUS TO THE GATE STAFF! They are there to help you and keep the show running smoothly.

This information is provided for informational purposes only. Good judgment and proper sportsmanship on the part of all exhibitors and trainers is the key to safe showing.

Division Rules

HUNTER DIVISIONS

X-RAIL RIDER: Horses/ponies ridden by juniors or adult with 0-2 years of experience in this division. If rider showed in this division prior to January 2013 he/she is not eligible. Riders may only cross enter into the Beginner Divisions at the same show. Trotting is permitted. Fence height not to exceed 18". Under saddle will be walk/trot only.

18" BEGINNER RIDER: Open to horse/ponies over regular course of jumps consisting of X-rails and 18" jumps. Restricted to **riders** with 0-2 years of experience in this division. If rider showed in this division prior to January 2013 he/she is not eligible for this division. Trotting is permitted but cantering is encouraged. May cross enter into any class where jumps do not exceed 2'. Under Saddle will be walk/trot only.

2' GREEN HORSE: Restricted to **horses** in their first or second year of showing. If horse or pony has shown 2' or higher prior to January 2013 he/she is not eligible for this division. Horse/pony may cross enter into classes with a fence height not exceeding 2'3". Fence height 2'. No combinations or oxers. Under Saddle will be walk/trot/canter.

2' LIMIT RIDER: Riders may cross enter into any class with a fence height not exceeding 2'3". Riders may not have shown any horse/pony over 2'3". Fence height 2'. No combinations or oxers. Under Saddle will be walk/trot/canter.

2'3" SCHOOLING: Open to horses/ponies not restricted by another division at the same show. Fence height 2'3". No combinations.

2'6" INTERMEDIATE: Open to horses/ponies not restricted by another division at the same show. Fence height 2'6".

2'9" – 3'0" LOW: Open to any horse/rider combination not restricted by another division at same show. Fence height 2'9" -3'0".

JUMPER DIVISIONS

HOPEFUL JUMPER: Open to any horse/pony and rider combination not restricted by another division. Fence height 2'6"-2'9".

LOW SCHOOLING JUMPER: Open to any horse/pony and rider combination not restricted by another division. Fence height 2'9"-3'.

HIGH SCHOOLING JUMPER: Open to any horse/pony and rider combination not restricted by another division. Fence height 3'3"-3'6".

General Association Rules

2015 Points and Awards

Points are awarded as follows:

1 st Place = 10 points	4 th Place = 2 points
2 nd Place = 6 points	5 th Place = 1 point
3 rd Place = 4 points	6 th Place = ½ point

- Ribbons to 8th place given in all classes. Participation ribbons will be awarded to all entries in X-Rail Division.
- IN DIVISIONS WITH 5 CLASSES: Show Champion & Reserve are awarded to the horse/rider combination that accumulates the highest & second highest number of points in all five classes.
- IN DIVISIONS WITH 3 CLASSES: Show Champion and Reserve are awarded to the horse/rider combination that accumulated the highest & second highest number of points in all three classes.
- Jumper Champion & Reserve are factored from both classes in the division combined.
- In the event of a tie for Champion or Reserve Champion in any division, (other than Jumper) the entry who has the most points over fences will be Champion and the other rider will be Reserve Champion. If there is a tie in over-fences points there will be a coin toss for ties. Jumpers coin toss for ties.
- To be eligible for a show championship, a horse/rider combination must be entered into the entire division consisting of five classes. For divisions offering only three classes, those three must be entered for eligibility. For Jumper divisions, both classes must be entered.
- Champion & Reserve are awarded in all divisions held with 3 or more entries. Divisions may be combined at the discretion of show management.
- **There is an annual membership fee. Year-end award points accumulate from the date the annual membership fee is paid. Membership is not required for show level championships.**
- Riders must have participated in at least three shows to be eligible for year-end awards
- **Volunteer requirement.** Each member must contribute four volunteer hours to be eligible for year-end awards. Hours may be completed by member or member's family.
- **USHJA Affiliate Award.** Year-end equitation awards given to the high point riders that are AHJA members and also USHJA Outreach, USHJA Collegiate or USHJA Regular Members. USHJA Outreach membership is \$15 and the form is enclosed in the prize list and available on our website. Two awards will be offered:
 - **AHJA Mini-medal:** Awarded at the year-banquet to the riders earning highest cumulative points in classes #8 or #17

- **AHJA Medal:** Top riders based on cumulative points in classes #23, #29 and #35 will be invited to participate in a special Equitation Over Fences class at our last show to determine the final winner (riders will show at either 2'3", 2'6" or 2'9").
- **Riders are responsible for completing and mailing the USHJA Affiliate membership form and providing a copy to the show secretary.**
- For additional Year-End Award information, please visit www.arkansashunterjumper.com.

Schooling Instructions

No more than 8-10 riders will be allowed in the ring at any time. Each group will be limited to 10-15 minutes in the ring as numbers and time allow. The number of riders in the ring may be changed at show management's discretion.

There will be two schooling sessions in the ring the day of the show.

Session 1: beginning 7am and ending 7:45 am.

Session 2: 7:45am-8:00am for X-rail division entries **ONLY**

Sign-up for a schooling time slot is with the secretary on a first come basis at the show only. An entry must be registered and number received to school. Number is worn by rider to school.

Start and end times of schooling slot to be governed by schooling supervisor.

Whistle may be used to indicate a dangerous situation– if whistle is blown, riders are to walk or halt and await further instructions.

Not all jumps in the ring will be available for schooling. Jumps will only be available to jump in one direction.

Jumps being used for schooling in the ring will be marked, and are to be jumped with a red flag/marker on the right, a white flag/marker on the left.

Management will have at least two warm-up jumps set up outside the ring for competitor's use.

Exhibitors are encouraged to enter the WARM UP CLASS #11, #20, #26, #32, a non-judged round run concurrently with the first class in each hunter division starting with the 2' height.

GENERAL AHJA RULES

1. Coggins: AHJA requires a 12 month negative Coggins upon arrival at the show grounds, originals only accepted.
2. All classes will be conducted and judged in accordance with the current rules and regulations of the Association. All rules will stand for the year.
3. There is an **annual membership fee**. The fee shall be \$20 per year for an individual membership or \$25 per year for a family membership. Year-end award points accumulate from the date the annual membership fee is paid. Membership is not required for show level championships.
4. Riders must have participated in at least three shows to be eligible for year-end awards
5. **Volunteer requirement.** Each member must contribute four volunteer hours to be eligible for year-end awards. Hours may be completed by member or member's family.
6. All riders must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet while mounted on the show grounds, inside and outside the show ring.
7. Any rider may choose to wear an equestrian body protector vest in any class without penalty from the judge.
8. All exhibitors' and spectators' dogs **MUST** be on a leash or otherwise confined, and must be well behaved at all times or they will be asked to leave the show grounds. We encourage them to be left at home.
9. Children are to be supervised at all times. Please do not allow children to run on the bleachers, run among horses around the arena and at trailers, or hang on arena fence.

10. No persons will be allowed in the show ring during the time of judging, except those who have duties to perform.
11. Spectators must remain well clear of the in gate area. This area is for competitors and trainers only. Spectator vehicles to be parked in designated areas only.
12. All horses and ponies must be serviceably sound. Any lameness, or impairment, which interferes with the performance of the animal will be considered unsoundness and the horse/pony may be excused from the class. The final determination of soundness is at the discretion of the judge.
13. Any horse/pony that is uncontrollable or considered dangerous may be asked to leave the ring.
14. Each rider must register with the show secretary and be assigned a number before schooling or showing. Please remit payment or an open check at that time. Credit Cards will be accepted at a fee of \$3.25 per transaction. A credit card with valid expiration date must be presented to receive show number. One number will be assigned for each horse which must be shared by all riders of that horse at a given show.
15. Concerning eligibility entries are made and received by show management on the honor system. Show management will evaluate eligibility and will notify entries of ineligibility at that show before competition for that class begins. If horse/rider proves to be ineligible for the class/division ridden, points received will not count towards year-end awards.
16. Each horse/rider combo may only cross enter into divisions with fence heights of a three (3) inch difference. This includes the under saddle classes. X-rail riders may only cross enter into the 18" division. Jumper riders may cross enter into any jumper class at any height.
17. Should there be less than three riders in a division, management reserves the right to combine divisions with the division immediately above or below in height. Points will count towards year end awards in the division entered, regardless of whether divisions are combined.
18. Class Fees: \$10 per class - members, \$14 per class – nonmembers. **CLOSING DATE: Post entries received after the Wednesday preceding the Saturday show date will be charged \$10 per entry.** Each entry pays \$5 Office/EIA Verifier and \$10 Facility Fee.
19. Schooling schedule: Open Schooling 7am- 8am, X-rail schooling only 7:45am- 8:00am. First class to begin promptly at 8:00am.
20. When schooling, horses that are jumping have the right of way. When traveling in opposite directions, stay to the right, as if driving a car. Please be sure to call all fences. No lunging of horses in the arena. **See expanded Schooling Rules.**
21. Attire- Appropriate show ring attire is encouraged, but not required. Heeled shoes, sleeved shirts or polo shirts, jodhpurs, or breeches, and approved helmets are required. No T-shirts, jeans, or tank tops.
22. Tack should be appropriate to the discipline. Schooling pads may be used. No protective horse boots, flash or figure eight nosebands in any hunter division. Boots are allowed in Equitation classes. No martingales in flat classes. No training devices in any class.
23. After 3 refusals in an over-fences class please excuse yourself from the ring.
24. There will be a 1-minute gate limit to wait for entrants in any class, unless the announcer is notified of a tack change well in advance, where a maximum of 5 minutes will be allowed. Please leave yourself plenty of time to prepare for classes.
25. Stallions will not be permitted at any AHJA show.
26. Riders, trainers, handlers and/or owners committing an abusive act (for example, excessive use of whip) to animals, or acting in any unsportsmanlike manner will be asked to leave the grounds by show management.
27. AHJA reserves the right to refuse show entry and/or cancel membership due to the inhumane treatment of animals, un-sportsmanlike behavior, indebtedness to AHJA, and/or disorderly conduct.