

2025 Proposed Rule Changes

Bold indicates new language. Strikethrough indicates removed language.

1.

RULE III – VHJA HIGH SCORE CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

C. General Requirements

5. Terms of Competition

(f) Approved VHJA divisions and classes may only be offered, and will only be pointed, once per horse show with the exception of the Medal classes and Leadline. Medal classes and Leadline may be offered once per affiliated show day.

2.

No Change to the Leadline Class

101. Leadline Traditional

Open to riders 8 years old and under to be led by an adult on foot. To walk and trot individually at the judges discretion. All riders will receive a BLUE ribbon. All riders who are VHJA members and who participate in at least three(3) shows *will receive a Champion ribbon as a year-end award. Riders in the Leadline class may also compete in the Pre-Beginner division.*

Pre-Beginner Division

099. Pre-Beginner Horsemanship

Open to riders 8 years old and under, and may be led by an adult on foot. *To be judged* as an equitation class at the walk and trot individually or as a group at the judges discretion. Handlers/Trainers may lead in hand, stand nearby, or stand in the middle of the ring. Handler/Trainer positioning will not be rewarded in judging. The judge will ask one question of each contestant. Points will be awarded towards year-end awards. In the event of a tie for Champion, the Pre-Beginner Poles class will break the tie. In order to qualify for Champion of the division, the Traditional Leadline class must also be entered.

100. Pre-Beginner Poles

Open to riders 8 years old and under, and may be led by an adult on foot. *To be judged* as an equitation class at the walk and trot individually over a simple course of 4 group poles. Handlers/Trainers may lead in hand, stand nearby, or stand in the middle of the ring. Handler/Trainer positioning will not be rewarded in judging. Points will be awarded towards year-end awards. In the event of a tie for Champion, the Pre-Beginner Poles class will break the tie. In order to qualify for Champion of the division, the Traditional Leadline class must also be entered.

Intent: Expand the leadline division to offer more opportunities for learning. Discussion on whether all year-end participants get a Champion ribbon, or if the division as a whole moves to a pointed division.

3.

272. VHJA HOPEFUL MEDAL: Open to riders who are VHJA members and who are eligible for the Hopeful Equitation class. Simple changes are deemed acceptable. Cross rails are acceptable, no oxers or combinations. Over fences class will include a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 fences not to exceed 2'. Cross rails are acceptable, no oxers or combinations. **Must include at least one change of direction.** No person entered may have previously in the current show season competed in any other class requiring entries to jump over 2'3". Minimal Fill: No gates, walls, rolltops or coups. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

Same to be applied to the Hopeful Equitation Division.

4.

BEGINNER EQUITATION

Open to riders **12 years** of age and under who have not previously competed in any class requiring canter, handgallop or jumping. Rider not eligible for any classes other than those designated as BEGINNER at the same horse show. To be asked to walk and trot ONLY both ways of the ring. Children riding in this class are not eligible to ride in any class in the show which requires a canter. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Managers may split the class at their discretion.

106. JUNIOR/ADULT AMATEUR WALK-TROT EQUITATION: Open to Junior and Adult Amateur riders show age 13 and up. Riders may not compete over fences in any class at the same show. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. Riders may also compete in the Preliminary Adult Hunt Seat Division or other eligible flat classes.

107. JUNIOR/ADULT AMATEUR WALK-TROT PLEASURE: Open to Junior and Adult Amateur riders show age 13 and up. Rider may not compete over fences in any class at the same show. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. Light contact of the horse's mouth is required. To be judged on manners, performance, quality, presence and soundness. Riders may also compete in the Preliminary Adult Hunt Seat Division or other eligible flat classes.

108. JUNIOR/ADULT AMATEUR TROT POLES: Open to Junior and Adult Amateur riders show age 13 and up. Rider may not compete at the canter or over fences in any class at the same show. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. Light contact of the horse's mouth is required. To be judged on manners, performance, quality, presence and soundness. Riders may also compete in the Preliminary Adult Hunt Seat Division or other eligible flat classes.

5.

470. VHJA NOVICE MEDAL: Open to junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday and are VHJA members. Riders may not cross-enter into any class which exceeds 3' at the same show. The same rider/pony combination can compete in both the Novice and the Pony Medal classes at the same show or at the Finals in the same year. Riders are not to cross-enter into any other divisions or Medal classes that are 3' or higher. All riders are to compete over a course of a minimum of 6 fences at a height not exceed 2'6", spread not to exceed height, no in and out. One or more tests required of the top 4-6 riders. USEF Tests 1-8. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Riders who win the finals of the VHJA Novice Medal twice (2 times) will no longer be able to compete in this class. **May be combined with the Modified Adult Medal.**

473. VHJA MODIFIED ADULT MEDAL: Open to adult amateur riders age 18 years or older on horses or ponies. To be shown over a course of at least 6 obstacles at 2'3"- 2'6". Riders are not to cross-enter into any other class or division that exceeds ~~2'9"~~ 3' in the same show. Two changes of direction required after the first fence. One horse per rider. No in and out. To be judged using the Open Numerical Scoring System. **May be combined with the Novice Medal.**

Intent: Allow the Modified Adult Medal to combine with the Novice Medal to help both fill as entries warrant.

6.

The Modified Adult Hunter Division to be suspended.

900. (CHILDREN/)MODIFIED ADULT HUNTER UNDER SADDLE: Open to horses and ponies ridden by Junior and adult amateurs 18 years of age or over. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. One year-end award for all sections of 900, 901, 902, and 903.

901/ 902. (CHILDREN/)MODIFIED ADULT HUNTER O/FENCES: Open to horses and ponies ridden by Junior and adult amateurs 18 years of age or over. Riders may not cross-enter into any other class or division that exceeds 2'9" at the same show. To be shown over a course of not less than 6 obstacles 2'3"- not to exceed 2'6". No in-and-out. Not USEF/NEHC rated. One year-end award for all sections of 900, 901, 902, and 903.

903. (CHILDREN/) MODIFIED ADULT HANDY HUNTER: Open to horses and ponies ridden by Junior and adult amateurs 18 yrs. of age or over. To be shown over a course of not less than 6 obstacles 2'3"- not to exceed 2'6".; two or more of the following must be included: trot fence, halt, back, dismount, roll back turn, or hand-gallop (at course designer's discretion). No in-and-out. Not USEF/NEHC rated. One year-end award for all sections of 900, 901, 902, and 903.

7.

Vice-President Addition

Section 1 The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, **2** Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.

8.

Level 4: VHJA Jumper Division Affiliation Only

Horse shows that are fully pointed in the Jumper divisions only and classes. Judges at these shows are not required to be USEF or NEHC rated. Level 4 shows must still use a USEF or NEHC licensed Steward. Level 4 horse shows to be governed by NEHC and VHJA rules. All Level 4 shows must use the VHJA numbering system. Any show failing to use the current VHJA numbering system will pay an additional affiliation fee of \$100 per show. Results may be submitted without the use of ShowPro.

To be charged the same as Medal Only Affiliation: \$30

9.

Add NEHC Safety Cup rule to the VHJA rules to apply to all shows, including Level 4 affiliated shows.

By-Laws, RULE I

Q. General

I. Safety Rule Change : Top element of all obstacles must be securely placed with cups at least 1 1/2" deep and 3" wide so slight rubs will not cause knockdowns and must be equally secure for different heights.

a. Any recognized show must use FEI Approved safety release cups for the back pole of all oxers in every jumping class.

b. Either safety cups or breakable jump cup pins must be available for use in all jumping schooling/warm up rings.