

ASSOCIATED HORSE SHOWS CONSTITUTION

Mission Statement: To encourage, foster, and promote equestrian activities. It is the intent of the AHS and its Board to maintain the fundamental values as the reason for our existence; that sportsmanship, and the competition as it relates to the equestrian sport, be experienced and embraced both in and out of the ring by the entire membership, young and old.

BY-LAWS

I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. Governing body of activities of the Associated Horse Shows.

B. CONSISTS OF

1. Six (6) Directors elected at the Annual Meeting.
2. One (1) Director appointed by the elected board.

C. TERMS OF OFFICE

1. Each Director shall serve a two (2) year term. A Board member may succeed themselves if they are nominated; but for no more than three (3) successive terms.
2. Rotating re-election.
 - a. Three (3) Directors shall be elected annually.
 - b. The appointed Director shall change in even numbered years.
 - c. Any director may be removed for cause by unanimous vote of the members of the Board of Directors.
3. Newly elected officers:
 - a. Newly elected officers of the AHS shall take Office at the first meeting of the AHS Board following the Annual Meeting.
 - b. Retiring officers complete their term at the end of business at the Annual Meeting, but may remain working with the Board in an unofficial capacity until the Awards Banquet and may attend all interim Board Meetings regarding the Annual Banquet.

D. BOARD MEETINGS

1. A majority constitutes a quorum for voting purposes.
2. A Minimum of three (3) meetings per year is mandatory. Additional meetings shall be called whenever necessary.
3. A meeting of the Board of Directors must be held after the last show of the season and within two (2) weeks prior to the annual membership meeting.

E. DUTIES OF BOARD

1. Formulate and enforce policies of the AHS.
 - a. Amendments, revisions, or additions to the By Laws requires a unanimous vote unless otherwise stated.
 - b. Act as a steward at all horse shows; helping maintain the quality of shows by answering all questions and concerns about the rules.
 - c. Respond to grievances that have been submitted in writing to AHS Board.
2. To provide a copy of the current By-Laws to show management and update By-Laws on website annually.
3. To appoint interim directors to fill vacancies.
4. To elect, annually from their members; a President; a Secretary; and a Treasurer.
 - a. Elections to be held at the first meeting following the annual membership meeting consisting of the newly elected board.
 - b. Board to elect replacements for the above stated officers if vacancies occur.
5. To determine penalties when shows or individuals are found guilty of violation(s) of the rules.

F. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. President
 - a. To preside at all meetings.
 - b. To provide an agenda for all meetings.
 - c. To call meetings of the Board when necessary according to the rules.
 - d. To appoint:
 - (1). Membership/ Points Officer
 - (a). To keep and record all points for year-end awards.
 - (b). To collect membership applications/fees.
 - (c). To keep points updated on AHS website.
 - (d). To maintain a current list of all professionals, riders, horses and owners.
 - (2). Public Relations Chairperson
 - (a). To publish horse show results in all appropriate publications.
 - (b). To send year-end results to Chronicle of the Horse.
 - (c). To promote a public awareness of AHS in the community.
 - (d) To brainstorm fundraising ideas

(3). Banquet Chairperson

- (a) To appoint committees as needed.
- (b) To order ribbons for banquet by December 1st.
- (c) To select prizes for banquet by September 1st with majority Board approval.
- (d) To mail banquet packet (one) 1 month before banquet.
- (e) To secure location of awards banquet with majority Board approval.

(4) AHS Sponsored Show Chairperson

- (a) To secure location and judge(s) for show with majority Board approval.
- (b) To select prizes for show with majority Board approval.
- (c) To create prize list for show with majority Board approval.
- (d) To appoint committees as needed.

2. Secretary

- a. To keep minutes of all Board and Membership meetings and e- mail typed minutes to all Board members within 2 weeks after meeting. **A copy of bank statements to be kept with minutes.**
- b. To be responsible for all written correspondence of the AHS including:
 - (1). Late dues/results notices
 - (2). Sponsorship requests/ thank you notes
- c. To notify members of all meetings.

3. Treasurer

- a. To be responsible for all Association funds.
- b. To sign and deliver checks when authorized by the Board of Directors.
- c. To submit a financial report at the annual meeting.
- d. To record payment of secretarial dues, membership fees, and sponsorships.
- e. To mail out secretarial/sponsorship dues invoice no later than one week after last show of season.
- f. To maintain insurance for AHS.
- g. To verify horse shows insurance policies as stated in Section II. D.1.k.

II. HORSE SHOWS

A. NEW HORSE SHOWS

- 1. A new horse show must apply in writing to the Board at least two (2) weeks before the Annual Meeting.
- 2. New horse shows will be serviced after all existing horse shows are satisfied.

3. If there are multiple requests they will be serviced according to the date received.
4. The date for a new show will become permanent after completing a trial year according to AHS rules.
5. If horse show dates are full, an existing date must be relinquished for a new show to be acquired.

B. EXISTING SHOW DATES

1. Rotation of the AHS show calendar will correspond to the USEF show calendar. Show managers have been assigned to these weeks:

Week #1 – Devon

Week #2 – Judy Stephens (Timber Edge)

Week #3 – June Fete

Week #4 – Open

Week #5 – Kim Cousins (Bux-Mont)

Week #6 – Open

Week #7 – J.R. McCauley (Once Upon A Farm at Hunter Hill)

Week #8 – Jen Ramins (Taylor Made)

Week #9 – Open

Week #10 – Penny Silcox (Hickory Run)

Week #11 – Claire Harris (Fox Heath)

Week #12 – Kate Gerhart (North Ridge Farm)

Week #13 – Lisa Ritzen-Sontag (Taylor Made)

Week #14 – Open

Week #15 – Open

Week #16 – Patty Miller (Patty Miller Stables)

Week #17 – Margrit Black (Sommerfield)

Week #18 – Jen Post (Jentri)

Week #19 – Claire Harris (Fox Heath)

Week #20 – Katie Benson (Worcester)

Week #21 – Patty Miller (Patty Miller Stables)

Week #22 – Jen Post (Jentri)

Week #23 – Claire Harris (HVH)

Week #24-40 – Open

Week #41 – Katie Benson (Worcester)

Week #42 – Kim Cousins (Kross Creek at Hickory Run)

Week #43 – Open

Week #44 – Open

Week #45 – Open

Week #46 – Jen Post (Jentri)

Week #47 – Claire Harris (HVH)

Week #48 – Open

Week #49 – Jen Post (Jentri)

Week #50 – Royce's Rescue (Sommerfield)

Week #51 – Judy Stephens (Timber Edge)

Week #52 – Patty Miller (Patty Miller Stables)

2. Priority in assigning show dates
 - a. A Member in good standing has priority to retain a horse show date each year.
 - b. A Member in good standing has priority to select a new date.
 - c. Any written requests sent previous to the Annual Meeting have priority in date selection.
 - (1) If more than one horse show has a request, priority goes to the senior show unless otherwise determined by the Board.
 - (2) If a single horse show manager has multiple date requests, only one show date gets senior position. All other requests are serviced after all other horse show managers have been served.
3. A Member not in good standing by the Annual Meeting relinquishes their show date for the upcoming year.
4. Total number of shows on the calendar will not exceed twenty-five (25).
5. A horse show may cancel, due to extenuating circumstances, with written notice to the President and approval by the board by majority vote. However, neither secretarial fees nor sponsorship fees will be refunded. If a horse show cancels for two (2) consecutive years, their right to that date will be relinquished. Show may be rescheduled up until November 30th of the current show year.
6. Any changes agreed upon by both parties to swap of dates is acceptable to the board.

C. DUES

1. Seventy-five (\$75.00) per show date plus sponsorship of at least one annual award at seventy-five (\$75.00); subject to change annually.
2. Dues are payable within thirty (30) days from presentation of bill or by the Annual Meeting, whichever occurs first.
3. Horse show managers are also required to be members of the AHS.
4. Delinquent Dues:
 - a. Horse show dates will not appear on the horse show calendar until dues are paid in full.
 - b. Unpaid invoices that are 30 days after the Annual Meeting will receive a written reminder.
 - c. Unpaid invoices that are 45 days after the Annual Meeting will result in a \$100.00 fine.
 - d. Unpaid invoices that are 60 days after the Annual Meeting will result in loss of show date(s)

D. HORSE SHOW MANAGEMENT

1. Duties
 - a. To enforce all AHS rules.
 - b. AHS recommends the use of recognized judges.

- c. To provide a Veterinarian on- call.
 - d. To provide in attendance:
 - (1) First Aid
 - (2) Blacksmith
 - e. To have AHS rules available. USEF rules will apply when AHS rules do not apply.
 - f. To submit results, by e-mail or mail, to the AHS Membership Officer within two (2) weeks following the show. A prize list must be attached. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING:**
 - (1) Written notice if not received within two (2) weeks after show.
 - (2) Fine of \$50.00 if not received within three (3) weeks after show.
 - (3) Show will be brought before the Board for possible loss of show date if results are not received one month after show date.
 - g. Results must indicate rider's name in equitation classes, and horse's and owner's name in hunter, jumper, and pleasure classes.
 - h. Results should only be sent for AHS point classes or AHS point divisions.
 - i. To submit, in writing to the President, the names of any exhibitors who fail to pay entry fees within two (2) weeks after a show.
 - j. To prohibit anyone, or any horse, suspended from the USEF from showing at an AHS show.
 - k. To provide adequate liability insurance coverage for the show and send a copy of certificate to the Treasurer of the Board each year at least two (2) weeks before first horse show date.
 - l. To assume responsibility for providing safe showing conditions for exhibitors, staff, and spectators.
 - m. To provide a working telephone which can receive and send calls for emergency purposes.
 - n. To provide two individuals with stopwatches for all jumper divisions. One may be the judge, and the other can be any non-participating person over the age of sixteen (16).
 - (1) Electronic timers are available to borrow from the AHS and will count as a "stopwatch".
 - (2) Forms can be downloaded from the AHS website.
2. AHS horse show managers may not run a non-USEF rated show in conflict with an AHS show date.
3. Violation of AHS Rules
- a. Shows that are in violation of the AHS rules shall be given a warning letter from the AHS Board of Directors for their first offense.
 - b. Future Violation(s) will be reviewed by the Board and are subject to a \$100.00 fine.

E. AWARDS

1. Ribbons

- a. Six (6) ribbons shall be awarded in each class when possible.
- b. Ribbons shall have a minimum of two (2) streamers.
- c. If Champion and Reserve are awarded. Points are to be calculated by a 10, 6, 4, 2, 1 and ½ system.

2. Trophies

- a. Trophies may be given at the discretion of show management.
- b. If trophies are NOT to be given, it must be stated as such in the prize list.

F. PRIZE LIST AND ENTRY BLANK

1. Prize List

- a. A copy of the prize list and insurance must be sent via e-mail in PDF form to board@associatedhorseshows.com two (2) weeks prior to the show to be reviewed by board. If the Board does not receive a copy of the prize list with copy of insurance, there will be a fine of \$75.
- b. If changes are made to the prize list at least 12 hours before the show, members must be notified by e-mail at board@associatedhorseshows.com
- c. Contents:
 - (1) Name of Judge(s).
 - (2) Complete class descriptions and judging specifications as per the AHS By Laws.
 - (3) Clear indication of AHS point classes and divisions.
 - (4) Inclusion of a minimum of twelve (12) point classes.
 - (5) Prize lists may include classes or divisions not sponsored by the AHS but these will not count toward AHS standings.
 - (6) Prize list may indicate any number of point classes, up to and including four (4) in any hunter division, and three (3) in any jumper/equitation division and one (1) for any pleasure or lead line class.
 - (7) Anything marked point class of a division will count, regardless of minor wording inaccuracies.
 - (8) If a schooling fee is to be imposed at a horse show, it must be marked in large type and prominently displayed in the prize list.
 - (9) There must be at least two (2) different courses of at least eight (8) jumps in all Hunter classes, unless otherwise noted.
 - (10) Any combined special classes (i.e.: Classics, Derbies, etc.) will not be eligible for points in any division.
 - (11) A statement must be included in the prize list saying all riders must be wearing an ASTM approved helmet while mounted.

(12) To facilitate online registration, horse shows will use the assigned class numbers listed below, but may be put in any order.

1. Leadline
- 2-5. Mini Stirrup
- 6-9. Short Stirrup Equitation
- 10-13. Short Stirrup Hunter
- 14-17. Lesson Mount
- 18-21. Beginner Equitation
- 22-25. Long Stirrup Equitation
- 26-29. Modified Hunter
30. Junior/Adult Pleasure
- 31-34. Baby Green Hunter
- 35-38. Low Schooling Hunter
- 39-42. High Schooling Hunter
- 43-46. Pre-Children's Hunter Pony
- 47-50. Pre-Children's Hunter Horse
- 51-53. 2' Equitation
- 54-57. Pre-Adult Hunter
- 58-61. Children's Hunter
- 62-64. 2'6" Equitation
- 65-67. 2'9" Equitation
- 68-70. Walk/Trot Equitation
- 71-73. Low Schooling Jumpers
- 74-76. Intermediate Schooling Jumpers
- 77-79. High Schooling Jumpers

2. Entry Blank

- a. Date of birth of rider must be included. Age is as of December 1st of the preceding year for all exhibitors.

III. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A. The Annual Membership Meeting shall be held in November of each year; conditions permitting.

1. Purpose of the Annual Meeting.
 - a. To serve as a clearing house for horse show dates.
 - b. To discuss and make suggestions for the current and upcoming year.
 - c. To (re)-elect Board Members as appropriate. Each show manager and professional in good standing has one (1) vote per nominee.
2. Each show date must have representation at the Annual Meeting unless otherwise arranged before the Meeting.

IV. ANNUAL AWARDS

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. Annual membership fees:
 - (a) Twenty dollars (\$20.00) per rider for all classes and, twenty dollars (\$20.00) per mount and owner (if not the same as rider) for Hunter/Jumper and Pleasure Divisions/Classes only.
 - (b) All fees must be paid in order for points to count toward annual awards.
 - (c) Fee subject to change annually
 - (d) Payable to AHS and sent to the Membership/Points Officer.
 - (e) Each member must sign a current membership application.

B. POINTS

1. Count 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 for all classes. If there are two (2) exhibitors in a class, 1st place will receive three (3) points and 2nd place will receive two (2) points. If there are three (3) or more exhibitors, full points will be awarded.
2. Points will only count from the date of receipt of dues by Membership Officer
3. A letter of protest must be received by the Points Officer within three (3) weeks of the dispute date for point discrepancies to be corrected.
4. In the spirit of competition, if the year-end standings in a division have less than six (6) competitors by September 1st of that show season, the division may be combined at the discretion of the Board with another division with like specifications. If it is a stand-alone division, the Board can opt to give Champion and Reserve Champion awards only.

C. SPONSORS

1. Eligibility
 - a. Any individual or organization may sponsor a class or a division.
 - b. All member shows are required to sponsor a minimum of one class or division annually.
2. Cost
 - a. Seventy-five (\$75.00) subject to change annually by the Board of Directors.

V. SPORTSMANSHIP AND GRIEVANCES

A. SPORTSMANSHIP

1. A violation is any act prejudicial to the best interests of the AHS, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Acting or inciting or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the rules of the AHS, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interests of the sport and the AHS.
- b. Any act committed or remark made in connection with the competition considered offensive and/or made with the intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the licensed officials, approaching a judge before or after a decision without first obtaining permission from the show committee or steward/technical delegate, inspecting a judge's card without the judge's permission, or public verbal abuse of competition officials or AHS members.

B. GRIEVANCES

1. When a grievance occurs, it is to be brought to the attention of all Board Members in writing and within three (3) weeks of the occurrence.
2. When there is a grievance at a horse show, it is to be taken up with the stewards before the end of that particular show.
3. It is up to the discretion of the Board as to punishment of any person in violation of the rules including but not limited to:
 - a. Written notice
 - b. Fines
 - c. Removal from the organization

VI. AHS POINT CLASSES AND DIVISIONS

A. WORDING AND DESCRIPTIONS

1. Classes
 - a. **Junior/Adult Pleasure:** Open to any type of pony or horse suitable for use as a pleasure mount. To be ridden by a junior or adult. Judged on performance, manners, and suitability of mount to rider. No martingales.
 - c. **Leadline:** Open to children six (6) years of age or under. To be judged on manners and suitability of mount to rider. Will be asked to trot. Not eligible for any other non-leadline classes. Show management may offer additional leadline classes such as walk, command, off-lead, or pleasure. AHS points designated to only the walk/trot class.
2. Divisions – Divisions may not be combined for points unless otherwise stated in the By-Laws.

- a. **2' Equitation Division.** Open to junior and adult amateur riders on horses or ponies. Riders may not have competed at 2'3" or higher. To be judged on hands, seat, and control of mount. Division will consist of two (2) over fence classes and one (1) flat class. **A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with 2'6" or 2'9" Equitation. Decision to be made before division begins.**
- b. **2'6" Equitation Division.** Open to junior and adult amateur riders on horses or ponies. Riders may not have competed at 2'9" or higher. To be judged on hands, seat, and control of mount. Division will consist of two (2) over fence classes and one (1) flat class. **A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with 2' or 2'9" Equitation.**
- c. **2'9" Equitation Division.** Open to junior and adult amateur riders on horses or ponies. To be judged on hands seat, and control of mount. Division will consist of two (2) over fences classes and one (1) flat class. **A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with 2' or 2'6" Equitation.**
- d. **Modified Hunter.** Open to all Junior and Adult amateur riders on horses and ponies. **Rider may not have shown higher than 2'3" in any show.** May only cross enter into Long Stirrup, Beginner Eq, 2' Eq, or pleasure at same show. Fences to be at 2'. **A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points. Decision to be made before division begins. Horse and rider combination may not ride in division for more than two (2) years.**
- e. **Baby Green Hunter Division.** Open to horses/ponies whom have not shown over fences in any class prior to December 1st of the preceding year. Ponies to jump 2' and horses 2'3. Trotting corners will not be penalized.
- f. **Beginner Equitation Division.** Open to all juniors who have not shown in more than eight (8) horse shows in any one year. The division will include a walk/trot; walk/trot/canter and a choice of one (1) or two (2) jumping classes of 4-8 fences at x-rails. Riders cannot jump more than 2' in any horse show and may only cross enter into Modified Hunter. **It is hoped that people will use discretion when entering and be mindful of the spirit of this division.** If entries do not warrant division to run, it may be combined with Long Stirrup Equitation.
- g. **Children's Hunter Division.** Open to horses and ponies ridden by juniors. Judged on manners, performance, way of going, and suitability of mount to rider. Small/medium ponies, fences 2'. Large ponies, fences 2'6" and horses, fences 3'. **May not cross enter into any Pre-Children's Hunter class or division on same mount. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser point.**

NOTE: HORSE SHOW MANAGERS: At rated shows, USEF rules for Children's Hunter will prevail.

- h. **Lesson Mount Division**. Open to all riders on horses or ponies used **solely** in lesson programs. Judged on hands, seat, general appearance, and control of mount. **Rider may not have shown higher than x-rails at any show**. Recommended classes: 1. walk/trot equitation; 2. walk/trot pleasure; 3. walk/trot/canter; 4. a simple course of four (4) poles or x-rails (must be specified in prize list). **May use any tack used in a schooling program.**
- i. **Long Stirrup Equitation Division**. Open to adult amateur riders on horses or ponies. Adults may not have jumped higher than 2'6" at any horse show. Riders are not eligible for any jumping classes other than Adult Modified Hunter. Recommended classes: equitation walk/trot; equitation walk/trot/canter; and equitation over four (4) cross rails. If entries do not warrant division to run, it may be combined with Beginner Equitation.
- j. **Mini Stirrup Division**. Open to juniors eight (8) years and younger. Riders may not cross enter into any jumping classes at the same horse show. Riders are eligible for any appropriate flat class. One class of four (4) cross rails or poles may be offered in this division. Poles or cross rails must be specified in prize list.
- k. **Pre-Adult Hunter Division**. Open to adult amateur riders on either ponies or horses. Fence heights to be at 2'6". **Riders may not cross enter into Modified Hunter or Long Stirrup Division at the same show**. If entries do not warrant division to run, it may be combined with Pre-Children's Hunter.
- l. **Pre-Children's Hunter Division** – PONY. Open to junior riders still eligible for Novice Equitation Over Fences at any rated show (have not won three blue ribbons in equitation). Judged on manners, performance, way of going, and soundness. Ponies to jump at 2'. **May not cross enter into any Children's Hunter class or division on same mount. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with Pre-Adult Hunter or Pre-Children's Hunter Horse. Decision to be made before division begins.**
- m. **Pre-Children's Hunter Division** – HORSE. Open to junior riders still eligible for Novice Equitation Over Fences at any rated show (have not won three blue ribbons in equitation). Judged on manners, performance, way of going, and soundness. Horses to jump at 2'6". **May not cross enter into any Children's Hunter class or division on same mount. A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined**

with Pre-Adult Hunter or Pre-Children's Hunter Pony.

- n. **Low Schooling Hunter.** Open to all riders on horses or ponies. Judged on performance, way of going, manners and soundness. Fences at 2' or 2'3 at rider's discretion, to be designated on entry form. **A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with High Schooling Hunter. Decision to be made before division begins.**
- o. **High Schooling Hunter.** Open to all riders on horses or ponies. Judged on performance, way of going, manners and soundness. Fences at 2'6 or 3' at rider's discretion, to be designated on entry form. **A division with two (2) entries may run for lesser points or be combined with Low Schooling Hunter. Decision to be made before division begins.**
- p. **Short Stirrup Equitation Division.** Open to children twelve(12) years of age and under on horses and ponies who have not competed in any show over fences exceeding 2'. Judged on hands, seat, general appearance, and control of mount. Recommended classes; 1. walk/trot; 2. walk/trot/canter; and 3. A simple course of 4-8 cross rails at 18".
- q. **Short Stirrup Hunter Division.** Open to riders twelve (12) years of age and under. Riders to jump a simple course of eight (8) fences at 18". **Horse/pony/rider combo may only cross enter into Short Stirrup Equitation and Junior Pleasure at the same show.**
- r. **Low Schooling Jumpers.** Open to all riders on horses and ponies. Courses must be run as Table IIa, Table IIb, Table IIc, or Table V (Optimum Time). Jumps to be at 2'. Time allowed will be generous (350m/min). (See USEF Rulebook for Table descriptions).
- s. **Intermediate Schooling Jumpers:** Open to all riders on horses and ponies. Courses must be run as Table IIa, Table IIb, Table IIc, or Table V (Optimum Time). Jumps to be at 2'6". Time allowed to be generous (350m/min). (see USEF Rulebook for Table descriptions.)
- t. **High Schooling Jumpers:** Open to all riders on horses and ponies. Courses must be run as Table IIa, Table IIb, Table IIc, or Table V (Optimum Time). Jumps to be at 3'. Time allowed will be generous (350m/min). (See USEF Rulebook for Table descriptions).

If entries do not warrant running a division, any jumper divisions may be combined.

- u. Walk/Trot Division:** Open to junior and adult amateur riders on horses or ponies. Riders may not cross enter into any cantering or jumping classes. To consist of one walk Eq. class, one walk, trot Eq. class, and one walk, trot pleasure class.

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