




 Maryland Saddle Association  
MSA  
2009 Constitution & Rulebook 

**2009 Show Dates**

April 17-19 – May 15-17 – June 19-21 – August 1-2 – August 14-16



**Maryland Horse Show Association C-Rated Show:**

Medals, Hunters, Pleasure and Jumpers

**Schooling Show features:**

Showmanship, Conformation, English Pleasure, Western Pleasure and Performance, Hunters, Driving, plus Equitation and Horsemanship classes for all levels

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# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

## MARYLAND SADDLE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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### ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the “Maryland Saddle Association, Incorporated” (hereinafter referred to as MSA).

### ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Maryland Saddle Association, Inc. is to serve as an organization that creates a supportive learning environment where riders, regardless of age, skill level, gender, and physical and mental ability, can reach their potential as capable and competent equestrians. MSA seeks to reach out to all segments of our diverse community, and bring together, under uniform rules, people sharing a mutual interest in the showing of all types of horses. Through our volunteer organization, we hope to develop and implement a quality horse show series that provides fun, hands-on learning, and actively promotes horses and horsemanship within the state of Maryland to the benefit of both the horse and rider.

### ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1: Types of Membership

- A. A member in good standing is defined as one with no outstanding debt to MSA and one who has not had their membership privileges revoked for the current year.
- B. Individual membership: Any person in good standing shall be eligible for individual membership providing their annual dues are paid.
- C. Family membership: Any family in good standing shall be eligible for membership providing its annual dues are paid. For horse show purposes, the word “family” shall include the following: husband, wife, and children under the age of eighteen residing at the same address.
- D. Member participation in shows is limited to those in good standing.
- E. No Year-end award will be presented to a member not in good standing.

#### Section 2: Membership Year

The membership year shall run from December 1 to November 30. Members shall not be entitled to vote until dues have been paid in full for the current year. All membership dues disputes shall be resolved before the date of the Annual Open Membership Meeting and Election.

#### Section 3: Membership Privileges

- A. One (1) vote per membership (individual or family) at the open meeting, with the exception that Junior members shall not have the right to vote.
- B. The registration of each individual or member(s) of a family as a rider in the MSA Rider Divisions.
- C. The registration of horses is included in the membership fee. **Both horse and rider must be registered in order to receive points.**

### ARTICLE IV – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Section 1: Eligibility for the Board of Directors

- A. The open senior membership shall have the right to elect by secret ballot a minimum of five (5) Directors to represent their interests on the Board of Directors.

- B. In addition to elected or appointed Directors, Honorary Directors may be elected by the Board of Directors in recognition of loyal, distinguished, and outstanding service to the Association. An Honorary Director shall serve for life with full voting privileges, without payment of dues, and shall not be required to attend meetings. There shall be no more than three (3) Honorary Directors serving on the Board of Directors at any one time. An Honorary Director shall not be counted in determining a quorum.
- C. Adjunct Directors may be elected to or appointed by the Board of Directors in recognition of a special skill, service or services provided to the Maryland Saddle Association. Examples include, but are not limited to, web, legal, accounting, financial, general contracting, veterinary, equine and other services. An Adjunct Director may be appointed for a year with no voting privileges, and shall not be required to attend meetings. There is no limit to the number of Adjunct Directors sitting on the board.
- D. The President shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors the year succeeding their presidency.

**Section 2: Positions**

With the exception of the Past President, one (1) person may not serve in two (2) positions on the Board of Directors. The Past President will be allowed only one vote even if serving in an additional capacity on the board.

**Section 3: Absenteeism**

A Director who is absent without cause from three (3) consecutive meetings will be dropped from the Board of Directors.

**Section 4: Duties**

- A. To elect the officers of MSA, or fill by appointment any office or board of directors' position that becomes vacant.
- B. To approve and sanction events as set forth in the Rule Book.
- C. To present awards as set forth in the Rule Book.
- D. To set all fees for membership, horse registration, show assessments, etc., as deemed necessary.
- E. To govern and conduct the business of MSA.

**Section 5: Conduct of Business**

- A. To change rules.
- B. To admit, suspend, or expel members.
- C. To approve or disapprove selection of Judges.
- D. To impeach officers.
- E. To implement other decisions if a majority of the quorum requests.
- F. To approve prize lists.

**ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

**Section 1: Open Meetings**

- A. An open membership meeting shall be held annually after the close of the show season and prior to the start of the new calendar year for elections and rule changes.
- B. Additional open meetings may be called by the President as deemed necessary.
- C. The eligible, voting membership present at an open meeting shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

**Section 2: Board Meetings**

- A. The Board of Directors shall meet at least bimonthly.
- B. Additional Board meetings shall be called by the President as deemed necessary.
- C. The open meeting and the Board of Directors meeting for that month may be held consecutively.
- D. A quorum to be able to conduct business shall consist of five (5) members of the Board of Directors.
- E. General membership is welcome to address the Board, however, they do not have a vote on issues presented to the Board, except at the yearly Open Membership meeting.
- F. Members wishing to present issues to the Board must contact the President, Vice President, or Corresponding Secretary to have their issue added to the agenda for presentation to the Board.

**Section 3: Order of Business at all Meetings**

- A. Roll call
- B. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
- C. Treasurer's report
- D. Reading of correspondence

- E. Recording Secretary's report
- F. Committee reports
- G. Old or unfinished business
- H. New business
- I. Elections or appointments of committees when necessary
- J. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS**

### **Section 1: Officers**

- A. The Board will consist of the following:
  - 1. President
  - 2. Past President (1<sup>st</sup> year after presidency expires only)
  - 3. Four (4) Executive Board Members
    - a. Vice President
    - b. Corresponding Secretary
    - c. Recording Secretary
    - d. Treasurer
  - 4. Maximum of thirteen (13) At-Large Board of Directors.
- B. The New Board will assume their duties at the first meeting of the new year.
- C. No elected officer shall serve in the same capacity for more than five (5) full terms, unless the ballot for that position remains unfilled for the annual election. In this case, the officer may be asked by the board to remain in the capacity for up to an additional year.

### **Section 2: Elections**

- A. The officers of MSA shall be elected by ballot at the open membership meeting each year.
- B. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the open meeting.

### **Section 3: Officers' Duties**

- A. President
  - 1. To preside at all meetings of MSA.
  - 2. To appoint all committees as necessary for the proper conducting of business of the Association.
  - 3. To co-sign all checks over the amount of \$500.00.
  - 4. To set the agenda for MSA meetings.
- B. Vice President
  - 1. To preside over all meetings in the absence of the President.
  - 2. To chair the Rules Committee, serve on the Show Committee, and act as co-chair on any ad-hoc committees
- C. Recording Secretary
  - 1. To take roll.
  - 2. To handle all membership applications, horse registrations, and to keep an accurate roster of all members and the status of their dues payment.
  - 3. To keep accurate records of all points accumulated at MSA shows, which must be published monthly during the show season.
  - 4. Prior to publication in the newsletter, points shall be audited or verified by a second Board member.
  - 5. To provide all shows with accurate, up-to-date membership lists.
- D. Corresponding Secretary
  - 1. To record the minutes of all MSA meetings.
  - 2. To provide copies of all minutes to the Board of Directors.
  - 3. To send notices of the open meetings to all members.
  - 4. To oversee the publishing of a monthly newsletter.
  - 5. To receive all MSA mail except membership applications and horse registration which shall be forwarded to the Recording Secretary
- E. Treasurer
  - 1. To keep accurate records of all MSA funds and render to the President, and the Board of Directors, at each Board Meeting, an account of the financial condition of the Association.

2. To receive and disburse MSA funds. All club bills are to be sent to the Treasurer or an MSA designated officer, but merchandise may be sent to the appropriate person.
3. The Treasurer and President shall be added to MSA accounts as authorized signatures. Checks over \$500.00 require the signature of both officers.
4. To be responsible for the collection of money at show entry booth either in person or to appoint a suitable representative.
5. All monies received are to be deposited within twenty-one (21) days of receipt with exceptions.
6. Treasurer shall be responsible for compiling and providing all necessary tax related information to a professional tax preparer as required by state and federal regulations.
7. The treasurer shall be responsible for having the proper paperwork prepared for presentation to an outside auditor/committee of the Board's choice. Results of said audit shall be returned to the President for distribution to the Board of Directors. Results of said audit shall be returned to the President for distribution to the Board of Directors by April 15th of the following year.
8. To prepare detailed monthly reports including income, expenditures, and the check register and provide copies to all members of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4: Removal of Officers**

- A. An officer may be removed from office for failure to perform the duties of the office.
- B. Refer to Article Four (4), Section Three (3).

**Section 5: Board Members Show Responsibilities**

All members of the Board of Directors are to fill in where necessary.

## **ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES**

**Section 1: Permanent Committees**

The following permanent committees shall be appointed by the President.

- A. Rules Committee
  1. To evaluate suggested rule changes.
  2. To prepare the Rulebook of the next year for ratification 45 days in advance of the designated annual open membership meeting.
  3. The Chairman of this committee is to serve on the Judge's and Show Committee.
- B. Judges Committee
  1. To select and present qualified judges and stewards for MSA Shows to the Board.
  2. To assure qualified judges for MSA shows.
  3. Will determine an established rate, cap or range of cost associated with judges, and present to the board for approval before contracting for judges
  4. The Chairperson of this committee is to serve on the Rules and Show Committee.
- C. Show Committee
  1. To prepare a prize list.
  2. To assist in planning shows.
  3. To distribute the show information.
  4. The Chairperson of this committee is to serve on the Judges and Rules Committee.
- D. Nominating Committee
  1. To draw up a slate of officers comprised of the President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and thirteen (13) At-Large Board of Directors to be presented at the designated annual general membership meeting.
  2. To record all nominations from the floor at the general membership meeting.
- E. Awards Committee
  1. To be chosen prior to the start of the show season.
  2. To consist of three members, one of which must be a Board Member.
  3. To attend all shows and select, based on their observation, the recipients of the Bart Hidey Memorial Western Sportsmanship Award and the Mary Loftus Memorial English Sportsmanship Award.
  4. Responsible for the purchase of all Year-end awards within a budget designated by the Board. The maximum budget available for the banquet will be the balance after all show expenses minus

the start-up budget for the next year (insurance, initial ribbons, rental deposits, advertising/mailings, etc.

**F. Special Events Committee**

1. To organize, plan, and schedule MSA special events such as MSA Medal Finals and clinics.
2. To assure qualified clinicians to conduct those clinics, activities, or events.
3. Will determine an established rate for both members and non-members who attend the clinic, and present to the board for approval before finalizing plans.

**G. Advertisers/Sponsors Committee**

1. To solicit advertisers for the prize list and sponsors for divisions or classes.
2. To prepare the advertiser's ads for inclusion in the prize list.
3. To submit to the Board for approval suggestions on all aspects of marketing and promoting the association's events.
4. The Chairperson of this committee is to serve on the Show Committee.

**Section 2: Ad Hoc Committees**

Ad Hoc committees are created by the board to serve a special purpose or mission, and will be dissolved by board action when no longer deemed necessary.

**Section 3: Chair**

All committees shall have a Chair appointed by the President who will serve as Co-Chair with the Vice President.

**Section 4: Committee Representative**

All committees should have members that represent both the English and Western interests of the association.

**Section 5: Committee Meetings**

Committees shall meet as necessary and be prepared to give reports at all board meetings.

## **ARTICLE VIII – THE RULE BOOK**

**Section 1: Annual Rule Book**

The MSA shall publish an annual Rule Book or shall adopt the Rule Book published in any previous year with revisions as necessary.

**Section 2: Rule Book Revisions**

Suggested revisions to the Rule Book must be submitted in writing or by electronic mail to the Rules Committee within 15 days after the last show of the season. The next year's Rule Book or Addendum must be approved by the Board 45 days prior to the designated open membership meeting.

**Section 3: Rule Book Changes/Interpretations**

Changes or interpretations of the rules may be made during the year by a two-thirds (2/3) favoring vote of the quorum present at any Board of Directors meeting. All members must be notified in writing of rule changes before same can become effective.

## **ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1: Amending the Constitution**

The constitution may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2: Procedures for Amending the Constitution**

No amendment to the Constitution shall be made unless the said proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a Board meeting by the Director proposing the amendment. It shall not be voted upon until the next Board meeting after its proposal. Due notice of said meeting and of the proposed amendment must be given to all Directors.

## **ARTICLE X – PROXY VOTES**

Proxy votes will not be accepted.

## **ARTICLE XI – RULINGS**

If MSA rules do not cover a specific instance, the Judge and/or Steward, in conjunction with unaffected Board Members present, will resolve the situation.

## **ARTICLE XII – DISSOLUTION**

The Board of Directors is empowered, in the event of any reason(s) MSA ceases to function as such or reaches a point of dissolution, to disperse such monies, records and physical property of MSA to other similar non-profit groups.

# RULE BOOK

OF THE

## MARYLAND SADDLE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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### SECTION I – REGISTRATION AND AWARDS

#### 1. Registration

- A. Membership application forms will be available at all MSA shows or may be acquired by writing the Corresponding Secretary.  
Fees are as follows: Individual Membership \$35.00  
Family Membership \$45.00
- B. No points will be counted which are gained by either horse or exhibitor prior to registration. Both horse and exhibitor must be registered with MSA before either can accumulate points. Persons may register at shows by filling out the appropriate forms and presenting them to the show Secretary prior to showing in any classes. Disputes must be settled within 10 days of the date the points are posted.
- C. In order to retain performance points won the previous year (s), a horse must be re-registered prior to January 31 of the current year.
- D. Once a horse is recorded, it must be entered under its original recorded name unless the name is officially changed. A \$10.00 fee will be charged for name changes. This must be done to ensure the horse's previous points are transferred to the new name.
- E. Purchasers of horses which have acquired MSA points under their previous owners must re-register the horse in order to maintain the continuity of points.
- F. Once a horse has received an accumulative award, it is not eligible to receive the same award, regardless of whether it has changed ownership or failed to re-register by the January 31 deadline.
- G. If a horse's points have been lost due to failure to re-register, the points may be reinstated after a penalty of \$10.00 has been paid. Proof of past points must be provided to the Board. This proof can be past MSA newsletters, accumulative awards, or banquet programs from past years. If an accumulative award is used to prove past points, the points will be reinstated at that level.
- H. Reservation of Stalls for MSA Shows:
1. Stalls may be reserved in advance at a price determined by the Board of Directors. The earliest that stalls may be reserved is at the end of year MSA awards banquet in the preceding year.
  2. The board will attempt to accommodate member wishes for particular stall assignments.
  3. Members will acknowledge in writing prior to reservation that neither the Maryland Saddle Association or its Board Members, or volunteers, will be responsible for any injury that may occur to a member's horse(s) during stabling or that may occur to individuals from actions attributed to the member's horse(s).

#### 2. Awards

Awards will be presented at the annual awards ceremony.

#### 3. Scoring Points for Accumulative Awards

- A. There will be two performance divisions, English and Western, in which a horse or pony may accumulate points, and in which awards will be presented annually. Points from the Saturday rated also count towards accumulative awards.
- B. A horse or pony may receive an award in both the English and Western divisions; however, English and Western performance points will not be combined.
- C. Accumulative awards are:
- |                       |            |   |
|-----------------------|------------|---|
| The Achievement Award | 50 points  | Shall consist of a large billboard plaque for the horse accumulating the points. Price not to exceed \$20.00    |
| The Award of Merit    | 150 points | Shall consist of a large silver bowl mounted on wooden base for the horse accumulating the points. Price not to |

The Championship Award	300 points	exceed \$60.00 Shall consist of a photograph of the horse accumulating the points. Price not to exceed \$75.00
The Grand Championship Award	500 points	Shall consist of a watercolor painting of the horse accumulating the points. Price not to exceed \$150.00
The Superior Award	750 points	Shall consist of an acrylic trophy presented to the owner of the horse accumulating the points. Price not to exceed \$200.00
The Award of Excellence	1000 points	Shall consist of award of the recipient's choosing. Price not to exceed \$250.00.

\* Prices are subject to change due to inflation

#### 4. Annual Awards

- A. There will be performance divisions in which registered horses and ponies may accumulate points and annual awards will be presented.
- B. There are rider divisions based on the age of the rider for riders to accumulate points for annual awards.
- C. There will be Conformation Divisions in which any horse registered with MSA may accumulate points towards annual awards.
- D. The MSA Prizebook will specify unique annual awards criteria for applicable classes and divisions.

#### 5. Sportsmanship Awards

Sportsmanship Awards (one [1] English and one [1] Western) may be awarded annually.

- A. Winners to be selected by the Awards Committee (see Article VII, I-E).
- B. Awards to be presented to the child(ren) showing best sportsmanship, showmanship, and improvements during the year.
- C. The Bart Hidey Memorial Western Sportsmanship Award will be presented to the Western Sportsmanship winner. This award will be returned at the end of the year to be awarded to the next recipient.
- D. The Mary Loftus Memorial English Sportsmanship Award will be presented to the English Sportsmanship winner. This award will be returned at the end of the year to be awarded to the next recipient.

#### 6. Perpetual Awards

A. General:

1. **Penalties for Loss**

If a special trophy is damaged, destroyed, stolen or lost while in an exhibitor's possession, said exhibitor shall pay MSA for the cost to replace it. It is the recipient's responsibility for all perpetual awards to return the awards on or before September 1st of the current year. It is the responsibility of any perpetual award winners to return to the MSA show office their perpetual awards cleaned and in good condition no later than the last regularly scheduled show each year. The awards will be collected in the MSA show office by the Awards Committee. Should the recipient not be in attendance at the last regularly scheduled show, it is recipient's responsibility to mail (properly packaged and insured) the award to the Award Committee's Chairman no later than September 1st of each year.

2. **Trophies Not Qualified For**

Any trophy that is not won will be returned to its donator for that year.

3. **Registration Papers**

Any trophy to be awarded to a registered horse or pony; the registration papers must be received by the Recording Secretary before any points may be accumulated.

4. **Introduction of New Awards**

Anyone wishing to donate a new perpetual award must submit name, requirements, and a description of the award to be presented for approval by the Board. 10 year maintenance fee of \$100.00 must accompany all new awards. The MSA Board will periodically review all perpetual awards to determine if they should be retired. Reasons for retirement may include, but are not limited to relevancy (the requirements can no longer reasonably be met or have not been met in a number of years), redundancy (an award with similar requirements already exists), or recurrence (the same horse and/or rider wins the award

multiple times.). Retirement of perpetual awards will be coordinated with, but is not subject to the approval of, the donor.

B. Awards:

4. **Essence-Tag's Fine Lad Perpetual Trophy** donated in 1978 by Sherrie Ford-Wilkinson and Shelby Duffy to the pony accumulating the highest number of points in over fences classes in the Large Pony Working Hunter Division. A replica will be presented each year to the winning pony by the trophy's donors.
5. **JU-BI Quarter Horse Award** donated in 1983 by Bill Wilson and Julie Murphy. After Bill Wilson's death in 1979, Julie requested this trophy be presented in memory of her father, Bill Wilson. It is to be presented to the registered Quarter Horse accumulating the most points in English and/or Western performance, trail and in-hand classes. No Equitation or Horsemanship points to count. A copy of the horse's registration papers must be turned in with membership form.
6. **Severn Hills Versatility Award** donated in 1984 by Severn Hill Morgans to be awarded to the horse accumulating the most points in conformation, driving, open English performance and open Western performance. With the provisions that at least one point must be earned in each of the four areas, and no more than 50 points in each area to count. If no horse qualifies because no horse has points in all areas, the trophy shall be returned Severn Hill Morgans for that year. Points earned in the following divisions will not count toward this award: Snaffle-Bit, English 4 & Under, Green Hunter, Novice English Pleasure and Novice Western Pleasure.
7. **Anders Saturn Western Pleasure Award** donated in 1984 by Marjorie Thor Straten to the horse accumulating the most Western pleasure points. No trail points to count (Must show in Western Tack).
8. **Afaloosa Horsemanship Award** donated in 1984 by Gerri Wampler to the rider accumulating the most Horsemanship class points from any of the Western Rider Divisions.
9. **Daisy Morning Star Trophy (Kim Gladwell Western Showmanship Award)** donated in 1986 by Kim Gladwell-Barber and her good mare Daisy Morning Star to be presented to the showman and horse team accumulating the most Western Showmanship class points.
10. **\*O. Bartran Hidey Memorial Western Sportsmanship Award** donated in 1991 by Debbie North Sanders and Family in memory of a man who believed that winning was not the most important thing, but how you play the game was more important. Debbie remembers "He wanted to make sure that children were treated fairly and that they had positive learning experiences. It was important to him that all riders treat their animals and fellow riders with respect whether they won or lost. Bart was very dedicated to this organization and never gave up on the idea that we would make a comeback. I know he will never be forgotten, and I only hope he realizes how much he is respected and missed."  
\* See Rule 5 for explanation of how this award will be determined.
11. **\*Mary Loftus Memorial English Sportsmanship Award** donated in 1994 by Jan Martin, Loftmar Stables in memory of her mother. Mary Loftus had a true love of animals and especially horses. Jan remembers "She taught me that the care and well-being of the animal should be your first priority. The respect, honesty, and fairness you show yourself and others will be returned to you and that each of us should admire and learn from others whose skills are greater than ours. Most importantly of all, you should enjoy what you are doing. Her love and support is dearly missed."  
\* See Rule 5 for explanation of how this award will be determined.
12. **Whispering Wind Arabians Perpetual Trophy** donated in 1995 by Whispering Wind Arabians to promote participation in the registered purebred and half-Arabian breed at MSA shows. Eligible to any registered purebred or registered half-Arabian who earns the most points in either English or Western performance (or both). Horse/pony must earn a minimum of five (5) halter/model points (showmanship excluded), in order to be considered for this award. If there are no horses eligible for the award during any year, this trophy is to be returned to the Marshall's (Whispering Wind Arabians) until such time as there is a winner.
13. **Mr. Ed's Pleasure Horse Award** donated in 1995 by Betsy Andrews to the horse and rider team accumulating the most points in English and Western Pleasure classes. Includes: Senior English Pleasure Horse, Junior English Pleasure Horse, English Pleasure Horse,

Senior Western Pleasure, Junior Western Pleasure, and "Western Horse" English Pleasure. At least 10 points must be earned in each style of riding to qualify.

14. **The American Express Challenge Trophy** donated in 1995 by Tag Along Farm. To be awarded to the pony with the highest number of points for the year in the Conformation Pony division. To be won three times by the same pony to be retired.
15. **The Chloe Challenge Trophy** Donated in 1995 by Tag Along Farm to the pony accumulating the most points in the Pleasure Pony Over Fences division. Trophy retired in 2003 and re-donated by Marina Wilson. To be won three times by the same pony to be retired.
16. **The Glenmore Twilight Challenge Trophy** donated in 1995 by Tag Along Farm to the pony accumulating the most points in the Small/Medium Hunter Pony division. To be won three times by the same pony to be retired.
17. **Upland Dancer Challenge Trophy** donated in 1995 by Loftmar Stables to be awarded to the registered pony of any breed accumulating the highest number of points in performance and halter/conformation classes.
18. **Grand Champion Pleasure Pony Award** donated in 1998 by MSA, to be awarded to the pony measuring 14.2 or less (cards not accepted) accumulating the most points in the Pleasure Pony divisions. At least two pleasure divisions must be offered for this trophy to be awarded; the pony must receive points in both divisions. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to have any large pony qualifying for this award must be measured in the presence of a judge or steward before the closing of the last show – no cards accepted.
19. **William S. Jermyn Hunter Trophy** donated in 1996 by Jan Martin, Loftmar Stables, to the hunter horse or pony accumulating the most points for the year in any/all hunter divisions.
20. **MSA Medal** A trophy will be awarded to the winner at the show; the MSA Medal will be awarded at the banquet
21. **Sweet Stuff Grand Champion English Pleasure Horse Award** Donated in 1998 by Ability Medical to be awarded to the horse with the most points in the English Pleasure Horse Division except Pleasure Pairs and Green Pleasure.
22. **"No Faults" Perpetual Trophy** Donated in 1998 by the Quattro Family in honor of their jumper, Sussar, to be awarded to the horse/pony accumulating the most points in the jumper division(s).
23. **Lorilock Farm Perpetual Lead Line Trophy** Donated in 1999 by Lorilock Farm, the Dorman Family, to be awarded to the High Point Lead line rider.
24. **Reef Road Hunter Trophy** Donated in 1999 by Mark Coale and Tag Along Farm in memory of Reef Road (Eeyore). Awarded to the horse accumulating the most points in both the Low and Working Hunter divisions. To qualify, horses must have earned at least one point in each division.
25. **Tag Along Farm Leadline Trophy**. Donated in 2004 by Tag Along Farm, to be awarded to the High Point Western Lead line rider.
26. **Bernie Kempton Memorial Award** (High Point Youth/Horse) Donated in 2002 by Sandi Kempton in memory of her grandfather Bernie Kempton. This award is given to the youth rider and horse team (horse/rider combination) who accumulates the most points in western events. Horsemanship and showmanship points to count.

## SECTION II – SHOW RULES

### 7. Show Dates

Show dates will be approved by the Board of Directors by January 31 of the current year.

### 8. Prize Lists

An MSA Rule Book of the current year must be available at the entry desk for reference. Prize lists must include the following information.

- A. Name of show
- B. Time
- C. Places
- D. Classes
- E. Entry Fee

- F. Awards for classes (money, ribbons, trophies, etc.)
- G. Championships
- H. Age restrictions (if classes are limited)
- I. Judge(s)
- J. Steward (if applicable)
- K. Phone for additional information
- L. Special Regulations, Rules if any, etc.

#### **9. Schooling**

- A. An area that is to be used for schooling will be provided throughout conduct of the show.
- B. Open and controlled show ring schooling times will be established by MSA. Typically, open schooling will be available each morning before the show. Controlled schooling may be offered for a charge determined by MSA

#### **10. Diagrams (or Course/Patterns)**

- A. Diagrams must be posted for all classes in which individual performance is required prior to the first class of the show. Also see Rule 70 concerning hunter courses.
- B. A course may be changed to be less stringent, or if a mistake is brought to the attention of the Show Committee.
- C. Written or verbal instructions may be given.

#### **11. Changes, Conflicts Between Rings and Cancellations**

- A. MSA reserves the right to change the location or sequence of divisions and classes as necessary in order to affect efficient show operations, to include assigning priority to one ring over another.
- B. MSA reserves the right to cancel or combine classes.
- C. MSA will try to accommodate all entries with conflicts and keep exhibitors current on status of classes in each ring. However, due to the number of classes and expected entries, all exhibitors are responsible for monitoring rings in which they are exhibiting and making the determination as whether to scratch.
- D. Exhibitors with conflicts between rings may be moved early or late in the class order. Once a class goes through all entries and is at the point of holding the ring for an exhibitor with another conflict (either horse or rider), exhibitors without conflicts will not be able to compete.
- E. The Show Manager/Committee will work with exhibitors (within reason) to resolve conflicts between rings involving any horse or rider. However, MSA reserves the right to announce a two-minute gate call and proceed with a class if three-quarters of the exhibitors are available.

#### **12. Point System**

- A. Points in all divisions are to be awarded as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 7 points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5 points
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4 points
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – 3 points
  - 5<sup>th</sup> – 2 points
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – 1 point
- B. Each horse/pony may enter a class only once, except in Equitation or Horsemanship divisions/classes.
- C. Ribbon colors are as follows:
  - Champion – blue, red and yellow tri-color
  - Reserve Champion – red, yellow and white tri-color
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Blue
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Red
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – Yellow
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – White
  - 5<sup>th</sup> – Pink
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – Green
- D. A show must award color-coded prizes. If ribbons are given, they must be the rosette type.
- E. Point count totals are considered final within 30 days of publication in the MSA newsletter, website ([www.mdsaddle.com](http://www.mdsaddle.com)) or posting at an MSA horse show, whichever comes first.

#### **13. No Money**

The offering of money is prohibited in all Lead Line, Walk, Walk-Trot/Jog, Mini Stirrup, Short Stirrup and Equitation or Horsemanship division/classes.

#### 14. Results and Entries

- A. It is the responsibility of the Show Committee Chair to see that the results of the MSA classes as well as all new membership forms are submitted to the Recording Secretary within seven (7) days after the show is held.
- B. Entries
1. Entries must be made in writing and submitted by the owner or authorized agent prior to the commencement of judging of the class. Exhibitors are responsible for their own errors and those of their agents in preparation of entry forms. Entry fees must be refunded at the exhibitor's request for any class not shown in, if the request is made prior to the class
  2. *Class Entries* - Classes may only be entered by using the official class number, whether on the entry blank or on the Official Add/Scratch Form. The writing of a division name or class name will not constitute an entered class.
  3. *Class Declarations* - Any class number written (or circled) on the entry blank constitutes a declaration.
  4. *Entry/Cross Entry* - Exhibitors are responsible for a knowledge of the Rules and Regulations governing the horse show and for their own error and omissions. In the case of a violation of a cross entry restriction, the exhibitor will forfeit the entry fee and class placing.
  5. *Entered and Did Not Compete* - Any exhibitor who does not compete in a class(es) in which the exhibitor is officially entered, and does not scratch according to the Scratch Procedures outlined above, will be billed for the class(es). You MUST do your paperwork in the Show Office in order to avoid this penalty.
  6. *Not Entered and Did Not Compete* - Horses shown in a class without being officially entered will pay a \$15 penalty plus the class fee. You MUST do your paperwork in the Show Office in order to avoid this penalty. Entries must be made in writing and submitted by the owner or authorized agent prior to the commencement of judging of the class.
- C. Entry Procedures
1. Entry procedures must be clearly stated and outlined in the prizelist for all exhibitors.
  2. Each horse/rider combination must complete an entry form. Each entry form MUST be accompanied by a check covering office fees, stall and tack room fees, RV fees, and early arrival fees.
  3. Entries postmarked by the closing dates and adhering to all entry procedures will be pre-entered in all the appropriate classes/divisions. Exhibitors are encouraged to submit their entries for the WHOLE SEASON at any time. You must submit a separate entry form and check for each show
  4. Numbers WILL NOT be issued or valid without a SIGNED OPEN CHECK lodged with the Show Secretary at each show.
  5. Numbers WILL NOT be issued without complete information and all required signatures on the entry blank.
  6. Exhibitors are encouraged to settle their horse show account in person. Management will automatically close any exhibitor's account left open at the conclusion of any show and questions regarding billing or refunds WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.
- D. Post Entries
- All entries postmarked after the closing date for the show will not receive the pre-entry discount.
- E. Changing Entries
1. An exhibitor is allowed to make class changes in the Horse Show Office to an entry without penalty at the time the exhibitor's entry number is issued. This a grace period, giving the exhibitor an opportunity to make adjustments to the original entry prior to picking up numbers. (The grace period applies only to class adds and class scratches and does not affect rules regarding stall fees, post entry fees, and etc.)
  2. Once the exhibitor number has been issued, the exhibitor will have one "free" Official Add/Scratch form to make additional class changes. After that, normal rules and fees to add and scratch classes will prevail.
- F. Adding Classes or Divisions
1. Adding classes or divisions may only be done in the Horse Show Office using the Official Form prior to the start of the class. A copy of that form must be given to the ring steward in order to have your name added to the class list. Any other method WILL NOT be considered valid and will incur fees.

2. A fee of \$2 per class will be charged for classes added after your initial "free" Official Add/Scratch form.

#### G. Scratches

1. Scratches must be completed in the Horse Show Office using the Official Form prior to the start of the first class of the division. A copy of that form must be given to the ring steward in order to have your name subtracted from the class list. Any other method WILL NOT be considered valid and may incur fees. Once a class begins, it may not be scratched.
2. A horse scratched from a show prior to the start of the first class entered in will forfeit office fees.
3. A fee of \$2 per class will be charged for classes scratched after your initial "free" Official Add/Scratch form.

#### H. Refunds

After the closing date of entries, only pre-paid entry fees are eligible for refund; however, exhibitors are NOT encouraged to pre-pay entry fees when submitting their entry blanks. Stall and Office fees are NOT refundable under any circumstances after the closing date of entries. If eligible for refund, a check for the amount of refund due minus necessary office fees will be mailed within 30 days after the show.

### 15. Restricted Classes/Divisions and "Moving Ahead"

Restrictive Divisions and Classes are those that restrict participation by horses and/or riders in other divisions and classes. Restrictions may include, but are not limited to, fence heights, gaits, and age/skill of rider; horses and riders showing illegally in restricted divisions and classes forfeit all points and prize money awarded for the year up to and including the infraction. It is the responsibility of the owner to see that horses are not shown illegally.

- A. During the course of the show season, riders and owners may choose to leave the restricted class or division and move up to the next level. Those choosing this course of action must declare their intent in writing. Riders and horses who move up out of the restricted divisions/classes will be allowed to retain their points, but will not be allowed to return to the restricted divisions/classes. Exceptions are with youth and adult beginners who move ahead. A rider may not ride in both the restricted class/division and move ahead to the next level in the same show weekend.
- B. A youth may move ahead to try the next higher division and return to the original division if desired. This trial move may only occur once. If a youth moves ahead a second time, the youth must remain in the higher division.
- C. An Adult Beginner may move out of the Adult Beginner Division to ride in the Senior Rider Division; however, once this occurs, the Adult Beginner may no longer ride in the Adult Beginner Division. Adult Beginner points for the year will not be lost, but no more Adult Beginner points may be earned.

## SECTION III – GENERAL RULES

### 16. Suspended Person

Any of the below listed, currently under suspension by any recognized Association, will not be allowed to exhibit at any MSA show.

- A. An individual or member of his/her immediate family.
- B. Any horse or pony owned by an individual or member of his/her immediate family if protested.
- C. Any horse or pony sold by an individual or member of his/her immediate family for a period of one month following the date of sale.
- D. Persons owing MSA and fees are suspended until said bill and/or bank fees are settled. Only then will any other transactions from that individual be acceptable to this Association.

### 17. Exhibitor Conduct

A Judge or show official shall have the authority to disqualify or exclude from participating in the class as hand any rider for unnecessary roughness or abuse to horse, excessive use of a quirt, bat or spurs, use of profane language, or disorderly conduct of any kind.

### 18. Equipment and Attire

Appropriate equipment and attire must be worn in each of the respective divisions, except that a complete change of clothing is not required for those riding in at least two of the following divisions: English, Western, Saddle Seat. Fancy equipment or dress will not count over a good working outfit. All items below will be strictly enforced; dismissal from class may result from any infraction.

1. Head Gear Requirements:
  - A. Hard hats are required for all English riders whenever mounted, regardless of age

- B. Hard hats for Saddle Seat riders are recommended, but optional.
- C. SEI/ASTM/AHSA approved protective helmets with chin straps are MANDATORY for:
  - 1) All English Riders.
  - 2) Western Timed Event Riders and Jump Riders
- 2. Boots, western hats or hard hats, and long sleeve shirts/blouses are required in Western classes. Hats are required in timed classes, upon entering the ring. Junior western speed riders must wear the current SEI/ASTM approved protective helmets with chin straps.
- 3. Any lack of riding apparel due to injury will be permitted if approved by the MSA Steward prior to any class.
- 4. Full chaps are not permitted in English classes.
- 5. Saddles, bridles and equipment appropriate to the division must be used.
- 6. Rider's number must be visible at all times.
- 7. For driving, proper hunt seat, saddle seat or western wear will be accepted, as well as formal or semi-formal wear. Clothing should be neat and conservative. Lap robes are optional. Hats must be worn.

**19. Ties for Championships and Reserve Championships**

- A. In Hunter and Equitation Divisions with over fences classes, the Championship will be awarded to the animal or rider with the highest number of points in the over fences class(es). If a tie still exists, it will be broken with the flip of a coin.
- B. In all other Divisions, MSA will designate one class as the tie-breaker class (nominally shown in the prizebook with an asterisk).

**20. Timed Classes**

The time shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse's nose passes over the finish line. At least two split-second timers must be used, with the average of both watches used by the official timers to be considered the official time. A Judge or Steward must verify the time. An electric timer may be used. The contestant is allowed a running start from a 20 foot wide starting line. Faults and time must be announced after each horse completes his round.

**21. Disqualification**

A horse and/or rider will be disqualified for any of the following:

- A. Failure to negotiate the designated course.
- B. Failure to appear within one (1) minute after the designated time for each class or any part of a class.
- C. Fall of horse or rider. A rider is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch of the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle on the ground.
- D. Three (3) refusals within a jumping course eliminated the competitor from the class.

**22. Judge's Decisions**

- A. The decision of the Judge shall be considered final.
- B. No Judge should be approached by an owner, rider, or spectator during the show. Questions regarding a decision must be made through the Show Committee or Steward.
- C. A Judge may, but is not required to, explain decisions to an exhibitor/trainer after completion of the show.

The soundness of a horse, when determined by the Judge (in the absence of a veterinarian) is not protestable.

**23. Stallions**

- A. Exhibitors under 18 years of age are forbidden to show stallions. For this purpose, a stallion is an unaltered male horse over one year of age. A horse is considered a year old as of January 1 of the year after it is foaled.
- B. Stallions not confined to a stall or a trailer must be accompanied by an adult.
- C. Stallions will not be allowed to show in Adult Beginner, Novice or Limited classes.

**24. Unruly Horses**

A Judge or show official shall have the authority to disqualify or exclude from participation any horse that is not considered to be safely manageable, and as such could be considered hazardous to either exhibitors or spectators.

**25. Payment of Show Fees**

All show participants are to pay their show fees prior to receiving their number. An open check made out to MSA must be left with the entry, if not paid in cash. Any person supplying an invalid check must pay a \$40.00 service charge. Participants or members that have more than one returned check during a given season will be required to become a CASH ONLY member for the remainder of the year.

## 26. Protests

- A. Protests concerning any class or a show must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors accompanied by a \$25.00 fee, within three (3) days following the date of the show. Upon investigation, a penalty will be assessed as under (E) of this section. If the protest is declared invalid, the fee will be retained by the Association.
- B. Protests concerning any owner, exhibitor, agent, trainer, manager, rider, show official, show employee, volunteer, or member of the family of the above, an individual member of MSA, or any person who acts in a manner prejudicial to the best interest of MSA, must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors within three (3) days following the date of the show. Upon investigation, that person may be penalized as under (E) of this section for any infraction of the following but not limited thereto:
  - 1. Excessive or continuous abuse of an animal.
  - 2. Disrespect to Judge or a show official.
  - 3. Continuous profane language or disorderly conduct.
- C. Prior to investigation, the alleged offender will be notified of the offense and may submit an explanation, in writing, prior to the committee meeting or appear before that committee at their meeting.
- D. A protest filed under (A) or (B) must state the full name and address of the alleged offender and/or contain a detailed report of acts which constitute the alleged violation. A protest may concern only one violation. Although the name may be withheld from the alleged offender, the protest must be signed by the person(s) making the charges.
- E. The alleged violations shall be investigated and, if the protest is deemed valid, a penalty will be made by the Board of Directors of MSA to be imposed on the offender. Penalties may include one or all of the following:
  - 1. A letter of reprimand from the Association.
  - 2. Payment of fine.
  - 3. Suspension from showing or having others show for a period deemed advisable. Suspension may also apply to Show Officials and show employees.
  - 4. Forfeiture of trophies, prize money (if any), or ribbons in connection with the offense.
  - 5. Suspension or expulsion from membership in MSA.
  - 6. Dropping of Judge's or Steward's name from MSA lists.
  - 7. Expulsion from all MSA recognized shows.

## 27. Measurement

- A. As a Schooling Series, MSA does not require any horse/pony to hold a valid measurement card. However, MSA does need to have accurate measurements of all ponies being shown. MSA will recognize a valid measurement card from US Equestrian (AHSA), or MHSA, and such a valid measurement card cannot be protested at an MSA show. For those exhibitors without a valid measurement card, the following procedure will be followed:
  - 1. MSA will designate at least four trained MSA Board Members and the Show Steward as Measuring Officials.
  - 2. Prior to the start of the MSA Show Season, a day will be designated for all owners of ponies to have those ponies measured by a valid Measuring Official of MSA
  - 3. For those animals needing to be measured at a show, measurements will be done prior to the start of the first class of the day.
- B. In the event of protest, the Protestor must pay MSA a \$25.00 protest fee. If the protest is upheld, the money is returned; if not, the fee is retained.
- C. Protest will be brought before a Measuring Official and/or Show Steward no later than one hour after Protestee's last class of the day.
- D. Protest determination will be made by the Measuring Official and/or Show Steward
  - 1. If the Measuring Official rules in favor of the protestee's pony, that pony cannot be protested again for the season. The MSA measurement will be recorded.
  - 2. If the Measuring Official rules in favor of the protestor, the protestee has 30 days to have the pony properly measured and present a valid measurement card to MSA.
- E. An approved USAE measurement stick will be required for measurement.
- F. If the protestee has been notified of the protest and leaves the grounds before the Measuring Official makes a ruling, the protestee forfeits size and points for that season.
- G. MSA will not move the Judges card standings.

- H. MSA will not move the Judges card standings. If a pony is found not eligible for the division, their points will be invalidated. The remainder of the class placements will stand as originally awarded on the judges card.

### **28. Ponies**

Height of Ponies: Small / Medium Ponies – 13.2 hands and under

Large Ponies – 13.2 hands and up to and including 14.2 hands.

### **29. Adults/Ponies**

- A. Riders who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday before December 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year are considered Senior riders.
- B. Adults cannot show ponies and be judged in the pony classes. They may show un-judged in pony classes after paying all fees. However, adults showing ponies in horse classes and divisions may be judged. Exhibitors/ponies choosing this option will be ineligible to show in pony division during the current show year. Once shown by an adult in a horse division, pony is no longer eligible as a pony for the remainder of the year (except Schooling divisions) unless said pony changes ownership.
- C. In Western Performance classes, ponies shown by Senior riders will not be judged. For Western classes a horse is an animal 14 hands and over.
- D. In Driving classes, ponies may be shown by Seniors and may be judged.

### **30. Age of Horses**

A horse is considered a year old as of January 1 of the year immediately following its foaling date, even if only a few months old.

### **31. Drugs**

It shall be illegal to administer tranquilizers, stimulants, pain killers, or any other substance which in any way alters a horse or pony's temperament or performance.

- A. Protests against any owner, exhibitor, etc. involving drugging of a horse or pony shall be made to the Show Officials.
  - 1. The initial protest may be made verbally.
  - 2. The protest must be submitted in writing to the Show Committee with the necessary fees before a veterinarian examines the horse or pony.
  - 3. The Show Committee must contact a veterinarian and have him come to the show grounds to test the suspected horse or pony.
- B. The burden of proof shall be on the person or persons filing the protest. The person(s) making the protest shall be responsible for any expense incurred by the veterinarian for fee, laboratory testing, or any other fee.
- C. Penalties shall be the same as under Rule 26-E. Any owner, exhibitor, or rider refusing to allow their horse or pony to be examined and tested shall be assumed to be guilty and penalized accordingly by the Enforcement Committee.
- D. MSA has the right to administer a drug test at any time.

### **32. Class Entry Limits and Split Classes**

All pre-entries in any division will be accepted; however, MSA reserves the right to close entries in any division at 30 entries or to split pleasure classes at 25. No additions may be made to any class roster after the class is closed. The following exceptions apply:

- A. Walk/Trot may be split at 20.
- B. Hunters Under Saddle can be split at the judge's discretion in order to judge safely however, they will be pinned as one class.
- C. No rated divisions will be closed due to entry size.

### **33. Interruption of Procedure**

- A. If a competition is in progress and must be stopped due to storm, accident, or other emergency, the Show committee will decide whether to re-commence. Any interrupted classes may be re-commenced within the session in which they were originally scheduled (or at a succeeding session of the competition).
- B. The Show Committee will also decide whether awards for classes not held are warranted and called for. No championship, awarded on points, can be awarded in any division, however, unless more than 50% of the scheduled classes in that division have been held.
- D. In the event of a storm or other emergency rendering the condition of show grounds unsafe for the holding of a horse show, the judgment to cancel shall be between the Show Committee, and at least one of the designated judges. If cancelled, the Show Committee must notify exhibitors by every means

available. The show should not be cancelled unless it is impossible for horses and ponies to perform safely.

- E. If a class in which horses compete either collectively or individually is in progress and must be stopped due to storm, accident, or other emergency, the judge(s) will decide to either hold the class over in its entirety, in which case no score credited in the first session will count, or to recommence the class where it was interrupted.

#### **34. Gate Check-In Procedures**

In an effort to expedite gate and show management, and in the case of over-fences classes, to avoid the need to post jump orders, exhibitors are expected to immediately check in once a division has been called to report to the ring. If applicable, exhibitors will be placed in class jump order, and entries will be skipped if not available when their number is called. It is expected that exhibitors will complete rounds promptly. MSA reserves the right to post jump orders if this procedure is abused

#### **35. Additional Rules**

Issues not covered by MSA would be governed by United States Equestrian rules.

### **SECTION IV – SHOW PERSONNEL**

#### **36. Show Manager and Committee**

- A. The show manager and show committee's purpose is to ensure that the horse show series meets the requirements as set forth in the Rulebook. Duties include: the planning of shows, preparation of prize lists, entries, and class definitions; hiring of all Show Officials and Personnel and ensuring they understand their duties and have all necessary equipment; and working within the Advertising/Sponsors Committee to promote the horse show series and events.
- B. The Show Manager/Committee is responsible for the operation of the competition. They must enforce all the rules of the association from the time entries are admitted to the competition grounds until their departure.
- C. The Show Manager/Committee has the authority to assign one ring priority over another and to change the location or sequence of divisions and classes as necessary in order to affect efficient show operations.
- F. A manager or member of the Show Committee may compete as rider or handler in his/her own competition. However, the manager must designate an assistant in charge while he or she is showing (or defer to the Show Committee). This does not absolve the manager's duties and responsibilities.
- G. If a competition is to be rated with a recognized organization in specific classes/divisions, the Show Manager/ Committee will:
  - 1. apply to the organization for competition dates.
  - 2. ensure the eligibility of all officials
  - 3. ensure that competition results are sent to the recognized organization within the proper timeframe
  - 4. ensure that the proper procedures for that organization are followed in all other respects

#### **37. Stewards**

- A. It is recommended that each MSA show should have an MSA Steward selected from an approved list. Any Judge may serve as a Steward in the Division(s) for which he is approved. It shall be the duty of each show to select its own Steward. The duties of the Steward shall include, but not be limited to the following:
  - 1. A Steward must not allow spectators or exhibitors to approach the Judge.
  - 2. The Steward is a representative of MSA and is to point out in a diplomatic manner any instance where MSA rules are not being enforced.
  - 3. The Steward should not dictate to the Judge or the Show Officials, but should immediately report to these officials any violation of the MSA rules which might invalidate a class.
  - 4. The Steward should be available at all times to Judges, exhibitors, and Show Officials to protect their interests and to clarify the application of MSA rules and investigate any instance where rules are not upheld.
  - 5. The Steward shall act as mediator between the Judge and the exhibitor(s) and Show Committee.
  - 6. Stewards are not to ride, drive or show in hand at a show in which they are officiating.
  - 7. In the event a scheduled Steward is unable to officiate, the show has the prerogative of selecting another Steward

### **38. Announcers**

The duty of the Announcer is to announce winners, participant's numbers, and the commands of the Judge. Special announcements should not be made during classes, except when the horses are not actually competing, such as when lined up. Riders may be told to spread out, etc. only at the command of the Judge.

### **39. Ring Stewards**

- A. The ring Steward shall be familiar with all classes held at the show at which he is presiding.
- B. The ring Steward shall assemble classes properly.
- C. The ring Steward must keep in mind that he is to help the Judge, not to advise him, and must not take part in the judging of a class.
- D. The ring Steward shall refrain from discussing the horses or exhibitors with the Judges.
- E. When not actively engaged in duties, the ring Steward shall place himself in such a position so as not to interfere with the judging.
- F. Only at the request of the Judge shall the ring Steward line up horses or control the activity in the ring.
- G. The ring Steward must be familiar with all MSA rules.

### **40. Judges**

- A. A recognized Judge is an individual so classified in one or more divisions by the Judges committee and approved by the board of directors of MSA.
- B. Members of a Judge's family may register with MSA and accumulate points but may not show at shows where the judge is officiating. Judges shall be honorary members of MSA but must forfeit registration for points and may not serve on the board of directors.
- C. No horse may be shown before a Judge that has been sold or leased by said Judge or has been employed by said Judge within a period of three (3) months prior to the show.
- D. No rider may compete in any class before a Judge with whom instructed or coached, with or without pay, within three (3) months of the date of the show, except in the case of a one day clinic.
- E. A Judge shall not discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of any horse while officiating.
- F. A Judge may not judge more than one MSA show in a 30 day period unless rain dates make it necessary for a show to be postponed to a date within 30 days of a show the Judge has already consented to judge.
- G. No rider may show before a Judge who has boarded, trained, or ridden a horse owned by said exhibitor or immediate family member within a period of three (3) months prior to the date of the show.
- H. All Judges must be at least 21 years of age.
- I. A Judge may order any person or horse from the ring for inappropriate behavior.
- J. When requested by an exhibitor the show management or Steward, the Judge is urged to give his opinion courteously and sincerely.

## **SECTION V – RIDER DIVISIONS AND CLASSES**

### **41. English Equitation Division/Classes - General**

A rider may enter only one English Equitation Division. This exclusion does not affect rider eligibility in the MSA Medal Class, Saddle Seat Equitation or Western Horsemanship divisions/classes.

### **42. English Equitation Lead Line**

- A. Open to riders 8 and under as of December 1 of the previous year.
- B. Horses or ponies may be used. Emphasis is placed on suitability of rider to mount.
- C. Riders may not show in any class requiring independent walk, trot/jog or canter/lope.
- D. Riders failing to comply with Rule 39-C will be prohibited from showing in Lead Line permanently.
- E. A combined English and Western Lead Line class may be held, however it will be pinned separately for English and Western riders.
- F. The person leading the horse or pony must be neatly and suitably attired. Riding attire is not required for the leader.
- G. To be judged on suitability of mount to rider and on hands, seat and promise of rider.
- H. Leaders will not be requested to turn ponies/horses loose.
- I. To be shown at a walk both ways of the ring at the walk.

### **43. Walk Equitation Division**

- A. Open to riders 8 and under as of December 1 of the previous year.

- B. Horses or ponies may be used. Emphasis is to be placed on suitability of rider to mount.
- C. Participants in this division are not eligible for any other mounted class.
- D. Judged on hands, seat, control and promise of rider.
- E. Walk Classes:
  1. Walk Equitation – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk.
  2. Walk Program – with directions given orally by the Judge or a posted pattern to be followed.

#### **44. Walk-Trot Equitation Divisions**

- A. This division may be split into various age groups. Classes may be offered for children and/or adults.
- B. Horses or ponies may be used. Emphasis is to be placed on suitability of rider to mount.
- C. Riders showing in the Walk-Trot Equitation Division may not show in any class requiring a canter or lope at this show. To be eligible for this division, riders may not have shown at a canter or lope prior to December 1 of the previous year.
- D. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring.
- E. A rider who wins a Year End Championship in the Walk-Trot Division is not eligible for further participation in the division. This excludes the Classics Division.
- F. To be judged on hands, seat, control and promise of rider.
- G. English Walk-Trot Classes;
  1. Walk-Trot Equitation – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and trot.
  2. Walk-Trot Over Fences – individual performance over hunter type fences not to exceed 12” in height.
  3. Walk-Trot Program – directions given orally by the Judge or a posted pattern to follow.
  4. Walk-Trot Disciplined Rail – judged on the rail at a walk and trot, may be asked to perform simple commands as a group (for example; halt from the walk or trot, stand quietly, trot from halt, post on incorrect diagonal, back, reverse at the trot).

#### **45. Novice Rider Equitation Division**

- A. Open to all riders in their first or second year of showing.
- B. Judged on ability, hands, seat, control of mount, and suitability of mount to rider.
- C. Riders showing in Novice Rider may not show in other MSA classes that require cantering over fences.
- D. A rider who wins a year end championship in the Short Stirrup Division is not eligible for further participation in the division.
- E. Novice Rider Equitation Classes:
  1. Novice Rider Equitation Walk-Trot – to be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring.
  2. Novice Rider Equitation Walk-Trot-Canter – to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.

#### **46. Mini Stirrup Equitation Division**

- A. Open to riders 12 or under as of December 1 of the previous year.
- B. Riders showing in Mini Stirrup may not show in other MSA classes with fence heights exceeding 2’.
- C. A rider who wins a year end championship in Mini Stirrup is not eligible for further participation in the division.
- D. Judged on ability, hands, seat, control of mounts, and suitability of mount to rider.
- E. Mini Stirrup Classes:
  1. Mini Stirrup Walk-Trot Equitation – to be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring.
  2. Mini Stirrup Walk-Trot Canter Equitation – to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.
  3. Mini Stirrup Equitation Over Fences – to be shown over four to six hunter type fences not to exceed 2’.

#### **47. Short Stirrup Equitation Division**

- A. Open to riders 13 and under as of December 1 of the previous year.
- B. Judged on ability, hands, seat, control of mount, and suitability of mount to rider.
- C. Riders showing in Short Stirrup may show in other MSA classes, providing fence heights do not exceed 2’3”.
- D. A rider who wins a year end championship in the Short Stirrup Division is not eligible for further participation in the division.
- E. Short Stirrup Classes:
  1. Short Stirrup Equitation Walk-Trot – to be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring.

2. Short Stirrup Equitation Walk-Trot-Canter – to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.
3. Short Stirrup Equitation Over Fences – individual performance over six to eight hunter type fences not to exceed 2' in height.

#### **48. Long Stirrup Equitation Division**

- A. Open to riders 14 and over as of December 1 of the previous year.
- B. Judged on ability, hands, seat, control of mount, and suitability of mount to rider.
- C. Riders showing in Long Stirrup may show in other MSA classes, providing fence heights do not exceed 2'3".
- D. A rider who wins a year end championship in the Long Stirrup Division is not eligible for further participation in the division.
- E. Long Stirrup Classes:
  1. Long Stirrup Equitation Walk-Trot – to be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring.
  2. Long Stirrup Equitation Walk-Trot-Canter – to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.
  3. Long Stirrup Equitation Over Fences – individual performance over six to eight hunter type fences not to exceed 2'3 in height.

#### **49. Medal Classes**

- A. Open to everyone; all ages riding horse/pony. Participants are to ride over a course of eight (8) or more jumps. To be judged as an equitation class on hands, seat, guidance and control throughout. Jumping faults of mount not to count. Fall of horse or rider, or three (3) refusals shall eliminate. The judge shall select eight (8) riders if available to show at a walk, trot and canter. The same horse or pony must be used in both phases of the class.
- B. Any rider winning the MSA Medal Class may NOT show in it again during the year. Those riders are automatically invited to participate in the MSA Medal Final to be held at the last MSA Horse Show. Invitations will also be given to the next top 2 riders based on accumulated points during the show season. The first place finals winner will not be eligible for further competition in any future MSA Medal Classes. This pertains to all Tag Along Medal Finals winners. A trophy will be awarded to the winner at the show; the MSA Medal will be awarded at the banquet.
- C. Separate Medal classes may be offered for Ponies (2') and Horses (2'6).

#### **50. English (Hunter Seat) Equitation Divisions**

- A. Age: These divisions may be divided according to age, (Junior/Senior; Junior/Intermediate/Senior), Juniors riding ponies/horses, divisions all on the flat or both over fences and on the flat. Novice and/or Adult Beginner divisions may be offered. One or more classes may be offered in each division.
- B. English (Hunter Seat) Equitation Classes:
  1. Hunter Seat Equitation Walk-Trot – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and trot; to be judged on hands, seat and control of mount.
  2. Hunter Seat Equitation Walk-Trot-Canter – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot and canter; to be judged on hands, seat and control of mount.
  3. Hunter Seat Equitation Over Fences – to be shown over a course of eight (8) or more hunter-type fences. To be judged on the performance of the rider, on seat, hands, guidance and control of the mount throughout the entire course. It is up to the current year's Board of Directors to determine if the riders are to choose their jump height or are assigned a specific height to jump.
- C. Adult Beginner Division:
  1. Open to all riders 18 and over in their first three (3) years of showing in that style of riding.
  2. A rider who wins the end of year championship in this division is not longer eligible for this division. All riders must qualify for AHSA Amateur status in order to participate in this division. Stallions may not be ridden in this division.
- D. Novice Division: Open to all riders in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of showing English. A rider who wins a year-end championship in the Novice division is not eligible for further participation in the division. Stallions may not be ridden in this division.
- E. Masters Division: Open to riders 40 and over as of December 1 of the previous year.

#### **51. Western Horsemanship- General**

A rider may enter only one Horsemanship Division. The only exceptions to this are those who qualify for the Novice Division (if offered). An individual may enter the Novice Division and ONE other horsemanship division. See Rule 53 concerning move ahead. This exclusion does not affect rider eligibility in English or Saddle Seat Equitation divisions/classes.

## **52. Western Horsemanship Lead Line**

- A. Open to riders 8 and under as of December 1 of the previous year.
- B. Horses or ponies may be used. Emphasis is placed on suitability of rider to mount.
- C. Riders may not show in any class requiring independent walk, trot/jog or canter/lope.
- D. The persons leading the horse or pony must be neatly attired. Riding attire is not required for the leader.
- E. To be judged on hands, seat and promise of rider.
- F. Leaders will not be requested to turn ponies/horses loose.
- G. To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk.

## **53. Western Horsemanship Walk Division**

- A. Open to riders 8 and under as of December 1 of the previous year.
- B. Horses or ponies may be used. Emphasis is placed on suitability of rider to mount.
- C. Participants in this division are not eligible for any other mounted classes.
- D. To be judged on hands, seat, control and promise of the rider.
- E. Walk classes:
  1. Walk Horsemanship – to be shown at a walk both ways of the ring.
  2. Walk Program – with directions given orally by the Judge or a posted pattern to be followed.

## **54. Western Horsemanship Walk-Jog Divisions**

- A. This division may be split into various age groups.
- B. Horses and ponies may be used. Emphasis is to be place on suitability of rider to mount.
- C. Riders showing in the Walk-Jog Horsemanship Division may not show in any class requiring a canter or lope at this show. To be eligible for this division, riders may not have shown at a canter or lope prior to December 1 of the previous year.
- D. To be judged on hands, seat, control and promise of the rider.
- E. A rider who wins a Year End Championship in the Walk-Jog Division is not eligible for further participation in the division.
- F. Western Walk Jog Classes:
  1. Walk-Jog Horsemanship – shown at a walk and jog both ways of the ring.
  2. Walk-Jog Program – with directions given orally by the Judge or a posted pattern to follow.

## **55. Western Horsemanship Divisions**

Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider, and suitability of horse to rider. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Good hands are paramount. Free hand must be held across waist or on thigh. Chaps may be worn at the discretion of the rider. Split reins or romal reins may be used. When a romal is used, the rider's off hand shall be around the romal with at least 16" of slack. If romal reins are used, a pair of hobbles must be attached to the saddle.

- A. Age – These divisions may be divided according to age (Junior/Senior). Novice and/or Adult Beginner divisions may be offered.
- B. Western Horsemanship Classes:
  1. Western Horsemanship Walk-Jog – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and jog.
  2. Western Horsemanship Walk-Jog-Lope – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope.
  3. Western Horsemanship Program – with directions to be given orally by the Judge, or a posted pattern to be followed.
- C. Adult Beginner Division:
  1. Open to all riders 18 and over in their first three (3) years of showing in that style of riding.
  2. A rider who wins the end of year championship in this division is no longer eligible for this division. All riders must qualify for AHSA Amateur status in order to participate in this division. Stallions may not be ridden in this division.
- D. Novice Division:

Open to all riders who have not won more than three blue ribbons in a similar horsemanship class (i.e. , Walk-Jog or Walk-Jog-Lope) with four or more entries prior to January 1 of the current year. Stallions may not be ridden in this division.

## **56. Saddle Seat Equitation**

To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot (or similar gait) and/or canter. Judged on hands, seat, and control of mount.

### **57. Challenged Rider**

- A. The rider must be affiliated with a recognized therapeutic riding program such as TRAAC or NARHA. The rider must have ridden in at least one session in the last calendar year.
- B. The rider must be an MSA member; however, membership fees and class fees are waived.
- C. The rider may be of any age. Riders may show either English or Western.
- D. Horse leaders, side walkers and lead line are optional, based on rider need. Assistive devices and tack (therapeutic surcingles, hooded stirrups, anti-cast rollers, etc.) required by the rider are allowed. Use of assistive devices, lead lines, leaders and side walkers do not factor in judging.
- E. Challenged riders are not eligible to show in any other mounted classes at the show except leadline. If a rider in a recognized therapeutic riding program chooses to participate in any other MSA classes outside of the challenged rider division, that rider must pay the full membership fee.
- F. Challenged Rider Classes:
  - 1. Walk Equitation – Judged on hands, seat and promise of the rider.
  - 2. Walk Trot-Jog Pleasure – Judged at a walk and trot/jog both ways of the ring. Judged on suitability of horse to rider, as well as hands, seat and promise of the rider. The rider may perform either a posting or sitting trot.
  - 3. Walk Program – the rider will be asked to perform simple maneuvers at the judge's discretion, such as walking through cones, performing a circle, or walking between or over poles. Judged on hands, seat, control and promise of the rider. Pattern may be given verbally, or a pattern will be posted.

## **SECTION VI – ENGLISH DIVISION GENERAL RULES**

### **58. Soundness**

Serviceable soundness is required in all classes in the English Divisions. A horse is considered serviceably sound if it does not show evidence of lameness or defects which might render it an unsafe mount.

### **59. Caution**

Spurs and crops are permissible, but excessive use will be penalized.

### **60. Equipment**

- A. Regulation snaffles, pelhams, kimberwicks, or full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands, are required and a Judge shall penalize horses with unconventional types. In all classes, boots of any type, drop nosebands and German reins are prohibited.
- B. Kimberwick and Pelham bits are prohibited in the Pleasure Divisions.

### **61. Suitability**

Suitability of mount to rider shall be considered in all classes.

### **62. Martingales**

Martingales of any type are prohibited in the Pleasure Divisions.

### **63. English Pleasure Classes**

- A. Each horse and rider combination may enter only two English Pleasure Divisions.
- B. English Pleasure Walk Trot – To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and trot (or similar gait) on a reasonably loose rein with extreme speed to be penalized. To be judged on performance, manners, way of going and suitability.
- C. English Pleasure – To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot (or similar gait), and canter on a reasonably loose rein with extreme speed to be penalized. To be judged on performance, manners, way of going and suitability.
- D. Park Hack – To be shown with light rein contact at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Entries must do an extended and collected trot in at least one direction of the ring. To be judged on performance, manners, brilliance, way of going and suitability.
- E. English Pleasure Combination – To be shown with light rein contact at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Each entry will then be asked to jump two fences, ponies at 12" and horses at 18'. To be judged on performance, manners, way of going and suitability.
- F. English Pleasure Park Hack – To be shown with light rein contact at a walk trot and canter both ways of the ring. Entries will be lined up and each rider will be asked to dismount and mount. To be judged on performance, manners, way of going and suitability.

- G. English Pleasure Over Fences – To be shown over a minimum of six (6) fences. To be judged on willingness and natural ability to jump with emphasis on manners. Excessive speed should be penalized. Ponies to jump 18”, horses to jump 2’.
  - 1. Courses to be posted prior to the beginning of the show.
  - 2. Four (4’) foot minimum jump standards, with adequate wings, with pole height at 3” intervals shall be used. Jump cups are mandatory.
- H. English Command – This event is judged on horses prompt obedience in performing commands called by the Judge. A command should be executed within three (3) strides. When asked to reverse, the horse should maintain the current gait. When asked to back, the horse should continue until told to stop (halt). When asked to reverse at a canter the rider should change lead unless otherwise specified. Any unusual commands should be specified by the Judge at the beginning of the class. Only the Judge shall eliminate entries. Those eliminated will be called to the center of the ring. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that the Judge be positioned outside and above the ring, and have a microphone to call all commands.
- I. English Disciplined Rail – This is not a game or a fault and out class. Final judging shall be on the basis of the best overall disciplined rail performance. Judged on performance and manners. The class routine shall be to perform work on the rail, and must include at least four (4) of the movements that follow:
  - 1. A collected walk, trot, extended or strong trot, or canter.
  - 2. A hand gallop (no more than eight horses at a time).
  - 3. Simple changes of lead each way of the ring .
  - 4. Starting into a canter from a halt.
  - 5. Square stop.
  - 6. Starting and traveling on the incorrect lead (counter canter).
  - 7. Turn on forehand and/or haunches.
  - 8. Stand quietly
  - 9. Judge may ask for additional safe work.
- J. English Versatility- to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring (40%). At least eight (8) entries, if available, to hand gallop one direction of the ring, stop, dismount, remount and back (60%). Judged on performance, manners, and way of going.
- K. Any of the above mentioned classes may be offered at just a walk and trot.
- L. Divisions may be offered for Horses, Ponies, Senior Riders, Junior Riders, etc.

#### **64. Green English Pleasure Division**

- A. Open to all horses and ponies in their first or second year of showing English.
- B. Horses/ponies to be shown on a reasonably loose rein. Judged on performance, manners, way of going and suitability to purpose.
- C. Once a horse/pony jumps it is no longer eligible to compete as Green in any future MSA shows.
- D. Once a horse/pony wins CHAMPION in this class for the season, it is no longer eligible to compete as Green in any future MSA shows.
- E. English Green Classes:
  - 1. Green English Pleasure Green Walk-Trot – To be shown both ways of the riding at a walk and trot.
  - 2. Green English Pleasure Green Walk-Trot-Canter – To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot and canter.
  - 3. Green English Pleasure Walk-Trot Disciplined Rail – See English Pleasure Disciplined Rail rules: to be shown only at a walk and trot.

#### **65. “Western Horse” English Pleasure Division**

- A. Open ONLY TO HORSES OR PONIES THAT HAVE SHOWN IN FOUR (4) WESTERN CLASS REQUIRING A WALK, JOG, AND LOPE during that day.
- B. All English Pleasure rules to apply.

#### **66. Saddle Seat Pleasure Division**

Classes that may be offered:

- A. Saddle Seat Pleasure – To be shown at a walk, pleasure trot, and canter. To be judged on performance and ability to give a good pleasure ride.
- B. Saddle Seat Park Hack – To be shown at a walk, trot, collected trot, extended trot and canter. To be judged on performance and ability to give a good pleasure ride.

- C. Saddle Seat Road Hack – To be shown at a walk, trot, road trot, canter and hand gallop. At any time during the class, the Judge may ask horses to halt and walk off on a loose rein. Excessive speed at the hand gallop should be penalized. To back readily.
- D. Saddle Seat Bridle Path Hack – To be shown at a walk, pleasure trot, road trot and canter. Entries will be lined up and each rider will be asked to dismount and mount.
- E. In all cases where a trot is asked for, a similar gait (such as running walk) may be substituted.

**67. Arabian/Morgan Hunter Pleasure Division**

These classes are open only to horses and ponies of Arabian or Morgan type breeding. Papers are not required. To be shown on contact at all gaits. Regulation snaffles, pelhams, kimberwicks, or full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands, are required, and a Judge shall penalize horses with unconventional types. No metal ornamented bridles, or saddle seat style colored browbands/cavessons permitted. In all classes, boots of any type and drop, figure eight or flash nosebands are prohibited. Forward or balance seat saddle to be used – no cut back saddles. Suitability of mount to rider shall be considered in all classes. No martingales may be used. Horses must give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride and display a pleasurable and relaxed attitude. High headed horses and horses behind the vertical must be penalized.

- A. Arabian/Morgan Hunter Pleasure Walk-Trot – to be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring.
- B. Arabian/Morgan Hunter Pleasure Walk-Trot-Canter – to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.
- C. Arabian/Morgan Hunter Pleasure Walk-Trot-Canter Disciplined Rail – this is not a game or fault and out class. Final judging shall be on the basis of the best overall disciplined rail performance. Judged on performance and manners. The class routine shall be to perform work on the rail, and may include, but is not limited to: collected walk, trot, extended or strong trot, or canter; hand gallop (no more than eight horses at a time); simple changes of lead each way of the ring; starting into a canter from a halt; square stop; starting and traveling on the incorrect lead (counter canter); turn on forehand and/or haunches; stand quietly. Judge may ask for additional safe work.
- D. Arabian/Morgan Hunter Pleasure Park Hack – to be shown with light rein contact at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Entries must be asked to do an extended and collected trot in at least one direction of the ring. To be judged on performance, manners, brilliance, way of going and suitability.

**SECTION VII – HUNTER DIVISION GENERAL RULES**

**68. Hunting Soundness**

In all hunter classes, all horses and ponies must be hunting sound without evidence of lameness, broken wind or impairment of vision.

**69. Performance**

Judged on even hunting pace, manners, and jumping style, together with faults and way of going over the course.

**70. Tack and Equipment**

Regulation snaffles, pelhams, kimberwicks, or full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are required and the Judge shall penalize horses with unconventional types. In all hunter classes, boots of any type, drop nosebands, and German martingales or reins are prohibited. Standing martingales are permitted in the over fences classes only. Martingales are not permitted in any Under Saddle classes.

**71. Championships**

In case of a tie for champion or reserve, the horse or pony with the most points over fences shall be the winner.

**72. Scoring of Hunters**

The prime considerations in scoring hunters are the style in which the horse negotiates the course, even hunting pace, manners and way of going. Judges should affix a value to style over each fence. Light touches should not be penalized, except in the case of bad jumping. Soundness will be determined with the entry circle. In pony classes, suitability (height and weight of rider in relationship to the size of pony) will be scored. Judges must penalize but not necessarily eliminate an entry for suitability.

**73. Types of Jumps**

- A. Fences shall simulate obstacles found in the hunt field, such as post and rail, brush, walls, boards, gates, chicken coops, aikens, hedges, natural oxers, etc. Jumps such as hog backs, triple bars, cross poles and bright colored poles are prohibited.
- B. Ins and Outs:

1. To be set at 20' for small/medium ponies, 22' for large ponies, and 24' for horses.
2. The faults committed at each obstacle will be considered separately. In the case of a refusal or run out at one element, the entry may re-jump the previous element as well as the following element.

#### **74. Types of Courses**

- A. Courses should give a fair test of a hunter. Every course should have at least four (4) different types of fences. In all classes, the course should be designed to give a smooth appearance between fences. Courses to be posted prior to the beginning of the show.
- B. The top element of all fences must be securely placed so that a light rub will not cause a knockdown. When increasing the height of a fence, its original structure cannot be changed as in putting poles over a coop. To raise the height of a post and rail fence, additional poles must be used.
- C. Each jump must be solid and must have a ground line.
- D. When panels are used (i.e. brick walls, etc.) they must not be used as a spread jump and then raised to increase height. The amount of the spread must remain the same for all size ponies. The height of a fence must always be greater than its spread (no parallel poles).
- E. Hunter courses: The course must show the order and direction from which the jump is taken, but otherwise the track of jumping is optional.

#### **75. Hunter Classes**

- A. Hunter Under Saddle – To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot and canter. May be asked to hand gallop. Judged on performance, manners, and way of going. In order to enter this class, the entry must be entered in at least one full point class over obstacles in the same division during the competition; to maintain awards or points won in the Under Saddle Class, the competitor must complete the course in at least one class.
- B. Hunter Hack – The hunter hack horse should move in the same manner as the working hunter. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring, and then each entry is required to jump two (2) fences at their respective heights, according to their divisions. A ground line is required for each jump.
- C. Hunter Over Fences – To be shown in the ring and/or over an outside course with eight (8) or more fences. Judged on performance, manners, and way of going with extreme speed to be penalized.
- D. Handy Hunter – To be shown in the ring and/or over an outside course with eight (8) or more fences. May be required to trot one fence and/or halt on course. Judged on performance, manners, and way of going with extreme speed to be penalized.

#### **76. Hunter Divisions**

The following include suggested fence heights – fences may not be over the listed height.

- A. Small/Medium Pony Hunters – ponies 13.2 and under, to be shown over fences at 2'3".
- B. Large Pony Hunters – ponies over 13.2 to 14.2, to be shown over fences at 2'6". If entries are lacking, Small/Medium and Large Pony Hunter classes may be combined.
- C. Green Hunter – Open to horses and ponies in their first or second year of showing over fences. Horses and ponies showing in the Green Hunter Division may not enter any other classes where fence heights exceed those shown over in Green Hunter. Those entrants being shown illegally in the Green Hunter Division will forfeit all points and prize money awarded for the year up to and including the infraction. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure the entrant is not shown illegally. Once an entrant wins Champion in this division for the season, it is no longer eligible to compete as Green in any future MSA shows.
- D. Low Hunter Over Fences – Open to horses; to jump 2'9".
- E. Working Hunter Horse – Open to horses; to jump 3'.

### **SECTION VIII – JUMPER DIVISION**

#### **77. Definitions**

- A. Jumpers may be of any breed, height or gender (See Section III-General Rules, paragraph 23 for rules on stallions).
- B. Jumpers may be divided into several divisions, to include schooling, Children's and Adult Jumper, which may be offered at several levels. Exhibitors may compete in multiple divisions.

#### **78. Scoring of Jumpers**

- A. Jumpers are scored mathematically, based on penalty faults incurred between the starting line and finish line. Penalty faults include disobediences, falls, knockdowns, and time penalties.
- B. A posted jumping order will be followed.

- C. A starting line will be established at least 12' from the first obstacle, and at least 24' from the last obstacle. Time is taken from the instant the horse's chest reaches the start line until it reaches the finish line.
- D. Disobediences include: Refusal, run-out, loss of forward movement, circling (crossing original tracks between two consecutive obstacles), knockdowns, touches, going off course.
- E. The initial height of the jumps will depend on show circumstances including weather and visibility problems resulting from darkness and/or shadows.

#### **79. Championships**

Championships will be decided on the basis of points won in classes throughout a section; ties will remain tied.

#### **80. Conduct**

- A. Any action(s) against a horse by an exhibitor deemed excessive by a Judge or Steward will be penalized by elimination. Such action(s) could include, but are not limited to excessive use of whip or spurs. Horses found to be in violation of these rules by the Steward or other official shall be eliminated/disqualified from competing and shall forfeit all entry fee. In addition after consultation between the Show Management, the Steward, or other official involved, and a senior judge in the Jumper division additional penalties including disqualification from the balance of the competition may be imposed. Poling is prohibited.
- B. Tack and Equipment:
  - 1. Any type of bit or cavesson may be used. Martingales are permitted. Boots and/or bandages may be used.
  - 2. Whips. Competitors are prohibited from using a whip that is longer than 30" (75cm) while mounted and in the warm up arena or the competition arena. A rider may not carry more than one whip. Whips that are weighted at the end are prohibited at any time. A dressage whip may be used, however, when working on the flat.
  - 3. Draw Reins. Draw reins may only be used when schooling
- C. Attire: MSA Rules apply.

#### **81. Eligibility**

- A. Children's and Adult Jumper:
  - 1. Adult Jumper: To be ridden by exhibitors who are no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors. All exhibitors must provide amateur certification.
  - 2. Children's Jumper: To be ridden by junior exhibitors.
- B. The Children's and Adult Jumper divisions may be offered as rated divisions; in this case, it will be held in accordance with the rated association (e.g. MHSA, VHSA) and USA Equestrian Rules. Competitors must hold current rating association membership for points to count.

#### **82. Classes**

- A. Both the Schooling Jumper and Children's/Adults Jumper Divisions may offer the following classes:
  - 1. Jumper Table II, Section 2 (b): Classes scored on Faults and Time. The first round and first jump-off (if any) are decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. If a competitor has gone clean in the first round, the competitor will, without leaving the ring, upon an audible signal, commence the designated jump-off course. A competitor with a clear round may dismount, and with assistance if necessary, adjust tack and/or equipment provided they remount and begin their jump-off within the proscribed 60 (45) seconds. If there are no clean rounds and a tie exists for first place, there will be one jump-off in which time will decide in the event of equality of faults.
  - 2. Jumper Table IV (a). (Power and Speed): Competitors will jump a round of fences, called the "power" phase. If no faults are incurred during the power phase, the competitor will move immediately to the jump off. Time is not scored or applied in the first round. There is a jump-off for first place only in the case of equality of faults in the first round. The time taken to complete the course decides between any competitors with clean rounds or equal faults.
  - 3. Table III.1 (Speed): Faults converted into seconds. Competitors will jump a course of fences. The competitor with the fastest time and least number of faults shall be the winner. Faults incurred when jumping an obstacle, for knocking down a boundary flag, for putting one or more feet in the water or on the marking lath, are penalized by adding four seconds for each occurrence. The first two disobediences are penalized automatically by the extra time taken. Exceeding the allowed

time is penalized with one second for each commenced second over the Time Allowed. Time penalties are incurred only when the competitor's time on course (including refusals and time penalized for resetting dislodged fences) exceeds the Time Allowed. This is computed before adding the jumping penalties (seconds) to the Time Allowed.

- B. The minimum and maximum height and spread of the obstacles in the first round for all classes will be indicated by the level (see below) at which the obstacles will be set. MSA may, at its option, offer classes at a combined level (for example, Level 2-3), but in no case will more than 2 levels be combined. The following fence dimensions define each level:
1. Level 0. Fences 2'3" to 2'9" in height and 2'6" to 3'3" in spread (Triple bars/liverpools to 3'9").
  2. Level 1. Fences 2'9" to 3'0" in height and 3'0" to 3'6" in spread (Triple bars/liverpools to 4'0").
  3. Level 2. Fences 3'0" to 3'3" in height and 3'3" to 3'9" in spread (Triple bars/liverpools to 4'3").
  4. Level 3. Fences 3'3" to 3'6" in height and 3'6" to 4'0" in spread (Triple bars/liverpools to 4'6").
  5. Level 4. Fences 3'6" to 3'9" in height and 3'9" to 4'3" in spread (Triple bars to 4'9" Water to 8').

## **SECTION IX – WESTERN DIVISION GENERAL RULES**

### **83. Soundness**

Serviceable soundness is required in all classes. A horse is considered serviceably sound if it does not show evidence of lameness or defects which might render it an unsafe mount.

### **84. Equipment**

- A. A curb bit, half-breed bit, western snaffle, regulation snaffle or rawhide bosal is permissible.
- B. Wire curbs, regardless of how well padded or taped, are not permitted.
- C. No chin straps narrower than one-half inch will be permitted.
- D. Curb chains are permissible but must be of standard flat variety without twist. There must be space for two fingers between the curb strap and the horse's chin.
- E. Horses age six (6) and over are not permitted to use a bosal or snaffle.
- F. No tie downs, martingales or kelly type hackamores are permitted.

### **85. Faults to be Used in Judging**

- A. Horse opening mouth excessively
- B. Breaking gaits
- C. Refusing to change leads
- D. Stumbling
- E. Wringing tail
- F. Bouncing or sideways stop
- G. Backing sideways
- H. Rider changing hands on reins
- I. Rider using two hands on the reins at any time
- J. Any unnecessary talking, petting, spurring, striking, quirting, jerking of reins, etc. to induce the horse to perform better.
- K. Failure to keep one hand clear of tack and horse
- L. Head flexed behind the vertical
- M. Excessive slowness
- N. Reins not reasonably loose
- O. Head carriage with ears lower than withers

### **86. Disqualification**

Horses to be disqualified for being off course. Fall of horse or rider will also result in disqualification.

### **87. Suitability**

Suitability of mount to rider will be considered in all classes in the Western Division except timed classes.

### **88. Junior and Senior Age Divisions**

Shows may hold the following types of Western performance classes:

1. Open class – Open to riders of all ages.

2. Divided class – Divided according to the age of the rider.
  - a. Senior – 18 years or over on December 1 of the previous year.
  - b. Junior – under 18 years on December 1 of the previous year.

## **SECTION X – WESTERN PLEASURE DIVISION**

### **89. Western Pleasure Division**

- A. Open to all horses and ponies, to be shown on a reasonably loose rein at required gaits. Judged on performance, manners, way of going, suitability to purpose. May be asked to ground tie, back or any other performance.
- B. Western Pleasure Classes:
  1. Western Walk/Jog – To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and jog.
  2. Western Pleasure – To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope.
  3. Western Trail – Horses to be shown through and over obstacles simulating hazards found on the trail. Suitability of horse to rider to count. Three (3) refusals at any obstacle will mean disqualification at that obstacle.
    - a. Judging: Ability of mount to approach and pass each obstacle, manners, way of going, and suitability to purpose to count 80%, suitability to rider 20%.
    - b. Hazards: Minimum of five (5), but not more than ten (10) simulated trail hazards to be used. Each horse to be judged individually by the show Judge. Horse pausing to look at an obstacle will not mean a refusal.
    - c. Once a trail course has been set up, the course cannot be ridden.
  4. Western Discipline Rail – This is not a game or fault and out class. Final judging shall be on the basis of the best overall disciplined rail performance. To be judged on performance and manners. The class routine shall be to perform work on the rail, and must include at least four (4) of the following:
    - a. A collected or extended walk, jog or lope.
    - b. A hand gallop (no more than eight horses at a time).
    - c. Starting into a lope from a halt.
    - d. Sliding stop.
    - e. Starting and traveling on the wrong lead.
    - f. Side pass both left and right.
    - g. Turn on forehand and turn on hind quarter.
    - h. Dismount and mount from either side.
    - i. Simple change of leads.
    - j. Stand quietly.
    - k. Judge may ask for additional safe work.
  5. Western Combination – to be shown at least one way of the ring at the required gaits. Each horse to individually negotiate two trail obstacles.
- C. Any of the classes listed above may be used as Walk-Jog classes in a Walk-Jog Division.

### **90. Green Western Pleasure Division**

- A. Open to all horses and ponies six years (6) and older in their first or second year of showing western.
- B. Horses/ponies to be shown on a reasonably loose rein at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring. Judged on performance, manners, way of going and suitability to purpose.
- C. Once a horse/pony wins CHAMPION in this class for the season, it is no longer eligible to compete as Green in any future MSA shows.
- D. Western Green Classes:
  1. Green Western Horse Walk-Jog – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and jog.
  2. Green Western Horse Walk-Jog-Lope – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope.
  3. Green Western Horse Walk-Jog-Lope Disciplined Rail – see paragraph 87 B for rules.

### **91. Limited Horse and Rider Western Pleasure Division**

- A. Open to any age rider and horse that have not shown in a recognized breed show (i.e. AQHA, APHA, AMHA, etc.) in any recognized Western Pleasure class in the last five (5) years prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Riders and their horses participating in this division are not allowed to cross enter into the Non-Limited Rider Western Pleasure Division.

B. Limited Rider Western Pleasure Classes:

1. Limited Rider Western Pleasure Walk-Jog – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and jog.
2. Limited Rider Western Pleasure Walk-Jog-Lope – To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope.
3. Limited Rider Western Pleasure Walk-Jog-Lope Disciplined Rail - see paragraph 87 B for rules.

**92. Non-Limited Rider Western Pleasure Division**

- A. Open to any age rider. Riders and their horses participating in this division are not allowed to cross enter into the Limited Rider Western Pleasure Division.
- B. Non-Limited Rider Western Pleasure Division.
  1. Non-Limited Rider Western Pleasure Walk-Jog – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and jog.
  2. Non-Limited Rider Western Pleasure Walk-Jog-Lope – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope.
  3. Non-Limited Rider Western Pleasure Walk-Jog-Lope Disciplined Rail – see paragraph 87 B for rules.

**93. Masters Western Pleasure Division**

Pleasure class(es) to be offered especially for adults 40 and over as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. Year-end awards will be given for points accumulated in this class. Classes to be offered:

- A. Walk-Jog
- B. Walk-Jog-Disciplined Rail
- C. Walk-Jog-Lope

**94. Non-Quarter Horse Western Pleasure Division**

These classes are open to all horses except Quarter Horses and horses where one parent is a Quarter Horse. Papers are not required. Horses to be shown on contact at the required gaits both ways of the ring. Judged on performance, manners, way of going, and suitability to purpose. Horses five and under may be shown in a snaffle bit or bosal:

- A. Non-Quarter Horse Western Pleasure Walk/Jog/Lope– To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope.
- B. Non-Quarter Horse Western Pleasure Walk/Jog/Lope Disciplined Rail - This is not a game or fault and out class. Final judging shall be on the basis of the best overall disciplined rail performance. To be judged on performance and manners. The class routine shall be to perform work on the rail, and must include at least four (4) of the following:
  1. A collected or extended walk, jog or lope.
  2. A hand gallop (no more than eight horses at a time).
  3. Starting into a lope from a halt.
  4. Sliding stop.
  5. Starting and traveling on the wrong lead.
  6. Side pass both left and right.
  7. Turn on forehand and turn on hind quarter.
  8. Dismount and mount from either side.
  9. Simple change of leads.
  10. Stand quietly.
  11. Judge may ask for additional safe work.

**95. Five and Under Western Pleasure Division**

- A. Open to all horses and five (5) and under. Horses may be shown in a snaffle or bosal bit.
- B. Horses/ponies to be shown on a reasonably loose rein at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring. Judged on performance, manners, way of going and suitability to purpose.
- C. Five and Under Western Pleasure Classes:
  1. Five and Under Western Pleasure Horse Walk-Jog – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and jog.
  2. Five and Under Western Pleasure Horse Walk-Jog-Lope – to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope.
  3. Five and Under Western Pleasure Horse Walk-Jog-Lope Disciplined Rail – see paragraph 87 B for rules.

## **SECTION XI – WESTERN WORKING DIVISION**

### **96. Command**

This event is judged on the horse's prompt obedience in performing commands called by the judge. A command should be executed within three (3) strides. When asked to reverse, the horse should maintain the current gait. When asked to back, the horse should continue until told to stop (halt). When asked to reverse at the canter (lope) the rider should change lead unless otherwise specified. Any unusual commands should be specified by the judge at the beginning of the class. Only the judge shall eliminate entries. Those eliminated will be called to the center of the ring. It is recommended but not mandatory that the judge be positioned outside and above the ring, and have a microphone to call all commands.

### **97. Western Versatility**

To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope (40%). At least ten (10) entries, if available, to hand gallop one direction of the ring, stop, dismount, ground tie, remount and back (60%). Judged on performance, manners, and way of going.

### **98. Western Stock Pattern**

With directions given orally by the Judge or a posted pattern to be followed.

### **99. Western Combination**

To be shown at least one way of the ring at a walk, jog and lope. Each horse to individually negotiate two trail obstacles.

### **100. Open Modified Western Riding**

Judged on the ability to change leads precisely, easily and simultaneously, using both hind and front legs through one of three patterns consisting of a log and a series of pylons. Horse and rider also judged on ability to change gaits-from a walk to a jog or a lope-through-out the course.

## **SECTION XII – SCHOOLING DIVISIONS**

### **101. Rules**

- A. Open to all horses and ponies.
- B. Classes from the following regular divisions may be held as schooling classes:
  1. Hunter
  2. English Pleasure
  3. Western Pleasure
- C. Schooling Divisions are encouraged to be held, but are not mandatory.
- D. All MSA class rules also apply to schooling classes.
- E. Schooling Hunter Height 2', 2'3", or 2'6", Pleasure 2' or 2'6" (suggested heights).
- F. Schooling Pony and Schooling Horse points count towards accumulative and year end points.

## **SECTION XIII – DRIVING DIVISION**

### **102. Pleasure Driving**

To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, pleasure trot, and road trot. To be judged on performance, manners, and ability to give a good pleasure drive. May be shown in overcheck or side checks. Entries may be asked to back. Entrant must choose between English or Western to add these points for accumulative awards prior to first show entered for that year by that horse. If no choice is made, points will go to English.

### **103. Roadster**

To enter the ring clockwise, shown both ways of the ring at a job-trot and road trot. Shown at speed only in a counter clockwise direction. Animation, brilliance and show ring presence should characterize the roadster. To be judged on performance, speed, quality and manners.

### **104. Obstacle Driving**

To be shown over/through a course of at least five (5) obstacles. Judged on alertness and handling of the obstacles.

### **105. Disciplined Rail Driving**

This is not a game or fault and out class and shall not be judged on an elimination basis. Final judging shall be on the basis of the best overall disciplined rail performance. Judged 75% on performance, 25% on manners. This class routine shall be to perform work on the rail and will include, but not be limited to:

- A. A flat-footed walk, normal trot.
- B. A strong trot.
- C. Starting with a flat-footed walk, through a normal to a strong trot.
- D. Stand quietly.
- E. Pivot (not to exceed 90%).
- F. Dismount from cart and remount (no headers to be used and reins to be held at all times).
- G. Judge may ask for additional safe work.

## SECTION XIV – IN-HAND CLASSES

### 106. Conformation Classes

- A. Classes to be offered:
  - 1. Two (2) and Under - A horse is considered one (1) year old as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year immediately following its foaling date. Verification is required (registration papers or coggins).
  - 2. Halter and Model Geldings
  - 3. Halter and Model Mares
  - 4. Stallions
  - 5. Ponies
  - 6. Performance - To be run as the last class in the designated ring. As these classes will be run immediately after the conclusion of the performance classes, appearance of the animal and exhibitor need not be considered (i.e., sweat marks, dust, etc.).
    - a. English Performance Conformation – horse/pony MUST have competed in at least four (4) English performance classes (English Pleasure, Hunter Over Fences, etc.) requiring a canter during the day. Walk, Walk-Trot and Equitation classes do not count. Horse/pony to be shown in a bridle.
    - b. Western Performance Conformation – horse/pony MUST have competed in at least four (4) Western performance classes (Western Pleasure, Western Versatility, etc.) requiring a lope during the day. Walk, Walk-Jog and Horsemanship classes do not count. Horse/pony may be shown in a halter or bridle (if coming directly out of Western Horse English Pleasure).
- A. To be judged according to type, quality and substance, with emphasis on structural faults, defects, and blemishes in areas which may impair the durability for the horse. Horses to be judged for soundness. English horses to be shown in bridles, Western horses in halters, horses two and under may be shown in halters or bridles. Breed standards will apply.
- B. No accumulative points available in these classes. Year end awards will be given.
- C. No cross entering in these classes. An animal may show in only one conformation/model/halter class even if it is eligible for more.

### 107. Showmanship Classes

- A. It is suggested that these classes be held prior to any performance classes.
- B. To be judged on the ability of the exhibitor to properly show his horse/pony with emphasis on alertness, condition, and grooming. Conformation not to count. The animal is merely a prop to display the ability of the showman. Written or verbal pattern to be followed.
- C. Scorecard for Showmanship at Halter:
 

1. Appearance of exhibitor	10 points
2. Appearance of animal	10 points
3. Condition of animal	10 points
4. Showing the animal in the ring	50 points
5. Alertness	20 points
- D. Division of Classes:
  - 1. Junior – Open to exhibitors who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1 of the previous year.
  - 2. Senior – Open to exhibitors 18 and over as of December 1 of the previous year.

## **SECTION XIV – CONSTITUTION AND RULES CHANGES FOR 2009**

The following rules changes were approved by the MSA Board to become effective with this rulebook. Some Article, Section, Paragraph and Subparagraph references are keyed to the 2009 Rulebook, and may not correlate directly to the current 2009 version.

### **108. Constitution Amendments**

### **109. Rule Book Changes**

#### **Section VI, English Pleasure General Rules**

##### **60. Equipment**

*Add in:*

B. Kimberwick and Pelham bits are prohibited in the Pleasure Divisions.

#### **Section V, Rider Divisions and Classes**

*Change to:*

The age of a rider is designated by December 1 of the previous show year

*From:*

The age of a rider is designated by January 1 of the current show year

#### **Section I, Registration and Awards**

##### **6. Perpetual Awards**

C. Awards

##### **27. Anders Saturn Western Pleasure Award**

*Change to read:*

“Donated in 1984 by Marjorie Thor Straten to the horse accumulating the most Western pleasure points. No trail points to count (Must show in Western Tack)”

*From:*

“donated in 1984 by Marjorie Thor Straten to the horse accumulating the most Western pleasure points. (Must show in Western Tack).”

# Maryland Saddle Association

MSA Members;

The mission of the Maryland Saddle Association, Inc. is to serve as an organization that creates a supportive learning environment where riders, regardless of age, skill level, gender, and physical and mental ability, can reach their potential as capable and competent equestrians. As such, the members of your Board of Directors are committed to providing the best possible show series venue for our members. In order to help us better accomplish this task, we are soliciting your input to the 2007 Rulebook and Constitution. The rulebook is also available for download in Adobe Acrobat pdf format on our website at [www.mdsaddle.com](http://www.mdsaddle.com).

Revisions for inclusion in 2007 Rule Book will be approved by the Board of Directors at least 45 days prior to the open membership meeting, requiring that all submissions be received no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

The board will accept recommended changes either via email or in writing using the content contained in the attached *Rule and Constitution Change Form*. We request that in making your recommendation, you specify the Rulebook or Constitution Article in question, to include the Section, Article and Paragraph, the logic behind your recommendation, and the wording you would use in making the change, if applicable. In addition, please provide information necessary to contact you in the event that the Board has questions or proposed amendments to your recommendation.

Recommendations can be sent to the Rules Committee via email to:

[MSA\\_Board@mdsaddle.com](mailto:MSA_Board@mdsaddle.com)

or postal/fax to:

Lauren Boudakian,  
MSA Rules Committee Chair  
PO Box 778  
Edgewater, MD 21037

Sincerely,  
Lauren Boudakian  
Chairman, MSA Rules Committee



## Rule and Constitution Change Proposal Form

September 1st, 2009 – Deadline for change submissions.

*From time to time, rules are adopted which change the sequence of article numbering. The article reference to be used is the article number that appears in the 2007 Rule Book, which can be found at [www.mdsaddle.com](http://www.mdsaddle.com)*

*Section/Article/Paragraph:*

*Proposed change: (choose one) Add                      Delete                      Change to read*

*Intent of Proposal:*

*Proposed Effective Date:*

Contact Information

Name and Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_