



# **Open Horse Show**

## **Association**

*... show locally, achieve nationally*

## **Horse Show Rules**

### **2025**

PO Box 601

Titusville, FL 32781

321-863-0456

<http://www.showohsa.com>

[info@showohsa.com](mailto:info@showohsa.com)

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## *MISSION*

The Open Horse Show Association (OHSA) is dedicated to delivering an exceptional national award and recognition program for the open horse show community, fostering excellence and promoting success across all levels of competition.

## *VISION*

OHSA strives to provide comprehensive national recognition to our annual overall year-end champion, reserve champion, and all year-end high point and reserve high point award winners. Through our innovative and distinctive awards program, we empower competitors to showcase their talents locally while achieving national recognition and success.

## *VALUES*

We are committed to upholding the highest standards of excellence by offering quality awards and national recognition, ensuring OHSA's reputation remains respected and untarnished within the horse show community. We champion the spirit of competition, coupled with the ethical treatment of horses and a commitment to sportsmanship. OHSA encourages experienced competitors to mentor novice participants, fostering growth and development within the equestrian community.

## *GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS*

Section 1. A member is considered to be in good standing when they have submitted the required membership application, paid the annual membership fee for the current year, and had their application accepted by the Association. Additionally, the member must have no outstanding fees, dues, or payments owed to the Association.

Section 2. Memberships are individual. Both Regular and Youth memberships are valid for one calendar year, from January 1 through December 31. Only members in good standing, including Regular and Youth members, are eligible to earn points and awards.

Section 3. The membership year is based on the calendar year, beginning January 1 and concluding December 31 of the same year. Members who submit their dues after January 1 will be considered active and in good standing on the date their dues are received by OHSA.

Section 4. Regular members enjoy full membership privileges, including the right to hold chair positions and participate on committees. A Regular membership includes one Horse Participation Registration.

Section 5. Youth members are granted full membership privileges, which include one Horse Participation Registration. Youth members are defined as individuals who are eighteen (18) years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current award year.

Section 6. Judge/Associate members are individuals who are either OHSA-certified open horse show judges or those interested in OHSA who do not wish to compete for year-end awards. Judge/Associate memberships do not include a Horse Participation Registration. This membership is valid for a three-year term. Judges may participate in committees and hold chair positions. If a Judge also wishes to compete as a Regular member, they must pay the regular membership dues to be eligible for awards in addition to the dues for their judge's card.

Section 7. Dues must be paid in US funds and are due by January 1 of each year for which membership is requested. Dues for the 2025 membership year are as follows:

- Regular Membership: \$25.00 through January 31, 2025, \$35.00 on or after February 1, 2025
- Youth Membership: \$20.00 through January 31, 2025, \$25.00 on or after February 1, 2025
- Judge/Associate Membership (3-year term): \$25.00 through January 31, 2025, \$40 on or after February 1, 2025

Section 8. Competitors may submit a membership application and dues with their first Competition Form. However, points earned at a show will not count toward awards unless the membership application and dues are submitted either before or along with the first Competition Form submission. New members may submit results from shows that occurred up to 60 days prior to joining OHSA, provided the show falls within the same membership year, based on the date the membership is accepted.

## **ARTICLE 2. HORSE PARTICIPATION REGISTRATION**

Section 1. Each individual horse must have a valid Horse Participation Registration with OHSA to be eligible to earn points and awards.

Section 2. Each paid Regular or Youth membership includes one Horse Participation Registration. Additional Horse Participation Registrations may be obtained at a fee of \$10.00 per horse, per year.

Section 3. Horse Participation Registration is valid for a calendar year, beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Registration fees received after January 1 will be effective upon payment receipt by OHSA. Competitors may submit the Horse Participation Registration fee along with their first Competition Form for that horse. Points earned from a show will not count toward awards unless the Horse Participation Registration and fee are submitted prior to or with the first Competition Form submission for that horse.

Section 4. Horses that are also registered with a breed association must use their registered name from the breed association for the Horse Participation Registration. A copy of the horse's registration papers must be submitted along with the Membership Application and/or Participation Registration form.

Section 5. Grade or non-registered horses may select a name, but once chosen, it must remain the same for the duration of the horse's participation with OHSA.

Section 6. All Competition Forms submitted to OHSA must list the horse's name exactly as it appears on the Horse Participation Registration. Competition Forms containing a name that does not match a valid Horse Participation Registration will be rejected.

Section 7. Regular and Youth members within the same immediate family may show any horses registered to another family member. "Family" is defined as immediate family—spouse, parents, siblings (living in the same household), and sons/daughters qualifying as youth members. This includes stepchildren and foster children. Other family relationships may be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis.

Section 8. Horse Participation Registration is non-transferable upon the sale or lease of a horse. In the event of a horse's sale, the new owner must complete a new membership application and Horse Participation Registration, submitting the appropriate fees. Points are earned based on the horse/rider combination; therefore, points will not transfer to a new owner or lessee.

### ***ARTICLE 3. CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION***

Section 1. OHSA operates as a self-regulating organization. It is the responsibility of OHSA members to observe and report actions they believe warrant disciplinary action. Regular, Youth, Judge, and Associate members are subject to the rules of this Association and may face disciplinary action for failure to uphold OHSA's ethical standards or for violating any rules, regulations, terms, or conditions outlined in this rulebook.

Section 2. Any member found guilty of abusing a horse for which they have submitted a Horse Participation Registration, may face disciplinary action, up to and including the revocation of their membership. Abuse is defined as cruel or inhumane treatment of a horse or other equine. The standard for determining abusive conduct is based on what a reasonable person, experienced and informed in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures, would recognize as cruel, abusive, or inhumane.

Section 3. Members are expected to maintain good sportsmanship at all times. Instances of poor sportsmanship, including verbal or physical abuse, or showing disrespect to any show official, including judges, are grounds for disciplinary action. Unsportsmanlike conduct also includes deceit, fraud, or failure to fulfill financial obligations to the Association, such as non-payment of fees, dues, or reversing payments previously made to the Association. Violations of these conduct standards may result in suspension or revocation of membership.

Section 4. Convictions in a court of law for equine abuse will result in immediate permanent revocation of membership from OHSA. Actions taken by other equine organizations regarding equine abuse may also be accepted by OHSA, and similar sanctions may be imposed. OHSA relies on its members to report any such convictions, and the Association will act accordingly upon receipt of such information.

Section 5. Falsification of Competition Forms is grounds for suspension or revocation of membership. Any member who suspects fraud may report the issue to OHSA for investigation. If fraud is confirmed, any points or awards associated with the fraudulent submission will be revoked.

Section 6. Judges must perform their duties with professionalism and adhere to the highest ethical standards. This includes placing classes to the best of their ability and knowledge, undertaking their judging duties with seriousness, and treating all exhibitors, show management, and spectators with fairness and respect. Any failure to uphold these standards may result in disciplinary action.

Section 7. Judges must conduct their duties, including class placements, in a manner free from discrimination. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, or any other protected category. Judges are expected to remain beyond reproach, upholding the integrity of the Association and the competition.

### ***ARTICLE 4. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS***

Section 1. By becoming a member or judge of the Open Horse Show Association (OHSA), you consent to abide by the rules and regulations established by the Association, as outlined in this rulebook.

Section 2. Membership in the Association entails both rights and responsibilities. All members and judges are subject to the rules, regulations, terms, and conditions of this rulebook. The Association reserves the right to discipline, fine, suspend, or revoke the membership of any member or judge, as well as deny membership to any non-member.

Section 3. Membership in the Association is required in the year during which any award is earned or bestowed upon a member and their participating horse. Any awards earned by a member who is not in good standing with the Association will be forfeited and awarded to the next eligible member who meets all qualifications for the award.

Section 4. Every member, former member, and non-member covered by the rules and regulations of this rulebook agrees to resolve any disputes or legal actions exclusively in the federal and state courts located in Brevard County, Florida. If unsuccessful in attempting to overturn any OHSA decisions, actions, rules, or regulations, the individual agrees to reimburse OHSA for reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and other related expenses incurred in defending such suits.

Section 5. Any member who believes that the conduct of another member or judge warrants disciplinary action, or who believes they have been harmed by a violation of the rules, must file a protest within thirty (30) days of the incident or within thirty (30) days of gaining knowledge of the incident.

Section 6. Protests must be submitted in writing to the main office of OHSA, detailing the alleged rule violation, the parties involved, and any supporting evidence. The protest must be signed by the individual or individuals submitting it. A \$100.00 protest fee must accompany the protest. If the protest is upheld by OHSA, the protest fee will be refunded. Protests related to suspected fraudulent Competition Forms are exempt from the protest fee.

Section 7. Upon receipt of a protest, OHSA will appoint an Investigation Committee and/or legal counsel to investigate the matter. If the protest concerns another member or judge, they will be notified in writing by OHSA.

Section 8. During the investigative phase of a protest, the individual alleged to have violated the rules will not be restricted from participating in activities. However, any Competition Forms submitted during this period will be held until OHSA issues a final determination.

Section 9. If a protest is upheld by OHSA, the member found to have violated the rules will be subject to penalties or sanctions as determined by the Association. If suspension is imposed, it will begin on the date of the alleged incident. Any Competition Forms submitted during the investigation and/or suspension period will not count toward any awards. If the member is cleared of wrongdoing, they will retain all rights and privileges of their membership, and any Competition Forms submitted during the investigation will count toward awards.

Section 10. If a protest is upheld, the following penalties and sanctions may be applied:

- First Offense: Minimum 30-day suspension
- Second Offense: Minimum 90-day suspension
- Third Offense: Minimum one-year suspension
- Fourth Offense: Permanent suspension

These penalties and sanctions serve as guidelines only. OHSA retains full discretion to impose any penalty or sanction deemed appropriate by the Investigation Committee. Membership may be permanently revoked for serious infractions or for abuse of a horse or other equine.

Section 11. Any member who interferes with or attempts to influence the outcome of a protest investigation may face disciplinary action, including the potential revocation of their membership.

Section 12. No membership, registration, or other fees will be refunded in the event of suspension or revocation of membership.

## **ARTICLE 5. JUDGES**

Section 1. OHSA requires that approved judges conduct their duties in a professional and ethical manner. Judges must place classes impartially, based solely on the performance of the horse and/or rider during that specific class. They should possess comprehensive knowledge of horse showing rules, as well as general horse management and care practices. Judges must demonstrate fairness in their evaluations, without bias, prejudice, or external influence, and must base their judgments exclusively on the performance observed that day. Judges are prohibited from participating in any show or class in which they are also serving as the judge.

Section 2. To become an OHSA approved judge, individuals must pass the OHSA Open Show Test. Judges will be required to retake this test every three years. OHSA may also partner with relevant judging seminars and schools, allowing those who attend and/or pass tests at these events to achieve Level 1 Judge status with OHSA upon payment of the current OHSA Judge's Membership Fee, with no additional testing required. While OHSA does not mandate or recommend that shows hire OHSA carded judges, the Association will promote its approved judges as it deems appropriate.

Section 3. OHSA does not conduct criminal or civil background checks on its judges or prospective judges. It is the responsibility of individual horse shows to use discretion when hiring any judge.

Section 4. OHSA encourages members to submit Judge Evaluation forms for any approved OHSA judge who officiates at a show in which they participate or spectate. These evaluations may be used to commend a judge for exceptional performance or to address complaints against a judge.

Section 5. OHSA approved judges and their contact details will be published on the OHSA website. By becoming an OHSA approved judge, individuals consent to the use of their name and likeness in promotional materials and activities for the Association.

Section 6. Prospective judges not attending a partner school must take and pass the OHSA Level 1, 2, or 3 Judge Test. Current carded judges may test for a more advanced Level or a specialty designation at any time. This requires submitting a request for the test, passing the test (as determined by OHSA), fulfilling all other requirements, and submitting the necessary fees.

Section 7. Definitions and requirements for each judge level:

- Level 1 – Entry-level Open Horse Show Judge: Prospective judges must pass the OHSA Level 1 50-question test with a score of 75% or better or attend an OHSA-approved partnership judging program.
- Level 2 – Mid-level Open Horse Show Judge: Prospective judges must pass the OHSA Level 2 100-question test with a score of 80% or better, and provide 3 references from horse show managers of shows they have judged.
- Level 3 – Senior-level Open Horse Show Judge: Prospective judges must pass the OHSA Level 3 100-question test with a score of 80% or better, and provide 5 references from horse show management of shows they have judged, along with 2 references from other carded judges (either OHSA or another national horse organization).

Section 8. Current OHSA carded judges may test for a specialty discipline. Specialty disciplines include Western, Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat, Gaited, Ranch Horse, Driving, and Dressage. To add a specialty designation, a judge must pass the OHSA 50-question discipline-specific test with a score of 80% or better and pay any required dues.



Section 9. OHSa may require additional tests for all levels or specialty designations, including live judging, video judging, and static photo judging, as deemed necessary.

Section 10. OHSa carded judges are held to high professional standards and are subject to disciplinary action for failing to uphold the rules and expectations set forth by the Association. Judges with convictions for equine abuse, or those who have faced disciplinary actions from other equine organizations for such conduct, may face disciplinary measures by OHSa, up to and including the revocation of their judge's card and membership. Should a judge's card be revoked, they will forfeit any dues or membership fees previously paid.

Section 11. Fees for testing at a higher level are \$10 per test if taken after the initial Level test. Additionally, judges may take up to two Specialty Designation tests at no charge. Subsequent Specialty Designation tests or additional tests taken after initial carding will incur a fee of \$10 per test.

## *Year End Awards Program*

### **ARTICLE 6. BASIC COMPETITION RULES**

Section 1. Every active regular and youth member and horse with an active Horse Participation Registration may earn points to accumulate for year-end high point awards by competing in open and 4-H shows including both live and virtual shows.

Section 2. Year-end high point awards are presented annually and are based on the points earned during the prior calendar year. A calendar year is defined as January 1 through December 31 of the same year.

Section 3. Horses must be shown under the same name as on their Horse Participation Registration. Competition Forms submitted with a different name will not be accepted.

Section 4. Points accumulate on horse and rider combinations only.

### **ARTICLE 7. HORSE PARTICIPATION RULES**

Section 1. Horses under the age of two (2) (i.e., horses born after 1/1/2023) may not earn points in any performance (ridden) class prior to July 1, of their two-year old year. However, they may earn points in any in-hand class including halter, showmanship, grooming and conditioning, color, in-hand trail, lunge line, in hand dressage, ground driving, or any driving class.

### **ARTICLE 8. COMPETITION FORMS**

Section 1. Points will only be earned when a completed Competition Form is received by OHSa. Members are required to submit the following information for points at an open or 4-H show to accumulate for awards: Competition Form properly completed and signed by member and the open or 4-H show official; and a Copy of Show Schedule or Show Class list. The Show Schedule or Show Class list must include the name of the show and/or the name of the organization hosting the show, the show date, judge, and all classes listed. In lieu of a show official signature and schedule/class list, a member may submit a valid working website that has show information and results posted. Members may be required to provide additional information or verification of show upon request of the Association.

Members competing in virtual (online) shows must submit a link to the show along with their Competition

Form. It is HIGHLY advised that members verify with the virtual show that they will allow access for OHSA to view the show and results; shows that do not allow OHSA access to their site to view results will not receive points.

Section 2. Competition Forms submitted with missing or incomplete information will not be accepted and will be returned to the member for completion.

Section 3. Competition Forms must be submitted within 60 days of the date of the show. Members are urged to submit Competition Forms as soon as possible, particularly for shows near the end of the year. Competition Forms will NOT be accepted for a show beyond January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. For example, for the 2025 show year all forms must be received by OHSA no later than January 31, 2026.

Section 4. OHSA will audit Competition Forms on a random basis. If a Competition Form is audited the show secretary or manager will be contacted to verify the information submitted by the OHSA member. Falsifying Competition Forms is grounds for disciplinary action. See Article 3; Section 5. OHSA encourages members to provide links to the show's website or facebook page should the show post results. This assists OHSA greatly in performing audits.

## **ARTICLE 9. ACCEPTABLE SHOWS**

Section 1. Regular and Youth members may earn points at any open show or 4-H show. Open shows are defined as any show that is open to any breed and that is not restricted to members of another national organization other than 4-H. Also acceptable are open shows that may restrict the type of horse (such as gaited or miniature) but do not award points on a national level.

Section 2. Shows that offer classes for one or more registered breeds such as horses registered with the American Quarter Horse Association or the Jockey Club, are not considered open classes for OHSA and members will not earn points for those classes. This includes classes for the Thoroughbred Incentive Program and other similar national programs. However, if the class is open to a single breed or type of horse such as miniatures or Quarter Horses without requiring registration with a national breed organization, those classes will count for OHSA points. For example, if a show offers a class titled "AQHA" then that infers that the class is only open to those horses registered with the American Quarter Horse Association, and therefore is not considered an open class. However, a class titled Quarter Horse or Stock Breed, would be considered open as long as the show does not require registration status in another organization.

Section 3. Shows that are sanctioned by any national equine organization or association are not considered open or 4-H shows within the OHSA guidelines. For example, National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) sanctioned shows are open to any breed of horse, however the NRHA is a national equine organization, they sanction classes, and they have a yearend award program within their organization. Therefore, classes shown in at NRHA sanctioned shows are not eligible for OHSA points (exception is noted in Article 9, Section 4).

Section 4. Shows sanctioned by a national equine organization or association may include non-sanctioned classes on their show schedule and those classes may qualify for points in OHSA. For example, a regional Paint Horse Association is an affiliate of the APHA. Most classes offered at an APHA show would not qualify for OHSA points. However, if the affiliate offers an all-breed class that is not a nationally sanctioned class by the APHA, that class would qualify for points in OHSA.

Section 5. 4-H shows may be either closed to 4-H members only or open to any competitor. Points from

either type of 4-H show will be accepted.

Section 6. All entry fees, show fees, and associated costs are solely the responsibility of the member. OHSA does not reimburse or pay for any show costs.

Section 7. OHSA does not assume responsibility for the safety of any member or horse, show personnel or volunteers, or any spectator, entrant, competitor, or others involved with an open show. All liability remains with the individual and/or the show.

## **ARTICLE 10. EARNING POINTS**

Section 1. All points are earned on a horse and rider combination. If more than one rider shows a horse and submits a Competition Form, each rider must have a Regular or Youth membership and the horse must have a Horse Performance Registration on file with OHSA prior to the date of the show. Membership and Horse Performance Registration may be submitted with a member's first Competition Form but all forms and payment must be submitted within 60 days of the date of the show.

Section 2. Horses that are disqualified from a class are considered an entry but will not receive points for that class. However, because they were an entry in the class other horses in that class can earn points under OHSA. Horses who are considered non-entries in a class (such as a horse entered as an audit) will not receive points for that class and are not counted as an entry for other horses entered to earn OHSA points. In scored classes (such as reining), members who score a 0 for the class may still earn points for that class as long as they were not disqualified from the class.

## **ARTICLE 11. POINTS**

Section 1. Points are earned based on the number of horses in a class and the placing of the horse within that class. OHSA recognizes that shows have various methods of placing classes. OHSA will recognize up to six (6) placings per class. Horses placing 7<sup>th</sup> or below will not earn points, regardless of the number of horses shown in the class.

Section 2. Points per class will be determined on a sliding scale as outlined below:

- 1 to 9 horses in class – maximum of 6 points
- 10 to 14 horses in a class – maximum of 7 points
- 15 to 19 horses in a class – maximum of 8 points
- 20 to 24 horses in a class – maximum of 9 points
- 25 or more horses in a class – maximum of 10 points

Section 3. Points are earned by placing in a class. A horse earns one point for placing and one point for every horse beaten in the class up to six (6) placings. Additional points are awarded based on the table below.

Section 4. A horse entered in a class, that enters the arena, and is then disqualified or scores 0 will be considered an entry into the class and will be included in the number of horses in the class to tabulate the number of points earned.

Section 5. Two (2) additional points are awarded for grand halter championship and one (1) additional point is awarded for reserve halter championship. Championship halter classes do not qualify for any other points regardless of the number of horses entered into the championship class. Any other type or

form of high point award either for the day or based on any other method such as a circuit or year-end will not earn additional points. Additionally, if high points are earned at a show for any other class such as western pleasure or barrel racing, no additional points are earned under OHSA.

Section 6. Points will accumulate in the appropriate Class, Discipline and will also accumulate toward the year-end overall high point.

Points Awarded						
Number of horses in class	1 <sup>st</sup> place	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	4 <sup>th</sup> place	5 <sup>th</sup> place	6 <sup>th</sup> place
1	1					
2	2	1				
3	3	2	1			
4	4	3	2	1		
5	5	4	3	2	1	
6-9	6	5	4	3	2	1
10-14	7	6	5	4	3	2
15-19	8	7	6	5	4	3
20-24	9	8	7	6	5	4
25+	10	9	8	7	6	5

Section 7. There are seventeen (17) Disciplines. Each Discipline has multiple Classes eligible to accumulate points for awards. OHSA recognizes that open shows may use names other than those designated by OHSA. If a Class qualifies based on the description of the Class (as identified below) then points will accumulate for that Class. Not all classes at open shows are eligible for points under OHSA; only those classes listed below will qualify for OHSA points.

#### **In-Hand Discipline**

**Grooming and Conditioning** – judged on grooming and conditioning of horse.

**Weanlings & Yearlings at Halter** – judged on conformation of horse.

**Stallions 2 and over at Halter** – judged on conformation of horse.

**Mares 2 and over at Halter** – judged on conformation of horse.

**Geldings 2 and over at Halter** – judged on conformation of horse.

**Showmanship at Halter** – judged on handler’s ability to show a horse in-hand. Usually involves a pattern.

**Color Class** – judged on horse’s color, open to horses of “color” only.

**Lunge Line** – usually restricted to yearlings and/or two year olds. Horses judged on performance on lunge line and on conformation. Points may be earned by an older horse at any show that allows horses over the age of 2 to enter this class.

**In Hand Trail** – horses judged on completing a trail pattern in hand. Though usually this class is for weanlings, yearlings, and sometimes 2 year olds, points may be earned by an older horse at any show that allows horses over the age of 2 to enter this class.

**In Hand Over Fences** – judged on the horse’s representation of a working hunter in the hunt field. Manners, jumping ability, quality of jumps, pace, and overall quality.

#### **Western Discipline**

**Western Pleasure** – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, and quality of movement.

**Western Horsemanship** – judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a

prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Western Equitation).

**Beginning Reining** – judged on horse and rider working prescribed reining pattern. Includes spins, stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and simple change of leads.

**Reining** – judged on horse and rider working prescribed reining pattern. Includes spins, sliding stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and change of leads.

**Western Riding** – judged on lead changes at lope, quality of gaits, and responsiveness to rider working a prescribed western riding pattern.

**Western Trail** – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement. Ground Pole classes ridden western will not count for points under the Trail class or any other class.

**Western Discipline/Obedience** – can be either judged or placed by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

**Western Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

### **Walk Jog Western Discipline**

**Walk Jog Western Pleasure** – judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only.

**Walk Jog Western Horsemanship** - judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Western Equitation) performed at a walk and jog only.

**Walk Jog Trail** - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only. Ground Pole classes ridden western will not count for points under the Trail class or any other class.

**Walk Jog Reining** –judged on horse and rider working prescribed reining pattern. Includes spins, sliding stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and change of speed.

**Walk Jog Discipline/Obedience** – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepassing or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

**Walk Jog Western Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship at a walk and jog only.

### **Walk Jog ONLY Western Discipline**

(restricted to those members that show only in walk/jog or walk/trot classes. Members recording points in the WJ Only Discipline may not earn points in Western, Hunt Seat, or any three gait classes. All points earned will be awarded under this discipline only and will not be recorded in the Walk Jog Western Discipline.)

**Walk Jog Western Pleasure** – judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only.

**Walk Jog Western Horsemanship** - judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Western Equitation) performed at a walk and jog only.

**Walk Jog Trail** - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only. Ground Pole classes ridden western will not count for points under the Trail class or any other class.

**Walk Jog Reining** –judged on horse and rider working prescribed reining pattern. Includes spins, sliding stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and change of speed.

**Walk Jog Discipline/Obedience** – can be either judged or place by elimination.

Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

**Walk Jog Western Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship at a walk and jog only.

### **Hunt Seat Discipline**

**Hunter Under Saddle** – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement (may also be called English Pleasure or Road Hack but hunt seat saddle must be used).

**Hunt Seat Equitation** – judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used.

**Hunter Hack** – judged on horse’s way of going, manners, and style of jumping over a course of two to four jumps with a maximum jump height of three feet. Flat work may also be required.

**Ground Poles** – judged on horses’ way of going, manners, and suitability for jumping.

May also be judged on rider’s ability to negotiate a jump course and work in 2 point position. This class is a preparatory class for over fences, therefore, the course must be a full course of jumps.

**Hunter over Fences** – judged on horse’s way of going, manners, and style of jumping over a course.

**Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences** – judged on rider’s ability to ride a course of fences, their form, and equitation.

**Open Jumping** – a timed event over a course of jumps with a maximum starting jump height of eighteen inches.

**Hunt Seat Discipline/Obedience** – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

**Hunt Seat Trail** – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

**Hunt Seat Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

### **Walk Trot Hunt Seat Discipline**

**Walk Trot Hunter Under Saddle** - judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement (may also be called English Pleasure or Road Hack but hunt seat saddle must be used) performed at walk and trot only.

**Walk Trot Hunt Seat Equitation** - judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used performed at a walk and trot only.

**Walk Trot Hunt Seat Trail** - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement performed at a walk and trot only.

**Walk Trot Discipline/Obedience** – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

**Walk Trot Hunter Hack** - judged on horse’s way of going, manners, and style of jumping over a

course of two to four jumps with a maximum jump height of three feet. Flat work may also be required performed at a walk and trot only.

**Walk Trot Ground Poles** – judged on horses’ way of going, manners, and suitability for jumping.

May also be judged on rider’s ability to negotiate a jump course and work in 2 point position.

This class is a preparatory class for over fences, therefore, the course must be a full course of jumps.

**Walk Trot Over Fences** – judged on a horse’s way of going, manners, and jumping ability.

**Walk Trot Equitation Over Fences** - judged on a rider’s ability to negotiate a jump course and perform with correct equitation.

**Walk Trot Hunt Seat Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

#### **Walk Trot ONLY Hunt Seat Discipline**

(restricted to those members that show only in walk/jog or walk/trot classes. Members recording points in the WT Only Discipline may not earn points in Western, Hunt Seat, or any three gait classes. All points earned will be awarded under this discipline only and will not be recorded in the Walk Trot Hunt Seat Discipline.)

**Walk Trot Hunter Under Saddle** - judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement (may also be called English Pleasure or Road Hack but hunt seat saddle must be used) performed at walk and trot only.

**Walk Trot Hunt Seat Equitation** - judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used performed at a walk and trot only.

**Walk Trot Hunt Seat Trail** - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only.

**Walk Trot Discipline/Obedience** – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

**Walk Trot Hunter Hack** - judged on horse’s way of going, manners, and style of jumping over a course of two to four jumps with a maximum jump height of three feet. Flat work may also be required performed at a walk and trot only.

**Walk Trot Ground Poles** – judged on horses’ way of going, manners, and suitability for jumping. May also be judged on rider’s ability to negotiate a jump course and work in 2 point position. This class is a preparatory class for over fences, therefore, the course must be a full course of jumps.

**Walk Trot Over Fences** – judged on a horse’s way of going, manners, and jumping ability.

**Walk Trot Equitation Over Fences** - judged on a rider’s ability to negotiate a jump course and perform with correct equitation.

**Walk Trot Hunt Seat Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship at a walk and trot only.

#### **Saddle Seat Discipline**

(\*note this discipline combines walk/trot, 3 gait, and 5 gait competitors)

**Saddle Seat Pleasure** – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement.

**Saddle Seat Equitation** – judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used.

**Saddle Seat Discipline/Obedience** – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepass or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

**Saddle Seat Trail** – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

**Saddle Seat Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

### **Gaited Judged Discipline**

**Gaited Pleasure** – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement.

**Gaited Equitation** – judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used.

**Gaited Trail** – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

**Gaited Discipline/Obedience** - can be either judged or place by elimination.

Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

**Gaited Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

### **Side Saddle Discipline**

**Side Saddle Pleasure** – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, obedience, willingness and manners, and quality of movement

**Side Saddle Equitation** - judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used.

**Saddle Seat Trail** – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

**Saddle Seat Discipline/Obedience** - can be either judged or place by elimination.

Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

**Saddle Seat Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

### **Driving Discipline**

**Pleasure Driving** – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, obedience, willingness and manners, and quality of movement

**Reinsmanship** - judged on driver’s ability including reinsmanship and ability to drive a prescribed pattern if one is used

**Obstacles** - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

**Cones** – judged on a horse and driver’s ability to negotiate a course through cones.

### **Ranch Horse Discipline**

**Ranch Horse Pleasure** - judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and a pleasure to ride. Gaits are generally ground covering and correct. Hand gallop may be called. This class is not a pattern class. The distinction between Ranch Horse Pleasure and Ranch Riding is the use of a pattern.



- Walk Jog Ranch Horse Pleasure** - judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and a pleasure to ride. Gaits are generally ground covering and correct. This class is not a pattern class. The distinction between Ranch Horse Pleasure and Ranch Riding is the use of a pattern.
- Ranch Riding** – judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and a pleasure to ride. Gaits are generally ground covering and correct. Hand gallop may be called. This class is a pattern class.
- Walk Jog Ranch Riding** - judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and a pleasure to ride. Gaits are generally ground covering and correct. This class is a pattern class.
- Ranchmanship** – judged on a rider and horse's ability to negotiate a pattern with elements of ranch riding, pleasure, horsemanship, and ranch trail.
- Walk Jog Ranchmanship** – judged on a rider and horse's ability to negotiate a pattern with elements of ranch riding, pleasure, horsemanship, and ranch trail.
- Ranch Horsemanship** – judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Ranch Equitation).
- Walk Jog Ranch Horsemanship** – judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Ranch Equitation). Walk and jog only.
- Ranch Reining** - judged on horse and rider working prescribed ranch reining pattern. Includes spins, sliding stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and change of leads.
- Ranch Trail** – judged on a horse and rider's ability to work various obstacles and may include working a gate, patterns to show handiness, small jumps, walk, jog, or lope overs, backing in or around obstacles, dragging or moving an object(s), loading and unloading from a trailer, roping a stationary object, and/or other obstacles.
- Walk Jog Ranch Trail** - judged on a horse and rider's ability to work various obstacles and may include working a gate, patterns to show handiness, small jumps, walk or jog overs, backing in or around obstacles, dragging or moving an object(s), loading and unloading from a trailer, roping a stationary object, and/or other obstacles.

#### **Timed Discipline**

(\*note – only timed event classes as described below are recognized. If a class entered does not match a description below then no points will be awarded. This will be STRICTLY enforced and no events may earn points if they do not meet our pattern requirements.)

- Barrel Racing** – timed event where horse completes prescribed standard cloverleaf three barrel pattern.
- Pole Bending** – timed event where horse completes prescribed standard pole bending six pole pattern.
- Keyhole Race** – timed event where horse completes a keyhole pattern. The keyhole may be either chalk drawn or be run through two barrels/poles and around a third barrel/pole.
- Arena Race** – timed event where horse completes a single run around the arena. May be performed with barrels or poles as markers at the end of the arena but no turns around the barrel will be performed.
- Stake Race** – timed event where horse completes the stake race pattern. The stake race generally is run from the middle of the arena, around one pole, crossing the start/stop line and around a second pole, finishing by passing the start/stop line.
- Flag Race** – timed event where horse and rider run around perimeter of arena, picking up a flag or marker from a bucket after crossing start line and placing the flag in another bucket before completing pattern and crossing the finish line. A flag or other object (ball, stake, etc) may be used.
- Roll Back** – timed event where horse runs to end of arena and performs a rollback around a barrel or pole rather than running directly around the barrel.

**Figure Eight** – timed event where horse and rider complete a single or double figure eight around barrels or poles. May also be called Bowtie or Double Bowtie.

### **Dressage**

**In Hand Dressage** – judged on the horse performing a dressage pattern in hand.

**Dressage Suitability** – judged on form to function as it relates to performing a dressage test showing suitability in the dressage arena.

**Dressage Equitation** - judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used with an emphasis on a dressage seat.

**Western Dressage** – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under western tack and attire.

**Walk Jog Western Dressage** – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under western tack and attire.

**Dressage** – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under hunt seat or dressage tack and attire.

**Walk Trot Dressage** – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under hunt seat or dressage tack and attire.

**Saddle Seat Dressage** – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under saddle seat tack and attire.

**Gaited Dressage** - judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under hunt seat, saddle seat, or dressage tack and attire.

**Driven Dressage** - judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed while being driven.

### **Walk Discipline**

Riders may not earn points in the Walk Discipline or any Walk Only class and any other discipline including Leadline with the exception of Exceptional Rider. (see Article 13 for additional information)

**Walk Pleasure** – judged on a walk both ways of the ring and a back up.

**Walk Equitation/Horsemanship** – judged on the rider's equitation and ability to perform a prescribed pattern (if one is used).

**Walk Dressage** – judged on completing a walk only dressage pattern.

**Walk Trail** – judged on the horse and rider completing a trail pattern with various obstacles.

### **Leadline Discipline**

Riders may not earn points in the Leadline Discipline or any Leadline class and any other discipline including Walk Only with the exception of Exceptional Rider. (see Article 14 for additional information)

**Leadline Pleasure** – judged on a walk both ways of the ring and a back up.

**Leadline Equitation/Horsemanship** – judged on the rider's equitation and ability to perform a prescribed pattern (if one is used).

**Leadline Dressage** – judged on completing a walk only/leadline dressage pattern.

**Leadline Trail** – judged on the horse and rider completing a trail pattern with various obstacles.

**Exceptional Competitor Discipline**

see Article 12 for additional information.

**Members may enter any OHSА qualified class as an exceptional rider and earn points.**

Section 8. If a show holds 3D and/or 4-D Timed classes members must break out how many horses were in the D they placed in as well as how many horses the member placed above. For example, if a show holds a 4D barrel race and a member places 3rd in the 3D portion, even if there were 100 horses in the class, if there were only 20 horses in the 3 and 4D sections then the points will be based on 20 horses in the class.

Section 9. Additional disciplines and classes may be added. Members must request in writing the class name and provide the description to the Association. The Association will then decide on adding the discipline or class. All members will be notified when a new class or discipline is added. The effective date of a new discipline or class will be January 1 of the next competition year.

Section 10. Year End award categories may change with the approval of the Association. Annual awards may include the following:

Overall High Point Champion  
Reserve Overall High Point Champion.

Additional awards may be provided. Traditionally OHSА provides awards for Disciplines and Classes up to the top 10 in each class and discipline.

Section 11. A member showing in OHSА ONLY classes and earning points under an ONLY discipline may not cross enter into any 3 gait class. If a member does enter 3 gait classes, either at an OHSА show or another open or 4-H show, then any points accumulated as an ONLY rider will be reclassified in the regular Walk Jog or Walk Trot discipline.

Section 12. Member and horse teams will be awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards based on the following criteria:

Certificate of Ability – awarded after a member/horse team earn 250 points in any recognized class

Certificate of Superior Ability – awarded after a member/horse team earn 500 points in any recognized class

Certificate of Expert Ability – awarded after a member/horse team earn 1,000 points in any recognized class

Certificate of Versatility – awarded after a member/horse team earn 250 points in each of three different disciplines

Certificate of Supreme Mastery – awarded after a member/horse team earn 250 points in each of five different disciplines

These awards will be calculated and awarded after the end of each calendar year. Members may only receive the highest level of certificate per category each year. For example, if a member/horse team earns 600 points in Showmanship in a given year they will receive the Certificate of Superior Ability award that year and will not receive the Certificate of Ability. If the horse earns another 500 points the following year they will receive the Certificate of Expert Ability.

Section 13. Members may earn points in online video horse shows. The show must be judged by a

recognized judge carded by OHSA, a carded judge with another national organization or recognized as a judge by the organization hosting the show. The class must meet the conventional class description by OHSA. OHSA will make any and all determination as to whether the class qualifies for points under OHSA rules. The class must also not qualify the member for other national awards under any other organization or association. Classes may NOT be judged on a static photo only – only classes judged via video will count for points. Members submitting a Competition Form for an online class must include a link to the show.

Section 14. OHSA may provide additional awards as determined by the Association.

## ***ARTICLE 12. EXCEPTIONAL COMPETITOR DISCIPLINE***

Section 1. The Exceptional Competitor Discipline provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to compete for awards within the OHSA program. By participating, each competitor, or their parent or guardian, assumes the risk of personal injury and property damage and agrees to release and discharge OHSA, its officers, directors, and representatives from any liability arising from participation in a horse show.

Section 2. Members must identify as an Exceptional Competitor and provide appropriate documentation of their disability. Accepted documentation includes an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a letter from a healthcare provider confirming the disability, or similar official documentation. All such information will be securely stored separately from other membership files and treated with the utmost confidentiality. This information may be shared only in the case of legal proceedings or other required circumstances.

Section 3. Adaptive tack and equipment are permitted in the Exceptional Competitor discipline.

Section 4. Exceptional Competitors may be either regular or youth members. They must be in good standing with OHSA in order to earn points and receive awards in the year they participate.

Section 5. OHSA recognizes that individual shows may have specific entry requirements for Exceptional Competitor classes. Members must comply with the rules and class requirements of each show, regardless of OHSA guidelines.

Section 6. Handlers or assistants may be utilized depending on the abilities of the Exceptional Competitor and the show's rules. OHSA prioritizes safety above all other considerations and encourages adherence to safety protocols.

Section 7. Exceptional Competitors may compete in classes specifically for Exceptional Competitors or in open classes. Points earned in open classes will be awarded according to the guidelines in Article 11. For Exceptional Competitor classes where all participants receive the same placing (e.g., all entries receiving first place or honorable mention), all participants will earn points as if they were awarded first place.

Points for Exceptional Competitor classes will be awarded as follows:

- 1 entry: First place earns 6 points.
- 2-3 entries: First place earns 6 points, second place earns 4 points, and third place (if applicable) earns 3 points.
- 4-6 entries: First place earns 6 points, second place earns 5 points, third place earns 4 points, fourth place earns 3 points, fifth place (if applicable) earns 2 points, and sixth place (if applicable) earns 1 point.
- More than 6 entries: Points are awarded in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Article 11.

Section 8. Points earned from all classes will count toward the overall standings.

### ***ARTICLE 13. WALK DISCIPLINE***

Section 1. Members may compete in a show's walk only classes. Walk Only classes do not allow or use a side handler or assistance.

Section 2. Members that compete in walk only classes may not also earn points in leadline, walk/trot or 3 gait classes, but may earn points in in hand, exceptional, and driving classes.

Section 3. If a show awards all entrants in a Walk only class the same placing (such as awarding all entries a first place, or all entries an honorable mention) rather than placing the class in a traditional manner, all entrants will earn points as if they were the first place winner of the class. Points for Walk only classes will be earned as follows:

- 1 entry – first place earns 6 points
- 2 – 3 entries – first place earns 6 points, second place earns 4 points, and third place earns 3 points
- 4 – 6 entries – first place earns 6 points, second place earns 5 points, third place earns 4 points, fourth place earns 3 points, fifth place earns 2 points, and sixth place earns 1 point
- More than 6 entries – points are earned the same as shown in Article 11.

### ***ARTICLE 14. LEADLINE DISCIPLINE***

Section 1. Members may compete in a show's leadline classes. Leadline classes will use a side handler or assistance.

Section 2. Members that compete in leadline classes may not also earn points in walk only, walk/trot or 3 gait classes, but may earn points in in hand, exceptional, and driving classes.

Section 3. If a show awards all entrants in a leadline class the same placing (such as awarding all entries a first place, or all entries an honorable mention) rather than placing the class in a traditional manner, all entrants will earn points as if they were the first place winner of the class. Points for leadline classes will be earned as follows:

- 1 entry – first place earns 6 points
- 2 – 3 entries – first place earns 6 points, second place earns 4 points, and third place earns 3 points
- 4 – 6 entries – first place earns 6 points, second place earns 5 points, third place earns 4 points, fourth place earns 3 points, fifth place earns 2 points, and sixth place earns 1 point
- More than 6 entries – points are earned the same as shown in Article 11.

### ***ARTICLE 15. OHSA HOSTED VIRTUAL SHOWS***

Section 1. OHSA may host online virtual open horse shows. All OHSA members in good standing may participate in the show by enrolling in the classes they want to enter on the OHSA website. Members

must follow all rules of the show.

Section 2. OHSA hosted virtual shows may be standard open shows or they may have altered rules such as allowing dress-down (t-shirt) attire.

Section 3. All OHSA virtual shows will count toward year-end awards. Competition Forms do not need to be completed for OHSA virtual shows.

Section 4. Rules governing OHSA virtual show classes and judging can be found in the OHSA Rulebook Addendum, "OHSA Virtual Show Rules."

## **ARTICLE 16. OHSA VIRTUAL WORLD OPEN HORSE SHOW**

Section 1. OHSA may host an annual Virtual World Open Horse Show. All OHSA members in good standing may participate in the show by enrolling in the classes they want to enter on the OHSA website. Members must follow all rules of the show. The show will be governed by the "OHSA Virtual Show Rules." Additional rules may also be established specific to the World Show.

Section 2. The OHSA Virtual World Open Horse Show is non-qualifying. All members of OHSA may enter and participate in this show.

Section 3. The OHSA Virtual World Show will count toward year-end awards. Competition Forms do not need to be completed for the Virtual World Open Horse Show.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- **Competition Form** – form used to submit points earned at an open or 4-H show to OHSA and for recording on your permanent record with the association.
- **Participant Registration** – registration of a horse that allows a member to earn points on that horse.
- **Regular Member** – adult member over the age of 18.
- **Youth Member** – youth member age of 18 and under, age is determined as of January 1 of the current calendar year.
- **Open Horse Show** – show open to any breed of horse. Some open shows may have breed specific classes, but generally they are not approved by a national association or restricted to registered only horses.
- **Virtual Horse Show** – a show held on line either through a website or facebook.
- **4-H Show** – show held by a 4-H club or organization. This show may be closed to 4-H members only or may be open to anyone.
- **Horse** – horse, pony, mule, draft horse, donkey, or other equine species.
- **Division** – walk/trot; walk/jog vs standard three gait classes.
- **Discipline** – the seventeen (17) disciplines recognized by OHSA such as Western; Hunt Seat; Timed Events; etc.