



2026 Rule Book

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NTHJC's Disclaimer of Responsibility for Safety of Show Participants

The sponsor of a NTHJC approved show is responsible for the condition of show premises, including the arena and warm up areas; the conduct and competence of show activities; and all other aspects of the show.

NTHJC does not assume or accept duty or responsibility for safety at any show regarding participants or any other third parties, or for the horses or other property thereof. NTHJC's limited objective is to encourage "a level playing field" of competition. The designation of "NTHJC approved show" means that if a show's management fully complies with NTHJC rules as contained in the North Texas Hunter Jumper Club Rule Book, NTHJC will accept show results as official and use such results to calculate year end awards.

As an express condition of participating at a NTHJC approved show each owner, exhibitor, trainer, and employees of any of these individuals, and all other participants, assume the risk of participation, and release and discharge NTHJC, its officers, directors, representatives and employees, from any and all liability, whenever or however arising, as to personal injury or property damage occurring because of participation.

The NTHJC Show Schedule is available on our menu bar, click the link above to navigate there. Be sure to check there for information about our recognized horse shows, member barns, current point standings, show results, classified ads, and NTHJC news. Online membership and payments are available on the website, as well.

Rules of the NTHJC shall generally be influenced by the Rules and Regulations of the USEF, unless such rules are knowingly adapted by the NTHJC to conflict with the USEF.

1.0 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 NTHJC memberships will consist of:

- Competing memberships (\$40 annually); comprised of Junior, Amateur, and Professional memberships; individual members under 18 years of age are considered junior members and will not have voting privileges.
- Barn Memberships: Any trainer who is an active professional member of NTHJC attends at least one (1) show in the current season will get a free barn membership and a listing on NTHJC's website. Please e-mail info@nthjc.com if you need to update your barn listing.
- Life Memberships (\$350 one-time fee); only life members over 18 years of age shall have voting privileges. NTHJC past presidents shall be given honorary lifetime memberships with full voting privileges.
- Non-Competing Memberships (\$20 annually); Non-competing memberships are designed for parents who would like to take part in voting for the board each year, but do not need a competing membership.

1.2 A rider's age is determined by how old a rider is on December 1st of any given year. Junior members are those members

under eighteen (18) years of age at the start of the fiscal year (December 1st.)

1.3 Each rider competing in a NTHJC recognized show will be required to be a competing member of the organization. A rider's name must appear on the NTHJC membership list or must have proof of online registration.

1.4 Riders showing only in unrecognized divisions or classes at NTHJC shows are not required to pay member fees. Show management is responsible for verifying membership prior to issuing back numbers for each competitor.

2.0 GENERAL RULES

2.1 It is the responsibility of show management, exhibitors, trainers and spectators to conduct themselves in a civilized and sportsmanlike manner. Show managers must have a current NTHJC Rule Book on hand at all shows. The NTHJC Show Committee will recommend to the NTHJC Board of Directors appropriate action to be taken for violations.

2.2 On the show grounds, all mounted riders must wear ASTM/SEI approved helmets properly fitted with harnesses securely fastened. No helmet can protect the wearer against all foreseeable injuries.

2.3 Proper attire is required: show shirts, riding pants; either jodhpurs with paddock boots, or breeches with tall riding boots, show jackets. Polo shirts with a collar may be worn in jumper classes. Horse shows held in the months of June, July & August will allow all riders the option of wearing polo shirts with a collar. Wearing coats may be waived by horse show management in hot weather at any time. Chaps may not be worn in any class. **For competition year 2026 and forward, peacock stirrups will not be allowed nor any piece of equipment with a rigid upward projection that may catch a rider's clothing.**

2.4 A professional is defined by NTHJC as any person who receives monetary or any form of compensation (board, training, rent, gifts, bartering services, etc.) for riding, training, or instructing a horse or rider. Pros may ride in the open divisions for end of year awards. Pros wishing to regain amateur status with NTHJC must apply in writing to the NTHJC Board of Directors, and then wait one year or provide proof this has already been completed.

2.5 Supervision of schooling must be done by a responsible adult or accompanying riding instructor. If the junior rider is not accompanied by an instructor to the show, schooling must be supervised by the parent or legal guardian. Riders may not jump unless the instructor/parent/guardian is present at the ring. Only the instructor/parent/guardian and riders should be in the schooling ring during schooling.

2.6 All dogs must be on a leash or otherwise confined.

2.7 The NTHJC's insurance does not cover any member of NTHJC.

2.8 All formal complaints or protests must be written or emailed, signed and sent to the show committee chairperson.

2.9 Failure to pay for entries or returned checks within ten (10) business days of written notification may result in loss of points for the horse/rider and loss of eligibility to compete in NTHJC shows until payment is made. Show managers may be informed of any ineligible members and any participants associated with nonpayment or returned checks may be notified that they are ineligible to show until charges are cleared.

2.10 NTHJC shall publish the most current rule books, bylaws & scheduled board meetings with date, location, and time on the NTHJC website. Board meetings are open to all NTHJC members. The Banquet or first board meeting of each calendar year shall be designated the annual meeting.

2.11 Any member of the Board of Directors absent from three meetings within any one-year term will be notified by the President and on the fourth absence may be replaced at the President's discretion.

2.12 ANIMAL WELFARE

2.12.1 Every horse shall always be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion.

2.12.2 The standard by which conduct of treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures or veterinary standards, would determine to be cruel, abusive and inhumane.

2.12.3 **PROHIBITED CONDUCT:** Conduct on the show grounds of NTHJC members, and non-members, exhibitors, trainers, owners, and their representatives shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike, and humane in the treatment of horses. Unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any other form of misconduct shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

2.12.4 **DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR:** If a horse exhibits dangerous behavior (such as rearing and bucking) in the show ring, warm up ring or in-gate, the Judge or Show Management reserves the right to dismiss the horse in order to protect NTHJC members, non-members, exhibitors, trainers, owners & their representatives. **The judge will have final say for eliminating a horse and rider for the remainder of the show day for safety or lameness related issues.**

2.12.5 **OUTSIDE COACHING:** Coaching from outside the arena is not permitted while a rider is on course. Riders who receive outside assistance from their coach will be penalized at the judge's discretion.

2.12.6 **CLASS LIMIT:** Horses at NTHJC horse shows will not be permitted to show in more than 12 classes in a single show day.

2.13 **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE:** In regard to any violation of NTHJC rules and regulations, the NTHJC Board of Directors may invoke sanctions, including revocation or denial of membership and assessment of a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

3.0 SHOW MANAGEMENT

3.1 SHOW DATES

3.1.1 The show season may begin on February 1st with the NTHJC Benefit Horse Show being the first show of the year and ends with the NTHJC Year End Show.

3.1.2 There will be no more than 24 NTHJC recognized show dates in a year.

3.1.3 All show dates belong to the club - show dates are not transferable.

3.1.4 No show outside the radius of one hundred twenty (120) miles from DFW Airport will be approved as a recognized NTHJC show. One day shows must be located within 65 miles of DFW Airport or provide at least 100 overnight stalls.

3.1.5 All show dates, one-day or two-day formats and NTHJC hunter derbies must be applied for in writing to the NTHJC Show Committee Chairperson. Anyone applying for NTHJC shows must be a current member in good standing. The following will be considered by the NTHJC Show Committee in assigning future and additional show dates: general benefit to the club membership and quality of facility. Each applicant will be considered on its own merit - not on a first come first serve basis.

3.1.6 Each show manager may have a maximum of two (2) sanctioned NTHJC shows a calendar year, excluding NTHJC Club shows.

3.1.7 NTHJC will allocate show dates each year to the facility/manager upon approval by the Show Committee.

3.1.8 A \$200 show fee payable to NTHJC is required to sanction each show.

3.1.9 To change a show date, venue, or to increase number of days a show is held, written or emailed notice should be given within thirty (30) days to the show committee chairperson for approval, excluding acts of God.

3.1.10 If there is a change in the prize list (different judges, fewer rings, fewer days, etc.) the show committee chairperson must be notified immediately and approval obtained. If a show cancels with 30 days' notice, the board may substitute a show for that show date that year only.

3.1.11 Rainouts – In order to announce the cancellation of a show due to rain, the show manager & facility must contact the Show Committee Chairperson first. If a show is cancelled due to weather the facility will receive the next available rain date unless an exception is asked for. Host barns that cancel only one day of a 2-day show will be eligible for only that day as a rain date.

3.1.12 The NTHJC Show Committee will make suggestions and resolve problems for all NTHJC shows. It will be the responsibility of the NTHJC show committee to determine any penalties for broken rules.

3.2 HOST BARNES

- 3.2.1 All shows except the Club shows are managed by the facility hosting the show. The facility management has the responsibility of running their show by the NTHJC rules and guidelines, but the decisions are made by the facility management.
- 3.2.2 Host barns with 100 stalls available to outside horses may hold NTHJC Shows over one or two days. Host barns with less than 100 stalls available to outside horses may hold complete divisions on the Saturday before their show date if desired, but may not split divisions over two days. Host barns with less than 100 stalls shall not start their show before 8:00 AM, in order to allow sufficient time for schooling before show, unless there is no schooling allowed. Outside horses are defined as horses that live or board at any facility except the Host Barn.
- 3.2.3 NTHJC requires all host barns to carry \$1,000,000 of liability insurance by an approved insurance company for each horse show, listing North Texas Hunter Jumper Club as an additional insured. A copy of the declarations page of the insurance policy showing this information must be sent to the Show Committee Chairperson before a prize list can be approved.
- 3.2.4 Each show is required to have a first aid kit on the grounds. NTHJC requires that a host barn hire an EMT or Paramedic for each show. The EMT/Paramedic should be available for the duration of the show, including all posted schooling times. A \$10.00 EMT fee per entry, per show day may be charged at each show, and this is the only job the EMT/Paramedic can do at the show.
- 3.2.5 STALLIONS - It is up to show management whether a stallion is allowed at their show. Stallions must be well mannered, in control, and ridden by an adult rider only. Competitors desiring to enter stallions in a NTHJC recognized show must notify host barn by entry deadline date and receive approval from host barn.
- 3.2.6 All shows are required to have at least two (2) jumps set up in a schooling area of adequate size with one (1) vertical and one (1) spread.
- 3.2.7 Schooling times will be left up to the discretion of the show management. Schooling must be overseen by show management. Open schooling times and any ticketed schooling must be stated in the prize list. There will be a separate ten-minute schooling break set aside for the Limit divisions only. **Paid ticketed schooling is not permitted on NTHJC sanctioned show days or the warm-up day for a show in a 2-day format.**
- 3.2.8 If two or more rings are being used, show management should designate the priority ring. Holds for trainers to observe flat classes in divisions where fence heights are 2'6" (except Pony Division) or higher should not be allowed.
- 3.2.9 Show managers may not compete in a show at which they are managing or serve as show secretary for that show, and must be members of NTHJC for the current show year.
- 3.2.10 It is required that all shows have an adequate sound system and communication from gates to schooling rings. It is recommended to have communication between rings when more than one ring is used. Gate-keepers must be at least 16 years of age, possess a basic understanding of the job, and must be compensated for their work.
- 3.2.11 Every show must provide a minimum of 2 toilet facilities for the show. Violating this rule will result in a \$200 fine.
- 3.2.12 Ribbons and trophies for Champion and ribbons for Reserve Champion must be given in each division. Ribbons are required in all classes through sixth (6th) place.
- 3.2.13 All shows wanting to receive USHJA Outreach co-recognition must use show software capable of generating a USEF/USHJA electronic results file.
- 3.2.14 A master list of entries, original judge's cards, membership report and show report must be received within ten (10) days after a show date. Information should be transmitted electronically via E-Mail, Google Drive or another file-sharing software. After reconciliation of results, NTHJC will provide an invoice for Scholarship, Non-Member, and Hosting Fees to the host for electronic payment. Failure to submit all information the Show Committee Secretary within 10 business days will result in \$100 Late Fee. Show sponsors must keep all the show records until the end of the show season. If USEF/USHJA electronic results are provided, original judges cards do not need to be mailed. Show managers should retain their original cards until the points are finalized for the year.

3.3 JUDGES

- 3.3.1 If two (2) rings are to be run, then two (2) judges must be used. If there is a lack of entries, one judge may be

used, provided show management calls all entrants or representatives by noon the Saturday before the show and explain the schedule change. For multiple day shows, judges must be rotated between rings.

3.3.2 A hunter judge should judge each division height at no more than 2 (two) shows during a show year. A jumper judge may be hired for any number of shows. Please allow flexibility if a judge should cancel at the last minute. Each replacement judge must be approved by the NTHJC show committee chairperson before the show.

3.3.3 A person can judge a NTHJC show even if they have students or children attending NTHJC shows. However, these students or children may not compete at the show that he/she is judging. No horse owned or leased by a judge may compete in classes where that judge is officiating.

3.3.4 Judges' cards are notes the judge makes to himself about each class. They are not to be reviewed by riders or parents, only by trainers and only when said trainer requests the information about his/her rider(s) through the Show Committee Chairperson

3.3.5 Show management may have judges hold multiple cards open if needed.

3.3.6 Show management may include non-recognized classes in their shows. However, these classes must be run after the recognized classes.

3.4 PRIZE LISTS

3.4.1 Upon receipt of the deposit and the approval of the prize list, the show sponsor will be emailed the NTHJC show packet including all necessary forms.

3.4.2 Show management must ask for proof of a negative coggins within twelve months on each horse entered in their show. This must be stated on the prize list.

3.4.3 The show manager must be identified on the show prize list (TBA is not acceptable and manager must be stated as an individual not an entity).

3.4.4 Prize lists must be sent to the NTHJC Show Committee Chair for approval and must include a horse show committee of 3 NTHJC members, including one from the NTHJC Show Committee. Prize list must be submitted at least one month prior to show date. The Show Committee Chair will send the prize list to the Corresponding Secretary for emailing and online posting.

3.4.5 Show Sponsors will charge a maximum of \$25 per class, except for special classes, which can range from \$30 and up but cannot exceed 10% of the prize money awarded. Add Back classes should be \$35 per class, \$10 of this fee will be designated as prize money, which will be paid back as credit on show invoices in the following amounts: 1st Place – 30% of pot, 2nd Place – 22%; 3rd Place – 16%; 4th Place – 14%; 5th Place – 10%; 6th Place – 8%.

3.4.6 Additional Fees

3.4.6.1 A maximum late fee of \$25.00 per entry may be charged for entries received after due date if late fee is posted in the prize list. Late fees cannot be charged prior to the Monday before the first sanctioned show date.

3.4.6.2 Show sponsors may charge a returned check fee of \$25.00

3.4.6.3 An EMT fee of \$10.00 per horse/rider combination per day may be charged.

3.4.6.4 A \$25.00 Office/Scholarship Fee per horse/rider combination must be charged: the \$15 Office goes to the host barn and the \$10 Scholarship fee is remitted to the NTHJC Show Committee Secretary with show results. Show managers can make the \$15 Office fee non-refundable after the closing date. This must be clearly stated in the prize list.

3.4.6.5 A grounds fee of no more than \$45.00 may be charged for any horse not reserving a stall if there are sufficient stalls available for all horses at show.

3.4.6.6 A show manager may charge a fee for a returned check. This fee should be commensurate with fees charged by their financial institution for the returned check.

3.4.6.7 A non-showing fee of up to \$50 may be charged for non-competing entries.

3.4.7 Prize lists will be posted on the NTHJC website after approval by the show committee. They will be emailed to all current NTHJC members with current email addresses. A mailing list will be made available to any show manager requesting labels. If a show date is rained out, the host barn must notify all barns of the change of date.

3.4.8 NTHJC shows must offer at least five NTHJC divisions in the show to be recognized by NTHJC.

3.4.9 All classes must be listed on the prize list.

3.4.10 A maximum of thirty-four (34) classes per ring is suggested for a NTHJC show. This number may need to be exceeded due to class entries per ring. The show must end thirty (30) minutes after sunset except for arenas with lights. Shows with fewer than 100 available stalls are allowed a maximum of 12 hours to conduct their show.

3.4.11 All Fence heights must be listed in the prize list. Show management must state in the prize list if 2'0" divisions will have oxers.

3.4.12 Limit classes are to be defined in prize lists as limited to riders who have not won five (5) blue ribbons over fences at the beginning of the show season. Full limit description in Rule 5.2.1 and 5.2.2.

3.4.13 If adding and scratching is to be penalized on the day of a show, it must be stated on the prize list.

3.4.14 Course Designer(s) must be listed in the prize list.

4.0 COURSE GUIDELINES

4.1 It is recommended that fence construction be in accordance with USEF minimum standards, with the following being mandatory:

4.1.1 The top element of all fences in a hunter course must be a pole, with the exception of specialty classes.

4.1.2 Hunter jump elements must have no more than 3" of space between the elements.

4.1.3 Jumping elements in hunter classes must have winged standards: for oxer elements a non-winged standard may be used for the back pole.

4.2 A combination (1 stride = 24'6" 2 stride = 36') may be offered only in divisions with fence heights of 2'9" and higher.

4.3 All lines should be jumped in one direction only and an obstacle may be jumped one time only in each course.

4.4 All regular hunter and equitation courses must have at least 7 jumping elements and not more than 9 jumping elements.

4.5 All shows should have the distance for the lines on the posted hunter courses. Courses must be posted thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the show or thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of each class.

4.6 Jumper classes must have a minimum of eight (8) jumping elements. Power and Speed Jumper courses must have a minimum of four (4) jumping elements for the Power phase and a minimum of four (4) jumping elements in the Speed phase.

5.0 DIVISIONS AND CLASS RULES

5.1 NTHJC Divisions

Division No	Division Name	Fence Height	No. of Classes	Class Nos
I	Limit Equitation Trot Poles	3"	3	1,2,3
II	Limit Equitation Trot Crossrails	18"	3	4,5,6
III	Limit Equitation Canter Crossrails	18"	3	7,8,9
IV	Rusty Stirrup Hunter 18"	18"	3	10,11,12
V	Short Stirrup Hunter 18"	18'	3	13,14,15

VI	Short/Rusty Stirrup Equitation 18"	18"	3	16,17,18
VII	Open Hunter 2'	2'	3	19,20,21
VIII	Jr/Am Hunter 2'	2'	3	22,23,24
IX	Jr/Am Equitation 2'	2'	3	25,26,27
X	Junior Hunter 2'3"	2'3"	3	28,29,30
XI	Adult Hunter 2'3"	2'3"	3	31,32,33
XII	Jr/Am Equitation 2'3"	2'3"	3	34,35,36
XIII	Pony Hunter	2' (S), 2'3 (M), 2'6 (L)	4	37,38,39,40 (Model)
XIV	Pony Equitation	2' (S), 2'3 (M), 2'6 (L)	3	41,42,43
XV	Pre-Green Hunter 2'6"	2'6"	3	44,45,46
XVI	Jr/Am Hunter 2'6"	2'6"	3	47,48,49
XVII	Jr/Am Equitation 2'6"	2'6"	3	50,51,52
XVIII	Working Hunter 2'9"	2'9"	3	53,54,55
XX	Ch/Ad Equitation 2'9"	2'9"	3	59,60,61
XXI	Working Hunter 3'	3'	3	62,63,64
XXII	Jr/Am Equitation 3'	3'	3	65,66,67
XXIII	Future Jumpers	.70m	3	68,69,70
XXIV	Puddle Jumpers	.75-.80m	3	71,72,73
XXV	Schooling Jumpers	.90-.95m	3	74,75,76

5.2 Division Rules

Limit Divisions are open to Junior or Adult Amateur riders who begin the show season without having won five (5) blue ribbons over fences. Limit Riders may not show over 2'0" at the same show. After winning five (5) blue ribbons over fences the rider will have limited out of the division, but may compete in that division for the remainder of the season. Riders will be required to move out of that division the following season. Riders will receive Year-End awards at the Year-End Banquets; the points will follow the normal point schedule.

5.2.1 DIVISION I. LIMIT EQUITATION TROT POLES: The course for this division will be 4 poles placed between standards (once around). The riders may only cross enter Limit Walk-Trot over Cross rails.

5.2.2 DIVISION II. LIMIT EQUITATION TROT CROSSRAILS: The course for this division will be 4 cross rails (once around). The riders may only cross enter Limit Equitation Poles or Limit Equitation Canter Crossrails. Blue Ribbons won in Limit Equitation Poles do not count toward Blue Ribbons won for this division.

5.2.3 DIVISION III. LIMIT EQUITATION CANTER CROSSRAILS: The course for this division will be 4 cross rails (twice around). Blue Ribbons won in Limit Equitation Trot Poles or Limit Equitation Trot Crossrails do not count toward Blue Ribbons won for this division. A simple change of lead should not be penalized for this division.

ALL LIMIT DIVISIONS: Certificates will be given to riders who have limited out of these divisions at the Year End Awards presentation.

5.2.4 DIVISION IV. RUSTY STIRRUP HUNTER 18": Open to non-pro riders 18 years old and over. Must show over a full course of 18" cross rails or verticals. Rider may not cross enter into any class exceeding 2'0". Fences must not be wider than they are tall. Simple change of lead should not be penalized for this division.

5.2.5 DIVISION V. SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER 18": Open to non-pro riders under 18 years old who have never won 5 blue ribbons over a figure-eight course or placed in a class with fences 2'3" or higher. Must show over a full course of 18" cross rails or verticals. Rider may only cross enter into Division III. Limit Equitation Canter Crossrails. Fences must not be wider than they are tall. Simple change of lead should not be penalized for this division.

5.2.6 DIVISION VII. OPEN HUNTER 2'0": Open to all riders. Must state in prize list if division will have oxers. Horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into the Junior/Amateur Hunter 2'0" Division.

5.2.7 DIVISION VIII. JUNIOR/AMATEUR HUNTER 2'0": Open to junior and amateur riders. Must state in prize list if division will have oxers. Horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into the Open Hunter 2'0" Division.

- 5.2.8 DIVISION IX. JUNIOR HUNTER 2'3": Open to junior riders. Can be combined Adult Hunter 2'3 as entries warrant.
- 5.2.9 DIVISION X. ADULT HUNTER 2'3": Open to adult amateur riders. Can be combined with Junior Hunter 2'3 as entries warrant.
- 5.2.10 DIVISION XIII. PONY HUNTER: Open to junior or amateur riders mounted on ponies. Small ponies to be shown at 2'0". Medium ponies to be shown at 2'3". Large ponies to be shown at 2'6". A Pony Model class may be offered at NTHJC Shows. Points from the Pony Model class will count towards Champion & Reserve Points for that show as well as Overall Year End Points.
- 5.2.11 DIVISION XV. PRE-GREEN HUNTER 2'6": Open to any horse or pony in its first or second year of showing at any licensed or unlicensed competition over fences 2'6" or higher. Open to all riders.
- 5.2.12 DIVISION XVI. JUNIOR/AMATEUR HUNTER 2'6": Open to junior and amateur riders.
- 5.2.13 DIVISION XVIII. LOW HUNTER 2'9": Open to all riders.
- 5.2.14 DIVISION XIX. CHILDRENS/ADULT HUNTER 2'9": Open to junior and adult amateur riders.
- 5.2.15 DIVISION XXI. WORKING HUNTER 3'0": Open to all riders.
- 5.2.12 DIVISION XXIII. FUTURE JUMPERS .70m: Open to all riders. Prize list must state whether future jumper division will or will not have oxers. **Division and, if applicable, classics will be judged based on style and time.**
- 5.2.13 DIVISION XIV. PUDDLE JUMPER .75m-.80m: Open to all riders.
- 5.2.14 DIVISION XXV. SCHOOLING JUMPER .90m-.95m: Open to all riders.

5.3 Class Rules

- 5.3.1 If a rider falls off on course, the rider must be excused - NO COURTESY FENCE.
- 5.3.2 If a rider has three (3) refusals, the rider must be excused – NO COURTESY FENCE.
- 5.3.3 A horse/rider combination may only cross enter into divisions with fence heights of a six (6) inch difference, except the 18" divisions. This includes flat and under saddle classes. The NTHJC Show Committee will remove points if the 6" rule is broken. The NTHJC Show Committee will notify the trainer, owner and rider(s) of the infraction, along with its intent to remove points from the higher fence classes. Trainer/owner/rider has the ability to request removal of points for lower fence heights and point reinstatement for higher fence heights; such notification to be received by the Show Committee in writing within 10 days of the Committee's notification.
- 5.3.4 A horse may only be exhibited by one rider per class; multiple riders may not exhibit the same horse in the same class.
- 5.3.5 FLAT CLASSES – All flat classes to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring, except for Limit Equitation Trot Poles and Limit Equitation Trot Crossrails, which are shown only at the walk and trot.
- 5.3.6 All NTHJC recognized classes 2'0" and above with 20 or more competitors must be divided. Classes with fence heights of 18" or less will split in the same fashion with 16 entries. If the first jumping class of a has sufficient entries to warrant a split, all 3 classes in the division will be split. Equitation classes will be split based on the number of entries in each class. Two sets of ribbons and points must be given. If a second set of ribbons is not available, show management must order ribbons immediately and send the ribbons to each rider. The California Split method is used to divide classes. The judge keeps track of twice the number of placings required for ribbons. At the completion of the class, the judge creates two separate orders using alternating numbers. A random split will be used for flat classes. This will be organized by the gate person outside of the ring.
- 5.3.7 ADD BACK/WARMUP CLASSES – When a horse is entered in an Add Back or Warm Up class for a division height, the Add Back/Warm Up must be the first class the horse is ridden at that height, before any hunter or equitation classes are ridden. Add Back and Warm Up classes will not be split, regardless of entries. The Add Back/Warm Up cards

can remain open until the conclusion of all hunter and equitation classes held at that fence height.

5.3.8 EQUITATION CLASSES – are open to junior & amateur riders and the 6" cross entry rule is followed. The Equitation over Fences, Equitation on the Flat and NTHJC Medal Class will be considered a division at each height and a Champion/Reserve award will be given. No Champion/Reserve will be awarded if any of the three classes are not offered or have 0 entries. An exception exists for Short Stirrup Equitation, which does not contain a Medal class but two Equitation O/F classes instead.

5.3.9 MARTINGALES – Martingales are permitted in classes over obstacles and in the jumping phase of classes requiring both jumping and flat work. Martingales are not permitted on the flat in any class or phase unless class specifications allow their use. **For Medal work-offs, the horse/rider combination must return with the same tack shown in the over fences round.**

5.3.10 NTHJC MEDAL CLASSES - The Medal Class will be open to all riders for the entire show season. The top 8 Medal point winners qualify for Medal Finals. If any of the top 8 decline, riders further down the list will be invited to compete until 8 riders commit.

5.3.10.1 During the show year, a test, according to NTHJC guidelines, is optional for the 2', 2'3" and Pony medal classes, and mandatory for the 2'6", 2'9" and 3'0" medal classes. A minimum of 3 riders are to be called back for a test if the number of entries allows. At Medal Finals, a test will be mandatory for all fence heights and judges must call a minimum of 3 riders for the test. NTHJC Medal Finals will be held during the NTHJC Year End show.

5.3.10.2 At all heights, the Year End Medal Finals held at the NTHJC Year End Show will be free to all who have qualified throughout the year.

5.3.11 TESTS FOR NTHJC MEDAL CLASSES: The following are tests from which a judge must choose. Tests may be performed either collectively or individually, no other test may be used.

1. Halt (4 to 6 seconds) and/or back.
2. Hand gallop.
3. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals.
4. Figure eight at the canter demonstrating simple (through the walk or trot) change of lead. Figures are to be commenced in center of two circles so that one change of lead is shown.
5. Work collectively at a walk, trot or canter.
6. A judge may ask riders to re-jump an abbreviated or different form of the original course.
7. Ride without stirrups or drop and pick up stirrups.
8. Jump low obstacles at a trot.
9. Turn on the forehand or haunches.
10. Execute figure eight or serpentine at a trot and/or canter with simple or flying changes of lead.
11. Change leads on a line demonstrating a simple or flying change of lead.

Jr/Amateur NTHJC Medal 2', 2'3" Tests 1-6 may be used for a work-off.

Jr/Amateur NTHJC Medal 2'6" Tests 1-8 may be used for a mandatory work-off.

Jr/Amateur NTHJC Medal 2'9" & 3' Tests 1-12 may be used for a mandatory work-off.

5.3.12 NTHJC HUNTER DERBY- may be offered on one day of any full two day NTHJC show or in an approved one day format. The Derby is open to all riders and run at a height of 2'6" – 2'9" with option jumps up to 3'. Horses must pay to compete in a Division at the Horse Show to be eligible for the Derby. A two round format is to be used with the top 12, if available, returning for the 2nd round. It will be scored under an open numerical judging system using 2 judges. The 1st round is a Classic Hunter course of at least 10 obstacles with an In & Out and a minimum of 3 option jumps. 1st round scores will be based on each entry's numerical scores plus 1 bonus point for each option jump completed. The 2nd round will be a Handy course of at least 6 obstacles, with a minimum of 2 option jumps and choices such as clever jump approaches, hand galloping, trotting a jump, halt, and unrelated distances. 2nd round scores will be based on each entry's numerical scores reflecting brilliance of pace and handiness, plus 1 bonus point for each option jump completed. Scores from the two rounds will be combined for the overall scores and 3 sets of ribbons will be awarded. Ties in the first round are broken by the score of Judge 1, ties in the second round are broken by the score of Judge 2. Ties for first place in the overall standings will be decided by a third classic round, all other ties will flip a coin for ribbons and any prize money added together and divided equally. Judges must sit apart with different vantage points. No schooling of the Derby course will be allowed and placing entries must ride for ribbons. Derby points for Year End Awards will be awarded as follows: 1st-20, 2nd-16, 3rd-14, 4th-12, 5th-10, 6th-8, 7th-6, 8th-5, 9th- 4, 10th-3, 11th-2, 12th-1

5.3.13 CLASSICS AND MINI DERBIES – that follow a NTHJC Division’s requirements will have their points count toward the Year End Overall Points for that division. Points for these classes will use the same point system as regular classes. Hunter Classics & Mini Derbies must be conducted as a 2-round class, either a separate 2 round class or a designated hunter class of the corresponding division as the 1st Round. If Classics or Mini Derbies involve combined Divisions, the rider is responsible for informing the horse show secretary which Division points will accrue. Jumper Classics will be run as stand-alone classes.

5.3.14 A rider must enter the show arena with the correct back number displayed correctly. Failure to have the correct back number properly displayed will result in elimination from that class.

5.3.15 If a jumping order is established it must be posted in a conspicuous place at least 30 minutes before the class. The jumping order must be legible to a mounted rider. If a jumping order is used throughout the section, a systematic rotation of the starting list must be employed so that a complete cycle is made during the competition. Failure to enter the ring within one minute after an audible signal to proceed is given incurs elimination. The time limit for entering the ring must be enforced by competition management. Only Management may permit a horse/rider combination to compete out of order to minimize delays and in case of class conflicts.

5.3.16 Establishing the Order may be done either manually or via computer. The jumping order for the first round must be established by one of the following procedures:

- a. The horses’ names are drawn individually, starting with the first position and then working down. The horses’ names are listed and their positions are drawn. [SEP]
- b. The horses’ names and the positions are both drawn. [SEP]
- c. The horses’ names are listed (with multiple rides pre-spaced) with the first name drawn [SEP] becoming the first horse to compete in the first round, the remaining horses following from that point (i.e. the horses’ names after the one drawn first is second, the next one third, etc). [SEP]

5.4.1 **Splitting & Combining Classes** Classes with less than 3 entries may be combined with other classes provided that they are of neighboring heights (3”-6” difference) and classes open to professionals are not combined with classes restricted to juniors and amateurs. IE. 2’9 Child/Adult can be combined with Junior/Amateur 2’6, but not with 2’9 Low or 3’0 Working Hunter (both of which are open divisions). Pony Hunter can be best combined with 2’3 Junior Hunter. Combined classes must take place in the same ring, same day, and over the same course of fences. It **must** be notated on the judges card which entry competed in which class.

6.0 JUMPER DIVISIONS

6.1 In the jumper classes, any competitors that are tied after all rounds in the class are completed shall remain tied and equal points will be awarded. Riders must toss a coin for the ribbons, unless management chooses to provide additional ribbons.

6.2 Jumping Faults: Faults and elimination are scored as follows:

Knockdown of obstacle or standard with any portion of horse, rider, or equipment, when jumping an obstacle -- 4 faults.

Knockdown of automatic timing equipment, designated markers on start and finish lines -- 4 faults.

Disobedience/Refusal anywhere on course --4 faults

Third cumulative disobedience/Refusal anywhere on course -- Elimination.

Fall of horse and/or rider – Elimination in accordance with USEF Rules.

Jumping an obstacle before it is reset, or without waiting for signal to proceed -- Elimination.

Starting before judge’s signal to proceed or jumping obstacle before crossing start line - Elimination.

Off course -- Elimination.

Rider and/or horse leaving the arena before finishing the course – Elimination

Actions against a horse deemed excessive – Elimination

6.3 Disobediences: (Note: Coming sideways or zigzagging toward an obstacle does not constitute a disobedience unless the horse passes or turns its back to the next obstacle or the finish line.)

Refusal. Stopping in front of an obstacle to be jumped, whether or not this knocks it down or displaces it, is penalized as a disobedience.

Stopping at an obstacle without knocking it down and without backing, followed immediately by jumping from a standstill, is not penalized. However, if the halt continues, or the horse backs even a single step or circles to retake the course, a refusal is incurred.

Run-out. Evading or passing the obstacle to be jumped or the finish line or jumping an obstacle outside its limiting markers is penalized as a disobedience.

Loss of Forward Movement. Halting or stepping backward after crossing the start line, (unless due to a refusal, run-out, or an order from a judge due to unforeseen circumstances such as a fence being blown down,) will be penalized as a disobedience.

Circling. Any form of circle or circles whereby the horse crosses its original track between two consecutive obstacles, or stops advancing toward or turns away from the next fence except to retake an obstacle after a disobedience, is considered a disobedience.

6.4 Knockdowns: An obstacle is considered knocked down when in jumping an obstacle, a horse or rider, by contact lowers any part thereof which establishes the height of the obstacle or the height of any element of a spread obstacle, even when the falling part is arrested in its fall by some other portion of the obstacle; or moves any part thereof which establishes the height of the obstacles so that it rests on different support from the one on which it was originally placed. Narrowing the width of a spread obstacle without altering the height of any elements as defined above is not considered a knockdown. If an obstacle falls after a competitor leaves the ring, it is not considered a knockdown.

6.5 The following classes are the approved choices for NTHJC Jumper classes, any may be used. Note: having a time allowed is optional.

Table II, Sect. 1 – Time First Round: The first round is decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course. Horses with clean rounds or equal faults are classified according to their time taken to complete the course.

Table II, Sect. 2(b) - Time First Jump-Off: The first round and first jump-off, if any, are decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course. If a competitor has gone clean in the first round, the competitor without leaving the ring, upon an audible signal, will 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 (45) seconds. The use of time allowed is optional in the first round.

Table II, Sect. 2(c) - Power and Speed: The first round and first jump-off, if any, is decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course. If a competitor has gone clean in the first round, he will, upon crossing the finish line, commence the designated jump-off course. Time starts as the horse crosses the finish line for the initial course. The use of a time allowed is optional in the first round.

Table IV, Sect. 1 - Optimum Time First Round & Table IV, Sect. 2b – Optimum Time 1st Jump-Off. Shows wishing to run Optimum Time classes must use a measuring wheel to establish the Time Allowed. Optimum Time is defined as 4 seconds less than the Time allowed for the course. Time Allowed is based on a minimum speed of 350 meters per minute (382 yards per min), 328 meters per minute (360 yards per min) for small or indoor arenas. The first round is decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course. In case of equality of faults, ties will be broken on the following basis: the horse with the time on course closest to the Optimum Time (over or under) will prevail in the tie.

7.0 POINTS AND YEAR END AWARDS

7.1 Point System

First (1st) place in each class	10	Division Champion	10
Second (2nd) place in each class	6	Division Reserve Champion	6
Third (3rd) place in each class	4		
Fourth (4th) place in each class	2		
Fifth (5th) place in each class	1		
Sixth (6th) place in each class	0.5		

Only horses receiving points over fences are to receive under saddle points toward determining champion and reserve champion of each division. In case of a tie, the entry with the most points over fences is the champion or reserve champion. If still tied both will receive full championship or reserve championship points. The results of each division must be posted during the show. Ribbon results will be final at the end of the show and those results must be sent to the NTHJC points keeper who will figure cumulative points based on show results and judges' cards.

7.2 JUMPER BONUS POINTS – One class per jumper division should be designated in the prize list as a bonus point class and will be awarded 1.5x the regular number of points (15, 9, 6, 3, 1.5, 0.75). **It must be clearly stated in the prize list which class will count for bonus points.**

7.3 Year End Awards

7.3.1 To be eligible for end of year awards a horse must be ridden by a current NTHJC member. All members will be issued a membership number. Memberships for the current show year must be registered within 30 days of receiving points so that Year End Awards may be tabulated in a timely manner.

7.3.2 Horses must be shown under the same name throughout the season to earn points. Horse names may not be duplicated. The correct show name of the horse must be entered at each show or no points will be accumulated. Show name corrections must be done at the show office and will not be corrected after the show is complete without approval of the show committee.

7.3.3 Points accumulated by a horse during the show year in hunter/jumper divisions will follow the horse through a change of ownership. Equitation points follow the rider.

7.3.4 No Year End champion or reserve champion points will be awarded unless all three classes in the division are held. Classes with less than 3 entries will receive ½ points. If all three classes are held with 3 entries, full champion and reserve points will be awarded. Otherwise, ½ champion and reserve points will be awarded. A show manager has the discretion whether or not to provide championship ribbons and trophies for divisions with less than 3 entries – points will always be awarded regardless of whether or not a champion or reserve ribbon is awarded at the show.

7.3.5 For Year-End Awards, all ties for Champion will not be broken.

7.3.6 Points are accumulated throughout the year for High Point Thoroughbred Hunter & High Point Thoroughbred Jumper, which will be awarded at the Year End Awards Banquet. Points award for thoroughbred division will exactly follow point rules for regular divisions, including ½ points and division entry requirements. Thoroughbreds wanting to compete for High Point awards must register via the NTHJC website for the given show season. Registration at each show is no longer required.

7.3.7 Show points will be finalized 30 days after the points are posted to the NTHJC website. All correction or investigation requests must be submitted within 30 days of points being posted.

7.4 NTHJC High-Point Awards

7.4.1 NTHJC High-Point Awards will be awarded in three categories: Junior Rider, Amateur Rider, and Professional Rider.

7.4.2 Points will be accumulated automatically throughout the course of the season. Riders/trainers are responsible for making any rider changes in the show office before the close of a show to ensure points are awarded to the correct individual. No rider changes will be made after the close of a show. Tip: Trainers and riders should check the names on the entry list at the gate to be sure all riders are correct.

7.4.3 Points will be earned as follows:

- 1st – 10 points
- 2nd – 6 points
- 3rd – 4 points
- 4th – 2 points
- 5th – 1 points
- 6th – 0.5points

7.4.4 The winner of each High-Point category will receive a prize at the Year-End Banquet.

8.0 GUIDELINES FOR HORSE SHOW QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

Exhibitor and their support team: Questions and issues should be directed to the trainer, who can and should address most questions.

Exhibitors should rely on the Trainer to determine if the question or issue should be escalated. Note that the Trainer should act as the Exhibitor's agent to Show Management.

Trainers: Unresolved client questions & their professional questions should be taken to the Show Manager.

Show Manager: Questions relating to the interpretation of the NTHJC Rules and Safety Guidelines should be addressed with the NTHJC Show Committee Chair or, in their absence, any member of the NTHJC Show Committee present at the event. Questions or issues that remain unresolved after the show should be addressed in writing to the NTHJC Show Committee Chair.

After the show – Exhibitors, Support Teams, Trainers, and Show Managers can all address unresolved questions or issues with the NTHJC Show Committee by documenting and submitting the question in writing. The Show Committee will develop a recommendation and confer with the NTHJC Board and the NTHJC President will provide a written response.

SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES:

Be respectful to trainers, show management, exhibitors and support staff.

Be familiar with current NTHJC rules and safety guidelines.

Understand that judges' results represent their informed opinions and are final.

Remember, it's all about fun and learning.