

Sanctioned Divisions and Rules for the Blue Ridge Horse Force

(Updated March 2017)

General Rules

Points are awarded to horse/rider combinations. 1,2,...6th place earns **6,5,4,...,1** points respectively.

To receive points, horse/rider combination must be a member of the Blue Ridge Horse Force **before** they show and show under their correct BRHF official number. BRHF membership applications cannot be completed at a show. They must be mailed to the membership secretary.

To be eligible for year-end awards, each member must complete at least 3 hours of volunteer work at a BRHF sanctioned show.

You do not have to be a member of BRHF to compete in any class, just to receive year end points.

No extra points will be awarded for Champion and Champion Reserve.

Appropriate attire is encouraged, but not required. All youth entries in over fences classes must have helmets with chinstraps. Safety headgear will not be penalized in any class.

Neither the Blue Ridge Horse Force, nor any of its members, families, organizers, property owners nor employees shall be held responsible for accident, damage, injury, illness, or loss to the animals, personal property, exhibitors, spectators, or any other persons on the show grounds.

Any violation of published rules at a given show will result in forfeiture of all points from that event.

The BRHF Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse or revoke any membership due to un-sportsmanlike conduct or animal abuse.

Youth Rider: Rider who is 17 years and under as of Jan.1.

Adult Rider: Rider who is 18 and over as of Jan. 1.

Junior Horse: Horse that is 5 years of age and under as of Jan 1.

Senior Horse: Horse that is 6 years of age and over as of Jan 1.

Pony: Horse that is 14.2 hands and under.

Description of Divisions

Leadline Division: Riders must be registered with the BRHF. Riders earn points without consideration of the horses. In other words any horse may be used at any show. All leadline participants that are members of BRHF will receive participation ribbons at the awards banquet. In addition to this division, leadliners may only show in the costume class or coached classes.

Individual Classes: Year-end awards will be awarded in each of the following classes.

- Adult Showmanship
- Youth Showmanship
- Trail Class
- In-Hand Trail Class
- Costume Class
- Model Western
- Model Hunter
- Model English

NOTE: If showmanship classes are split on discipline: Hunter/English/Western, exhibitors may NOT cross-enter.

Bareback Division: Consists of any bareback performance class. Show manager decides if chaps are allowed.

Coached Division: Coach allowed in the ring and to give verbal assistance. Coach allowed to assist rider if safety is in jeopardy. Riders may cross enter to Leadline, Costume, In-Hand Trail and Model only. A rider may only win this division once. Consists of four classes:

- Coached Showmanship
- Coached Go As You Please Equitation
- Coached Potato Race
- Coached Trail

Ranch Horse Division: The purpose of the Ranch Riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. Consists of four classes:

- Ranch Riding – walk/jog
- Ranch Riding – walk/jog/lope
- Ranch Riding – pattern
- Ranch Reining – pattern

Walking Horse Division: Consists of two classes:

- Flatshod
- Plantation Specialty (non-canter)

Therapeutic Rider with Assist Division: Assist is not penalized, and is defined as any manner of assist including up to: one spotter, one headwalker, and two sidewalkers. Consists of two classes:

- Therapeutic Rider with Assist – Walk
- Therapeutic Rider with Assist – Walk/Trot.

Independent Therapeutic Rider Division: No assist present inside the arena. Consists of two classes:

- Independent Therapeutic Rider – Walk
- Independent Therapeutic Rider – Walk/Trot.

Therapeutic Riding Divisions are open to riders of any age who are currently enrolled in a therapeutic riding program. Therapeutic riders may cross enter into the following classes - Model, In-Hand Trail, Showmanship, and Costume. Riders earn points without consideration of the horses. In other words any horse may be used at any show.

Driving Division: Consists of three classes:

- Pleasure Driving
- Reinsmanship
- Drive & Ride

Racking Division: Consists of two Classes:

- Trail Racking (English or Western)
- Country Pleasure Racking (English or Western)

Youth English Pleasure Division: Judged as a performance class. Consists of three classes:

- Youth English Pleasure – Walk/Trot
- Youth English Pleasure – Walk/Trot/Canter
- Youth English Pleasure – Go As You Please.

Adult English Pleasure Division: Judged as a performance class. Consists of three classes:

- Adult English Pleasure – Walk/Trot
- Adult English Pleasure – Walk/Trot/Canter
- Adult English Pleasure – Go As You Please.

English Equitation Division: Open to all ages. Consists of two classes:

- English Equitation – Walk/Trot
- English Equitation – Walk/Trot/Canter

Beginner Western Rider Division: Judged as a performance class. Intended for riders of any age beginning their show experience. Riders to be considered beginners for twelve months from their first show date in any discipline. A rider may win this division only once. Consists of three classes:

- Beginner Rider Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog
- Beginner Rider Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog/Lope
- Beginner Rider Western Pleasure – Go As You Please (no racking)

Youth Rider / Junior Horse Western Pleasure Division: Judged as a performance class. Consists of three classes:

- Youth Rider / Junior Horse Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog
- Youth Rider / Junior Horse Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog/Lope
- Youth Rider / Junior Horse Western Pleasure – Go As You Please.

Youth Rider / Senior Horse Western Pleasure Division: Judged as a performance class. Consists of three classes:

- Youth Rider / Senior Horse Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog
- Youth Rider / Senior Horse Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog/Lope
- Youth Rider / Senior Horse Western Pleasure – Go As You Please.

Adult Rider / Junior Horse Western Pleasure Division: Judged as a performance class. Consists of three classes:

- Adult Rider / Junior Horse Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog
- Adult Rider / Junior Horse Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog/Lope
- Adult Rider / Junior Horse Western Pleasure – Go As You Please.

Adult Rider / Senior Horse Western Pleasure Division: Judged as a performance class. Consists of three classes:

- Adult Rider / Senior Horse Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog
- Adult Rider / Senior Horse Western Pleasure – Walk/Jog/Lope
- Adult Rider / Senior Horse Western Pleasure – Go As You Please.

Stock Seat Equitation Division: Consist of two classes:

- Stock Seat Equitation – Walk/Jog
- Stock Seat Equitation – Walk/Jog/Lope.

Miniature Horse Division: The miniature horse division is open to horses measuring under 38”.

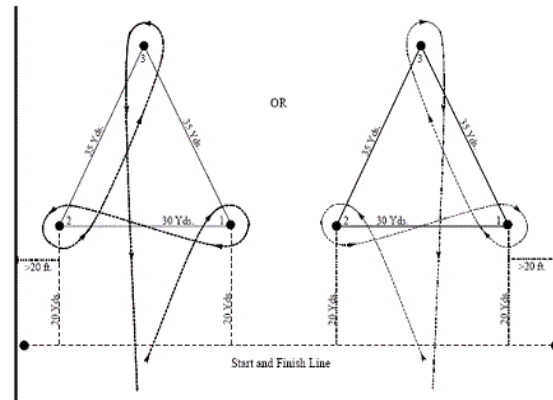
Miniature horses are to be shown in proper tack and attire; this can be Western, English or Hunter.

Approved ASTM safety headgear (fastened) is required for the driving, jumpers and hunters divisions for anyone under the age of 18. Classes judged on manners, suitability, performance and way of going.

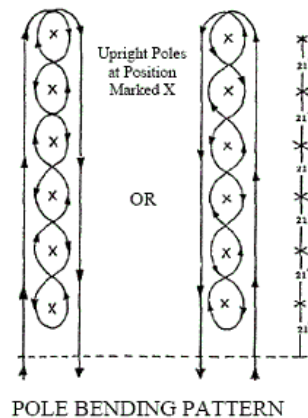
- Miniature Horse: Model
- Miniature Horse: Showmanship
- Miniature Horse Jumpers: Over fences All jumps set no higher than 24”. This is a times class.
Faults are awarded as follows:
 - Knockdown = 4 faults
 - Circling more than once = 3 faults
 - Refusal = 3 faults, 3 refusals = elimination
 - Fall of horse or handler = elimination
- Miniature Horse Hunters: Over fences All jumps set no higher than 24”. Judged on way of going, style, form, etc.
- Miniature Horse: In hand trail
- Miniature Horse: Costume
- Miniature Horse: Pleasure driving
- Miniature Horse: Reinsmanship

Youth Gymkhana Division and Adult Gymkhana Division: Both consists of five classes:

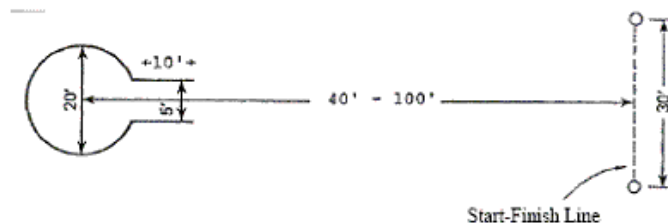
- **Cloverleaf Barrels:** Three barrels, 1st and 2nd barrel must be a minimum of 30' from timing line and 15' from side fences. 3rd barrel must be minimum 30' from back fence. 5 second penalty per barrel knocked down.



- **Pole Bending:** Six poles, first pole 21' from timing line, 21' spacing between poles. 5 second penalty per pole knocked down.



- **Keyhole Race:** Timed event. Using flour or lime the pattern below is marked out. Time starts as contestant crosses the start/finish line. Contestants proceed through 5 foot opening, turn left or right in circle, then proceed back through opening to start/finish. Contestant is disqualified if horse steps on or outside the markings of the circle or opening.



- **Speed Barrels:** One barrel set up in the same position as the 3rd barrel in cloverleaf barrels. Rider crosses start line, circles barrel once in either direction, then returns to start/finish line. Knocked over barrel results in disqualification.
- **Texas Barrels:** Three barrels are placed at 21 foot intervals in a line (similar to pole bending), last barrel is at location of 3rd barrel in cloverleaf barrels. Weave pattern just as in pole bending, 5 second penalty per knocked over barrel.

Games Division: Consists of five classes, riders can be of any age:

- **Flag Race:** Rider starts holding small flag, races to end of arena, switches flags with one placed in a bucket atop a barrel approx. 30' from end of arena. Rider must travel around barrel, disqualified if flag is dropped or exchange not made..
- **Ride-a-Buck:** Bareback riders, **no chaps or shorts allowed**, \$1 bill placed **under calf**, not the knee area. Different gaits are called; goal is to not drop the dollar bill. If a rider does not or cannot do the called for gait they are considered to have dropped their dollar and are sent to the middle with those who drop the bill. Last one with dollar wins. BRHF places these classes though and needs the top six places, not just the winner.
- **Egg & Spoon:** Riders carry an egg on a spoon, different gaits are called, goal is to not drop the egg. Riders cannot touch the egg once game starts and must hold the handle. If a rider does not or cannot do the called for gait they are considered to have dropped their egg and are sent to the middle with those who drop their egg. Last one with egg wins. BRHF places these classes though and needs the top six places, not just the winner.
- **Potato Race:** 3 buckets spaced approx. 20' apart in line with a barrel placed approx. 30' from end of arena. Riders attempt to drop one potato in each bucket, then race around barrel and back to timing line. 10 second penalty per missed potato. Timed event.
- **Catalog Race:** Announcer will call out a page number. Time starts when horse goes through start cones. Rider must dismount to tear their page from a catalog placed on a barrel. Horse must go around the barrel. Time stops when horse goes through the start cones and the rider has the correct page from the catalog.

Beginner Hunter Rider Division: To be judged as an equitation Class. Intended for riders of any age beginning their show experience. Riders may not show in any other over fences class at the same show (Except Hunter Hack). A Beginner Hunter Rider is one that is starting their show career. If a rider moves up from beginner level before the one-year expiration, he/she cannot return to beginner status. **Riders cannot cross enter to Beginner Horse/Pony.** Rider will be considered a beginner for 12 months from the first date of showing in any discipline. Note: changing disciplines does not re-start the 12 month clock.

If a rider, their family, or trainer does not feel after the one-year status they are ready to safely move up to Intermediate Hunter Rider, they may appeal to the BRHF board to extend their beginner status for another year. To appeal contact the BRHF board president. A rider may win this division only once. Consists of three classes:

- Beginner Hunter Rider – Walk/Trot
- Beginner Hunter Rider – Walk/Trot/Canter
- Beginner Hunter Rider – 18" cross rails.

Intermediate Hunter Rider Division: To be judged as an equitation class. This class is intended for Intermediate/novice riders or any age that have completed their first year of showing. **Riders may not show in any other over fences classes, or 2' fence classes, at the same show** (Except Hunter Hack). Rider will be considered an Intermediate for 24 months from first show date in this division. If for any reason the rider moves up within 2 years time limit, he/she cannot return to Intermediate status. Once a rider wins Intermediate Hunter Rider Division they may not win the division another year. Consist of three classes:

- Intermediate Hunter Rider – Walk/Trot/Canter
- Intermediate Hunter Rider – Course A (2' fences in this division)
- Intermediate Hunter Rider – Course B NEW IN 2012, TWO JUMPING CLASSES

Youth Open Hunt Seat Equitation: Judged as an equitation class. Consists of two classes:

- Open Hunter Equitation on the Flat – walk, trot, canter
- Open Equitation over 2'6" fences (may be 2' for ponies).

Adult Open Hunt Seat Equitation: Judged as an equitation class. Consist of two classes:

- Open Hunter Equitation on the Flat – walk, trot, canter
- Open Equitation over 2'6" fences (may be 2' for ponies).

BRHF Equitation Medal

To be judged 60% over fences, 40% on the flat. Fences 2 ft. 6 inches. Course of fences to consist of at least 8 jumps with at least 2 changes of direction. The class (and Finals) will be divided into Youth and Adult. Show managers holding qualifying classes may offer the classes separately, or may combine the youth and adult.

Riders to jump course first, and at least the top 6 riders will be called back for the flat phase. Riders may be tested on the flat using USEF Equitation Tests 1-9. (See USEF website for tests <https://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2011/12-EQ.pdf>) Scroll down to EQ113 to see tests. If further testing is needed, riders may be asked to jump a shortened course, which may have other testing elements within the course.

Points for the BRHF Equitation Medal will NOT go toward regular year end awards, but riders with 5 or more accumulated points will be invited to show in the BRHF Equitation Medal Finals at the Cross View Halloween Hunter Jumper Show in the Fall. A Medal Finals Champion and Final awards will be dependent upon the outcome of that class.

Rider points posted prior to the MORNING OF the Cross View Halloween Hunter Jumper Show will count toward qualification. If previous show management does not turn in points by this time, the points will not count toward qualification. There will be a "last chance" qualifying class prior to the medal finals at the Cross View Halloween Hunter Jumper Show.

Points accumulated at any show after the Cross View Halloween Hunter Jumper Show will roll over to the next show year.

Beginner Hunter Horse/Pony: In each particular division, a horse will be considered a beginner for 12 months from the first date of show (i.e. Feb./Jan). Note: a horse changing divisions between english and western or vice-versa can be shown as a beginner for 12 months in the new division.

If a horse/rider moves up from beginner level before the one-year expiration, he/she cannot return to beginner status. An entry in this class **may not show in any other over fences class** at the same show (except Hunter Hack), and **may not cross enter to Beginner Hunter rider**. A horse may win this division only once. Consists of three classes:

- Beginner Hunter Horse/Pony – Walk/Trot
- Beginner Hunter Horse/Pony – Walk/Trot/Canter
- Beginner Hunter Horse/Pony – 18" cross rails.

**Youth Hunter Pleasure 12 & Under,
Youth Hunter Pleasure 13-17,**

Adult Hunter Pleasure: Judged as a performance class. Each division consists of three classes:

- Hunter Pleasure – Walk/Trot
- Hunter Pleasure – Walk/Trot/Canter
- Hunter Hack with two 2' fences.

Baby Green Hunter: Horses are considered green for 24 months and may not show in any class with over 2' fences except Baby Green Jumpers and Hunter Hack. Once they move up they cannot move back. A horse/rider combination may win this division only once. Judged as a performance class. Fences 2'. Consists of three classes:

- Baby Green Hunter – Course A
- Baby Green Hunter – Course B
- Baby Green Hunter Under Saddle

Hopeful Hunter Pony: Judged as a performance class. For ponies only. Fences 2'3". A pony may win this division only once. Consists of three classes:

- Hopeful Hunter Pony – Course A
- Hopeful Hunter Pony – Course B
- Hopeful Hunter Pony Under Saddle

Hopeful Hunter Horse: Judged as a performance class. For horses only. Fences 2'3". A horse may win this division only once. Consists of three classes:

- Hopeful Hunter Horse – Course A
- Hopeful Hunter Horse – Course B
- Hopeful Hunter Horse Under Saddle

Schooling Hunter: Judged as a performance class. Fences 2'6". Consists of three classes:

- Schooling Hunter – Course A
- Schooling Hunter – Course B
- Schooling Hunter Under Saddle

Low Hunter: Judged as a performance class. Fences 2'9". Consists of three classes:

- Low Hunter – Course A
- Low Hunter – Course B
- Low Hunter Under Saddle

Jumper Division: This division is judged on speed and faults (pulled rails and refusals) only.

Baby Green Jumper- Fences 2' to 2'3"—Horse/Rider combination may not compete in any other Jumper Class at the same show, but can compete in Baby Green Hunter Division and Hunter Hack. Once a horse/rider combination moves up they cannot move back. A horse may win this division only once.

Schooling Jumper- Fences 2'3" to 2'6"

Hopeful Jumper- Fences 2'6" to 2'9"

Low Jumper- Fences 3' to 3'3"