

Hunter/Jumper News for AHA Recognized Local/Regional Show Managers and Show Secretaries

I would like to let the planners of Arabian shows and show secretaries know of the new changes for the AHA H/J divisions, and to offer some pointers for increasing your entries in these classes.

At the 2007 convention, seven changes were made to the over-fence classes. Two changes involved added classes (Low Jumpers and Pony Hunters), and four changes addressed fence heights. The seventh change was for carded H/J judges at the National level. These changes are listed below:

Fence height for Working Hunter AOTR 2'9"

Fence height for Working Hunter ATR/JTR 2'6"-2'9"

Fence height for Working Hunter Modified 2'3"-2'6"

Fence height for Low Jumper 2'9"

Fence height for Working Hunter Green 2'6"-2'9"

Hunter Judges at Nationals must be USEF/EC carded

Pony Hunters on the AHA class list (including Modified at 2'3"-2'6" for Amateurs to encourage our newcomers to participate)

The new classes and fence heights take effect on 1 April, 2008, except for the Modified Hunter. This class may be immediately incorporated in your show's class list, as it was an AHA approved class prior to convention.

When offering H/J Divisions in your shows, it is ideal to begin with lower fence height classes and work up to the higher classes. Many shows list Low Hunters or Schooling Hunter type classes at the 2' to 2'3" fence heights, or lower. As these are unrated classes, you can open these classes to all breeds of horses, and by renaming them "Opportunity Hunter Pleasure, fences 2' " (or whatever height the show desires) these classes are then exempt from USEF non-member and drug fees (ref. USEF GR 137) and may be judged by non H/J carded judges (i.e. Arabian judges). This will encourage professional trainers with only one or two Arabian horse clients to participate in your shows if they can also bring their non-Arabians for schooling, making the trip to your show more cost effective for the trainer. It will also encourage the Arabian owners to enter your shows, as they are more likely to compete if their trainer also goes to the show.

Another important addition to the shows to encourage entries by professional H/J barns is to offer the Green Working Hunter division. Remember that a Green Hunter refers to the horse in its first or second year of showing, not the rider. Green horses are ridden by the most experienced riders, our professionals. By offering Green classes and the aforementioned open all-breed classes, you will increase the participation of the bigger H/J show barns in your area, which will in turn bring in the amateur riders with those trainers.

Then, to encourage more entries from the amateurs, add the Modified Hunters for ATR/JTR and/or AOTR exhibitors at 2'3"-2'6" fences. This is an approved AHA class, so qualifies for Achievement Award points and Regional/National qualifications. The class numbers should correspond to the ATR/JTR/AOTR Working Hunters classes on the AHA class list, as it is an extension of these classes.

To further increase entries, offer Pony Hunters. For the horses to be eligible, they must already have a measurement card from a USEF show. Be sure to put this in your prize list to prevent non-measured horses arriving at your show without a card. The show can offer one Pony Hunter class for Purebreds and one for HA/AA that combine the small, medium, and large ponies. The fence heights are raised after the smalls compete, and again after the mediums compete. Then one set of awards are presented. To encourage more class entries, also offer a Modified Pony Hunter for ATR/JTR and/or AOTR. This class would have all three pony sizes (small/medium/large) jumping the same fence height of 2'3"-2'6" without changing any fences during the class. For AHA shows, stallions may enter the Pony Hunter classes and these classes are not restricted to junior riders, unless specified JTR in the prize list.

Lastly, one other draw for exhibitors to enter your show, is to provide a quality photographer for the hunter/jumper ring. On a personal note, I have two very good photographers for these types of classes. Please call or email me for their names and contact information.

Please contact me with any questions you may have for setting up your over fence divisions at your shows.

Laura Wood
337-370-7671
allanglos@yahoo.com
AHA Hunter/Jumper Committee Chairperson