

Division and Class Specifications

(As per VBHSA Bylaw's)

- A. **Adult Hunter** – Open to riders eighteen years of age and over. Riders may be mounted on horses or ponies. Courses will consist of at least eight jumps at rider's choice of 2'6", 2'9" or 3' fence height.
- B. **Amateur Adult** - Open to riders eighteen years of age and over who are not professionals as defined by the VHSA. Riders may be mounted on horses only. Fence height is 2'6" or 3'. May be combined with Junior Hunter Division.
- C. **Baby Green Hunter** – Open to horses and ponies which have not shown over fences higher than 18" in the previous show calendar year or over 2' or higher at more than 2 shows in the previous show calendar year. Adults may ride horses or ponies. Fence heights are 2' for ponies and 2'6" for horses.
- D. **Beginner Equitation** – Open to riders in their first year of showing over fences or in their second year of showing over fences if the rider did not accumulate more than **5 blue ribbons** in the first year of showing over fences. This division is to be composed of three classes. The first and second classes will be over fences no more than 18" in height, with a course that consists of four jumps. Courses are to be simple and may be trotted or cantered. The third class will be walk, trot, and canter flat class. Riders in this division may cross enter into Short Stirrup Hunter (if eligible), Adult Pleasure Horse, Adult Equitation on the Flat, Junior Equitation on the Flat 14 & under (OR) Junior Equitation on the Flat 15 – 17, Jr. Pleasure Horse, Pony Pleasure and Open Equitation on the Flat in the current show year and may show under saddle a horse or pony that has been jumped by another rider. Riders may not show in any of the walk-trot classes. This division cannot be combined with any other VBHSA recognized division.
- E. **Children's/Junior Hunter** – Open to animals over 14.2 hands (horses) only. To be ridden by Juniors. Fences are to be 2'6" or 3' in height, rider's choice. May be combined with Amateur Adult Hunter.
- F. **Green Hunter Horse** – Open to horses as defined by USEF, in their first or second year of showing 2'6" or higher at any show. Fence heights to be 2'6' or 3', rider's choice. A green horse is a horse of any age in his first or second year of showing in any classes that require horses to jump the designated height for green horses. The individual shows, show series or Associations determine that height, the only requirement is that in order to accrue points, the jump heights be no lower than 2'6". This division may be combined with Green Pony Hunter or the Thoroughbred Hunter or Working Hunter Divisions. If this division is combined with the Green Pony Hunter Division, it cannot be combined with any other VHSA recognized division at the same show. If this division is combined with the Green Pony or Thoroughbred or Working Hunter divisions, it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which division each horse/pony's points should be awarded to. A horse's green status is not affected if the horse has not been shown at more than four (4) competitions prior to September 1 and if it was not shown at that height after September 1 in the same year. In order to maintain green status for the next competition year, the horse must be withdrawn from competition over regulation height and the owner must notify the VHSA office by letter, via certified/return receipt mail on or before November 30 of the year of withdrawal. The horse's name and recording number must be included in the letter. If said horse is not registered with VHSA, a letter must also be sent to the VHSA office requesting the reinstatement of the animal's green year where it will be kept on file for future reference. In order to accrue VHSA Associate points, the height for this division shall be no lower than 2'6". Participation in the International Hunter Futurity as a 3-year old will not count as a "class or division" when considering green status.
- G. **Green Hunter Pony** – Open to ponies, as defined by the VHSA, that have not shown over fences equal to or higher than the applicable height for their size in any prior competition year in any show whether VBHSA or elsewhere. If this division is combined with the Green Horses division or Pony Hunter division, then it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which is the horse and which is the pony; or, in the case of Pony Hunter, which is the Green Pony and which is the Pony Hunter. All VHSA Associate Pony divisions including unjudged and warm-up classes are restricted to Junior riders only. A Green Pony is a pony of any age in his first year of showing in any classes that require ponies to jump the designated height for green pony (Ponies are only allowed to show one year as Green Ponies). Small ponies may show over fences for one year at 2' in a division other than Green Pony Hunter without breaking its green status. A pony's green status is not affected if the pony has not shown at more than four (4) competitions prior to September 1 and if it

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was not shown at that height after September 1 in the same year. In order to maintain green status for the next competition year, the pony must be withdrawn from competition over regulation height and the owner must notify the VHSA office by letter via certified/return receipt mail on or before November 30 of the year of withdrawal. The pony's name and recording number must be included in the letter. A Green Pony's status may be granted one time. If said pony is not registered with VHSA, a letter must also be sent to the VHSA office requesting the reinstatement of the animal's green year where it will be kept on file for future reference. In order to accrue VHSA Associate points, the height for this division shall be no lower than, Small-2', Medium-2'3", Large-2'6". The Green Pony division may only be combined with the Green Hunter Horse or Pony Hunter if the Green Hunter division has not been combined with the Working Hunter division.

- H. **Hofheimer Trophy Class** – Open to members of the VBHSA only regardless of age. Riders must be members in good standing of the VBHSA before entering this class. It is the responsibility of the show management and/or secretary to enforce this restriction. Riders are judged on their performance over a course of fences with fence heights as follows:

- a. Small Pony 2'3"
- b. Medium Pony 2'6"
- c. Large Pony 2'9"
- d. Horse 3'

This class is to run as an equitation medal class under VHSA rules. Riders should wear regulation hunt coats of any conservative color, breeches or jodhpurs, dress or field boots, or paddock shoes. Chaps are not allowed. Martingales are not permitted in the flat phase of the competition.

- I. **Limit Equitation Over Fences** – Open to Junior or Amateur riders who have not won more than six (6) blue ribbons in equitation classes over fences. Fence heights will be 2' for ponies; 2'6" for horses. Courses will consist of six to eight jumps.
- J. **Limit Equitation On The Flat** - Open to Junior or Amateur riders who have not won more than six (6) blue ribbons in equitation classes under saddle or over fences.
- K. **Local Hunter Horse & Pony** – Open to horses and ponies stabled within a one hundred (100) mile radius of Virginia Beach. This division is restricted under Article VI, Section 4, and is to be run as a division. Ponies to be ridden by Juniors. Fence heights are as follows:
- a. Horses 2'6" & 3'
 - b. Small & Medium Ponies 2'
 - c. Large Ponies 2'6"
- L. **Low Junior/Amateur** – Open to riders who have not shown higher than 2'6" during the current show year. Adults, Amateurs and Juniors may ride ponies. If a rider in this division shows higher than 2'6" at any show during the year, then all awarded points in this division shall be forfeited. Fence heights are as follows: 2' to 2'6" rider's choice.
- M. **Low Working Hunter & Pony** – Ponies to be ridden by Junior only. To be run as a working division under VHSA rules. Fence heights to be the same as Local Hunter Horse & Pony.
- N. **Open Equitation Over Fences** – Open to all Junior and Amateur riders regardless of age or experience. Fence heights will be: 2', 2'6" or 3' rider's choice.
- O. **Open Equitation On The Flat** – Open to all Junior and Amateur riders regardless of age or experience.
- P. **Open Hunter** – Open to all horses and ponies. Adults may ride horses or ponies. Fence heights are from 2' to 3'6". Riders may choose any height within that range.
- Q. **Pleasure Horse** – To be run in accordance with VHSA rules as follows:
- a. **Adult Hunter Pleasure Horse.** Open to horses shown with hunter tack on the flat and, if applicable, over fences ridden by an Adult. Points for over fences will be accepted along with on the flat only if over fences is currently part of the show's Hunter Pleasure Division. It is acceptable for Associate Horse Shows to combine the Adult Hunter Pleasure and the Junior Pleasure Hunter Divisions, however, it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to

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indicate on the results which is the Adult rider and which is the Junior rider. The Adult Hunter Pleasure Horse Division may only be combined with the Junior Hunter Pleasure Horse and/or the Pleasure Pony Hunter Division. Horses may not cross enter into another Pleasure Division at same show.

- b. **Junior Hunter Pleasure Horse.** Open to horses shown with hunter tack on the flat and, if applicable, over fences ridden by a Junior. Points for over fences will be accepted along with on the flat only if over fences is currently part of the show's Hunter Pleasure Division. It is acceptable for Associate Horse Shows to combine the Adult Hunter Pleasure and the Junior Pleasure Hunter Divisions, however, it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate on the results which is the Adult rider and which is the Junior rider. The Junior Hunter Pleasure Horse Division may only be combined with the Adult Hunter Pleasure Horse and/or the Pleasure Pony Hunter Division. Horses may not cross enter into another Pleasure Division at same show.
- R. **Pleasure Pony** – Same as Pleasure Horse except open to ponies ridden by Juniors only.
- S. **Pony Hunter** – Open to animals 14.2 hands and under. To be ridden by Juniors only. This division may be combined with Green Hunter Pony. Fence heights are as follows:
 - a. Small Ponies (12.2 hands and under) 2'
 - b. Medium Ponies (12.2 to 13.2 hands) 2'3"
 - c. Large Ponies (13.2 to 14.2 hands) 2'6"-2'9" (rider's choice)
- T. **Schooling Hunter** - – Open to all horses and ponies. Adults may ride horses or ponies. Fence heights are 2' and 2'6". Riders may choose fence height.
- U. **Short Stirrup Hunter**–Open to horses and ponies ridden by children 12 years and under. The division will consist of three (3) classes, two over fence classes and a walk, trot, canter undersaddle class. The jump height for this division shall be decided by individual horse shows, but should be no lower than 18" and no higher than 2" with a minimum of four (4) jumps. The Short Stirrup division cannot be combined with any other VBHSA division. Riders in this division may cross enter into Long/Short Stirrup Equitation, Junior Equitation on the Flat 14 & under, Jr. Pleasure Horse, Pleasure Pony and Open Equitation on the Flat in the current show year and may show under saddle a horse or pony that has been jumped by another rider. Riders may not show in any of the walk-trot classes.
- V. **Special Hunter** – Open to pony hunters, junior hunters, and amateur hunters with fence heights as follows: 2' or 2'6", rider's choice. This division may be combined with Long Stirrup Hunter at 2' and at the discretion of the Show Manager. It is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate on the results which division each horse/pony's points should be awarded to. Adults may ride ponies.
- W. **Thoroughbred Hunter** – Open to all thoroughbred horses that have or were eligible to race. Fence heights are to be 2'6"-3'. Riders may choose any height within that range. If letter of protest is filed to question if horse is a Thoroughbred, papers from the Jockey Club, a lip tattoo or Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP) number must be presented. If it is determined said horse is not a Thoroughbred, all points, monies and awards will be forfeited. This division may only be combined with Working Hunter or Green Hunter Horse. It is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate on the results which division each horse's points should be awarded to.
- X. **VBHSA Breeding** – To be eligible for participation in this class, the horse or pony must be recorded with the VBHSA. In the case a non-recorded horse or pony shows in this class at a show, their points will be forfeited and the points/places belonging to the rest of the participants will be moved up. To be judged on the line for quality, substance, conformation, and suitability to become, produce, or beget hunters. To be moved on the line. Class may be divided in any particular manner.
- Y. **Very Beginner Pleasure** – Open to riders of all ages in their first year of showing or in their second year of showing if the rider did not accumulate more than **5 blue ribbons** in their first year of showing. Riders in this division may only cross enter into Walk-Trot Equitation in the current show year. All classes will consist of walk/trot only. To be judged on performance, manners and way of going suitable to a pleasure horse or pony.

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- Z. **VHSA Associate Equitation** – To be run in accordance with VHSA rules as follows:
- a. **Amateur Adult.** Open to Adult Amateurs mounted on horses. Jump heights can be determined by each show. Shows are allowed to combine any of the three Equitation classes, however, the secretary must specify on the results sheet by each rider's name as to which classpoints should be applied to (i.e., Pony, Junior or Adult). A rider can only participate in one Associate Equitation Class per show with the exception of the VHSA Equitation on the Flat Class. The Associate Equitation Classes cannot be a part of the "Regular" VHSA Equitation Medal Classes, however, they can be a part of any other Equitation Class, for example: XYZ Horse Show Association/VHSA Associate Pony Equitation Class and must be listed in the horse show's Prize List as such. The rider must be a VHSA member or the points will not count towards the Associate year-end Championship. If anyone shows in this class and is not a member they will not receive points, nor will anyone be moved up in placement due to a non-member showing in that particular class. Equitation Classes at the Associate Championship Horse Show will be double points. In order to accrue VHSA Associate points, the height for this class shall be no lower than 2'6". *At the VHSA Associate Championship Horse Show, the jump height for this class will be 3'.*
 - b. **Children's/Junior Equitation.** Same as VHSA Associate Adult Amateur Equitation except open to horses ridden by Juniors.
 - c. **Pony Equitation.** Same as VHSA Associate Adult Amateur Equitation except open to ponies ridden by Juniors. In order to accrue VHSA Associate points, the heights for this class shall be no lower than: Small-2', Medium-2'3", Large-2'6". *At the VHSA Associate Championship Horse show, the jump heights for this class will be: Small-2', Medium-2'3", Large-2'9".*
- AA. **VHSA Associate Equitation On The Flat** – To be run in accordance with VHSA rules as follows:
- a. **Adult/Amateur Equitation On the Flat** – Open to amateurs 18 years of age and older. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring and judged on position, control and guidance. Three entries are necessary to fill this class. This class can be combined with (Junior) Equitation On the Flat 15 – 17 and (Junior) Equitation On the Flat 14 & Under depending on the number of exhibitors.
 - b. **Junior Equitation On the Flat 14 & Under** – Open to riders who have not reached their 15th birthday by December 1st of the calendar year. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring and judged on position, control and guidance. Three entries are necessary to fill this class. This class can be combined with (Junior) Equitation On the Flat 15 – 17 and (Adult/Amateur) Equitation On the Flat depending on the number of exhibitors.
 - c. **Junior Equitation On the Flat 15 – 17** – Open to riders who have not reached their 18th birthday by December 1st of the calendar year. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring and judged on position, control and guidance. Three entries are necessary to fill this class. This class can be combined with (Junior) Equitation On the Flat 14 & Under and (Adult/Amateur) Equitation On the Flat depending on the number of exhibitors.
- BB. **Walk-Trot Equitation Older** - Open to riders 11 and over in their first year of showing or in their second year of showing if the rider did not accumulate more than **5 blue ribbons** in their first year of showing. Riders in this division may only cross enter into Very Beginner Pleasure in the current show year.
- CC. **Walk-Trot Equitation Younger** – Same as Walk-Trot Equitation Older except it is open to riders 10 and under in their first year of showing.
- DD. **Warm Up** – To be ridden as the first class of a division over a course specified by Show Management. Only one (1) warm up per horse/rider combination per show. A warm up is only allowed for the horse/pony entered in the division and not for single classes.
- EE. **Working Hunter**- Open to horses only- heights to be 2'6" or 3'. This division may only be combined with Thoroughbred Hunter or Green Hunter Horse. It is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate on the results which division the horse's points should be awarded to.

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- FF. **VBHSA Challenge Class** – This class is to show the overall ability of horse and rider. It will recognize the trainer, owner of the horse, parents of the rider and the class sponsor. It is open to Juniors and Amateurs only. The class is to be judged on the best overall horse and rider combination. The class will run in the format of a Hunter Classic. No entries will be accepted once the class has started. There will be two rounds ridden over two different courses. Numerical scores will be announced at the completion of each horse/rider's trip. The top 12 rounds will be called back and will ride the second course in reverse scoring order (lowest score starting first), within jump heights (Small Ponies-2', Medium Ponies-2'3", Large Ponies-2'9", Horses-3'). The first and second course will have 8-10 fences. Each round is worth 50% of your total score. The scores will be announced upon completion of each round. Each rider must wear protective headgear in accordance with general rules. Manes must be braided and proper show attire is required. Adults may ride ponies. The owner, rider and animal must be VBHSA members thirty (30) days prior to the Cooler Show. A Biography sheet provided by the Show Secretary must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. the day of the show.
- GG. **Cooler Show Classic** – This class shows the overall ability of horse and rider. It will recognize the trainer, owner of the horse, parents of the rider and class sponsors. It is open to Juniors and Amateurs only. The class is to be judged on the best overall horse and rider combination. The class will run in the format of a Hunter Classic. No entries will be accepted once the class has started. No horse or pony may enter if it has shown in the VBHSA Challenge Class at this show. There will be two rounds ridden over two different courses. Numerical scoring will be announced at the completion of each horse/rider's trip. The top 12 rounds will be called back and will ride the second course in reverse order (lowest score starting first), within jump heights. Jump heights will be 2' and 2'6", rider's choice. Each course will have 8-10 fences and is worth 50% of the total score. Scores will be announced upon completion of each round.
- Each rider must wear protective headgear in accordance with general rules. Manes must be braided and proper show attire is required. Adults may ride ponies. The owner, rider and animal must be VBHSA members thirty (30) days prior to the Cooler Show. A rider may not enter if he or she has shown in the VBHSA Challenge Class at the show.