PAHA 2023

**Rule Book**



**Welcome to PAHA**

The Pennsylvania Amateur Horseman’s Association was organized in 1957 for the advancement of amateur horsemanship and to

assist clubs in putting on shows through a point system to declare the Top Five in each of the classes designated by the association.

[www.pahainfo.net](http://www.pahainfo.net/)

**Duties of the Officers and Board of Directors can be found in the By-Laws.**

**The Officers and Board of Directors are voted in by the members to make responsible decisions that are what is best for the association as a whole without bias.**

# GENERAL RULES

The Board of Directors has the authority to make any common-sense decisions that may arise at all activities including but not limited to horse shows. All board members are expected to participate on a committee of their choice and participate in all operations including but not limited to horse shows, fundraisers, activities, etc. All committees will be chaired by a board member.

CODE OF CONDUCT: All PAHA members, exhibitors, and spectators at any PAHA show or event are expected to always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. PAHA will not tolerate any abusive behavior by exhibitors towards animals, judges, spectators, or fellow exhibitors whether inside or outside of the show ring or anywhere else on the show grounds. PAHA will not tolerate any members, exhibitors, and spectators to disrespect the club itself, board members, other exhibitors, or judges on any social media platform. No exhibitor o r spectator may approach the judge without first obtaining permission from a Board Member or Officer. An exhibitor does not have the right to inspect the judge’s cards. A judge is not to be approached regarding any decision while judging or about to judge. Any infraction of any of these rules may, by Board decision, result in expulsion from the show, a remaining season, or possibly the club.

MEMBERSHIP: Memberships will run from the March membership meeting to the following March membership meeting. A membership fee is due at the time the membership form is turned in. See the form for amount. Memberships are not transferable. To be considered a member in good standing one must participate in fundraising, assist at events, and always conduct him/herself in a sportsmanlike manner. If at any time a member is not in good standing, he/she shall lose all membership privileges.

members must participate in fund-raising activities as determined by the board. If a buy-out fee is instituted by the board for a particular fundraiser, then the member has the opportunity to pay the buyout fee and is excused from participation in said fundraiser without prejudice.

BOUNCED CHECK POLICY: If a check made payable to PAHA is returned by the bank for any reason, a $25 fee plus the check amount will be charged to the payee. If a check is returned a second time in the same calendar year, the fee will be charged and, PAHA will no longer accept a check from the payee.

RULE CHANGES: Rule changes must be motioned with a second, to go up for vote by the board or membership.

# GROUNDS/VENUE RULES

* All dogs must be on a leash and under control by the leash at all times; or tethered to a trailer/camper no more than 20ft long. Dogs must be cleaned up after. You will be liable for any damage caused by your pet(s). No excessive barking.
* No bareback riding. The Board of Directors may designate classes that this rule may not apply to.
* No double riding
* Caution areas will be set up around the entrance/exit of the arena. At certain venues roadways will be blocked off to motorized vehicles except for the tractor and water truck/trailer. Caution areas will be marked with signs and barrels. When entering these areas on foot you assume the responsibility if an accident should happen. PAHA, the PAHA Board of Directors, the venue the show is being held at and any associations that maybe sanctioned are not responsible for an accident at the gate entrance or exit.

# GENERAL HORSE SHOW RULES

ABSOLUTELY NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO APPROACH THE JUDGE WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

PAHA, the venue, and any association PAHA sanctions are not responsible for any loss, damage, or injury to horse, rider or spectator. JUDGES: A judge must be approved by the PAHA Board of Directors. The restrictions of judges are:

* 1. Not a member of PAHA for five (5) years.
  2. Cannot judge more than one (1) PAHA show, or one weekend a year.
  3. Judges may not show with PAHA during the year they are judging.

RING STEWARD & MASTER DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS: The ring steward controls and polices the activities inside the ring, the gate area, and outside the rail. This position is important to the successful conduct of the show. Any complaints concerning a ring steward or master action will be submitted in writing to a Board Member and will be acted upon at the next PAHA Officers and Directors meeting.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Should be familiar with how a horse show is conducted.
2. Have complete knowledge of PAHA rules.
3. Have specific knowledge of PAHA rules for each class that will be conducted in the show he/she is going to work.
4. Have the ability to handle contestants courteously and with authority. RING STEWARD DUTIES:
5. The ring steward will in no way interfere with the duties of the judge. He/She shall not confer advice, offer opinion, or

influence the judge in placings of the class.

1. The ring steward works in conjunction with and assists the judge in keeping the ring orderly and classes well organized.
2. The ring steward at the direction of the judge will line up the horses and ponies for judging.

RING MASTERS DUTIES:

1. The ring master regulates the entry gate for each class.
2. The ring master will keep the ring clear of all non-authorized persons.
3. The ring master will keep the fence railings around the ring clear of interference to participants. The ring master can stop the show until such interference can be removed.

PROTESTS: Any protest must be made before the end of a class. Protest must be made at the entry booth or to the ringmaster and will require a $25.00 arbitration fee in cash to be paid by the protester. The protester must be someone who has a direct relationship to an exhibitor or by the exhibitor him/herself. The PAHA Board of Directors will hear the protest and their decision will be made before the class can proceed. If the protester wins the decision, the $25.00 will be returned. If he/she loses the decision, the $25.00 will go to the club treasury. An exhibitor who is found guilty of the protest will be disqualified and will receive no points for the class in question. Any protest on judging at the show will be channeled through the Board of Directors. No one is to approach the judge without permission of the Board of Directors.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

AMATEUR RIDER: Anyone who is not classified as a Professional Rider.

PROFESSIONAL RIDER: A professional rider is any person who is paid for riding and for training horses and who earns his or her livelihood by doing so. The Board of Directors shall determine the status of any rider. Professionals are welcome to join PAHA and show at PAHA shows. Professional riders are not eligible to show for points.

SMALL FRY: Exhibitors ages 8 and under. PEE WEE: Exhibitors ages10 and under. YOUTH: Exhibitors ages 18 and under. ADULT: Exhibitors ages 19 and over. MASTERS: Exhibitors ages 40 and over.

\* Age is as of January 1st of the current year.

\*\* Riders may ride in all classification that fall in their age bracket at each show with exception of Pee Wee and Youth In- Hand and Pleasure classes. If an exhibitor enters into a Pee Wee Pleasure class they are not permitted to enter a Youth or Open Pleasure class that requires a lope. If running for points, the rider must pick a classification to accrue points in.\*\*

ABSOLUTELY NO EXCESSIVE SPURRING OR HITTING OF A HORSE WILL BE PERMITTED.

REFERENCE: Any reference to “HORSE” will refer to horse or pony unless it is specific to a class.

SERVICEABLY SOUND: A horse that is to be shown and judged must be serviceably sound in all disciplines. A horse will be classified as serviceably sound unless he shows evidence of lameness, broken wind, or impairment. The judge’s decision in this matter is final and cannot be protested.

GROUNDS FEE: A grounds fee will be applied only to horses that are entered in a class and exhibition. A grounds fee is applied per show, per horse.

ENTRIES: All entries must be made two (2) classes in advance. Any participant/horse that physically enters a class without payment will be disqualified and payback and points if any awarded will be revoked.

SPOTTERS: Spotters are permitted in Pony Halter, Horse Halter, Small Fry and Pee Wee Grooming & Showmanship, Lead Line, Walk Equitation, Pee Wee Equitation & Pee Wee Pleasure. Spotters are for safety purposes not for coaching in In-Hand and Pleasure classes. The judge will determine if coaching is being done. The judge’s decision is final and cannot be protested. In Gaming classes, spotters are permitted to either walk with the exhibitor or be at each obstacle.

# IN-HAND DIVISION

CHECK IN: All exhibitors are required to check in with the Ring Master a class prior to the one they are entered in. Failure to do so will result in a DQ. Class 1 must be checked in 5 minutes before the show begins.

CLASS OPERATION: Exhibitors can be called in by back numbers in the order that is on the draw sheet. Exhibitors must have their back numbers on that match the draw sheet or they will be disqualified. Once the gate has been closed and the judging has begun, the gate is not to be opened again until the class is completed. The only exception would be for a dismissal by the judge or for emergency medical treatment. If you exit the arena during the class you are automatically disqualified. If you leave the arena during a class you may not reenter.

PONY MEASUREMENTS: Ponies are required to be 58 inches and under. Measurements will be based on unshod, natural hoof angle. Ponies will be measured with shoes and pads. After the pony is measured, the shoe and pad will be measured. The measurement of the shoe and pad will be deducted from the total measurement of the pony to give the true height of the pony. Any questionable ponies must be measured by 2 Board Members or Officers. No outside certificates or cards will be accepted as proof of height. The Board of Directors’ decision is final. ALL ponies showing for points MUST be measured and recorded on the point form. PAHA only offers a Pony Halter class.

GROOMING & SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES: Small Fry, Pee Wee, Youth, Adult and Masters. Grooming and Showmanship will be judged on 70% showmanship and 30% appearance of the animal. All horses must be shown with a halter, with the exception of Arabians, Hunters, Morgan’s, and Saddle Horses, which may be shown with a full bridle. The lead shank may be under the jaw or over the nose. Only the exhibitor is to be judged. The judge WILL consider the following:

1. The ability of the exhibitor to move the animal freely at the walk and the trot, to set up and pose the animal, and to show the animal to the best advantage.
2. The condition and cleanliness of hair coat, mane, tail, and feet, should show evidence of regular grooming.
3. Neatness of any clipping, trimming, or braiding.
4. Clean and well-fitted tack.

HALTER CLASSES: Pony, Horse, and Ranch Horse. Halter classes will be judged on 50% confirmation, 25% soundness, and 25% correct manner of travel. All horses must be asked to trot.

# PLEASURE DIVISION

GATE CALL: All exhibitors have 2 minutes to enter the gate starting with the first call for the class.

CLASS OPERATION: Exhibitors must have their exhibitors’ number on the saddle pad or on their back. This number must match the draw sheet or they will be disqualified. Once the gate has been closed and the judging has begun, the gate is not to be opened again until the class is completed. The only exception would be for a dismissal by the judge or for emergency medical treatment. If you exit the arena during the class you are automatically disqualified. If you leave the arena during a class you may not reenter.

NUMBERS: Numbers should be placed on both sides of the saddle pad or on your back. It is the judge’s discretion to place or DQ a rider with no numbers.

EXHIBITION: Is open to all pleasure horses & riders. The ring will be worked both directions with open ring at the end. Free work is permitted to be done but only in the center of the arena. Length of exhibition will be posted on the show bill for each show.

TACK CHANGE: Tack changes are granted for Pleasure classes only. Tack changes are 5 mins. All tack changes must be marked on the draw sheet of the class it is needed for.

WESTERN CLASSES: Horses must be light-mouthed and ridden with a comparatively loose rein, but not sloppy. A rider must hold the reins in one hand and is not permitted to change hands when showing in a class, (with the exception of junior horses). Exhibitors must ride with no more than one finger in between the reins, and with no crisscrossing of reins.

ENGLISH CLASSES: Horse should be ridden in a soft contact or loose rein. The rider must keep two hands on the reins at all times. The horse should not be ridden with strong contact or a gape in the mouth. The horse should respond willingly to light aids and travel in balance. The horse should move straight, with a steady rhythm and a free and flowing stride. The horse should not come behind the bit or travel too fast.

JUMPING CLASSES: Attire remains the same as the other English classes. Tack also remains the same, but in addition horses are allowed the use of protective boots/leg wraps. And riders may use crops under 30” in length. Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over equipment, or never performing a task, shall not be disqualified, but must always be placed below exhibitors who incur none of these errors. Circling once upon entering the ring, and once upon leaving is permissible. Elimination: Three refusals or the fall of the horse or rider.

APPROPRIATE DRESS: A rider should appear in the appropriate dress for the class in which he/she are showing. No shorts will be permitted in any class. No T-shirts, open-sleeve shirts, crop tops, or halter tops. Hard sole shoes or boots will be required in every class. Any discrepancy in an exhibitor’s tack or clothing must be reported before the class has placed. It is optional for an exhibitor to wear a helmet in all classes.

In Western Classes: A shirt with long sleeves and collar, western hat, and hard sole shoes with heals or boots. Spurs and chaps are optional.

In English Classes: Riders should wear hunt seat or saddle seat coats, breeches or jodhpur pants, high English boots or jodhpur boots, hunting cap or saddle derby. Spurs and crops are optional. Hunt coats/saddle coats in hot weather will be worn at the judge’s discretion

The judge can state that jackets and chaps are optional due to weather.

APPROPRIATE TACK: No protective leg or shin gear will be permitted in pleasure classes. Martingales, tie downs, and nose-bands are not permitted.

In Western Classes: Horses are to be shown in a western saddle and western bridle. Horses over the age of five (5) must be shown in a standard western bit, meaning a bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, shanks, and acts with leverage. Ports cannot exceed 3 ½” inches. Horses five (5) years old and younger may be shown with either a bit, bosal, or ringed snaffle bit.

In English Classes: Horses to be shown in a hunt seat or flat saddle, hunter type bridle or full bridle (single curb, single snaffle, Pelham, or Kimberwick).

ALL DAY PLEASURE: Classes offered are Youth & Adult. Shown at a walk/trot ONLY. Exhibitors who have entered a loping class may enter these classes.

JUNIOR HORSES: Horses 5 yrs. & under maybe shown in a ringed snaffle with 2 hands on the reins. A horse 5 yrs & under maybe shown in a shanked bit but the rider must hold the reins with one hand. Horses over the age of 5 are not to be shown in a ringed snaffle or should the rider use 2 hands on the reins. Horse 5 yrs. & under must show proof of age in the entry booth. Horse 5 yrs & under can compete in any pleasure class but must show proof of age. The Junior horse class will be a Walk/Trot or Jog only class. This class does not keep a rider from riding in any of the other loping/canter classes.

PLEASURE CLASSES: In any class of 15 or more entries, the judge must divide the class. At the direction of the Board of Directors, the number of entries to divide a class may be lowered if the ring is too small. All entries must be worked both ways in the arena during the final work off when a class has been divided. All pleasure classes will work both ways of the ring at three gaits (walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope). All Day Pleasure, Walk/Trot and Pee Wee Pleasure classes will work both ways of the ring at a walk and trot only. Pleasure horses must be easy to handle, smooth-gaited, and not show undesirable mannerisms. In all pleasure classes, the judge should place emphasis on manners, performance, soundness, and on neatness and cleanliness of the horse, tack, and rider. Pleasure Classes offered are Pee Wee, Youth, & Adult, Open Walk/Trot and Jackpot classes.

EQUITATION & HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES: The rider will be judged on the position of his/her hands, seat, legs, feet, and general performance. Exhibitors should demonstrate the ability to have the horse on the proper leads. Exhibitors will work at least one direction of ring at a walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope depending on the class. The exhibitors may be asked to back the horse. There will be a pattern for these classes.

LEAD LINE EQUITATION: This is a WALK ONLY class. Exhibitors may NOT show in Pee Wee Walk/Trot Pleasure, Pee Wee Walk/Trot Equitation or Youth All Day Pleasure. Exhibitors may show in Walk Equitation and all Gaming classes. Exhibitors will work both directions of the ring at a walk and will NOT be asked to dismount. Open to both English and Western.

WALK EQUITATION: This is a WALK ONLY class. Exhibitors may NOT show in Pee Wee Walk Trot Pleasure, Pee Wee Walk Trot Equitation and Youth All Day Pleasure. Exhibitors may show in all Gaming classes. Exhibitors will work both directions of the ring at a walk, and will NOT be asked to dismount. Open to both English and Western disciplines.

WALK/TROT CLASSES: These classes are for exhibitors who walk/trot only. Exhibitors entered in these classes cannot enter in any pleasure classes that require a lope.

* Walk/Trot Pleasure Classes offered are Pee Wee and Open. These classes are to be shown at a walk/trot only. No lead line riders are permitted to enter. Exhibitors will work both ways of the ring at a walk and trot only. Open to both English and Western disciplines.
* Walk/Trot Equitation Classes offered are Pee Wee and Open. Exhibitors will work at least one direction at a walk and trot, and will NOT be asked to dismount. Patterns are permitted and will be posted prior to the show on the website, and the day of the show in the Entry Booth. No lead line riders are permitted to enter. Open to both English and Western disciplines.

# GAMING DIVISION

* In any gaming class, a violation of the rules must be reported before the end of the class.
* No horse can run against itself in any class. If a family is sharing a horse, the exhibitor that is to receive a time and points is to be marked on the draw sheet and the draw card, the other exhibitor will be seen as an exhibition run.
* All pee wee, youth, adult, and masters MUST specify in which division they will accrue points.
* The gate will remain open at all shows unless requested otherwise by an exhibitor or exhibitor’s family.
* Once the timer beam has been broken, the run has started. If for any reason the timer is moved once the class has started, the class must be rerun from the beginning.
* Any loss of forward motion after crossing the timer is a disqualification.
* Horses are permitted to run in and out of the gate, but we emphasize the exhibitor uses caution when doing so.

TIMER CALL: A game rider has two (2) minutes to break the timer once called to run. If not across the timer in two (2) minutes, he/she will be disqualified. Timer Call will be timed in the announcer’s booth. If you leave the arena during a class you may not reenter.

TIMER OPERATIONS: If the timer fails, a digital stopwatch will be used. If the timer fails in the middle of a class, the class will be rerun under the digital stopwatch. An officer, board member, or qualified person must be present at the timer when the judge cannot be.

APPROPRIATE DRESS: Exhibitors are permitted to “Wear What They Wore” but should be dressed appropriately. Shirt and pants are required. No shorts will be permitted in any class. Hard sole shoes or boots will be required in every class.

APPROPRIATE TACK: Western Saddle. The use of protective leg or shin gear is optional. Tie downs are permitted. The use of spurs in all classes is optional.

EXHIBITION: Each run is limited to 1 minute. You may work at will for 1 minute. Refer to the current show bill for time of exhibition barrels or poles.

SCHOOLING: No schooling is allowed during a class. The obstacle or pattern is to only be done once. NO circling the barrel or pole more than once. You are permitted to finish the pattern but not to restart the pattern.

PEE WEE EXHIBITORS may be lead through the obstacles. Anyone that leads an exhibitor in a class they must be at least 14 years of age. Participants who are led will be placed in the class separately. Lead line exhibitors will receive ribbons but no paybacks and will receive a participation point in the Pee Wee division if signed up for points.

# GAMING CLASSES

BARRELS: Classes offered are Pee Wee, Youth, Adult, Masters and Open. To be run with three barrels set in the form of a triangle. Riders have the option to start the pattern from the right or left barrel. There will be a five (5) second penalty for each barrel that is knocked over. First and Second should be a minimum of 18 ft from the rail/wall of arena. Third should be a minimum of 25 ft from the rail/wall of the arena. This is subject to change depending on the size of the arena.

POLE BENDING: Classes offered are Pee Wee, Youth, Adult and Masters. To be run with 6 bases and 6 poles, 6 feet long and 21 feet apart. First pole is to be 21 feet off the timer. Horses will run to the far end of the ring, opposite the gate, turn, run down and back through the poles, then turn and run back to the finish line. There will be a 3 second penalty for each pole that is knocked over.

DOWN AND BACK: Classes offered are Pee Wee, Youth, Adult and Masters. Barrel will be to be placed at the discretion of the ring crew, at the far end of the ring, opposite the gate. Circle the barrel from either the right or the left side, and then return to the finish line. Knocking over the barrel will be considered disqualification.

OPEN KEYHOLE RACE: This is a 12 ft square on top of cones with a 4 ft opening, to be measured at the bottom of the cones, which will be marked in place. This square will be placed at the far end of the ring, opposite the gate. All four legs of the horse must enter and leave through the 4 ft opening. A knocked cone or board will be an automatic disqualification. Judge or a member of the Board of Directors will be in line with the keyhole box on the outside of the rail to ensure all 4 legs of the horse enter the keyhole box.

OPEN STAKE BEND: Will consist of 5 cones to be placed 30 feet apart, with the first cone 21 feet from the timer. Weave down and back through the cones from either the left or the right. There will be a 3 second penalty for each cone that is knocked over. Judge or a member of the Board of Directors will be at the end of the arena, in line with the stake bend cones, on the outside of the rail to ensure that the horse is weaving the cones.

# PAYBACKS FOR ALL WEEKEND CLASSES

Regular Classes: 50% of the entries paid plus 100% of any money added. Jackpot Classes: 75% of the entries paid plus 100% of any money added.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 29+ Entries | 15-22 Entries | 7-14 Entries |
| FIRST PLACE | 30 % | 40 % | 40% |
| SECOND PLACE | 25% | 30 % | 35% |
| THIRD PLACE | 20% | 20 % | 25% |
| FOURTH PLACE | 15% | 10 % |  |
| FIFTH PLACE | 10% |  |  |

Pleasure Classes: The ring steward will have a draw sheet that has an \* next to the point runner back numbers. He / She will inform the judge when enough point runners have been placed in the class.

# POINTS / HIGH POINT SYSTEMS

All exhibitors, regardless of age, must be members of PAHA to show for points. Age is determined as of January 1st of the current year. A horse/rider combination may only receive points in one classification per year. To receive year end awards, you must participate in each point class signed up for at least 50% of the shows offered. If an odd number of shows is offered, the higher number of shows is required. (Example: 15 shows offered, 8 are required) Shows are per day, NOT per weekend.

SHOW POINTS: Members wanting to show for points must fill out a point form and turn it in before entering a class. A number will be issued at the time. Points are to be recorded only from the date an individual horse/rider combination is registered and membership dues are paid. In case the member would wish to change the horse into another class other than the original one, he/she may do so by advising the Point Secretary at least one week prior to the next show. Not more than two changes per year are permitted and any horse that changes classes does not retain any points in the original class.

VETTING: If the original horse is injured, you may carry over the original horse’s points to a 2nd horse with a vet certificate. The vet certificate must be turned into or emailed to the Point Secretary or President no later than 5 days after the show that the 2nd horse was entered in. Vetting a horse back in is not permitted.

PARTICIPATION POINTS: One (1) participation point is awarded per class participation. A participation point will be awarded in addition to points earned for placing. A participation point will be awarded once a horse/rider combination enters the ring whether or not a time or placing is given. In order to receive a participation point, you must enter the class on/with a horse.

AWARDS: Year-end awards will be awarded to the top five (5) horse/rider combinations in each point class. Only members in good standing will be eligible for year-end awards in that class. Year-end awards will be awarded at the end of the season at the Year End Award Banquet. Only top 5 winners are eligible for awards.

CLASSES: If a class does not have participants signed up for points by mid-season then the class will be dropped as a point class. Those signed up for points in this class must have entered the class and participated.

Shows points will be awarded for each class as follows:

FIRST PLACE 5 Points

SECOND PLACE 4 Points

THIRD PLACE 3 Points

FOURTH PLACE 2 Points

FIFTH PLACE 1 Point

Monies awarded will be determined by the number of entries in the class for the season. The board of directors will review class entries and determine how much money each class will get for awards. An email will be sent out to each Top 5 winner of each class with how much money they will have to spend on awards along with a list of awards offered.

YEAR-END HIGH POINTS: Recipient must be a member in good standing and be signed up for points in the appropriate classes to be eligible. If traveling trophies are awarded they are to be returned no later than the Labor Day weekend show. Year-end high points will be awarded on **the total accumulated points**, per horse/rider combination, per class, for the year.

Edited 4/23/23