



**Open Horse Show
Association**

... show locally, achieve nationally

**Member Handbook
2026**

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Contents

<i>WELCOME & OVERVIEW</i>	3
<i>2. MEMBERSHIP</i>	6
<i>3. HORSE PARTICIPATION REGISTRATION</i>	8
<i>4. GENERAL COMPETITION RULES</i>	11
<i>5. YEAR END AWARDS PROGRAM</i>	12
<i>6. OHSА HOSTED VIRTUAL SHOWS</i>	18
<i>7. OHSА VIRTUAL WORLD OPEN SHOW</i>	20
<i>8. OHSА HALL OF FAME</i>	20
<i>9. JUDGES</i>	21
<i>10. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS & PROTEST PROCEDURES</i>	24
<i>11. DISCIPLINES & ELIGIBLE CLASSES</i>	29
<i>In-Hand Discipline</i>	29
<i>Western Discipline</i>	30
<i>Walk Jog ONLY Western Discipline</i>	31
<i>Hunt Seat Discipline</i>	31
<i>Walk Trot ONLY Hunt Seat Discipline</i>	32
<i>Fine Horse Discipline</i>	33
<i>Ranch Horse Discipline</i>	34
<i>Timed Discipline</i>	34
<i>Dressage</i>	35
<i>Walk Discipline</i>	36
<i>Leadline Discipline</i>	36
<i>Exceptional Competitor Discipline</i>	36
<i>12. AWARDS</i>	37
<i>13. DEFINITIONS / GLOSSARY</i>	37

WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Open Horse Show Association (OHSA)

We are delighted to welcome you to the Open Horse Show Association. Whether you are new to horses, returning to the show ring, or a seasoned competitor, this handbook is designed to guide you through our rules, programs, and opportunities for recognition.

OHSA was created to support exhibitors of all backgrounds and experience levels. Our goal is to provide a fair, friendly, and accessible national awards program for competitors who participate in open and 4-H horse shows across the country—both in person and online.

This handbook outlines the standards, expectations, and procedures that help us maintain a consistent and enjoyable experience for all members. If you participate in our virtual shows make sure you read the companion handbook “OHSA Show Rules”.

We are glad you’re here!

Debbie Dunn

Debbie Dunn
Founder, OHSA



Figure 1 Founder, Debbie Dunn

*****NOTE – you’ll see many photos in this handbook. All photos are of OHSA members and/or OHSA awards.***

Our Mission

The Open Horse Show Association (OHSA) is committed to providing an outstanding national awards and recognition program for the open horse show community. Our mission is to support excellence, encourage participation, and celebrate achievement at every level of competition.

Our Vision

OHSA strives to offer meaningful national recognition for our annual year-end award recipients, virtual and world show participants, as well as provide a national carded judge program focused on open horse shows. Through our unique and thoughtfully designed awards program, we empower exhibitors to shine in their local shows while earning national distinction and ensure open horse show judges have the experience and knowledge to place horse show classes decisively and effectively.

Our Values

We uphold the highest standards of integrity and excellence by offering quality awards and national recognition that reflect positively on our organization and the horse show community. We believe in:

- **Fair competition**
- **Good sportsmanship**
- **Ethical treatment of horses**
- **Respect for all exhibitors and officials**
- **Support for newcomers**

OHSA encourages experienced exhibitors to guide and mentor those who are new to horses or showing, helping all participants grow and enjoy their equestrian journey.

Our Programs

OHSA offers several programs for our members. OHSA was founded based on a year end awards program where members can earn points for OHSA year end awards when showing at their local open horse shows. After COVID and the many quarantine restrictions, OHSA began offering virtual monthly shows allowing members to continue progressing their horse show skills. Our virtual shows were so popular they continue today, each month a part of a circuit with circuit awards. Due to our virtual show popularity, members asked and OHSA responded with an annual World show. With these options members also asked about an overall award to recognize those members who made great strides in the show ring. We named this program the Hall of Fame.



Figure 2 Year End High Point Overall Saddle

To summarize, there are now 4 ways regular and youth members can participate in OHSA programs:

- Show at local open shows (including virtual shows) to earn points toward OHSA year end awards.
- Participate in OHSA monthly virtual shows to win circuit awards
- Participate in the annual OHSA World Virtual Show
- Upon meeting certain requirements, become a champion added to the OHSA Hall of Fame

How to Use This Handbook

This handbook is organized into sections that follow the natural flow of membership, horse registration, competition participation, and awards.

If you are unsure about a term or phrase, refer to the **Definitions** section at the end of the handbook. It includes explanations of common horse-show terminology and concepts that may be unfamiliar to new horse owners.

Contact Information

For questions, assistance, or clarification, please contact OHSA through our official website or member support email at info@showohsa.com. We are here to help you succeed and enjoy your experience with us.



Figure 3 Collage of OHSA members and awards

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Overview of Membership

Membership in the Open Horse Show Association (OHSA) is open to individuals of all experience levels. Whether you are new to horses, returning to showing, or an experienced exhibitor, membership provides access to our national awards program, educational resources, and a supportive community.

All memberships are **individual** and must be renewed annually unless otherwise noted.

2.2 Member in Good Standing

A member is considered **in good standing** when:

- A completed membership application has been submitted
- The membership fee for the current year has been paid
- The application has been accepted by OHSA
- No outstanding fees, dues, or payments are owed to the Association

Only members in good standing are eligible to earn points and receive awards.

2.3 Membership Year

The OHSA membership year follows the **calendar year**, beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

- Memberships become active on the date OHSA receives payment.
- All memberships expire on December 31, regardless of the date joined.
- Members joining after January 1 become eligible to participate in OHSA programs and earn points toward awards as of their membership date.

2.4 Membership Types

Regular Membership

Regular members receive full membership privileges, including:

- Eligibility to earn points and awards
- Eligibility to serve on committees or hold chair positions
- One Horse Participation Registration included

Youth Membership

Youth members receive the same privileges as Regular members, including one Horse Participation Registration.

A Youth member is defined as an individual who is **18 years of age or younger** as of January 1 of the current award year.

Judge/Associate Membership

Judge/Associate members include:

- OHSA-certified open horse show judges
- Individuals who support OHSA but do not wish to compete for year-end awards

This membership:

- Does **not** include a Horse Participation Registration
- Is valid for a **three-year term**
- Allows judges to serve on committees and hold chair positions

Judges who also wish to compete for awards must purchase a **Regular Membership** in addition to maintaining their judge's card.



Figure 4 OHSA carded judge Chase Button

2.5 Membership Dues

Membership dues must be paid in U.S. funds. Dues for the **2026 membership year** are:

- **Regular Membership:** \$35.00
- **Youth Membership:** \$25.00
- **Judge/Associate Membership (3-year term):** \$40.00

Dues must be paid by January 1 of the year for which membership is requested. Dues paid after January 1 will be considered late and membership benefits will not begin until the date dues are paid.

2.6 Membership Timing & Points Eligibility

Members may submit their membership application and dues along with their first Competition Form for year end awards. However:

- Points earned at a show **will not count** unless the membership application and dues are submitted **before or with** the first Competition Form.
- New members may submit results from shows held **up to 30 days prior** to joining, provided the show occurred within the same membership year.

2.7 Membership Revocation & Reinstatement

Membership may be suspended or revoked for:

- Violations of OHSA rules
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Fraudulent submissions
- Abuse or mistreatment of horses
- Failure to meet financial obligations

Suspended or revoked members are not eligible to earn points or awards. Reinstatement, when applicable, is determined by OHSA following review.



Figure 5 OHSA member and judge Heidi Smith with her OHSA member students

3. HORSE PARTICIPATION REGISTRATION

3.1 Overview

To participate in OHSA programs each horse must have an active **Horse Participation Registration** on file with the Association. This ensures accurate tracking of horse/rider combinations and maintains fairness across all disciplines and classes.

3.2 Registration Requirement

Every horse competing for OHSA points must have:

- A completed Horse Participation Registration form
- The applicable registration fee paid

- Confirmation of acceptance by OHSA

No points will be awarded until the registration is active.

3.3 Registration Included With Membership

Each **Regular** and **Youth** membership includes **one** Horse Participation Registration at no additional cost.

Members may register additional horses for a fee of **\$10.00 per horse, per year**.

3.4 Registration Year & Effective Dates

Horse Participation Registration follows the **calendar year**, January 1 through December 31.

- Registrations submitted after January 1 become active on the date OHSA receives payment.
- Members may submit the registration fee with their first Competition Form for that horse.
- Points earned at a show **will not count** unless the registration and fee are submitted **before or with** the first Competition Form for that horse.

3.5 Registered Horses (Breed-Registered Horses)

If a horse is registered with a breed association (such as AQHA, APHA, Jockey Club, etc.):

- The horse must be shown under its **official breed-registered name**.
- This name must be used consistently on all Competition Forms, OHSA virtual shows, and all OHSA correspondence.

This ensures consistency and prevents duplicate or conflicting entries.

3.6 Grade or Non-Registered Horses

Grade horses (horses without breed registration) or non-registered horses may be shown under a chosen name.

- Once a name is selected, it must remain the same for the duration of the horse's participation with OHSA.
- This name must be used consistently on all Competition Forms, OHSA virtual shows, and all OHSA correspondence.

3.7 Consistent Use of Horse Name

All Competition Forms must list the horse's name **exactly** as it appears on the Horse Participation Registration.

Forms with a mismatched name will be rejected and must be corrected before points can be awarded.

3.8 Family Use of Registered Horses

Members within the same immediate family may show horses registered to another family member.

“Immediate family” includes:

- Spouse
- Parents
- Siblings living in the same household
- Sons or daughters who qualify as Youth members
- Stepchildren
- Foster children

Other family relationships may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

3.9 Transfer of Ownership

Horse Participation Registration is **non-transferable**.

If a horse is sold or leased:

- The new owner must submit a new membership application (if applicable)
- A new Horse Participation Registration must be completed
- All required fees must be paid

Because points are earned by the **horse/rider combination**, points do **not** transfer to a new owner or lessee.



Figure 6 Kirsten White and Charmin Can Do

4. GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

4.1 Overview

OHSA offers several ways to participate in OHSA award programs. They are:

- Year End Awards based on participation in local open shows
- Monthly OHSA virtual shows
- Annual OHSA World Show
- Hall of Fame

Each of these is described in greater detail in this rulebook.

4.2 Basic Competition Rules

To participate:

- The **member** must have an active Regular or Youth membership.
- The **horse** must have an active Horse Participation Registration and be attached to the **member**.
- The **horse must be shown under the same name** listed on its registration.
- Points accumulate on the **horse/rider combination** only.

4.3 Horse Age Requirements

Horses under the age of **two (2)** may not earn points in any ridden (under-saddle) class before **July 1** of their two-year-old year. A horse ages 1 year each 1/1 regardless of the actual birthdate. For example, a horse born May 1, 2025 will be 1 year old on January 1, 2026, making them a yearling.

They *may* earn points in in-hand and driving classes, including:

- Halter
- Showmanship
- Grooming & Conditioning
- Color classes
- In-hand trail
- Lunge line
- In-hand dressage
- Ground driving
- Any driving class

This rule protects young horses and supports proper development.

4.4 Safety & Liability

OHSA does not assume responsibility for:

- The safety of any member or horse
- Show personnel or volunteers
- Spectators or participants
- Any injuries, damages, or losses occurring at a show

All liability remains with the individual exhibitor and/or the show hosting organization.

4.5 Payment Responsibility

OHSA does not pay for any show fees directly or indirectly for any member. Members are responsible for any payments required by a show.

5. YEAR END AWARDS PROGRAM

5.1 Overview

OHSA's year end awards program recognizes participation in eligible open and 4-H horse shows, both live and virtual. This section explains the basic rules for competing, earning points, and ensuring your results qualify for year-end awards.

5.2 Acceptable Shows

Members may earn points at:

- **Open shows** (shows that are open to any breed and not restricted to members of another national organization)
- **4-H shows** (whether open to all competitors or limited to 4-H members)
- **Virtual shows** that meet OHSA's accessibility and verification requirements

Shows **must not** be sanctioned by a national equine organization (e.g., AQHA, APHA, USET, NRHA), unless the show offers **non-sanctioned all-breed classes**. Only those non-sanctioned classes qualify for OHSA points.



Figure 7 OHSA Year End Ribbons

Examples:

- A class titled “**AQHA Western Pleasure**” does *not* qualify.
- A class titled “**Stock Type Western Pleasure**” *does* qualify, as long as registration papers are not required.
- A regional APHA show offering an “**All-Breed Walk Trot**” class — that class *does* qualify.

5.3 Member Responsibility

Members are responsible for:

- Ensuring the show meets OHSAs eligibility requirements
- Submitting accurate and complete Competition Forms
- Maintaining good sportsmanship and ethical treatment of horses

Failure to follow these requirements may result in loss of points or disciplinary action.

5.4 Virtual Shows

In addition to earning points at live open and 4-H shows, OHSAs members may also earn points through approved **virtual (online) horse shows**. Virtual shows offer flexibility for exhibitors who may not have access to local shows, are new to showing, or prefer to compete from home.

This section outlines the rules and requirements for participating in OHSAs-approved virtual shows, including OHSAs-hosted events.

5.5 Eligibility for Points

Members may earn points at virtual shows when:

- The show is open to all breeds
- The show does **not** require membership in another national organization
- OHSAs can access the show’s results online
- The member submits a completed Competition Form
- Entries are submitted **by video – still photos not recognized**

If OHSAs cannot verify results due to restricted access, **no points can be awarded**.

5.6 Requirements for Virtual Show Participation

To earn points from a virtual show, members must submit:

- A completed Competition Form
- A link to the virtual show’s website or results page
- Video entries for all classes entered

Important Notes:

- Members should confirm **before entering** that the virtual show allows OHSA to view results.
- Screenshots alone are not sufficient unless the show's website is no longer available and OHSA approves the documentation.
- All video entries must clearly show the horse and rider performing the required pattern, test, or class elements.

5.7 Competition Forms

To earn OHSA points, members must submit a **completed Competition Form** for each show they attend. This form verifies participation, class results, and show details. Points cannot be awarded without a properly completed and submitted form.

5.8 Required Documentation

A Competition Form must include:

- The member's information and signature
- The horse's registered OHSA name
- The show official's signature (for live shows)
- A copy of the **Show Schedule** or **Class List**, which must include:
 - Name of the show or hosting organization
 - Show date
 - Judge's name
 - All classes offered

Alternative to a signature and class list

Instead of a show official's signature and printed schedule, members may submit:

- A **valid working website link** where OHSA can view show information and results

This option is especially useful for shows that publish results online.

5.9 Disqualifications and Non-Entries

When a horse is disqualified or considered a non-entry at an open show follow the below to ensure points are recorded correctly.

A horse that enters the arena and competes is considered an **entry**, even if:

- It is later disqualified
- It receives a score of **0** in a scored class (e.g., reining)

Entries count toward class size for point calculations.

A horse is considered a **non-entry** if:

- It is entered only as an audit
- It does not enter the arena
- It is not eligible to compete in that class

Non-entries do **not** count toward class size and do not earn points.

5.10 Virtual (Online) Shows

Members competing in non-OHSA hosted virtual shows must submit:

- A completed Competition Form
- A link to the virtual show's website or results page
- Video entries (all virtual entries must be submitted by video)

Important:

Members should confirm that the virtual show allows OHSA access to view results. If OHSA cannot access the show's results, **no points can be awarded**.

5.11 Incomplete or Incorrect Forms

Competition Forms will be **rejected** if:

- Required information is missing
- The horse's name does not match the Horse Participation Registration
- The show information cannot be verified
- The form is unsigned (when required)

Rejected forms may be returned to the member for correction, but points will only be awarded if the corrected form is submitted within the allowed timeframe.

5.12 Submission Deadlines

Competition Forms must be submitted **within 60 days** of the show date. For virtual shows the show date is considered the last day of the show. Example: if a show runs March 1 to March 18 you have 60 days from March 18 to submit the form.

Members are strongly encouraged to submit forms as soon as possible, especially for shows held late in the year.

Final Deadline

Forms for any show year must be received by **January 31 of the following year.**

Example:

For the 2025 show year, all forms must be received by **January 31, 2026.**

Forms received after this date cannot be accepted for any reason.

5.13 Audits & Verification

OHSA conducts random audits of Competition Forms.

During an audit:

- OHSA may contact the show secretary or manager to verify results
- Members may be asked to provide additional documentation or clarification
- Links to show websites or social media pages with posted results are helpful and encouraged

Submitting falsified Competition Forms is grounds for disciplinary action. (See **Article 10: Disciplinary Actions & Protest Procedures.**)

5.14 Earning Points

OHSA awards points based on a horse and rider combination's performance in eligible classes at approved open, 4-H, and virtual shows. Points accumulate throughout the calendar year and determine year-end high-point awards.

Points are awarded only when:

- The **member** is in good standing
- The **horse** has an active Horse Participation Registration
- A **completed Competition Form** is submitted on time
- The **class** is eligible under OHSA rules

5.15 How Points Are Earned

Points are awarded based on:

- The **number of horses in the class**
- The **placing** earned by the horse/rider combination



Figure 8 Megan Bunnell and BS Peaches and Cream

OHSA recognizes up to **six placings** per class. Horses placing 7th or below do not earn points, regardless of class size.

5.16 Points Table

The following table shows the points awarded for each placing based on class size:

Points Awarded						
Number of horses in class	1 st place	2 nd place	3 rd place	4 th place	5 th place	6 th place
1	1					
2	2	1				
3	3	2	1			
4	4	3	2	1		
5	5	4	3	2	1	
6-9	6	5	4	3	2	1
10-14	7	6	5	4	3	2
15-19	8	7	6	5	4	3
20-24	9	8	7	6	5	4
25+	10	9	8	7	6	5

5.17 Additional Points for Halter Championships

Halter championship classes award:

- **+2 points** for Grand Champion
- **+1 point** for Reserve Champion

No additional points are awarded for:

- Daily high-point awards
- Circuit awards
- Year-end awards from other organizations
- High-point awards within a specific discipline (e.g., Western Pleasure High Point)



Figure 9 Vicki Tolhurst and Zippos Cruel Girl

Only the Grand and Reserve Halter Championship bonuses apply.

5.19 Horse/Rider Combination Rule

Points are earned by the **horse and rider combination**.

This means:

- If two riders show the same horse, each rider must have their own membership.
- Each rider/horse pair earns points separately.
- Points do not transfer between riders.
- Points do not transfer to a new owner if the horse is sold or leased.

5.20 Disciplines and Eligible Classes

OHSA recognizes **12 disciplines**, each containing multiple eligible classes. Open shows may use different class names; however, if the class description matches an OHSA-recognized class, points will be awarded. A list of eligible disciplines and classes is included in **Section 11** of this handbook.

A full list of disciplines and class descriptions appears in **Section 11** of this handbook.

5.21 Year-End Awards

Year-end high-point awards are based on:

- Total points earned during the calendar year
- Points accumulated in eligible classes
- The horse/rider combination's performance across all disciplines

Awards are presented annually for:

- Overall Year-End Champion
- Overall Reserve Champion
- High-Point and Reserve High-Point winners in each discipline



Figure 10 Patricia Morrison's Shez Majorly Tuf

6. OHSA HOSTED VIRTUAL SHOWS

6.1 Overview

OHSA may host its own virtual shows throughout the year. These shows:

- Are open to all OHSA members
- Follow OHSA class descriptions and judging standards
- Allow members to earn points toward year-end awards
- Require video entries for all classes

OHSA hosted shows may include:

- General open virtual shows
- Discipline-specific shows
- Seasonal or themed shows
- Fundraising or special-event shows

Class lists, awards, entry deadlines, and additional information will be posted on the OHSa website. Details for class procedures and show rules can be found in the OHSa Show Rules document, found on the website.

6.2 OHSa Year End Points

Year end points will be automatically awarded by OHSa for all OHSa hosted virtual shows.

6.3 Video Entry Standards

To ensure fairness and consistency:

- Videos must be recorded **during the current show month**
- Videos must be recorded **in one continuous take**
- Videos may not be edited, spliced, or altered
- The horse and rider must be clearly visible at all times
- Required gaits, maneuvers, or patterns must be shown as described by the virtual show
- The exhibitor must follow any additional rules set by the virtual show host

Failure to follow video requirements may result in disqualification from earning points.

6.4 Judging Standards for Virtual Shows

Judges for virtual shows must:

- Evaluate entries based solely on the performance shown in the video
- Apply the same standards used for live shows
- Remain impartial and unbiased
- Follow OHSa judging guidelines and ethical expectations
- Be an OHSa carded judge

Judges may not:

- Request additional videos
- Consider factors outside the submitted performance
- Penalize exhibitors for environmental differences (arena size, footing, weather, etc.) unless safety is compromised

6.5 Technical Issues

Videos must be viewable by the judge and the general public. Video links are posted online with results. Video errors may result in disqualification from the class. Video errors may include:

- Fails to load
- Is corrupted
- Is inaccessible
- Is blocked by privacy settings

Members are responsible for ensuring:

- Links work correctly
- Videos are publicly viewable or accessible to OHSA
- Files are uploaded properly to the virtual show platform

7. OHSA VIRTUAL WORLD OPEN SHOW

7.1 Overview

The **OHSA Virtual World Open Horse Show** is a premier online event hosted annually by OHSA.

7.2 World Show Information

This show:

- Is open to all OHSA members
- Offers a wide range of classes across all disciplines
- Follows OHSA rules for video submissions and judging
- Awards points toward year-end high-point standings
- May offer special awards or recognition unique to the event

Members should review the event's official rules each year, as class offerings and requirements may vary.

8. OHSA HALL OF FAME

8.1 Overview

OHSA's Hall of Fame honors members who have achieved extraordinary success in the show ring. Members will be posted on the OHSA website.

8.2 Hall of Fame Requirements

To earn a place among the elite, members must meet one of the following milestones:

- Achieve 15 or more World Championships or Reserve World Championships
- Earn 5 or more Year End Overall or Reserve Overall Championships
- Earn 10 or more Year End Discipline High Points or Reserve High Points

8.3 Hall of Fame Awards

Inductees into the Hall of Fame will be presented with a framed certificate or plaque recognizing their achievement.

Commemorative buckles and saddles will be available for purchase exclusively for Hall of Fame inductees.

Members must be in good standing at the time awards are earned.

9. JUDGES

9.1 Overview

OHSA-approved judges play an essential role in maintaining fairness, consistency, and professionalism within the open show community. Judges are expected to uphold the highest ethical standards and demonstrate strong knowledge of horse showing practices, class rules, and general horsemanship.



Figure 11 Kim Betros and Austins Painted Eeyore

This section outlines the requirements, expectations, and procedures for becoming and remaining an OHSA-approved judge.

9.2 Professional Conduct & Ethical Standards

All OHSA judges must:

- Judge classes impartially and without bias
- Base placements solely on the performance of the horse and/or rider **during that specific class**
- Demonstrate professionalism toward exhibitors, show management, and spectators
- Maintain a thorough understanding of horse show rules and general horse care
- Avoid any conflicts of interest
- Treat all participants with fairness and respect

Judges **may not** compete in any show or class in which they are serving as the judge.

Failure to uphold these standards may result in disciplinary action.

9.3 Becoming an OHSA-Approved Judge

To become an OHSA-approved judge, individuals must:

1. **Pass the OHSA Open Show Test**
 - Judges must retake this test every **three years** to maintain active status.
 2. **OR attend an OHSA-approved partner judging seminar or school**
- Successful completion may qualify an individual for **Level 1 Judge status** without additional testing, upon payment of the current Judge/Associate Membership fee.

OHSA does not require shows to hire OHSA-carded judges, but the Association promotes its approved judges as appropriate.

9.4 Background Checks

OHSA does **not** conduct criminal or civil background checks on judges or prospective judges. Individual shows are responsible for using discretion when hiring judges.

9.5 Judge Evaluations

Members are encouraged to submit **Judge Evaluation Forms** for any OHSA-approved judge who officiates at a show they attend or observe.

Evaluations may be used to:

- Recognize exceptional judging
- Address concerns or complaints
- Support ongoing judge development

9.6 Publication of Judge Information

OHSA-approved judges and their contact information will be listed on the OHSA website.

Figure 12 Danny Clark and DC Injusto



By becoming an OHSA-approved judge, individuals consent to the use of the below in OHSA promotional materials.

- Judge level
- Specialty designations
- Contact information
- Likeness (e.g., photo)

9.7 Judge Levels & Requirements

Level 1 — Entry-Level Open Horse Show Judge

Requirements:

- Pass the **OHSA Level 1 Test** (50 questions) with a score of **75% or higher**,
OR
- Attend an OHSA-approved partner judging program.

Level 2 — Mid-Level Open Horse Show Judge

Requirements:

- Pass the **OHSA Level 2 Test** (100 questions) with a score of **80% or higher**
- Provide **three (3)** references from show managers of shows they have judged

Level 3 — Senior-Level Open Horse Show Judge

Requirements:

- Pass the **OHSA Level 3 Test** (100 questions) with a score of **80% or higher**
- Provide **five (5)** references from show management
- Provide **two (2)** references from other carded judges (OHSA or another national organization)

9.8 Specialty Designations

Current OHSA-carded judges may test for specialty disciplines, including:

- Western
- Hunt Seat
- Saddle Seat
- Gaited
- Ranch Horse
- Driving
- Dressage



Figure 13 OHSA carded judge Coeli Netsky

To earn a specialty designation, a judge must:

- Pass the **50-question discipline-specific test** with a score of **80% or higher**
- Pay any required fees

Judges may test for additional specialties at any time.

9.9 Additional Testing Requirements

OHSA may require additional testing for any judge level or specialty designation, including:

- Live judging
- Video judging
- Static photo judging

These requirements may be added at OHSA's discretion.

9.10 Judge Conduct & Disciplinary Actions

Judges are held to high professional standards. Disciplinary action may be taken if a judge:

- Fails to uphold OHSA rules
- Demonstrates bias or unfair judging
- Engages in unethical behavior
- Receives a conviction for equine abuse
- Has disciplinary actions from another equine organization related to abuse or misconduct

Penalties may include:

- Suspension of judge status
- Revocation of judge's card
- Loss of membership

If a judge's card is revoked, **no dues or fees will be refunded.**

9.11 Testing Fees

Fees for judge testing:

- **\$10 per test** for any test taken after the initial Level test
- Judges may take **up to two (2) Specialty Designation tests at no charge**
- Additional specialty tests or retests after initial carding cost **\$10 per test**

10. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS & PROTEST PROCEDURES

10.1 Overview

OHSA is committed to maintaining fairness, integrity, and the ethical treatment of horses. All members and judges agree to follow the rules and standards outlined in this handbook. When violations occur, OHSA may take disciplinary action to protect the safety, reputation, and fairness of the Association.

This section explains:

- What actions may lead to discipline
- How protests may be filed
- How investigations are conducted
- What penalties may be imposed

10.2 Causes for Disciplinary Action

10.2.1 Violating OHSA Rules

Any violation of the rules, regulations, terms, or conditions in this handbook may result in disciplinary action.

10.2.2 Abuse or Mistreatment of Horses

Abuse includes any cruel, abusive, or inhumane treatment of a horse or other equine. The standard used is what a **reasonable, experienced horseperson** would consider abusive.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Excessive force
- Harsh or improper use of equipment
- Neglect or intentional harm

A member found guilty of abuse may face suspension or permanent revocation of membership.

10.2.3 Poor Sportsmanship

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes:

- Verbal or physical abuse
- Harassment or disrespect toward judges or show officials
- Fraud, deceit, or dishonesty
- Failure to fulfill financial obligations to OHSA (e.g., unpaid dues, reversed payments)



Figure 14 Maya Kadel and Jessy

10.2.4 Legal Convictions for Equine Abuse

A conviction in a court of law for equine abuse results in **immediate and permanent revocation** of OHSA membership.

OHSA may also honor disciplinary actions taken by other equine organizations.

10.2.5 Fraudulent Competition Forms

Submitting falsified Competition Forms is grounds for suspension or revocation of membership. Any points or awards earned through fraudulent submissions will be revoked.

10.3 Judge Misconduct

Judges must:

- Place classes fairly
- Avoid discrimination
- Treat all exhibitors with respect
- Perform their duties professionally

Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, including revocation of judge status.

10.4 Membership Responsibilities

By becoming a member or judge, individuals agree to:

- Abide by all OHSA rules
- Accept disciplinary decisions made by the Association
- Participate in investigations when required

Membership is a privilege, not a right.

10.5 Awards Eligibility

Membership must be active and in good standing **during the year an award is earned**.

If a member is suspended or not in good standing:

- Awards earned during that period are forfeited
- Awards will be given to the next eligible member

10.6 Legal Venue

All disputes or legal actions involving OHSA must be resolved in the **federal or state courts of Brevard County, Florida.**

If an individual unsuccessfully challenges OHSA decisions, they agree to reimburse OHSA for:

- Reasonable attorney fees
- Court costs
- Related expenses

10.7 Filing a Protest

Members who believe:

- Another member or judge has violated OHSA rules, **or**
- They have been harmed by such a violation

must file a protest within:

- **30 days** of the incident, **or**
- **30 days** of discovering the incident

Protest Requirements

A valid protest must:

- Be submitted **in writing** to the OHSA main office
- Describe the alleged violation
- Identify the individuals involved
- Include any supporting evidence
- Be signed by the person(s) submitting the protest
- Include a **\$100 protest fee**

If the protest is upheld, the fee is refunded.

Protests involving suspected fraudulent Competition Forms do **not** require a fee.

10.8 Investigation Process

Once a protest is received:

1. OHSA appoints an **Investigation Committee** and/or legal counsel.
2. The accused member or judge is notified in writing.
3. The investigation begins.

Participation During Investigation

The accused individual may continue participating in OHSA activities during the investigation. However:

- Competition Forms submitted during this period are **held**
- Points are not awarded until a final decision is made

10.9 Outcomes & Penalties

If a protest is upheld, penalties may include:

- Written warning
- Fines
- Suspension
- Revocation of membership
- Revocation of judge's card
- Loss of points or awards

Suspension Guidelines

These serve as general guidelines:

- **First Offense:** Minimum 30-day suspension
- **Second Offense:** Minimum 90-day suspension
- **Third Offense:** Minimum 1-year suspension
- **Fourth Offense:** Permanent suspension

OHSA retains full discretion to impose more severe penalties when warranted, especially in cases involving:

- Horse abuse
- Fraud
- Repeated violations

If the Accused Is Cleared

If the member is found **not** to have violated the rules:

- They retain all membership rights
- All held Competition Forms are processed
- Points are awarded as normal

10.10 Interference with Investigations

Any member who attempts to:

- Influence
- Intimidate
- Obstruct
- Interfere with

an investigation may face additional disciplinary action, including possible revocation of membership.

10.11 Refund Policy

No membership, registration, or other fees will be refunded if a member or judge is suspended or their membership is revoked.

11. DISCIPLINES & ELIGIBLE CLASSES

11.1 Overview

OHSA recognizes **12 disciplines**, each containing multiple eligible classes.

Open shows may use different class names, but if the class **matches the description**, points will be awarded.

Classes must be open to all breeds and not restricted to members of another national organization.

Each discipline below includes:

- A description of the discipline
- The types of classes that qualify
- Beginner-friendly explanations where helpful

11.2 DISCIPLINES & CLASS LIST

In-Hand Discipline

Grooming and Conditioning – judged on grooming and conditioning of horse.

Weanlings at Halter – judged on conformation of horse.

Yearlings at Halter – judged on conformation of horse.

Stallions 2 and over at Halter – judged on conformation of horse.

Mares 2 and over at Halter – judged on conformation of horse.



Figure 15 Krystal Hindman and As You Wish Princess Buttercup

- Geldings 2 and over at Halter** – judged on conformation of horse.
- Showmanship** – judged on handler’s ability to show a horse in-hand. Usually involves a pattern.
- Color**– judged on horse’s color, open to horses of “color” only.
- Lunge Line** – usually restricted to yearlings and/or two year olds. Horses judged on performance on lunge line and on conformation. Points may be earned by an older horse at any show that allows horses over the age of 2 to enter this class.
- In Hand Trail** – horses judged on completing a trail pattern in hand. Though usually this class is for weanlings, yearlings, and sometimes 2 year olds, points may be earned by an older horse at any show that allows horses over the age of 2 to enter this class.
- In Hand Over Fences** – judged on the horse’s representation of a working hunter in the hunt field. Manners, jumping ability, quality of jumps, pace, and overall quality.

Western Discipline

- Western Pleasure** – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, and quality of movement.
- Western Horsemanship** – judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Western Equitation).
- Beginning Reining** – judged on horse and rider working prescribed reining pattern. Includes spins, stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and simple change of leads.
- Reining** – judged on horse and rider working prescribed reining pattern. Includes spins, sliding stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and change of leads.
- Western Riding** – judged on lead changes at lope, quality of gaits, and responsiveness to rider working a prescribed western riding pattern.
- Western Trail** – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement. Ground Pole classes ridden western will not count for points under the Trail class or any other class.
- Western Discipline/Obedience** – can be either judged or placed by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.
- Western Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.
- Walk Jog Western Pleasure** – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only.
- Walk Jog Western Horsemanship** - judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Western Equitation) performed at a walk and jog only.
- Walk Jog Trail** - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only. Ground Pole classes ridden western will not count for points under the Trail class or any other class.
- Walk Jog Reining** –judged on horse and rider working prescribed reining pattern. Includes spins, sliding stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and change of speed.
- Walk Jog Discipline/Obedience** – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.
- Walk Jog Western Bareback** – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship at a walk and jog only.

Walk Jog ONLY Western Discipline

(restricted to those members that show only in walk/jog or walk/trot classes. Members recording points in the WJ Only Discipline may not earn points in Western, Hunt Seat, or any three gait classes. All points earned will be awarded under this discipline only and will not be recorded in the Walk Jog Western Discipline.)

Walk Jog Western Pleasure – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only.

Walk Jog Western Horsemanship - judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Western Equitation) performed at a walk and jog only.

Walk Jog Trail - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only. Ground Pole classes ridden western will not count for points under the Trail class or any other class.

Walk Jog Reining –judged on horse and rider working prescribed reining pattern. Includes spins, sliding stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and change of speed.

Walk Jog Discipline/Obedience – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

Walk Jog Western Bareback – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship at a walk and jog only.

Hunt Seat Discipline

Hunter Under Saddle – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement (may also be called English Pleasure or Road Hack but hunt seat saddle must be used).

Hunt Seat Equitation – judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used.

Hunter Hack – judged on horse’s way of going, manners, and style of jumping over a course of two to four jumps with a maximum jump height of three feet. Flat work may also be required.

Ground Poles – judged on horses’ way of going, manners, and suitability for jumping. May also be judged on rider’s ability to negotiate a jump course and work in 2 point position. This class is a preparatory class for over fences, therefore, the course must be a full course of jumps.

Hunter over Fences – judged on horse’s way of going, manners, and style of jumping over a course.

Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences – judged on rider’s ability to ride a course of fences, their form, and equitation.

Open Jumping – a timed event over a course of jumps with a maximum starting jump height of eighteen inches.

Hunt Seat Discipline/Obedience – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

Hunt Seat Trail – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

Hunt Seat Bareback – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

Walk Trot Hunter Under Saddle - judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement (may also be called English Pleasure or Road Hack but hunt seat saddle must be used) performed at walk and trot only.

Walk Trot Hunt Seat Equitation - judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used performed at a walk and trot only.

Walk Trot Hunt Seat Trail - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement performed at a walk and trot only.

Walk Trot Discipline/Obedience – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

Walk Trot Hunter Hack - judged on horse's way of going, manners, and style of jumping over a course of two to four jumps with a maximum jump height of three feet. Flat work may also be required performed at a walk and trot only.

Walk Trot Ground Poles – judged on horses' way of going, manners, and suitability for jumping. May also be judged on rider's ability to negotiate a jump course and work in 2 point position. This class is a preparatory class for over fences, therefore, the course must be a full course of jumps.

Walk Trot Over Fences – judged on a horse's way of going, manners, and jumping ability.

Walk Trot Equitation Over Fences - judged on a rider's ability to negotiate a jump course and perform with correct equitation.

Walk Trot Hunt Seat Bareback – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

Walk Trot ONLY Hunt Seat Discipline
(restricted to those members that show only in walk/jog or walk/trot classes. Members recording points in the WT Only Discipline may not earn points in Western, Hunt Seat, or any three gait classes. All points earned will be awarded under this discipline only and will not be recorded in the Walk Trot Hunt Seat Discipline.)

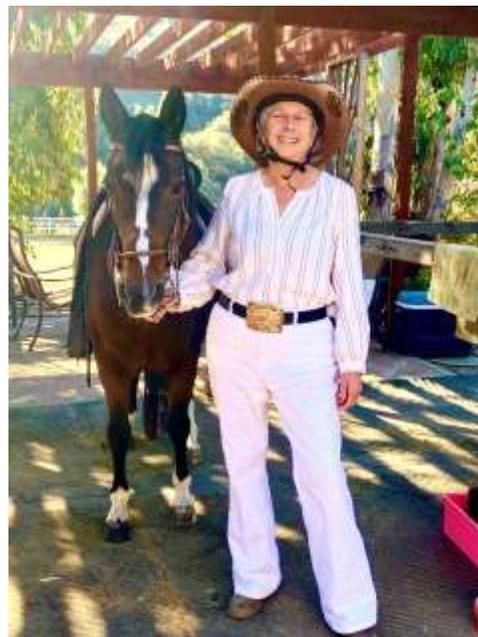


Figure 16 Christine Morshedi and LEC Mi Chinita

Walk Trot Hunter Under Saddle - judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement (may also be called English Pleasure or Road Hack but hunt seat saddle must be used) performed at walk and trot only.

Walk Trot Hunt Seat Equitation - judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used performed at a walk and trot only.

Walk Trot Hunt Seat Trail - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement performed at a walk and jog only.

Walk Trot Discipline/Obedience – can be either judged or place by elimination. Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

Walk Trot Hunter Hack - judged on horse's way of going, manners, and style of jumping over a course of two to four jumps with a maximum jump height of three feet. Flat work may also be required performed at a walk and trot only.

Walk Trot Ground Poles – judged on horses' way of going, manners, and suitability for jumping. May also be judged on rider's ability to negotiate a jump course and work in 2 point position. This class is a preparatory class for over fences, therefore, the course must be a full course of jumps.

Walk Trot Over Fences – judged on a horse's way of going, manners, and jumping ability.

Walk Trot Equitation Over Fences - judged on a rider's ability to negotiate a jump course and perform with correct equitation.

Walk Trot Hunt Seat Bareback – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship at a walk and trot only.

Fine Horse Discipline

(*note this discipline combines saddle seat, gaited, sidesaddle, and driving)

Saddle Seat Pleasure – judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement.

Saddle Seat Equitation – judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used.

Saddle Seat Discipline/Obedience – can be either judged or place by elimination.

Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepass or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

Saddle Seat Trail – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

Saddle Seat Bareback – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

Gaited Pleasure – judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and quality of movement.

Gaited Equitation – judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used.

Gaited Trail – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

Gaited Discipline/Obedience - can be either judged or place by elimination.

Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

Gaited Bareback – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

Side Saddle Pleasure – judged on horse's way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, obedience, willingness and manners, and quality of movement

Side Saddle Equitation - judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used.

Saddle Seat Trail – judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

Saddle Seat Discipline/Obedience - can be either judged or place by elimination.

Generally horses must perform various gaits called at various times including additional maneuvers such as sidepasses or changes of lead. May be called Discipline, Obedience, or Simon Says.

Saddle Seat Bareback – this class will include bareback pleasure and equitation/horsemanship.

Pleasure Driving – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, frame, obedience, willingness and manners, and quality of movement

Reinsmanship - judged on driver’s ability including reinsmanship and ability to drive a prescribed pattern if one is used

Obstacles - judged over obstacles on a prescribed pattern with emphasis on responsiveness, manners, and quality of movement.

Cones – judged on a horse and driver’s ability to negotiate a course through cones.

Ranch Horse Discipline

Ranch Horse Pleasure - judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and a pleasure to ride. Gaits are generally ground covering and correct. Hand gallop may be called. This class is not a pattern class. The distinction between Ranch Horse Pleasure and Ranch Riding is the use of a pattern.

Walk Jog Ranch Horse Pleasure - judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and a pleasure to ride. Gaits are generally ground covering and correct. This class is not a pattern class. The distinction between Ranch Horse Pleasure and Ranch Riding is the use of a pattern.

Ranch Riding – judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and a pleasure to ride. Gaits are generally ground covering and correct. Hand gallop may be called. This class is a pattern class.

Walk Jog Ranch Riding - judged on horse’s way of going, form, trueness of gaits, and a pleasure to ride. Gaits are generally ground covering and correct. This class is a pattern class.

Ranchmanship – judged on a rider and horse’s ability to negotiate a pattern with elements of ranch riding, pleasure, horsemanship, and ranch trail.

Walk Jog Ranchmanship – judged on a rider and horse’s ability to negotiate a pattern with elements of ranch riding, pleasure, horsemanship, and ranch trail.

Ranch Horsemanship – judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Ranch Equitation).

Walk Jog Ranch Horsemanship – judged on rider’s ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used (may also be called Ranch Equitation). Walk and jog only.

Ranch Reining - judged on horse and rider working prescribed ranch reining pattern. Includes spins, sliding stops, large and small circles, rollbacks, and change of leads.

Ranch Trail – judged on a horse and rider’s ability to work various obstacles and may include working a gate, patterns to show handiness, small jumps, walk, jog, or lope overs, backing in or around obstacles, dragging or moving an object(s), loading and unloading from a trailer, roping a stationary object, and/or other obstacles.

Walk Jog Ranch Trail - judged on a horse and rider’s ability to work various obstacles and may include working a gate, patterns to show handiness, small jumps, walk or jog overs, backing in or around obstacles, dragging or moving an object(s), loading and unloading from a trailer, roping a stationary object, and/or other obstacles.

Timed Discipline

(*note – only timed event classes as described below are recognized. If a class entered does not match a description below then no points will be awarded. This will be STRICTLY enforced and no events may earn points if they do not meet our pattern requirements.)

Barrel Racing – timed event where horse completes prescribed standard cloverleaf three barrel pattern.

Pole Bending – timed event where horse completes prescribed standard pole bending six pole pattern.

Keyhole Race – timed event where horse completes a keyhole pattern. The keyhole may be either chalk drawn or be run through two barrels/poles and around a third barrel/pole.

Arena Race – timed event where horse completes a single run around the arena. May be performed with barrels or poles as markers at the end of the arena but no turns around the barrel will be performed.

Stake Race – timed event where horse completes the stake race pattern. The stake race generally is run from the middle of the arena, around one pole, crossing the start/stop line and around a second pole, finishing by passing the start/stop line.

Flag Race – timed event where horse and rider run around perimeter of arena, picking up a flag or marker from a bucket after crossing start line and placing the flag in another bucket before completing pattern and crossing the finish line. A flag or other object (ball, stake, etc) may be used.

Roll Back – timed event where horse runs to end of arena and performs a rollback around a barrel or pole rather than running directly around the barrel.

Figure Eight – timed event where horse and rider complete a single or double figure eight around barrels or poles. May also be called Bowtie or Double Bowtie.

Dressage

In Hand Dressage – judged on the horse performing a dressage pattern in hand.

Dressage Suitability – judged on form to function as it relates to performing a dressage test showing suitability in the dressage arena.

Dressage Equitation - judged on rider's ability including equitation and ability to ride a prescribed pattern if one is used with an emphasis on a dressage seat.

Western Dressage – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under western tack and attire.

Walk Jog Western Dressage – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under western tack and attire.

Dressage – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under hunt seat or dressage tack and attire.

Walk Trot Dressage – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under hunt seat or dressage tack and attire.

Saddle Seat Dressage – judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under saddle seat tack and attire.

Gaited Dressage - judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed under hunt seat, saddle seat, or dressage tack and attire.

Driven Dressage - judged on a horse's movement while performing a dressage test. The test may be a standard dressage test or a modified test as defined by the show management. Performed while being driven.

Walk Discipline - Classes limited to walk only, often for beginners. Riders earning points in the Walk Discipline cannot cross enter into any other discipline other than **In Hand**. They may not earn points in any other discipline other than **In Hand**.

Eligible classes include:

Walk Only Pleasure
Walk Only Equitation
Walk Only Pattern classes
Walk Only Trail
Walk Dressage



Figure 17 OHSA Awards

Leadline Discipline - For very young riders led by an adult handler. A side handler is allowed. Riders earning points in the Leadline Discipline cannot cross enter into any other discipline other than **In Hand**. They may not earn points in any other discipline other than **In Hand**.

Eligible classes include:

Leadline Equitation
Leadline Pleasure
Leadline Horsemanship
Leadline Trail
Leadline Dressage

Exceptional Competitor Discipline - For riders with physical, cognitive, or developmental disabilities. Members must identify as an Exceptional Competitor and submit appropriate documentation of their disability. Adaptive tack and equipment are permitted. Exceptional members will accrue all points

under the Exceptional Rider Discipline.

Eligible classes include:

Exceptional Rider Walk Pleasure
Exceptional Rider Walk Equitation
Exceptional Rider 2 Gait Pleasure
Exceptional Rider 2 Gait Equitation
Exceptional Rider 3 Gait Pleasure
Exceptional Rider 3 Gait Equitation
Exceptional Rider Trail
Exceptional Rider Dressage

11.3 Notes on Disciplines and Classes

11.3.1 If a show holds 3D and/or 4-D event, members must break out how many horses were in the D they placed in as well as how many horses the member placed above. For example, in a 4D barrel race a member places 3rd in the 3D portion, if there were only 20 horses in the 3 and 4D sections then the points will be based on 20 horses in the class regardless of total number.



Figure 18 Audrey Teofilio's LS Tiffanie

11.3.2 Additional disciplines and classes may be added. Members must request in writing the class name and provide the description to the Association. The Association will then decide on adding the discipline or class. All members will be notified when a new class or discipline is added. The effective date of a new discipline or class will be January 1 of the next competition year.

12. AWARDS

12.1 Overview

OHSA presents awards on multiple levels. This section covers Year End awards. For information on OHSA virtual shows and the OHSA World Virtual Open Show see the OHSA website.

12.2 OHSA Awards for year end include top 10 overall, top 10 in each discipline, and top 10 in each class.

12.3 Lifetime Achievement Awards are presented to members based on the below criteria:

- Certificate of Ability – awarded after a member/horse team earn 250 points in any recognized class
- Certificate of Superior Ability – awarded after a member/horse team earn 500 points in any recognized class
- Certificate of Expert Ability – awarded after a member/horse team earn 1,000 points in any recognized class
- Certificate of Versatility – awarded after a member/horse team earn 250 points in each of three different disciplines
- Certificate of Supreme Mastery – awarded after a member/horse team earn 250 points in each of five different disciplines

These awards will be calculated and awarded at the end of the calendar year with year end awards. Members may only receive the highest certificate per category each year. Example: if a member/horse team earns 600 points in a given class they will receive the Certificate of Superior Ability. If they earn an additional 500 points in that class in the following year they will be awarded the Certificate of Expert Ability that year.

13. DEFINITIONS / GLOSSARY

Abuse (Equine Abuse)

Any action that a reasonable, experienced horseperson would consider cruel, abusive, or inhumane. Includes excessive force, harsh equipment use, neglect, or intentional harm.

All-Breed Class

A class open to horses of any breed, without requiring registration papers.

Audit Entry (Non-Entry)

A horse entered in a class for schooling or practice only. Audit entries do not compete, do not count as entries, and do not earn points.

Breed-Registered Horse

A horse with official registration papers from a breed association (e.g., AQHA, APHA, Jockey Club). Must be shown under its registered name.

Class

A specific competition category at a horse show (e.g., Western Pleasure, Showmanship, Trail).

Class List / Show Schedule

A document listing all classes offered at a show, along with the show date, judge, and hosting organization.

Class Size

The number of horses that enter the arena and compete in a class. Determines the number of points available.

Competition Form

The form members must submit to OHSA to earn points for a show. Must be complete, accurate, and submitted on time.

Conflict of Interest (Judging)

Any situation where a judge's impartiality could be questioned (e.g., judging a close friend, student, or family member). Judges must avoid these situations.

Discipline

A category of related classes (e.g., Western, Hunt Seat, Ranch Horse). OHSA recognizes 12 disciplines.

Disqualification (DQ)

Removal from a class due to rule violations. A disqualified horse still counts as an entry for point calculations.

Entry

A horse that enters the arena and competes in a class. Entries count toward class size even if disqualified or scoring zero.

Ethical Treatment of Horses

Providing humane care, proper handling, and safe training practices.

Family (Immediate Family)

Includes spouse, parents, siblings living in the same household, sons or daughters (including stepchildren and foster children). May be expanded on a case-by-case basis.

Fraud (Competition Forms)

Submitting false or altered information on a Competition Form. Grounds for disciplinary action.

Gaited Horse

A horse that performs special smooth gaits (e.g., running walk, rack) instead of or in addition to the standard walk, trot, and canter.

Grade Horse

A horse without breed registration papers. May be shown under a chosen name.

Halter Class

An in-hand class where the horse is judged on conformation (body structure), movement, and overall appearance.

Horse Participation Registration

The annual registration required for each horse earning OHSA points.

In-Hand Class

A class where the horse is shown from the ground (not ridden). Examples: Showmanship, Halter, Grooming & Conditioning, In-Hand Trail.

Investigation Committee

A group appointed by OHSA to review protests and rule violations.

Judge's Card

Certification issued by OHSA indicating a judge's approved level and specialties.

Judge Evaluation Form

A form members may submit to provide feedback on an OHSA-approved judge.

Leadline

A class for very young riders who are led by an adult where the horse is led by an adult.

Lunge Line

An in-hand class where the horse moves in a circle around the handler on a long line.

Member in Good Standing

A member who has paid dues, submitted required forms, and has no outstanding fees or disciplinary actions.

Non-Entry

A horse that does not compete (audit, no-show, or ineligible). Does not count toward class size.

Open Show

A show open to any breed of horse. Some open shows may have breed specific classes, but generally they are not approved by a national association or restricted to registered only horses.

Pattern Class

A class requiring a specific pattern or sequence of maneuvers (e.g., Horsemanship, Ranch Riding, Trail).

Points

Numerical values earned based on class size and placing. Used to determine awards.

Protest

A formal written complaint alleging a rule violation.

Ranch Horse

A discipline focusing on natural movement, working ability, and maneuvers used on a ranch.

Reserve Champion

Second-place winner in a halter championship class. Earns +1 bonus point.

Sanctioned Show

A show approved by a national equine organization (e.g., NRHA, AQHA). Most sanctioned classes do not qualify for OHSA points unless they include non-sanctioned all-breed classes.

Showmanship

An in-hand class judged on the handler's ability to present the horse.

Specialty Designation (Judges)

An additional certification for judging specific disciplines (e.g., Western, Dressage, Gaited).

Timed Event

A class judged solely on speed (e.g., barrels, poles). OHSA recognizes timed disciplines for points.

Trail Class

A class where the horse navigates obstacles designed to simulate real-world situations.

Virtual Show

An online horse show where exhibitors submit video entries instead of competing in person.

Virtual World Open Horse Show

OHSA's premier annual virtual event, open to all members.

Walk-Trot / Walk-Jog

Classes for riders who show at the walk and trot (English) or walk and jog (Western). Can be beginner-friendly or discipline-specific.

Year-End Awards

Awards presented annually based on total points earned during the calendar year.