

# TEXAS HUNTER AND JUMPER ASSOCIATION

January 31, 2024

## Purpose

The Texas Hunter and Jumper Association (THJA) was formed in 1948 as an association of exhibitors. In 1953, the THJA became a Texas nonprofit corporation. Its purpose is to support its membership and their horses with educational programs and scholarships and with horse show oversight which encourages the safety and welfare of both.

*This book supersedes all previous editions of THJA Rules and Regulations and By-Laws.*

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# **BY-LAWS OF THE THJA**

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **Section 1: Organization and Membership**

#### **A. Organizational Documents of THJA.**

1. The Association has been organized as, and shall continue to be and remain, a nonprofit corporation under the Texas Business Organizations Code. The internal affairs of the Association shall be governed by the Articles of Incorporation of the Association, these By-Laws and to the extent not lawfully modified by the foregoing documents, the laws of the State of Texas, as all the foregoing may be modified or amended in the future.

2. The purposes of the Association shall be to have and exercise all the rights and powers conferred on nonprofit corporations under the Texas Business Organizations Code, as such law is now in effect or may at any time hereafter be amended. Notwithstanding the foregoing statement of purposes and powers, or any other provision herein to the contrary, the Association is organized for the purpose of supporting its membership and their horses with educational programs and scholarships and with horse show oversight which encourages the safety and welfare of both. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to make payments and distributions as expressly permitted by other provisions of these By-Laws. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these By-Laws, the Association shall solely carry on activities that are permitted to be carried on by a nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income tax under the subsection of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, under which the Internal Revenue Service from time to time approves the Association to operate. The foregoing limitations are intended, and shall be construed, to be a dedication of such assets to the accomplishment of the purposes of the Association and not to create a lien or security interest on the assets or the revenue of the Association or to limit the ability of the Association to encumber its assets and revenues. The Association shall not carry on, other than as an insubstantial part of its activities, activities that are not in furtherance of its purposes.

#### **B. Association Mailing Address**

The mailing address for all correspondence, filings, registrations, payments and any other communication to or with this Association required or permitted under these bylaws or the Rules of this Association shall be the address from time to time posted on the Website of the Association at [www.THJA.org](http://www.THJA.org).

#### **C. Application for Membership**

A person may become a member of the Association by submitting an application, and paying the dues then applicable to the classification of membership for which the application was made, to the Secretary of the Association. Dues must be received by THJA before the end of any show in order for that person to receive points toward Annual Awards of THJA based on the placings of that person at that show; provided, however, applications are considered effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of a competition if (1) during that competition a completed application and the appropriate dues are received by the competition's show secretary and (2) the completed application and appropriate amount of dues are delivered by the show secretary to the Secretary of the Association as a part of the official results. The postmark of a mailed application determines the date of filing. The time stamp assigned by the THJA website ([www.thja.org](http://www.thja.org)) determines the date of filing if it is done online.

#### D. Classification of Members

1. Charter members – those individuals who attended or were invited to attend the organizational meeting of the Association held in San Antonio, Texas, on the 21st day of February 1948.
2. Senior members – generally, those individuals who have reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year (see USEF Rule GR 101). Annual dues are \$50 for a show year.
3. Junior members – generally, those individuals who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year (see USEF Rule GR 128, including subsections 1-4). Annual dues are \$40 for a show year.
4. Life members – those individuals who pay a single fee of \$700, or by serving as an officer of the THJA for a period of at least ten (10) consecutive years or by qualifying for Director Emeritus status under Section 3 of this Chapter. Life members are exempt from paying annual dues.
5. Lifetime farm members – those entities (regardless of type), excluding individuals, who pay a single fee of \$200. A senior member or a life member who is a senior member must at all times be and remain a partner, member, shareholder, or other form of equity owner of the entity. Lifetime farm members are exempt from paying annual dues for the duration of the existence of the entity or until no senior member or life member is a partner, member, shareholder, or other form of equity owner of the entity, whichever first occurs. Lifetime farm memberships are non-voting.
6. Life Recorded Farm/Business – A Life Recorded Farm/Business is any farm, ranch, syndicate, partnership, corporation, or business that attains life Recording upon a single payment of \$200. A Life Recorded Farm/Business shall have all the rights and privileges of membership and be subject to all liabilities and penalties which may be imposed upon Members. They shall be exempt from annual dues.

7. Annual Recorded Farm/Business – An Annual Recorded Farm/Business is any farm, ranch, syndicate, partnership, corporation or business that attains Annual Recording through annual dues of \$50.

8. Regardless of circumstance or change in circumstance, all dues are non-refundable.

9. Senior members and individual life members who are 18 years or older are voting members and have one vote per individual. All other members are non-voting members.

E. Membership Meetings

1. At any meeting of the membership of the Association, a quorum shall consist of not less than 8 senior members in good standing.

2. All voting members may act and vote by proxy on all matters coming before the membership. The form of the proxy must be approved by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.

3. The annual meeting of the members and Awards Banquet shall be held in January of each year on the date determined by the Executive Committee, taking into account available information on the dates for the annual meeting of the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. The location of the annual meeting of the members and of the Awards Banquet shall be decided by the members at the preceding membership meeting. If the location is not decided upon by the members, the Executive Committee shall designate a place within the State of Texas.

F. Participation in THJA Annual Awards Program.

1. To be eligible for an entry to participate in the annual awards program conducted by THJA, all of the riders, owners, lessees, agents and trainers associated with an entry in THJA recognized shows must be members of the Association; provided, however, if an entry has multiple ownership (i.e. under more than one individual and/or entity), only one of the owners must be a member.

2. Non-members of the Association are not entitled to any privileges of membership in the Association.

3. [Intentionally left blank]

4. The official horse show managers and the official horse show secretaries of THJA recognized shows must be members of THJA. Any person found to be in violation of this membership requirement at a THJA recognized show that commences on or after December 1, 2013, must pay a fine of \$100 per violation with each horse show being a separate violation.

5. In order for the placings of an entry in a THJA recognized show to be eligible to be included in the calculation of that entry's points for an annual award, all riders, owners, lessees, agents and trainers associated with that entry must make available to the Show Secretary a valid and effective THJA membership card or a THJA membership number that can be verified to be valid and effective.

6. A member failing to settle his/her indebtedness resulting from non-payment of fees, fines, or for services rendered by the Association shall lose all membership privileges until the debt is paid. Payment must be made within 30 days.

## **Section 2: Directors**

### **A. Powers of Board of Directors.**

The affairs of the Association shall be under the general supervision and control of a Board of seventeen (17) Directors, all of whom shall be senior members of the Association. All members of the THJA Board shall be members of the USEF and the USHJA.

1. Directors holding places 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16 shall be elected in 1952 and every three years thereafter. Directors holding places 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, and 17 shall be elected in 1953 and every three years thereafter. Directors holding places 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15 shall be elected in 1954 and every three years thereafter. Except in the case of a director elected by the Board to fill a vacancy, each director shall take office at the regular annual meeting next following his/her election; he/she shall hold office three years and until his/her successor is duly elected and qualified.

2. Conflicts of interest occur when the Association's board members are in a position to influence a decision on policy or rules where they might directly or indirectly receive benefits or give improper advantage to certain members.

The standard of behavior at the Association is that all board members scrupulously avoid conflicts of interest between the interests of the Association on one hand, and personal, professional, and business interests on the other. This includes avoiding potential and actual conflicts of interest, as well as perceptions of conflicts of interest.

It is understood that the purposes of this policy are to protect the integrity of the Association's decision-making process, to enable our constituencies to have confidence in our integrity, and to protect the integrity and reputations of our board members.

To keep the board of directors as diverse as possible, no members may have a familial, or business relationship. If this occurs during the term of a board member, one of the board members may not stand for reelection at the end of their term to remove the conflict.

In the course of meetings or activities, the board members will disclose any interests in a transaction or decision where they (including their business or other nonprofit affiliations), their family and/or their significant other, employer, or close associates will receive benefit or gain. After disclosure, they understand that they will be asked to leave the room for the discussion and will not be permitted to vote on the question.

### **B. Zones of Representation**

To better secure proportionate representation on the Board, the State of Texas shall be divided into 3 zones, based on the Fort Worth-Dallas, the San Antonio-Austin, and the Houston centers of hunter jumper horse activity. The Fort Worth-Dallas area, to be known as the Northern Zone,

shall include members of this Association and hunter jumper horse activity in and adjacent to the two cities last named and also those located closer to one of said cities than to any other city named in this section. The San Antonio-Austin area, to be known as the Central Zone, shall include members of this Association and hunter jumper horse activity in and adjacent to the two cities last named above, and also those located closer to San Antonio or Austin than to any other city named in this section. The Houston area, to be known as the Southern Zone, shall include members of this Association and hunter jumper horse activity in and adjacent to Houston and also those located closer to Houston than to Fort Worth, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, and Waco.

#### C. Nomination and Election of Directors

1. By April 1st of each year, the President shall appoint, and submit for publication, a Nominating Committee, composed of three senior members of the Association who, respectively, are current residents of the three above named zones. The Nominating Committee shall select one or more nominees for each of the directorships to be filled for the following year, including vacant positions referred to them by the Board of Directors. Board positions 1 through 6 are designated Zone Directorships, in order that at least one directorship to be filled each year shall be limited to nominees from the Northern Zone, one to nominees from the Central Zone, and one to nominees from the Southern Zone.

2. The Nominating Committee shall report its nominations to the President no later than August 27th and thereupon the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees shall be sent to each member of the Association. Senior members of the Association may designate one or more additional nominees, either for a Zone Directorship or a Directorship at Large, by obtaining signatures representing twenty (20) votes for any such nomination. Only members with the right under these By-Laws to vote shall be eligible to sign any such nomination. All such nominations from the members must designate the position for which the nominee is proposed, shall be mailed to the Secretary, and must be received on or before November 1st in order to be considered in the election held for that year.

3. Immediately after November 1st, ballots shall be made up by the Secretary and sent to each member of the Association, together with notice of the time and place of the election. All such ballots shall be sent to members of the Association at least two weeks prior to the announced election date. Such ballots shall be signed and only those who have paid dues for the current year will be permitted to vote; however, a check for such dues may accompany the ballot. Each member may vote for one nominee for each place, i.e., for one of the nominees for each of the Zone Directorships and for one of the nominees for each of the Directorships at Large places.

4. The election of Directors shall be completed and a Directors' meeting, including the newly elected Directors, shall be held at the same time as Texas Hunter and Jumper Association Annual Awards Banquet.

#### D. Meetings of Directors

1. Annual Meeting – the regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors will be held without special notice on the same date as the Texas Hunter and Jumper Association Annual



Banquet. At such time, the Board of Directors shall elect officers of the Association for the ensuing year, transact other necessary and proper business of the Association, consider and act upon amendments to the By-Laws, consider and act upon amendments to the Rules necessary in order to clarify existing rules, remedy existing inequities in the rules, and conform THJA rules to newly enacted or explained rules of United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. Except under extraordinary circumstances, new divisions, sections, specifications, and awards shall not be instituted at this meeting, although committee reports and discussion of such proposals are in order.

2. Rules Meeting – the regular rules meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held, after a minimum of fifteen days written notice, at a time between April 1st and October 1st of each year and in a location selected by the Executive Committee. If the rules meeting is to be held in conjunction with a horse show, a private meeting room shall be obtained for the meeting. At such meetings, the Board of Directors shall consider and act upon rule changes proposed to become effective for the following show year and other matters placed on the agenda by order of the President.

3. Special Meetings -- special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or Vice President and shall be called at the written request of any five Directors. Special meetings shall be called by giving at least twenty-four hours' notice by mail or email addressed to the residence or place of business of each Director as shown by the Association's records. Such a notice will be sufficient whether or not actually received. Notice of a special meeting may also be given by the Secretary, or anyone designated by him or her, by personal delivery of the notice to the Directors not less than 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

4. Members of the Board of Directors may participate in any meeting of the Board of Directors, except the Annual Meeting, by telephonic or electronic means, if the Director is outside the county where the meeting is being held and if all Directors participating in the meeting by any means can hear and speak to all other Directors simultaneously. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this Paragraph 4 constitutes presence in person at such meeting.

5. Members of the Board of Directors may act and vote by proxy on all matters coming before the Board, except at the Annual Meeting. The form of the proxy must be approved by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee. Once approved, the Board Member may act and vote by proxy and be considered as "present" for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

#### E. Maintenance of Director's Eligibility

In order to maintain his/her eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors, each member:

1. must participate as a member of at least one THJA committee (standing or otherwise); and
2. must either attend at least two of the three meetings of the Board of Directors annually, or be excused from attending at least two of the meetings of the Board of Directors annually by majority vote of the Board of Directors held at the meeting at which a member of the Board of Directors is not present. If the Board of Directors cannot determine whether the absence of a

member at a meeting of the Board of Directors should be excused or unexcused, the determination must be referred to the Executive Committee for its determination of that question, which determination shall be final. Upon any determination of the question by the Executive Committee, the President shall report the decision to the full Board of Directors.

#### F. Vacancies

Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the remaining Directors choosing from among the senior members a Director to fill the unexpired term; provided, however, that the Board of Directors may at its option defer the selection of a new Director until the next regular election and refer the choice of candidates to the Nominating Committee. A Director who does not pay his/her dues to THJA by the time of the annual Directors' meeting shall be considered to have resigned from the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may declare vacant the place of a Director who misses two consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors without an excuse acceptable to the Directors.

#### G. Quorum

Eight (8) Directors shall constitute a quorum, EXCEPT that at the regular annual Directors' meeting, due notice thereof having been given, the Directors attending shall constitute a quorum regardless of number.

#### H. Duties

1. The Board of Directors shall exercise all such powers and do all such lawful acts and things that are directed by these By-Laws or required to be exercised or done by the members.
2. The Board of Directors shall make, publish, and enforce rules and regulations governing recognized Shows, Association members, and all other persons subject to Association regulation.
3. Subject to the requirements of THJA Rules concerning retroactivity, provided all Directors unanimously consent to a vote by written ballot, the Directors may act upon an issue by simple majority via a mailed written ballot without a formal meeting.

#### I. [Reserved for Future Expansion]

#### J. Liability

To the extent permitted by applicable law, no present or future Director of the Association shall be personally liable to the corporation or its members for monetary damages for conduct as a Director, and the Association shall indemnify and defend any and all present and future Directors, to the fullest degree permitted under the laws of Texas, to the extent of all amounts in excess of amounts paid by any insurance.

### **Section 3: Director Emeritus**

#### A. Authorization of Class

In addition to the Directors defined in these By-Laws, the Association shall have a class of Directors known as "Director Emeritus." The number of Directors Emeritus shall be determined by the Directors from time to time.

#### B. Eligibility

There shall be two eligibility standards for Directors Emeritus:

1. Election by the Board. The Board of Directors, after notice as required for Special Meetings, may elect any person as a Director Emeritus who, prior to Election, has served a full one year term as an officer or Executive Committee member, or was an original Director, and served as a Director for fifteen (15) full years, except that a person who has served as President for one or more years is eligible after serving as Director for ten (10) full years.
2. Optional. Any person shall at his option become a Director Emeritus upon notice by him/her in writing to the President to that effect who meets the requirements of B(1) above enlarged by an additional five (5) years as a Director.

#### C. Nominating Committee Functions

The Nominating Committee appointed each year by the President to nominate Directors shall ascertain whether any Director whose term is expiring in the subject year is eligible to become a Director Emeritus automatically. The Committee shall inquire of such Director whether he/she prefers to become a Director Emeritus or to be nominated as a regular Director, if the Committee's nominating choice is in accord.

#### D. Duties and Privileges

A Director Emeritus shall possess all of the duties and privileges of a Texas Hunter and Jumper Association member and Director except only as follows:

1. As a Director Emeritus, he/she shall have a vote on all Association matters duly presented to a meeting of Directors if present in person at that meeting but may not vote by proxy; shall have the right to make motions and second motions made at meetings of Directors if present in person at said meeting; shall have the right to serve on and chair committees of the Board but shall not be required to serve on any committee; shall be counted in determining whether a quorum is present at any meeting of Directors if present in person at the meeting; and shall not be required to attend meetings.
2. As a member, he/she shall be a lifetime member and not obligated to pay dues of any kind or amount.

#### E. Tenure, Letterhead, etc.

A Director Emeritus shall be entitled to serve as such for life, but may resign by written notice to the President or Board of Directors. Any Texas Hunter and Jumper Association printed matter, which reflects the names of Directors, shall also reflect the names of Directors Emeritus and indicate them as such in a suitable manner. A suitable plaque shall be presented to a Director

Emeritus at the Annual Awards Banquet occurring next after he/she becomes a Director Emeritus.

F. Posthumous Considerations

For five years following the death of a Director Emeritus his/her name shall continue to be printed as provided in D above, except that the years of his/her life span shall be shown next to his/her name so as to indicate that he/she is deceased. The Board at any time may designate any deceased Director or former Director as though he/she had been a Director Emeritus at the time of death, so that printed material will reflect that status accordingly.

**Section 4: Officers**

A. Authorized Officers.

The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

B. General Powers and Duties

1. The officers of the Association shall have all of the official powers and perform all of the usual duties incident to their respective offices and shall in addition perform such other duties as may be assigned to them from time to time by the Board.
2. In the absence or disability of the President or if authorized by the Board of Directors, the First Vice President shall be vested with all the powers of the President.
3. In the absence or disability of any officer of the Association, the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee may delegate his/her powers and duties to any other executive officer or to any Director during the period of disability.

C. President

1. The President shall have the power to appoint such committees as he/she deems expedient.
2. The following standing committees shall be appointed each year by the President:
  - a. A Rule Book Committee, whose function shall be to keep the rulebook up-to-date, and to advise concerning the requirements, meaning, and interpretation of By-Laws and Rules.
  - b. A Show Standards Committee, whose functions shall be to review prize lists in writing prior to publications and to assist the Association in being responsive to the needs and desires of its membership, to encourage better sportsmanship among the participants in the sport, and to create appropriate motivation for the improvement of horse shows in the state. The following provisions shall be mandatory with respect to this Committee:
    - (1) The committee shall establish its own meeting and evaluation procedures.

(2) There shall be a least 5 members, one of whom must be a member of the Board of Directors and one of whom shall be appointed by the President to serve as Chairman. Three (3) members will constitute a quorum.

(3) The majority decisions of the committee shall be forwarded to the Executive Committee for formal action, if any.

(4) No complaint by an exhibitor concerning a THJA recognized show shall be considered by the committee unless made in writing, giving the name and THJA number of the complainant, and transmitted to the committee within 7 days of the last day of the involved show.

(5) Within 15 days after receipt of an exhibitor complaint, the committee shall forward its decision in writing to the Executive Committee if formal action is recommended.

(6) Within 15 days after its receipt of the committee's recommendation, the Executive Committee may take any action permitted under these By-Laws to be taken by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors or authorized by THJA Rules and Regulations.

c. A Finance Committee, whose functions shall be:

(1) To review all receipts and expenditures of THJA funds,

(2) To prepare, and present when requested by the President, an annual budget for consideration and adoption by the Executive Committee, and

(3) To present to the Board of Directors its recommendations on such other financial matters as may be directed to it by the President of the Board. The First Vice President shall serve as a member and chairman of the committee, which shall be composed of senior members, a majority of whom shall be current Directors.

D. Vice Presidents

1. First Vice President

a. In the absence or disability of the President, if authorized by the Board of Directors, he/she shall be vested with all the powers of the President.

b. In the absence or disability of any officer of the Association the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee may delegate his/her powers and duties to any other executive officer or to any Director during the period of disability.

c. Shall serve as a member and chairman of the Finance Committee.

2. Second Vice President

The Second Vice President shall assume the duties of the First Vice President when the First Vice President is unavailable.

E. Secretary

1. Receives membership fees, horse registration fees and show recognition applications.
2. Maintains the official records of the Association that are not, in these By-Laws, specifically directed to be maintained by another officer of the Association.
3. Handles horse registration forms and membership application forms.
4. Issues membership cards, horse registration certificates upon receipt of appropriate dues or fees, and notices regarding applications for THJA show recognition.
5. The Secretary may have one or more assistants of his or her choice and delegate to them such of the duties of the Secretary as the Secretary shall from time to time determine necessary; provided, however, no delegation shall relieve the Secretary from the ultimate responsibility for performance of the duties of the Secretary. The Secretary may arrange for one or more other officers of the Association to perform any one or more of the tasks required to be performed by the Secretary.

F. Treasurer

1. Maintains the bank account for the Association.
2. Gives a financial report at the Board and membership meetings as necessary.
3. Writes and issues checks as required.
4. The Treasurer may have one or more assistants of his or her choice and delegate to them such of the duties of the Treasurer as the Treasurer shall from time to time determine necessary; provided, however, no delegation shall relieve the Treasurer from the ultimate responsibility for performance of the duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer may arrange for one or more other officers of the Association to perform any one or more of the tasks required to be performed by the Treasurer.

**Section 5: Executive Committee**

A. Executive Committee Authorized.

1. The Board of Directors shall elect annually an Executive Committee consisting of the President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Association and three Directors or Directors Emeritus.
2. At the annual meeting, the officers shall present to the Board of Directors a slate of nominees for officers and non-officer members of the Executive Committee. Nominations from the floor shall be in order following presentation of the slate by the officers.
3. Any Executive Committee member that is a first year Director shall not have a vote.

B. Powers of Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall have and carry out such functions, powers, and duties of the Board of Directors, between meetings of such Board, as are not by these By-Laws directed or required to be exercised or done only by the Board of Directors.

C. Meeting Quorum.

Five (5) members of said Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

D. Limit on Tenure.

No non-officer member of the Executive Committee elected after January 30, 1993 may serve on the Executive Committee in excess of three (3) consecutive years, unless that person was President in the immediately preceding year.

E. Meetings

1. The Executive Committee may fix by resolution the dates and times of its regular meetings and further notice of such meetings need not be given to the members of the Executive Committee.

2. Special meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held whenever called by an officer of the Association or by any two members of the Executive Committee on twenty-four (24) hours written or telephone notice.

3. Members of the Executive Committee may participate in a regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members of the Executive Committee participating in such meeting can hear and speak to all other members simultaneously. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this Paragraph 4 constitutes presence in person at such meeting.

**Section 6: Amendments to By-Laws.**

The By-Laws of the Association may be repealed or amended or new By-Laws adopted by a vote of the majority of the Directors present at the annual meeting of Directors or at any regular meeting or special meeting of Directors called for that purpose, provided written notice thereof has been given to each member of the Board at least fifteen days in advance of such meeting if other than the annual meeting of Directors. Unless otherwise specified at the time an amendment is adopted, all amendments to the By-Laws shall become effective immediately.

**Section 7: Dissolution**

The Association may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Members. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, whether voluntary or involuntary, or by operation of law, none of the property of the Association nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the Association shall be distributed to any members of the Association. After payment of the debts of the Association, its property and assets shall be donated to a

charitable organization selected by the Board and/or the general membership for the benefit of horses.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **CHAPTER TWO**

#### **RECOGNIZED SHOWS**

##### **Section 1: Approval and Ratings of Shows**

###### **A. Applicability of USEF Rules**

1. The Association and its members shall generally be governed by the current rules of United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) insofar as classifications, specifications of performance and judging, and eligibility and qualifications for the showing of hunters and jumpers unless the same are in conflict with, or differ from, the current rules and regulations of the Texas Hunter and Jumper Association. The term “show” as used in these Rules includes any organized competitive equestrian activity that THJA has declared to be recognized for the purpose of including the results of the performances at that activity in determining the recipients of its annual awards. The term “Show” (capitalized) as used in these Rules means show manager and/or management company and/or authorized agent responsible for compliance with these Rules.

2. The rules applicable to all shows recognized by the Texas Hunter and Jumper Association shall be the current rules of the USEF.

3. THE CREDITING OF POINTS OR MONEY TOWARD THJA ANNUAL AWARDS SHALL IN ALL CASES BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT RULES OF THJA.

###### **B. Recognition of Shows**

1. APPLICATION. Any Show wishing to be recognized by the Texas Hunter and Jumper Association must make a complete, written application, by private courier or delivery service or by USPS Priority Mail, to the Association Treasurer unless another officer or person has been designated by Secretary of the Association on the Association’s website. Incomplete applications will not be considered. It is the Show’s responsibility to determine from the Treasurer or other designated person whether its application is complete.

2. The minimum number of classes required for a show to be recognized by the Texas Hunter and Jumper Association are:

a. A show may be recognized if it offers at least four (4) unlimited classes in any one division in which an annual THJA championship is offered.

b. A show may be recognized if it offers at least six unlimited classes in two divisions of three classes each in which an annual THJA championship is offered.

###### **C. Applications for Shows.**



1. The following shall apply to applications for shows requesting recognition by THJA.
2. Applications must be postmarked at least 60 days prior to the show date. If a complete application is not delivered or postmarked at least 60 days prior to the show date, the Show shall be required to pay an additional \$150 late fee in addition to the required one show day's recognition fee.
3. The holding of a THJA recognized show in a previous year at which THJA "A" rated divisions were offered does not guarantee that the show's application will be accepted for THJA "A" rated divisions in the next, or any subsequent, year.
4. The Board of Directors shall determine which applications are accepted from among the complete applications received based on the following criteria:
  - a. geographic diversity within the state of Texas;
  - b. number of horses at the show when it was previously held;
  - c. number of THJA "A" rated divisions proposed;
  - d. judges under contract to officiate at the proposed show;
  - e. accuracy of prize list for previous shows held;
  - f. most recent comments from exhibitors to Show Standards Committee concerning previous years' shows held, including compliance with THJA Rules, class scheduling and competence of show management; and
  - g. venue criteria, such as the number and condition of rings proposed to be used, show length proposed, rideability and safety of courses used at previous shows held, and attention to footing at prior shows held.
5. Complete applications which are timely delivered or postmarked shall be considered and acted upon by the Board of Directors at either the Rules Meeting or at the Annual meeting of the Directors. If a complete application for an "A" rated show to be held during the months of December through May has been delivered or postmarked by May 15 of the preceding year, the Treasurer will notify that Show in writing the status of recognition no later than August 15 of the year in which application was made. If an application for an "A" rated show to be held during the months of June through November has been delivered or postmarked by May 15 of the preceding year, the Treasurer will notify that Show in writing of the status of recognition no later than January 30 of the year in which the show will be held.
6. If said Show does not wish to have THJA recognition, it must give the Treasurer 90 day's prior written notice of cancellation in order to be entitled to 100% of its submitted recognition fees.

D. "B" or "C" Rated Shows

1. The following shall apply only to applications for shows proposing to offer only "B" or "C" rated divisions.

2. The complete application must be received by the Association at least 60 days prior to the planned show. If two or more applications are made for the same dates, the application received first will be considered first; provided that the weekend corresponding to the last recognized date of an older established show will not be awarded to another show without prior notice to the senior show.

3. In the event of conflicting applications, the Executive Committee shall decide the awarding of show dates of shows offering only “B” or “C” rated divisions.

#### E. Distance Requirements Between Shows

THJA adopts the minimum distances between recognized shows applicable to USEF recognized shows under USEF Rule GR314 and the decisions of USEF under Rule GR315.

#### F. Recognition Fees

##### 1. Fees

A-rated shows- \$125 per show day

B-rated shows- \$75 per show day

C-rated shows- \$50 per show day

2. Each Show must submit the amount of one show day’s recognition fee with its application for THJA recognition. Failure to submit this fee automatically renders the application incomplete. The balance of the recognition fees must be paid by the fifth (5th) day following the last day of the show. THJA will not send a bill or other notice of obligation for the remainder of the show fees. Any Show that fails to timely pay the balance of the recognition fees will be fined \$250, which shall be due and payable by the Show upon demand by the Association.

3. Every Show must state the THJA ratings of each division offered in its application for a THJA rating.

4. A fine of \$250 will be assessed any Show which, without a reason acceptable to the Executive Committee, fails to give 90 days’ prior written notice of cancellation and further show dates will not be awarded until the fine has been paid.

5. The Treasurer will notify in writing, within 15 days of an inquiry, the status of the completeness of an application and the recognition of the show for which a complete application was made.

6. All approved shows and their ratings will be posted on the THJA website.

## **Section 2: Rating of Division or Section.**

### A. Ratings of Shows.

Unless the Executive Committee permits a lower USEF rating under the conditions stated below in this rule, the THJA recognition and rating of a show shall be the same as the USEF rating obtained by that show. The Executive Committee may also grant THJA "AA," "A" or "B" recognition and rating to a show under the following circumstances: (a) the sole reason the show cannot obtain the USEF recognition and rating is because its proximity to an existing USEF recognized show prevents obtaining that USEF recognition and rating; (b) the existing USEF show is not recognized and rated by THJA; (c) the show obtains the highest USEF recognition and rating possible under USEF rules, but as a minimum, the show must be recognized and rated "C" by USEF; (d) the show management certifies to THJA that no one has or will be permitted to have any financial interest in, or any responsibility for, both shows; (e) the Show agrees with THJA in writing to comply with any special rules or limitations that the Executive Committee may impose as a condition to granting such recognition and rating; and (f) the Executive Committee finds that the recognition and rating of the show will be in the best interests of THJA members in general.

**B. Ratings of Division or Section.**

The THJA ratings for each division and section shall be the same rating for that division or section as applicable under USEF Rules. If a division or section at a THJA recognized show does not have a rating from USEF, then THJA annual award ratings at that show for the sections of Children's and Adult Amateur Hunter divisions, for Children's Hunter Pony divisions, for Low Adult Hunter, Low Children's Hunter and for Children's and Adult Amateur Jumper divisions or sections will be determined according to the following: The Children's Hunter and Children's Low Hunter will be rated like the Junior Hunter division; the Adult Amateur Hunter and Low Adult Hunter like the Amateur Owner Hunter division; the Children's Hunter Pony divisions like the Hunter Pony divisions; and the Children's Jumper and the Adult Amateur Jumper according to USEF Rule GR 1133.2.

**Section 3: Prize List**

**A. Submission of Prize Lists.**

Each show's authorized representative must submit a complete, correct draft of its prize list to the Prize List Review Committee of THJA at least 8 weeks prior to the date or dates reserved.

1. Submission may be made by facsimile or email transmission if the actual receipt of the transmission is confirmed by the Prize List Review Committee, or by private courier or delivery service if a return receipt is requested and obtained from the courier or delivery service, or by USPS Priority Mail, return receipt requested.

2. If the submission is made by private courier or delivery Service or by USPS Priority Mail, the show must send three (3) copies of the draft.

3. Within 2 weeks following receipt of the draft prize list, the Prize List Review Committee appointed by the President shall review and notify the show in writing one of the following, as applicable: (a) its approval of the draft for publication; or (b) of the revisions required by THJA rules to be made before publication; or (c) if the draft prize list contains more than five (5)

substantive errors, the draft prize list shall not be deemed complete and the Prize List Review Committee shall notify the Show that its draft prize list is incomplete and unless it resubmits a corrected prize list within the time allowed for the original filing of the draft prize list, any resubmission shall be untimely and subject to the fine for late filing and until a corrected prize list is submitted and approved by the Prize List Review Committee, the show shall have no THJA recognition.

4. If the revisions are not made before publication, then a fine of \$100 per uncorrected item may be levied by the Executive Committee against the Show.

5. If the draft prize list is late in being submitted to the Prize List Review Committee, the Show will incur a fine of \$50 per day that the draft is late, not to exceed \$500.

6. Mailing, delivery and email addresses and the facsimile number for the Prize List Review Committee may be obtained from the THJA website or the Treasurer.

**B. Additional Submission Required by New Show.**

A show, which has not previously been granted recognition by THJA, must have its draft prize list submitted by its authorized representative at the same time that it applies for recognition.

**C. Submission upon Publication Required.**

EVERY Show is required to file a copy of its completed prize list with the Secretary and the Prize List Review Committee, by Priority Mail, immediately upon publication (See Paragraph E of this Section). A fine of \$75 will be assessed on all horse show managers who do not submit a hard copy of the show's completed prize list to the THJA Secretary and the Prize List Review Committee when published to the Members.

**D. Required Publication of Recognition.**

After recognition is approved, the Show must print in its prize list the words "T.H.J.A. Recognized Show," an unaltered copy of the THJA membership and horse registration forms as supplied by THJA in a size that is useable and proportionate to the page size of the prize list, and in bold type the following statement:

**ONLY THJA MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO HAVE THE POINTS, WHICH ARE AWARDED FOR THEIR ENTRY'S PERFORMANCE AT COMPETITIONS RECOGNIZED BY THJA, RECORDED AND COUNTED TOWARD ANY ANNUAL AWARD OFFERED BY THJA.**

**E. Deadline for Publication of Prize List.**

The prize list and description of courses must go out to the exhibitors at least 3 weeks in advance of the dates of the show if sent by First Class Mail or 4 weeks if sent in any other manner. Exceptions may be granted by the Executive Committee only.

**F. Executive Committee May Refuse Recognition.**

Recognition of a show may be refused when in the opinion of a majority of the Executive Committee such refusal would be in the best interest of the Association, the sport in general or fair competition. In the event of conflict, this sub-section shall prevail over all other provisions of this section.

G. Open Show Required.

Entry must be open to all and not limited to any particular group, and the show must, by sending out a prize list or by other effective means, make known to prospective exhibitors that it is an open show. The term “open show” excludes intra-stable, invitational, and other limited and handicapped competitions.

**Section 4: Show Personnel**

A. Judges

1. Every judge employed in a THJA recognized show must be in possession of a valid USEF judge’s license for the division(s) to be judged. Guest judges are not considered licensed judges for any purpose.

2. [Intentionally Left Blank]

3. No judge may officiate more than 3 times during the show year in hunter and/or equitation classes at shows offering “A” rated divisions. No judge may officiate more than three (3) times during the show year in hunter and/or equitation classes at shows offering “B” rated divisions. A minimum of 30 days must elapse between judging assignments. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Executive Committee in cases of emergency.

4. No judge may officiate more than twice during the show year in hunter and/or equitation classes at shows which offer “C” rated divisions and are held within a 50 mile radius of one another.

B. Show Manager

1. At shows offering any “A” rated divisions, the Show Manager or a designated management representative named in the Prize List, must function as Operations Supervisor, remain easily accessible to the ring(s) and warm-up area(s) during competition hours, have no duties which would interfere with the efficient supervision of show operations, and be authorized to make promptly any decision necessary to the safe, fair, and efficient conduct of the show.

2. Shows offering “B” rated divisions are strongly urged, though not required, to comply with this rule.

C. Show Secretary

The Show Secretary’s responsibilities include:

1. Receiving the show’s entry forms, mailing out additional prize lists when requested, and any other duties as negotiated with the show manager.

2. At the show, receiving and assuring the completion of entry forms, issuing numbers, compiling appropriate show results, acting as the stable manager, when requested, maintaining lists for feed and bedding, etc.

3. Within 5 days following the completion of a horse show, the Show Secretary shall forward by U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail or by electronic mail transmission if the actual receipt of the transmission is confirmed by the addressee, to the THJA Secretary or the designee of the THJA Secretary provided to the Show Secretary prior to the conclusion of that show, the complete results of the show as certified correct by two (2) officials at the show. Show results must be typewritten or computer-printable and contain the following information:

- a. A list by entry number of all horses, owners, and riders participating at each show;
- b. The names and THJA registration or membership numbers of all horses, owners, and riders placing in each class of every division eligible for THJA Annual Awards;
- c. The places won in each hunter, including hunter breeding, and equitation class;
- d. The places won and money awards given in each jumper class;
- e. All championship and reserve championship awards;
- f. The show year of each of the top six (6) horses placing in any Green Hunter class;
- g. The size of each of the top six (6) horses placing in any Junior Hunter class;
- h. The status (Junior, Amateur Owner, or Adult Amateur) of each of the top six (6) riders placing in any combined Junior/Amateur Owner Jumper or Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper class;
- i. The age of each of the top six (6) riders placing in any combined Amateur Owner Hunter, Children's Hunter, or Adult Amateur Hunter class;
- j. A copy of all USHJA National and International Derby Declarations; and
- k. If any hunter division has been split using the method described in USEF Rule GR 823 or Subchapter HU-2, then such results shall be submitted as two (2) separate sections denoting a champion and reserve champion for each section and if such results are not submitted in such manner, they will be returned to show management for correction.

4. A fine of \$100 will be assessed any Show which fails to send official results timely and in the manner required by these Rules and dates for the following year shall not be awarded until the results are sent and any penalty assessed has been paid. Incorrectly filed or illegible show results will not be posted to THJA records, but will be returned to the show for proper filing. A list of shows submitting results incorrectly will be published to the membership.

D. Course Designer

The Course Designer's responsibilities include:

1. directing and supervising the ring or jump crew, and must be able to communicate promptly with them at all times during competition hours.
2. At shows offering “A” rated divisions, the Course Designer may not have any conflicting responsibilities. He may not also serve as Announcer, Paddock Master, Operations Supervisor, or in any capacity in the show office.
3. At shows offering only “B” or “C” rated divisions, the Course Designer may also serve as Operations Supervisor.
4. A Course Designer may not officiate as a judge unless his judging and course design responsibilities are limited to the same ring at all times.

E. Jump Crew

1. At shows offering “A” rated divisions, the ring or jump crew must be composed of at least 6 persons, if three rings are used. If 2 rings are used, it must be composed of at least 5 persons. At shows using two rings and with fewer than 125 horses entered, the ring or jump crew must be composed of at least 4 persons.
2. Each member of the crew must be physically able to perform the work required and capable of communicating with and understanding the directions of the Course Designer. Members of the ring or jump crew cannot also serve as Paddock Masters or Announcers.

F. Paddock Master

1. Every show must have at least one Paddock Master for each ring in which classes are held.
2. A Paddock Master’s duties include keeping exhibitors in the paddock and warm-up areas advised of the jump order by making regular calls of the next 5 to 8 entries scheduled to compete and informing the Announcer of the progress and approaching conclusion of each class.
3. At shows offering “A” or “B” rated divisions, each Paddock Master must have no conflicting responsibilities during competition hours while serving as Paddock Master and must be available at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled class of the day to confer with other Paddock Masters, exhibitors, and trainers in order to resolve scheduling conflicts.
4. A Paddock Master may not also serve as a member of the jump crew or as an award presenter.

G. Stable Manager

1. Any show which offers overnight stabling must appoint a Stable Manager whose responsibilities include assigning stalls and providing information on the manner of obtaining bedding and feed at the show grounds.
2. The name, address, and telephone number of the Stable Manager must be printed in the prize list and posted at the show office.

3. The Stable Manager must be readily available during periods of time when significant numbers of horses may reasonably be expected to arrive.

H. Steward/Ring Committee

1. Show management shall appoint a qualified Steward and/or a Ring Committee composed of three (3) senior members of THJA who have been members of THJA for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the show.

2. The duties of the Ring Committee and/or USEF Steward shall be the receiving of complaints, and any other duties required of a Ring (Show) Committee and/or Stewards under USEF and THJA Rules.

3. Members of the THJA Executive Committee, persons with a primary financial interest in the show, show management or family members of show management may not serve either as Stewards or as members of the Ring Committee.

4. The Ring Committee or Steward's decision may be appealed to the THJA Executive Committee.

**Section 5: Conduct of Recognized Shows**

A. Multiple Ring Operation.

A Show, which operates more than one ring, must:

1. designate a Priority Ring
2. post the jumping order for the class at least 30 minutes prior to each class
3. notify exhibitors that the one- minute rule will be enforced in the Priority Ring. Riders may be permitted to compete out of order in accordance with USEF Hunter and Jumper rules.

B. Requirements for "A" and "B" Shows

1. Shows offering "A" or "B" rated divisions must offer a trophy and at least 8 ribbons for each class, rated or unrated in all hunter and equitation divisions.
2. At shows offering "A" or "B" rated divisions, awards for each class in each rated hunter division must be presented in the ring by someone other than the Paddock Master, and the names of the horses, owners, and riders shall be announced.

C. Maximum Show Length; Penalty for Violation

A penalty of \$500 per hour, or part thereof, shall be assessed against the management of any show which is not concluded by 6:30 p.m. on Sunday; exceptions granted only in cases in which the Executive Committee determines that the timely conclusion of the show was prevented by force majeure, recovery from which was not reasonably possible.

D. School Rule



No Junior shall be required to perform before 6:00 p.m. on a school day in classes where year-end points are tabulated by THJA for Junior exhibitors only.

**E. Publication of Infractions.**

All infractions of the Rules and By-Laws of the Association by members and recognized shows , and the results of any enforcement action with respect thereto, shall be published to the membership on the THJA website.

**F. Special Regulations/Definitions.**

1. Age. For horse show purposes, the age of an individual is determined in accordance with USEF Rules GR103. To participate as a junior exhibitor, an individual's age is determined by the provisions of USEF Rules GR128.

2. Non-Professional. A non-professional rider is a person who has the status of an amateur under the current USEF Rules.

3. Complaints. In shows recognized by both USEF and THJA, the USEF complaint procedure shall be followed and the results of that procedure shall govern except in matters involving THJA points or a THJA rule that differs from the USEF rule concerned. Complaints involving only THJA points or a differing THJA rule shall be referred to the THJA Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **HUNTERS**

#### **Section 1: Open Hunter Division**

**A. Open Hunter Sections:**

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards two separate sections for the Open Hunter Division: Performance Hunter 3'6" and Performance Hunter Section 3'3". Points shall be scored according to USEF Rules applicable to these sections.

B. THJA follows the current USEF Rules in Chapter HU of the USEF Rule Book pertaining to eligibility, specifications and cross entry.

#### **Section 2: Green Hunter**

**A. Green Hunter Sections:**

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards four separate sections for the Green Hunter Division: Green Hunter 3'0"; Green Hunter 3'3"; Green Hunter 3'6" and Green Hunter 3'9".

B. THJA adopts in their entirety the current USEF rules defining Green Hunters with the addition that participation and money won in shows recognized by THJA or other USEF

affiliated organizations shall have the same effect on a horse's green status as USEF or Canadian recognized shows.

### **Section 3: Junior Hunter Division**

#### **A. Junior Hunter Sections:**

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards four separate sections for the Junior Hunter Division: Junior Hunter Small 3'3"; Junior Hunter Small 3'6"; Junior Hunter Large 3'3"; Junior Hunter Large 3'6".

B. TJHA follows the eligibility, specifications and other rules of USEF pertaining to Junior Hunter (See USEF Rules applicable to Junior Hunters in Chapter HU of the current USEF Rule Book.)

### **Section 4: Amateur Owner Hunter Division**

#### **A. Amateur Owner Hunter Sections:**

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards four separate sections of Amateur Owner Hunters: Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 18-35, Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 36 and older; Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" 18-35 and Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" 36 and older.

B. THJA adopts in their entirety the current USEF rules defining an Amateur Owner Hunter entry, and its specifications for the Amateur Owner division (see USEF Rules applicable to Amateur Owner Hunters in Chapter HU of the current USEF Rule Book).

#### **C. Cross Entry.**

The cross-entry limitations adopted by Zone 7 shall apply.

### **Section 5: Pony Hunter Division and Green Pony Hunter Divisions**

#### **A. Pony Hunter Sections**

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards three sections of Pony Hunters in the Pony Hunter Division: Small Pony Hunter, Medium Pony Hunter and Large Pony Hunter.

2. Eligibility. THJA follows the eligibility requirements of USEF for the Pony Hunter Division.

3. Points Toward Annual Awards.

Points shall be scored according to USEF Rules. If a recognized show offers a Pony Hunter section combining ponies of different sizes, ribbon winners will receive THJA points in the section in which they normally compete according to the size of the pony.

4. Pony Hunter Fence Heights/Spreads/Distances

THJA follows the USEF specifications for Pony Hunters.

#### **B. Green Pony Hunter Section**

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards one section of Green Pony Hunters: Green Pony Hunter. (Small, Medium and Large Green Pony Hunters are combined for Annual Award purposes.)
2. Eligibility. THJA adopts in their entirety the current USEF Rules defining a Green Pony Hunter.
3. Points Toward Annual Awards.

Points shall be scored according to USEF Rules.

4. Green Pony Hunter Fence Heights/Spreads/Distances

THJA follows the USEF specifications for Green Pony Hunters.

## **Section 6: Children's Hunter and Low Children's Hunter Divisions**

### **A. Children's Hunter Sections:**

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards four separate sections of the Children's Hunter Division: Children's Hunter 14 and Under (fences 3'0"), Children's Hunter 15-17 (fences 3'0"), Children's Hunter Pony Small/Medium (fences 2'0" and 2'3" respectively) (which are combined for Annual Award purposes), and Children's Hunter Pony Large (fences 2'6").

2. Eligibility.

For Children's Hunter Division (excluding the Children's Hunter Pony sections), THJA follows the eligibility, specifications and cross entry rules of the USEF, as modified by the current rules of Zone 7 for Children's Hunter.

For Children's Hunter Pony Division, THJA follows the eligibility, specifications and cross entry rules of the USEF, as modified by the current rules of Zone 7 for Children's Hunter Pony.

### **B. Low Children's Hunter**

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards two separate sections of Low Children's Hunter Division: Low Children's Hunter 14 and under and Low Children's Hunter 15-17. No further division of this section will be made for Annual Award purposes because of the age of the exhibitor or the size of the horse exhibited.
2. Eligibility. Open to exhibitors that have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.
3. Cross Entry. The same horse or pony and rider combination may not compete at the same competition in any class recognized by THJA for annual awards. The rider may compete on a different horse or pony at the same show in any other division or section for which the rider is eligible. The horse or pony may be shown by a different rider in any other division or section at the same show for which the horse or pony is eligible.
4. Judging. To be judged on performance and soundness, suitability to count.

5. Fences and Distances: 2'6" with spreads not to exceed 2'6." Distances will not be adjusted for ponies.

6. Combining/Dividing Sections. THJA follows the same rules for combining and dividing Low Children's Hunter that are applicable under the current USHJA Zone 7 specifications for the Children's Hunter division.

7. Jog. Horses and ponies are not required to jog for soundness.

C. Points Toward THJA Annual Awards.

Points toward annual awards shall be as provided in these Rules and the following rating classifications:

1. Children's Hunter – Same classification as Junior Hunter.

2. Low Children's Hunter – Same classification as Junior Hunter.

### **Section 7: Adult Amateur Hunter and Low Adult Amateur Hunter Divisions.**

A. Adult Amateur Hunter Sections:

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards three separate age sections for the Adult Amateur Hunter Division: Adult Amateur Hunter 18-35, Adult Amateur Hunter 36-49 and Adult Amateur Hunter 50 and older (fences 3'0").

2. THJA follows the eligibility, specifications and cross entry rules of the USEF, as modified by the current rules of Zone 7.

B. Low Adult Amateur Hunter Division:

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards two separate sections of Low Adult Amateur Hunter Division: Low Adult Amateur 18-35 and Low Adult Amateur Hunter 36 and over. No further division of this section will be made for Annual Award purposes because of the age of the exhibitor.

2. Eligibility. Open to exhibitors mounted on horses only who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year and who hold a current USEF Amateur certification.

3. Cross Entry. The same horse and rider combination may not compete at the same competition in any class recognized by THJA for annual awards. The rider may compete on a different horse at the same show in any other division or section for which the rider is eligible. The horse may be shown by a different rider in any other division or section at the same show for which the horse is eligible.

4. Judging. To be judged on performance and soundness, suitability to count.

5. Fences: 2'6" with spreads not to exceed 2'6."

6. Combining/Dividing Sections. THJA follows the same rules for combining and dividing Low Adult Hunter that are applicable under the current USHJA Zone 7 specifications for the Adult Amateur Hunter division.

7. Jog. Horses are not required to jog for soundness.

C. Points Toward THJA Annual Awards.

Points toward annual awards shall be as provided in these Rules and the following rating classifications.

1. Adult Amateur Hunter – Same classification as Amateur Owner Hunter.

2. Low Adult Amateur Hunter – Same classification as Amateur Owner Hunter.

### **Section 8: Opportunity Walk/Trot and Cross Rails**

THJA will offer special recognition at the Annual Awards banquet to those exhibitors who win five (5) or more blue ribbons in an Opportunity Walk/Trot Division Class or a Cross Rail Division Class with three (3) or more entries whether it be an equitation, horsemanship or hunter division. USEF Opportunity Rules apply.

### **Section 9: Short, Medium and Long Stirrup**

A. Short Stirrup is open to Junior exhibitors 12 years old and under in their first two (2) show seasons at USEF Regular Member shows, mounted on horses or ponies. Horse/Rider combinations may not cross enter into any other classes at the same horse show. Hunter fences 18” – 24”, no oxers.

B. Medium Stirrup is open to Junior exhibitors 13-17 years old in their first two (2) show seasons at USEF Regular Member shows, mounted on horses or ponies. Horse/Rider combinations may not cross enter into any other classes at the same horse show. Hunter fences 18” – 24”, no oxers.

C. Long Stirrup is open to Amateur exhibitors, mounted on horses or ponies. Horse/Rider combination may not cross enter into any other classes at the same horse show. Hunter fences 18” – 24”, no oxers.

### **Section 10: Hunter Breeding**

A. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards three sections in a single Hunter Breeding Division, which is open to horses only: Yearling, 2-Year-Old and 3-Year-Old.

B. Recognition of Classes.

Breeding classes for Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds, Three-Year-Olds, and Best Young Horse will be recognized.

C. Specifications of Classes.

Hunter Breeding classes must be offered as printed in the prize list. Classes may not be combined; however, if the number of entries warrant, they may be split in either or both of the following ways:

1. By breed: thoroughbred and non-thoroughbred;
  2. By sex: colts, geldings, (colts and geldings), and fillies.
- D. Selection of Judges.

A different judge must be used for each section. A Guest Judge may not officiate in any Hunter Breeding section.

- E. Judging of Entries.

Classes are to be judged on conformation, quality, substance, soundness, and suitability to become hunters. Entries are to be moved on the line and jogged.

- F. Qualification for Best Young Horse Class.

Horses placing first or second in their respective classes will be eligible to compete in the Best Young Horse class, which shall be held and judged as a separate class. Should any first or second place winner in a qualifying class not compete in the Best Young Horse class or be disqualified, the horse receiving the next highest place in the qualifying class shall become eligible to compete.

- G. Number of Classes.

No more than two Hunter Breeding sections may be offered at a single show; however, only one of those sections may count toward annual awards. A Hunter Breeding section includes all mutually exclusive classes offered for a single age group. The prize list must clearly state which Hunter Breeding section will count for THJA annual awards and which for USEF awards (which may be the same section).

- H. Recognition of Performance at Show.

Ribbons in all Hunter Breeding classes must be presented to the winners while in the ring. Horse show management shall announce the results of all Hunter Breeding classes and divisions publicly at the show. The public announcement shall include the dam and sire of each entry placing in a class or receiving a championship award at the show. The prize list for shows offering Hunter Breeding classes shall prominently draw attention to the need for this information.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **EQUITATION**

#### **Equitation Division**

Shows may offer equitation divisions with Champion and Reserve Champion and the THJA will award points through 6<sup>th</sup> place for such according to the Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Increment Chart found in the USEF Rule Book (See GR1131.13).

Each division must consist of a minimum of three classes (one equitation on the flat class and two equitation over fences classes) with a recommendation of four classes to receive Champion and Reserve points. Equitation classes shall be conducted over hunter-style jumps, with the exception of the 3'6" Junior Equitation 15 – 17, which can be conducted over hunter or jumper style jumps.

The following divisions will be offered:

3' Junior Equitation 14/U

3'6" Junior Equitation 15 -17

3' Adult Equitation

3' Children's Equitation

2'6" Low Adult Equitation

2'6" Low Children's Equitation

Pony Equitation (to be shown at the USEF pony heights – Small at 2'3", Medium at 2'6", and Large at 3'0". USEF age restrictions to apply.)

The 3' Junior Equitation 14/U and 3'6" Junior Equitation 15-17 may be combined, jumping their respective heights, if there are less than 3 riders in each division.

Division champions will be awarded 2.0 times the total 1<sup>st</sup> place point value. Section reserve champions will be awarded 1.2 times the total 1<sup>st</sup> place value.

Points for year end championships are accrued by all equitation flat and over fences classes of riders respective ages along with champion and reserve champion points.

### **THJA Medal Classes**

Open to Junior and Amateur members of THJA only. Shows may offer THJA Medal Classes and the THJA will award points through 6<sup>th</sup> place for such according to the Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Increment Chart found in the USEF Rule Book (See GR1131.13).

The THJA Medal may be conducted over hunter-style jumps, with the exception of the 3'6" Junior Medal which can be conducted over hunter or jumper style jumps. Combinations are not permitted in the THJA Mini Medal.

The following Medal classes may be offered:

THJA 3'6" Junior Medal 17/U

THJA 3'0" Children's Medal

THJA 3'0" Adult Medal

THJA 2'6" Children's Mini Medal

THJA 2'6" Adult Mini Medal

THJA Pony Medal (to be shown at the USEF pony heights – Small at 2'3", Medium at 2'6", and Large at 3'0". USEF age restrictions to apply.))

A minimum of three (3) riders must compete in order to hold a THJA Medal class. A minimum of two riders must complete the course in order for points to count.

The THJA 3' Children's Medal and the THJA 3' Adult Medal may be combined if there are less than three riders in either class.

The THJA 2'6" Children's Mini Medal and THJA 2'6" Adult Mini Medal may be combined if there are less than three (3) riders in either class.

Riders may only compete in one THJA Medal at each horse show. Ponies competing in the rated pony divisions for their respective heights may not compete in the THJA 2'6" Children's Mini Medal.

For each medal class, a minimum of 4 riders (if available) are required to perform a work-off consisting of at least two individual tests from USEF Tests 1 – 19.

### **THJA Medal Final Specifications**

The following Medal Finals may be offered:

THJA 3'6" Junior Medal 17/U Final

THJA 3'0" Children's Medal Final

THJA 3'0" Adult Medal Final

THJA 2'6" Children's Mini Medal Final

THJA 2'6" Adult Mini Medal Final

THJA Pony Medal Final (to be shown at the USEF pony heights – Small at 2'3", Medium at 2'6", and Large at 3'0". USEF age restrictions to apply.)

THJA members accrue points toward qualification to compete in the 2021 THJA Medal Finals in classes held at shows starting on or after December 1st of the previous year, through shows starting on or before August 14<sup>th</sup> of the current year. For all THJA Medal Finals after 2021, members will accrue points toward qualification in classes held at shows starting on or after August 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous year, through shows starting on or before August 14<sup>th</sup> of the current year.

- Points for the THJA 3'6" Junior Medal Final (all age groups) are accrued in the Junior Aged Equitation (Junior Equitation 15-17 and 14 and Under) Equitation Over Fences class(s), the THJA 3'6" Junior Medal class, and the WIHS Equitation Hunter Phase.
- Points for the THJA 3' Children's Medal Final (all age groups) are accrued in the Children's Equitation Over Fences class(s), the THJA 3'0" Children's Medal, and the Taylor Harris Children's Medal.



- Points for the THJA 3' Adult Medal Final are accrued in the Adult Equitation Over Fences class(s), the THJA 3'0" Adult Medal, and the Ariat Adult Medal.
- Points for the THJA 2'6" Children's Mini Medal Final will be accrued in the Low Children's Equitation Over Fences class(s) and the THJA 2'6" Children's Mini Medal.
- Points for the THJA 2'6" Adult Mini Medal Final will be accrued in the Low Adult Equitation Over Fences class(s) and the THJA 2'6" Adult Mini Medal.
- Points for the THJA Pony Medal Final are accrued in the Pony Equitation Over Fences class(s) and the Washington Pony Equitation. All sizes will be run as one final.

The twelve (12) riders with the most points accrued in each respective section count toward qualification to participate in the THJA Medal Finals. Should a rider decline to compete in the Medal Final, THJA may continue down the point list in reverse numerical order and invite additional riders until 12 riders have accepted the invitation for each final.

The THJA 3'0" Children's Medal Final and the THJA 3'0" Adult Medal Final may be combined if there are 3 riders or less in each final.

The THJA 2'6" Children's Mini Medal Final and the THJA 2'6" Adult Mini Medal Final may be combined if there are 3 riders or less in each final.

Riders may compete in only one height section of the THJA Medal Finals.

Awards will be given through 8th place, entries permitting. Every rider participating in a Final will receive a recognition award.

A minimum of four riders, if available, are required to perform a work off consisting of at least two individual tests from USEF Tests 1-19.

All courses to consist of at least 8 fences and be consistent with USEF course requirements described in rule EQ109 unless otherwise mentioned.

The THJA 3'6" Junior Medal finals may be held over hunter or jumper type obstacles. The THJA 3' Children's and Adult Medal Finals, 2'6" Mini Medal Finals, and Pony Medal Finals must be held over hunter type obstacles.

No combinations are permitted in the THJA Mini Medal Finals.

Riders are ineligible to compete in a THJA Medal Final at the same height or lower once they have won the THJA Medal Final, with the exception of the THJA Junior Medal 3'6" and the THJA Adult Medal 3' Finals.

No points are awarded from the Medal Final placings for any year end championship.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

## **JUMPERS**

### **Section 1: Classification of Jumpers.**

#### **A. General Adoption of USEF Rules.**

THJA adopts in their entirety the current USEF rules classifying jumpers with the addition that participation and money won in shows recognized by THJA or other USEF affiliated organizations shall have the same effect on a horse's jumper classification as USEF or Canadian recognized shows.

#### **B. Minimum Weight Requirement Waived.**

Classes using FEI rules may be held with the minimum weight requirement waived.

### **Section 2: Open Jumper.**

#### **A. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards a single Open Jumper Division.**

#### **B. Open to Adult and Junior riders mounted on horses.**

#### **C. Fence heights must be 1.3 meters or higher.**

#### **D. Placings are scored according to total prize money won.**

### **Section 3: Reserved for Future Expansion.**

### **Section 4: Junior & Amateur Jumper Divisions.**

#### **A. Exhibitor Qualifications.**

1. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards five sections in the Amateur Jumper Division based on fence heights: 1.00m/1.05m, 1.10m/1.15m, 1.20m/1.25m, 1.30m/1.35m, 1.40m/1.45m.

Classes in the Division are open to all Amateur jumper entries as determined by USEF rules.

2. THJA recognizes for Annual Awards five sections in the Junior Jumper Division based on fence heights 1.00m/1.05m, 1.10m/1.15m, 1.20m/1.25m, 1.30m/1.35m, 1.40m/1.45m. Classes in the Division are open to all Junior riders.

3. Points toward THJA Annual Awards shall be scored according to USEF Rules.

#### **B. Cross Entry/Fence Heights and Spreads/ Combining and Splitting Sections.**

THJA follows the rules of USEF Rule JP 118.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **REGISTRATION OF HORSES**

#### **Section 1: Application Procedure.**

#### **A. THJA Horse Registration Application.**

Registration is made by completing a “THJA Horse Registration Application” form and submitting it with the appropriate registration fee to the Association. Registration of a horse or pony is a registration of the horse or pony for its life; however, a change in name or in ownership of a horse or pony requires compliance with Section 2 below.

**B. THJA Horse Registration Fee.**

The fee to register a horse or pony with the Association is \$45.

**C. Sources for a Horse Registration Application Form.**

The application form to register a horse or pony with the Association may be obtained from:

1. The Association;
2. a current prize list published by a THJA recognized show;
3. at a THJA recognized show; and
4. on the THJA website at [www.thja.org](http://www.thja.org).

**D. Effective Time of Registration**

In order to receive points for a horse or pony, the horse or pony must be registered and the appropriate fees must be paid before the end of the horse show or at the horse show.

Registrations submitted at a THJA recognized horse show are considered effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of a horse show if (1) during that competition a completed registration form and the appropriate fees are received by the competition’s show secretary and (2) the completed registration form and appropriate amount of dues are delivered by the show secretary to the Association as a part of the official results. The postmark determines the date of registration, if the completed registration form and appropriate fees are mailed to the Secretary of the Association. The time stamp assigned by the Association’s website determines the date of registration if the completed registration form and payment of the appropriate fees are submitted to the Association online.

A horse’s membership may be made retroactive to cover bad points earned at a THJA recognized show so long as all membership dues and horse registration fees are received by the THJA Secretary within ten (10) days of the Association sending notification of bad points earned.

**Section 2: Change of Name and Ownership**

**A. Change of Ownership or Name of Registered Horse or Pony.**

The Association must be notified in writing of any change in the ownership of the horse or if the owner decides to change the horse’s name. A horse registration application must be filed with, and the appropriate fee paid to, THJA. The fee for recording a name change is \$15.00 and the fee for recording a change in ownership of a registered horse or pony is \$30.00; provided that the first transfer of ownership of a registered horse or pony by the owner to either a lifetime farm member or an annual farm member of which the transferring owner is at least one of the partners, members, shareholders or other equity owners, shall be without charge.

**B. Leased Horses and Ponies.**

A THJA registered horse or pony that is leased to a member of THJA must be registered under the name of the lessee and the applicable fee paid to the Association in order for points awarded in classes that differentiate among horse/rider combinations to be counted toward an Annual Award for the lessee. The applicable fee is \$30.00. If registration of the horse or pony by the lessee has not occurred at the time of the performance, no THJA points for placings in classes will count for that horse/rider combination. For Annual Awards based on the horse/rider combination, the lessee is deemed to be the owner of the horse for the period of the lease. A copy of the lease signed by the owner and the lessee which contains a start and an ending date of the lease must be provided to the Association when registration with THJA is requested.

**Section 3: Points for Annual Awards**

**A. Benefit of Registering Horse or Pony.**

No points will be credited to a horse toward THJA Annual Awards unless the horse is registered. An unregistered horse may be shown in any show, but the points won by the horse will not be counted toward THJA annual awards. Points are recorded by the horse's THJA Registration Number.

**B. Owner's Obligations Regarding THJA Registration and USEF Recording of Horses and Ponies.**

In order to garner points toward THJA Annual Awards, a horse or pony must be registered with THJA with the same name/owner combination as recorded with the USEF, if the horse is recorded with USEF. It is the responsibility of the owner to ascertain whether the horse or pony is registered with THJA and/or recorded by USEF.

**CHAPTER SEVEN**

**CHAMPIONSHIPS AND ANNUAL AWARDS**

**Section 1: Awards Offered**

THJA offers annual championship and reserve championship trophies in the following divisions and sections:

**Open Hunter**

Performance Hunter 3'3"

Performance Hunter 3'6"

**Green Hunter**

Green Hunter 3'0"

Green Hunter 3'3"

Green Hunter 3'6"

Green Hunter 3'9"

**Junior Hunter**

Small Junior Hunter 3'3"

Large Junior Hunter 3'3"

Small Junior Hunter 3'6"

Large Junior Hunter 3'6"

**Amateur Owner Hunter**

Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 18-35

Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 36 & Over

Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" 18-35

Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" 36 & Over

**Pony Hunter & Green Pony Hunter**

Small Pony Hunter

Medium Pony Hunter

Large Pony Hunter

Green Pony Hunter

**Children's Hunter**

Children's Hunter 14 & Under

Children's Hunter 15-17

Children's Hunter Pony Small/Medium

Children's Hunter Pony Large

**Adult Amateur Hunter**

Adult Amateur 18-35

Adult Amateur 36-49

Adult Amateur 50 & Over

**Miscellaneous Hunter**

Low Children's Hunter 14 & Under

Low Children's Hunter 15-17

Low Adult Hunter 18-35

Low Adult Hunter 36 & Over

Hunter Breeding – Yearling

Hunter Breeding – Two-Year-Old

Hunter Breeding – Three-Year-Old

Short Stirrup Hunter

Medium Stirrup Hunter

Long Stirrup Hunter

Opportunity Walk/Trot (No trophies, special recognition awards only. See Chp. 3, Section 8.)

Opportunity Cross Rails (No trophies, special recognition awards only. See Chp. 3, Section 8.)

**Equitation**

Junior Equitation 3'6" 15-17

Junior Equitation 3' 14/U

Children's Equitation 3'0"

Adult Equitation 3'0"

Low Children's Equitation 2'6"

Low Adult Equitation 2'6"

Pony Equitation (Small 2'3", Medium 2'6", Large 2'9"-3'0"; USEF age restrictions apply)

## **Jumper**

Open Jumper

Adult Amateur Jumper 1.0m/1.05m

Adult Amateur Jumper 1.10m/1.15m

Adult Amateur Jumper 1.20m/1.25m

Adult Amateur Jumper 1.30m/1.35m

Adult Amateur Jumper 1.40m/1.45m

Junior Jumper 1.0m/1.05m

Junior Jumper 1.10m/1.15m

Junior Jumper 1.20m/1.25m

Junior Jumper 1.30m/1.35m

Junior Jumper 1.40m/1.45m

Pony Jumper

Special Recognition Awards:

Junior Sportsmanship Award

Adult Sportsmanship Award

Open to Junior and Amateur members who have been nominated because of exemplary sportsmanship. The awards will be voted on by the board of directors before the end of the show season and awarded at the annual THJA banquet. A nomination letter of no less than one paragraph needs to be received by the THJA secretary no later than October 1st.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Open to Amateur and Professional members who have been nominated because of their substantial contribution to the horse industry, both in Texas and nationally. The awards will be voted on by the board of directors before the end of the show season and awarded at the annual THJA banquet. The board of directors will nominate individuals for this award

## **Section 2: Rules for Determining Champions**

A. Points for Annual Awards.

Provided the Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the Texas Hunter and Jumper Association are complied with, the rules governing yearly championships and the awarding of championship trophies are:

1. Only points or money won in THJA recognized shows shall count.
2. Jumpers: In the Open Jumper Division, Annual Awards are based upon money winnings during the show year which are determined by the current USEF Rules. In the Adult Amateur Jumper and Junior Jumper Divisions, Annual Awards are based upon money winnings during the show year, determined under the current USEF Rules, in classes or divisions restricted to such entries. In all other divisions, awards are based upon points determined from the appropriate tables and rules of the current USEF Rule Book.

3. Hunters: In all divisions and sections of hunter classes, awards are based upon points determined from the appropriate tables and rules of the current USEF Rule Book.

4. Equitation: In all equitation classes, awards are based upon points determined from the Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Increment Chart found in the USEF Rule Book (See GR1131.13). Section champions will be awarded 2.0 times the total 1<sup>st</sup> place point value. Section reserve champions will be awarded 1.2 times the total 1<sup>st</sup> place value.

5. Hunter Breeding: In all Hunter Breeding classes, awards are based upon points determined from the appropriate tables and rules of the current USEF Rule Book. THJA annual championship and reserve championship awards shall be awarded to the two horses accumulating the greatest number of points in Yearling, Two-Year-Old and Three-Year-Old classes held during the show year. Recognition and awards will also be made in each of these classes for up to places three through six.

6. Bonus Points:

a. Bonus points are awarded to each placing through eight in a THJA Recognized Classic, a Junior/Amateur Owner, Pony, Children's and Adult Amateur and Low Children's/Adult Amateur Hunter Classic, a USHJA International Hunter Derby, and a USHJA National Hunter Derby.

b. The number of bonus points awarded for each placing is determined by USEF Rule HU173 for Classics, other than a USHJA International Hunter Derby or a USHJA National Hunter Derby, for which bonus points will be awarded according to USEF Rule HU166 (for USHJA International Hunter Derby) and USEF Rule HU167 (for USHJA National Hunter Derby).

c. Children's/Adult Amateur Hunter Classic – to qualify for bonus points, a Classic must meet the conditions required of a USEF Hunter Classic (USEF Rule HU 173), except as follows:

(1) No minimum prize money is required.

(2) The height of the first obstacle not to exceed 3'.

The height of all other obstacles not to exceed 3'3".

Spreads, water or ditches not to exceed 3'3".

d. In these Classics, only the bonus points listed in the USEF increment chart (HU 146) are awarded for placings. If a Classic is offered combining divisions and a horse is shown in more than one section qualifying for the Classic, the exhibitor must declare to the Show Secretary prior to the Classic to which division the bonus points are to be counted. If no declaration is made, no bonus points will be awarded. No points will be awarded for placings in a Children's/Adult Hunter Classic if the cross-entry rules of the Classic prohibit the rider from showing in classes for which he/she is otherwise eligible at the same show.

7. The THJA point-keeping year coincides with that of USEF.

**B. Minimum Classes Required for Annual Awards in Division/Section**

In order to qualify for annual championship awards, any division must have at least nine (9) classes offered, held, and judged during the point year.

**Section 3: Eligibility for Awards**

**A. Membership and Horse Registration Required.**

To be eligible for annual awards, a horse must be registered with this Association and its registered owner must be a member in good standing. No points will be credited before membership dues and horse registration fees have been received by the THJA Secretary. A horse or rider's membership may be made retroactive to cover bad points earned at a THJA recognized show so long as all membership dues and horse registration fees are received by the THJA Secretary within ten (10) days of the Association sending notification of bad points earned. For points to be counted, each exhibitor must make available to the Show Secretary the THJA registration and membership numbers of all horses, owners, and riders.

**B. Membership Year.**

The THJA membership year commences on December 1 of each year, dues become payable on that date, and memberships expire the following November 30.

**C. Minimum Performance Required.**

To be eligible for an annual award, a THJA registered horse must compete and place in the same division in at least three THJA recognized shows during the point year.

**D. Final Date for Determination of Annual Awards.**

The tabulation of points and the qualifications on the basis of which Annual Awards will be made shall be final as to all Divisions and other Annual Awards on December 15th for the show year ending November 30th preceding unless prior written appeal of the tabulation of points or qualifications for a specific Division or other Annual Award that states the specific grounds for the appeal.

**Section 4: Point Standings**

**A. Secretary to Maintain Records of Placings and Money Won.**

Certified papers shall be kept by the Association and shall constitute the sole basis for computing scores. The score of each member and registered horse shall be figured from these papers and shall be tabulated by an individual or firm knowledgeable in the current USEF Rule Book. The Association shall then verify these results as correct. Exhibitors are responsible for contacting THJA in the event of disagreement as to the points.

**B. Publication of Standings.**

To the extent feasible, running scores will be kept and the trophies will be awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet each year. Point and money standings are to be published on the THJA web



site [www.thja.org](http://www.thja.org). Final standings are to be published by the Association, as promptly as feasible following the end of the show year.

## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

### **AMENDMENTS**

#### **A. Amendment Process.**

These rules and regulations may be added to, altered, or amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of those present, provided written notice has been given to each Director at least 15 days in advance of such meeting. No amendment shall be made retroactive unless a specific motion to give the amendment such effect shall receive the affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the Directors.

#### **B. Effective Date of Amendments.**

Unless otherwise specified at the time an amendment is adopted, all amendments to the rules shall become effective December 1 of the current calendar year.

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