



# VIRGINIA HORSE SHOWS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## VHSA/EMO Medal Specifications for the Associate Program

### Sec. 7. VHSA Medal Classes

For now there is no restriction on having a licensed judge for the VHSA Medal Classes at Associate Shows.

- (a) Entries shall not have reached their 18th birthday. Shows are encouraged to offer adult equitation classes for riders who have reached their 18th birthday.
- (b) In equitation classes only the rider is being judged, therefore any horse suitable for a particular style of riding and capable of performing the required class routine is acceptable. Stallions are prohibited. In Hunter Seat classes, the fall of horse or rider shall eliminate a contender. If such fall (or three disobediences in a Hunter Seat competition) occurs during a ride-off, the rider shall be placed last of all those chosen for the ride-off. Any rider not having his mount under sufficient control shall be dismissed from the ring and shall be disqualified from that class. Riders must remain on the same mount throughout all phases of an equitation class until the judge requests a change.
- (c) Offering of money prizes in Equitation classes is forbidden.
- (d) To be eligible for Junior, Children's or Pony VHSA High Score Awards, VHSA Equitation Classes restricted to Junior riders, and VHSA Special Awards restricted to Junior riders, a Junior exhibitor may not receive remuneration for riding as a competitor in any classes at VHSA member shows. Remuneration for this purpose shall be defined as payment, directly or indirectly, of money or its equivalent for the service of riding in competition. This does not include reasonable reimbursement for documented expenses nor a reasonable gift (other than money or its equivalent).

### Sec. 8. Appointments.

- (a) **Personal.** Exhibitors and judges should bear in mind at all times entries are being judged on ability rather than on personal attire. Riders should wear conservative coats, breeches (or Jodhpurs), and boots. Protective, conservative colored head gear with no additional adornments is mandatory. Spurs, crops or bat optional. Judges may penalize riders not so attired.
- (b) **Tack.** Regulation snaffles, pelhams, full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are recommended. Martingales are optional in classes over jumps. They are prohibited in classes not to jump. Any change of equipment during a class and non-conventional tack or equipment may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Boots and conservative colored bandages are permitted.

### Sec. 9. Class Routine.

- (a) **Over Jumps.** The performance begins when the horse enters the ring or is given the signal to proceed after entering the ring. Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the result of the rider's ability. A refusal is considered a major fault and three refusals, cumulative will eliminate. If a refusal occurs in a double or triple, riders shall rejump all elements of the combination. Any or all rider may be called back to perform at a walk, trot and canter, or to execute any appropriate test required by the judge, according to class requirements. The following constitute major faults and may be cause for elimination: (1) a refusal; (2) loss of stirrup; (3) trotting while on course when not part of test; (4) loss of reins. Classes shall be held over reasonable jumps. Types shall be left to the discretion of management. In Maiden, Novice, Limit and classes for under 14 years, jumps shall not exceed 3', wings at least 30" wide are compulsory. In Intermediate jumps shall not exceed 3'3". Open, Medal and classes for 14 to 18 years, jumps shall not exceed 3'6", wings are optional. A change of lead and a combination is required in Limit and Open classes. Combinations are prohibited in classes restricted to Juniors 12 years old and under unless required in specific association's classes.
- (b) **Not to Jump.** Rider shall enter ring, and shall proceed at least once around ring at each gait, and on command, reverse and repeat. The order to reverse may be executed by turning either towards or away from the rail. Light contact with horse's mouth is required. Any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate tests required by the judge. All tests used must be on the flat. Riders may be asked to work collectively without stirrups in 14 and Over and Open classes.

## **Sec. 10. Class Specifications.**

**(a) VHSA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP EQUITATION ON THE FLAT CLASS.** Open to Junior members of the VHSA, who have not reached their 18th birthday, mounted on horses. Rider must be a member of the VHSA before the class. All riders must show all working gaits (walk, trot, and canter) in both directions as well as lengthening of stride at all working gaits in each direction. The sitting trot should be a working sitting trot. The counter canter in both directions is required and no more than 12 riders may counter canter at one time. The judge may request additional tests on the flat as a group or individually. Martingales are prohibited. Qualifying points for finals awarded on the same basis as for the VHSA Hunter Seat Medal Over Fences. There must be at least three (3) exhibitors to fill the class and three (3) exhibitors must complete the class in order for that particular class to count. Six Ribbons. This Medal can be combined with the VHSA Amateur Equitation on the Flat Medal Class and can also be combined with the MHSA Junior Equitation on the Flat Medal Class. In the Finals, same testing applies.

**(b) VHSA PONY EQUITATION MEDAL CLASS.** Open to Junior Members of the VHSA who have not reached their 18th birthday. Rider must be a member of VHSA prior to entry in the class. To be ridden on ponies over a course of not less than 6 obstacles; 2'3" for ponies not exceeding 12.2 hands, 2'6" for ponies over 12.2 hands and not exceeding 13.2 hands, and ponies over 13.2 hands not exceeding 14.2 hands jump 2'9" - 3'. Jumping faults of mount not to count. Fall of pony or rider or three disobediences shall eliminate a contender. Entrants in this class may not compete in the VHSA Hunter Seat Medal Class at the same show. There must be at least three (3) exhibitors to fill the class and three (3) exhibitors must complete the course in order for that particular class to count. Six Ribbons. The VHSA Pony Medal may run concurrently with the small, medium and large pony division, and may be combined with the MHSA Pony Medal Class. Test must be included in the original course. At the Finals, the judge must test at least the top 4 over fences.

**(c) VHSA PONY EQUITATION ON THE FLAT.** Open to junior members of the VHSA, who have not reached their 18th birthday, mounted on ponies. Rider must be a member of the VHSA prior to entry in the class. Riders must show all working gates (walk, trot and canter), sitting trot, as well as a lengthening of stride in at least one gait in each direction. The judge may request additional tests on the flat as a group or individually. Martingales are prohibited. There must be at least (3) exhibitors to fill the class. Six ribbons. This Medal cannot be combined with any other VHSA Medal or any other Division/Class.

**(d) VHSA CHILDREN'S PONY MEDAL CLASS.** Open to junior members of the VHSA who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. Testing must be included in the course. Open to ponies only. Small and medium ponies to jump 2'0. Large ponies to jump 2'6". Riders may not compete in any class where the fence height exceeds 2'6" at the same show. There will be no additional test for this class. The VHSA Children's Pony Medal may run concurrently with the small, medium and large children's pony division, and may be combined with the MHSA Children's Pony Medal Class. There must be at least (3) exhibitors to fill the class. Six ribbons. In the Finals, the judge must test at least the top 4 over fences. The top 20 point earners qualify for the finals to be held at The Warrenton Pony Show.

**(e) VHSA CHILDREN'S MEDAL CLASS.** Open to Junior members of VHSA who have not reached their 18th birthday. Riders may not compete in any class where the fence height exceeds 3 feet, 3 inches (1.0m) with the exception of the Childrens/Adult Jumper division, at the same show, where a rider may not jump higher than 3'9" (1.15m). Rider must be a member of VHSA prior to entry in the class according to Article II, 3. Open to horses only. To be shown over a course of not less than six (6) obstacles at three (3) feet, which must include one combination and two changes of direction. All VHSA Medal Class courses must have at least two of the following inside the course: a roll back turn, a broken or bending line, an end jump, a narrow jump, or a long ride to a single jump. This also applies to the show hosting the VHSA Adult/Children's Hunter Medal Finals. The judge must call back at least four exhibitors for further testing over fences. Fall of horse or rider or three disobediences shall eliminate a contender. There must be at least three (3) exhibitors to fill the class and three (3) exhibitors must complete the course in order for that particular class to count. Six Ribbons. This Medal can be combined with the VHSA Adult Medal. In the Finals, same testing applies.

**(f) VHSA ADULT AMATEUR MEDAL CLASS.** Open to horses only. Rider must be a member of VHSA prior to entry in the class according to Article II, 3. and must hold a current amateur card issued by USEF. To be shown over a course of not less than six (6) obstacles at three (3) feet, which must include one combination and two changes of direction. All VHSA Medal Class courses must have at least two of the following inside the course: a roll back turn, a broken or bending line, an end jump, a narrow jump, or a long ride to a single jump. Riders may not compete in any class where the fence height exceeds 3 feet, 3 inches (1.0m) with the exception of the Childrens/Adult Jumper division, at the same show, where a rider may not jump higher than 3'9" (1.15m). This also applies to the show hosting the VHSA

Adult/Children's Hunter Medal Finals. The judge must call back at least four exhibitors for further testing over fences.. Jumping faults of mount not to count. Fall of horse or rider or three disobediences shall eliminate a contender. There must be at least three (3) exhibitors to fill the class and three (3) exhibitors must complete the course in order for that particular class to count. Six Ribbons. This Class can be combined with the VHSA Children's Medal. In the Finals, same testing applies.

**(g) AMATEUR EQUITATION ON THE FLAT.** Open to all amateur members of the VHSA mounted on horses. Rider must be a member of the VHSA prior to entry in the class. Riders must show all working gates (walk, trot and canter), sitting trot, as well as a lengthening of stride in at least one gait in each direction. The counter canter in both directions is optional and no more than 12 riders may counter canter at one time. The judge may request additional tests on the flat as a group or individually. Martingales are prohibited. There must be at least (3) exhibitors to fill the class. Six ribbons. This Medal can be combined with the VHSA Junior Championship on the Flat Medal Class and can also be combined with the MHSA Amateur Equitation on the Flat Medal Class. In the Finals, same testing applies.

**Sec. 11. Tests from which Judges Must Choose.** No other tests may be used. Tests may be performed either collectively or individually. Instructions must be publicly announced.

- (1) Work collectively at a walk, trot or canter.
- (2) Jump obstacles on figure eight course.
- (3) Jump low fences at a trot as well as at a canter. The maximum height and spread for a trotting fence is 3' for horses and 2' for ponies.
- (4) Figure eight at canter on correct lead, demonstrating simple change of lead. (This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk or trot and restarted into a canter on the opposite lead.)  
Figures to be commenced in the center of two circles so that one change of lead is shown.
- (5) Counter canter a jump
- (6) Ride without stirrups, irons may be crossed.
- (7) Change leads on a line demonstrating simple or flying change of lead.
- (8) Question(s) regarding basic horsemanship, tack and equipment and conformation.
- (9) Execute serpentine at trot and/or canter on correct lead demonstrating simple or flying changes of lead.
- (10) Figure eight at canter on correct lead demonstrating flying change of lead.
- (11) Hand gallop a jump
- (12) Hand gallop.
- (13) Halt (four to six seconds) and/or back.
- (14) Sitting Trot

**For permission to offer these classes, shows must apply to the VHSA at least one month prior to publication of its prize list. The Medal fee is \$5 per exhibitor in each class and are to be sent with the results, unless otherwise noted, to the VHSA office and must be postmarked within 10 days of the competition date or incur a \$50 late fee. Shows offering this class shall report to the Association, giving the names of all entries, including non-winners in order to check membership. It is the show's responsibility to make sure that all exhibitors are VHSA members. Have all exhibitors who do not have their VHSA membership card with them to complete a VHSA Affidavit and return to the VHSA with the show results.**