

**BATTLEFIELD HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION**  
**2010 SHOW RULES FOR 12/1/09 – 11/30/10 SHOW YEAR**

**Sec. 1 Hunter, Pleasure, and Equitation Divisions recognized by the BHS:**

1. **Working Hunter:** Open to all horses and ponies. If a show has an Open Hunter Division but does not have a Working Hunter Division, then we will accept those points towards the Working Hunter Division. Jump heights must be a minimum of 2'9".
2. **Adult Amateur Hunter:** Open to horses and ponies not ridden in a pony division ridden by Adult Amateurs. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2'6". Professionals are not allowed to ride in this division. If the Children's and Adult Amateur Divisions are combined, then it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which is the Child and which is the Adult Amateur.
3. **Children's Hunter:** Open to horses ridden by Juniors. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2'6". If a show offers more than one division for Juniors/Children's which meet these specifications, then the show must stipulate in the prize list which division is BHS recognized. If the Children's and Adult Amateur Divisions are combined, then it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which is the Child and which is the Adult Amateur.
4. **Low Hunter:** Open to horses and ponies. No restrictions on riders. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2' and not to exceed 2'3". May be combined with the Schooling Hunter if either or both do not have 3 entries. If combined, entries must jump the correct height for their Division and it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which is the Low Hunter and which is the Schooling Hunter.
5. **Schooling Hunter:** Open to horses and ponies. No restrictions on riders. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2'6" and not to exceed 3'. May be combined with the Low Hunter if either or both do not have 3 entries. If combined, entries must jump the correct height for their Division and it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which is the Schooling Hunter and which is the Low Hunter.
6. **Green Hunter:** Open to horses in their first or second year of showing over fences at 2'6" or higher as of December 1 of the current show year, including Pleasure and Equitation classes over fences. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2'6". If this division is combined with the Green Pony Division, it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which is the horse and which is the pony. (See also Green Pony below.) If an adult is on a pony, points can count for Green Hunter, but not for Green Pony Hunter. A horse's Green status is not affected if the horse has not been shown at more than three (3) competitions prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> of any competition year. (Provided) in order to maintain Green status for the next competition year the horse must be withdrawn from competition over regulation height and the owner must notify the BHS by letter, via certified/return receipt mail prior to December 1 of the year of withdrawal. The horse's name and recording number must be included in the letter together with the list of shows where shown.
7. **Maiden Hunter:** Open to horses and ponies in their first year of showing over fences at 2' or higher as of December 1 of the current show year. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2'. Adults may ride ponies. A horse/pony's Maiden status is not affected if the horse/pony has not been shown at more than three (3) competitions prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> of any competition year. (Provided) in order to maintain Maiden status for the next competition year the horse/pony must be withdrawn from competition over regulation height and the owner must notify the BHS by letter, via certified/return receipt mail prior to December 1 of the year of withdrawal. The horse/pony's name and recording number must be included in the letter together with the list of shows where shown.
8. **Large Pony Hunter:** Open to Large Ponies (measuring over 13.2 hands, but not to exceed 14.2 hands) ridden by Juniors. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2'6" and not to exceed 3'. If this division is combined with the Small-Medium Pony Division, then it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate the size of each pony. Adult riders not eligible.
9. **Small-Medium Pony Hunter:** Open to Small or Medium Ponies (measuring not to exceed 13.2 hands) ridden by Juniors. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2'. If this division is combined with the Large Pony Division, then it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate the size of each pony. Adult riders not eligible.
10. **Green Pony Hunter:** Open to ponies (measuring 14.2 hands and under) in their first year of showing over fences as of December 1 of the current show year, including Equitation and Pleasure classes over fences at or above 18" for Small Ponies, 2' for Medium Ponies, and 2'3" for Large Ponies ridden by Juniors. Jump heights to be a minimum of 18" for Small Ponies, a minimum of 2' for Medium Ponies, and a minimum of 2'3" for Large Ponies, but not to exceed 2'6". The Green Pony Division must not be combined with the Green Hunter Division if 3 or more ponies and 3 or more horses are entered. If this division is combined with the Green Hunter Division, then it is the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which is the horse and which is the pony. Adult riders not eligible on ponies. A pony's Green status is not affected if the pony has not been shown at more than three (3) competitions prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> of any competition year. (Provided) in order to maintain Green status for the next competition year the pony must be withdrawn from competition over regulation height and the owner must notify the BHS by letter, via certified/return receipt mail prior to December 1 of the year of withdrawal. The pony's name and recording number must be included in the letter together with the list of shows where shown.

In order for a division to be recognized as a BHS division, the preceding divisions (No. 1-9) must have a minimum of 2 over fences and 1 under saddle class *and no more than 3 classes total. Only report the first 3 classes if more are held.* All classes to be judged on performance including way of going, style of jumping, and soundness. Manners and suitability to be emphasized in Pony, Junior/Children's and Adult Amateur classes. Classes over fences are not required to jog. Note: The width (spread) of any fence cannot exceed the height of the fence, i.e. measured from the front of the ground line to the back of the last rail.

In the preceding Divisions (#1-9) and the following, (#10-12), hunter tack and attire are required for all classes. Unconventional tack and/or attire may be penalized at the judge's discretion. Western tack and attire, horse boots and wraps, gag bits, any form of flash or drop nosebands, draw reins, etc., not allowed. NOTE: Judges may allow modifications to show attire depending on the weather conditions.

- 10.A. **Adult Hunter Pleasure Horse:** Open to horses ridden by Adults shown with hunter tack. It is acceptable to combine the Adult Hunter Pleasure and the Junior Hunter Pleasure Divisions; however, it's the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which is the Adult rider and which is the Junior rider. The Adult Hunter Pleasure Horse Division may only be combined with the Junior Hunter Pleasure Horse and/or the Pleasure Pony Hunter Division. This Division must have no more and no less than 3 classes for BHS Points. Only report the first 3 classes if more are held. Horses may not cross enter into another Pleasure Division at the same show. To be judged on manners, suitability, soundness and way of going.

- 10.B. **Junior Hunter Pleasure Horse:** Open to horses ridden by Juniors shown with hunter tack. It is acceptable to combine the Adult Hunter Pleasure and the Junior Hunter Pleasure Divisions; however, it's the Show Secretary's responsibility to indicate which is the Adult rider and which is the Junior rider. The Junior Hunter Pleasure Horse Division may only be combined with the Adult Hunter Pleasure Horse and/or the Pleasure Pony Hunter Division. This Division must have no more and no less than 3 classes for BHSA Points. Only report the first 3 classes if more are held. Horses may not cross enter into another Pleasure Division at the same show. To be judged on manners, suitability, soundness and way of going.
11. **Hunter Pleasure Pony:** Open to Juniors riding ponies shown with hunter tack. The Hunter Pleasure Pony Division may only be combined with the Adult Hunter Pleasure Horse and/or the Junior Hunter Pleasure Division. This Division must have no more and no less than 3 classes for BHSA Points. Only report the first 3 classes if more are held.
- 12.A. **The Forrest Tayloe Linton Memorial Classic:** Open only to horses, ponies not allowed. No restrictions on riders. A two -round Classic judged as a hunter class using numeric scoring. The jump order for the second round will start with the lowest score going first to the highest score to be last. A minimum of 10 to return for the second round, if available. Jump heights to be 2'6" and 3', rider's choice. Shows must report at least six places, if available. At the BHSA Classic, points will count **as 9,7,6,5,4,3**. Points earned at the BHSA Classic will be used to break ties for the year-end award.
- 12.B. **The Forrest Tayloe Linton Pony Memorial Classic:** Open to all ponies. Riders must be Juniors. A two-round Classic judged as a hunter class using the same format as above in 12.A. with the following exceptions: Jump heights to be 2' or 2'6", rider's choice. Shows must report at least six places, if available. At the BHSA Classic, points will count **as 9,7,6,5,4,3**. Points earned at the BHSA Classic will be used to break ties for the year-end award.
- 12.C. Only one Forrest Linton Classic or Forrest Linton Pony Classic can be held on any given day, but up to two Classics can be held on any given weekend, i.e., one on Saturday and one on Sunday. The BHSA shall establish and maintain a calendar of all FLC and FLPC. Show managers are allowed to hold one Forrest Linton Classic and one Forrest Linton Pony Classic per show year per show site, not to exceed 2 FLC's and 2 FLPC's in one year per show manager. If both are offered they cannot be at the same show on the same date.

In the following Classes/Divisions (No. 13-19) hunter tack and attire are required. Riders will be judged on hands, seat, guidance, and control throughout the class, except as otherwise stated. Unconventional tack and/or attire may be penalized at the judge's discretion. Western tack and attire, gag bits, any form of flash or drop nosebands, draw reins, etc., not allowed. Points go to the rider.

**Pony/Children's/Junior/Adult Amateur Equitation:** To be shown over a course of at least 6 fences. The judges will select at least one-fourth of the class to show at a walk, trot, and canter, and to perform additional tests at the judge's discretion. Shows are allowed to combine any of the 3 Equitation classes, however, the Show Secretary must specify on the results sheet by each rider's name as to which class points should be applied to (i.e. Pony, Junior, and Adult Amateur). A rider can only accumulate points from one class per show. The BHSA Equitation classes can be a part of any other Equitation class, e.g., XYZ Horse Show Association/BHSA Pony Equitation Class. If anyone shows in this class and is not a BHSA member they will not receive BHSA points, nor will anyone be moved up in placement due to a non-member showing in that particular class.

13. **Pony Equitation:** Open to Juniors mounted on ponies. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2' and not to exceed 3'. Small/Medium Ponies to jump at least 2', Large Ponies to jump at least 2'6".
14. **Children's/Junior Equitation:** Open to Juniors mounted on horses. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2'6" and not to exceed 3'.
15. **Adult Amateur Equitation:** Open to Adult Amateurs mounted on horses. Jump heights to be a minimum of 2'6" and not to exceed 3'.
16. **Leadline:** Open to children 7 years and younger as of December 1 of the current show year. If more than one class is offered, only the class which is judged 50% Equitation and 50% suitability will count for BHSA points. The prize list must specify correct class. Riders not allowed to cross enter into any classes where they would be asked to trot. Points go to the rider.

The following Divisions (No.17-19) must have no more and no less than 3 classes for BHSA Points. Only report the first three classes if more are held.

17. **Pre-Short Stirrup Equitation:** Open to riders 10 years and under as of December 1 of the current show year. Riders may be asked to walk, trot, and perform simple Equitation tasks. Riders not allowed to cross enter into classes where they would be asked to canter or jump.
18. **Short-Stirrup Equitation:** Open to riders 12 years and under as of December 1 of the current show year. Jumps may not exceed 18". Riders not allowed to cross enter into classes where they would jump over 18". Courses may be trotted.
19. **Student Equitation:** Open to riders in their first or second year of showing over fences at 2' or higher as of December 1 of the current show year. Jumps to be a minimum of 2'. To be judged as an equitation division. Points go to the rider. Courses may be trotted.

## **Sec. 2. Jumper Divisions Recognized by the BHSA:**

In order for Jumper Divisions to be recognized by the BHSA and receive BHSA points, member Shows must use the correct names for the divisions, as well as correct specifications. Shows not building fences or courses to correct specifications will lose their membership. All Jumper Divisions will consist of no less than two classes and no more than three classes. Classes to be run under any Table of the US Equestrian Federation, except as follows: Table III may only be offered in the Modified Jumper Division. Shows are reminded that the quality of courses and the correctness of distances enhance the development of the horses and riders. *Jumper tack and attire are required for all classes.*

1. **Puddle Jumper:** Open to horses and ponies. Horses, ponies and riders in this Division may only cross enter into any class not exceeding 3' if otherwise eligible. Fences shall not be lower than 2' and not higher than 2'6", with spreads of not less than 2'3" and greater than 2'6". All classes must be held under USEF Table II 2C Power and Speed or any USEF Optimum Time Table.
2. **Novice Jumper:** Open to horses and ponies in their first or second year of showing in jumper classes at any height as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year. Horses and ponies in this division may only cross enter into Novice Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper if the rider is eligible, and Low Jumper and any other non-rated classes under 3' (such as Puddle Jumpers at 2'). Fences shall be no lower than 2'3" and no higher than 2'6", with spreads of no less than 2'3" and no greater than 2'6".
3. **Novice Children's/ Adult Amateur Jumper:** Open to Children and Adult Amateurs in their first or second year of showing in jumper classes at any height as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year. Riders in this division may only cross-enter into Novice Jumper, if mount is eligible and Low Jumper, and any other non-rated classes under 3' (such as Puddle Jumpers at 2'). Fences shall be no lower than 2'3" and no higher than 2'6", with spreads no less than 2'3" and no greater than 2'6".
4. **Low Jumper:** Open to horses and ponies. No restrictions on riders. (Exceptions: see Novice Jumper and Novice Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper). Fences shall be no lower than 2'6" and no higher than 3', with spreads no less than 2'6" and no greater than the height of the fence.
5. **Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper:** Open to Children and Adult Amateurs. No cross-entering with the Novice Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper. Fences shall be no lower than 2'6" and no higher than 3'3", with spreads no less than 2'6" and no greater than the height of the fence.
6. **Schooling Jumper:** Open to horses and ponies. No restrictions on riders. Fences shall be no lower than 3' and no higher than 3'6", with spreads no less than 3' and no greater than the height of the fence.
7. **Modified Jumper:** Open to horses and ponies. No restrictions on riders. Fences shall be no lower than 3'6" and no higher than 4', with spreads no less than 3'6" (except in combinations where they must be at least 3'), and no greater than the height of the fence.

### **Sec. 3. Membership, Fees, and Horse/Pony Recordings**

- a.) Individual Membership (Junior, Senior, or Farm) dues are \$25.00 annually for the current show year which goes from 12/1 to 11/30. Owners, riders, horses and ponies must be members/registered with the BHSA in order for points to count. Each Senior member has the right to vote at regular BHSA meetings.
- b.) In divisions where points accrue to the rider, the horse/pony does not need to be recorded and the owner does not have to be a member.
- c.) If a rider leases a horse/pony, the lessee must be a member of the BHSA and the horse/pony must be recorded. The owner does not need to be a member. A lease signed by the owner needs to be on file with the BHSA.
- d.) Lifetime horse recording: All horses/ponies must be recorded with the BHSA, under the same name in which it is being exhibited, in order to accrue points. The horse recording fee is \$15.00.
- e.) Transfer of ownership or lease: Ownership may be transferred, without affecting points, provided written notice is submitted to the BHSA secretary with the signatures of both the previous and current owners and lessee. The fee for this change will be \$5.00.
- f.) Change of name: A \$5.00 fee will be charged for changing the name of horses/ponies.
- g.) Fees may be fixed by the Board of Directors for any year succeeding an annual meeting.
- h.) A rider's age is determined by his/her age as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year. A junior is defined as a member who has not reached his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year.

### **Sec. 4. BHSA Member Horse Show Requirements**

- a.) The Show Manager/Show Chairman must be a current BHSA senior member. A fine of \$50.00 will be levied on any show manager not joining the BHSA for the current year. If the fine is not paid, no shows managed by that person will be sanctioned for the following year.
- b.) All member shows must have BHSA member and horse recording applications available and visible in the Secretary's stand.
- c.) The show must state "A BHSA Member" show on the front of the prize list in bold lettering.
- d.) The prize list must contain full specifications, clearly explaining qualification requirements and judging criteria for each division.
- e.) Horse show personnel are expected to uphold the rules of the BHSA.
- f.) Each Hunter show must offer 4 BHSA recognized divisions in order to be recognized as a BHSA member horse show.
- g.) Each Jumper show must offer 2 BHSA recognized divisions in order to be recognized as a BHSA member horse show.
- h.) BHSA horse shows must be geographically located 80 miles or less from the center of Fredericksburg and be within the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- i.) No other shows will be sanctioned on the same day as the BHSA Classic Show.

### **Sec. 5. BHSA Member Horse Show Applications**

- a.) The BHSA reserves the right to deny any application for just cause.
- b.) Competition applications, prize list and dues must be received 30 days prior to the competition date or that competition will not be allowed to be a BHSA member show. Current member shows must send a prize list at least 30 days prior to the start of their 1<sup>st</sup> show of a series. Shows new to the BHSA must send a current prize list with their application. Late applications with prize list and dues enclosed will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee if accepted. Late applications without prize list and/or dues attached will not be accepted. All applications received by the BHSA office which are incomplete (except for dues) will automatically be returned to the show manager/show contact. Competition dues are \$25.00 per show and must be received by the BHSA at least 30 days prior to the shows. Late payment of dues will be fined \$50.00 per show.
- c.) The show year is December 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>. In order to take advantage of BHSA advertising, applications should be received at the beginning of the show season.

### **Sec. 6. Recording Show Results**

- a.) Show result forms must be postmarked within 14 days of the competition date. If the complete results are postmarked later than 14 days, the show will incur a \$25.00 fine. If by 30 days, the results have not been received, the show will not be allowed to be recorded and the management will not be allowed to hold BHSA shows in the future.
- b.) Only list the placement. Do not list the points.

- c.) If the show's point system is different than the BHSA's point system then the show results must be recalculated according to the BHSA system. Should this recalculation of points for Champion and Reserve Champion result in a tie not broken by points over fences, all tied horses/riders shall remain tied with equal points awarded.

## Sec. 7. Points

- a.) No credit will be given in any classes with less than 3 eligible entries with the exception of Leadline, Pre-Short Stirrup, Working Hunter, both Forrest Linton Classics and all Jumper Classes, all of which must have at least 2 eligible entries. In Hunter, Pleasure and Equitation, 3 eligible entries must complete the course/class in order for points to count for the class, except as noted above, which must have 2 eligible entries complete in order for points to count for the class.
- b.) If classes are combined due to insufficient entries (i.e. Hunter Pleasure with Hunter Pleasure Pony), then the Show Secretary must specify for each entry in which division the points are to count. They may only count once.
- c.) Points shall be scored as follows: First-5, Second-3, Third-2, Fourth-1, Champion-10, Reserve-6.
- d.) Year end points will only include each member's top 10 shows plus any points accrued at the BHSA Classic Show, if held. Exception: ALL BHSA Pony, Children's/Junior, Adult Amateur Equitation, and both Forrest Linton Classics points gained in accordance with the class rules will count for year end awards.
- e.) There may be more than one BHSA show held on the same day. However, horses and riders can only accumulate points from one show per day.
- f.) The exhibitor must rectify any of his/her point discrepancies by November 30<sup>th</sup> or such date as announced with the final point standings, or the final points published by the BHSA will stand pending the final official BHSA audit.
- g.) The Champion and Reserve Champion titles in all Hunter and Equitation Divisions with at least two over fences classes and one under saddle class are awarded to the top two of the eligible four horses/ponies/riders that acquired the most points performing over a regulation course with fences at the correct height. In addition to these points, only these four horses/ponies/riders receive full points for ribbons won in one under saddle class. In the case of a tie, the Champion and/or Reserve is awarded to the horse/pony/rider that received the most points over fences. If the horses/ponies/riders have an equal number of points over fences and no points under saddle, the tied horses must hack off on the flat.
- h.) The Championship and Reserve Championship and its respective points can be awarded if over half (2 of 3; 3 of 4) of the classes in a Division have been completed according to specifications.
- i.) In the Jumper divisions, if a tie for Champion or Reserve occurs then all horses remain tied and receive equal points. If the tie is for Champion, then there will not be a Reserve Champion awarded.

## Sec 8. Discipline

The provisions of the bylaws and rules shall apply at any BHSA Member Show or activity to the following persons defined as Individuals: Owner, exhibitor, agent, trainer, coach, manager, rider, show official, show employee, member of the family, or Employee of any of the above, individual member of the BHSA, or any person who acts in violation of the rules of The Association or deemed prejudicial to its best interest. Any act at a BHSA Member Show or activity in violation of the rules of the association by a member of the family of the person participating in the show or activity who is described in the previous sentence, may be deemed to have been committed by such person and subject him/her to penalties.

A Violation shall be defined as: An Act prejudicial to the best interest of the Association, including but not limited to the following:

- a.) Violation of the rules of the Association.
- b.) Penalization by another Horse Show Association, Humane Society, or Court of Law for violations.
- c.) Failure of a show official to perform his duties at a show in accordance with the rules.
- d.) Failure of an exhibitor or his representative to sign the entry blanks of a show in which he competes.
- e.) Exhibiting any horse while in the care, custody, and training of a trainer suspended by the BHSA.
- f.) Riding, exhibiting, coaching, or training for the benefit, credit, reputation, or satisfaction of a person suspended by the BHSA.
- g.) Failure to settle indebtedness in a timely fashion.
- h.) Acting or inciting or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the rules or By-laws of the BHSA, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, intemperate or prejudicial to the best interests of the BHSA and its member shows.
- i.) Any act committed or remark made in connection with a show considered offensive and/or made with the intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the show officials, approaching a judge before or after a decision without first obtaining permission, or public verbal abuse of competition officials.
- j.) Physical assault upon a person
- k.) Cruelty to a horse/pony, including excessive use of a whip/crop, striking the horse/pony on the poll or forward of the poll, rapping the legs of a horse with the butt end of a crop or other implement, use of any substance to induce temporary heat (soring), manual poling, use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jump, use of electric devices in schooling or showing, any other inhumane treatment of a horse/pony anywhere on the ground by anyone, excessive use of spurs, especially if blood drawn.
- l.) Failure to obey any penalty imposed by the BHSA.

### Penalties

- a.) If found guilty by a disciplinary committee, the accused shall be subject to such penalty including censure, fine, suspension or termination of their membership for such a time as the Board of Directors deems appropriate or whatever other form enacted.
- b.) Member shows must honor all BHSA penalties.

## Sec 9. Protests, Charges and Hearings

### Protests:

1. Any Exhibitor, owner, trainer, coach, rider, agent or parent of a junior exhibitor may file a protest with the Show Committee or the Board of Directors of the BHSA alleging a violation of any BHSA rules(s). The protest must be:
  - a.) In writing
  - b.) Signed by the Complainant
  - c.) Addressed to the Secretary or Manager of the show at which the alleged violation took place, or to the BHSA Board.

- d.) Accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00 if made by a BHSA member or parent of a Junior Exhibitor member, or \$150.00 if made by a non-member (if check, payable to the BHSA); said deposit to be refunded if the protest is upheld, and
  - e.) Received by the Secretary or Manager by the end of the show at which the alleged violation occurred, or received at the BHSA address within three weeks following the date of the show at which the alleged violation occurred.
2. No protests will be accepted or heard if received after November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Charges:**

1. A Show Official or an Officer or Director of the BHSA may file a charge with the Show Committee or the Board of Directors of the BHSA alleging a violation of any BHSA rule(s). The charge must be:
  - a.) In writing
  - b.) Signed by the Complainant
  - c.) Addressed to the Secretary or Manager of the show at which the alleged violation took place, or to the BHSA Board, and
  - d.) If made to a Show Committee received by the end of the show at which the alleged violation occurred, or received at the BHSA address within three weeks following the date of the show at which the alleged violation occurred.
2. No charges will be accepted or heard if received after November 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. The person presenting the charge cannot be in the role of exhibitor, owner, trainer, coach, rider, agent or parent of a junior exhibitor in the specific issue that is the substance of the charge.

### **Contents, etc.:**

1. A protest or charge must state the full name and address of the respondent and contain a complete and definite statement of the acts which constitute the alleged violation. Precise details regarding a violation of the rules are necessary. The maker of the protest or charge must be prepared to substantiate the protest or charge by citing the exact rule(s) involved, by his or her own personal testimony at a hearing or of at least one other witness with personal knowledge who is subject to cross-examination, and by sworn statements, other witnesses and by other competent evidence.
2. A protest or charge against a Member Show must be referred to the BHSA by the Secretary or Manager.
3. Protests or charges that a judge has failed to conduct a class in accordance with the rules or otherwise violated the rules must be referred to the BHSA.
4. The BHSA may investigate any protest or charge or alleged violation, may intervene in any protest or charge and present evidence at a hearing concerning any protest, charge or alleged violation at its discretion.
5. Non-Protestable Decisions:
  - a.) The soundness of a horse/pony when determined by a judge.
  - b.) A Judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference or opinion, unless it is alleged to be in violation of the Rules.

### **Hearings:**

1. Notice: Any person or group of persons or competition against whom a protest or charge is filed is/are entitled to a hearing; such hearing to be held after at least 10 days written notice to the respondent, except that a Show Committee may hold a hearing during or within 48 hours of a competition after 24 hours written notice to the respondent unless this notice requirement is waived in writing by the respondent. Notice of the hearing must contain a brief statement of the facts constituting the alleged violation, the BHSA rules allegedly violated and must specify the time and place at which the hearing is to be held. Notice of a protest or charge or alleged violation forwarded by the show to the BHSA, or sent by the Complainant directly to the BHSA must be given to the respondent within 30 days of the date it was reported to the BHSA. The complainant must also receive all notices of hearings, etc., at the same time. Any notice mailed to the last known address on file with the BHSA shall be deemed sufficient notice.
2. The respondent may attend the hearing at their option and may bring witnesses, sworn statements or other evidence in their own behalf.
3. Upon written request of the BHSA, or of a respondent, or complainant, there shall be furnished before said hearing any evidence to be introduced at the hearing, the names of witnesses and the substance of their testimony.
4. A Show Committee receiving a protest or charge shall promptly hold a hearing and obtain from witnesses, entry blanks and other sources of the necessary information and evidence; all persons directly concerned shall be given the opportunity to appear. It shall then adjudicate the issue impartially, make effective its decision upon the parties of interest and report its determination to the BHSA Board, the complainant and the respondent within 14 days. If the protest is sustained, the deposit shall be returned to the complainant; if not sustained, the deposit shall be forfeited to the show. A Show Committee may disqualify a person at that show. In all other cases, the facts and findings shall be reported to the BHSA Board for further action if deemed appropriate at its sole discretion. In the event a Show Committee does not choose to handle the protest/charge, or cannot reach a decision, or cannot schedule an appropriate hearing, it must refer the matter to the BHSA Board immediately, but not later than 14 days, and can be sent to the BHSA with the show results. A party to a protest or charge desiring to appeal a decision of the Show Committee to the BHSA Board must file such appeal in writing within 10 days of receiving the notice of the initial decision. The Board will first determine whether the rules were properly interpreted and applied, and only if such not done, review the findings.
5. If the complainant has not received notification from the Show Committee within 14 days of a decision, the complainant is responsible for moving the protest/charge to the BHSA Board in an expeditious manner.
6. The BHSA Board shall hear protests and charges in connection with alleged violations of the rules, consider the evidence, render final decisions thereon and determine and impose penalties. It may refer any protest or charge to a Special Disciplinary Committee appointed by the President for a hearing, and must refer any protest or charge to such a Committee if any party to the protest or charge is a member of the Board. No member of the Board with a conflict of interest may be appointed to such a Committee. The proponent of the protest or charge has the burden of proof; all persons directly concerned shall be given the opportunity to appear. The Committee or Board, as appropriate, shall adjudicate the issue impartially, make effective its decision upon the parties of interest and report its determination to the Board, if by Committee. If the protest is sustained, the deposit shall be returned to the complainant; if not sustained, the deposit shall be forfeited to the BHSA.

16<sup>th</sup> Revision 11/30/09