

GENERAL SHOW RULES

1. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor, parent, and/or trainer to READ AND UNDERSTAND the current 2023 Tri-State Horsemen's Association (TSHA) rules, including TSHA Code of Conduct, contained in this book, and to read and understand the eligibility and class/division requirements and qualifications before entering any classes.

2. The Tri-State show year is August 31, 2022 through August 30, 2023.

3. Rider's age will be as of January 1, 2023.

4. Any person, Youth or Adult, who gives riding instruction and/or receives compensation for riding or training, is considered a professional and, as such, is only eligible for Open/Professional classes.

5. The age of a horse shall be computed on the basis of a calendar year starting January 1 of the year foaled. It is a weanling during the calendar year of foaling date; regardless of the time of year foaled.

6. Exhibitors agree to abide by all rules and regulations in effect or later adopted and further agree that failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of all entry fees and expulsion from the show grounds.

7. Every class offered herein is covered by the rules and specifications printed in this program and will be conducted and judged in accordance therewith. If any other rules not addressed are needed to make a judgment, show management will refer to another rulebook (i.e. AQHA, Paint, USEF, NEHC, etc.) for reference purposes in making our own TSHA decision.

8. Management reserves the right to relocate classes to an alternative ring, if necessary.

9. TSHA, its employees, its volunteers and Falls Creek Farm will not be held liable for injury, theft, or damage to any person, property, or animal.

10. A post entry fee of \$20.00 per number will be charged for entries not POSTMARKED by the FRIDAY the week before each show. We are not responsible for mail delivery time. US Mail delivery time varies from each state/town. The size and weight of your envelope affects delivery time, so please plan your mailing date accordingly and affix proper postage. **Full payment or an open check MUST accompany the pre-entry paperwork. Credit/Debit card payments will be accepted at the show ONLY.** Pre-entered exhibitors who choose to pay by credit/debit card will have their pre-entry OPEN check returned at time of payment. **ONLY OPEN CHECKS WILL BE RETURNED UPON CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENT.** Credit/Debit cards may also be used for classes added on at the show, as well as post entries.

11. TSHA Return Check Policy for all events, as approved by the Board of Directors on February 15, 2012, states: "Writers of all returned checks will be charged a \$35.00 fee. Any exhibitor and/or horse whose show fees said check covers will not be allowed to show, receive awards, or participate in any TSHA event until the debts are paid. Should any individual/farm have two (2) returned checks in a TSHA show year, August 31st of last year through August 30th of current year, this individual/farm will be required to pay with cash, money order, or bank check for the remainder of the current TSHA show year and the next." The returned check must be paid to the Treasurer by the statement date or **all show points covered by said check will be forfeited.**

12. Refunds are issued only for injury/illness to horse or exhibitor and will only be made upon receipt, within 7 days after the end of the show, of a vet certificate or a physician's certificate. Refund checks will be mailed after submission of said documentation. No refunds will be issued at the show.

13. Membership, post entry fees, and/or office fees cannot be transferred, credited, or refunded.

14. Paperwork for all horses: A current negative Coggins test result, current proof of veterinarian administered rabies vaccine within 12 months of show date, and pony cards if applicable should accompany any pre-entry. **If not received with pre-entry, then paperwork MUST BE SUBMITTED TO RECEIVE A NUMBER! Exhibitors who are post entering must submit paperwork when signing up. Also, a horse MUST show under the same name all season, and this name MUST match the Coggins and Breed Registration paperwork. In accordance with CT State Health regulations, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that he/she is compliant with inter-state health regulations and is in possession of a required health certificates while on the show grounds.**

15. Copies of Breed registration papers for any horse entering a Registered Breed Class/Division must accompany the entry form. Exhibitors do not have to be the listed owner. **Horses must show under registered name in Breed classes.**

16. Exhibitors will be issued an exhibitor number for each horse they ride at the first show they enter. This will be the exhibitor's number with that horse for the entire season. **It is the exhibitor's responsibility to retain the number and use the proper number with matching horse.**

17. A signed Add/Scratch Sheet must be used to add or scratch classes.

Any exhibitor showing in a class they have not entered/added will be charged TWICE the fee. Any exhibitor who hasn't scratched a class BEFORE the class results are announced will be charged for that class.

18. Management reserves the right to combine, divide, cancel, or move classes when deemed necessary to facilitate the smooth running of the show. Management reserves the right to cancel classes with fewer than 3 entries.

19. Membership dues can be accepted at the Secretary's booth. Membership dues paid at the show must be received prior to the exhibitor's first entered class for points to count towards year-end awards. Please be sure to completely fill in and SIGN your membership form.

20. The following Point System will be used for the calculation of day-end and year-end division awards: 1st – 7 pts, 2nd – 5 pts, 3rd – 4 pts, 4th – 3 pts, 5th – 2 pts, 6th– 1 pt

21. All day-end and year-end division awards are based on a Team of same horse/pony and rider except for Breed (horse only), Equitation (rider only), and Lead-Line (child only) Divisions.

22. In the Breed Divisions for Year-End Awards, the horse will only earn points accumulated by exhibitors/handlers who are Tri-State members.

23. To participate for YEAR-END division awards, the exhibitor shall be a 2023 member of Tri-State Horsemen's Association, with no outstanding debt to TSHA, and will be required to participate in the division, as a member, in at least two (2) of the three (3) shows offered.

24. **NEW****** Year-End divisions that have 10 or more **qualifying members** for year-end awards will place to 6th place for year-end awards. All divisions that have 9 or fewer **qualifying members** for year-end awards will place to 4th place for year-end awards.

25. There will be a **2-minute gate hold** beyond the normal call to order for tack changes that are requested at the in-gate. The gate keeper will set a stopwatch to keep track of the allowance time before calling the class to order. **Tack changes must be performed at the in-gate within sight of the judge.** You must know the incoming & outgoing exhibitor numbers and the class numbers for requests. Plan your classes accordingly.

26. Cell phones, wearable sports cameras (i.e. GoPro), iPods, or any other electronic/communication devices are not allowed in the ring, unless required for compliance with ADA accessibility.

27. All Hunt Seat riders 17 & under will be required to wear ASTM approved helmets with a harness whenever mounted. No exhibitor will be penalized for wearing a helmet, regardless of discipline. All riders on the show grounds must also have appropriate footwear whenever mounted.

28. No person can ride bareback or with halter and Lead-Lines on the grounds during the weekend. Riding double is expressly prohibited.

29. Stallions may not be shown by exhibitors 17 & under except in those Breed Classes where allowed by the rules applicable for that breed.

30. Bits may be checked at the discretion of the judge and/or steward.

31. An exhibitor must be a current 2023 Tri-State member to enter any TSHA Classic and/or "Mystery Class".

32. Riders must have a number presented to the judge while exhibiting in a class. The number must be on the exhibitor or on both sides of saddle pad. **Any exhibitor entering the ring without a number, or wearing an incorrect number, will be disqualified and no refunds will be issued.**

33. Judges' decisions are final. No exhibitor or person shall approach a judge as to a decision or any other matter unless permission is obtained from the Show Steward. Any exhibitor or person disregarding this rule may be asked to cancel all entries and forfeit all entry fees. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS.

34. Schooling and warm-up is permitted in the authorized areas and times only. Walk-Trot exhibitors should not be schooling at the canter in the warm-up rings. **Courteous behavior is expected from all exhibitors and trainers.**

35. Abuse of horses will not be tolerated anywhere on the grounds. No excessive schooling in or out of the show rings such as, but not limited to, excessive spurring, whipping, etc.

36. Horses with their head restrained below the withers with draw reins, bridle reins, lead ropes, shank bits, curb chains, etc. are not permitted.

37. No action devices will be permitted anywhere on the show grounds.

38. Adult supervision is required for children 17 & under who are staying overnight. It is the responsibility of a parent or guardian to supervise underage children while on the show grounds.

39. The drinking of alcoholic beverages by anyone while exhibiting or mounted, as well as any underage drinking at any time will not be tolerated.

40. Obscene language will not be tolerated.

41. ONLY Service Dogs will be allowed outside the camping area during show hours. (Service certificate MUST be provided to the show office.) All other dogs are to remain in the camping area during all show hours. ALL dogs must be leashed and attached to a responsible handler at all times.

42. TSHA reserves the right to remove anyone from the show grounds who exhibits inappropriate behavior.

43. Lunging will be limited to 15 minutes per horse, and no more than 2 horses will be permitted to lunge in the same ring at the same time. Children who are lunging horses/ponies must have adult supervision. Please be courteous when using a lunge whip.

44. No alterations to any posted course without prior authorization from the Show Office.

45. All ponies will be required to be measured by Show Management and will be issued a TSHA Pony Card. A copy of the pony card must accompany entry, otherwise the pony will need to be re-measured for verification. Ponies 7 years or older will receive a permanent Pony Card and will not be required to be measured again in that pony's lifetime. Ponies under 7 years of age will be required to be re-measured each year by TSHA Management until said pony turns 7, unless an official USEF Pony Card has been issued for said pony. **All ponies MUST be measured before entering first class, or points will be lost. Ponies will be measured as presented (i.e. with or without shoes).**

46. Any person lodging a formal protest must submit said protest **IN WRITING via US Mail to:** TSHA Open Show Protest, 430 Chopmist Hill Road, Chepachet, RI, 02814. Protests must be postmarked no later than the Tuesday immediately after the show and accompanied by a non-refundable \$25.00 fee. Evidence and supporting documentation of the protest is your responsibility to submit. Protests must be signed and contact information provided. Open Show Chairpersons will present the protest and documentation to the TSHA Sanctions Committee for review and determination of any remedies or sanctions if said protest is upheld.

47. Any violation of the TSHA rules must be brought to the attention of the Show Steward at the time of the offense.

48. A qualified independent veterinarian may conduct drug testing at TSHA Open Shows according to the Open Show Committee's Random Selection Procedure. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of entry fees, TSHA points and any prizes/awards.

49. The Drug testing at Tri-State Open Shows will be sent to a USEF approved laboratory where testing for the current year's substances and limits will occur. Upon receipt of the laboratory report, in the event that a positive result should occur, TSHA will impose the following Tri-State Horsemen's Association policy:

Sanctions and penalties imposed when a *positive* test result is returned on a Horse at a Tri-State Open Show Competition:

- Immediate Disqualification of said horse and all exhibitors/owners/lessee, and trainer of said horse from Tri-State competition and year-end awards.
- Suspension of said horse and all exhibitors/owners/lessee, and trainer of said horse from any future Tri-State competitions for a period of no less than one year.
- Suspension of use of Training Facility's name at any future Tri-State event for a period of no less than one year.
- Referral to the Tri-State Sanctions Committee for any further disciplinary action using USEF for reference, including but not limited to: suspension of Membership for a length of time to be determined by the Tri-State Sanctions Committee and monetary fines assessed on the Exhibitor(s), the Trainer(s), and the Owner(s)/Lessee(s) of said Horse.
- This suspension holds true with any and all horses said Trainer exhibits.