

H.R.C.N.J. 2012 CLASS RULES & JUDGING CRITERIA

Section A: This Section Covers the Judging Criteria that apply for specific classes offered by H.R.C.N.J. : NOTE Class Judging Criteria Rules rules are defined specifically for HRCNJ shows also taking into consideration rules and specs of surrounding shows & organizations, usef, aqha etc...who offer similar classes
(Note these apply to all divisions offered- see specific class division rules for any exceptions)

*******In-Hand Classes*******

HALTER CLASSES: Judging Based on conformation of each horse by its individual breed regulations. Required attire for handler is also based on breed regulations. *(See Section B: Combined English Western for additional info on attire.*

SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES: Scoring based on 50% appearance, 50% performance. *(See Section B, Page 14: Combined English Western for additional info on attire. See Show Rules #6 & #28 for addl clarifications)*

Class shall be judged on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter. The horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the handler. Ideally showmanship performance should consist of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor leading a well groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision.

LEAD LINE: Open to riders 6 years and under. (HRCNJ rules for age: riders age for HRCNJ is based on how old they are on January 1st of current year) Riders are to be shown at a walk with another equestrian leading. Jogging or Trotting while being led may be asked for by the Judge of the day. Riders may NOT participate in any other riding (under saddle) classes. However, if a leadline child is capable, they may participate in peewee showmanship.

******* W/T/J Age Specific Divisions: 11-15 & 16 & Over*******

ALL W/T/J Age Specific Classes are intended for individuals at more of a beginner/inexperienced level of riding and showing. Rules for eligibility will be same/similar to how HRCNJ Novice classes are handled – Please read Details regarding Eligibility

W/T/J age 11-15 Pleasure & Age 16 & Over Pleasure Class : See Judging Criteria for **WESTERN PLEASURE CLASSES**. Criteria: Horse:80% Rider: 20%.

W/T/J age 11-15: Pattern & Age 16 & Over Showmanship Class : See Judging Criteria for Showmanship Classes

W/T/J age 11-15: Pattern & Age 16 & Over Pattern Class See Judging Criteria for **COMBINED RIDING DISCIPLINE PATTERN CLASSES** Horse: 25% Rider 75%. **Note: No Loping or Cantering will be asked for**

W/T/J age 11-15: Trail & Age 16 & Over Trail: See Judging Criteria for **TRAIL CLASSES** Criteria: Horse: 75% Rider: 25% **Note: No Loping or Cantering will be asked for.**

W/T/LOPE 11 & Over Class: is judged as an Equitation class. See Judging Criteria for **COMBINED RIDING DISCIPLINE EQUITATION CLASSES-RAIL ONLY.** *This class combines those riders in the W/T/J 11-15 and W/T/J 16 and Over age category*
Criteria: 75% Rider-25% Horse. **Note: This is the ONLY W/J/T Age specific class group that a lope or canter WILL be called for – and it is the ONLY Loping/Cantering class participants are permitted in.**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR a W/T/J Age Specific Rider: Eligibility is based on the age, experience and ability of the Rider and NOT the Horse. These age classified W/T/J classes are offered for individuals who are still inexperienced with riding and showing. They are riders still building their skills, and also are not ready to lope/canter a horse in the show pen. These classes are offered to give these level riders a safe and fair opportunity in the show pen to build confidence and gain riding experience with other riders/individuals who are at the same/similar level as them.

W/T/J Age Specific Classes: Riders must be the Age as stated with class name and also have a riding skill level as described above.

A riders age for HRCNJ is based on how old they are on January 1st of the current year.

W/T/J skill level: inexperienced with riding a horse and riding in show pen; not ready to lope/canter in show pen.

You not have been loping and/or cantering at any other Horse Shows in classes NOT designated as beginner.

WHY you would NOT be Eligible for W/T/J:

- 1. You are showing at Breed Shows in similar W/T/J classes and are consistently placing in the top 10.**
- 2. You receive three (3) Blue Ribbons in a specific W/T/J class...(these can be accumulated over the years) then you are no longer eligible to compete in that specific W/T/J Age specific class the next show season. A rider who begins the year competing in the Age specific W/T/J class/division, may complete the season in same division classes.**
- 3. You achieve Grand Champion status at Year End for the specific W/T/J Division (there should also be a minimum 5 other individuals who also competed and finished in the division)**
- 4. You Lope in a class NOT designated as W/T/J Age Specific at HRCNJ or a Beginner level class at another show.**

Both Members and Non-Members showing with HRCNJ are tracked year by year both in the classes they are showing and how they are placing in said classes. These W/T/J classes will also be tracked the same as Novice classes using the HRCNJ Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion Status rules to evaluates an individual's eligibility for W/T/J classes from year to year.

Individuals competing in these classes may not show in any other HRCNJ classes except Halter.

***** English Classes*****

HUNT SEAT EQUITATION CLASSES: *PATTERN ONLY*: Riders are judged individually while working through the pattern. Riders are judged on the appropriate riding position or “equitation”, overall appearance and performance. **Equitation** refers to a rider's position while mounted (seat, hands, torso, legs), and encompasses a rider's ability to ride correctly and with effective aids. Judges focus is more on the rider, and the rider's position through gait transitions & maneuvers. **Maximum credit is given** to those who perform the various pattern maneuvers and gait transitions with control (responsiveness of horse; It is correct for the riders to have a light and steady contact with their horse's mouth) and precision (correctness of pattern, gaits, leads and diagonals).

Possible gaits/maneuvers: walk, posting trot, seated trot, canter, stopping, backing, pivot turns (haunches or forehand), lead changes. Criteria: 75% Rider-25% Horse.

Faults that would incur deductions (per HRCNJ rules): Incorrect lead/diagonal, break of gait, off pattern, , knocking a cone

Faults that will incur a DQ (per HRCNJ rules): falling off ,missing or incorrect back number, abusive correction to horse, illegal or prohibited equipment,

HUNT SEAT EQUITATION CLASSES: *RAIL ONLY*: Riders are judged on the appropriate riding position or “equitation”, overall appearance & performance. **Equitation** refers to a rider's position while mounted (seat, hands, torso, legs), and encompasses a rider's ability to ride correctly and with effective aids. Judges focus is more on the rider, and the rider's position through gait transitions. **Maximum credit is given** to those who perform the various gait transitions with control (responsiveness of horse; It is correct for the riders to have a light and steady contact with their horse's mouth) and precision (correctness of gaits, leads, diagonals).

Possible gaits: walk, posting trot, seated trot, 2 point, canter, stopping, backing, pivot turns (haunches or forehand). Criteria: 75% Rider-25% Horse.

Faults that would incur deductions (per HRCNJ rules): Incorrect lead/diagonal, break of gait, knocking a cone.

Faults that will incur a DQ (per HRCNJ rules): , falling off, missing or incorrect back number, abusive correction to horse, illegal or prohibited equipment.

Tip: A good equitation rider is always in balance with the horse, maintains a correct position in every gait, movement, and possesses a commanding, but relaxed, presence, able to direct the horse with nearly invisible aids

HUNTER UNDER SADDLE: Horses will be judged both directions of the ring. Horses are judged on performance, condition, and conformation. **Maximum credit shall be given** to the flowing, smooth, well balanced, “good tempered” horse. Horse should show manners, willingness, quality of movement, and functional correctness; Horse should be able to cover ground with minimal effort. Emphasis on cadence and quality of movement at all three gaits.

At a minimum, the following gaits will be called for both directions of the ring: Walk, Posting Trot, Canter. May be asked to back. – Other Possible Gaits for more advanced level classes: Extended Trot. Criteria: Horse:80% Rider: 20%.

*Tip: In Hunter Under Saddle class **Horse should not be racing around the ring** – they should be forward moving and collected – they should appear to be a “Pleasure to Ride”*

Junior Horse Hunter Under Saddle – For Judging Criteria Refer to **HUNTER UNDER SADDLE** Open to horses age **Five (5) and under** as of January 1 of the current year (HRCNJ rules for age: age of horse for HRCNJ is based on how old horse is as of January 1st of current year). Criteria: Horse:80% Rider: 20%.

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES-*Rail Only*

Class is designed to demonstrate a riders ability to ride and perform the called for gaits and the transitions into them with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence.

Riders are judged on seat, hands (proper equitation), and ability to control and que their horse. **Equitation** refers to a rider's position while mounted (seat, hands, torso, legs), and encompasses a rider's ability to ride correctly and with effective aids. The Rider is the primary focus of a Horsemanship class, but horse and rider must still work as a team.

Maximum credit shall be given to riders who can demonstrate confidence, poise and balance; cues to horse should be subtle; horse should appear relaxed, willing but responsive

Possible gaits/maneuvers: walk, jog, extended jog, lope, stopping, backing.

Criteria: Horse: 25% Rider 75%.

Faults that would incur deductions (per HRCNJ rules): Incorrect lead, break of gait, incorrect gait, excessive or inappropriate use of reins.

Faults that will incur a DQ (per HRCNJ rules): falling off, missing or incorrect back number, abusive correction to horse, illegal or prohibited equipment.

WESTERN PATTERN CLASS-NO RAIL Class is designed to demonstrate a riders ability to execute, a set of maneuvers as prescribed by judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence

Riders are judged individually while working through a pattern.

Riders are judged on seat, hands (proper equitation), and ability to control a horse. **Equitation** refers to a rider's position while mounted (seat, hands, torso, legs), and encompasses a rider's ability to ride correctly and with effective aids. The Rider is the primary focus of a Horsemanship class, but horse and rider must still work as a team.

The rider is judged on precision (correctness of pattern) and smoothness while performing the maneuvers.

Maximum credit shall be given to riders who can demonstrate confidence, poise and balance through the pattern; cues to horse should be subtle; horse should appear relaxed, willing but responsive

Possible gaits/maneuvers: walk, jog, extended jog, lope, stopping, backing, pivot turns, lead changes.

Criteria: Horse: 25% Rider 75%.

Faults that would incur deductions (per HRCNJ rules): Incorrect lead, break of gait, off pattern, knocking a cone, excessive or inappropriate use of reins.

Faults that will incur a DQ (per HRCNJ rules): falling off, missing or incorrect back number, abusive correction to horse, illegal or prohibited equipment.

No Rail Work is performed in HRCNJ Western Horsemanship Classes, unless deemed necessary by judge of the day in order to determine their top placings.

WESTERN PLEASURE CLASSES:

A good pleasure horse has free flowing stride of a reasonable length in keeping with his conformation.

Horse should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort

Ideally the horse should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of correct cadence. Quality of movement and consistency of gaits is a major consideration. Head and neck should be carried in a relaxed natural position, with the pole slightly above the level of the withers. Head should not be carried behind the vertical giving the appearance of intimidation. The top line of the horse includes a poll that is level to or just above the withers, and a head that is carried with the nose only slightly ahead of the vertical with alert ears.

Horse should be shown on a reasonably loose rein but with light contact and control. Horse should be responsive yet smooth in transitions when called for.

When asked to extend horse should move out with same flowing motion.

Horse should be willing and responsive and under control at all gaits.

Maximum credit will be awarded to the western pleasure horse that moves with a balanced, flowing motion, who is willing and gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.

Riders will be requested to perform various gaits as called for by the judge of the day. Gaits included: walk, jog, and lope. optional gait: extended walk, extended jog. May also be asked to stand quietly and back readily.

Faults that would incur deductions (per HRCNJ rules): Incorrect lead, break of gait, excessive or inappropriate use of reins.

Faults that will incur a DQ (per HRCNJ rules): falling off, missing or incorrect back number, abusive correction to horse, illegal or prohibited equipment.

Tip: Western pleasure is actually more about forward motion. That does not mean racing around the ring, but keeping your horse collected and engaged through the hind end while moving out.

COMBINED RIDING DISCIPLINE EQUITATION CLASSES-RAIL ONLY(where rider has option to show in western or english attire)

Riders are judged on the appropriate riding position or “equitation” for the riding discipline they are showing under, overall appearance, performance, and ability to control a horse. **Equitation** refers to a rider's position while mounted (seat, hands, torso, legs), and encompasses a rider's ability to ride correctly and with effective aids. Rider is the main focus of the judge, and the rider's position through gait transitions, but overall appearance and manners of horse are also a consideration. Maximum credit is given to those who perform the various gait transitions with control (responsiveness & willingness of horse) and precision (correctness of gaits, leads & diagonals).

Possible gaits: walk, posting trot (eng), seated trot(eng), canter(eng), jog (west) extended jog (west), lope (west) – **Note: lope and canter – refer to class schedule for specific classes that call for a lope/canter gait** Criteria: 75% Rider-25% Horse

COMBINED RIDING DISCIPLINE PATTERN CLASSES- (where rider has option to show in western or english attire) **These are judges as Equitation classes.**

Equitation refers to a rider's position while mounted (seat, hands, torso, legs), and encompasses a rider's ability to ride correctly and with effective aids. Riders are judged on the appropriate riding position for the riding discipline they are showing under, overall appearance , performance, and ability to control a horse. Judges focus is more on the rider, and the rider's position through gait transitions & maneuvers. Maximum credit is given to those who perform the various pattern maneuvers and gait transitions with control (responsiveness of horse) and precision (correctness of pattern, gaits, leads and diagonals).

Possible gaits/maneuvers: walk, posting trot(eng), seated trot(eng), canter(eng), jog (west), extended jog (west), lope(west) stopping, backing, pivot turns, lead changes. Criteria: 75% Rider-25% Horse.

COMBINED ENGLISH & WESTERN CLASSES

For Classes in which Western or English is an option, the rule for applying points towards a Division is based on the outfitting of horse and rider. Western attire and tack; Points must be applied to applicable Western Division, English attire and tack, Points must be applied to the applicable English Division. Halter and Showmanship are Exceptions to this rule - See NOTES

SHOWMANSHIP NOTE: For class participants that have chosen to show in English attire: In addition to the use of an English Bridle w/reins, you also

are permitted the use of a plain Leather Halter with a lead & chain **IF** that is the tack used and accepted by the breed for similar class.

HALTER & SHOWMANSHIP NOTE: For Participants in Halter & Showmanship Classes with regards to allowed attire: Participants can base their tack and attire on rules of the individual breed and still apply it towards any eligible English or Western division. **For Example**, if you show your quarter horse in English classes but for Showmanship you wear Western attire, you still can apply those points towards the English Division. If however, they are not going to follow the breed rules, than they need to choose their attire and tack according to the HRCNJ Attire Rules with regards to points application and Divisions (Western Div, Western tack & attire; English Div, English tack & attire)

ALL TRAIL CLASSES: Each exhibitor begins with a score. Execution of each obstacle is scored and points can be awarded or taken away from starting score depending on execution. Judging is based on performance & precision of the horse when maneuvering over obstacles. Additional consideration on manners, attitude, and response to rider cues. Criteria: Horse: 75% Rider: 25% . PeeWee & W/J/T Age specific Trail classes will NOT have any loping/cantering as part of pattern.

ALL GYMKHANA CLASSES: These are speed events with total criteria based on time. Penalties of five (5) seconds each for any piece of equipment that is knocked over will be added onto time. Any horse that fails to include equipment specified in a pattern or who is off course will be disqualified. Class patterns are available at the show office. Hat or helmet of the rider MUST still be worn when the horse crosses the starting line. ***ALL YOUTH RIDERS – must wear approved safety helmet when riding in youth gymkhana and open gymkhana classes***

Open Reining: Open to all riders including trainers and professionals. Riders will be asked to perform an individual reining pattern to be posted the day of the show. Riders will be judged on their ability to control & guide the horse through the pattern with little or no apparent resistance. Any deviation from the exact pattern will be faulted accordingly by the judge of the day. Credit will be given for smoothness, attitude, & quickness in performing the various maneuvers while using CONTROLLED speed. Pattern must be performed with one hand on the reins.

Junior Horse Western Pleasure (Eng & West): Open to horses age **Five (5) and under** as of January 1 of the current year. (HRCNJ rules for age: horses age for HRCNJ is based on how old horse is as of January 1st of current year) Judged as a Pleasure class. See Judging Criteria for **WESTERN PLEASURE CLASSES**. Criteria: Horse: 80% Rider: 20%. Horses shown in this class may be shown in a bosel or a western snaffle bit.

Senior Horse Western Pleasure (Eng & West): Open to horses age **Six (6) and over** as of January 1 of the current year. (HRCNJ rules for age: horses age for HRCNJ is based on how old horse is as of January 1st of current year) Judged as a Pleasure class. See Judging Criteria for **WESTERN PLEASURE CLASSES**. Criteria: Horse: 80% Rider: 20%.

******* HRCNJ Jumping Classes*******

Approved helmets are required during jump schooling as well as in the jumping and flat classes. You will be disqualified if you do not have an approved helmet on at these times. (NO hunt caps with or without a harness)

Class judging rules are defined specifically for HRCNJ shows also taking into consideration rules and specifications of surrounding shows and organizations, USEF, AQHA etc... who offer similar classes .

Riders may enter in more than one division (unless beginner / walk trot - see cross rail rules). You do not need to participate in the whole division you may chose specific classes that suit your needs.

All jumping classes are designed for Hunt Seat Equitation and are judged 70 % rider / 30% horse. You will be judged on position, seat, hands, leg, control of the horse and ability to execute the course.

Martingales may be worn in jumping classes only.

Trotting in corners will NOT be penalized in any jumping class.

Courtesy circles are to be at the riders discretion.

On the flat riders will be judged on the rail at the specified gaites on: position, seat, hands, leg, control of the horse and ability to complete what the judge requires on the flat. You may be asked to sit trot, 2 point, hand gallop etc...

Ring conflicts see Vicki and/or Jackie to make arrangements

Open Cross Rails Divisions – Youth & Adult

Open Cross Rail Adult and Open 2 ft. Adult will run as separate divisions if there are 3 riders for the division. If the minimum participation is not met for a class it will be combined.

Entries for Crossrails and 2 Foot height Jumping Classes need to be in by noon so we can plan for the division.

Adult riders are 19 years of age as of January 1 of the current calendar year

Youth riders are 18 years of age as of January 1 of the current calendar year

Open Cross Rails is open to all riders including:

Walk/Tort/Jog Age Specific / Beginner Riders (not peewee) are eligible to ride in the cross rail division only. You may participate in all classes of the division but may not cross enter in any other jumping classes or canter classes . You may cross enter in the W/T/J classes in ring 1. Please see specific rules and eligibility requirements for the W/T/J Age Specific Divisions.

The cross rail jumping classes will have a course of 4-8 xrails to be shown at the trot or canter (rider preference). However if you ride in the W/T/J Age Specific classes you are not permitted to canter the crossrail course.

Open 2 ft - The course will have up to 10 jumps per course. Height will not exceed 2 ft.

Open 2'3 - The course will have up to 10 jumps per course. Height will not exceed 2'3.

Open 2'6 - The course will have up to 10 jumps per course. Height will not exceed 2'6.

Open Cross Rails Jumping Division- Courses

Riders will be asked to complete a course of four (4) to six (8) cross rail jumps. They will be set at 18 inches on center, not to exceed two (2) feet. Rider is to complete jumps, at either a trot or canter. Once gait of trot or canter is chosen, rider can not change mid-course. Trotting in corners will NOT be penalized unless other wise specified. Courtesy Circles are to be at the riders discretion. Rider to be judged on position; seat , hands, leg, control of the horse and ability to execute the course.

All jump courses will be designed with equitation or hunter specifications. All jumping classes are designed for Hunt Seat Equitation and are judged 70 % rider / 30% horse. You will be judged on position, seat, hands, leg, control of the horse and

ability to execute the course Martingales are permitted in jumping classes ONLY, NOT Flat. An approved helmet is required for ALL jumping classes. Crossrail classes are open to all horses, ponies and riders. HRCNJ W/J/T Age Specific Beginner Riders..... as per HRCNJ Rules/Specifications you ARE permitted to participate in ALL Crossrail Division Classes. The Crossrail Jump Courses are the ONLY Jumping division classes you are eligible for; you may not cross enter into other jumping divisions classes.

Open Cross Rails Jumping Division – On The Flat; Walk/Trot

Judged as a Hunter Under Saddle Class – see Judging Criteria details listed under Hunter Under Saddle. NOTE Class Judging Criteria Rules rules are defined specifically for HRCNJ shows also taking into consideration rules and specs of surrounding shows & organizations, usef, aqha etc...who offer similar classes

Horses will be judged both directions of the ring at a walk and a trot. Martingales are NOT permitted.

HRCNJ W/J/T Age Specific/Beginner Riders: as per HRCNJ Rules/Specifications you ARE permitted to participate in ALL Crossrail Division Classes, which does include this Flat class.

Open Cross Rails Jumping Division – On The Flat; Walk/Trot/Canter

Judged as a Hunter Under Saddle Class – see Judging Criteria details listed under Hunter Under Saddle. NOTE Class Judging Criteria Rules rules are defined specifically for HRCNJ shows also taking into consideration rules and specs of surrounding shows & organizations, usef, aqha etc...who offer similar classes

Horses will be judged both directions of the ring at a walk, a trot & a canter. Martingales are NOT permitted.

HRCNJ W/J/T Age Specific/Beginner Riders: as per HRCNJ Rules/Specifications you ARE permitted to participate in ALL Crossrail Division Classes, which does include this Flat class

Open 2 Foot Over Fences: Rider will be asked to complete a course of jumps no higher than 2 feet. Rider is to complete jumps at a canter. Trotting in corners will NOT be penalized unless other wise specified. Courtesy Circles are to be at the riders discretion.

All jumping classes are designed for Hunt Seat Equitation and are judged 70 % rider / 30% horse. You will be judged on position, seat, hands, leg, control of the horse and ability to execute the course.

Martingales are permitted in jumping classes ONLY, NOT Flat. An approved helmet is required for ALL jumping classes.

Open 2 Foot Division On the Flat

Judged as a Hunter Under Saddle Class – see *Judging Criteria details listed under Hunter Under Saddle. NOTE Class Judging Criteria Rules rules are defined specifically for HRCNJ shows also taking into consideration rules and specs of surrounding shows & organizations, usef, aqha etc...who offer similar classes*

Horses will be judged both directions of the ring at a walk, a trot & a canter. Martingales are NOT permitted.

Open 2.3 Foot Over Fences: Rider will be asked to complete a course of jumps not to be higher than 2.3 feet. Trotting in corners will NOT be penalized unless other wise specified. Courtesy Circles are to be at the riders discretion. All jumping classes are designed for Hunt Seat Equitation and are judged 70 % rider / 30% horse. You will be judged on position, seat, hands, leg, control of the horse and ability to execute the course..

Martingales are permitted in jumping classes ONLY, NOT Flat. An approved helmet is required for ALL jumping classes.

Open 2.3 Foot Division On the Flat

Judged as a Hunter Under Saddle Class – see *Judging Criteria details listed under Hunter Under Saddle. NOTE Class Judging Criteria Rules rules are defined specifically for HRCNJ shows also taking into consideration rules and specs of surrounding shows & organizations, usef, aqha etc...who offer similar classes*

Horses will be judged both directions of the ring at a walk, a trot & a canter. Martingales are NOT permitted.

Open 2.6 Foot Over Fences: Rider will be asked to complete a course of jumps not to be higher than 2.6 feet. Trotting in corners will NOT be penalized unless other wise specified. Courtesy Circles are to be at the riders discretion. All jumping classes are designed for Hunt Seat Equitation and are judged 70 % rider / 30% horse. You will be judged on position, seat, hands, leg, control of the horse and ability to execute the course. Martingales are permitted in jumping classes ONLY, NOT Flat. An approved helmet is required for ALL jumping classes.

Open 2.6 Foot Division On the Flat

Judged as a Hunter Under Saddle Class – see *Judging Criteria details listed under Hunter Under Saddle. NOTE Class Judging Criteria Rules rules are defined specifically for HRCNJ shows also taking into consideration rules and specs of surrounding shows & organizations, usef, aqha etc...who offer similar classes*

Horses will be judged both directions of the ring at a walk, a trot & a canter. Martingales are NOT permitted.

SECTION B: The Specifics Listed in this Section Applies to the Class/Division Rules, Requirements for Eligibility & Other Restrictions as specified by HRCNJ:

Pee-Wee: Open to riders 10 & under. Riders may base age as of January 1st of the current year. PeeWee is an age specific Division. You cannot Blue Ribbon or Grand Champion out of this Division or its offered classes. How a rider performs in PeeWee has no impact on the next level of Class/Division they transition to... the only criteria would be those classes and divisions that are age specific. (HRCNJ rules for age: riders age for HRCNJ is based on how old they are **on January 1st** of current year) The Judging guidelines stated in the H.R.C.N.J. class rules for an individual riding disciplines, will apply to the specific classes offered in English and Western for PeeWee, **WITH THE EXCEPTION** of there being no cantering or loping in any PeeWee class. **PeeWee riders may not compete in any other classes or divisions offered by HRCNJ. This Exclusion includes the Open Walk/Jog classes.**
ONLY Exception: Halter – PeeWee participants may participate in Youth Halter

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ACCESSMENT OF NOVICE RIDER ELIGIBILITY:

IMPORTANT NOTE, an HRCNJ Novice is NOT the same as being a Novice at Breed Shows. An individual who competes at Breed Shows, in similar classes and is consistently placing in the top 10, should not be competing in HRCNJ Novice classes – they should instead be in the Open, Junior or Senior level classes

- Novice is open to all non-professionals: A non professional is someone who does not collect monies for training of horses or riding instruction.
- **A Novice is** an individual who lopes or canters, they may be **relatively new to showing and are still gaining show pen experience.**
- **It is the Rider who is considered the Novice and not the horse.**
- **The determination of a “novice” is based on the ability, experience & achievements of the rider.**
- **Once you have become ineligible for a Novice class or Division you are not permitted to compete back in the division/class on a different horse. This includes the Novice Pleasure class**

It may be the case that a **rider is new to a specific discipline of riding or specialty class**; For Example: you may be an accomplished English rider but are new to showmanship. Being new to a discipline or a specialty class DOES qualify you as a Novice.

Placing out of Novice as per HRCNJ Records/Tracking

A. Any rider participating in Novice Classes and accumulating points for a Novice Division will no longer be eligible to compete in any Novice class for that Division the following season if the novice rider achieves HRCNJ Grand Champion, BUT this must be achieved against six(6) or more qualifying members also competing in same division to make the novice ineligible the following season.

B. HRCNJ also follows a “blue ribbon rule”: we track all members and non members who compete in HRCNJ Novice classes and once the individual has accumulated three (3) Blue ribbons in a specific class (regardless of horse) they are no longer eligible to compete in that specific class with any horse. A rider who begins the year as a Novice may complete the year as a Novice.

It is the responsibility of HRCNJ members, trainers and parents, to read & understand the established Class and Show Rules (available in show office & also on website). These Rules are reviewed annually by HRCNJ. HRCNJ expects its members and all those involved with the rider(trainer, parents) to use the honor system, when making a fair and realistic assessment of whether an individual really still is eligible for Novice classes at HRCNJ shows. HRCNJ and its representatives can only track and readily provide factual information about member status based on our own show records. HRCNJ does not have full knowledge of, or immediate access to the records of other horse show organizations (Breed or Open). This level of information about a horse/rider is only actively pursued by the executives of HRCNJ when a claim or situation is brought to our attention. It is also HRCNJ’s practice & responsibility as a professional and credible organization, to research any third party claims made regarding a riders status & eligibility, and we do attempt to contact those involved (if it is known) to discuss this matter openly, but discretely. Anyone who inquires about eligibility (individual, trainer or parent)t is expected to give full disclosure of showing & riding status outside of HRCNJ. Only with ALL information can a fair & true assessment be made & a determination of eligibility made & then advised. In the event that it is found for a member whose eligibility is challenged that the claim was true, all placings received in that calendar year at shows for Novice classes will receive a DQ and any points awarded are removed. Also this will result in a direct loss of any awards that would have been received by that member for the individual novice class or novice Division.

NOVICE RIDER YOUTH: Open to riders age 18 and under as of January 1st of the current year. (HRCNJ rules for age: riders age for HRCNJ is based on how old they are on January 1st of current year) **A Novice Rider is: See General Definition Above**

NOVICE RIDER ADULT: Open to riders age 19 and older as of January 1st of the current year. (HRCNJ rules for age: riders age for HRCNJ is based on how old they are on January 1st of current year) **A Novice Rider is: See General Definition Above**

JUNIOR RIDER: Open to riders age 18 and under as of January 1st of the current calendar year. (HRCNJ rules for age: riders age for HRCNJ is based on how old they are on January 1st of current year)

JUNIOR HORSE: Open to Horses age five (5) and under as of January 1st of the current calendar year. **ONLY** A junior horse is permitted to be shown in a western snaffle bit without curb chain or a bosal.

SENIOR HORSE: Open to Horses age six (6) and over as of January 1st of the current calendar year. Senior horses may NOT be shown in a western snaffle bit or a bosal.

EXCEPTION: Open Snaffle Bit Class

SENIOR RIDER: Open to riders age 19 and older as of January 1st of the current year. (HRCNJ rules for age: riders age for HRCNJ is based on how old they are on January 1st of current year)

OPEN RIDER: Open to any rider regardless of age or current riding ability or level.

LEADLINE RIDER: Open to riders six (6) years of age and under as of January 1st of the current calendar year. (HRCNJ rules for age: riders age for HRCNJ is based on how old they are on January 1st of current year)