



2023 Guide to competing  
at Gold Rated  
Hunter/Jumper  
Competitions in Ontario

Prepared by the O.H.J.A.

Current as of January 23, 2023

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## **ASSOCIATIONS OF IMPORTANCE**



### **THE OHJA**

The Ontario Hunter Jumper Association was formed in 1994 to represent all hunter and jumper competitors, owners and professionals who participate at any Equestrian Canada Gold horse show held in Ontario. The purpose of the association is to develop programs and initiatives to further hunter and jumper sport, all governed by the rules of Equestrian Canada.

Please visit [www.ohja.ca](http://www.ohja.ca) for more information on show dates, programs and banquet information.



### **EQUESTRIAN CANADA**

Equestrian Canada (EC) is the governing body of the Canadian horse sport industry. Equestrian Canada provides the standards under which competitions are conducted. It also educates and licenses judges, stewards, technical delegates and coaches. The Jumping Committee is the committee of EC which deals specifically with the promotion of the hunter-jumper sport at both the amateur and high performance levels.

The 2023 General and Hunter Jumper Downloadable Regulations can be found and on the EC website at [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca)

### **ONTARIO EQUESTRIAN**



Ontario Equestrian is the umbrella organization committed to equine welfare and support of associations and industries in Ontario's horse

community. OE represents their interests and provides liaison to the Ontario government. More information can be found at [www.equestrianontario.ca](http://www.equestrianontario.ca).

### **MORE ABOUT THE OHJA**

The Ontario Hunter and Jumper Association is a member association of Ontario Equestrian. It is comprised of an elected Board of Directors and manages its programs through a number of sub-committees which include:

1. Banquet and Prize committee: Annual Awards and Banquet, Program ribbons and prizes.
2. Communications Committee: InGate, OHJA Website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
3. Hunter and Equitation Committee: Pony Power, Beginner & Low Child/Adult Stakes, Young Hunter Development, Jr/Am Hunter Derbies, Equitation Weekend, and Hunter Special Weekend.
4. Jumper Committee; OHJA Super Jumper Weekends, OHJA Medal, OHJA/CET Mini Medal, Water Jump Schooling, Young Jumper Horse Development.

The work of the OHJA and its committees is done solely by volunteers. We are constantly seeking fresh faces, new voices, and helping hands to work on committees. Please contact [info@ohja.ca](mailto:info@ohja.ca) to find out more about becoming a committee or board member.

The OHJA is funded by your membership dollars and the levy money contributed by the Jumping Committee of Equestrian Canada.

The OHJA holds an AGM at the Annual Awards Banquet. All members are invited to attend, and all senior members are eligible to vote.

### **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS AT HORSE SHOWS**

1. In order to compete at Equestrian Canada (EC) Gold sanctioned horse shows, and participate in any EC/OE programs, you must join both EC and Ontario Equestrian annually.

The rider and the owner as listed on the EC Horse Recording must be current members of EC and OE.

2. In order to be eligible for year-end awards (which include the tracking of results and points) and participate in any OHJA programs, you must also join the OHJA.

Eligibility for programs and points begins on the date of completed OHJA membership. OHJA memberships are processed by OE.

If the ownership of a horse is a barn/farm/business/syndicate or partnership, this entity must become an OHJA member. A director of the entity must also be an OHJA member.

Amateurs must also have an Amateur EC membership in order to compete in classes designated for Amateurs.

## **LICENSE AND PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETING AT THE GOLD LEVEL**

1. EC Gold competitive license: must be held by riders, owners, lessees, coaches, trainers and officials.
2. EC Horse license – annual license required for horses. The EC recording number for the current year must be provided to all competitions that animal is entered into.
3. EC Passport/Recording Number: all horses competing at EC gold sanctioned shows must possess an EC Horse Recording Number. If you are competing at the Jumping Platinum Level, you must possess either an EC or FEI Passport.

You should provide a photocopy of EC, OE, and OHJA licenses to all competitions with your entry form.

## **COMPETITIONS**

A list of sanctioned events is located on the OHJA [website](#) with contact information and/or e mail addresses.

## **GETTING STARTED**

If the thrill of competing on the gold circuit is beckoning, come to a venue to watch! Watch the division you want to compete in and discuss requirements and opportunities with your coach. Visit the horse show office, get programs, brochures so you're fully aware of what is needed to compete.

## **SCHOOLING DAYS/CLASSES**

Most competitions will host schooling days for hunter and jumpers, usually on the Tuesday before the show starts. This is an ideal opportunity to introduce and acclimatize a horse and rider to the show ring and show grounds at a nominal cost. Schooling classes are offered on show days as a preparation as well. Contact the show office for specific dates, time, costs, and eligibility.

## **ENTRY FORMS**

### **Read the individual horse show program carefully.**

Each show has variations on rules and conditions, although every class is governed by the rules and specification of the Equestrian Canada Rule book.

The rulebook is available online at [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca)

A completed entry form is required. Please note the following:

- a) Membership numbers must be recorded on the entry form.
- b) A copy of your current memberships will ensure that numbers are recorded currently and correctly.
- c) The horse's recording or passport number must also be put on the entry form. Numbers are not issued until entry forms are complete and an open cheque or credit card number is left at the show office.



**NO POINTS FOR RESULTS ARE RECORDED UNLESS ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE CURRENT AND YOU CANNOT EARN POINTS ON A TEMPORARY EC MEMBERSHIP**

**Points, as per Equestrian Canada rules, cannot be backdated!**

**Show Days:** Horse shows may permit additions and changes to classes entered but this may incur extra fees depending on each competition's own rules.

**Scheduling of classes** may change due to weather, number of entries or other variables.

**Dress code:** At most shows, polo shirts are permitted in the jumper ring during the week. Full dress attire is usually required for all jumpers on the weekend and at all times for hunter/equitation rings. Forgetting to secure your collar or wear your gloves may constitute elimination in the equitation rings!

The best way to be prepared for competition in any of the hunter, jumper or equitation classes is to review the EC class specifications in the 2023 Rule Book.

**HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR THE YEAR-END AWARDS, AND THE ROYAL?**



The simple answer is that points are awarded and tabulated by OHJA throughout the show season for all gold shows. The points are based on class placing, show rating, and the number of entries in a class.

**THERE ARE NO POINTS ACCUMULATED UNTIL THE  
OWNER AND RIDER ARE MEMBERS OF THE OHJA AND  
POINTS CANNOT BE BACKDATED**

The OHJA website posts the updated points for each division as soon as the results are submitted by each competition. Please be patient as sometimes this is a lengthy process.

Please note that the posted orders at the show do not necessarily reflect the exact number of horses competing. The judges' card reflects the number shown and is the accepted record. The Royal and year end awards use these points to decide who qualifies and who wins year end awards.

Not all divisions are showcased at the RAWF but almost all are presented year end awards at the OHJA Banquet.

Please note, all information regarding Royal Winter Fair qualifying criteria can be found on the Royal Winter Fair Horse Show page: [www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org).

All qualifying criteria is determined by the Royal Horse Show organizing committee and any questions about the criteria for a particular division should be directed to the Royal Winter Fair.

If you have more questions not answered here please contact us at: [info@ohja.ca](mailto:info@ohja.ca).