

Dear BCHSA members-

On behalf of the BCHSA Board, I'm writing this month with some news about a few important changes in the prize lists, and a few little reminders about various things of interest (hopefully...).

NEWS

The following is a list of the changes to the Divisions on the Prize lists this year.

- **Leadline and Mini** Due to the low numbers in Leadline and Mini last year, and the fact that some kids did come to show and then couldn't show or didn't receive points due to too few entries, we have decided to "**half point**" the **Leadline and Mini divisions if there are less than 3 riders in the class**. Even if there is only one child in Leadline, we encourage the show venues to hold the class anyway, and half-points will be awarded. We hope that this will help avoid some of the disappointment, and sustain the interest in our younger members.
- **New Division- Pre-Children's/Adult Hunter** We developed this division to allow for the growing interest in the Hopeful Hunter, and at the same time, allow the junior and amateur riders a chance to compete at this height without professionals. This division will be equivalent to Hopeful Hunter, minus the professional riders. It will be run at 2'-2'3" and will have 2 over fences and one under saddle. Our thinking is that this new division would follow the Hopeful Hunter Division (allowing for professionals to school the horses if needed). Then the Juniors and Amateurs can compete only against themselves in the Pre-Children's/Adults. The description in the rule book will read as follows: *Pre-Children's/Adult Hunter: Open to horses and ponies, to be ridden by Juniors and Amateurs only. Adults may ride ponies. Manners and suitability of a horse shall be emphasized in all classes; extreme speed shall be penalized. Suitability of a rider shall be determined by the height and weight of the rider as related to the size of the horse as well as the compatibility of the rider and horse. Judges may penalize but shall not eliminate an entry not having such manners and suitability. Fences to be approximately 2' to 2'3" in height.* This division will be pointed, and therefore must be offered at all BCHSA recognized shows.
- **Thoroughbred "Division"** Like last year, the points for this "division" will be gathered through the horses' points in other divisions. It does not require a separate division. So that management is aware of the technicalities of it, here is a description from the rule book: *Thoroughbred horses eligible to be, or have been registered with the Jockey Club, state breed association or have a visible tattoo can register for this division. Fee to register is \$15.00. Points will be amassed from a specific performance division (Pleasure Horse omitted), which must be declared on the registration form. A year end award will be presented to the high point animal, and a special TB Classic will be held at the Benefit Show.*

- **Junior Pony Medal – adding 2 ft. height.** Due to interest that was expressed largely at the open meeting, we have added 2' to the Pony Medal height options. 2'9" was not removed. Therefore, the Pony Medal will now be offered at 2', 2'3", 2'6", and 2'9". We kept the 2'9" option just in case it was desired, but we don't expect that this will be needed very often, if ever. Thus, we did not feel that offering 4 heights would be overly taxing.
- **Regular Working Hunter is not a recognized division this year.** Any show may offer the division if they choose, but it will be run more as a schooling division than a rated BCHSA division.

REMINDERS

Show Calendar:

The 2011 calendar of shows has been finalized and is posted on the website (<http://bchsa.org/calendar.php>). Remember- this year we will combine **ALL MEDALS FINALS on Oct 15 – Merit Medals (Short and Long Stirrup) will be held on this day instead during the Benefit Show.**

Membership

This is just a reminder that it's not too early to join for 2011! The membership form is on the website (http://bchsa.org/pdf/membership_form.pdf). We encourage you to join as soon as possible.

Your input is welcome!

As an association, we want to be open and responsive to the interests and concerns of our members. So, let us know if you have any suggestions for how things could be done better, etc. Any of us would be happy to hear from you directly, but you can also use the form on our website (under "contact us") if you prefer to submit comments and suggestions anonymously (<http://bchsa.org/contact.php>) – think of it as a "suggestion box." There is also an evaluation form that you can submit (again anonymously) about show venues (http://bchsa.org/pdf/evaluation_form.pdf). The Board will give serious attention and consideration to any and all suggestions or concerns that we receive, and the comments and suggestions about venues will be shared with the appropriate people at the respective venues. We are serious about continuing to make this a safe, fun, and competitive activity, and your views on how to do that most effectively are of great interest to us.

Sharing Photos!

We are planning to have a BCHSA Facebook page this year. As mentioned before, the main purpose for doing this is to give us a place to easily post photos from each of the shows. We plan to post the photos very soon after each show (within days). Denise

Carnes, one of our new Board members, has volunteered to take photos at the shows and post them on FB. But we will also welcome submissions from the broader membership, assuming that they are of adequate quality for posting. Details on the FB page will follow soon. Meanwhile, PLEASE NOTE: this year's membership form includes a box to check that will indicate your willingness to allow us to post photos of you on the website and/or Facebook page.

Junior Board.

The Junior Board plans to be active again this year, and junior members are encouraged to get involved by attending meetings and/or communicating via the Junior Board Facebook page. The Junior Board plans to have at least one meeting that will be open to younger junior members (under 12 years of age). There will be more info on this sent out soon.

BCHSA Wear.

Let me just remind you that there's lots of great BCHSA stuff for sale on the website (<http://www.acesportswear.net/>). The BCHSA jackets that we gave away as prizes at the banquet were a huge hit! And there's lots more where that came from....!!!

Thanks for your continued support and participation in BCHSA!

On behalf of the BCHSA Board, I wish you happy trails, and will look forward to seeing you at the shows!

Andy Pope
BCHSA President
Feb 18, 2011