

**2023 / 2024 Rules and Regulations  
of the  
ASPCA Maclay National Championship  
and all  
Maclay Horsemanship Classes and Regional Competitions**

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE: Membership in the National Horse Show Association (NHSA) is required for all riders and trainers who have riders competing in the ASPCA Maclay. The membership/qualifying year is September 1 – August 31. \*\***

The National Horse Show Association of America, Limited (“NHSAA”) is responsible for the organization, presentation and administration of the Maclay Trophy and the associated competitions, including the Maclay Regional Championship (“Regionals”) and Maclay National Championship (“Finals”) Classes. To ensure the selection of appropriate sites, judges and course designers, the NHSAA communicates with the Joint Equitation Task Force of the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA), the National Horse Show Association Equitation Committee and on other matters with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (“ASPCA”). USEF rules govern these competitions and the Maclay National Championship Qualifying Classes (“Maclay”). In case of any conflict between these Rules and USEF rules, USEF rules shall govern.

**Courses for all Maclay, Regionals and Finals Classes**

- To be shown over a course of not less than eight obstacles.
- Course must include:
  - One combination (including an oxer)
  - At least two changes of direction after the first obstacle
  - At least three of the following
    - Bending Line
    - Narrow Jump (5’6”-8’)
    - Roll back turn
    - Fence at the end of the ring
    - Long approach to a single jump
- 1/3 of the obstacles must be oxers
- Obstacle height to be set at 3’6”
- Maximum width of oxers 4’
- Maximum width of triple bars and hogs backs 5’
- Liverpools, water jumps or water used as decoration are prohibited
- Banks, ditches, grobs and other natural obstacles are prohibited.

**Specifications for all Maclay, Regionals and Finals Classes**

The Maclay is open to junior members of USEF who have not reached their 18th birthday in accordance with GR127. Riders must be current members of the National Horse Show Association (“NHSA”) in order to compete in all Maclay, Regionals and Finals Classes. Trainers (or coaches when applicable [see USEF GR108]) of riders competing in all Maclay, Regionals and Finals Classes must also be members of the NHSA. The NHSA Membership year is September 1 through August 31. Junior rider annual contributions shall be \$35. Trainer (or coach) annual contributions shall be \$50. A rider may enter any Maclay anywhere in the United States according to the conditions published in the current Rule book of the USEF. Any rider in his or her final junior year may not compete in any qualifying classes held at a competition with a start date after August 31 of that competition year. Previous winners of the Finals are ineligible to compete in any Maclay Class, Regionals or Finals.

## MACLAY CLASSES

### Judging

To be judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control of the horse. After completion of the jumping phase a minimum of twelve (12) riders, if available, are required to show at a walk, trot, and canter. The flat performance of those riders selected to show in the flat phase shall count 50%. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible. Only riders who have completed the course and competed in the flat phase may receive ribbons or points. Use of the open numerical system of judging not to be used. USEF Tests 1-23.

### Conditions for Maclay Classes:

- Only competitions recognized by the USEF are eligible to hold the Maclay class.
- All competitions must apply to hold the Maclay class 30 days in advance using the forms found on [www.nhs.org](http://www.nhs.org).
- Only one rider per horse.
- To fill a Maclay class three (3) competitors must complete the course.
- If there are 40 or more entries at the beginning of a Maclay class, it **may** be divided by every other number and run as two separate sections.
- If there are 50 or more entries at the beginning of a Maclay class, it **must** be divided by every other number and run as two separate classes.
- A Maclay class may not be run using a California split.

## QUALIFYING

All Qualifying is based on the increment point chart below:

### INCREMENT SYSTEM and NUMBER OF ENTRANTS

Placings	Number of Exhibitors Who Complete the Course			
	3-5 Exhibitors	6-15 Exhibitors	16-30 Exhibitors	31+ Exhibitors
1st	5	10	20	40
2nd	4	8	16	32
3rd	3	6	12	24
4th		4	8	16
5th			4	8
6th			2	4
7th				2
8th				1

**All Qualifying is based on the state point requirement point chart below:**

**\*Point requirements are based on the criteria used by the USEF that utilizes membership numbers in proportion to competition opportunities.**

**\*This formula can only be applied for the current qualifying period after results from all the horse shows during the entire previous years qualifying period have been reported and accounted for. *Until that process has been completed the point chart below will continue to reflect the point requirements from the previous year's qualifying period (9/1/22-8/31/23). Once the point requirements for this year's qualifying period have been computed they will appear in the chart below and there will be new language here reflecting that these are the point requirements for the current qualifying period (9/1/23-8/31/24).* Please continue to check back here for when these point requirements have been computed, posted and new language is in place indicating that the point requirements have been updated and are correct.**

2024 Points Required to Qualify by State							
State	Points	State	Points	State	Points	State	Points
Alabama	6	Illinois	15	Nebraska	10	South Carolina	10
Alaska	6	Indiana	6	Nevada	6	South Dakota	6
Arizona	10	Iowa	10	New Hampshire	10	Tennessee	10
Arkansas	6	Kansas	6	New Jersey	20	Texas	10
California	15	Kentucky	10	New Mexico	6	Utah	6
Canada	6	Louisiana	6	New York	20	Vermont	10
Colorado	10	Maine	6	North Carolina	15	Virginia	15
Connecticut	20	Maryland	15	North Dakota	6	Washington	6
DC	6	Massachusetts	20	Ohio	15	West Virginia	6
Delaware	15	Michigan	15	Oklahoma	6	Wisconsin	6
Florida	20	Minnesota	6	Oregon	10	Wyoming	6
Georgia	10	Mississippi	10	Pennsylvania	15	Outside US	6
Hawaii	6	Missouri	6	Puerto Rico	6		
Idaho	6	Montana	6	Rhode Island	20		

● **General**

- All riders wishing to compete in the Finals must qualify for the Regionals based on the state point requirement of their own official rider point state of residence with the USEF.
- Riders may compete in a total of fourteen (14) Maclay classes in a single qualifying period. Any rider who continues to compete after they have competed in fourteen (14) Maclay classes will no longer be eligible to compete in the Regionals or the Finals (Exception: If a rider is not yet qualified for the Regionals of their official rider point state of residence with the USEF after fourteen (14) Maclay classes, that rider may continue to compete until qualified. Any rider that has already competed in their fourteen (14) Maclay classes must stop competing in Maclay classes as soon as they are qualified, or they will no longer be eligible to compete in any Regionals or the Finals.).
- ***It is the rider's responsibility to calculate and know their points as well as the number of classes in which they have competed.***
- The qualifying period for each year's Regionals ends August 31. If a horse show starts on or before August 31, Maclay points acquired at that show will count towards the current year.

## ● Qualifying for Finals

- At the end of the qualifying period the top fifty (50) riders, based on points, will be automatically qualified to compete in the Finals.
  - Riders who qualify for the Finals using this system may not compete in any Regional Championship Class.
  - Only the points from each rider's first fourteen (14) shows in a single qualifying period to count towards qualifying using this system.
  - In the event there are riders tied for the fiftieth (50<sup>th</sup>) position at the end of the qualifying period, all riders involved in the tie will be qualified to compete in the Finals.
- Those riders not in the top fifty (50) based on points at the end of the qualifying period will have the opportunity to qualify for the Finals through the Regionals.
  - One hundred (100) riders will be invited to compete in the Finals from the Regionals. The percentage of Finalists invited to compete in the Finals from each Region will be determined by dividing the one hundred (100) riders invited to compete in the Finals by the number of riders that compete in all the Regionals. The office of the NHSAA will calculate this percentage and the numbers of riders to be invited to show in the Finals from each Region. These numbers will be published no later than 48 hours after the last Regionals is completed. The riders finishing in the top positions at each Regionals will be invited to compete at the Finals. A rider must complete the course at a Regionals to be eligible to compete at the Finals.
  - If a rider invited from a Regionals to compete in the Finals declines to compete in the Finals the rider with the next highest placing from the same Regionals will receive an invitation to compete in the Finals. This invitation to compete in the Finals will continue to be extended to the next highest placing rider from the same Regionals until the invitation is accepted and the spot filled. However, after the first qualified rider declines to compete in the finals, there shall only be one invitation provided for every ten competitors from any given Regionals. Example: If Region Q has 38 riders competing, then the invitation to compete at the Finals shall be provided to all those determined by the percentage formula. If any one of them declines, there shall be no more than two additional invitations provided to fill the spot which has been declined. Subsequent to one invitation being provided for every ten riders in the region, the invitation shall then go to the next rider from the Region which has the highest percentage of competitors. The final closing for entries will be 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the first Friday of October, at the office of the NHSSA, under such conditions as are specified in the prize list. The standby list for accepting riders who are qualified for the Finals will close on the Sunday of the WIHS which is the Sunday before the Finals.
- Provided they have qualified for and competed in a Regionals, riders who have not previously qualified for the Finals may qualify to compete at the Finals if they place in the top twelve at the US Medal Finals, Pennsylvania National Horse Show; the top ten at the WIHS Equitation Classic, Washington International Horse Show and any junior riders placing in the top ten at the USEF Talent Search Medal Finals West and USEF Talent Search Medal Finals East.

## ● Selecting or Changing a Region

- Once qualified, riders have the option to compete in any Regionals based upon the point requirements of their own official rider point state of residence with the USEF. Riders may choose to show at either their own home region or any other region. If a rider chooses to compete in a regional other than that of their home region, then a change of region form must be submitted.
- Any rider wishing to compete in a different region than their home region must notify the NHS in writing by August 31 using the official form provided by the NHSAA (forms may be downloaded from NHS.org website). On this form the rider will be asked to state his or her intention to compete in the Regionals and in which Region. Forms must be received by the NHSAA no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time on August 31. Once a rider completes the paperwork to compete in another

Regionals other than his or her own home region, any further changes must be requested in writing to NHSAA by emailing cindy@nhs.org.

- A rider may only change Regions one time per qualifying year. Once a rider completes the paperwork to compete in another Regionals other than his or her own home region, no other Region changes can be made, and that rider may not revert to their home Region.

- **Residents from any non-USEF Zone Area**

- In case of a permanent residence in any non-USEF zone area, such as Canada and Puerto Rico, a rider may choose to compete in any Regionals so long as he or she meets the minimum qualifying requirement of 10 points. These riders must fill out a Change of Region form (forms may be downloaded from NHS.org website) to declare in which Region they will compete.

- **Entries and Entry Closing Dates for Regionals**

- Entries for Regional Maclay Championship classes close, and must be received by, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, September 1, at the NHSAA's office, except if that date should fall on a Sunday, in which case they must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the following Monday. Entries must be on the Official Entry Form, signed, and submitted with the \$150.00 per class Entry Fee made payable to the NHSAA. The NHSAA reserves the right to reject any late or unsigned entries or entries not submitted with all entry fees.
- Entries may not be accepted directly by any Regionals competition.
- Entry and class lists for Regionals shall be provided by the NHSAA to competitions hosting Regionals no later than 48 hours preceding the commencement of the class. Stall reservations and all other entry and class fees, including competition and processing fees for other classes which might be held during the same competition, must be provided directly to the competition hosting the Regionals.

- **Conditions Governing Regionals**

- The NHSAA shall select all appropriate sites, competitions, and dates for Regionals. All competitions shall be held beginning no earlier than the first weekend in September of each year and shall conclude no later than the last weekend of September of each year. No Regionals may publish class specifications, entry closing dates, judges, or entry fees without the express written permission of the NHSAA.
- Each show requesting to hold a Regionals must be willing to run the class in accordance with the following requirements:
  - Regionals may be held either indoors or out but should be held in an indoor or covered indoor arena whenever possible.
  - Regionals must have two "R" judges.
    - One from the NHSAA approved list.
    - A second to be approved by the NHSAA.
- Regionals must have a USEF licensed Course Designer to be approved by the NHSAA.
- Regionals must display two (2) National Horse Show Banners
- All Regionals must realize that the purpose of this class is to select the top riders from around the country to compete at the Finals held in November each year. With this in mind, it is of the utmost importance that each of the Regionals are held within the closest similar standards possible, not only to each other but also to the Finals as well.
- A Regional competition must have at minimum 6 competitors for the class to be held. A Regional competition may not be split.

## REGIONALS

### Course

The course for each Regionals shall be designed by a USEF Course Designer who must be selected and/or approved by the NHSAA. Any Regionals course must adhere to the above stated specifications and be of sufficient difficulty to typify the Finals and reflect the importance of the class. While the courses at all Regionals need not be identical, they should reflect equal difficulty and challenge.

### Judging

Each Regionals shall have two (2) "R" Judges. One of these judges must be selected from the approved list of judges supplied by the NHSAA. The second judge is not required to be selected from this list but must be approved by the NHSAA. Judges for the Finals are ineligible to judge any Regionals in the same year.

Riders are to be judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control of horse.

Two refusals will eliminate a rider from Regionals competition.

Use of the open numerical system of judging not to be used.

After completion of the jumping phase, if available, a minimum of ten (10) more riders than one-half the number of riders competing in the Regionals are required to show at a walk, trot and canter. At the sole discretion of the judges, additional flat work may be called for, but all groups must be asked to perform the same tests. No more than twenty (20) riders at a time may be asked to work together in a group at the same time. The flat performance of those riders selected to show in the flat phase shall count 50%. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible.

After the flat phase the Judges may request further testing using USEF tests 1-23. Riders may only be selected for further testing if after the flat phase they are already assured an invitation (based on percentages) to compete in the Finals.

The Judges will select a Champion, Reserve Champion, and Third through Tenth place finishers at each Regionals. In addition, the judges will determine a stand-by list of all the additional entrants who returned for the flat phase. This stand-by list will be announced publicly, made available to all competitors, and emailed to the NHSAA office.

When the Regionals are completed, and the riders qualified for the Finals have been selected the judge's cards will be immediately sealed. The judge's cards and a detailed copy of the course diagram will be emailed directly to the NHSAA office.

**\*\* Regional locations to be announced by January 1, 2024. \*\***

## **FINALS**

### **Judging**

To be judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control of the horse.

### **Preliminary Round**

To be shown over a special course of jumps set to the above stated specifications and posted one hour before the start of the class. The course for the Finals shall be designed by a USEF Course Designer who must be selected and/or approved by the NHSSA. The Judges for the Finals will have input and give approval on the course design.

### **Flat Phase**

A minimum of twenty four (24) riders, if available, are required to show at a walk, trot and canter. At the sole discretion of the judges, additional flat work may be called for, but all groups must be asked to perform the same tests. No more than twenty (20) riders at a time may be asked to work together in a group at the same time. The flat performance of those riders selected to show in the flat phase shall count 50%. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible.

### **Final Round**

All riders who competed in the Flat Phase will be asked to return for a final round over a second course following the above stated specifications. The Final Round course may include tests.

### **Testing**

Testing of up to six riders is optional using USEF Tests 1-23.

### **Conditions Governing Finals**

Finals are open to junior members of USEF or Equine Canada who have not reached their 18th birthday in accordance with GR127, who have qualified through one of the eight Regionals. Previous winners of the Finals are ineligible to compete in the Finals.

Only one rider per horse.

Riders that show in the Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Equitation Championship are ineligible to compete in the Maclay National Championship Class (ASPCA Maclay Finals) in the same competition year.

Horses that compete in the Hamel Foundation National Horse show 3'3" Equitation Championship or the THIS National Horse Show Adult Equitation Championship are eligible to compete in the Maclay National Championship Class.

Two refusals will eliminate a rider from Finals competition.

Conventional tack per USEF EQ 105.5a. Martingales not permitted for the flat phase.

Trainers/Coaches permitted to ride and school competitors' horses.

Trainers/Coaches permitted to walk any and all courses with competitors.

In the event a horse becomes incapacitated in any phase of competition, upon examination of the Horse show's veterinarian and a judge or steward, a substitution may be permitted by the NHSSA.

**Awards**

The Judges will select a Champion and a Reserve Champion.

Ribbons through tenth place

Trophy to the Trainer of the winning rider.

**Questions and Disputes**

Any questions or disputes relating to the Regionals or the Finals, other than that specifically described above, shall be decided according to the rules of the USEF, if applicable, or according to the Prize List if such question is not covered by the rules of the USEF.