



**TRI-STATE HORSEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION, INC**

**2023 RULE BOOK**



## **2023 Rule Book - Table of Contents**

### ***Chapter I General Information***

Section 1 - Introduction .....	2
Section 2 - Officers & Board of Directors .....	2
Section 3- Committees .....	2
Section 4 - Membership .....	2

### ***Chapter II Horse Shows***

Section 1 - Show Approval .....	3
Section 2 - Show Dates .....	3
Section 3 - Show Reports .....	3
Section 4 - Premium Lists.....	3
Section 5 -Show Personnel.....	4

### ***Chapter III Classes***

Section 1 - Open Classes .....	4
Section 2 -Age Classes .....	4
Section 3 -Amateur Classes .....	5
Section 4 - Junior Exhibitor Classes .....	5

### ***Chapter IV Conduct & Protests***

Section 1 - Conduct.....	5
Section 2- Protests .....	5

### ***Chapter V Tri-State Awards & Championships***

Section 1 - Eligibility .....	5
Section 2- Requirements & Computation of Points.....	5
Section 3-Additions/Deletions to Approved Tri-State Classes .....	6

### ***Chapter VI Advantages for Approved Shows.....***

### ***Chapter VII Special Notes .....***

# ***1. General Membership***

## **Section 1 - Introduction**

Tri-State Horsemen's Association was organized as a non-profit corporation under the non-profit corporation laws of Minnesota on May 21, 1954, after functioning for several years as an unincorporated association (c. 1951). Its by-laws and amendments are the basis for this handbook. In any and all cases not specifically covered herein, by the rules and regulations herein, or in the current Approved Class Specifications and Divisions list, Tri-State Horsemen's Association reserves the right to follow such procedures at will, in its best judgment, to serve the common interests of the exhibitors, the member shows and the Association.

Tri-State Horsemen's Association, its officers and its directors, neither collectively nor individually, shall assume any financial liability for the affairs of this Association.

Originally, most Tri-State members and shows were in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas (hence the name).

However, this is no longer true and Tri-State has no geographical limits. Today it exists as an organization which: 1) is devoted to the enjoyment and improvement of all horse interests, not restricted to any single breed, 2) is working to present and promote various breeds and types of horses, 3) approves a circuit of quality horse shows with uniform class specifications and qualified judges. Individual shows apply for and receive Tri-State approval only after meeting the requirements stated herein and in the Approved Class Specifications. Individual members then compete for seasonal championship awards based on them.

## **Section 2 - Officers and Board of Directors:**

The President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer are elected annually from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee, by means of ballots mailed to members at least twenty days prior to the 31st of October of every year. (Write-in candidates are permitted.)

The President appoints the Board of Directors pursuant to a plan of rotating service considering the recommendations of the Board. The Board consists of fifteen (15) members with a suggested term of three years. In the event a Board member is unable to serve their full term, the President shall appoint someone to fill the balance of said term.

## **Section 3 - Committees**

There are seven standing committees: Budget, Division/Class Specifications, Membership, Rulebook, Annual Awards Banquet, Show Advisory and Point Audit. The president may establish additional committees, as deemed necessary and make appointments thereto.

## **Section 4 - Membership**

There shall be two types of membership in the Association - Individual and Family. A Family Membership includes all members of a family, including children under 18 residing at home, but there is only one vote per family membership. Members shall be subject to no other financial obligations for or on account of membership. Membership is open to all on an annual basis from January 1st of each year.

Members shall be responsible for checking correct "Show Divisions of interest" on their membership forms so that appropriate information can be passed to member based on their interest. Any member who has not renewed their membership by April 1st of a given year shall be removed from all Association mailing lists and shall not share in any future membership privileges until such time as dues for the current year are paid.

Membership in this organization entails willingness to abide by the rules of this organization as noted in this Rulebook, as decided by the Board and as listed in the by-laws of this organization. Failure to abide by such regulations may result in the suspension of the privileges of membership.

### **The advantages of membership are:**

1. Opportunity to meet, compete and share fellowship in the sport and joy of horse activities with horsemen representing various breeds and types of horses.
2. Eligibility to participate as a rider, driver, owner, lessee, agent or trainer at approved shows and to compete for Tri-State Championship Awards after paying the nomination fee.
3. Regular newsletters.
4. Access to our current Tri-State Rulebook and Class Specifications and Divisions list.
5. Show premium books based on "Areas of Interest" checked on each membership form.
6. Eligibility to vote for Officers of this Association.
7. Forum to address general horse interests needs solidification for promotion or preservation.
8. Opportunity to foster better understanding and cooperation among all horse enthusiasts.

9. Support of an organization actively engaged in promoting good sportsmanship and enhancing the overall experience of members competing in the Tri-State show circuit.

## ***II. Horse Shows***

### **Section 1 - Show Approval**

To become a Tri-State Approved Show, thereby permitting horses and/or riders to earn points towards Season Championship awards, the following requirements must be met:

1. The Show Manager of each show must make application for approval in writing and pay the annual show approval fee by March 1st or incur a late charge.
2. Classes should be chosen from the current Approved Class listing and a list of the proposed classes should accompany the application. Six placings must be awarded in each class.
3. If a class is "split", Tri-State recommends that each section be treated as an individual class with separate awards.
4. Judge(s) must be qualified for each Tri-State approved class to be judged.
5. Judge's names must be submitted to the Tri-State Show Advisory Chairman for review to ensure that a judge does not judge any division (e. g. Arabian, Morgan, etc.) at more than two Tri-State approved shows per season.

All shows must meet the requirements set forth in the Approved Class Listing for Season Championships for the current year. It is the responsibility of show management and the secretary to familiarize themselves with these responsibilities.

The Tri-State Show Advisory Committee and the Board shall act upon show applications. Show advisors will be assigned to assist management of each member show when requested.

### **Section 2 - Show Dates**

1. Show dates will be scheduled from year to year on the basis of weekend of the year counting from the first weekend, (Saturday/Sunday), in January.

2. Shows approved in previous years will have priority for their traditional weekend; however, such existing shows must confirm in writing their intention to hold a show on that weekend.
3. Notification must be received by the Show Advisory Chairman no later than March 1st of the current year in which the show is to be held. If such notification is not received, the date shall be considered open and may be assigned to another show.
4. If a current member show desires a change in date, written request, or e-mail, for change must be made to the Show Advisory Chairman.
5. Dates for new shows will be considered on the basis of written application; no approval shall be granted unless a request for such approval with show approval fee is received by the Show Advisory Chairman at least three months prior to show date or by March 1st of the current year in which the show is to be held. Any show requesting a date which comes after the three (3) months shall be evaluated individually by the Board.
6. Any show requesting a date which falls within the forty-five (45) day period preceding the annual award dinner, shall be evaluated individually in relation to its management and the point audit for that year.
7. Two shows with the same divisions may be approved for same weekend after careful study of each show. Decisions will be made on an individual basis.

### **Section 3 - Show Reports**

The results of each approved show must be forwarded to the Tri-State Point Audit Committee Chairman within ten (10) days after the show either via electronic delivery or hard copy. These results must include **a)** results showing 1st through 6th placings, the total number in each class, horses' names, full names of rider/driver/owner(s); **b)** copy of the show's premium listing.

### **Section 4 - Premium List**

The premium list should contain:

1. Date, time and place of show.
2. Names of judges and show personnel (if multiple judges are used, specify system).
3. Class schedule, class specifications or the statement "All classes will be judged according to Tri-State specifications", entry fees and prizes in each class. Complete class specifications must be printed on each judge's card.

4. Policy on post entries and manner of making any changes in the premium list.
5. Entry blank. (The exhibitor is responsible for any errors on the completed blanks.)
6. Stabling facilities, fees and instructions on reserving such.
7. Services available such as food, veterinarian, farrier, medical, feed, etc.
8. Horse Shows must hold all classes offered and pay all premiums specified in the Premium Book or Prize List regardless of the number of entries, unless Show Management notifies all affected exhibitors 5 days prior to the show in writing.
9. The Tri-State approval note as follows: ***"This Horse Show is an affiliate member of the Tri-State Horsemen's Association, Inc. Membership is open to the public. Contact (current Membership Chairman), address, phone number for more information"***.
10. A copy of the current membership application form is recommended if space permits.
11. It is strongly recommended that all premium lists be sent to Tri-State members utilizing the mailing labels provided by Tri-State. These labels represent only the members who are interested in the breed(s) exhibiting at your show.

Should an error be found in the premium list up to ten (10) days prior to the show, potential exhibitors should be so notified in writing. Errors discovered after that date must be reported to exhibitors upon receipt of entries or upon arrival.

## Section 5 - Show Personnel

1. The sponsoring organization, its Show Committee and/or Show Chairman or Manager shall act in an executive capacity: **a)** determining date, size and type of show, **b)** selecting qualified officials, employees and committees, **c)** notifying the Tri-State Show Advisory Chairman of new committee members for following year's show, **d)** all records shall be maintained for a minimum of two years, **e)** apply annually to Tri-State for show date, **f)** prepare premium list and entry blank for distribution to the current Tri-State mailing list, and **g)** be responsible for filing necessary reports on each class within 10 days with the Tri-State Show Advisory Chairman.
2. The Show Secretary should be efficient, accurate and have had practical experience with horse shows. The Show Secretary shall: **a)** maintain complete records on each class, including class number and description, exhibitor numbers, horse's name (and registration number if required),

owner and address, rider or driver and address, placings, prize monies paid out, and total number of entries in the class; **b)** provide judge's cards giving class specifications, numbers for exhibitors, access to the current Tri-State Rulebook, Tri-State membership application forms and all applicable rule books; **c)** be sure each entry blank is complete and properly signed by owner, exhibitor, trainer or agent.

3. Judges: Good judging depends upon correct observance of the fine points and selection of the best horses for the purpose described by conditions of the class. A judge serves three interests: their own conscience, exhibitors and spectators. They should make it clear to the audience that the best horses win. A judge is obligated to adjudicate each class in conformity with the specifications of that class. They are expected to be proficient and to possess a thorough knowledge of the rules.
4. Veterinarian: Each approved show should have a qualified veterinarian on the grounds or on call throughout the show. They shall assist the horse show management in all matters pertaining to the health and welfare of the animals in the show and shall act as a consultant to the show management as requested. If the veterinarian is on call, the phone number should be posted in the show office and in the horse barn(s).
5. Other Show Personnel: For effective management and operation of a show, additional qualified personnel are necessary, such as: Announcer, Ringmaster, Farrier, Show Secretary, Paddock Manager, Medical Personnel, Organist, etc.

## III. Classes

### Section 1 - Open Classes

Classes which are open to all horses of any breed, age, size or sex, irrespective of previous placings and in which there is no qualification for the rider or driver.

### Section 2 - Age Classes: Individuals

For horse show purposes the age of an individual on December 1st shall be maintained throughout the following year. Persons born on December 1st shall assume the greater age of that date.

Horses: For horse show purposes any horse shall be considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling.

### Section 3 - Amateur Classes

A person is an amateur for all competitions, who after his or her 18th birthday has not engaged in any activities which would make them a professional.

### Section 4: Junior Exhibitor Classes

(Also called Junior Rider, Youth or Juvenile)

Limited to riders who have not yet reached their 18th birthday, as defined above. Stallions prohibited in these classes except as specified in certain breed divisions.

## IV. Conduct and Protests

### Section 1 - Conduct

Knowledge of the rules and compliance with same are essential. The exhibitor, owner, trainer and agent must realize the competitive nature of showing and participate in a sportsmanlike manner. Show management must provide an opportunity for each exhibitor to participate on an equally competitive basis and exhibitors must not attempt to assume the authority of the show management in any manner.

The show management has the right to disqualify or refuse entry to any contestant for: actions of misconduct; cruelty to horse or pony; or harassment of the judge(s), show management or its employees. It shall be the responsibility of show management to forward to the Secretary of Tri-State complete information, in writing, concerning any such incident. Action may be taken at the discretion of the Board.

### Section 2 - Protests

Protests on rule violations shall be made to the local show committee which shall hear same and act thereon when possible. If the protest is not under local show committee jurisdiction, it shall be referred to the proper jurisdictional organization (i.e. USEF). If the protest is for a violation of Tri-State rules, it must be referred to the Tri-State Board in the following manner:

1. In writing.
2. Specifying names and details of the violation.
3. Signed by the protester.
4. Addressed to the Tri-State Secretary.
5. Received or postmarked within 48 hours of alleged violation.

6. Accompanied by a deposit of \$50 which monies will be returned if protest is sustained.

## V. Awards & Championships

Tri-State Approved Classes in which horse and/or rider may compete will be specified annually in the Tri-State Approved Class specifications and Divisions for Season Championships.

### Section 1 - Eligibility

Tri-State member horses and/or riders will be eligible for points ONLY after paying the required nomination fees as follows:

1. Members may nominate any number of horses, paying the nomination fee for each. Name(s) of the horse(s) is required on the membership/nomination form.
2. Horses must be shown under the same name all season.
3. Open Schooling/Academy Riders and Equitation and/or Showmanship exhibitors must be named and, on the membership, /nomination form and nomination fee paid for their points to count.
4. In cases of joint ownership of a horse, ALL owners must be members of Tri-State AND at least one owner must pay the nominating fee in order for points to be counted.
5. An official lease of a horse shall be construed as a bonafide ownership except as specifically noted in the annual Approved Class Specifications. The lease agreement is to be available upon request.
6. Should a horse change ownership in mid-season, championship points won in performance shall go with the horse if both the former owner and the new owner are current members. It is the responsibility of new owners to ascertain the eligibility of the horse.

### Section 2: Requirements & Computation of Points

1. No points will accrue until membership AND nominating fees are paid.
2. Horse or rider must show and place in the same approved Tri-State class in at least three (3) different shows under two (2) different judges to be eligible for championships.
3. No point credit will be given in any classes which are more restrictive than the Tri-State Class Specifications.
4. Points will be counted in championship/stake classes if not more restrictive than the Tri-State Class Specifications.
5. Points will be counted in championship/stake classes which have been split as long as the

sections are complementary (e.g. Arabian Western Pleasure - Stallions, Arabian Western Pleasure Mares & Geldings).

6. Points will be counted as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> = 20    4<sup>th</sup> = 8

2<sup>nd</sup> = 16    5<sup>th</sup> = 4

3<sup>rd</sup> = 12    6<sup>th</sup> = 1

7. Half points will be counted for any class in any show with less than three horses entered and shown. (e.g. 1st - 10 pts.; 2nd - 8 pts., etc.).
8. In the event of a year-end tie, awards will be given to both competitors.
9. Points of all horses and riders will be kept by the Point Audit Committee. Results from Approved Shows shall furnish the sole basis upon which the points are figured and the tally thus derived shall be used in determining winners. The committee will use every care to achieve accuracy in compiling the scores, but shall not be liable for failure of a show to file results, nor for errors and omissions in the making thereof, nor responsible beyond the point of accurately figuring scores as furnished by the sponsoring organization of each Approved show.
10. Any participant wishing to dispute a tabulation must appeal the issue in writing within 30 days following the Annual Awards Banquet. Any question or dispute in connection with the computation will be referred to the Executive Committee whose verdict will be final.
11. Presentation of the Tri-State Seasonal Championship Awards will be made at the Association Awards Banquet.

### **Section 3 – Additions or Deletions in Classes**

1. Any member wishing to add a class(es) to the current list of Tri-State approved classes shall submit their request to their Tri-State Board breed representative before December 31st. The Board will approve the class(es) on merit.
2. Any one of the following criteria alone may be sufficient for deletion of a class by the Tri-State Board of Directors for a current Tri-State Season Championship Class:
- The class was not offered three times under two different judges during the preceding show season,
  - There was no award made by Tri-State during the preceding three show seasons, and
  - Fewer than three Tri-State nominated horses/equitation riders exhibited in the class at three separate shows during each of the preceding three years.

## ***VI. Approved Shows***

Advantage for Show Managers in receiving show approval from Tri-State include:

- The good will and participation of the majority of exhibitors who are competing in the Tri-State Point system for Championship awards.
- Eligibility to receive a current active membership list of the area's exhibitors for entry blank mailing purposes.
- Free advance publicity notices directly into the homes of your exhibitors through the Tri-State Web Site and Facebook Page.
- The Horsemen's Association Official Rulebook.
- The right to maintain an annual show date.
- The privilege to call on the officers or members appointed by same to give assistance where needed.

## ***VII. Rulebook Special Notes***

This rulebook should always be used in conjunction with the Current Tri-State "Approved Class Specifications & Divisions Listing for Season Championships."

## **Tri-State Horseman Association Mission Statement**

The Tri-State Horsemen's Association is dedicated to assist in making the total horse show experience for all breeds, a positive one for show participants, show management, trainers and owners.

We offer:

- Breed representation
- Award & recognition programs
- Educational forums
- Horse show approval, advisory and advocacy
- A newsletter, individual show mailings and a season show schedule.

## **Rule Book Editions**

The Tri-State Board of Directors periodically revises, approves and publishes new editions of The Rule Book. The first Rule book was published in 1961. The current edition supersedes and replaces all previous editions.

## **Membership and Horse Show Chair**

For questions regarding Tri-State Membership or Horse Show Affiliation, please contact:

Liz Halloran  
7320 Ontario Blvd  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346  
Tristate.Horsemens.Assn@gmail.com

For questions regarding Points, please contact the Point Audit Committee Chair:

Marcy Eickholt  
15460 Pioneer Trail  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347  
eickholtmarcy@gmail.com