

**The American Saddlebred Horse Association of Georgia**  
**High Point Program Rules and Guidelines**

**Purpose of Program:**

To recognize the achievements of American Saddlebred horses, other equine breeds, and riders as they compete in diverse riding disciplines at all levels within the State of Georgia and surrounding regions:

- a) Provide competition incentives and benefits for association members and their horses
- b) Improve competition support and recognition opportunities for every association member
- c) Attract, identify and recruit new equine enthusiasts and Association Charter Club members

**Horse and Rider Eligibility:**

1. Performance, Equitation and Academy points are earned based on ASHAG member and horse eligibility, nomination and participation in association determined competition categories.
2. Horse owners and Equitation or Academy riders must be current ASHAG members in good standing (If a horse has multiple owners, at least one owner must be a current member).
3. Any horse owned-leased by an ASHAG member in good standing (with the exception of Sustaining Members) is eligible to be nominated and compete for points with any rider.
4. Every ASHAG member in good standing (with the exception of Sustaining Members) is eligible to ride for points in the Equitation or Academy divisions (See web site for form requirements).
5. Equitation and Academy points are accumulated by rider and may be earned on any number or combination of horses, as long as the rider remains in good standing with ASHAG.
6. If a horse is sold, any Performance points earned prior to sale will remain with the horse. Points will continue to accrue IF the new owner is currently or becomes an ASHAG member.
7. If a horse or rider changes trainer or stable affiliation, points accumulated toward Trainer or Stable awards prior to the change will remain with the original trainer or stable.
8. Registry records will be used to determine ownership, transfer dates, and eligibility for all horses. Any changes in ownership, trainer, or stable affiliation must be reported to ASHAG.
9. All participants agree to abide by the ASHAG High Point Program rules, regulations, processes, and form requirements as posted on the ASHAG web site ([www.ashag.org](http://www.ashag.org)).

## General Program Rules:

1. The annual competition period is **December 1 to November 30** in alignment with the ASHA competition period. Point standings will be updated periodically on the ASHAG web site.
2. For a show to qualify for points, a professional Judge, show manager and show secretary must officiate, and competition must occur over at least one full day at a show facility within the United States. Exhibitions, clinics, tournaments, and fun shows do NOT qualify for points.
3. Refer to the American Saddlebred section of the USEF rules regarding cross-entering between divisions or classes. **USEF and ASHA guidelines will apply for ASHAG high point competition.**
4. When age group “splits” are offered by a show, exhibitors must show with the appropriate group to qualify for points in that division.
5. Restricted classes will count for points in the closest matching division-category (determined by ASHAG): Junior-Novice-Limit and State-owned horse classes will qualify for points in the corresponding Open or Pleasure division; Maiden-Novice-Limit rider points will be counted in the corresponding Amateur or Pleasure division-category.
6. **It is the responsibility of each ASHAG member to report their show entries and results TWICE per year PRIOR to tabulation deadlines.** Results must be reported semi-annually by **JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>** and again by **NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>** by submitting a High-Point Competition Results FORM (as documented on the ASHAG web site).
7. It is Owner, Agent or Rider responsibility to validate point standings for accuracy during the competition period. **NO changes will be made after the competition year has ended, unless a tabulation error or violation of rules has occurred.**
8. Any grievances, protests, questions, comments or point standing inquiries must be submitted in writing to the Show Committee Chairman of Record (as documented on the ASHAG web site).

## Categories and Awards:

Year-end points will be tabulated and awarded to eligible horses and riders based on specific divisions and categories as aligned with ASHA guidelines and pre-determined by ASHAG based on participation and sponsorship interest and history.

Year-end points will be accumulated and awards presented to the eligible horses or riders with the two highest point totals in each category (named as High Point Champion and Reserve Champion for that category). The Executive Council will determine when and where awards are to be distributed and winners promoted (i.e. Charter Club Awards Banquet or annual ASHA, UPHA or USEF convention).

**State** and **Regional** awards will be presented in the following divisions and categories (subject to change annually based on Show Committee and Executive Council discretion). Association Members in good standing may contact the High Point or Show Committee Chairman with recommendations for additions or changes to this list, but changes will not be made within the annual competition period.

### **Saddlebred Performance Division**

- Five-Gaited:
  - Open (includes Jackpot classes)
  - Ladies
  - Amateur/Junior Exhibitor  
(includes Saddle Pony classes)
- Three-Gaited:
  - Open (includes Jackpot classes)
  - Ladies
  - Amateur/Junior Exhibitor  
(Includes Saddle Pony classes)
- Fine Harness:
  - Open (includes Jackpot classes)
- Three-Gaited Park:
  - Open
  - Amateur/Junior Exhibitor
- Park Pleasure:
  - Open
  - Amateur/Junior Exhibitor
- Five-Gaited Show Pleasure:
  - Adult Amateur
  - Junior Exhibitor
- Three-Gaited Show Pleasure:
  - Adult Amateur
  - Junior Exhibitor
- Three-Gaited Country Pleasure:
  - Adult Amateur
  - Junior Exhibitor
- Show Pleasure Driving:
  - Amateur/Junior Exhibitor
- Country Pleasure Driving:
  - Amateur/Junior Exhibitor

## **Hackney and Harness Division**

*Note - Categories may be split (Open, Amateur, Junior Exhibitor) based on program participation*

- Road Pony:
  - Open/Amateur
- Road Pony under Saddle:
  - Junior Exhibitor
- Hackney Pony:
  - Open/Amateur
- Harness Pony:
  - Open/Amateur
- Pleasure Driving Pony:
  - Open/Amateur
- Roadster Horse:
  - Open/Amateur

## **Equitation Division**

- Saddle Seat Equitation (Adult)
- Saddle Seat Equitation (13 Years and Under)
- Saddle Seat Equitation (14-17 Years and Under)
- Saddle Seat Equitation Walk/Trot (12 Years and Under)
- Hunt Seat Equitation (Open)

## **Open Breed Division**

- English Pleasure
- Hunter Pleasure
- Western Pleasure
- Walk & Trot Pleasure
- Pleasure Driving
- In Hand (Halter/Model)

## **2018 Enhancements to ASHAG High-Point Awards Program**

The Board of Directors has approved an enhancement to our High Point Award structure in order to 1) give in-state and out of-state members and horses more opportunities to earn equitable points based on level of competition and 2) to simplify and automate our manual high point tabulation system.

As such, we are moving to a modified dual point structure with points to be tabulated and year-end awards presented based on competition at ANY qualified show ( to include in-state, regional, national, and world-level competitions based on membership participation). With this new structure, we will award titles and awards as follows based on the same divisions and categories above:

- **ASHAG State Champion and Reserve State Champion**  
– tabulated based on results from Georgia-based shows
  - **ASHAG Regional Champion and Reserve Regional Champion**  
– tabulated on results from BOTH in-state AND out-of-state shows
- 1) We have eliminated any and all ASHAG-sanctioning and In-state requirements for a show to participate in our overall high-point process.
  - 2) We have eliminated any reporting-tabulation differential between “sanctioned” and “non-sanctioned” shows (ALL reported shows are effectively considered sanctioned).
  - 3) We are using the SAME base point structure for both programs, which is based on the official number of show days and class placing (SEE BELOW).
  - 4) Results from our larger Georgia shows (including but not limited to Pro-Am, Dixie Cup, and Southeastern) will qualify and be tabulated for both “State” and “Regional” awards.
  - 5) Reminder – Owners and Riders MUST be members and Horses MUST be Nominated with Membership or PRIOR to competing (See website for Forms).
  - 6) Horses and riders are eligible to compete for and win both “State” and “Regional” awards.
  - 7) Academy horses can be entered in Academy and Performance classes (based on RIDER eligibility and trainer discretion).
  - 8) Academy riders and horses can also show in 4-H Competition IF eligible per 4-H Program rules.

The mathematical structure to be used for programmatic calculation of State and Regional point accumulation is defined below. **Placings in Championship and Jackpot classes will earn 50% bonus points** to be added to the point values below:

Class “S” (1-Day Shows):

Placing	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
Points	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Class “R” (2-4 Day Shows):

Placing	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
Points	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2

Class “W” (5+ Day Shows):

Placing	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
Points	24	21	18	15	12	9	6	3

### **Trainer and Stable Awards:**

Points will be tabulated based on membership form-noted professional Stable Affiliation. Trainers or Stable Owners must be members in good standing with ASHAG to be eligible to receive awards. Points earned by a horse or rider while affiliated with a Stable will remain with that Stable when a horse or a rider changes affiliation, or is sold, leased or transferred. It is the responsibility of each member to notify the ASHAG High Point program in writing of any Stable Affiliation changes.

### **Amateur-Owner-Trainer Awards:**

Points will be tabulated for non-professional Amateur-Owner-Trainers as reported for State and Regional shows. Members and horses must not be affiliated or in training with a professional stable, and horses must be owned by and registered to the specific Amateur-Owner-Trainer member. Points from any ASHAG recognized division or class will be included, with the exception of Academy. No horse may accumulate points under both a professional Trainer-Stable and an Amateur-Owner-Trainer within the same competition year, unless formal registration of that horse has been transferred.

### **State Pleasure Awards:**

American Saddlebred Association State Pleasure Awards will also be presented to the High Point Champions in the following Pleasure Divisions: ASB Country Pleasure Amateur and Juvenile, ASB Three Gaited Show Pleasure Amateur and Juvenile, Western Country Pleasure, Hunter Country Pleasure, Five Gaited Pleasure, ASB Show Pleasure Driving, and ASB Country Pleasure Driving. **TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD, THE HORSE MUST HAVE SHOWN IN THE GEORGIA STATE SHOWS AS PER ASHA RULES!**

Owners must be members of the American Saddlebred Horse Association and horses must be registered or leased officially with the ASHA to qualify. It is the responsibility of each ASHAG member to provide their ASHA information when nominating their horse or rider for High Point competition to qualify for this ASHA Awards program (See Membership Form).

### **Other Association Awards:** (Awarded optionally at ASHAG Executive Committee discretion)

- Overall High Point Performance Horse
- Overall High Point Equitation Rider
- Overall High Point Academy Rider
- Trainer-Stable with Most Active ASHAG Members
- Trainer-Stable with Most Active Nominated Horses
- Academy or Worlds Championship Achievement Awards
- Other Program Participation Awards

### Program Contact Information:

Program Contact for **Rules** inquiries: Tiffany Smith at [tiffanydawnsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:tiffanydawnsmith@hotmail.com)

Program Contact for **Points** inquiries: Ann Bertschin at [ann.bertschin@charter.net](mailto:ann.bertschin@charter.net)

Program Contact for **Membership** and **Nomination** Status: Lori Schmidt at [lori.schmidt@outlook.com](mailto:lori.schmidt@outlook.com)

ALL Program Forms and Guidelines can be down-loaded from the ASHAG web site ([www.ashag.org](http://www.ashag.org))

## **ADDENDUM - 2018 ACADEMY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

NOTE – ACADEMY Judges must READ and COMPLY WITH the following Academy Division rules.

\*\*\* Any Academy rider that wishes to participate in the Georgia High Point Program must ALSO comply with ALL **ASHAG High Point Program Rules** in order to be eligible for year-end awards \*\*\*

### **ACADEMY DIVISION - GENERAL RULES:**

1. Academy classes are open to mares and geldings of any equine breed, registered or non-registered, including ponies. Stallions of any breed are prohibited from showing in Academy classes.
2. To show in the ASHAG Academy division, horses and ponies DO NOT have to be currently used in a professional riding program, but they MUST display the characteristics and manners of a horse capable of being used in a lesson environment. However, please **NOTE** that In order for an Academy horse to be eligible to show at the **Academy National Championships**, that horse MUST be used in a public or private riding lesson program (per Academy National Requirements).
3. In ALL Academy classes, only the rider, driver or handler is to be judged. The quality and/or soundness of the horse or pony is not to be a determining factor in judging the class. The following Academy divisions will be offered, with age-splits as deemed appropriate by show management:

**Academy Equitation Class** – the RIDER is to be judged on their basic equitation posture and skills, including the correct use of reins, aids, diagonals, and leads, at a beginning rider level.

**Academy Showmanship Class** – The RIDER is to be judged on horsemanship and showmanship skills, including control of the horse and ability to transition the horse correctly into its proper gaits. Ability to walk the horse and execute correct canter leads will be judged, as well as ability to manage speed, collection and ring placement.

**Academy Driving** – the DRIVER is to be judged on his/her ability to manage the horse or pony in the ring and show at the walk and trot (Backing is not required). Division is open to any amateur or juvenile driver who has never shown in a formal competitive driving event. Driver may cross enter into Under Saddle Performance classes or other Academy classes. Any show-type harness is appropriate and two-wheel work or show type buggies are allowed (jog carts, roadster bikes or pleasure driving buggies) with blinder bridles and one-two snaffle bits.

**Academy In-Hand Class** – The HANDLER is judged on horsemanship and showmanship, and the appropriate handling and turn-out (based on breed) of the horse is to be considered.

4. SAFETY in the Academy division is paramount. The judge has the responsibility to excuse any rider or horse that is considered unsafe. Headers will be allowed in the ring at judge's discretion (recommended for driving classes).
5. **IMPORTANT - All Academy riders ages 17 and Under MUST wear a helmet in the ring.**
6. No whips, plastic bags and/or noise devices are allowed in warm up and/or show ring areas (including use of whips or any other attention getting devices when riders are lined up).
7. Riders who have been judged in a Non-Academy class at any show may not return to the Academy Division during that show season.
8. Once a rider shows in a Walk/Trot class off the lead, a return to showing on the lead is prohibited. EXCEPTIONS: Walk/Trot Riders may return to Academy Walk/Trot/Canter after they leave the Walk/Trot Only division. Riders may show in Driving and In-Hand Showmanship without being ruled ineligible for the Academy Riding Divisions.
9. Riders who have cantered in any Academy or Performance class are not eligible to enter Walk/Trot Only Academy Classes.
10. **NOTE - RIDERS IN THE ACADEMY DIVISION ARE ELIGIBLE to CROSS-ENTER INTO 4-H SPECIFIED CLASSES AT 4-H RECOGNIZED SHOWS (AS LONG AS THEY MEET 4-H ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS).**

#### **ACADEMY DIVISION - EQUIPMENT and ATTIRE:**

- 1) Horses may NOT be equipped with any artificial devices in warm-up areas or in the show ring, including tail switches, tail braces, blinkers, or action devices. Tongue ties may be used, lip cords are not allowed. Hooves may or may not be blackened and braiding is optional. Horses may be shown barefoot, flat shod or with pads, but soundness is NOT to be considered.
- 2) Horses may be bridled with a snaffle, snaffle with martingale, snaffle with draw reins, kimberwick, pelham or full (double bit) bridle. Horses using full bridle, Pelham, kimberwick, or any bit that includes a curb chain or curb strap CANNOT show with a martingale or draw reins.

- 3) Horses may wear protective boots and/or leg wraps only if necessary for the safety of the horse and in driving classes. NO weighted boots or action devices will be allowed.
- 4) Shirt, tie, vest, jodhpurs, riding boots and gloves are appropriate attire for the Academy Rider, Driver and Handler. Safety Helmets are the only acceptable headgear and **ARE REQUIRED** in ALL Academy Riding and Driving classes.
- 5) Hair should be neatly styled and long hair should be pulled back from the rider's face and secured with a bow, ribbon, band or hair clip, without obscuring back number.
- 6) If Western Academy classes are offered, riders may use standard western tack and show apparel (shirt, vest, jacket, jeans and chaps) or standard Academy attire may be worn, but Safety Helmets (not Western Hats) ARE REQUIRED.
- 7) **No exhibitor shall wear any clothing in which initials or barn logos are visible to the judge. In addition, no saddle pads shall have initials or barn logos visible to the judge.**
- 8) All Participants in ANY Academy class (including Leadline) must show with a suitable saddle with feet in stirrups and hands on the reins.
- 9) In Academy Leadline Walk and Trot classes, each rider will be judged and tied. Entries will enter at a walk, execute a trot, reverse, repeat and line up as requested by the Ringmaster.
- 10) **As a safety consideration, ALL Handlers and Headers assisting exhibitors in ANY Academy Class with ANY horse or rider must be 16 years of age or older.**

**ASHAG Academy Division Classes are optionally offered as follows:**

Academy Driving (All Ages)

Academy In-Hand (All Ages)

Academy Leadline Walk Only (Age 6 and Under)

Academy Leadline Walk & Trot (Age 8 and Under)

Academy Equitation Walk & Trot

Academy Showmanship Walk & Trot

Academy Equitation Walk, Trot & Canter

Academy Showmanship Walk, Trot & Canter

Academy Walk & Trot Championship

Academy Walk, Trot & Canter Championship