

Dear SWVHJA Board Members:

I hope this finds you all well! We are busily gearing up for the 2021 SWVHJA Season, and I have some very excited riders moving up to new divisions, along with three new juniors joining the Association for the first time. I know that the originally scheduled meeting had to be postponed because of a conflict with the Polar Bear show, so I thought perhaps it would be appropriate to address the board in this way.

I am writing to propose that SWVHJA recognize a Thoroughbred Hunter division, and that said division be offered with an option of fence heights, in the same manner as the Greens and Specials. Specifically, I would like to see it offered at 2'6" and 3'. I would like to see it given the full benefit of a Year End award, a recognized division of four classes at the Annual show, and to become a regular part of a SWVHJA prize list. As the owner/rider of a Thoroughbred, with many Thoroughbred connections, this is a development with which I'm willing to help in any way I can.

I have conferred with a number of fellow SWVHJA members/exhibitors and have found much support for this proposal. I have asked them to email me their thoughts and have included them below.

As it stands, I can see a number of good points in support of making this change:

- 1) Many SWVHJA shows already offer a TB division. Making it recognized would, in many cases, not add extra classes to the show day.
- 2) "Legitimizing" this division would add incentive to participate. While there may not be a huge pull to come to the show for the TB division if it isn't really going anywhere, I believe this could be changed by dangling the carrot of a Year End award.
- 3) Offering an optional height (2'6" or 3') opens the division to more horses. For example, my TB is a 3' horse and is getting older but isn't ready to step down yet. I'm most eager to support a TB division, but I'm reluctant to show him in a division that is restricted to 2'6" when he should still be jumping 3'. However, when he needs to step down, I'll be glad about the 2'6" option. The option would give green horses somewhere to start and somewhere to grow and would attract seasoned show horses.
- 4) I believe the horses are there to fill this division. I can come up with a list of fifteen or more without much effort that are owned or ridden by people already active in SWVHJA. I have experience in management of TB shows and would be happy to help publicize the offering of this division, should it happen.
- 5) Several of the people who have conversed with or responded to me have offered sponsorship. If we can get it paid for, can we give it a chance?

My proposal isn't necessarily affiliated with the idea of offering Thoroughbred Incentive Program divisions, and anyway I believe that door is already closed for 2021. I know House Mountain offers TIP divisions, and should we combine that into one optional height division, I would be willing to reach out to Kristin Werner at TIP and find out how to handle the verbiage. TIP calls the 2'6" "Special Hunter", the 2'9" "Suitable Hunter" and the 3' "Low Hunter" – so

perhaps the shows that are already TIP approved could be the *TIP Special/Low Hunter*, to keep the fence height offerings in line with the SWVHJA sanctioned division.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this proposal!

Katie Gardner  
Otteridge Farm  
540-330-6734

**Below are emailed statements from a number of SWVHJA members/exhibitors:**

Hi Katie!

Thank you for reaching out with regard to the concept of introducing a recognized thoroughbred division to SWVHJA. As a regular participant in this division, I would be in support of adding this to the SWVHJA annual awards.

You make a solid point that many of our shows offer this class as a part of the day already. It seems like a natural progression. Additionally, I agree that adding a choice of height would give exhibitors more flexibility and likely more entries.

Thank you,  
Amy Gianniny

I am writing today to show my support for there to be a recognised Thoroughbred division in the SWVHJA circuit. I think the best way to start would be to offer it at 2'6" and 3' heights to make it appealing for riders with both a younger/greener tb and an opportunity for the more advanced horses as well. I typically bring between 2-6 Thoroughbreds to SWVHJA shows and would definitely support this division. If need be, I would also be willing to help with sponsoring/securing a trophy for the year end award section.

Billie Rae Croll

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in order to lend support to the idea of a SWVHJA-recognized Thoroughbred Hunter division. As an organization that prides itself on quality shows at affordable prices, why not add a division for the horses of the same type? I believe that many people would benefit from having such a division, and I could be counted among its participants where offered.

While I think it would be fantastic to offer the division at 2'6" only, a division like the Greens offering two heights (2'6" or 3') would guarantee more participation, appealing both to riders of young or inexperienced thoroughbreds and to riders of more established horses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Jamison Strasser

I will have 3 horses coming early in the 2021 show season that will be able to compete in the TB hunters. Later on in the season I will have another able to do the TB hunters, once she is up to jumping 2'6". So I have 4 for 2021 for the TB hunters. And we come to pretty much all of the shows. Multiple heights would be beneficial as at least one of mine would jump the 3' height starting out the season and then later on the other 2 will be moving up to the 3' height.  
Kelsey Shrader

To whom it may concern:

I am in support/interested in a SWVHJA-sanctioned Thoroughbred division, with height options. Having this division be sanctioned at regular SWVHJA shows and the Annual show would be beneficial to all of us Thoroughbred owners.

Kerianne Manipole

I am all for a recognized Off The Track Thoroughbred division. It would be a great way to celebrate these amazing horses and a fantastic way to support their second career in their life after being a racehorse. What a great way to honor this amazing breed and the amazing riders. I stand behind Katie Gardner on this topic. Rashell Riordan and I have a business, Chimera Equine Designs, LLC that is more than happy to sponsor the division's year end awards, trophy and all.

Victoria Riordan

I think this is a good idea. The TIP offers a number of THB division formats that local horse shows can incorporate. Check it out!

Melissa Holland

Hey!

So here are my thoughts on the TB divisions.

I support both hunters and jumpers to have these divisions. I actually have a TB that can do both so support both. However, I do more jumpers than hunters and would love for the TIP classes that we already have to be an associated division. The two heights typically available are .75 and .85 and it would be great if they had the .75 and the .90 instead to have the 2'6 and 3' covered or make it a range as VHSA and BHSA tend to do. All surrounding associations have these divisions and it would be great if they had it.

Also, I think that the top 10 TB award is a great award but think it should be one for each sport: hunters and jumpers. I registered two years ago for it and haven't since as there is no way as a jumper I can compete with the number of hunter classes offered. There is no way I could get 300+ points in jumpers.

Let me know if you need any more info!

Thanks!  
Sasha Moran

Hello my name is Logan Howard and I have an OTTB. I feel we should definitely have a division to recognize our horses and our interest in them. I currently do the special children's at 2'6", but am always looking for another division to compete in that my horse and I are actually eligible for. I am currently doing 2'6" and am moving toward moving up to the 2'9".  
Thank you so much, Logan