



**INTERSCHOLASTIC
EQUESTRIANTM
ASSOCIATION**

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**Rules and Regulations of Membership
Hunt Seat Discipline**

as Revised June 1, 2023

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HUNT SEAT RULES SECTION

****The rules herein apply only to the hunt seat discipline and are supplemental to the general rules applying to all disciplines.****

These Rules and Regulations shall take precedence over all other rules and regulations of other similarly situated organizations. No IEA Region or Zone may adopt rules inconsistent herewith. However, if a topic is not covered by these Rules and Regulations, the following rules may be referenced as guidance in making an equitable decision under the circumstances:

- For the Hunt Seat discipline: first the rules and regulations of the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association ("IHSA") and then, if not resolved, the rules of the appropriate national governing body (NGB);

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H3100 General - All Disciplines - Refer to Rule G3000 for additional general rules for classes and tests: rider placement and eligibility criteria.

H3200 Rider Classification and Class Eligibility

H3202 Initial Class Placement and Advancement for Hunt Seat

H3202.1 Initial placement of hunt seat riders must be based upon the class descriptions in Rules H3301 and H3302. Riders without jumping experience should be assessed according to their ability to perform flatwork tests as listed in Rule H3304.

H3202.2 Initial rider placement in hunt seat classes must be within the same class eligibility level. Competing in two different hunt seat divisions/class levels is permitted only when a rider points out on the flat.

H3202.3 Crossover Riders

Open or Intermediate hunt seat riders may not be placed or compete lower than novice in any western or dressage class. Riders will progress per advancement criteria outlined in Rule G3200 with particular attention to Rule G3201.5. The riders experience and skill set should determine whether or not they compete in the performance class (over fences, reining/ranch riding, dressage test) or just in the group flat/rail class (flat, horsemanship, DSE). Mandatory or voluntary advancement in a class/level in one discipline may also require advancement in a class/level in the crossover division. ~~Once initially placed, riders progress independently in each discipline per advancement criteria outlined in section G3200 of the IEA Rulebook with particular attention to Rule G3201.5.~~

H3202.4 Western or dressage riders crossing over into the hunt seat discipline must have a minimum of one year of professional instruction over fences before competing in an over fences class.

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H3202.5 International riders coming to IEA with no hunter or hunt seat equitation experience in the United States may be placed one division lower than their experience would designate for initial placement.

H3202.6 Hunt seat riders who advance to a higher division/class level **over fences** must also advance to that higher division/class level **on the flat**.

Hunt seat riders who advance to a higher division/class level **on the flat** are not required to advance to that higher division/class level **over fences**.

Thus, competing in two different divisions/class levels is permitted only when a rider advances on the flat.

H3300 Hunt Seat Class Descriptions

H3301 Hunt Seat Varsity and Junior Varsity (Upper School) Classes

CLASS H1. Varsity Open Equitation Over Fences 2'6":

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Riders should be capable of jumping 3'- 3'6" on a familiar horse at home.
- Riders must have a minimum of one year of professional instruction over fences.
- Coaches should be confident these riders will safely perform over a 2'6" equitation course on an unfamiliar horse.
- Riders participating in open equitation over fences are expected to compete throughout the season in open flat.

To be eligible for post-season competitions in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) open flat classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) open equitation over fences and two (2) open flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H2. Varsity Open Equitation on the Flat:

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 16.
- To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.
- To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) open flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H3. Varsity Intermediate Equitation Over Fences 2':

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Riders should be capable of jumping 2'6" - 3' on a familiar horse at home.

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- **Intermediate riders are not allowed to have shown over fences higher than 3' (0.90 meters) at any Section 1 or Section 2 competition in any discipline (Rule G3101).**
- **Riders who have won ten (10) or more blue ribbons at 3' (0.90 meters) at any Section 1 or Section 2 competition in any discipline are not eligible for intermediate classes (Rule G3101).**
- Riders must have a minimum of one (1) year of professional instruction over fences.
- Coaches should be confident these riders will be able to safely perform over a 2' equitation course on an unfamiliar horse.
- Riders participating in intermediate equitation over fences are expected to compete throughout the season in intermediate flat or open flat.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate or open flat classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate over fences and two (2) intermediate or open flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H4. Varsity Intermediate Equitation on the Flat:

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 13.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H5. Junior Varsity Novice Equitation Over Fences X-rails:

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- Riders should be capable of jumping 2'-2'6" on a familiar horse at home.
- **Novice riders are not allowed to have shown over fences higher than 2'6" (0.75 meters) at any Section 1 or Section 2 competition in any discipline (Rule G3101).**
- **Riders who have won ten (10) or more blue ribbons at 2'6" (0.75 meters) at any Section 1 or Section 2 competition in any discipline are not eligible for novice classes (Rule G3101).**
- Riders must have a minimum of one (1) year of professional instruction over fences.
- Coaches should be confident these riders will be able to safely perform over a x-rail equitation course on an unfamiliar horse.
- Riders participating in novice equitation over fences are expected to compete throughout the season in novice flat or intermediate flat.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) novice or intermediate flat classes.

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To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice equitation over fences and two (2) novice or intermediate flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H6. Junior Varsity Novice Equitation on the Flat:

- Open to riders in grades 9-12.
- These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 10.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H7. Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation on the Flat - Walk/Trot/Canter:

- Open to riders in grades 9-12 who are not eligible for novice level jumping classes, but are experienced enough to canter an unfamiliar horse in a group.
- These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 7.
- **Beginner riders are not allowed to have shown over fences higher than 2' (0.60 meters) in any Section 1 or Section 2 competition in any discipline (Rule G3101).**
- To be eligible for Class 7, a rider must have at least one year continuous professional instruction, must demonstrate proficiency at the trot and canter, and be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses.
- **Riders may not cross-enter into Class H8 Walk/Trot.**

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) beginner walk/trot/canter flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H8. Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation on the Flat - Walk/Trot:

- Open to riders in grades 9-12 **who meet criteria for Class H7 but are not yet ready to compete on an unfamiliar horse at a canter.**
- To be eligible for Class H8, riders must have at least six (6) months continuous professional instruction, must demonstrate proficiency at a trot, and must be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses.
- These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 5.
- Individual points will be tracked in Class 8 Walk/Trot for post-season qualification.
- No team points will be awarded in Class 8 Walk/Trot during regular or post-season shows.
- **Riders may not cross-enter Class H7 Walk/Trot/Canter.**
- To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

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CLASS H7x / H8x. Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation on the Flat - Walk/Trot Warm-Up:

Optional offering that can combine with Future Class H13x / H14x. Open only to riders competing at that competition in Class H7 or Class H8. No individual or team points will be awarded.

H3302 Hunt Seat Future (Grades 4-8) Classes

CLASS H9. Future Intermediate Equitation Over Fences 2':

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the criteria for hunt seat Class H1 or Class H3.
- Riders participating in future intermediate equitation over fences are expected to compete throughout the season in future intermediate flat.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate flat classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate equitation over fences classes and two (2) intermediate flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H10. Future Intermediate Equitation on the Flat:

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who are capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 13.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H11. Future Novice Equitation Over Fences X-rails:

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the criteria for hunt seat Class H5.
- Riders participating in future novice equitation over fences are expected to compete throughout the season in future novice or future intermediate flat.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points and participated in a minimum of two (2) novice or intermediate flat classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice equitation over fences classes and two (2) novice or intermediate flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H12. Future Novice Equitation on the Flat:

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who are capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 10.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H13. Future Beginner Equitation on the Flat - Walk/Trot/Canter:

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- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the eligibility requirements of hunt seat Class H7.
- Riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 7.
- **Riders may not cross-enter into Class H14 Walk/Trot.**

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) beginner walk/trot/canter flat classes during the regular season.

CLASS H14. Future Beginner Equitation on the Flat - Walk/Trot:

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the eligibility requirements of hunt seat Class H8.
- To be eligible for Class H14, riders must have at least six (6) months continuous professional instruction, must demonstrate proficiency at a trot, and must be capable of competing on a variety of unfamiliar horses.
- These riders should be capable of performing Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 5.
- Individual points will be tracked in Class 14 Walk/Trot for post-season qualification.
- No team points will be awarded in Class 14 Walk/Trot during regular or post-season shows.
- **Riders may not cross-enter Class H13 Walk/Trot/Canter.**
- To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

CLASS H13x / H14x. Future Beginner Equitation on the Flat - Walk/Trot Warm-Up: Optional offering that can combine with JV Class H7x / H8x. Open to riders competing in Class H13 or Class H14. No individual or team points will be awarded.

H3303 Hunt Seat Championship Class - This class is optional.

Varsity Open Championship Class - The top varsity open riders as determined by points and placings within the show are eligible for this class. Varsity Open Championship (VOC) classes, when offered at regular point show, will not count toward individual points for nationals finals qualification. The class requires a minimum of six (6) riders, and should be limited to the top ten (10). Riders must be eligible to compete in varsity open over fences (2'6") to be eligible for this championship class. The class may be run using the same mount for both phases of the competition, or a separate draw may be done for each phase. The judge may choose to implement any additional testing after the completion of the two mandatory phases. Phase 1 - Riders will be judged over an advanced equitation course with 2'6" jumps. Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 16 may be asked. Phase 2 - Riders will also compete on the flat and may be asked to perform any of tests 1 - 16.

H3304 Hunt Seat Rider Tests

A rider must be prepared to perform the test appropriate for the class in which the rider is participating. Riders may be asked to perform the following tests collectively or individually during a show or competition. A hunt seat judge may choose from the following tests using test 1 - 5 for beginner walk/trot riders, 1 - 7 for beginner walk/trot/canter riders, tests 1 - 10 for

RULE H3000: HUNT SEAT CLASSES AND TESTS: RIDER PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

novice riders, tests 1 - 13 for intermediate riders, and tests 1 - 16 for open riders. Instructions for performance of the test must be publicly announced. Any one or combination of appropriate or equivalent tests may be used.

Tests 1 - 5 (Beginner Walk/Trot)

1. Asked an appropriate horsemanship question that is tailored to the rider's ability level
2. Halt
3. Sitting trot
4. Two point position at the walk and/or trot
5. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals

Tests 1 - 7 (Beginner Walk/Trot/Canter)

6. Figure eight at canter on correct lead, demonstrating simple change of lead
7. Change horses (additional warm-up jumps will be at the judge's discretion)

Tests 1 - 10 (Novice)

8. Ride without stirrups at the trot
9. Jump a shortened course
10. Trot a jump

Tests 1 - 13 (Intermediate)

11. Ride without stirrups at the canter
12. Change leads on a straight line, demonstrating simple change of lead
13. Half-turn on forehand and/or half-turn on haunches

Tests 1 - 16 (Open)

14. Canter on the counter lead
15. Hand gallop
16. Jump without stirrups

Jumping tests should only be used in over fences classes. When riders are asked to switch horses, additional warm-up jumps will be at the judge's discretion.

RULE H4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS - REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - Refer to G4000 regarding regular season competitions: requirements, procedures, and responsibilities

H4220 Additional Hunt Seat Show Information Requirements (refer to G4220 for general list)

The following additional information must be posted for all coaches and riders in a timely manner on the day of the show:

H4220.5 Courses for over fences classes must be posted not less than thirty (30) minutes before the class is to run.

H4220.6 Warm-up pattern for over fences classes

RULE H4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS - REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

H4220.7 Horse list and any crop or spur changes

H4400 Show Routine

H4401 Hunt Seat Arena Requirements

H4401.1 Fences should consist of natural posts and rails, painted rails, brush, oxers (but not square oxers), coops, gates, and/or walls. Coops that are hinged at the top and free at the bottom are prohibited.

H4401.2 A top rail is mandatory over any type of fill (e.g. gates, planks, and boxes).

H4401.3 All fences must have wings or standards at least twelve inches (12") higher than the top of the fence.

H4401.4 Ground lines are mandatory.

H4401.5 The use of oxers (but not square oxers) is permitted only at the Varsity Open level.

H4401.6 The back rail of all oxers are required to have either safety cups or breakable jump cup pins (e.g. wooden dowels).

H4401.7 Lines may not be set for fewer than three strides. Combinations of one or two strides are prohibited.

H4401.8 Over fences classes shall be held over at least six (6) jumps, type to be left to the discretion of management. Novice courses must include one (1) change of direction. Open and intermediate courses must include at least two (2) changes of direction.

H4401.9 When two (2) shows are held consecutively (AM & PM, Saturday & Sunday, or any two (2) consecutive days) at the same venue, courses for each division over fences must change. Although the physical placement of the jumps may remain the same, the second show must have different courses. Refer to Rule G4402-G4405 for schooling requirements.

H4401.10 Judges and show stewards must visually inspect each course prior to the start of competition.

H4402 Hunt Seat Schooling Procedures (see also Rule G4402)

H4402.4 Horses to be used over fences must be schooled over all the fences in the appropriate direction(s) and at the highest height at which they will compete.

H4402.5 Non-jumping horses must be schooled a minimum of one lap at each gait in each direction.

RULE H4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS - REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

H4402.6 Hunt seat horses may be schooled using equipment required to help them perform their best. Before the completion of schooling, horses must be schooled in the tack and aids permitted in the posted/distributed horse description sheet.

H4402.7 Spurs are not permitted in beginner-level classes; thus, horses in beginner-level classes must also school without spurs.

H4407 Rider Warm-up

H4407.1 The event host coordinator or show host must provide a schooling supervisor who is qualified by experience to assist the show steward where necessary.

H4407.2 Flat class riders will mount the horse with no additional warm-up before entering the show ring.

H4407.3 Flat class riders must enter the ring at the walk and remain at the walk until the class is called to order unless otherwise instructed by the judge.

H4407.4 Over fences class riders will be allowed one lap in each direction around the warm-up arena and two (2) practice jumps (one off each lead) before entering the show ring. Practice jumps will be set and adjusted by the schooling supervisor and/or show steward. Jumps should be set at the same height as the class in the show ring. The EHC must post/distribute a set warm-up pattern that complies with the above guidelines.

H4407.5 If a show does not have a separate schooling area, a warm-up pattern in the show ring will be posted that complies with IEA guidelines. After the warm-up pattern is completed, the rider may confer with their coach for up to thirty (30) additional seconds before starting the judged round.

H4407.6 Warm-up patterns are unjudged. Errors (e.g. refusals, off-pattern, or falls) in warm-up do not necessitate elimination. Disregarding the posted patterns or directions of the schooling supervisor may result in loss of schooling privileges or elimination.

H4409 Falls, Refusals, and Eliminations (see also Rule G4409)

H4409.7 Three (3) refusals will result in elimination.

H4409.8 No courtesy fence will be allowed after elimination.

H4411 Hunt Seat Tack and Aids (see also Rule G4411)

H4411.11 Close contact leather saddles are preferred, but all-purpose and synthetic saddles are acceptable.

RULE H4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS - REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- H4411.12** Light weight, black, or colored stirrups are prohibited in all IEA hunt seat shows. Should this type of stirrup come into question, the final decision is at the discretion of the show steward.
- H4411.13** The use of safety stirrup irons is strongly encouraged. All hunt seat stirrup irons must have stirrup bars in the down or open position and must have stirrup treads.
- H4411.14** Bit and bridling options are determined at the discretion of the horse provider.
- H4411.15** Standing, running with rein guards, and German martingales are acceptable in all hunt seat classes (over fences and flat).
- H4411.16** Anti-grazing or over-check reins are acceptable.
- H4411.17** Training equipment, draw reins, chambons, tie downs, elastic/bungee, and homemade tack items are prohibited.
- H4411.18** Hunt seat beginner (walk/trot and walk/trot/canter) riders are not permitted to wear spurs and will be eliminated for doing so.
- H4411.19** Novice, intermediate, and open riders may only use spurs when indicated in the horse description.
- H4411.20** Spurs must be supplied by the horse provider. Any changes relating to spurs from what is noted in the horse description list must be approved by the show steward.
- H4411.21** Crops or bats that are 30" or shorter are the only type approved for use in the IEA hunt seat competition. Crops or bats may be carried and spurs worn only when specified by the horse provider, affirmed by the show steward, and communicated to the coaches.

H4412 Dress and Headgear - Proper Show Attire - Hunt Seat

H4412.9 Riders are expected to wear appropriate hunt seat equitation attire while showing. Appropriate attire includes a conservative color show coat, show shirt with choker or necktie, black gloves, beige/tan breeches and tall boots or beige/tan jodhpurs with jodhpur straps, garter straps, and paddock boots. Riding helmets must be a harnessed and fully fastened protective ASTM/SEI-approved safety helmet for equestrian use per Rule G4412.3. Traditional equitation show attire is conservative.

Bright colors, patterns, shad bellies and full seat breeches are discouraged. Variations from defined hunt seat attire (other than the safety riding helmet requirements) are discouraged but not cause for disqualification.

Using position aids and wearing attire with team identifying logos or promotional logos in the competition ring are causes for disqualification (Rules G4412.5 and G4412.6).

H4600 Tie Breaker Rules

RULE H4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS - REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

H4601 At all shows, including post-season, for all placings, team ties shall be broken in consultation with the show steward, first by the total number of first (1st) place finishes, then by total number of second (2nd) place finishes, then by total number of third (3rd) place finishes, then by the total number of fourth (4th) place finishes, then by total number fifth (5th) place finishes. If a tie still exists, then it shall be broken by the highest combined total of points from performance classes (hunt seat over fences). Designated team point rider scores are the only scores to be considered when breaking team placement ties.

H4602 If the tie still cannot be broken, the show steward, in consultation with the judge, shall decide upon a ride-off, question provided by the judge, or a coin toss to determine the tie-break. Any one of these three methods selected shall determine both title and awards at all shows except national finals. This selected method shall determine the distribution of awards at national finals, but national titles shall be shared.

RULE H6000: SHOW STAFF AND OFFICIALS - HUNT SEAT - Refer to G6000 regarding general rules

H6300 Additional Responsibilities of Hunt Seat Judges

H6301 The judge must visually inspect courses of fences after they have been set to ensure jump criteria outlined in Rule H4401 is followed.

RULE H7000: HUNT SEAT JUDGING REQUIREMENTS - Refer to G7000 regarding general judging requirements

H7200 Hunt Seat Equitation - Hands and Seat

H7201 Riders should have a competent appearance, seat and hands light and supple conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. Contact on the reins appropriate for the mount and rider's ability level is acceptable.

H7202 To mount, take up the reins in the left hand and place the hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand, insert foot in stirrup and mount. To dismount, the rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

H7203 Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers, with knuckles positioned 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow.

H7204 Eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation, ankles flexed, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on the ball of the foot.

RULE H7000: HUNT SEAT JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

H7205 At the walk, sitting trot, and canter, the upper body should be a couple of degrees in front of the vertical; posting trot, inclined forward; galloping and jumping same inclination as the posting trot.

H7300 Hunt Seat Class Routine

H7301 Over Fences

H7301.1 The judged round begins when the rider enters the ring, or when the rider is given the signal to proceed after entering the ring.

H7301.2 Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the fault of the rider.

H7301.3 The number of strides in a line shall not be considered unless it is the fault of the rider.

H7301.4 Flying and simple changes of lead are both acceptable and scored equally when well-executed.

H7301.5 Unless otherwise indicated on the posted course, each rider may include one courtesy circle, if desired, before approaching the first jump. They shall then proceed around the course, keeping an even pace throughout. Three (3) cumulative refusals will result in elimination. No courtesy fence will be allowed after elimination.

H7302 On the Flat

H7302.1 Riders enter the ring as a group and demonstrate the appropriate gaits in both directions as directed by the judge.

H7302.2 Riders shall line up on command, and some or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate tests included in class requirements as directed by the judge.

H7400 Hunt Seat Tests

H7401 A hunt seat judge may choose from the tests listed in Rule H3304. Tests may be performed collectively or individually. No other tests may be used except at national finals where additional appropriate tests may be asked. Instructions must be publicly announced.

RULE H8000: POINTS, SCORING AND POST SEASON QUALIFICATION

H8200 Hunt Seat Post-Season Qualification - refer to Rule G8200 for general qualification rules.

H8206 Points to Qualify

RULE H8000: POINTS, SCORING AND POST SEASON QUALIFICATION

H8206.1 Hunt seat teams qualify for region or zone finals (in zones not split into regions), or national finals (for instances in which a zone final team competition is not needed) by accumulating twenty (20) team points during the regular season.

H8206.2 Riders in hunt seat zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, and 11 qualify for individual classes at region finals by accumulating a minimum of eighteen (18) points in that class during the competition year.

H8206.3 Riders in hunt seat zones 6, 7, 8, and 9 qualify for individual classes at region or zone finals (in areas not split into regions), or national finals (for instances in which a zone final individual competition is not needed) by accumulating a minimum of fifteen (15) points in that class during the competition year.

H8300 Hunt Seat Region Finals - refer to Rule G8300 for general rules.

H8302 Zones utilizing region splits will use a region final to determine which teams and individuals advance to zone finals.

H8303 Region finals will be limited to teams and individuals who have qualified according to Rule H8200.

H8304 Region finals will be held at least ten (10) business days before zone finals.

H8305 A minimum of six (6) ribbons will be awarded in each class.

H8306 In the case of a tie at region finals, Rule H4600 Tie Breaker Rules will be used to determine which teams and individuals advance.

H8307 The number of teams and individuals advancing from region finals to zone finals will be defined in the Zone Requirements and Split Guidelines for each zone.

H8400 Hunt Seat Zone Finals - refer to Rule G8400 for general rules.

H8404 There will be no more than twelve (12) riders per class at zone finals and no more than twelve (12) teams at zone finals.

H8405 Teams and individuals will qualify for zone finals according to rules H8200 and H8300.

H8406 Zone finals will be held at a location designated by the zone administrator and approved by the IEA membership secretary. All zone finals will be commenced on a date no later than twenty (20) business days before the date established for the IEA Hunt Seat National Finals. It is mandatory that the zone administrator organize, attend, and supervise the zone finals.

H8407 The top teams and the top individual riders per class at zone finals, as determined by rules G8502 and G8503, (assuming there are zone finals in each of these categories) are invited to compete at national finals.

H8408 A minimum of eight ribbons will be awarded in each class.

H8409 In the case of a tie at zone finals, Rule H4600 Tie Breaker Rules will be used to determine which teams and individuals advance.

H8500 National Finals - refer to Rule G8500 for general rules.

H8504 Class Specifications - Hunt Seat Team Competition

H8504.1 There will be no more than eighteen (18) teams at national finals.

H8504.2 Each active zone may send one (1) team to national finals. The host zone for national finals may send one (1) additional future and upper school team to national finals.

H8504.3 The remaining teams for national finals will be proportionately divided among the zones based upon the number of teams in each zone as determined by the membership secretary on December 1st of each year. Calculations will be based on total individual rider memberships, and will be split into calculations for future (4th-8th grade) total members and upper school (9th-12th grade) total members. These percentages will then be applied to all team class allotments and to all individual class allotments at national finals. In the case of any allotted spots that cannot be awarded by mathematical percentages, any unused allotments will be put into a random draw and all zones that represent 10% or more of the membership in that category will be eligible to potentially draw the lottery-allotted spot. The draw will be done by the executive director and supervised by the national steward. The membership secretary will notify the zone administrator at the beginning of each calendar year of the number of additional teams a zone may send to nationals.

H8504.4 Qualified teams may enter one (1) rider for each team class offered at national finals.

H8505 Class Specifications - Hunt Seat Individual Rider Competition

H8505.1 There will be no more than eighteen (18) riders per class at national finals.

H8505.2 Each active zone may send one (1) rider per class, as listed in rules H3301 and H3302, to national finals. The host zone for national finals may send one (1) additional rider per class in all future and upper school individual classes.

H8505.3 The remaining rider positions for national finals will be proportionately divided among the zones based upon the number of riders in each zone as determined by the membership secretary on December 1st of each year. See Rule H8504.3 for the calculation process. The membership office will notify the zone administrator at the beginning of each calendar year of the number of additional teams a zone may send to nationals.

H8506 Class Specifications - Hunt Seat Varsity Open Championship (VOC) Class

H8506.1 To be eligible for this championship class a rider must have competed in varsity open over fences (2'6") at least two times during the regular competition season.

H8506.2 Invitations to compete in the VOC class at nationals will be issued to the rider in each zone with the highest total combined individual open fences and individual open flat points during the regular season. If the top point earner in a zone is not able to attend, the next rider in line in that zone will be invited.

H8506.3 Ties for zone VOC rider will be broken in this order: individual open fences points during regular season, total individual points earned at region finals, total individual points earned at zone finals. Only individual points count, not team points.

H8506.4 Two additional riders will be invited to compete in the VOC at national finals. The two additional riders will be the highest point earners from a combined total of points earned in the varsity open individual classes at nationals (Class 1 - Varsity Open Over Fences and Class 2 - Varsity Open Flat).

If one of the invited riders from a zone is also one of the top two varsity open individual point earners at nationals, that additional rider spot for the VOC will be filled with the next highest varsity open individual point earner.