



**INTERSCHOLASTIC
EQUESTRIANTM
ASSOCIATION**

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Adult Pilot Program Addendum

as Revised October 6, 2025

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BUSINESS OFFICE:

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RULE 1000: GENERAL

- A. The Adult Pilot Program will be a subsidiary of the Interscholastic Equestrian Association.
- B. This addendum shall provide rules and guidelines to accompany the current IEA Rules and Regulations in relation to the Adult Pilot Program. Any reference in this addendum relating to a Rule will be referring to the 2025-2026 IEA Rules and Regulations.
- C. Rules and Guidelines for the Adult Pilot Program shall be governed by the 2025-2026 IEA Rules and Regulations with the exception of the guidelines listed in this addendum.
- D. Rules Interpretation and Application – Refer to Rule G1700.

RULE 2000: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any person 21 years of age or older, and who is considered an amateur under the policies of their disciplines' governing body, may participate in the Adult Pilot Program. Hunt seat and dressage will follow the amateur rules of USEF; western will follow the amateur rules of AQHA.
- B. Participants must be an Adult Member of the IEA in accordance with rule G2303.2 and be associated with a registered returning IEA team prior to participating in Adult Pilot Program competitions.
- C. Participants may not compete in any IEA / Adult Pilot Program show in which they are also the judge, steward, medical personnel, or manager of the show in which they intend to compete.
- D. Participants may not be IEA coach members.
- E. IEA promotes rider safety and horse welfare ensuring the health and wellness of horses, participants, show hosts, and coaches. Horses are selected for classes based on riders' achieved level, stability on the horse, equipment available, horse conformation and movement, and riders' height and weight (maximum rider weight for the Adult Pilot Program is 225 lbs).

RULE 3000: DISCIPLINES, CLASSES AND TESTS: RIDER PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. Participation in the 2025-2026 Adult Pilot Program will not affect rider placements in Adult Pilot Program classes in future seasons.
- B. Riders should enter a class based on their own discretion, as well as the discretion of their coach. Cross entry between all classes is permitted, including the non-pointed warm-up class. Adult riders are allowed to enter only the non-point AH3x. Class 3. Equitation on the Flat Walk/Trot Warm-up, if desired. Points and placings are not tracked for AH3x Class. A rider may move up or down in class levels within the 2025-2026 season, pending their experience supports their eligibility. **Note: No cross entry permitted within the same show for riders in Class 3.**

C. Hunt Seat Discipline: Classes

AH1. Class 1. Equitation Over Fences - Open to all eligible adult members who have had at least one year of continuous professional instruction over fences. This class will have two options to choose from for the height of the fences: 18" cross-rails or 2' verticals. Riders and coaches should choose the height of the fence based on the skills of the rider. The class will be judged together as one class at two fence heights over the same course/track unless it is split in accordance with Rule 4000.K in the Adult Pilot Program Addendum. Riders are expected to be proficient in Hunt Seat Rider Tests 1 through 10 (see Rule H3304). Riders may also participate in Class 2 - Equitation on the Flat Walk/Trot/Canter.

AH2. Class 2. Equitation on the Flat Walk/Trot/Canter – Open to all eligible adult members who have had at least one year of continuous professional instruction and whose coach feels they are capable of cantering on an unfamiliar horse. Riders are expected to be proficient in Hunt Seat Rider Tests 1 through 7 (see Rule H3304). Riders in this class may also participate in Class 1 - Equitation Over Fences, if otherwise eligible.

AH3x. Class 3. Equitation on the Flat Walk/Trot Warm-Up - Open to all eligible adult members who have had at least six months of continuous professional instruction and whose coach feels they are capable of cantering on an unfamiliar horse but are not yet ready to compete at the canter. Riders are expected to be proficient in Hunt Seat Rider Tests 1 through 6 (see Rule H3304). **No individual points will be awarded with no advancement to postseason competition.** ~~Riders may not cross-enter in Class 1 or 2 at the same show.~~

D. Western Discipline: Classes

AW1. Class 1. Ranch Riding – Open to all eligible adult members who have had at least one year of continuous professional instruction performing ranch patterns. The pattern for this class must be chosen from the patterns offered in the IEA Western Addendum. Riders are expected to be proficient in Western Horsemanship Tests 1 through 10 (see Rule W3304). Riders in this class may also participate in Class 2 - Horsemanship Walk/Jog/Lope.

AW2. Class 2. Horsemanship Walk/Jog/Lope - Open to all eligible adult members who have had at least one year of continuous professional instruction and whose coach feels they are capable of loping on an unfamiliar horse. Riders are expected to be proficient in Western Horsemanship Tests 1 through 7 (see Rule W3304). Riders may also participate in Class 1 - Ranch Riding, if otherwise eligible.

AW3x. Class 3. Horsemanship Walk/Jog Warm-Up - Open to all eligible adult members who have had at least six months of continuous professional instruction and whose coach feels they are capable of loping on an unfamiliar horse but are not yet ready to compete at the lope. Riders are expected to be proficient in Western Horsemanship Tests 1 through 5 (see Rule W3304). **No individual points will be awarded with no advancement to postseason competition.** ~~Riders may not cross-enter in Class 1 or 2 at the same show.~~

E. Dressage Discipline: Classes

AD1. Class 1. Dressage Test - Open to all eligible adult members who have had at least one year of continuous professional instruction performing dressage tests. This class shall have two test options to choose from: the IEA Intermediate Dressage Test or the IEA Novice Dressage Test. Coaches shall choose the test based on the skills of the rider. Regardless of test level performed, the tests will be ranked together based on highest test score(s), unless the class is split in accordance with Rule 4000.J in the Adult Pilot Program Addendum. Riders are expected to be proficient in Dressage Rider Tests for DSE classes 1 through 7 (see Rule D3304). Riders may also participate in Class 2 - Dressage Seat Equitation Walk/Trot/Canter.

AD2. Class 2. Dressage Seat Equitation Walk/Trot/Canter - Open to all eligible adult members who have had at least one year of continuous professional instruction and whose coach feels they are capable of cantering on an unfamiliar horse. Riders are expected to be proficient in Dressage Rider Tests for DSE classes 1 through 7 (see Rule D3304). Riders may also participate in Class 1 - Dressage Test, if otherwise eligible.

AD3x. Class 3. Dressage Seat Equitation Walk/Trot Warm-Up - Open to all eligible adult members who have had at least six months of continuous professional instruction and whose coach feels they are capable of cantering on an unfamiliar horse but are not yet ready to compete at the canter. Riders are expected to be proficient in Dressage Rider Tests for DSE classes 1 through 5 (see Rule D3304). **No individual points will be awarded with no advancement to postseason competition.** ~~Riders may not cross enter in Class 1 or 2 at the same show.~~

RULE 4000: COMPETITIONS

A. Adult Pilot Program classes can be offered as additional classes at any regular season IEA competition.

B. Adult Pilot Program classes may be held as a stand-alone, or partial-day, competition as long as all guidelines set for a regular season IEA competition are followed. This includes submitting a show application and insurance to the IEA Membership Office and obtaining qualified officials. See Rules G4000 and G5000 for complete details.

C. No additional insurance is required if Adult Pilot Program classes are being held during an IEA regular season competition. If Adult Pilot Program classes will be held on a separate day, a one day show policy must be submitted to the Membership Office.

D. Show hosts must be following the hosting obligations of Rule G4105 for youth members, in addition to offering the Adult Pilot Program classes at their regular season competition.

E. Spurs are not permitted in Walk/Trot for the hunt seat and dressage disciplines.

F. Adult Pilot Program participants are limited to the same number of shows as youth members in their respective disciplines. (Hunt Seat & Dressage: 5 / Western: 6.) Refer to rule G4110.

EXTRAORDINARY RULE CHANGE 10/6/25:

G. Adult classes must meet minimum class requirements **of two (2) competitors** ~~as outlined in G4304~~ in order to count for points. If there are fewer than **two (2) riders** ~~3 riders~~ in a class, the class can still be run for show awards, but it will not count for points and will not count against the riders' maximum number of shows.

H. Adult riders may not compete against youth rider members at IEA shows. Adult classes may not combine with Future or Upper School classes to meet the minimum class requirement of three (3) riders.

~~H. Adult Pilot Program riders are eligible to school horses on the same day as the Adult Pilot Program classes in which they intend to compete as long as the horses they are school are at or below the Adult member's equivalent ability level based on outside (non-IEA / Adult Pilot Program experience), and/or based on Adult Pilot Program class descriptions and intended horse usage.~~

I. During regular season shows, Adult Pilot Program riders are eligible to school horses, even if competing in adult classes later that day. Adult Pilot Program riders may only school horses at or below their ability level (IEA class level and/or non-IEA experience level) per intended horse use class designation.

During postseason shows, Adult Pilot Program riders may only school horses if they have completely finished showing or are not entered to show. Adult Pilot Program riders may only school horses at or below their ability level (IEA class level and/or non-IEA experience level) per intended horse use class designation.

J. Split Classes

1. In regular season shows class splits must follow rules G4305.1 & G4305.2. Classes may only split when there are twelve (12) or more in a performance class and the splits must be random regardless of fence height, pattern, or test.
2. Hunt Seat Class 1 - Equitation over Fences - shall have two options to choose from for the height of the fences: 18" cross-rails and 2 verticals. Participants in this class will be scored together for ribbons, regardless of height chosen.
3. Western Class 1 - Ranch Riding - EHC shall choose one pattern from the current IEA Western Addendum to be used in the class. Pattern may be Walk/Jog or Walk/Jog/Lope.
4. Dressage Class 1 - Dressage Test - shall have two test options to choose from: the IEA Intermediate Dressage Test and the IEA Novice Dressage Test. Participants in this class will be scored together for ribbons, regardless of test chosen.

RULE 5000: PRIZE LIST, ENTRY BLANK, ENTRY FEES AND PROGRAM

- A. Adult Pilot Program classes must be included in the time schedule for any regular competition that intends to offer the classes.
- B. The Adult Pilot Program Entry Form must be included in the prize list if classes will be offered by the show host.
- C. Adult Pilot Program classes will be considered in the total ride count allowed for the show host and for horse usage. Show hosts must be following Rule G4105 prior to offering Adult Pilot Program options. Show hosts should prioritize IEA youth competitors over Adult Pilot Program if entries will need to be limited due to scheduling or horse availability.
- D. Entry fees for regular and post-season should coincide with the shows offering them according to G5403.
- E. \$6.00 from each Adult Pilot Program rider's entry fee for each class will be collected by the show host and paid to IEA within fourteen (14) days of the competition.

RULE 8000: POINTS SCORING AND POST SEASON QUALIFICATION

- A. Participants in Adult Pilot Program classes will accrue points each season in class 1 and class 2. No points will be awarded in class 3X (Walk/Trot or Walk/Jog). See Rule G8101.

B. Results and standings for Adult Pilot Program classes will be posted online on the IEA website.

C. Beginning with the 2025-26 competition season, adult hunt seat and western classes will culminate in postseason competition at the region finals level. Adult dressage classes will culminate in postseason competition at the zone finals level. No adult classes will be offered at national finals.

The top eight (8) riders with the highest number of points in class 1 and class 2 will be invited to compete at their respective regional finals for hunt seat and western, and zone finals for dressage. The rider with the highest total points from each class within each active Hunt Seat and Dressage Zone, and each active Western Region, will be invited to show at their respective 2025 National Finals. Unused slots allocated to inactive Zones or Regions will not be reallocated.

Riders will be ranked based on the following criteria:

1. Total points earned in the 2025-2026 season. Each class will be calculated individually with participants invited in advance of their postseason competition closing date. No individuals may compete in an IEA regular season show during the fifteen (15) business days preceding their post-season competition. Each class will be calculated and invited individually based on a deadline date that is 60 days prior to the related discipline's national finals.

2. Ties will be decided using all regular season placings in the designated class and ranking them again by the total number of first (1st) place finishes, then by total number of second (2nd) place finishes, then by total of third (3rd) place finishes, then by total number of fourth (4th) place finishes, then total number of fifth (5th) place finishes, and then total number of sixth (6th) place finishes.

3. If a tie still exists, a coin toss or draw will determine who will advance. If a tie still exists then riders will be invited to ride off at their respective Zone finals for Hunt Seat and Dressage, or Regional Finals for Western.

RULE 9000: SHOW STANDARDS, ETHICS ENFORCEMENT, VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

A. Judicial Procedure - Petitions, Protests, and Appeals

Formal petitions, protests, and appeals must be written and submitted by a coach member, region president, zone administrator, or show official and submitted through the membership office or national steward on the appropriate form. **Only coach members can submit petitions, protests, and appeals on behalf of their team and individual rider members (youth and adult). Contributing members and adult rider members** may not submit petitions, protests, or appeals. The national steward will address or forward the petition, protest, or appeal through the appropriate channels.

B. Issues, petitions, and protests relating to Adult Pilot Program shows and participants will be reviewed by the National Steward, Executive Director, and Director of the Adult Pilot Program. Appeals will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. (See G9402, G9403, and G9407.)