



**INTERSCHOLASTIC  
EQUESTRIAN<sup>TM</sup>  
ASSOCIATION**

IT'S YOUR FUTURE. TAKE THE REINS.

**Rules and Regulations of Membership  
Hunt Seat Discipline**  
as Revised May 15, 2026

BUSINESS OFFICE:  
P.O. BOX 809, CHAGRIN FALLS, OH 44022

TOLL FREE IEA TELEPHONE NO.: 1-877-RIDEIEA (1-877-743-3432)

WEBSITE ADDRESS: [WWW.RIDEIEA.ORG](http://WWW.RIDEIEA.ORG)

**Rule H3000: HUNT SEAT CLASSES AND TESTS: RIDER PLACEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY**

H3100 General - All Disciplines	1
H3200 Rider Classification and Class Eligibility	1
H3300 Hunt Seat Class Descriptions	2
H3301 Hunt Seat Varsity and Junior Varsity (Upper School) Classes	2
H3302 Hunt Seat Future (Grades 4-8) Classes	5
H3303 Hunt Seat Leading Rider / Varsity Open Champion (VOC)	6
H3304 Hunt Seat Rider Tests	7

**Rule H4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS: REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

H4220 Additional Hunt Seat Show Information	8
H4400 Show Routine	8
H4401 Hunt Seat Arena Requirements	8
H4402 Hunt Seat Schooling Procedures	9
H4407 Rider Warm-up	10
H4409 Falls, Refusals and Eliminations	10
H4411 Hunt Seat Tack and Aids	11
H4412 Dress and Headgear - Proper Show Attire - Hunt Seat	11
H4600 Tie-Breaker Rules	12

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

H6300 Additional Responsibilities of Hunt Seat Judges	12
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**RULE H7000: HUNT SEAT JUDGING REQUIREMENTS**

H7200 Hunt Seat Equitation - Hands and Seat	12
H7300 Hunt Seat Class Routine	13
H7400 Hunt Seat Tests	14

**RULE H8000: POINTS, SCORING AND POST SEASON QUALIFICATION**

H8200 Hunt Seat Post Season Qualification	14
H8300 Hunt Seat Regional Finals	14
H8400 Hunt Seat Zone Finals	14
H8500 National Finals	15
H8504 Class Specifications - Hunt Seat Team Competition	15
H8505 Class Specifications - Hunt Seat Individual Rider Competition	15
H8506 Class Specifications - Hunt Seat National Varsity Open Championship Class	16

## **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);

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

**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 nor 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 rider's 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.

**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.

**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.

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

**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.
- **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).**

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

- **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 2'7" (0.80 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) and/or 2'7" (0.80 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.

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.

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

### **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 - 6.
- 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.

### **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. **Therefore, Walk/Trot Warm-Up classes may run in splits of any**

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

size. The Walk/Trot Warm-Up splits may be pinned as one class or each split may be pinned separately.

### **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:**

- Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the eligibility requirements of hunt seat Class H7.

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

- 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 - 6.
- 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. Therefore, Walk/Trot Warm-Up classes may run in splits of any size. The Walk/Trot Warm-Up splits may be pinned as one class or each split may be pinned separately.

**H3303 Hunt Seat Leading Rider Award / Varsity Open Champion (VOC)** Presented at regular season shows using the method defined in either H3303.1 or H3303.2.

#### **H3303.1** Hunt Seat Leading Rider Award

Presented at regular season shows to the high point individual open rider with the greatest total combined points from class H1 varsity open over fences and class H2 varsity open flat. In case of a tie, the award will be determined first by the higher individual placement over fences and then if necessary broken by the higher score on the judge's card. If the placements/scores are tied and cannot be broken, refer to Hunt Seat Rules H4601-H4602.

Instead of presenting this Hunt Seat Leading Rider Award, the EHC may opt to run a VOC class as defined in H3303.2.

#### **H3303.2** Hunt Seat Varsity Open Championship (VOC) Class at Regular Season Shows

**H3303.2.1** This class is optional.

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

**H3303.2.2** The top varsity open riders as determined by points and placings within the show from Class H1 Varsity Open over Fences and Class H2 Varsity Open Flat are eligible for this class when offered. Riders must be competing in Class H1 Varsity Open over Fences (2'6") to be eligible for this championship class. Split placement riders, competing in Class 2 Varsity Open Flat and Class 3 Varsity Intermediate over Fences 2', are not eligible for the VOC class.

**H3303.2.3** The class requires a minimum of six (6) riders, and should be limited to the top ten (10).

**H3303.2.4** No points will be awarded in this class. Results do not count toward individual totals or postseason qualification for region, zone, national finals, or the National Varsity Open Championship (NVOC).

**H3303.2.5** The class may be run using the same mount for all phases of the competition, or a separate draw may be done for each phase.

**H3303.2.6** The judge may choose to implement additional testing after the completion of the first two mandatory phases.

- **Phase 1** (mandatory) - Riders will be judged over an advanced equitation course with 2'6" jumps. Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 16 may be asked. Two warm-up fences must be allowed.
- **Phase 2** (mandatory) - Riders will also compete on the flat and may be asked to perform any of tests 1 - 16.
- **Phase 3** - Optional additional testing at the judge's discretion limited to tests 1-16. If additional testing is over fences, it may occur on the same horse drawn for Phase 1 or new draw that was used in Phase 1. Warm-up jumps for phase 3 are not mandatory but may be allowed at the judge's discretion.

### **H3304 Hunt Seat Rider Tests**

A rider must be prepared to perform the tests 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 - 6 for beginner walk/trot riders, 1 - 7 for beginner walk/trot/canter riders, tests 1 - 10 for 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.

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

#### **Tests 1 - 6 (Beginner Walk/Trot)**

1. Ask an appropriate horsemanship question that is tailored to the rider's ability level
2. Halt
3. Sitting trot

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

4. Two point position at the walk and/or trot
5. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals
6. Change horses (in coordination with show officials)

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

7. Figure eight at canter on correct lead, demonstrating simple change of lead

### **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

## **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;

**H4220.7** Horse list including updates or changes, 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.

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

- H4401.2** A top rail is mandatory over any type of fill (e.g. gates, planks, and boxes).
- H4401.3** Empty jump cups must be removed on wings and standards in the competition ring or schooling area. If jumps are broken down for flat classes and wings and standards are left in the ring, jump cups must be removed and stored safely to avoid being hazards to horses and riders.
- H4401.4** All fences must have wings or standards at least twelve inches (12") higher than the top of the fence. If needed in smaller rings, the arena wall /kick board may serve as an acceptable wing.
- H4401.5** Ground lines are mandatory (boxes and/or single pole). Excess jump material (wings, standards, poles...) should be stacked safely or removed from the ring when not in use.
- H4401.6** The use of ramped oxers (not square, Swedish, or off-set oxers) is permitted only at the Varsity Open level. Oxers may not be designated as a warm-up fence, as the first fence of a course, or as a trot jump.
- H4401.7** The back rail of all oxers are required to have either safety cups or easily breakable jump cup pins (e.g. thin wooden dowels).
- H4401.8** Lines may not be set for fewer than three strides. Combinations of one or two strides are prohibited.
- H4401.9** Over fences classes shall be held over at least six (6) jumps and may include a trot jump. Trot jumps in open may not exceed 2'. Trot jumps in intermediate and novice may not exceed the standard fence height for the class.
- H4401.10** Novice courses must include at least one (1) change of direction. Open and intermediate courses must include at least two (2) changes of direction.
- H4401.11** 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.
- H4401.12** Judges and show stewards must visually inspect each course prior to the start of competition.
- H4401.13** Each show must have a designated time defined in the show schedule to allow riders to walk the course.

### **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.

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

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

**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.

Changes made to tack or aids permitted in the posted/distributed horse description sheet must be posted publicly on a ringside change board.

**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. 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.

**H4407.3** 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.

**H4407.4** 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.

**H4407.5** 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.

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

### **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.
- H4411.12** All saddles must have stirrup bars in the down or open position. Coaches and riders are responsible for checking the stirrup bar position prior to mounting.
- H4411.13** No saddle may have an attachment that is a rigid upward pointing projection, hook, or similar object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups.
- H4411.14** Peacock and hook-and-loop stirrups are not permitted in IEA shows as they have upward pointing projections that might hook or catch a rider's clothing or person when dismounting.
- H4411.15** All stirrup irons must have stirrup treads in good condition.
- H4411.16** If a type of stirrup is called into question, the final decision is at the discretion of the show steward.
- H4411.17** Bit and bridling options are determined at the discretion of the horse provider. Concerns regarding bridling options should be addressed to the show steward.
- H4411.18** Standing, running with rein guards, and German martingales are acceptable in all hunt seat classes (over fences and flat).
- H4411.19** Anti-grazing or over-check reins are acceptable.
- H4411.20** Training equipment, draw reins, chambons, tie downs, elastic/bungee, and homemade tack items are prohibited.
- H4411.21** Hunt seat beginner (walk/trot and walk/trot/canter) riders are not permitted to wear spurs and will be eliminated for doing so.
- H4411.22** Novice, intermediate, and open riders may only use spurs when indicated in the horse description.
- H4411.23** 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.
- H4411.24** 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**

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

**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, half chaps 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 G4412.6 and G4412.7).

### **H4600 Tie Breaker Rules**

**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 (1<sup>st</sup>) place finishes, then by total number of second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place finishes, then by total number of third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place finishes, then by the total number of fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) place finishes, then by total number of fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) 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.

**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.

**H7301.6** Three (3) cumulative refusals will result in elimination. No courtesy fence will be allowed after elimination.

#### **H7302** On the Flat

**H7302.1** 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.

**H7302.2** Riders enter the ring as a group and demonstrate the appropriate gaits in both directions as directed by the judge.

## **RULE H7000: HUNT SEAT JUDGING REQUIREMENTS**

**H7302.3** 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**

**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. 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, as determined annually by the Board of Directors, 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 director of membership on December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Calculations will be based on total individual rider memberships, and will be split into calculations for future (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) total members and upper school (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 director of membership 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, as determined annually by the Board of Directors, 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 director of membership on December 1<sup>st</sup> 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 individuals a zone may send to nationals.

**H8506 Class Specifications - Hunt Seat National Varsity Open Championship (NVOC) Class**

- H8506.1** To be eligible for the NVOC a rider must have competed in Class H1 Varsity Open over Fences (2'6") at least two times during the regular competition season.
- H8506.2** Invitations to compete in the NVOC class at national finals will be issued to the rider in each zone with the highest total combined points from Class H1 Varsity Open over Fences and Class H2 Varsity Open Flat earned during regular season competitions. 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 NVOC rider will be broken in this order, first by total points during regular season shows in Class H1 Varsity Open over Fences, then by total individual points earned at region finals in Class H1i Varsity Open over Fences and Class H2i Varsity Open Flat, and then by total individual points earned at zone finals in Class H1i Varsity Open over Fences and Class H2i Varsity Open Flat. Only individual points count, not team points.
- H8506.4** Two additional riders will be invited to compete in the NVOC class 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 H1i - Varsity Open Over Fences and Class H2i - 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 NVOC will be filled with the next highest varsity open individual point earner competing at nationals.
- H8506.4.1** Ties for either of the two additional spots added to the NVOC will be broken by the higher class placement in class H1i individual open over fences at national finals.

## **RULE H8000: POINTS, SCORING AND POST SEASON QUALIFICATION**

**H8506.5** The class may be run using the same mount for all phases of the competition, or a separate draw may be done for each phase.

**H8506.6** The judge may choose to implement additional testing after the completion of the first two mandatory phases.

- Phase 1 (mandatory) - Riders will be judged over an advanced equitation course with 2'6" jumps. Hunt Seat Tests 1 - 16 may be asked. Two warm-up fences must be allowed.
- Phase 2 (mandatory) - Riders will also compete on the flat and may be asked to perform any of tests 1 - 16.
- Phase 3 (optional) - Additional testing at the judge's discretion limited to tests 1-16. If additional testing is over fences, it may occur on the same horse drawn for Phase 1 or new draw that was used in Phase 1. Warm-up jumps for phase 3 are not mandatory but may be allowed at the judge's discretion.