



ZONE 4 GUIDELINES AND REGION ASSIGNMENTS 2026-2027

Section 1: Region Information

Hunt Seat teams will be split into 11 regions with 8-12 teams initially assigned to each region.

Each region will have a mandatory conference call in the spring for development of a show schedule and sharing current rule changes. Regions should review available horses (quality and type) to be used in shows and discuss fitness and suitability by division. Teams not participating in the meeting, may only be permitted to co-host based on the number of approved shows for the current season.

Show Hosting: For the 2026-2027 season, the teams in Zone 4 will utilize the following hosting guidelines as defined in rule Section G2303 and G4200 when planning their shows for the season:

- Teams that hosted two shows during the 2025-2026 season will be requested to host two shows again in the 2026-2027 season
- In the third year of competition and each year thereafter, a Team (Upper and/or Futures of the same discipline are considered a "Team") must meet the following hosting obligations based on the previous year's roster:
 - Teams with eighteen (18) or fewer riders must host one (1) or co-host two (2) IEA Regular Season point show(s) as the Event Host Coordinator (EHC).
 - Teams with nineteen (19) or more riders must host two (2) or co-host four (4) Regular Season point shows as Event Host Coordinator (EHC).
 - Any exceptions are at the discretion of the Zone Administrator and must be negotiated at the time of show date request.

Zone 4 Regions use a Hoof Print Program to encourage teams to contribute horses to the shows. In keeping with Rule #G4105 (priority entry), G4212 (alternate plan) and G4217 (EHC & horses), each hosting team is required to plan a show that supports in-region entries and then the hoofprint program will contribute the remaining equine requirements.

Additional entries may be accepted but requires teams to cover their hoof print by providing additional suitable/level appropriate horses for those entries.

No team willing to contribute appropriate horses may be mandated to lease horses for a show - when there are a limited number of horses available, the show host must follow the priority entry rules when accepting entries.

2: Postseason Format

- There will be no more than 12 individual riders per individual class and no more than 12 teams at Zone Finals.
- Each region is guaranteed 1 spot in both individual and team competitions.
- The 12th spot will be awarded to the region with the largest rider population as of December 1st of each year.

Section 3: Post Season Dates

Region Finals dates (with potential rain dates) will be posted on the IEA Competition Calendar by October 1st.

Zone Finals: Mar. 13 - 14, 2027 Clarcona Park, Orlando, Florida

Section 4: Fundraising Information

Each region will be responsible for fundraising & support of their own Regional Finals. All Regional Finals shows are expected to cover their own costs and break even financially - profits will be rolled into Zone Finals budget to be used for next season's Region Finals. Pre - approved fundraisers at regular or region finals shows may be basket raffles, VIP table sales, t-shirts, and cash donations. Other fundraisers may be approved per rule G2803.10.

**For the 2026-2027 season, Zone 4 will hold a fundraiser to benefit the Red Bird Trust - an organization formed to keep the mustang horses on their home territory. Equine photographs will be offered for sale or auction - all proceeds go to the Red Bird Trust.

Each qualified team to Region Finals should donate one raffle basket to the fundraiser - middle and high school teams are considered separately for this.

Section 5: Region Descriptions

Region 1: west of Chattooga, TN to the TN border; Alabama North of Decatur; Mississippi north of Tupelo

Region 2: Alabama south of Decatur; Mississippi south of Tupelo

Region 3: north of I-20 west, across I-75 north to Hwy 400

Region 4: east of I-75 to west of I-85

Region 5: north of Columbia, SC and north of I-20 East

Region 6: south of Atlanta along I-20 East to Augusta, Ga

Region 7: I-75 north to I-575 north over to Hwy 400

Region 8: south of Columbia, SC and southern Georgia below I-20 east

Region 9: north Florida above Orlando; includes the Fla. peninsula

Region 10: south of Orlando to West Palm Beach, including the Gulf Coast

Region 11: southern Florida below West Palm Beach

[Follow this link to view the Zone 4 Team Region Assignments](#)

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