



ZONE 3 GUIDELINES AND REGION ASSIGNMENTS 2026-2027

Region Information:

- Hunt Seat will be split into 10 regions with 7-13 teams originally assigned to each Region.
- Regular Season Start Date: August 1, 2026
- The final weekend for regular season shows will be January 16/17, 2027
- All regular season shows should be coordinated by the Region President and must be approved by Zone Administrator.
- Co-hosts will be required to adhere to the same timeline requirement as hosting teams by committing to their dates no later than 60 days before the show per the IEA Rulebook.
- Show hosts will attempt to diversify the judging by making their best effort to use a judge only 1 time for each show in the region.

Hosting Requirements:

Teams must meet the hosting / co-hosting obligations as required in **rule section G2303** and defined in rule **section G4200**. 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.
 - Co-hosting teams will have priority for their first two spots and only if additional co-hosting spots are available will they be able to co-host more than 2; if not, they would need to host.

Post Season Format

There will be no more than 14 riders per individual class and no more than 14 teams at Zone Finals

Each region is guaranteed 1 spot in both individual and team competition.

- The remaining spots will be allotted based on rider population in each region as of December 1st each year.

Post Season Dates

- Region Finals are to be scheduled by Regional Presidents by 9/15/2026. Zone 3 Teams should ideally plan their show schedule to conclude horse showing twenty-one (21) business days before the date established for the IEA Region Finals
- All Region Finals will commence on a date no later than fifteen (15) business days before the date established for the IEA Zone 3 Finals
- Make-up dates for postseason shows will be posted in the show calendar on the website.
- Zone 3 Finals, March 12-14, 2027 (tentative) Location: Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA.
- IEA Nationals at Tryon International Equestrian Center Mill Springs, NC

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 - any profits will be rolled into the Zone Finals budget. Approved fundraisers at regular or region final shows may be basket raffles, program ads, VIP table sales, t-shirts, and cash donations. Regional Finals must be considered a community effort. All teams and individual riders who qualify to compete are expected to participate in the organization and/or running of the Regional Final in some way; including but not limited to providing a facility, schooling riders, show staff, volunteers, and horses.
- Region Presidents are responsible for producing a positive projected Region Final budget by October 1st, 2025.
- Region Presidents are responsible for securing signed contracts and receipts for any officials/ staff/ independent contractors for Region Finals by the deadline designated by the Zone Administrator.
- Any additional fundraising ideas developed in each Region must be shared with the Zone Administrator who will obtain from the Executive Director prior to implementation.
- The greatest need from the community effort is providing suitable horses. Teams and Individuals participating in Region Finals have three options to meet the community effort (G8301 & G8401):
 1. Contribute appropriate horses to the event to cover the rides at each level for their qualified competitors (team and Individual). Suggested contribution equates to one (1) horse to cover approximately five (5) rides.
 2. Partner with another team that has excess horses to cover the rides for their qualified competitors. Terms to be negotiated between the two parties.
 3. Pay a lease fee that will go to the teams or outside sources willing to bring additional horses.

Zone Finals:

- Zone Finals will sell ads for the show program, silent auction gift basket donations, and solicit sponsors as a fundraiser for the show. We will also seek prizes and/or cash donations to offset the cost of the show. Zone Finals must be considered a community effort. All teams and individual riders who qualify to compete are expected to participate in the organization or running of the Zone Final in some way, including but not limited to soliciting sponsorships, volunteering, and providing horses.
- Each region is responsible for securing two (1) \$300 Division Sponsors or two (2) \$150 Horse Sponsorships for Zone Finals.

**Follow this link to view the
Zone 3 Team Region Assignments**

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Zone 3 homepage**