

# Alumni Equestrian Events, LLC Rule Book



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## RULE I

### **Membership Classification**

#### **101. Barn Membership**

- a. Any accredited College, University, or Barn interested in participating in the activities of the Alumni Equestrian Events, LLC, and willing to subscribe to the By-Laws and Rules of the AEE, is eligible for membership.
- b. An eligible college, university, or private barn must apply for membership annually on the official AEE Membership form and waiver, and such form must be properly signed by an official of the college/barn empowered to do so.
  - i. All AEE participating colleges, universities, and facilities must carry professional liability insurance coverage for horse show activities at AEE events or show a college/university Certificate of Insurance or be a College or University employee.
  - ii. Proof of professional liability insurance must be provided to the AEE during the sign up process.
  - iii. An individual whose name appears on any suspension or banned list of Safe Sport will be ineligible to participate in AEE sanctioned activities.
- c. The membership application must be completed before the college/university/barn can host an AEE show. Hosts shall not be charged membership.
- d. The AEE membership application must include:
  - i. Name, address, phone number of the College/Barn contact.
  - ii. Name, title and address of College/Barn supervisor.
  - iii. Signature of College/Barn contact.
  - iv. Signature of supervisor.
- e. For a barn/show to be considered “in good standing,” both the initial or annual AEE membership application and dues (if applicable) must be received by the National AEE Treasurer before the first show in which they seek to participate. For 2023, there is no membership fee for participating barns / colleges.

#### **102. Individual Alumni Membership**

- a. Eligibility for Membership and Participation.
  - i. In order to become an Individual Alumni Member in the AEE, a rider must have participated in IHSA as an undergraduate. In order to participate in AEE shows, an individual member must be in good standing, with all membership fees and show dues paid at the time of the show.
  - ii. A rider’s eligibility time starts with their initial completion of the online individual membership form.

b. Individual Membership Form

- i. Annually, prior to their first competition, an eligible alumnus must apply for membership on the official AEE Individual Membership form online, to indicate participation in Hunter Seat, Western, or both disciplines. It must include an individual membership fee of \$45.00 for Hunter Seat, \$45.00 for Western or \$60.00 if both disciplines are applied for at the same time, and must be received by the National Treasurer. Memberships are non-refundable.
- ii. Alternatively, non-member riders may choose to pay a show pass fee of \$20 at each show. Riders may transfer one show pass fee into an active membership within 10 days of paying the show pass fee.
- iii. Alumni must declare a home zone
- iv. An alumni may show up to 15 times per class offered at shows in an annual season.
- v. The annual season for AEE shows is July 1 - April 1 of any given calendar year.
- vi. Only points from the top 10 shows will count towards end of season points
- vii. Alumni may show in any sanctioned alumni show and the points will count towards their declared zone total points.
- viii. Each Individual membership online application must contain the following statement to be signed electronically by the Individual member:

*This entry constitutes an agreement and affirmation that the riders, trainers, and barns shall accept and abide by the rules of AEE and of the Show, that each rider is eligible as entered, that they will accept as final any rulings of AEE with respect to their conduct and each entry agrees to defend and hold AEE, its directors, officials, employees and all persons, stables or other entities providing facilities, horses or equipment for the Show, harmless for any claim, action or suit, for injury, property damage or death sustained during participation in the show by the entity, his or her coach, trainer or visitors.*

*Furthermore, the facility, riders, coaches, trainers, and/or any affiliate, agent, and/or representative of the foregoing, hereby acknowledge and recognize that competing in an AEE event and/or show may result in substantial and serious injury, including, but not limited to, maiming, paralysis, and/or death; that all of the foregoing persons openly and freely accept all of the potential risks associated with participation in an AEE event and/or show. In addition, they agree to waive, release, and hold harmless AEE, and/or any members, agent, and/or affiliates of the AEE, from any and all actions, causes of action, suits, debts, promises, damages, judgments, claims, and/or demands whatsoever, in law and/or equity, as well as agree to defend and indemnify AEE, its members, agents, and/or affiliates, from any threatened and/or actual liability as permitted by prevailing law.*

c. Insufficient Funds

- i. Should an individual check be returned for insufficient funds, the individual responsible shall be notified in order to resubmit the check. If the check is not made good within 15 business days, the individual responsible shall be ineligible to compete until funds are negotiable. They will also be responsible for any fees incurred due to the check being returned.

### **103. Classification Statements**

- a. It is the responsibility of the rider to accurately enter themselves in the proper class according to their individual skill and experience levels. If there is no record of a rider having shown at the canter/over fences/in reining, the rider must produce proof they have taken applicable lessons in the last 6 months. The form should include the barn name, trainer's name, and contact information.
- b. If a rider has not shown at the canter/over fences/in reining in the past two (2) years, the rider must produce proof they have taken applicable lessons in the last 6 months. The form should include the barn name, trainer's name, and contact information.

### **104. Disabled Riders**

Persons qualified for individual membership in the AEE but who have a disability as defined herein may be permitted to compete under the terms and conditions set forth as follows:

- a. Definitions
  - i. A disability is defined as a physical limitation including but not limited to the loss of an arm or leg or any part thereof; the loss of or limitation of sight not correctable to 20/40 by corrective lenses; or the loss of or limitation of hearing.
  - ii. Special equipment is any substitution of tack.
  - iii. Active assistance is defined as physical, verbal, or sign assistance or any combination thereof provided in respect to the directing or control of the horse or rider. The use of standard hand signals for "walk," "trot," etc. is not considered active assistance.
- b. Before becoming eligible to compete the disabled person must submit a written statement requesting permission to compete and the nature and extent of the limitations. The statement must be submitted to the National Alumni Director of the AEE.
- c. The National Alumni Director shall make and provide copies by mail/email to each member of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall designate one member of the Board of Directors from outside the person's region to observe the rider on a horse at a mutually convenient location within thirty (30) days of the application. The expenses of the Director visit will be covered by the party requesting the Director visit.

- d. A video tape, unedited and recorded by a disinterested party, may be substituted for the Director's on-sight observation. If, however, the Director is not satisfied with the tape, s/he may still request personal observation.
- e. The member of the Board shall determine whether the disabled person can safely compete in the class level for which the person is otherwise eligible under the rules without active assistance.
- f. If the Board Member determines that the rider cannot so safely compete then the person shall have the right to a review by the full Board of Directors by requesting such a review in writing. The request shall state any and all facts the person believes to be pertinent and must include a statement signed by the person, agreeing the decision of the Board shall be final and that the person will be bound by that determination.
- g. In the event that the person is determined to be eligible to compete, the rider must notify the Regional Alumni Rep at least one week prior to the show that they are disabled. The Regional Alumni Rep shall promptly notify the stable or person providing horses for the show of the nature and extent of the disability.
- h. The provider of horses may in their sole discretion determine whether to permit the rider to compete on the provider's horses with or without special equipment. The provider's determination shall be final for that event only. The Regional Alumni Rep should make every attempt to obtain the provider's determination before the day of the event in order to avoid inconveniencing the disabled person.
- i. Riders having temporary physical disabilities will be evaluated on an individual basis by a member of the Board of Directors, the show committee, the stable providing facilities and the persons providing horses for the show, as to suitability and safety.

## **105. Alumni National Director**

- a. Election Procedure
  - i. The Board of Directors shall elect the Alumni National Director to a two-year term at the end of the calendar year from nominations received from Alumni and Board Members.
  - ii. Should the Alumni National Director resign prior to the end of their elected term, the Executive Committee shall appoint an interim National Director to serve for the remainder of the term.
  - iii. The Alumni National Director shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
  - iv. The board and National Director will select one to two Hunt Seat and Western Directors per discipline to assist with alumni duties.
- b. Duties of the Alumni National Director:
  - i. Act as the primary liaison between the Alumni Association and the AEE Board of Directors and communicate the present circumstances of the Alumni.
  - ii. Manage the development of the AEE and oversee the daily operations.

## **106. Show Membership**

- a. AEE shows shall be classified as Regular, Regional, Zone or National shows. Show hosts will be responsible for providing suitable facilities, horses, tack and equipment. AEE rules shall govern all classes held at AEE shows.
- b. A Regular Point Show shall be a show held by a member facility in good standing under AEE Rules, and in compliance with the Rules. It shall be open to any AEE member in good standing. A Zone must hold a minimum of five and a maximum of fifteen shows to qualify riders for Regionals / Zones in any discipline per season.
- c. Barns / Host colleges will determine the cost per ride at shows. Riders may report egregious fees to the National Director who will decide if a maximum entry fee that may be charged is warranted.
- d. A Zone Show shall be held annually by each zone at least 21 days prior to the start of the National Horse Show. It shall be open to those riders who qualify under applicable rules. A Zone Show may charge an entry fee as agreed upon by the National Director.
- e. The National Horse Show shall be held annually for the AEE Alumni in good standing. The Board of Directors shall approve the site of the show and the judges. The show shall be open to those riders who qualify under applicable rules. For the National Horse Show, the committee may charge an entry fee up to an amount approved by the Board of Directors at a Board meeting held the prior year.

## **107. Dues for Recognized Shows**

- a. Regular member shows shall not pay set dues but shall remit to the National Treasurer **\$5.00** of each entry. These funds should be remitted within 30 days of the show. All funds must be in United States currency. If dues are not remitted within 30 days, Directors of the AEE may suspend a farm until such time as dues are paid.
- b. There shall be no dues for the Regional, Zone or National Horse Show.

## **108. Associate Memberships**

- a. Any person may become an Associate Member of the AEE, Inc. upon payment of the appropriate associate membership contribution.
- b. A person interested in becoming an Associate Member must apply for membership on the appropriate AEE, Inc. associate membership form.
- c. There shall be three types of associate members:



- i. Regular Associate Member shall not be eligible to compete and shall pay yearly contribution of \$15.
  - ii. Sustaining Associate Member shall not be eligible to compete and shall pay yearly contribution of \$50.
- d. The appropriate form and the dues for Associate Members shall be submitted to the Alumni/Associate Member Director.

## **109. Affiliated Association Memberships**

- a. Affiliated Associations consist of organizations and other groups in good standing in a state, region or locality, educational institutions offering equine related programs, or other organizations approved by the AEE Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the AEE, which have federated together to form an association. Affiliated Associations must pay annual dues of \$300. Any affiliated association will pay dues as an Affiliated Association of the AEE and be subject to all responsibilities and privileges of an Affiliated Association. Annual membership applies from August 1 to July 31.
- b. Categories of membership shall include:
  - i. National associations, where equestrian-related groups or individuals have formed a national association or organization.
  - ii. Regional associations, where equestrian related groups or individuals have formed a regional association or organization.
  - iii. Educational associations, where educational institutions or colleges offer equine related programs.
  - iv. Equine competition associations
- c. Affiliate Benefits and Responsibilities
  - i. Affiliate Benefits
    - 1. Affiliate logo and link on alumnitoc.com
    - 2. Booth and banner space at AEE Nationals
    - 3. Affiliate Responsibilities
    - 4. AEE link on log to affiliate website
    - 5. Booth and banner pace at affiliate National Championship, if applicable

- ii. The AEE Board of Directors will work with the Affiliate Association to reach an appropriate agreement on additional areas of cooperation and mutual benefit.
- d. AEE is not liable for financial responsibilities or other policies of Affiliated Associations.
- e. AEE reserves the right to not renew or decline Affiliated Association membership.

## RULE II

### **Zone Organization**

#### **201. The AEE is divided into Zones**

- a. Each Zone shall approximate the Zones of the USEF. Each Zone shall include the AEE regions within its border. The Board of Directors of the AEE may approve exceptions. Each Zone shall have a Zone Alumni Chair.

#### **202. Zone Chair**

- a. Election Procedure
  - i. Zone Chairs shall be elected by a majority vote of the board and executive team for a two-year term.
  - ii. Elections for Zone Chair shall be held on or before the Zone Show.
  - iii. Should a Zone Chair resign prior to the end of their elected term, the Executive Committee shall appoint a new chairman to serve for the remainder of the term.

#### **203. Duties of the Zone Chair**

- a. Shall communicate the Zones' information to the Board and will disseminate information from the Board to the alumni members.
- b. Has the authority to convene a Zone Standards and Ethics Committee for the Zone Show.
- c. Supervise preparation for the Zone Horse Show.
- d. Forward results of the Zone Show to the National Show Host immediately following the Zone Show.
- e. Keep all Alumni informed of new rules, requirements, and rule changes.
- f. Supervise preparation for the Regional Horse Show, if a regional show will be held.
- g. Forward results of the Regional Show to the Zone Show Host immediately following the Regional Show.
- h. If an alumni is found to be ineligible, the Alumni Zone Chair will disqualify the rider, make any necessary point adjustments and notify the Alumni National Director within seven (7) days.

## RULE III

### **Rule Interpretation and Enforcement Violations and Penalties**

#### **301. Applicability and Definition**

- a. The provisions of these rules shall apply to the following persons: exhibitor, coach, rider, show official, show employee, designated representative or member of the family of the above, individual, and member facilities, member show and member institution, who act in a manner in violation of the Rules of the Association or deemed prejudicial to its best interests. Any action in connection with a show in violation of the Rules, by a member of the family of a person participating in the Show, who is described in the previous sentence, may be deemed to have been committed by such person and subject to penalties.
- b. Non-Protestable Decisions
  - i. The soundness of a horse or the suitability of a rider or a horse, when determined by a Show Official or by a Judge, is not a violation.
  - ii. A Judge's decision, representing his individual preference, is not a violation of the rules.
- c. If the rules of the AEE do not apply to a given situation, the rules of the USEF shall govern in Hunter Seat divisions and procedural questions; similarly in Western divisions, AQHA rules will govern.
- d. All references to “days” are business days.

#### **302. Duties**

- a. The Executive Board shall be responsible for interpretation and clarification of the Rules of the Association.
- b. Upon the request of any member, director, or designated representative the Executive Board shall convene and render an opinion as to the propriety of any prospective conduct or action under the Rules by an individual or show. The opinion shall be binding unless reversed before the fact by the Executive Board
- c. The Executive Board shall, if required in writing by a member, director, or designated representative, also determine the validity of show results and eligibility for competition by individuals in Post Season Shows. Their duties hereunder are to be exercised irrespective of any action taken by a Standards and Ethics Committee.
- d. All opinions or rulings by the Executive Board shall be reduced to writing and copies forwarded to the Board of Directors and all other interested persons.

### **303. Review**

- a. All opinions and rulings are subject to review by the National Board of Directors.

### **304. Standards and Ethics Committees (SEC)**

- a. SEC Composition

- i. The committee is comprised of the National Alumni Director and the associated Western and Hunt Seat Director(s).

- b. SEC Jurisdiction

- i. The SEC shall have Jurisdiction over all alleged violations of the Association occurring.
  - ii. The SEC shall entertain only such alleged violations as are presented to them in writing by a show official or individual member.
  - iii. The SEC shall rule on and enforce such penalties as hereunder are described for the violation.
  - iv. The accuser, defendant, and members of the SEC agree to maintain confidential all phrases of all proceedings, including, but not limited to all correspondence, discussions among parties as well as all minutes of any proceedings. Any party who is found to have violated this section shall be subject to potential discipline by the Executive Committee.

- c. SEC Judicial Procedure

- i. Report of alleged violation

- 1. A notice of alleged violation must be addressed in writing to the SEC Chairman and the Zone Chair within ten (10) days of discovery.
    - 2. The notice of alleged violation must state the full name and address of the accused and the accuser.
    - 3. The notice of alleged violation must contain the Rule that is alleged to have been broken.
    - 4. The notice of alleged violation must contain a complete and definitive statement of the acts which constitute the alleged violation. Precise details regarding a violation of the Rule are necessary.
    - 5. The notice of alleged violation must be accompanied by any visual, verbal, or written proof of alleged violation.

ii. Hearings

1. Following receipt of notice of alleged violation, the SEC shall notify the defendant, in writing, of the charges.
2. The defendant and accuser shall be given at least seven (7) days' notice of the date of the hearing.
3. The hearing shall be recorded, and a copy thereof forwarded within seven (7) days to the National Director.
4. To conduct the hearing, at least four (4) members of the SEC must be present.
5. After giving all persons an opportunity to be heard, the SEC shall in closed session within seven (7) days of the hearing determine if a violation has occurred, and if so, what penalty, if any, should be imposed.

iii. Notification of Verdict and Penalty

1. The verdict and penalty, if any, shall be set forth in writing by the Chairman within seven (7) days of the determination.
2. The verdict and penalty shall be sent via certified mail (or FedEx), or return receipt email, to the defendant and accuser.
3. A copy of the verdict and penalty shall be sent to the Zone Chair and the Executive Committee.

iv. Appeal

1. If the defendant or the accuser is not satisfied with the decision of the SEC, s/he may bring an appeal to the Executive Committee.
2. The appeal shall be made in writing and sent via certified mail (or FedEx), or sent return receipt email, within fourteen (14) days of the verdict's receipt with a copy sent to the Chairman of the SEC and the Zone Chair.
3. The Executive Committee may affirm, reverse, or modify the verdict of the SEC within twenty (20) days of the appeal's receipt.
4. The Executive Committee's opinion shall be set forth in writing and sent via certified mail (or FedEx), or sent return receipt email, to the defendant, the accuser, the Zone Chair, and the Chairman of the SEC.

## **305. Violations by Individuals and Penalties**

### a. Violations

- i. An individual violation is any of the following acts committed by an individual:
- ii. Violation of the Rules of the Association.
- iii. Penalization by the Humane Society or Court of Law for violation of Association Rules.
- iv. Acting or inciting or permitting another person to act in a manner contrary to the Rules of the Association, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of the Association.
- v. Any act committed or remark made in connection with a Show, considered offensive and/or made with intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the judging; approaching a judge before or after a decision without first obtaining permission from the Show Committee or show management; inspection of a Judge's card without show management's permission.
- vi. Failure of a Judge to perform their duties at a Show in accordance with the Rules.
- vii. Filing of an inaccurate individual membership application.
- viii. Failure of an exhibitor or his representative to sign the entry blank of a Show in which s/he competes.
- ix. Physical assault upon a person and/or cruelty to a horse.
- x. Failure to obey any penalty imposed by the Association.
- xi. Administration of central nervous system drugs.

## **306. Penalties**

- a. If found guilty, penalties for an individual shall be limited to the following:
  - i. PROBATION shall be listed under the defendant's name in the Secretary's Record of Penalties. If found guilty of a further violation, the defendant shall be subject to a heavier penalty than for a first offense.
  - ii. SUSPENSION of such person or institution for any period from showing. A suspended person or institution is forbidden for the time specified in the sentence to hold or exercise office in the Association or in any Show, and is excluded from all show grounds during Shows, as an exhibitor, participant, or spectator

- iii. EXPULSION from all recognized Shows.
  - iv. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION from membership in the Association.
  - v. FORFEITURE of trophies, ribbons, and points won in connection with the offense committed.
  - vi. SUSPENSION from office as Judge, or Show Official.
  - vii. FINE.
  - viii. CENSURE.
  - ix. REMOVAL from office.
- b. All offenses are charged to the individual dispensing said medication by the NSEC. Should the said individual be found guilty through positive confirmation of CNS drugs, all fees/charges for the testing will be assigned to the guilty party.
- i. First offense: Written warning
  - ii. Second offense: One month suspension from all AEE activities
  - iii. Third offense: Six month suspension from the AEE
  - iv. Fourth offense: One year suspension from the AEE

### **307. Show Violations and Penalties**

- a. A Host may be subject to penalty by the R.S.E.C. for violations of the Rules in the conduct of its Show. Violations shall include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Failure to:
    - 1. Conduct a Show in accordance with Association Rules.
    - 2. Use standard specifications for classes.
    - 3. Provide ambulance on grounds or on call, plus qualified medical personnel
    - 4. Pay its indebtedness to the Association.
    - 5. Pay other indebtedness within 30 days
    - 6. Report the disqualification of a person at the show.
    - 7. Present correct Hunter Seat Equitation courses.
    - 8. Honor written contract with Judges, other Show Officials, employees.
    - 9. The listing of a Judge in the prize list or catalog before the invitation to serve has been accepted.
    - 10. Permitting persons or institutions not in good standing to participate in any manner.
    - 11. Permitting acts which are improper, intemperate, dishonest, unsportsmanlike,



or contrary to the Rules of the Association.

- b. A host guilty of a violation shall be subject to a penalty, including the following:
  - i. FINE.
  - ii. PROBATION. A vote of censure shall be listed under the defendant's name in the Secretary's Record of Penalties. If found guilty of a further violation, the defendant shall be liable to a heavier penalty than for a first offense.
  - iii. SUSPENSION for any period from the list of approved Shows.
  - iv. EXPULSION from membership in the Association.

### **308. Reciprocity**

- a. On receipt of official notice that disciplinary action has been taken by a Humane Society or Court of Law against a person for an act which may be a violation of Association Rules, an officer of this Association may make a charge against such person to his Regional Standards and Ethics Committee and after a hearing of such disciplined person under the provision of the Rules, may take such action as it deems in its own best interest.

## RULE IV

### **Organization and Procedures for Shows and Duties of Show Personnel**

#### **401. Host farms**

- a. Any farm in good standing may host a regular point show.
- b. Host farm shall provide suitable facilities, horses, and equipment for all entries, including stirrup treads for all Hunter Seat saddles.
- c. Host farms may limit entries to 6 riders per class.

#### **402. Minimum Entry Requirements for Regular member shows and classes**

- a. A minimum of three (3) alumni must compete in an official Regular AEE show.
- b. In order for a show to count, all regular horse show classes for which rules are provided here in provided, must be offered.
- c. In order for a class to count there must be a minimum of 3 riders in the ring. Those riders must complete all required maneuvers for said class.
- d. If less than 3 entries, class may be run at discretion of committee, but points will not count.
- e. Single-judged classes are preferred, however double-judged classes are acceptable. It is at the discretion of the show host to determine the entry fee when a class is double-judged. This should not exceed twice the regular entry fee for a single-judged class.

#### **403. Class Routine**

- a. All classes for which rules are provided herein must be conducted accordingly. If rules of the AEE do not apply to any given situation, the rules of the USEF and/or the AQHA shall govern.
- b. Care and control of horses including any drugs or medications administered shall be the sole prerogative of the horse provider or their designated representative. Administration of drugs and medications shall be limited to therapeutic use only and used for the well-being of the horse. The administration of central nervous system drugs is prohibited in AEE competition.

- c. A class in operation at the time of the stopping of a show for any reason shall cease and no placements shall be made.
- d. In the event that a class in which horses compete individually is stopped while in progress, due to storm, accident, or other emergency, the following procedure shall govern:
  - i. If the class is continued at the same session of the show, it shall proceed from the point at which it was stopped.
  - ii. If the class is continued at a succeeding session of the show, it shall be held over in its entirety and no scores credited in the first session shall count.
- e. If the class in which horses compete together is stopped while in progress due to storm, accident, re-ride or other emergency, the class (or test), when recommenced, shall proceed from where it was stopped. If the judge determines that they are not able to fairly judge the affected rider, the class will be held over in its entirety, and no consideration shall be given to the performance during the original session.
- f. If a show is stopped while in progress and is unable to recommence, no points will be awarded for the show.
- g. Special classes may be offered by the show committee if time and horse availability permit; but they must be scheduled after the regular classes are completed.
- h. It is recommended that fences consist of natural posts and rails, painted rails, brush, oxers (but not square oxers), coops, gates, walls, aikens. Coops that are hinged at the top and free at the bottom are prohibited. All fences must have wings at least 12 inches higher than the top of the fence. Ground lines are mandatory.
- i. All horses to be used in over fences classes must be schooled over the courses prior to the show. On the day of the show, no rider entered may school a horse to be used in the show prior to that rider having competed in his/her own classes.
  - i. Western horses may be schooled with roweled spurs, in accordance with the wishes of the horse provider. Western horses should be schooled in the manner which best prepares them for the class.
- j. Small or medium ponies shall not be used in AEE shows.
- k. Riders must display a number in a clearly visible manner. Once the class is called to order, riders with no number displayed will be disqualified.
- l. Riders must ride in their assigned class/sections. Riders entering the ring in an incorrect class or section will be disqualified once the class is called to order.

## **404. Falls, Refusals and Eliminations**

- a. A rider is considered to have fallen when s/he is separated from their horse that has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.
- b. In the event of a fall/accident where the rider is apparently unconscious or concussed, s/he is precluded from competing until evaluated by qualified medical personnel. If the rider refuses to be evaluated, s/he is disqualified from the competition.
- c. If qualified medical personnel determine that a rider has sustained unconsciousness or a concussion, the rider must be precluded from competing until cleared to compete. In order to return to competition, the rider shall submit a signed letter, completed by a licensed medical professional, stating that the rider is cleared to compete. The letter shall be submitted to the National Director.
- d. The fall/accident that results in unconsciousness or concussion shall be reported on the AEE accident report and forwarded to the Zone Chair.
- e. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle on the ground.
- f. In the event of a fall where the Judges determine a re-ride is granted, if Rules a-d above do not apply, the rider is precluded from competing until evaluated by qualified medical personnel. If cleared, they may proceed with the re-ride.
- g. Three refusals will result in elimination
- h. In Hunter Seat classes, no courtesy fences will be allowed after elimination.  
re-ride
- i. If an elimination occurs during a ride-off, the contestant shall be placed last of all those chosen for the ride-off.

## **405. Drawing for Horses**

- a. Drawings will be by lot from the pool of designated horses. There must be at least one designated alternate. Riders must ride the horse drawn for them unless changed by show management or the judge to the designated alternate. The draw shall be held at least twenty minutes prior to the start of each class. Announcement of the draw must precede it by at least ten minutes.

## 406. Re-rides

- a. When, through no fault of the rider, a horse performs so poorly that it is impossible to fairly judge the rider's ability, a re-ride may be granted.
- b. A re-ride must be requested prior to the lineup in a flat class or the last horse leaves the ring in an over fences, ranch or reining class.
- c. A judge may also request a re-ride. The judge has ultimate say if a re-ride should be granted.
- d. If a re-ride is granted, it shall be judged as if the first ride never occurred. Only the rider(s) receiving the re-ride will change horses. The first alternate will be used and so forth if additional re-rides have been granted.
- e. If a re-ride is granted in a class in which riders compete individually, the re-ride shall take place after all other rides in that class have been completed.
- f. If a re-ride is granted in a class in which riders compete together, see section 403 - Class Routine rules.

## 407. Tack and Aids

- a. Neither substitution of tack or aids nor addition of materials by exhibitors which could affect horse or tack shall be permitted unless approved by the horse owner. In the event of tack breakage, the horse owner/provider may stop the competition to fix and/or replace the tack. The rider may then resume the pattern/course where the breakage took place without penalty or the judge may grant a re-ride.
- b. Use of Crops and Spurs
  - i. Crops, whips, or bats may be carried only when specified by the horse provider. Crops etc. are not to be used prior to entering the ring. One or two disciplinary applications in the event of disobedience are sufficient. Judges may rule that a rider be disqualified for improper use of a whip.
  - ii. Spurs provided by the horse provider are permitted. It is up to each horse provider to determine if they will allow spurs to be used on their horse.
  - iii. In addition to ball spurs, roweled spurs will be allowed in Horsemanship, Ranch, and Reining classes on the advice of the horse provider. Rowel spurs must not be "rock grinders" and must be Judge-approved before the class. It is up to each horse provider to determine if they will allow spurs to be used on their horse. It is recommended that Western exhibitors provide their own non-roweled spurs.
- c. A list of aids appropriate to each horse must be posted or accompany each horse. Riders shall comply with the suggested use of aids. Tack and equipment used is at the discretion of the horse provider. It is recommended that horse providers use traditional stainless

steel stirrup irons that promote proper position of the foot in the iron and that they use stirrup irons that allow judges a clear and unobstructed view of the position of the foot in the stirrup. Judges may not eliminate a rider for using a particular style of stirrup iron.

## 408. Dress and Headgear

- a. It is the tradition of the show ring that riders are correctly attired for the class in question and horses properly presented. A show host may, at its discretion, bar any entry or person from entering the ring if not suitably presented to appear before an audience and must bar riders without protective headgear from any Hunter Seat classes. In hunter seat classes, when competing, identifying logos shall not be visible on hunter seat show clothing.
- b. While mounted, all riders competing in the Hunter Seat Equitation Divisions and/or Hunter Seat warm-up riders at a sanctioned event, must wear protective headgear which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. It must be properly fitted with a harness secured per the helmet manufacturer. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. It is the responsibility of the rider to see that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, is properly fitted, and in good condition.
- c. Riders must comply with state laws regarding mandatory helmets for equestrian use.
- d. In all Western classes, the riders must be correctly attired in suitable show clothes. Clothing must be clean, workmanlike and neat. Chaps are optional at the discretion of the rider. Riders shall wear a western hat or safety helmet and the riders shall be correctly attired in suitable western attire. Riders must comply with state laws regarding mandatory helmets for equestrian use. Identifying logos shall not be allowed on western show clothing. Hair must be neat and securely fastened so as not to cover the rider's number.

## 409. Awards - Ribbons and Trophies

- a. The Color of ribbons at shows can be:

High Point-----blue, red, yellow	Third Place-----yellow
Reserve-----red, yellow, white	Fourth Place-----white
First Place-----blue	Fifth Place-----pink
Second Place-----red	Sixth Place-----green
- b. A minimum of six ribbons shall be awarded in each class.
- c. Ribbons and trophies shall be furnished by the host farm except at Regional, Zone and National Shows.

- d. High Point and Reserve ribbons may be awarded to the High Point Rider and Reserve High Point Rider at each show. *\*no extra points shall be awarded for earning high point or reserve high point at a show*
- e. Awards shall be awarded to the winners of each class at the discretion of each host show.
- f. Regional and Zone shows, each division winner/the Champion Rider, shall be awarded a trophy and ribbon. Reserve through sixth place shall be awarded ribbons.
- g. At the National Show, each division winner, the National Champion rider shall be awarded grand championship ribbons and trophies. Reserve through tenth place shall be awarded champion-sized ribbons.

## **4010. Personal Conduct of Exhibitors and Show Personnel**

- a. General
  - i. It is expected that exhibitors, spectators, and coaches will behave in a manner that reflects the dignity of the sport. Ill-mannered conduct will not be tolerated. Any behavior deemed inappropriate may be presented as a protest to the SEC. At AEE horse shows, the show management, in conjunction with the judges, may expel from the grounds any person whose behavior is deemed dishonest, unethical, unsportsmanlike, or detrimental to the health, safety, or well-being of any horse, person, or the Association, during the progress of the show.
- b. Cruelty
  - ii. Equestrian sport is made possible by the animals, who serve the rider. This is a sport of grace and elegance, where rider and animal work as a team. There is neither grace nor elegance in an abusive spectacle. It is the responsibility, therefore, of all parties concerned to be aware of the conduct of participants and the condition of the horses; and, if a violation is observed, a report must be made immediately to the show or AEE management.
- c. Alcohol and Marijuana
  - iii. The use of marijuana or any illegal substance by the exhibitors is strictly forbidden on the show grounds. Any participant apprehended will automatically be suspended from the Association.
  - iv. The use of alcohol by the exhibitors is strictly forbidden on the show grounds until the show has been fully completed. Any participant apprehended will automatically be suspended from the Association.
- d. It is the responsibility of all parties concerned to consider the welfare of the horse. The administration of central nervous system drugs is prohibited in AEE competition.

## RULE V

### **Show Officials and Their Duties**

#### **501. Show Officials**

- a. The term "show officials" includes and refers to all persons directly engaged by the show.
- b. Officials and their duties shall include:
  - i. Show Chairman, who shall be responsible for the operation of the show.
  - ii. Show Secretary, who shall be in charge of:
    1. Hiring the Judges and officials necessary for the operation of the show.
    2. Completing the show information online
    3. Processing the entries online.
    4. Providing qualified medical personnel on grounds for schooling and for all scheduled performances and an ambulance on the show grounds or on call for the entire scheduled performance. Qualified medical personnel are currently certified or licensed EMT, Paramedic, Physician, or nurse trained in pre-hospital trauma care and currently certified or licensed in their profession. A physician or nurse trained in pre-hospital trauma care is a physician or nurse who is currently certified in Advanced Trauma Life Support, Basic Trauma Life Support, Prehospital Trauma Life Support, or who has First Responder or comparable certification. It is strongly recommended that EMTs and/or Paramedics be used to fill this position. Medical personnel must not exceed the scope of their practice. All medical personnel must be readily identifiable, the area where they are available must be designated and readily accessible.
    5. Marking the official programs with special regard to scratches, substitutions, additions, and other corrections.
    6. Checking class sheets against actual riders and numbers.
    7. Apply for the show date.
    8. Report to SEC in writing, any act on the part of any person deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the Association.
    9. Furnish the judges in each class a blank score card containing exact specifications as shown in the rulebook.
    10. Report in writing to the Association within 15 days of the close of the show the name of any exhibitor whose fees are not negotiable.
    11. Be responsible for all matters in connection with substitutions.
    12. Only current and fully paid members may compete.
    13. Familiarize the judges with the differences between AEE rules and those of the USEF or AQHA.
    14. Remit dues to the **National Treasurer** within thirty (30) days of the show



## 502. Judges

### a. Qualifications

- i. To officiate at a regular season AEE Hunt Seat and/or Western show, you do not have to be a carded judge. However, this is encouraged.
- ii. A person may judge only three shows per Zone per competitive season.
- iii. A judge for a Post-Season Show must be an USEF Registered judge for Hunter Seat or an AQHA/APHA judge for Western in the division in which s/he is to adjudicate and must not have officiated at an AEE show in that Zone that same competition year. However, a USEF recorded judge (“r”) may be used in Zone competition with prior written and signed consent by the closing date of the horse show and approval of the National Director.
- iv. A judge for a National Show must be an USEF Registered judge for Hunter Seat or an AQHA/APHA judge for Western in the division in which is to adjudicate and must not have officiated at any AEE show that academic year.
- v. A judge may not officiate if s/he has had a professional relationship as defined by the USEF rules, but to include clinics with any exhibitor within 60 days prior to the show.
- vi. No AEE individual member may show before a judge with whom s/he has had a professional relationship as defined by the USEF rules, but to include clinics, within 60 days prior to the Post-Season show.

### b. Responsibilities of a Judge

- i. Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and the selection of the best rider under the conditions of the class. A judge serves three interests: their own conscience, exhibitors, and spectators. S/he should make clear to the audience that the best rider wins. The attention of Judges is directed to the difference in requirements between USEF equitation classes and AEE equitation classes. A Judge is obligated to adjudicate each class in conformity with the rules and specifications of that class as they appear in the AEE Rule Book. S/he is expected to be proficient in their Division and to possess a working knowledge of the Rules of the Association.
- ii. The decision of each judge constitutes solely their individual preference and not a verdict by the Association.
- iii. No one shall approach a Judge with regard to a decision unless s/he first obtains permission from show management, who shall arrange an appointment with the Judge at a proper time and place. In order to inspect a judge’s card, an exhibitor must first obtain show management’s permission and be accompanied by their coach.

- iv. A Judge may order from the ring any horse or rider whose actions may endanger other exhibitors
- v. A Judge should inspect courses of fences after they have been set.

## **503. Prize List, Entry Blank, and Program**

- a. Prize List
  - i. The online prize list shall contain:
  - ii. The name of the Judge.
  - iii. Name and address of Show Manager.
  - iv. The date, location, phone number for the show.
  - v. Time of registration and start of the show.
  - vi. Closing date of entries.
  - vii. Information about food and entertainment.
  - viii. Amount of entry and other fees. Once distributed, the fees may not be changed for said show.
  - ix. Disclosure statement.
  - x. Online prize lists must be received via email not less than two (2) weeks prior to the closing date of entries and must be sent to all members in the zone and the Alumni National Director. Exceptions granted by the National Director on an as-needed basis

## **504. Entries**

- a. The acceptance of substitutions is entirely at the discretion of the show committee.
- b. A show may adopt its own policy regarding the refunding of entry fees to an exhibitor who cancels entries after the closing date.
- c. Any violation of financial obligations will result in the rider in question being restricted from future shows until such fees are paid, including monies due to the National Treasury. Show Management may require entries to be paid prior to the first class.
- d. In case of discrepancy between information in the program and that of the entry blank, the entry blank shall take precedence.
- e. It is recommended that all entries received by the closing date be acknowledged by show secretary, including a schedule indicating the classes for each entry.

RULE VI  
**Judging Requirements**

## **601. General**

- a. In equitation/horsemanship classes only the rider is being judged; therefore, no penalty should be assessed because of the horse's conformation, color or way of going. Tack and equipment used is at the discretion of the horse provider.
- b. Falls, Refusals and Eliminations (See Applicable rule).
- c. Any rider not having their mount under sufficient control shall be removed from the ring and shall be disqualified or remounted at the judges' discretion.
- d. Riders must remain on the same mount throughout all phases of an equitation or horsemanship class until the judge requests a change.
- e. No attendant shall be allowed in the ring except at the request of the judge.
- f. If additional tests are desired and appropriate, the Judge's instructions to riders shall be publicly announced. It is suggested that the judge go over these instructions with the announcer to assure mutual understanding of the wording. Judges shall not confer with riders individually during the line-up.

## **602. Hunter Seat Equitation - Hands and Seat**

- a. General
  - i. Rider should have a workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise.
- b. Mounting and Dismounting
  - i. 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, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.
- c. Hands
  - i. Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional, but all reins must be picked up at the same time.

d. Basic Position

- i. The 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 ball of foot.

e. Position in Motion

- i. At the walk and slow trot, body should be vertical; posting trot, inclined forward; canter, half-way between the posting trot and the walk; galloping and jumping, same inclination as the posting trot.

## 603. Class Routine

a. Over fences

- i. The performance begins when the horse enters the ring or is given the signal to proceed after entering the ring.
- ii. Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the fault of the rider.
- iii. Number of strides shall not be considered unless it is the fault of the rider.
- iv. Although a flying change of lead is preferable, a well-executed simple change must not be penalized.
- v. Each contestant may circle once, if desired, before approaching the first jump. S/he shall then proceed around the course, keeping an even pace throughout.
- vi. Three cumulative refusals will result in elimination. If a refusal occurs in a double or triple, riders shall re-jump all elements of the combination. No courtesy fence will be allowed after elimination.

b. On the flat.

- i. Contestants shall enter the ring and proceed at least once around the ring at each appropriate gait and on command, reverse and repeat. The order to reverse may be executed by turning either toward or away from the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Entries shall then line up on command, and any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate tests included in class requirements.

## 604. Course Requirements

- a. Classes over fences shall be held over at least six jumps, with at least one change of direction, type to be left to the discretion of management. All AEE competitions must use FEI-approved Safety Release Cups for the back pole of all oxers in every over fences class.

## 605. Hunter Seat Tests

- a. A Hunter Seat judge may choose from any of the USEF approved tests per the EQ section of the USEF rulebook.

## 606. Western Horsemanship

- a. General
  - i. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show the horse. Results as shown by performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them.
- b. Basic Position
  - i. The rider should sit in the center of the saddle and the horse's back with the legs hanging to form a straight line from the rider's ear, through the center of the shoulder and hip, touching the back of the heel or through the ankle. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with the weight on the ball of the foot. Consideration in making this judgment, however, should be given to the width of the stirrup. The heels should be lower than the toes, with a slight bend in the knee and the lower leg should be directly under the knee. Riding with the toes in the stirrups will be penalized. The rider's back should be flat, relaxed, and supple. The shoulders should be back, level, and square.
- c. Hands
  - i. Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed manner, with the upper arm in a straight line with the body. The arm holding the reins should be bent at the elbow forming a line from elbow to the horse's mouth. The position of the free hand and arm is optional but should be kept clear of the horse and equipment. Excessive pumping of the free arm as well as excessive stiffness will be penalized. Except as noted, only one hand is permitted on the reins and hands are not to be changed. Two hands may be used only on horses designated by show management. When two hands are used, the tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck. The reins may be held with both reins in each hand, or "bridged"; or one rein may be held in each hand. When using romal reins, the rider's hand shall be around the reins, with the extension held in the free hand. Bosal and hackamore reins shall be held in two hands. No more than one finger is allowed between the reins when split reins are used, but none with a romal. The rein hand should be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. Bracing against the horn will be penalized. The reins should be adjusted so that the rider has light contact on the horse's mouth, and at no time shall reins require more than a slight hand movement to control the horse. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized. The hand is to be around the reins at all times.

- d. Position in motion
  - i. Rider's base of support should maintain secure contact with the saddle from the seat to the thigh. Light contact should be maintained with the saddle and horse from the knee to mid-calf. Riders should sit to jog and not post. All movements of the horse should be governed by the use of imperceptible aids.
- e. Class Routine
  - i. Riders shall enter the ring and show collectively on the rail at all required gaits in both directions prior to any individual testing. The order to reverse should be executed away from the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth shall not be penalized. Entries shall line up on command. A judge may change a rider(s) from any horse to any other horse in the same class. This may occur provided rail work and/or pattern has been completed by all riders. Any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate tests included in class requirements. Testing is optional in all classes, except at the National Horse Show when it is mandatory in all classes. If a re-test is granted by the judge during the horsemanship pattern, the rider will re-test on a horse in the ring chosen by the judge without riding the class over in its entirety. When a re-ride is granted during the rail portion of a class, the ride will take place on the first alternate. If there are height/weight restrictions, the second alternate will be used.
- f. Western Horsemanship Tests
  - i. A western judge may choose from the following tests, singly or in combination, and/or any other appropriate and equivalent test that may be deemed necessary.
    1. Individual performance on the rail.
    2. Halt and/or back.
    3. Figure eight at the jog.
    4. 360-degree turn.
    5. Lope and stop.
    6. Figure eight at the lope, demonstrating a simple change of lead (through walk and jog).
    7. Ride without stirrups.
    8. Change of leads down center of ring, demonstrating simple change of lead.
    9. Counter-canter.

## **607. Western Reining**

- a. Class Procedures
  - i. Entries are to perform individually before the judge. Three markers will be placed on the left and right rail—a center marker, and two end markers spaced appropriately to the size of the arena to allow easy passage beyond the markers. Personal appointments, position, and procedures are consistent with rules governing AEE Western Horsemanship Division. For the safety of the judges, horses and exhibitors, judges shall be seated outside of the arena, if possible, at all

AEE Reining classes.

- b. General guidelines
  - i. Riders are to be judged on proper symmetry of figures, definite changes of speed, direction, and size of circles; proper technical application of natural aids in obtaining lead changes, stops, and turns; and reasonable working horsemanship. Emphasis is on precision, technical application, and the ability to show strange
  - ii. Horse in a pre-assigned pattern (Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not necessarily to be considered more important than the methods used by the rider in obtaining them).
- c. Simple lead changes may be designated in any pattern. Flying lead changes may be used only in those patterns which call for such; otherwise, they must be considered major faults.
- d. The Show Coordinator of each show must determine which pattern is most appropriate, based on suitability of horses and arena footing. Patterns may be selected from any AEE reining pattern or any currently approved AQHA, NRHA, IEA or YEDA pattern. Pattern number must be announced at least thirty minutes prior to the class, giving riders time to review directions. If using a currently approved AQHA or NRHA pattern, copies must be provided or posted for exhibitors. Questions should be directed to the show management.
- e. A winning ride includes the following:
  - i. Proper use of natural aids.
  - ii. Smooth, consistent figures.
  - iii. Efficient, well-placed changes of lead.
  - iv. Definite changes of speed.
  - v. Noticeable difference in circle size.
  - vi. Proper use of arena markers.
  - vii. Proper working horsemanship.
- f. Faults incurring a score of 0 (not to be placed):
  - i. Illegal use of hands on the reins.
  - ii. Performing maneuvers other than in the specified order.
  - iii. Inclusion of maneuvers not specified.
  - iv. Running away or failure to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the rider is on pattern.
  - v. Using the reins as a whip.
  - vi. Fall by horse or rider
  - vii. Abuse of the horse.

- viii. NOTE: The rider may untangle excess rein, but only when excess rein may prevent the rider from properly executing the pattern; the rider may untangle excess reins only during periods when such movements may not be used to affect the performance of the horse, (i.e. during hesitations, or while settling the horse).
- g. Faults incurring major penalties include but are not limited to:
  - i. Excessive, reckless, or inappropriate speed.
  - ii. Any unnecessary aid by the rider, such as excessive talking, petting, kicking, or jerking of reins, etc.
  - iii. Overly aggressive or abusive natural aids.
  - iv. Jogging in excess of ½ circle or ½ length of the arena while starting a circle, circling, or exiting a rollback.
  - v. Failure to attempt to change or correct a missed lead during or before the completion of a circle.
  - vi. Using a free hand to intimidate or to show praise to the horse.
  - vii. Spurring in front of the girth.
  - viii. Holding or touching the saddle with either hand.
- h. Faults in which severity of the penalty must be determined according to the judge's perception as to whether blame lies more with the horse or with the rider, include but are not limited to:
  - i. Figure asymmetry.
  - ii. Failure to properly use arena markers.
  - iii. Starting or completing any circle on an incorrect lead.
  - iv. Starting any lope maneuver at a jog.
  - v. Any deviation from well-balanced stops or turns or timely transitions.
  - vi. Delayed changes of lead.
  - vii. Anticipation of signals by the horse.
  - viii. Backing sideways or refusing to back.
- i. Failure to complete the pattern as written – only if determined to be solely horse dependent. Otherwise, a score of 0 should be applied.
  - i. NOTE: Faults are to be considered horsemanship faults or caused by rider errors.
- j. Show management must use an official AEE, AQHA, IEA, YEDA or NRHA pattern, which must be announced at least one half-hour prior to the class. Patterns should be worked as stated, not as drawn. The drawn pattern is to give the general idea of how the pattern will appear in the arena. Any alterations to class format must be approved by



show management and be announced at least one half-hour prior to the class.

- k. The judge may ask a rider to return to ride any approved reining pattern on the same or a different horse.
- l. If a retest is granted by the Judge during the horsemanship pattern, the rider may retest on a horse in the ring chosen by the judge without riding the class over in its entirety.
- m. In the case of a first-place tie in Reining, the tie-breaker ride must be ridden on a different horse. If another horse is not available and for ties below first place, the tie is to be broken by the judge, including the option to use the horsemanship score, choosing one maneuver, using the penalty score and/or choosing an appropriate test.
- n. Judges may not confer on any penalty or maneuver prior to submitting a score. If a major penalty ( a penalty which results in a no score, 0, or 5 point penalty) is unclear, a judge will submit his/her score and ask that the score be held, pending a conference or review of the official video at the next drag or as soon as practical. Should the judges determine via conference or video replay that a penalty was incurred, it should be applied. If however, no penalty occurred, the score will be announced as originally submitted. No judge shall be required to change his/her score following a conference or video replay. Each judge's decision is an individual call and based on individual decision from a conference or video replay. The use of video review equipment by the judges is only permissible if the judge has reason to believe that all entries have been videotaped. Only a Judge may request a video review.

## **608. Western Ranch Riding/Alumni Ranch Riding**

- a. Class Procedures
  - i. Entries are to perform individually before the judge. Personal appointments, position and procedures are consistent with rules governing AEE Western Horsemanship Division. For the safety of the judges, horses and exhibitors, judges shall be seated outside of the arena, if possible, during all AEE Ranch Riding classes.
- b. General Guidelines
  - i. Riders are to be judged on proper symmetry of figures, definite changes of speed at the jog and lope, direction, and ability to use the entire showing arena; proper technical application of natural aids in obtaining all required maneuvers and reasonable working horsemanship. Emphasis is on precision, technical application, and the ability to show strange horses in a pre-assigned pattern (Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not necessarily to be considered more important than the methods used by the rider in obtaining them). Ball spurs are acceptable at the request of the horse provider.
- c. Extended Trot
  - i. In riding the extended trot, it is permissible to sit, post or stand, and if standing, hold the horn with the free hand. If the extended trot is called for around a corner,

a rider who chooses to post must do so on the outside diagonal as a matter of balance. A wrong diagonal will result in a lower maneuver score.

d. Lead changes

- i. A change of leads may be either simple or flying, with neither having an advantage over the other. The horse provider has the discretion to state which type of lead change the horse and rider should perform.

e. Patterns

- i. The Host barn of each show must determine which pattern is most appropriate, based on the suitability of horses and arena footing. AQHA Ranch Riding Patterns 1-15 are available, but no cattle are allowed. Every horse in the class must demonstrate the ability to perform all obstacles and maneuvers in warmup. Show managers are encouraged to carefully choose only patterns the horses at your show can execute. If an obstacle or maneuver in a chosen pattern is found to be inappropriate for horses used in the class, that obstacle or maneuver should be eliminated, and that made clear to all horse providers, coaches and exhibitors, and judges. Patterns must be announced at least thirty minutes prior to the class, giving riders time to review directions. Patterns should be worked as stated, not as drawn. The drawn pattern is to give the general idea of how the pattern will appear in the arena. If using a currently approved AQHA ranch riding pattern, copies must be posted for exhibitors. Questions should be directed to the show management.

f. A winning ride includes the following:

- i. Proper use of natural aids.
- ii. Smooth, consistent figures and transitions.
- iii. Efficient, well-placed changes of lead.
- iv. Definite changes of speed at jog and lope.
- v. Completion of pattern as drawn and described.
- vi. Proper use of the entire showing arena.
- vii. Proper working horsemanship

g. Faults incurring a score of 0 (not to be placed):

- i. Illegal use of hands on reins.
- ii. Performing maneuvers other than in the specified order.
- iii. Inclusion of maneuver not specified.
- iv. Running away or failure to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the rider is on pattern.

- v. Using the reins as a whip.
  - vi. Fall by horse or rider
  - vii. Abuse of the horse.
    - 1. NOTE: Rider may untangle excess rein, but only when excess rein may prevent the rider from properly executing the pattern; the rider may untangle excess reins only during periods when such movements may not be used to affect the performance of the horse, such as during hesitations, or while settling the horse.
- h. Faults incurring major penalties include but are not limited to:
- i. Excessive, reckless, or inappropriate speed.
  - ii. Any unnecessary aid by the rider, such as excessive talking, petting, kicking, or jerking of reins, etc.
  - iii. Overly aggressive or abusive natural aids.
  - iv. Failure to complete a maneuver in a designated area according to pattern.
  - v. Failure to attempt to change or correct a missed lead during or before the completion of a loping maneuver.
  - vi. Using a free hand to intimidate or to show praise to the horse.
  - vii. Spurring in front of girth.
  - viii. Holding or touching the saddle with either hand (this includes while the rider is showing the extended jog).
- i. Faults in which severity of the penalty must be determined according to the judge's perception as to whether blame lies more with the horse or with the rider, include by are not limited to:
- i. Figure asymmetry where called for in a pattern.
  - ii. Failure to properly use the arena.
  - iii. Starting or completing a lope on the wrong lead.
  - iv. Starting any lope maneuver at the jog.
  - v. Any deviation from well-balanced turns or timely transitions.
  - vi. Delayed change of leads.
  - vii. Anticipation of signals by horse.
  - viii. Backing sideways or refusing to back.
  - ix. Failure to complete the pattern as written- only if determined to be solely horse dependent.

- x. Otherwise, a score of 0 should be applied
  
- j. The judge may ask a rider to return to ride any approved ranch riding pattern on the same or a different horse.
- k. If a retest is granted by the Judge during the pattern, the rider may retest on a horse chosen by the judge without riding the class over in its entirety.
  
- l. In the case of a first-place tie in Ranch Riding, the tie-breaker ride must be ridden on a different horse. If another horse is not available and for ties below first place, the tie is broken by the judge, including the option to use the horsemanship score, choosing one maneuver, using the penalty score and/or choosing an appropriate test.
  
- m. Judges may not confer on any penalty or maneuver prior to submitting a score. If a major penalty (a penalty which results in a no score, 0, or 5 point penalty) is unclear, a judge will submit his/her score and ask that the score be held, pending a conference or a review of the official video at the next drag or as soon as is practical. Should judges determine via conference or video replay that a penalty was incurred, it should be applied. If, however, no penalty occurred, the score will be announced as originally submitted. No judge shall be required to change his/her score following a conference or video replay. Each judge's decision is an individual call based on individual decision from a conference or video replay. The use of video review equipment by the judges is only permissible if the judge has a reason to believe that all entries have been videotaped. Only a judge may request a video review.

## 609. Rules for Warm Up Riders

- i. For regular season shows, riders shall be allowed to aid in the flat, over fences, horsemanship, reining or ranch riding warm-up of horses **only if** those horses are **not** being used in classes for which the riders are entered. The riders cannot ride the same course or pattern utilized in the classes for which they are entered. As such, they would not be garnering any unfair advantage from warming up such horses.
  
- ii. For post-season, Alumni Nationals and the Alumni Tournament of Champions, riders entered in the show shall be able to aid in the flat, over fences, horsemanship, reining or ranch riding warm-up of horses **only if** those horses are **not** being used in classes for which the rider is entered. The rider cannot ride the same course or pattern utilized in the classes for which they are entered. As such, they would not be garnering any unfair advantage from warming up such horses.

RULE VII

**Point Requirements and Scoring**

**701. Points**

- a. Points Awarded in Hunter Seat and Western Competitions

General Points Awarded. Points will be counted as follows:

First place-----	7 points	Fourth place-----	3 points
Second place-----	5 points	Fifth place-----	2 points
Third place-----	4 points	Sixth place-----	1 point

**702. Procedures**

- a. Cumulative point totals of high point riders shall be kept by the Show Coordinator and shall be available to participants at each show.
- b. The official point records shall determine eligibility for Regional/National Shows.
- c. All results recorded by the Point Coordinator will become final and not subject to protest at the close of each show season; therefore, any adjustments or corrections must be made before the last show of the season.

**703. Point Procedures and Requirements**

- a. Riders in all classes will start each year with zero points and must acquire 28 to qualify for Regionals/Zones. In the event of a disparity in the number of shows held within a region and no rider qualifies in these classes, the number of points may be lowered to qualify the next highest rider(s) with a minimum of 21 and with the permission of the National Director.
- b. Riders may accumulate points in any region and they will accrue for their declared Zone.

**704. High Point Riders for Regular Shows**

- a. Point Requirements for High Point Riders
  - i. Management may choose to award High Point Riders, but this is not required.
  - ii. Champion and Reserve High Point Riders shall be determined by totaling the

points earned at each show

- iii. In the event of a tie for Champion and/or Reserve Champion High Point Rider, ties should be broken in a way deemed appropriate by show management.

## **705. Point Requirements for Regional Horse Shows**

- a. If there are more than 11 qualified alumni in a Zone, a minimum of 2 regional horse shows will be held. If there are less than 11 qualified alumni in a Zone, no regional horse show will be held and all 11 riders will compete at the Zone show.
- b. Riders are eligible to compete in the Regional Show upon acquiring 28 points in a class.
- c. Riders qualifying in both flat and fences or Western Horsemanship, Reining and Ranch Riding Classes may ride all classes at Regionals.
- d. Western Reining riders must receive a minimum score of 60 at Regionals. Zero scores do not advance to Zones/Nationals.
- e. Western Ranch Riding exhibitors must receive a minimum score of 68 at Regionals. Zero scores do not advance to Zones/Nationals.

## **706. Qualifications and Eligibility for the Zone/Western Semi-Finals Horse Show**

- a. If there are less than 11 qualified alumni in a Zone, no regional horse show will be held and all 11 riders will compete at the Zone show. The top two riders will qualify for Nationals.
  - i. If regional shows were held:
    1. If two regional shows were held, the top 3 from each Regional Show may move on to Zones
    2. If three or more regional shows were held, the top 2 from each Regional show may move on to Zones.
  - ii. Zones/Semi-Finals riders are required to compete at the Zones/Western Semi-Finals in order to qualify for the National Championships.
  - iii. There is no minimum number of riders required to fill a class at Zone Shows/Western Semi-Finals. If there are 2 or less riders at Zones:
    1. Hunt Seat Riders must have a minimum score of 70 to move on to Nationals. Zero scores do not advance to Zones/Nationals.
    2. Western Reining riders must receive a minimum score of 60 at Zones. Zero scores do not advance to Zones/Nationals.
    3. Western Ranch Riding exhibitors must receive a minimum score of 68. Zero scores do not advance to Zones/Nationals.

- iv. Should a rider at any level who has qualified for Zones/Western Semi-Finals be unable to attend, s/he must notify the Zone Chair at once. The Representative shall then invite the next highest qualifier, through sixth place at Regionals, until all vacancies have been filled.

## **707. Qualifications and Eligibility for the National Horse Show**

- a. All riders placing first and second at Zones or first through fourth at a Western Semi-Finals shall be eligible to compete at Nationals.
- b. Should a rider at any level who has qualified for Nationals be unable to attend, he must notify the Zone Chair at once. The Zone Chair shall then invite the next highest qualifier until all vacancies have been filled.
- c. If there are less than 3 competitors at a respective Hunt Seat Zone show, the competing Alumni must have a minimum score of 70 to advance to Nationals.
- d. Alumni Reining riders with a score of 60 or above will advance to Nationals, In the event of only two riders advancing to Nationals, the Alumni National Director may invite appropriate additional riders to make a viable class for Nationals.
- e. Alumni Ranch Riding riders with a score of 68 or above will advance to Nationals, In the event of only two riders advancing to Nationals, the Alumni National Director may invite appropriate additional riders to make a viable class for Nationals.

## **708. Schooling Horses at the National Horse Show**

- a. National's riders entered in Hunter Seat competition may ride up to midnight the night prior to the start of the show. There can be no riding on the day of the show for those riders showing Hunter Seat.
- b. National's riders entered in Western competition may ride up to midnight the night prior to the start of Western competition. There can be no riding on the day of the show for those riders showing western.
- c. Once riders have finished competing at the National Horse Show, they are able to school horses from that point forward.

## RULE VIII

### **Format Description and Definitions of Hunter Seat Classes**

## **801. Eligibility for Classes**

### a. Definitions

#### ■ Recognized competitions

1. Recognized competitions for Hunter Seat riders include any competition that is sanctioned by the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA); or by the USEF and the United States Eventing Association (USEA); or by the USEF and the United States Dressage Federation(USDF).

#### ■ Instruction

1. Any number of mounted lessons taken within a week (Monday-Sunday) constitutes a week of instruction.

#### ■ Hunter Seat Equitation Classes

1. A hunter seat equitation class is any class that is judged on hunter seat equitation specifically. A class must have a minimum of three competitors, who complete the class, to count as a win in/at recognized competition. Equitation classes on the flat must require the rider to canter in order to count as a win in/at recognized competition.

#### ■ Jumping Classes with Height Range

1. For any association jumping class that is run with a height range, the actual fence height listed on the USEF rider report will be used for placement purposes. If no actual height is listed on the report, the maximum allowable height will be recognized for placement purposes.

## **802. Specifications for Placement of New Hunter Seat Riders**

- a. Riders must be able to safely exhibit a walk, trot and canter. If their highest level of competition while an IHSA undergrad was Introductory, the rider must provide written sign-off from a certified instructor that they have completed at least 6 months of training and can safely compete at a lope. This must be provided to the Zone Chair prior to competing in their first show.
- b. Over fences riders must provide written documentation that they have completed at least 6 months of training with a certified instructor, and they are safe to compete in this class. This must be provided to the Zone Chair prior to competing in their first show. This will be required annually when membership is renewed.



## 803. Hunter Seat Equitation

### a. Classes

- Regular Point Shows must include the following classes:

Class 1	Alumni Hunter Seat Equitation on the Flat
Class 2	Alumni Hunter Seat Equitation over Fences

### b. Class Descriptions

#### Class 1                      Alumni Equitation on the Flat.

- Open to Alumni who competed at a walk/trot/canter as an undergraduate in IHSA. If their highest level of competition was Introductory (walk/trot) they will need to provide a signed letter from a certified trainer that they have received at least 6 months of training at the lope and are safe to ride at that gate. This will need to be provided to the Zone Chair prior to entering your first show. Riders start with 0 points each year.

#### Class 2                      Alumni Equitation over Fences.

- Open to eligible alumni with a degree of skill equivalent to at least IHSA Limit and either 1) showed in IHSA Over Fences classes as an undergraduate, or 2) have had 6 months of continuous professional training over fences within the past 12 months. To be shown over six or more fences not to exceed 2' 9" in height, fence width not to exceed height, and including at least one change of direction. All tests may be asked.

## RULE IX

### Format Description and Definitions of Western Horsemanship Classes

## 901. Eligibility for Classes

### a. Definitions

#### ■ Recognized competitions

1. Recognized competitions for Western riders include any competition that is sanctioned by the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA); National Reining Horse Association (NRHA); American Ranch Horse Association (ARHA), excluding Green Horse or Novice classes; American Paint Horse Association (APHA); National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) and/or National Snaffle Bit Association (NSBA) only in classes in which National point records are kept, and excluding AQHA, APHA, NSBA NOVICE/Level 1 classes and below AND NRHA green Reiner classes.

#### ■ Instruction

1. Any number of mounted lessons taken within a week (Monday-Sunday) constitutes a week of instruction.

## 902. Specifications for Placement of Western Riders

- Riders must be able to safely exhibit a walk, jog and lope. If their highest level of competition while an IHSA undergrad was Beginner, the rider must provide written sign-off from a certified instructor that they have completed at least 6 months of training and can safely compete at a lope. This must be provided to the Zone Chair prior to competing in their first show.
- Reining riders must provide written documentation that they have completed at least 6 months of training with a certified instructor, and they are safe to compete in this class. This must be provided to the Zone Chair prior to competing in their first show. This will be required annually when membership is renewed.

## 903. Western Horsemanship

### a. Classes

Regular Point Shows must include the following classes:

- Class 3            Alumni Western Horsemanship
- Class 4            Alumni Ranch Riding
- Class 5            Alumni Reining

b. Class Descriptions

Class 3      Alumni Western Horsemanship

- Open to Alumni who competed at a walk, jog, lope as an undergraduate in IHSA. If their highest level of competition was Beginner (walk/jog) they will need to provide a signed letter from a certified trainer that they have received at least 6 months of training at the lope and are safe to ride at that gate. This will need to be provided to the Zone Chair prior to entering your first show. Riders start with 0 points each year.

Class 4      Alumni Ranch Riding

- Open to Alumni with a degree of skill equal to at least IHSA Novice/Level I and meet one of the three following requirements: 1) have shown in Level II Ranch Riding as an undergraduate; 2) have shown in a breed association or ARHA in a Ranch competition; 3) have had 12 months of continuous professional training at the canter within the past 12 months. Riders start with 0 points each year. To be shown individually in a pre-assigned pattern per Rule 6404. Each show management may place appropriate constraints on the number of entries, to be determined by availability of horse, etc.

Class 5      Alumni Reining

- Open to riders with a skill equivalent to, and showing no lower than, IHSA Level II. Riders start with 0 points each year. Reining riders must have had 6 months of professional reining instruction within the past year. Documentation from a certified instructor needs to be provided to the Zone Chair prior to the first show. To be shown individually in a pre-assigned pattern per Rule 6404. Each show management may place appropriate constraints on the number of entries per team, to be determined by availability of horses, etc.

c. AEE Reining and Ranch Riding Patterns

- i. Shows may utilize any AEE, IEA, YEDA, IHSA, AQHA, or NRHA approved ranch or reining patterns.