



## **(National Capitol) Junior Equitation League (JEL) 2021 Season**

### **1. PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS & TEAMS**

#### **A. Participating Schools**

- i. A "Participating School" or "Host School" is defined as an entity which has a regular lesson program with a sufficient number of school horses suitable for this level to run a meet. Membership in this league does not require access to an indoor ring.
- ii. Participating schools in JEL will compete with teams composed of up to 10 riders, 2 riders per division and designated as such at the beginning of the season. Riders will remain in the division in which they begin the season for the entire season.
- iii. Full payment of the season's league fees, (\$150.00), is due by 9/15 of the current season. The participating school's roster including the name, address and phone number of each team member, as well as his/her signed Participation Agreement and Media Consent Form must accompany a team's league fees:

<https://ncelus.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NEW-NCEL-Participation-Agreement-3.pdf>

<https://ncelus.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NCEL-NCSSEL-JEL-Media-Release.pdf>

<https://ncelus.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NCEL-Covid-Release.pdf>

The above forms must accompany a team's league fees and can be sent to the NCEL Treasurer:

Judi Novak  
18447 Lickey Mill Rd  
Purcellville, VA 20132

- iv. A rider who has not turned in a completed agreement or a team that has not paid their fees may not compete.
- v. Any team who decides not to participate after submitting all league fees shall be responsible for the registration fee, but the deposit and Admin Fee will be refunded.

#### **B. Rider Eligibility**

- i. Each team member is to be a junior rider who has not reached his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to October 1 of the current competition season. An JEL rider may not have shown at any formal or rated show where fence heights exceed 2'6". A formal show is defined as any competition open to any rider and managed by a sponsoring organization. Informal events open only to riders from their home barn and designated as part of the regular schooling program are not considered formal shows.
- ii. No rider who has ridden on an NCEL team may ever again ride on a JEL team, even if they change barns. A rider may, however, move from NCSSEL to either the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> divisions in JEL.
- iii. A rider must move up at least one level (division) each year that they compete on a JEL team. Special circumstances may be reviewed by the board, however, and a waiver for that rider may be granted.
- iv. Each team member must be enrolled at their home barn as a student in a regular lesson program (at least weekly) as of October 1 of the current competition season.
- v. All riders must wear secured ASTM-approved helmets when mounted.

#### **C. Division Specifications**

- i. Division 1
  - Class 1 – Walk - both sitting and in 2 point
  - Class 2 – Walk/trot one at a time, diagonals do not count
  - Class 3 – Walk or trot over 2 poles on one long side

A coach or assistant may lead riders or remain close to riders during all 3 classes
- ii. Division 2
  - Class 1 – Walk/trot as a group, diagonals count.
  - Class 2 – Trot over 2 very low X rails (12”) on one long side ring. May trot both or trot in and canter out.
  - Class 3 – Canter down one side (leads do not count).

A coach or assistant may remain in the ring and verbally assist riders.
- iii. Division 3
  - Walk/trot as a group, diagonals count.
  - Jump over 2 low X rails (18”) on one long side of the ring. May trot both or trot in and canter out.
  - Canter down one long side of the ring (leads do count).

A coach or assistant may remain in the ring and verbally assist riders.
- iv. Division 4
  - Walk/trot as a group diagonals count. Riders are allowed to warm up at the trot for no more than 2 minutes in both directions.
  - Canter one direction as a group (leads do count).
  - Trot or canter over 4 fences set no higher than 18”.\*

A coach or assistant may remain in the ring and verbally assist riders.
- v. Division 5
  - Walk/trot as a group, diagonals count
  - Walk/trot/canter both directions of the ring as a group. (Leads do count).
  - Canter a course of 6 jumps set no higher than 18”.\*

There will be a 2 minute warm up at the walk, trot & canter, both ways of the ring prior to the start of this division. Once this warm up is finished and riders have had a chance to confer with their coach, the coaches should exit the Ring.

\*Riders in Divisions 4 & 5 will be allowed 2 unjudged warm up jumps of the coach’s choosing.

## 2. HOST SCHOOL

### A. Host schools will:

- i. Send out a “welcome” email no later than 1 week before their scheduled meet to the visiting teams confirming meet address, coaches’/judge’s meeting time and stable policy on the use of outside saddles (see Rule 3B vi).
- ii. Provide an adequate number of school horses. (See Rule 3B which describes suitable horses and tack). Warm up horses as necessary prior to start of the meet.
- iii. Provide suitable, safe tack for all school horses and inform visiting teams if they may bring their own saddles.
- iv. Report the results of the meet by returning the score sheet back to the Secretary within 48 hours after the conclusion of the meet. **The League Secretary will send the score sheet to the host barn no later than 1 week prior to the meet.** The Judge’s cards are to be scanned and emailed, as well as the Sportsmanship nomination forms to the Secretary at: [admin@ncelus.com](mailto:admin@ncelus.com)
- v. Provide and compensate a qualified judge (see Rule 2.B) and ensure that the judge is familiar with NCSSEL procedures, rules and League Study Guide: <https://ncelus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/NCSSEL-Questions-2019.pdf>
- vi. Manage the competition and ensure that it runs in a timely and orderly fashion. To that end, the host school shall:
  1. Provide clean, adequate facilities for the meet, including rest rooms and a dressing area for each team.
  2. Provide sufficient personnel for the preparation, tacking and care of the horses and for the efficient management of the show.
  3. Provide each coach with a packet which includes the description of each horse and whether or not a crop and/or spurs may be used. Also include copies of the courses, nomination forms and host barn waivers as needed.
  4. Provide adequate space for coaches and one assistant to gather for a coaches’ meeting prior to the start of the meet. This meeting should be followed by a brief meeting with the judge.
  5. Provide the judge with a packet/clip board which includes prepared judge’s cards, courses, a copy of the pertinent rules and the league study guide. (See rule 2.A.v. for study guide).
  6. Prepare and supervise the draw. In JEL coaches draw for the riders during the coaches’ meeting.

**BARNs MAY OPT FOR AN ONLINE DRAW WHEN ALL COACHES AGREE TO THIS USING THIS METHOD AT A PARTICULAR MEET.**

7. Prepare and post jump orders for all classes over fences.
8. Post scores and judge's cards after each class.
9. Present ribbons.
10. Provide sufficient food/drinks for snacks/lunch that may be purchased by participating teams.

**B. Qualified Judges**

- i. A judge who works locally or is recognized by VHSA, MHSA, BHSA or USEF and has experience judging team competitions formatted in a way similar to JEL is considered qualified.
- ii. A barn may not use the same judge 2 years in a row for an JEL meet and once a judge has judged a regular season meet, he or she is ineligible to judge the season end Finale. A judge may, however, judge more than one regular season meet that year, so long as it is at a different barn.  
**To avoid possible conflicts, teams should choose the Finale meet judge at the season opening meeting.**
- iii. A year end Finale judge must be recognized by either VHSA, MHSA, BHSA or USEF and may not judge the Finale 2 years in a row.

**3. REGULAR MEETS**

**A. Procedure at Regular Meets**

- i. The schedule for the regular season will be organized in a way which allows each team to play against all others in the league at least once during the season whenever possible.
- ii. Visiting teams should arrive at the host school within 15 minutes of the scheduled coaches' meeting but no earlier than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the meet.
- iii. At the scheduled coaches' meeting, approximately 30 minutes before the first class, coaches will draw the horses by lot for each rider in all classes. A draw will be held to choose the 2 riders from each team who will ride in the Finale class. Horses will then be drawn for that class. Immediately following the coaches' meeting, all will meet with the judge, and when the judge is ready, the meet may begin.
- iv. In the event a visiting team is not present in time for the draw, the host school may draw horses for that team.
- v. A host school may, but is not required, to delay the start of a meet for up to one hour if a visiting team is running late.
- vi. If the start of a meet is not delayed for a tardy visitor, once that team arrives, they will be allowed to participate in all remaining classes, but no classes will be repeated.
- vii. If a large rider draws a small horse or a small rider draws a very large horse, they may, with consent of all coaches present, draw again. No rider shall ride a horse other than the horse drawn by lot without the consent of the host school and all participating coaches.
- viii. If a majority of the coaches at any meet agree that a particular horse appears unsafe or unsound, then the host school shall withdraw that horse from competition and substitute with another suitable horse/pony. Priority shall always be given to the safety of both riders and horses.
- ix. All meets shall be governed by the rules established by NCEL. If there is not an NCEL rule addressing an issue, then USEF rules shall apply and if there is no USEF rule, then the decision shall be made in accordance with the usual and customary practices at regular recognized shows.

**B. Horses and Tack**

- i. All horses and ponies used in JEL meets must be school horses or horses which are used regularly in the host school's lesson program. A rider on the host school's team may not compete on a horse that they own or lease which is used in the regular lesson program.
- ii. Horses must be suitable for use and high strung or extremely difficult horses shall not be used. Horses with a tendency to kick must wear a red tail ribbon. No horse shall be used which has been administered a tranquilizing substance.
- iii. If a host school cannot provide the necessary number of horses, they may borrow or lease horses from another barn.
- iv. Horses may be ridden in the tack they are accustomed to, including drop nose band type cavessons; martingales are permitted in **all** classes. Bridles and reins must be made of leather or leather-like material. All saddles should be jumping or all purpose saddles. Dressage saddles should not be used.
- v. No bit or tack adjustments will be allowed unless approved by the host school.
- vi. At the discretion of the host school, riders may use their own saddles. The host school shall provide saddle pads and girths.

- vii. Crops and spurs may be used at the express discretion of the host school.

### **C. Regular Classes**

- i. Flat classes are to be judged on position, hands, seat, legs and control.
- ii. Classes over poles/fences: To be judged on position, hands, seat, legs and control.
- iii. Jump courses should be built of traditional materials and include single fences and measured lines. Courses should be straight forward hunter-type courses; no combinations, roll backs, skinny fences or end fences. Lines of fewer than 3 strides are not permitted and oxers are not permitted. Courses which simply go around the outside of the ring are suitable and encouraged. Fences may be jumped more than once.

### **D. Regular Meet Format**

- i. A regular season meet will be a 3 or 4 team meet. 8 – 12 horses/ponies will be needed to do a meet. There are 5 divisions of 3 classes each in each meet. See Rule 1.C. for a description of the divisions/classes.

## **4. VISITING TEAMS**

### **A. Coaches**

- i. Coaches should email their team's entry in to the host school as soon as possible, but no later than 1 week prior to the meet. Details of any very small or large riders should be included for the host's planning purposes.
- ii. See to the transportation and timeliness of their riders.
- iii. Ensure sportsmanlike behavior of their riders and parents.
- iv. Make prompt payment of entry fee of \$45/rider to the host school.

## **5. FINALE MEET**

### **A. Format**

- i. The JEL Finale meet is held on the second weekend of March at Prince George's Equestrian Center. Each JEL team will pay \$600.00, (\$60/rider, 5 rider minimum) in entry fees. Other fees may apply and will be announced in a timely manner once the season is underway.
- ii. The final prize list for each season's Finale will be announced once the regular meets have begun and will look very very much like the list of classes in the regular meets.
- iii. A schooling period in the Finale ring will be assigned to each team prior to the start of the show. After that, no schooling by riders in the show ring is permitted.
- iv. All teams in the League will participate. A team which chooses not to participate in the Finale will not receive any refund of fees.
- v. Each participating school will bring its own horses as described in Rule 3.B. Schools may make arrangements to borrow/lease another participating school's horses.
- vi. Coaches will designate which horses their riders are to show.
- vii. If a horse is privately owned or leased, the owner or lessee may not ride that horse in the Finale meet.
- viii. The specifications for all classes will be as in regular season meet classes.
- ix. Depending on entries, some or all JEL divisions may be split in the Finale meet.

## **6. POINTS AND AWARDS**

### **A. Awards**

- i. Ribbons for all meets will be secured by the Treasurer and provided to the host school at the opening meeting prior to the start of the new season.
- ii. At Regular Meets six ribbons will be awarded in each class. At the Finale Meet 8 ribbons will be awarded in each class.

### **B. Points**

- i. Individual points will be valued as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – 7 Points**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 5 Points**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 4 Points**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – 3 Points**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – 2 Points**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place – 1 Point**

- ii. *THE HIGHEST SCORING RIDER FROM EACH TEAM IN EACH CLASS WILL EARN POINTS TOWARD THE TEAM SCORE FOR THE MEET THAT DAY.* All points a rider earns count toward their yearend individual point totals.
- iii. After adding together each team’s points from each class in a meet, the team with the most points in that calculation is the winner of the meet. Total points for each meet and for the Finale meet will be added together for the yearend totals and high point awards will be awarded accordingly to each team.
- iv. Points are calculated and recorded in the same manner for both regular meets and the Finale Meet.

**C. Point adjustment in the event of a forfeiture at a regular meet:**

**Point adjustments when a team forfeits at a Regular Season Meet**

<b>One Team Forfeit</b>			<b>Two Team Forfeit</b>	
<b>1st Place</b>	<b>5.25 Pts</b>		<b>1st Place</b>	<b>3.5 Pts</b>
<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>3.75 Pts</b>		<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>2.5 Pts</b>
<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>3 Pts</b>		<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>2 Pts</b>
<b>4th Place</b>	<b>2.25 Pts</b>		<b>4th Place</b>	<b>1.5 Pts</b>
<b>5th Place</b>	<b>1.5 Pts</b>		<b>5th Place</b>	<b>1 Pt</b>
<b>6 Place</b>	<b>.75 Pt</b>		<b>6th Place</b>	<b>.50 Pt</b>

**7. Tie Breakers and Awards**

**A. Team ties**

- i. Team ties in regular season meets and the Finale will be broken with total team points in that day’s Finale class.

**B. Year End Individual and Team Ties**

- i. Individual ties will be broken by using the jumping points earned during the regular season and at the Finale.
- ii. End of year team ties will be broken by using the jumping points earned during the regular season and at the Finale.

**C. Trophies & Ribbons**

- i. **High Point Team.** The JEL team which accumulates the most points during the season will receive a perpetual trophy. The team may retain possession of the trophy until the next season’s Finale meet and must return the trophy to NCEL Admin prior to the start of the Finale meet in order to compete in that year’s Finale.
- ii. **High Point Riders.** High point riders through 10<sup>th</sup> place will be determined in each of the 5 divisions and these riders will earn medals which will be presented at the yearend banquet.
- iii. Team sashes will be presented to the riders on JEL teams according to their teams’ final standings at the yearend awards banquet. A ribbon for each team’s coach and for each team’s barn will also be presented at this time.
- v. The **Champion and Reserve Champion** teams at the Finale meet will be awarded ribbons, including ribbons for coach and barn.

**8. PROTEST AND GRIEVANCES**

- A. All protests and grievances must be presented to the Coach of the school hosting the meet, or to a**

**member of the board at a Finale Meet.**

- B. The person receiving the complaint shall then privately discuss the complaint, protest or grievance with all participating coaches and attempt to reach a consensus decision.**
- C. If no decision can be reached by the coaches, the officiating judge shall make the decision which shall be final and accepted by coaches and riders in a sportsmanlike manner.**
- D. Appeals from any decision made pursuant to this section may be made in writing and shall then be considered and resolved by the board in a timely manner.**