

NCEL – Judge’s Guide to Regular Season Meets

A regular season meet consists of 3 or 4 teams. Riders will compete in two classes and may be selected to compete in a Finale class. The host school shall determine the order of classes which must include the following:

- Novice (3 classes) - Flat; 4 Fences at 2’0”; 6 Fences at 2’0”
- Limit (3 classes) - Flat; 4 Fences at 2’3”; 6 Fences at 2’3”
- Open (3 classes) - Flat; 4 Fences at 2’6”; 6 Fences at 2’6”
- Finale Class – consisting of two riders from each team selected by draw prior to the start of the meet.

Class Procedures

- i. In all flat classes, there will be a short, (no more than 2 minutes), warm up in both directions under the supervision of the coaches in order to acquaint the riders with their horses. At the completion of the warmup and a brief conference with their riders, the coaches will leave the ring and the class will begin.
- ii. In classes over fences, each rider will be allowed to jump 2 fences unjudged and chosen by their coach, briefly confer with the coach and then begin their round. The host school may opt to run the warmups and rounds in rotations of 3 or 4.
- iii. No warm up on the flat or practice fences are allowed in the Finale class. Coaches are asked not to coach from the rail once the Finale class is underway.
- iv. Regular classes shall be split if there are 10 or more riders on the flat or 13 or more riders over fences. There may be instances where a host barn does not have enough horses for a 10-person flat class. The host barn may split the class to ride, but it shall be judged and pinned as a singular group.
- v. A rider who falls off during a class (with the exception of the warmup portion) will be eliminated from the class.

Evaluating Regular Classes

- i. Equitation on the flat: Riders to be judged at the walk, posting and sitting trot and canter both ways of the ring. To be judged on position, hands, seat, legs and control.
- ii. Equitation over fences: To be judged on position, hands, seat, legs and control. Riders shall not be penalized for a simple change of lead. All riders shall enter and exit the ring at a walk. Unless otherwise stated the jump course shall be ridden at a canter.
- iii. There will be 2 jump courses offered in each division, a 4 fence jump course which must include a halt and a trot fence, and a 6 fence jump course.

Evaluating the Finale Class

- i. The Finale class shall be judged on position, hands, seat, legs, control and response to the question.
- ii. Riders in the Finale Class shall be required to demonstrate a walk, trot, sitting trot and canter with stirrups both ways of the ring. Riders shall also be asked to walk, sit and post the trot without stirrups in at least one direction, however this may be waived at the discretion of the judge based on safety of the riders and horses.
- iii. Riders shall be tested over 2 fences, with stirrups. The judge will design the test using jumps which were included in regular class courses, and the jumps must only be jumped in the direction previously jumped. Jumps may be set no higher than 2’3” in the Finale Class.
- iv. Riders will be asked to respond to one question selected by the judge from the NCEL Study Guide (which shall be provided to the judge). Each rider will be asked the same question; no follow up question may be asked (with the exception of asking the judge to repeat the question).
- v. Placing of the class is determined after weighting each rider’s performance as follows: 25% for flat work, 25% for work without stirrups, 25% jumping test, 25% response to question. If the judge foregoes the no stirrup portion of the Finale class, the flat work, jumping test, and response to question shall be weighted as 1/3rd each.