

NCSSEL – Judge’s Guide to Regular Season Meets

A regular season meet consists of 3 or 4 teams. Each team has up to 9 riders – 6 point riders and up to 3 alternates. 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:

- Point Rider Classes: (4 classes) - Walk-Trot; Walk-Trot-Canter; 4-Fence; 6-Fence
- Alternate Classes (3 classes) – Walk-Trot; Walk-Trot-Canter; 4-Fence
- Finale Class – consisting of 2 point 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 on position, hands, seat, legs and control. Riders to be judged at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Riders may be asked to sit the trot.
- ii. Equitation over fences: To be judged on position, hands, seat, legs and control. There will be 2 jump courses offered to point riders, one 4-fence jump course and one 6-fence jump course. The 4-fence jump course shall include a halt and one trot fence. All other fences in the 4-fence course shall be cantered. A rider may opt to trot the 6-fence course; however, the judge shall give greater scoring consideration to a rider who effectively canters the course. Simple changes of lead shall not be penalized.

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, and canter with stirrups both directions.
- 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 18” in the Finale Class.
- iv. Riders will be asked to respond to one question selected by the judge from the NCSSEL 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: 33.3% for flat work, 33.3% jumping test, 33.3% response to question.