

Rules for NCEL, NCSSEL, and JEL have been updated for the 2024-2025. Discussion of rules changes occurring during the pre-season coaches meeting. Detailed rules changes were sent to all coaches prior to the start of the season. The majority of changes to the rules were to reflect clarification of existing practices. Notable changes are listed below. This is not a full compendium of all changes, and coaches are encouraged to review all relevant rules documents.

## **NCEL**

- Flat classes will be split at 10 (this was previously 9) and over fences will be split at 13 (remains the same). Splits may not occur below that threshold. However, if a host barn lacks horses, host barns may split the class for riding but pin them as one group. (note - abiding by the split rule is important to keep our individual riders on a level playing field)
- The judge may waive the no stirrup portion of the finale class due to concerns for safety. Scoring adjusts accordingly.
- A team can add or remove a rider from a roster after the roster is finalized and the season has begun (see new language in the rules for further details and requirements). Admin can disapprove a roster or change if it is not in accordance with the rules.
- Parents and guardians of riders are expected to sign waivers of liability or releases if requested by a host barn. If they fail to do so they may not be allowed to compete.
- Riders in NCEL may be 20 years old or younger, but older riders may not concurrently participate in a collegiate league (such as IHSA).

## **NCSSEL**

- Flat classes will be split at 10 (this was previously 9) and over fences will be split at 13 (remains the same). Splits may not occur below that threshold. However, if a host barn lacks horses, host barns may split the class for riding but pin them as one group. (note - abiding by the split rule is important to keep our individual riders on a level playing field)
- Riders may be judged at a sitting trot.
- The four-fence course shall be ridden at a canter except for the trot fence. The six-fence course may be ridden at a trot, however greater judging consideration will be given to riders who successfully ride the course at a canter.
- A team can add or remove a rider from a roster after the roster is finalized and the season has begun (see new language in the rules for further details and requirements). Admin can disapprove a roster or change if it is not in accordance with the rules.
- Parents and guardians of riders are expected to sign waivers of liability or releases if requested by a host barn. If they fail to do so they may not be allowed to compete.

## JEL

- Review section C. for class procedure on when a coach may be in the ring/must exit the ring and verbally assist. Not a change but note that the jump height for divisions 4 and 5 is *up to 18 inches*.
- There will be a question portion at JEL Finale. However, those questions do not count toward individual or team scoring.
- Parents and guardians of riders are expected to sign waivers of liability or releases if requested by a host barn. If they fail to do so they may not be allowed to compete.

Additionally, please note that new tiebreakers have been added for instances where the initial/existing tiebreaker leads to another tie (see rules for further details).