

# Procedures for the WIHS Equitation Finals: Held at the Washington International Horse Show in October

1. Judging - All three phases of the Finals will be judged under the Open Numerical Scoring system by two panels of two judges seated in two separate locations. Each panel may include one high performance jumper rider, provided that the rider has either judged the East or West Coast Finals of the USEF Talent Search class or held a Hunter Seat Equitation Judges' Card within the last ten years. Each panel shall submit a single score, and the two separate scores will be averaged to produce a final score for each rider for each phase. A designated panel will be used to break any ties for ribbons in each phase.

Each of the three phases of the Finals will weigh equally in the results.

2. Hunter Phase - The Hunter Phase will be held first. The order of go shall be determined by a random draw. The score will be announced. The top ten finishers will return to the ring, mounted, for awards at the conclusion of the Hunter Phase.

3. Jumper Phase - The order of go for the Jumper Phase will be in reverse order of the Hunter Phase with the winner of the Hunter Phase competing last. An audible tone will be used to start competitors. A Time Allowed based on a speed of 360 yards per minute will be applied. The score will be announced. Time Faults, if any, for exceeding the Time Allowed will be deducted from the judges' original score, with one point being deducted for each commenced second over the Time Allowed. Rules regarding Time to Start (JP136.3 and .4) and Starting and Stopping (JP137.1) will apply.

4. Third Phase - The scores from the Hunter & Jumper Phases will be added together to determine the ten riders who will participate in the Third Phase. The combined score will determine the order of go, with the highest scoring rider competing last. In the event of a tie in determining the ten riders for the Third Phase, or the order for the Third Phase, the higher score in the Jumper Phase will break any ties. These ten riders will change horses. The order of change will be as follows; First and second place will switch Third and fourth place will switch Fifth and sixth place will switch Seventh and eighth place will switch Ninth and tenth place will switch

Once the riders have changed horses for the Third Phase and before the first rider in the Third Phase has entered the arena to compete, there will be a **3-minute** period during which riders may **work individually** on the flat. Should any rider feel that the horse on which they will compete in the Third Phase is unsound to the extent it will impair the horse's ability to perform the Third Phase, that rider must petition the panel of Judges(s) and Veterinarian(s) who will be available to assess the soundness of any questioned horse. The panel's decision regarding the fitness of a questioned horse to compete will be final. Should a horse be declared unfit to compete in the Third Phase, the rider who qualified that horse will be eliminated from the Third Phase and automatically placed 10th. The Show Steward will then draw by lot 1 of the 8 remaining riders (not to include the rider who was to ride the eliminated horse in the Third Phase). The rider drawn will then change its switched mount with the horse qualified by the rider who was switched to the unfit horse. In the event that more than one horse is declared unfit to compete, this procedure will be repeated in each instance. In the case of multiple eliminated riders due to unsoundness, the combined score of the first 2 rounds of the Finals will determine their final placing.

Once the Third Phase begins only 2 Riders will be permitted in the schooling/warm-up area at one time. The next Rider in the competition and the one that follows. There will be one oxer and one vertical. Each Rider will be permitted to jump a **total** of 4 fences.

Riders in the Third Phase will negotiate the Jumper Phase course. There will be neither a starting tone nor a Time Allowed in the Third Phase. A score will be given by the judges in the Third Phase, but will not be announced until the conclusion of the class. All horses must compete in the same equipment (saddles excluded) as in the Second Phase. This includes, but is not limited to: bridle, bits, reins, boots.

Any ties in the overall after the third phase will be broken by the designated tie breaking judges' panel score in the third phase.

Qualification for the WIHS Equitation Finals will be based on two Leagues. The East Coast League will consist of Zones 1-5, and the West Coast League will consist of Zones 6-12. The top 30 riders from the East Coast League and the top 10 riders from the West Coast League will be invited to compete in the WIHS Equitation Finals. Riders will compete in the League based on their address submitted to the WIHS Membership Office. Riders have until June 15<sup>th</sup> to change their leagues provided they submit their request in writing to the WIHS Membership Office by that date. Riders may add points from up to four competitions based in the other League to their total.