



JUDGE'S ABBREVIATED RULE LIST

The following guide is to help you understand the rules of the AAHJA. Please talk to the Show Manager or Show Steward if you have any questions regarding these rules.

1. AAHJA is an affiliate member of the USEF. Therefore, we follow the guidelines of the USEF, and our general rules are the same, i.e. no martingales in hack classes, boots or wraps allowed only in Equitation and Jumpers. ASTM approved helmets are required for **all riders**.
2. Proper attire is required of all riders, except beginner (Division I) riders are not required to wear a jacket. Jackets may be waived for all riders in extreme heat.
3. In the Crossrail Equitation and Crossrail Hunter Divisions, entries should not be penalized for trotting or trot-cantering courses, as long as they are consistent. Green Hunter, Green Equitation and Green Rider Hunter Division entries should not be penalized for proper simple lead changes.
4. AAHJA Tests for Pre-Beginner and Junior/Adult Beginner I Classics: These tests can be used for these divisions as needed by the judge or at shows holding special classics for these divisions.

Pre-Beginner:

1. Halt
2. At halt or walk demonstrate 2 point position.
3. Sitting trot.
4. At halt, while horse is held by a ring steward, rider drops and retrieves stirrups.
5. Answer very basic question—something a 5-7 year old would understand.

Jr/Adult Beginner I:

1. USEF Test #2, Halt and/or back up.
2. At halt, rider drops and retrieves stirrups.
3. At halt or walk demonstrate 2 point position.
4. Sitting trot.
5. USEF Test #5, figure eight at the trot.
6. USEF Test #2, pull up and halt from walk, trot or canter.
7. USEF Test #3, answer question(s) regarding horsemanship, tack, equipment, and/or conformation.

AAHJA Division Descriptions

Pre-Beginner: For riders in their 1st year of showing. May cross into w/t classes in Jr/Ad Beg.

Junior/Adult Beginner: For riders in their 1st or 2nd year who have not shown above the beginner crossrail level. Suitability of mount stressed. Rider may cross into TRM and Adult Crossrail Eq, Hunter, and Crossrail Medal. May be divided into **9-under, 10-17, and Adult**.

Tracy Ragan McKenna Crossrail Equitation: Riders must be in their 1st or 2nd year, never have shown over jumps larger than 18" crossrails. **No penalty for trotting courses.** Flat classes will be split to canter if entries warrant. Riders may cross into Beg I or Xrail Hunter/Medal, but not both.

Adult Crossrail Equitation: same description as above, but for riders 18 or over. May be combined with TRM division if there are not enough Adult entries, but points will be tabulated separately.

Junior/Amateur Crossrail Hunter: Riders in 1st or 2nd year of showing, not to have shown over fences higher than 18". **No penalty for trotting courses or lead changes.** Riders may cross into Xrail Eq/Medal or Medal and Green Rider Eq and Hunter, but not both.

Junior/Amateur Crossrail Equitation: Open to riders in their first or second year or showing over fences and who have never shown above the 18". Riders are considered ineligible for this division if they have ever shown above the 18" fence height. Over fence class to be judged as a regular equitation class with no penalty for trotting the course or simple lead changes. At least one change of direction is required. Rider may cross enter the Jr. Beginner Division and all crossrail divisions OR any 18" division. Please refer to rule 9B for cross entry.

Open Crossrail Hunter: open to all horses and riders. May be combined with Jr/Am Crossrail Hunter but points will be tabulated separately.

Green Rider Hunter: Open to riders in 1st or 2nd year over fences. Riders may cross into Crossrail Hunter/Medal or Hopeful Hunter if horse is eligible. Fences 18" only.

Green Rider Equitation: Equitation for riders meeting Green Rider Hunter requirements.

Open Hopeful Hunter: Open to any horse/rider combination. Eligible riders may cross enter into Green Rider divisions or Schooling Hunter, but not both. Fences crossrail or 2" with no fill. Division does not combine with any other division.

Schooling Hunter: Open to all riders on horses or ponies to be judged over courses of 2' in height and width. No ins and outs, but oxers permitted. Change of direction required.

Short/Long Stirrup Hunter: Open to riders in their 1st or 2nd year showing over 2'.

Eligible for this division for 2 years. Fences as in Schooling Hunter. Shorts (12-under) cross into 2' o/f classes. Longs (13-over) cross into any 2'6" or under o/f classes. Shorts and Longs may be combined if entries warrant.

AAHJA Division Descriptions, continued

Short/Long Stirrup Equitation/Medal: same eligibility as Short/Long Stirrup Hunter. **Junior Equitation:** Junior riders on horses or ponies which may be split as follows: 11-under show over 2', 12-17 show over 2'6". Ins and outs and oxers permitted.

Junior/Adult Medal for Riders on Horses, 2', 2'6" or 3'. Riders may jump at any of the three fence heights depending on individual eligibility.

Pre-Children's/Adult Hunter: Jrs and Amateurs to show on horses or ponies over fences not to exceed 2'6" in height and 2' in width.

Pony Hunter: Open to Juniors on Ponies: fences at 2' or 2'6".

Bar G Medal Classes: Medal classes to be judged over a course of 8-10 fences. O/f portion equals 75% of medal score. At least 50% of riders, (minimum of 3), to be called back for flat phase equaling 25% of score. Jr/Adult and Pony Riders may be tested using USEF tests 1-22; Crossrail and Green Rider may be tested with USEF tests 1-5, excluding #4; Short/Long Stirrup Riders may test 1-13. 3 riders must begin the course for the class to run.

AAHJA Medal Classes- Appropriate Equitation Tests

Format: Medal courses to be judged over a course of 8-10 fences at division fence heights. At least 50% of the class, (a minimum of 4), is to be called back for work on the flat. O/f = 75%: flat = 25%.

Crossrail Medal Tests: 1-5, except #4

Short/Long Stirrup Tests: 1-13

Pony Medal Tests: 1-22

Jr/Adult Medal Tests: 1-22

USEF Tests

1. **Work collectively or individually at a walk, rising/posting trot, and/or sitting trot, and/or canter.**
2. **Downward Transition Test:**
 - a) **Walk (4-5 steps)**
 - b) **Halt (4-6 seconds)**
 - c) **Halt and Back for (3-5 steps). When riders working collectively are asked to halt and then back, they should walk forward a few steps and halt again after backing and then proceed with any further instructions from the judge.**
3. **Question(s) regarding basic horsemanship, tack or equipment and/or conformation. The judge may ask question(s) that are appropriate for the level of expected skill of any given class or specifications.**
4. **Working either collectively, or individually, riders may demonstrate the lengthening or collection of strides on the flat at the walk, sitting or posting/rising trot and/or canter.**
5. **Figure Eight at the trot, demonstrating change of diagonals. In any Figure Eight movement, the rider should start at a center point at the halt. To finish the movement the rider is to return to the halt at**

same position as the point of commencement.

6. **Figure Eight at the canter on the correct lead. In this movement, the rider will begin at the halt and demonstrate a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horses are brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judge specifies) and then restarted into a canter on the opposite lead in the center of the figure, then will proceed to the second circle on the opposite lead. The rider will halt in the center at the same point of commencement to finish the figure.**
7. **Jump a shortened course. The riders must jump all obstacles in the same direction of the original course unless the judge clearly states that a jump be attempted in the opposite direction of the original course. If the judge requests that a jump be used in the opposite direction it must be a vertical and the ground lines must be correct.**
8. **Jump low obstacles at a trot as well as a canter. The maximum height of trot jump is determined as 6" lower than class requirements and is not to exceed 3' for horses and 2' for ponies. Oxers may be used as a trot jump in classes listed at 3'6" or higher.**
9. **Demonstrate a half-turn or a half-turn in the reverse. In all cases where a figure is requested between 2 jumps that requires a change of direction, the rider will not be charged for crossing their path nor will this count as a refusal between the obstacles.**
10. **Change leads on a line demonstrating simple or flying changes. The simple change is whereby the horse is brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judges specifies) and then restarted into a canter on the opposite lead. The flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension.**
11. **Figure Eight at the canter demonstrating flying changes of leads. Like all Figure Eight movements, the rider is to first halt at a center point. The flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hindlegs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension.**
12. **Collection of strides between 2 fences. It is recommended that a line chosen for this test be not less than 70'. For safety purposes, judges may only ask for additional strides to be added and must not ask riders to leave out a stride.**
13. **Work collectively or individually at the walk, posting/rising trot and/or canter without irons. In any case where riders are asked to perform without irons they must be allowed to walk or halt and be afforded the opportunity to cross their irons if they wish.**
14. **Execute serpentine at a trot and/or canter on the correct leads. If trotting, the rider is to demonstrate the changes of diagonals at the center points of the figure, if cantering, the rider should demonstrate the simple or flying changes of lead in the center of the figure. This is a change whereby the horses is brought back into the walk or trot (either is acceptable unless the judges specifies) and then restarted into a canter on the opposite lead**
15. **Canter on the counter lead on the flat. For the purposes of Hunt Seat Equitation on the flat, a counter canter is defined as a balanced canter on the outside lead. If working collectively, no more than 12 riders may counter canter at one time. Riders must complete one full revolution around the arena in each direction.**
16. **A canter on the counter lead may be used on the approach to a jump. For the purposes of Hunt Seat Equitation over fences, the counter canter is rider-invented gymnastic exercise designed to improve balance and suppleness.
When utilizing this test, rider may be asked to:**

1. Approach a single jump on a counter lead. This test requires riders make at least ONE turn or bend of a course of not less than 90* and not more than 120* on the counter lead. (Insert diagram).

2. Demonstrate a counter canter between 2 jumps on the course. For this test, the rider upon landing off the first jump can choose from the following acceptable options:

a) If the rider lands firstly on the inside lead, they may demonstrate a simple or flying change of lead before cantering through the first 90*-120* turn and continue to hold the counter lead to the next jump. Either the simple or flying change is acceptable.

b) If the rider lands firstly on the outside lead, they may continue to hold the outside lead to the next required obstacle.

c) A judge can not require a rider to land on the counter lead.

17. Demonstrate a turn on the forehand done through the halt.

18. Demonstrate a turn on the haunches done from the walk.

19. Demonstrate Shoulder-in, Shoulder-out, Haunches-in, Haunches-out, Half pass or Leg Yield in both directions at either the walk or the sitting trot.

20. Hand Gallop. A hand gallop may be used either when riders are working collectively or individually on the flat and it may also be used on the approach to a jump. The rider must be in a half-seat when executing the hand gallop. A hand gallop may not be requested into or out of a related distance line.

21. Ride without stirrups over fences. The riders must be allowed to remove the irons from the saddle or cross them if they wish.

22. Demonstration ride of approximately one minute. Riders must advise the judge(s) beforehand what ride they plan to demonstrate.