

Varsity Equestrian

2008 Rulebook (revised 8/01/08)

Table of Contents

I. Organization

i.	Host School	3
ii.	Minimum Entry Requirements	5
iii.	Event Routine	6
iv.	Falls, Refusals, Eliminations, Re-rides, Substitutions, Alts	10
v.	Drawing for the Horses	11
vi.	Tack and Aids	12
vii.	Awards	13
viii.	Personal conduct of athletes, coaches and show personnel	14

II. Competition Officials

i.	Event Management	15
ii.	Event Secretary	15
iii.	In-gate personnel	16
iv.	Warm-up personnel	16
v.	Judges	17
vi.	Competition Steward	19
vii.	Scribes	19
viii.	Master Scorer	20

III. Judging Requirements and Class Routine	
i. Equitation	21
ii. Equitation over Fences	22
iii. Horsemanship	24
iv. Reining	26
IV. Promotions	28
V. Standards and Ethics	28
VI. Amendment Form	29
VII. Necessary information for Show Bill	31
VIII. Coaches Meeting Check List	33

I. Organization

a. Host School

- i. Any school in good standing with the governing bodies, NCAA, Conference, USEF and AQHA is eligible for hosting a competition.
- ii. Head coaches and/or universities must be a current member with USEF and/or AQHA.
- iii. Host schools shall provide suitable facilities, horses and equipment for all entries.
 1. Fan-based needs
 - a. Bleachers
 - b. Rest-rooms
 - c. Concessions
 - d. PA system
 - e. Parking
 2. Competitor-based needs
 - a. Warm-up arena
 - b. Competition arena (based on rules herein and USEF)
 - c. Dressing area
 3. Horses
 - a. Safe
 - b. Schooled previously in the host arena where the competition is being held. ***Horses may not be reschooled between competitors.***
 - c. Typed or suited for their particular event
 - d. No horse may be used twice in the same event and a suitable alternate in each event will be provided.

- e. Horses may only be ridden in two divisions per meet for a total of four rides per meet.
- f. The owner of a horse that is being used in the competition may draw that horse provided the institution has paid for all actual and necessary expenses for that horse for a minimum of one semester and the horse is available for all student athletes to ride during the season and is not ridden solely by the owner. The owner may not draw the horse during the initial semester the institution begins the lease.

4. Equipment

- a. Safe, in good repair
- b. Jumps are recommended to meet or exceed USEF standards
- c. Proper markers for NCAA equitation arena: minimum letters required are A, K, E, H, C, M, B, F. Visual barriers should be supplied for corners and sides at E and B.
- d. Proper markers for NCAA Horsemanship patterns include a minimum of three cones with the cones having a maximum height of 2'.
- e. Arena size is encouraged to be standard size of 20 x 40 meters for Equitation. Due to location, inclement weather, etc. a minimum arena size would be 18 x 36 meters.
- f. Arena size for Reining should be a minimum of 100' x 150'.
- g. Arena size for Equitation over Fences should be a minimum of 100' x150'.

5. Scorecard

- a. **Horses may not appear on the same card except in Hunter Seat Equitation Over Fences , in which judges may hold scorecards until the event is complete.**
- b. Minimum Entry Requirements for a countable head to head Varsity Equestrian competition
 - i. Two schools are required for a seasonal competition in an official Varsity Equestrian competition
 - ii. In order for a competition to count in Varsity Equestrian rankings, the competition must meet criteria of the VENC selection committee and the Varsity Equestrian competition committee based on the following of all rules herein. Competing schools must be in good standing with NGB.
 - iii. Host school may run both Huntseat and Western events in the four equitation based events (Equitation, Equitation over Fences, Horsemanship and Reining) for it to be counted in Varsity Equestrian rankings. Host school may run a hunt seat only meet based on Equitation on the Flat and Equitation over Fences or a Western meet only using Horsemanship and Reining. Other events may be tested with varying numbers of riders as exhibitions but will not be counted in final scores. Any student athlete competing in an exhibition ride AND in one of the four countable events will have to ride her countable ride first or separate judges must be used.
 - iv. In order for a school's scores in a varsity competition to count in selection committee review for the VENC a school competing is required a minimum of 4 riders per class in head to head competition. There must be a minimum of four different athletes per discipline and a minimum of four athletes per event. In a four or more school tournament, there must be a minimum of three riders per event. There is no limit on the maximum number of athletes per event provided both institutions are in agreement.
 - v. Competitions without sufficient numbers of athletes will not be counted in Varsity Equestrian rankings, and will be considered scrimmages.

- vi. Exhibitions within events will allow for competition of additional riders. Host school will determine number of exhibitions allowed and will offer same number to visiting team. Exhibitions will be declared prior to event and will not count towards team scores.
- c. Event routine
- i. All events for which rules are provided herein must be conducted accordingly. In the case where there are not applicable rules, the rules and regulations of NCAA, USEF for hunt seat equitation on the flat and over fences, and AQHA for western horsemanship and reining, will govern.
 - ii. Varsity Competitions must contain either the two specified English events or the two specified Western events or all four required events and will use the stated point system (Equitation on the Flat – 100 pts., Equitation over fences – 100 pts., Horsemanship -70 pts., Reining – 70 Pts.). All schools competing will know the format of the show at least 14 days prior to the start of the show. In the event the schools cannot agree on the format, the format will fall back to the previous year's VENC format.
 - iii. All Hunt Seat riders will ride in ASTM/SEI approved helmets with attached harness that is fastened when mounted.
 - iv. Care and control of the horses are the prerogative of the host school or designated representative.
 - 1. Use of equine medication will adhere to the regulations of USEF therapeutic drug use guidelines for all horses being exhibited at the meet.
 - 2. Use of tack, boots and artificial aids will adhere to the regulation of USEF for hunt seat equitation and AQHA for western horsemanship and reining. Exceptions to be included for use at the discretion of the hosting school shall include: protective boots, running martingales, bits and cavasons appropriate for the individual horse. Any protest by the visiting school to the non-regulation equipment must be made to the steward during the schooling of the horses. The steward then has the right to deem the appropriateness of the equipment for competition.

- v. Special, trial events may be offered such as trail, gymnastics, etc. by the competition management if time and horse availability permit; however they are not counted in the scoring of the competition.
- vi. If using an ancillary competition within 48 hours prior to a regular season competition and the same riders compete, separate judges must be used.
- vii. In all events, athletes shall have a timed warm-up on their mount. This is the only time in which schooling is allowed prior to the call by the in-gate personnel. Any schooling outside of warm-up, to include moving off of leg or hand, noted by event personnel will be reported to the steward as an infraction of the rules. Stewards shall give an initial warning to coaches and/or competitors that they feel are in violation of a minor infraction. Following the initial warning, subsequent infractions will result in elimination of the rider that the infraction occurred with at the discretion of the stewards.
 - 1. For Equitation, each school will be given two, four-minute warm-ups with only their team riders in the ring. No limit is set on the movements and gaits to be performed. After the timed warm-up, each rider will be allowed to walk on a loose rein prior to entering the competition arena during the other team's warm-up and during the tests. A rider may ride on a light contact for safety concerns but may not school or flex the horse during this time. At the completion of the ride previous, the next rider is allowed to school and tune her horse. This time may be used at the rider's discretion as long as they do not enter the arena previous to the start of the test. The only time they can enter the arena previous is if there is less than 15 meters on the outside of the entire arena. A signal will be used by the judge to designate his/her readiness for the rider to enter the competition ring. After the signal, the rider has 45 seconds to enter competition arena. If the judge requires more time to finish scoring, the rider will receive extra time at no penalty. If a rider enters the arena prior to the judge's signal, she may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge.
 - 2. For Horsemanship, each school will be given two, four-minute warm-ups with only their team riders in the ring. No limit is

set on the movements and gaits to be performed. After the timed warm-up, each rider will be allowed to walk on a loose rein prior to entering the competition arena. A rider may ride on a light contact for safety concerns but may not school or flex the horse during this time. Each rider is allowed up to 45 seconds to enter the competition arena. This time may be used at the rider's discretion. If the judge requires more time to finish scoring, the rider will receive extra time at no penalty.

3. For Equitation over Fences, each school will be given two, four-minute warm-ups with only their team riders in the ring. If the warm up is being conducted in an arena separate from the competition arena, the fence height may not exceed the height or width of the biggest fence being used in the competition. ***In the event a competitor falls off during a warm up, all timing should be stopped to adequately check the safety and status of both horse and rider. If the rider is not injured, she may remount, continue her warm up and compete. During the warm up, a refusal does not count as a jumping effort.*** A signal will be used by the judge to designate his/her readiness for the rider to enter the competition ring. After the signal, the rider has 45 seconds to begin the course. Each rider is allowed to jump any four fences provided the rider jumps them in the correct direction. No limit is set on the movements and gaits to be performed. This warm-up may take place in the jumping arena or a designated warm-up area. Combinations, two strides or less, count as one jumping effort. Each rider will be allowed to walk on a loose rein prior to entering the competition arena. A rider may ride on a light contact for safety concerns but may not school or flex the horse during this time.
4. For Reining, each school will be given two, five-minute warm-ups with only their team riders in the ring. No limit is set on the movements and gaits to be performed. The additional time is ideally for the loping and settling of the horse. The steward may use their discretion in limiting the maneuvers, after a warning, if a competitor misuses the five minutes to the horse's detriment. After timed warm-up, each rider will

be allowed to walk on a loose rein from the completion of the warm-up to the entering of the competition arena. A rider may ride on a light contact for safety concerns but may not school or flex the horse during this time. Each rider is allowed an additional large circle (use of half arena) prior to the start of the test to warm-up their horses.

5. If both schools are in agreement due to facility or horse capabilities, time constraints, etc., warm up may be revised to a single section group warm-up for 5 minutes for the Equitation, Horsemanship Fences and Reining.
 6. During warm-up, event management will monitor time and the steward will enforce violations of both time and proper care and treatment of the animal. A maximum of three applications of the aids are acceptable in each case of disobedience. Excessive use of the aids can result in elimination of the athlete from the event at the discretion of the steward or judges. USEF rules for abuse will apply in these situations.
 7. Coaching is permitted in the warm-up arena.
 8. In the case of a fence being knocked down in the warm-up, a coach or event management may reset the fence. No time will be added to the warm-up.
 9. Weather or extenuating circumstances can restart the warm-up as determined by the steward.
 10. Judges are required to watch horses being schooled prior to the start of the competition but will physically turn away from the arena if the competitors are participating in their warm up sessions in the same arena.
- viii. Appeals to competition
1. Only coaches may approach the competition steward to appeal. The steward is the liaison between the coach and the judge.

2. The head coach must make appeals for errors in numerical scoring within six hours after receiving scores from host school.
3. All other appeals must be made prior to departure from competition site by visiting team.
4. Judges will be held at competition until released by coaches from both schools.
5. Decisions are made final by the stewards. These results are not for dispute afterward the six-hour appeal rule.

ix. Coaches Meeting

1. The host school will hold a judges/steward/coaches meeting prior to the start of the competition. A visiting team representative must be present. (See "Coaches Meeting Check List" in appendix.)

- d. Falls, Refusals, Eliminations, Substitutions, Alternates, Re-rides and Forfeits
- i. A rider is considered to have fallen when she is separated from her horse that has not fallen.
 - ii. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle on the ground.
 - iii. All falls before the completion of the test will result in elimination; a composite score of zero.
 - iv. Three refusals will result in elimination.
 - v. Substitutions can be made to the original roster of competitors anytime prior to the draw without penalty to any warm-up times, etc. No substitutions will occur after the draw unless they are made for medical reasons deemed by the medical trainer and approved by the steward. All substitutions must be listed on the entry form and fill in the appropriate paperwork previous to the start of competitions or they will not be able to compete.
 - vi. In the event that a horse is pulled during the competition by the steward, both schools will ride the alternate horse and those scores

will count for the competition. The only exception is when the first rider was eliminated by fault of rider, they would not be granted a re-ride. Fault of rider is to be determined by the judge.

- vii. When a re-ride is granted the competition steward will work with the event management to integrate them into the schedule. Should a separate warm-up be needed for that rider, the warm-up time will be cut in half.
 - viii. The competition steward and/or judge, in cases of safety concerns or lameness grants re-rides. Only coaches from the schools or the competition judges may approach the steward about a re-ride. ***In the event that a competition official stops a rider based on a safety issue, the judge has the option to grant a re-ride at his/her discretion.***
 - ix. In the event of inclement weather, competition shall be halted when there is less than a 30 second “flash to bang” lightening to thunder. Competition shall resume when weather conditions are satisfactory to the hosting school’s standard severe weather policy. If competition is unable to continue, the meet will be considered complete only if more than 50% of the meet has been completed. Otherwise, rescheduling will occur.
- e. Drawing for horses (see attached example sheet)
- i. There will be one coin toss to determine which team goes first in each event. Winner of coin toss will chose one event to go first in and the order of other events will alternate (example: 1st in Horsemanship, 2nd Equitation, 1st in Fences, 2nd Reining)
 - ii. Order of riders will alternate between home and away throughout each event.
 - iii. Drawings for horses will be by lot. Both schools will have a representative present during the draw. Both schools will compete on the same horses in each event (i.e. each event is drawn twice).
 - iv. Class order will be determined by the horses drawn. The exhibition horse will precede all the other horses.

- v. When a competing rider has a personally owned horse in the draw, that rider must draw first with her horse not in the pool of potential draws.
- f. Tack and aids
- i. No substitution of tack by exhibitors shall be permitted unless approved by event management and the stewards. The visiting team must be alerted to any tack changes that occur after host school has completed the initial warm-up. All equipment designated for the horses will remain consistent.
 - ii. List of aids, use of spurs and whips.
 - 1. A list of aids appropriate to each horse must be posted or accompany each horse. Riders must comply with the suggested use of aids.
 - 2. Artificial aids (crops, whips, bats and spurs) may be carried and/or used only when specified by the event management and listed on the list of aids.
 - 3. Spurs not provided by the host school must be approved by host school coach of the particular discipline prior to the warm-up.
 - a. Western spurs shall be listed as ball, rowel or none. "Rock-grinders" will not be allowed.
 - b. English spurs will be non-roweled spurs.
 - c. English horses shall be listed as yes, may or no for the use of spurs or crops.
 - d. If any horse requires a special type of spur not categorized above, the spur shall be provided by show management or the owner of that horse.
 - e. Riders may opt to not use artificial aids on horses that are listed as needing them.
 - 4. Scorecards must note simple or flying changes for fences and reining as well as single or two-handed in a curb bit. These riders shall not be penalized for following the list of aids.

5. It is recommended that as many horses as possible be provided that can be ridden one-handed in a curb bit for Horsemanship and Reining.
6. Romal reins will be permitted for western events and should be used in accordance with AQHA rules.
7. If a Horsemanship or Reining horse is listed to be ridden one-handed during the testing and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted.
8. If a Horsemanship or Reining horse is listed to be ridden two-handed, the rider will be required to use two hands on the reins during the testing. In Horsemanship, the tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck when riding with two hands on split reins.
9. The listing and use of aids will remain consistent within a designated bracket. Any changes prior to a bracket will be posted outside of competition arena and announced during the draw.
10. All violations are to be reported to a steward. Riders not adhering to the list of aids during either warm-up or competition will be disqualified by the steward, except in the use of hands in Western warm-up.

g. Tie Breakers

- i. If there is a tie in one discipline; a tie breaker is to be used to determine the winner of that discipline. A tie breaker in a specific discipline will not affect the overall winner. (i.e. – win loss record from both disciplines will still be used to determine the overall winner)
 1. First Tie Breaker – If a western tie occurs, the lowest score will be dropped per team and then scores will be recalculated. If a hunter seat tie occurs, the lowest score will be dropped per team and then the scores will be recalculated. In the case of a tie for overall, one score per discipline will be dropped.

2. Second Tie Breaker – If a tie still remains after the first tie breaker in western competition, all western raw scores will be added together to determine the winner. If a tie still remains after the first tie breaker in hunter seat, all hunter seat raw scores will be added together to determine the winner. If a tie still remains after the first tie breaker for overall competition, all raw scores will be added to determine an overall winner. The team with the highest raw score will be determined the winner.
3. Third Tie Breaker – Tie stands.

h. Awards

- i. An individual champion (MVP for each event) will be determined by the judges in regular season competitions. Upon completion of each event, judges may review their cards to choose the MVP for that event.
- i. Personal conduct of athletes, coaches and show personnel
 - i. General
 1. Behave in manner that reflects the dignity of the sport.
 2. Stewards may expel from the grounds any person whose behavior is deemed dishonest, unethical, unsportsmanlike or detrimental to the health, safety or well being of any horse or person during the progress of the competition.
 3. No coaches, school personnel or team member are allowed to coach during the scoring of a ride. Stewards shall give an initial warning to coaches and/or competitors that they feel are in violation of this rule. Following the initial warning, subsequent infractions will result in elimination of the rider that the infraction occurred with at the discretion of the steward.
 4. Competing riders are not allowed to ride any horses at any time the day of a competition prior to the start of competition.

II. Competition Officials

a. Event management is to provide:

- i. Qualified medical personnel on the grounds USEF minimum standards)
- ii. Programs
- iii. **Event organizers will notify the visiting team(s) of the judges and steward at least one month prior to the competition. The visiting team(s) have one week following notification to dispute the official selected by the host institution.**
- iv. Horses and schooling riders
- v. PA system and announcer
- vi. Music is encouraged; however it must be played soft enough so that competitors are able to hear the signals called by the judges.
- vii. Arena crews to set-up events
- viii. Jump crew stationed near jumps (outside of the arena)
- ix. In-gate and warm-up personnel

b. Event secretary

- i. Providing the Prize list to include all items in the appendices
- ii. Providing suitable facilities
- iii. Mailing appropriate entries and processing them
- iv. Arranging for the competition steward and judges needs with the NGB
- v. Making an official program with results to be mailed to the USEF/Marion Maybank. (mmaybank@usef.org or (859)231-6662)
All competition statistics will be sent on a standardized form to the USEF via fax or email within (1) one week of competition. Statistics not provided within time frame will not be considered.
- vi. Running the coin toss and draw

vii. ***The following must be sent to the judge(s) 15 days prior to the competition:***

a. Current Varsity Equestrian Rulebook

b. Equitation test, reining and horsemanship patterns.

Patterns and tests will include the written test/pattern as

A drawn test/pattern.

c. Judge's information sheet available on the Varsity

Equestrian website.

c. In-gate personnel

i. Keep coaches and exhibitors abreast of their order of go

ii. Keep the event moving on a tight schedule

iii. Communicate with the announcer for the announcement of each rider as they enter the arena.

iv. Monitor compliance with the optional 45 second ride previous to entering the arena.

d. Warm-up personnel

i. Monitor time of warm-ups and monitor the limit set for maneuvers or jumps and fence height and width.

ii. Monitor for excessive application of aids and report to steward

iii. Monitor warm-up arena obstacles

1. In the case of a fence being knocked down in the warm-up, a coach or event management may reset the fence.

2. No time is to be added to the warm-up.

3. Weather or extenuating circumstances can restart the warm-up as determined by the competition steward.

e. Judges

i. Qualifications

1. To officiate the Hunter Seat events, a person must be recognized as a USEF Hunter Seat Equitation judge.
2. To officiate the Western events, a person must be a recognized AQHA judge. If separate judges are to be used for Horsemanship and Reining, the Horsemanship judge must be AQHA carded and the Reining judge must be carded either by AQHA or NRHA.
3. If a hosting school wishes to use a non-recognized judge as outlined in 1 and 2 above, the visiting school must be notified prior to the hiring of the judge and must approve of the non-recognized judge. (Attached amendment shall be filled in and approved by competing schools a minimum of **14 days** prior to the event.)
4. **The host institution cannot hire a judge that is currently or has previously been employed by the university within the past three years.**
5. **The host institution cannot hire an Alumnus of their university as a judge unless they have been graduated for 3 years or more.**
6. **The host institution may not hire a judge who is the parent of a prospect in their senior year of high school or a current student athlete at either competing institution.**

ii. Responsibilities

1. Judges will be provided with score sheets that will include a breakdown of required maneuvers with appropriate scoring columns. A judging guideline is recommended where each maneuver is drawn for the judge.
2. Judges are required to watch the schooling of the horses by the schooling riders to familiarize themselves with the horses.
3. Judges, scribes, and scorers shall be required to judge and score a minimum of two test rides or demonstrations by a non-

competing rider(s) to become more familiar with the test prior to the start of competition. Reining and jumping are the exceptions where the host school may opt to provide only one or no demonstration rides. These rides will be performed on a horse that is not being used in the competition in that event.

4. Coaches and steward shall be present during these test rides and questions or concerns will be addressed at this time.

5. Judges are not allowed to watch the warm-up of the horses by the competition riders. It is required that judges turn and face away from the arena.

6. Each rider will be scored on the required tests and numerical scores shall be written on each rider's test. Descriptive remarks on maneuvers or collective remarks are highly recommended.

7. The scoring for Equitation and Equitation over Fences will use a 100 point scale. The scoring scale is as follows for Horsemanship and Reining: will use a 70 point scale and Equitation on the flat and Equitation over Fences will use a 100 point scale.

8. Judges are encouraged to utilize the full range of the scales.

9. Judge grants re-rides with communication from the steward during competition.

10. A scribe will be used to record scoring and remarks. A scribe is not required for equitation over fences.

11. A whistle or bell may be used by the judge to stop the competition when off course in equitation over fences or off pattern in equitation on the flat, horsemanship and reining.

12. The judge will select an individual champion (MVP) for each event.

f. Competition Steward

1. Overall monitor of Rules and Regulations during the competition.
2. Watches the schooling and warm-up of the horses for safety and lameness.
3. Enforces all actions for rule infractions as well as grants re-rides after communication with the judge.
4. The steward shall give an initial warning to coaches and/or competitors that they feel are in violation of a minor infraction (coaching during competition, schooling outside of warm-up time, etc.). Following the initial warning, subsequent infractions will result in elimination of the rider that the infraction occurred, at the discretion of the steward.
5. Approves the final scores and official program.

ii. Qualifications

- 1. The host institution cannot hire a steward that is currently or has previously been employed by the university within the past four years.**
- 2. The host institution cannot hire an alumnus of their university as a steward unless they have been graduated for four years or more.**
- 3. The host institution may not hire a steward who is the parent of a prospect in their senior year or a current student athlete at either competing institution.**
- 4. The host institution cannot hire a steward that is currently a volunteer coach for their program.**

g. Scribes

Qualifications—a knowledgeable scribe shall be supplied for each judge by the hosting school. In addition, the visiting school may provide a scribe as well.

Anyone sitting with the judge(s) is considered a scribe.

i. Responsibilities

1. The scribe will be responsible for recording numerical scores and descriptive remarks from the judge onto the judges score card. The judge may record his/her own scores and remarks for equitation over fences.

2. A scribe is only allowed to communicate with the judge during a rider's test by saying "score" when a score is required. A scribe is not allowed to remark on the rider's test, even if requested by the judge; i.e. a scribe is not allowed to help the judge determine if a rider is on pattern or has completed a required maneuver. All scores and remarks must be written in pen. If the judge changes a score after it has been marked on the scorecard, the judge must initial the change.

3. No communication (cell phone, PDA, etc) between scribe and person(s) outside of show management until entire event is over.

4. Scribes will behave in a professional manner.

h. Master Scorer

i. Qualifications--An educated (non-student) master scorer shall be supplied for each competition by the hosting school.

ii. Responsibilities

1. The scorer is responsible for correctly calculating and posting each test's total score as well as the team's scores.

2. All scores and remarks must be written in pen on 2 copies of a master scorecard showing all scores for the competition.

3. All scores should be calculated on an index-tape calculator, and then stapled to the original test.

4. It is advisable for all original tests to be held at the host university for the competition year. Visiting schools must be supplied with copies of all tests prior to departure.

5. Competition and event winners are based on the summation of the scores.

III. Judging Requirements and Class Routine

a. Equitation

1. An appropriate test shall be given that is to include 8 written maneuvers, one judge designated maneuver, and one collective mark that are to be scored from 0 to 10 for a total possible score of 100.
2. The judge's designated maneuver will be announced during the draw to both schools. It is composed of any combination of USEF tests (excluding 6,7,8,10,11,16, and 19 from the USEF 2007 rule book) and directly follows the completion of the 8 written maneuvers in the competition arena. It remains the same during the tests.
3. Competing schools will receive the written test by 5 P.M., 15 days prior to the competition date. The test will come from herein. If the test is received after 5 p.m. 15 days prior to the competition date, the host team will be penalized one (1) win/loss point per day until the test is received. The visiting team will submit a letter to the standards and ethics committee (1) week prior to the competition stating the infraction.
4. Each rider from each team shall ride the same test on the same set of horses that was decided during the draw unless a substitution or alternate is approved.
5. Coaching is not to be allowed during the rider's test.
6. Scoring
 - a. Competitions will be based on a win/loss record point system. When two riders compete on the same horse, the rider with the highest score will receive 1 point for their team. If there is a tie, the raw score will be used to determine the winner.
 - b. Each of the maneuvers (***A maneuver consists of several parts***) within a test shall be scored from 0 to 10. An additional score of 1 to 10 shall be given as a collective mark for overall presentation, equitation skills, etc. Scores shall be added together for a total score out of a possible 100 points.
 - c. A scribe will be used to assist the judge in scoring in accordance with the regulations outlined below. Scribes and scores are not to discuss any horse or rider that enters the arena.

d. The rider's composite score will be announced at the completion of the test when the announcer receives a tabulated score.

7. In the event that the rider goes off-pattern during the test, the rider will receive a composite score of zero (0).

a. Off –pattern results from the rider omitting or adding of a figure not designated by the test.

b. It is at the judge's discretion to determine if the rider or the horse omitted or added the figure.

c. Riders missing gaits, leads, sitting verses posting, lengthening verses working performing a movement early or late, etc are not considered off-pattern. The judge should score these mistakes appropriately.

d. Coaches, judges, scribes, other exhibitors, spectators, etc. are not allowed to assist the rider to get back on pattern.

e. Other ways in which the rider would receive a composite score of zero (0) would be the following:

1. Rider never starts the required maneuvers
2. Rider and horse exit arena prior to the completion of the test
3. In arenas without clear boundaries, the judge should eliminate the rider when they see all four legs outside of the markers.

b. Equitation over Fences

1. An appropriate test shall be given that has a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 jumping efforts (as defined by USEF) with two changes of direction.

2. USEF scores are given by the judge.

3. Competing schools will receive the jumping course by 5 P.M., 8 days prior to the competition date. The test will come from herein. If the test is received after 5 p.m. 8 days prior to the competition date, the host team will be penalized one (1) win/loss point per day until the test is received. The visiting team will submit a letter to the standards and ethics committee (1) week prior to the competition stating the infraction.

4. Each rider from each team shall ride the same test on the same set of horses that was decided during the draw unless a substitution or alternate is approved.
5. The following obstacles and maneuvers are acceptable within Equitation over Fences test: low jumps, trot jumps, rollbacks, jumping without stirrups, hand gallop, and all maneuvers previously listed in the Equitation on the Flat.
6. A maximum jump height 3'6" and width of 3'6" (width measured from the top of the spread) is to be used. For Varsity Equestrian competitions, it is recommended that the minimum height of 2'9" be used.
7. Coaching is not allowed during the rider's test.
8. ***The judge will have a course diagram with measured distances between fences on lines. The judge is encouraged to walk the course.***

9. Scoring

- a. Competitions will be based on a win/loss record point system. When two riders compete on the same horse, the rider with the highest score will receive 1 point for their team. If there is a tie, the raw score will be used to determine the winner.
- b. Judges will utilize a modified USEF judge's scorecard to evaluate the riders based on a USEF score.
- c. Scribes will be used to assist the judge in scoring in accordance with regulations outlined below. Scribes and scorers are not to discuss any horse or rider that enters the arena.
- d. Horse having only simple changes will be noted on the list of aids as well as on the test scorecard.
- e. It is recommended that the rider's composite score be announced at the completion of the test.
- f. In the event that the rider goes off-course during the test, the rider will be given a composite score of zero.
- g. A total of three refusals or a fall of horse or rider will eliminate the rider, resulting in a score of zero.

c. Horsemanship

1. An appropriate test shall be given that is to include **between 7 and 9** written maneuvers (***a maneuver consists of several parts***), and one collective mark that are to be scored from -1.5 to +1.5 with 70 designated as the base score.

2. Competing schools will receive the written pattern by 5 P.M., 15 days prior to the competition date, **including the measured distances between cones**. If the test is received after 5 p.m. 15 days prior to the competition date, the host team will be penalized one (1) win/loss point per day until the test is received. The visiting team will submit a letter to the standards and ethics committee (1) week prior to the competition stating the infraction.

3. Horsemanship cone spacing: patterns will indicate the number of feet between each cone in the pattern to further “level the playing field.”

4. In an effort to create more freedom when designing patterns and to meet industry standards, cones are not required to be used within the pattern, but perimeter cones must then be used to demark the outside boundaries of the pattern and must have measured distances between them.

4. Each rider entered from each team shall ride the same test on the same set of horses that was decided during the draw unless a substitution or alternate is approved.

5. The following maneuvers are acceptable within a test: walk, jog, extended jog, lope or extended lope in a straight line, curved line, serpentine, circle, or figure 8, or a combination of these gaits and maneuvers; stop; back in a straight or curved line; turn or pivot, including spins and rollbacks on the haunches and/or on the forehand; side-pass, two-track or leg yield; flying or simple change of lead; counter canter; or ride without stirrups. Tests should not include asking riders to mount or dismount

6. Coaching is not to be allowed during the rider’s test.

7. Scoring

a. Competitions will be based on a win/loss record point system. When two riders compete on the same horse, the rider with the highest score will receive 1 point for their team. If there is a tie, the raw score will be used to determine the winner.

b. Each of the maneuvers within the test shall be scored from -1.5 to +1.5 with 70 as the designated base. Additional scores use the same scale of -1.5 to +1.5 in the rail work and collective mark. The collective mark is for overall presentation, horsemanship skills, etc. Scores shall be added together for a total score out of a possible 85 points.

c. A scribe will be used to assist the judge in scoring and call in accordance with the regulations outlined herein. Scribes and scores are not to discuss any horse or rider that enters the arena.

d. It is recommended that the rider's composite score be announced at the completion of the test when the announcer receives a tabulated score.

e. In the event that the rider goes off-pattern during the test, the rider will receive a composite score of zero (0).

1. Off-pattern results from the rider omitting or adding of a figure not designated by the test.

2. It is at the judge's discretion to determine if the rider or the horse omitted or added the figure.

3. Riders missing gaits, leads, extended gaits verses regular gaits, etc are not considered off-pattern. The judge should score these mistakes appropriately.

4. Coaches, judges, scribes, other exhibitors, spectators, etc. are not allowed to assist the rider to get back on pattern.

f. Other ways in which the rider would receive a composite score of zero (0) would be the following:

1. Rider never starts the required maneuvers

2. Rider and horse exit arena prior to the completion of the test.

3. In arenas without clear boundaries, the judge should eliminate the rider when they see all four legs outside of the markers.

g. Penalties

1. At the discretion of the judge, a three (3) point penalty will be assessed for kicking out.
2. At the discretion of the judge, a three (3) point penalty will be assessed contact with a cone.
3. At the discretion of the judge, a three (3) point penalty will be assessed break of gait for more than two (2) strides.
4. At the discretion of the judge, a three (3) point penalty will be assessed for a wrong lead for two (2) or more strides.

d. Reining

1. An appropriate test is based on the AQHA/NRHA patterns with an additional composite box (collective marks) to be added to the scores. All scores are based on the -1.5 to +1.5 scale.

2. Competing schools will receive the written pattern by 5 P.M., 15 days prior to the competition date. The test will come from herein. If the test is received after 5 p.m. 15 days prior to the competition date, the host team will be penalized one (1) win/loss point per day until the test is received. The visiting team will submit a letter to the standards and ethics committee (1) week prior to the competition stating the infraction.

3. Scoring

a. Competitions will be based on a win/loss record point system. When two riders compete on the same horse, the rider with the highest score will receive 1 point for their team. If there is a tie, the raw score will be used to determine the winner.

b. Each of the maneuvers within the test shall be scored from -1.5 to +1.5. An additional score of the same scale shall be given as a collective mark for overall presentation, horsemanship skills, etc. Scores shall be added together for a total score out of a possible 82 or 83.5 (depending on the pattern).

c. A scribe will be used to assist the judge in scoring in accordance with the regulations outlined herein.

d. Horse having only simple changes will be noted on the list of aids as well as on the test scorecard.

e. The rider's composite score will be announced at the completion of the test when the announcer receives a tabulated score.

f. Standard AQHA reining penalties should be utilized.

g. In the event that the rider goes off-pattern during the test, the rider will receive a composite score of zero (0).

1. Off –pattern results from the rider omitting or adding of a figure not designated by the test.

2. It is at the judge's discretion to determine if the rider or the horse omitted or added the figure.

3. Riders missing gaits, leads, speed differences, etc are not considered off-pattern. The judge should score these mistakes appropriately.

4. Coaches, judges, scribes, other exhibitors, spectators, etc. are not allowed to assist the rider to get back on pattern

h. Other ways in which the rider would receive a composite score of zero (0) would be the following:

1. Rider never starts the required maneuvers

2. Rider and horse exit arena prior to the completion of the test

3. In arenas without clear boundaries, the judge should eliminate the rider when they see all four legs outside of the markers.

4. Riders who over spin or under spin by more than $\frac{1}{4}$

5. Riders who back more than five steps when not prescribed by the test or when no back is ridden in a test that prescribes a back. It is at the discretion of the judge as to whether it is rider or horse error. Obvious horse errors do not result in composite zero scores.

IV. Promotions

- a. A log in area is in place for sensitive coaches material on the VE website.
- b. Two (2) VE positions, (1) one coach and (1) one administrator, will be designated to represent the sport at various functions.
Current elected representatives: Larry Sanchez(OSU) and Nancy Post (Baylor)

V. *Standards and Ethics*

- a. ***The Standards and Ethics Committee will still be reviewing issues reported on the Competition Form following competitions. Issues that do not require interpretation will be reviewed bi-annually and forwarded to the appropriate committee for further review. If a rule infraction occurs which requires immediate response from the Standards and Ethics Committee, the following steps must be taken:***
 - ***A written letter must be submitted by the Head Coach to the Chair of the Standards and Ethics Committee within one week following the completion of the competition.***
 - ***The letter must be accompanied by a \$100 protest fee made out to the appropriate Varsity Equestrian entity.***
 - ***A copy of the letter will be submitted to the opposing school for an opportunity to respond. The opposing school has seven days to send a written response to the allegations to the Standards and Ethics Committee. Once the response is received the Standards and Ethics Committee will review the complaint. If a letter of response is not received within seven days, the Standards and Ethics Committee will move forward with the review.***
 - ***If the protest is upheld, the \$100 fine will be returned and appropriate action will be taken to resolve the complaint.***
 - ***If the protest is not upheld, the \$100 fine will be submitted to the appropriate Varsity Equestrian entity and no further action will be taken.***

Appendix

Amendment Form

Date: _____

Competition: _____

Rule to be amended: _____ page #: _____

Reason for Change:

Rule to read today as:

Signature of Head Coaches:

Representing School _____

Representing School _____

Necessary Information
For
Pre-competition Fact Sheet from Host School

Date:

Location:

Competition Manager(s):

Judges:

Steward(s):

Competitors: Number of competitors for each division

Divisions Offered and Tests Used:

Competition Schedule (tentative):

Hotel Information:

Revised 8/1/08

Directions to Hotel:

Directions to Equestrian Facility:

Contact Information:

Fax Number to send entries: Include entry deadline

Concessions?: If so, what kind of food

This information should be sent out two weeks prior to the date of competition. It should preferably be faxed or emailed. If sent by regular mail it must be mailed in a timely manner so it is received by opposing team two weeks prior to start of competition.

Coaches Meeting Check List

General

Watch the horses being warmed up by schooling riders

Do not watch the competitors warm-up

Steward

Judge to a standard

Do not try to break ties

Write in pen

Changes to scores need to be initialed

Scorecards will be picked up after each round of horses, you can have them back at the end of the class to review the riders for MVP selection

MVP selection

Scribe will be provided for you

An additional scribe from the opposing school is given the option to sit with you as well

Horsemanship

Demo ride

2 demo rides

Both coaches will be present to ask questions, answer questions, and make adjustments

45 second warm-up

Do not penalize the rider for not being ready at the cone

Adopted 3 point penalties

Revised 8/1/08

Reining

AQHA/NRHA scoring system

Horse details (i.e. 2 handed, simple changes) will be noted on scorecards

Warm-up circle

Equitation Over Fences

USEF standard of scoring

Please judge to a standard

Off course, three refusals, or a fall of horse or rider will result in a score of zero

Whistle to start the course

After whistle, rider has 45 seconds to start course

Simple changes denoted on scorecard

Equitation on the Flat

USEF standard of scoring

Warm-up

Can riders use the 45 seconds before ride begins to warm-up inside or pass through the arena?

Demo ride

2 Demo rides, can request more

Both coaches will be present to ask questions, answer questions, and make adjustments

Seated at 'C'

Whistle to bring the rider into the arena

After whistle, rider has 45 seconds to enter the arena

Revised 8/1/08

How would you like the riders to exit the arena? (if not stated)

Judge's test