

I. Entries and Miscellaneous

- A. Official team entries and payments are due on or before March 11, 2005. Please fax to NMSU Equestrian or mail to MSC 3145 PO Box 30001 Las Cruces, NM 88003. Checks are to be made payable to: NMSU Equestrian.
- B. Entry fees are X for teams with both disciplines, or X for teams with one discipline. A discount of X will be given to teams with both disciplines and X for teams with one, for every X sponsor your team brings in.
- C. Team entries for the hunt seat discipline shall include 4 riders for Equitation on the Flat and 4 riders for Equitation over Fences. Team entries for the western discipline shall include 4 riders for Horsemanship and 4 riders for Reining.
- D. The 2005 VEC will be recognized as a local rated competition by USEF.
- E. In the event that a situation or event arises that is not covered by this rulebook, the show management will refer back to USEF rules for the hunt seat discipline and AQHA rules for the western discipline.
- F. Coaches will draw for riders' horses and order of go for the fences and reining class on Thursday night at the draw party at Las Campanas.

II. Class routines

- A. Hunt seat Equitation on the Flat
 - i. All riders to receive a 2.5-4 minute warm-up session as a group. Depending upon the space available, group warm-ups may be split into two arenas. If needed, this will be designated during draw according to horse.
 - ii. During group warm-ups for flat classes, coaches will remain outside of arenas; coaches will be allowed to instruct riders, but refrain from yelling across arena. At the completion of warm-up, coaches shall retire to and remain in designated area. Once riders enter the competition arena, coaches must refrain from coaching, speaking with or communicating with their riders. Stewards will be responsible for giving warnings to coaches that are not following this rule. Following a warning, if a coach repeats this offense, a rider may be disqualified from a class by a steward.
 - iii. Any schooling of the horse outside of the warm up time by a competitor results in disqualification.
 - iv. Judges will refrain from watching all riders' warm-ups.

- v. Following the 2.5-minute group warm-up, all riders shall enter the ring according to judges' direction. The class shall be judged on the rail as a group, at a walk, trot and canter both directions of the ring. The judges may test riders on the rail. Following the rail section, the top six riders will be called to ride an individual test.
- vi. Two judges will confer on individual testing. Test will come from allowed maneuvers in hunter seat equitation section of the USEF 2005 rulebook. Tests will not be posted, but will be announced.
- vii. If the senior judge requests additional testing by switching horses, this may be done following the individual testing.
- viii. In the event that one horse has to be ridden multiple times in the initial round for this class, the horse on which additional testing is to be ridden will be determined by the judges.

B. Western Horsemanship

- i. All riders to receive a 2.5-4 minute warm-up session as a group. Depending upon the space available, group warm-ups may be split into two arenas. If needed, this will be designated during draw according to horse.
- ii. During group warm-ups for flat classes, coaches will remain outside of arenas; coaches will be allowed to instruct riders, but refrain from yelling across arena. At the completion of warm-up, coaches shall retire to and remain in designated area. Once riders enter the competition arena, coaches must refrain from speaking or communicating with their riders. Stewards will be responsible for giving warnings to coaches that are not following this rule. Following a warning, if a coach repeats this offense, a rider may be disqualified from a class by a steward.
- iii. Any schooling of the horse outside of the warm up time by a competitor results in disqualification.
- iv. Judges will refrain from watching all riders' warm-ups.
- v. Following the 2.5-4 minute group warm-up, all riders shall enter the ring according to judges' direction. The class shall be judged on the rail as a group, at a walk, jog and lope both directions. Calling for extension of gaits,

dropping of stirrups or other testing will be allowed during rail work. Following the rail section all riders shall ride the individual pattern.

- vi. Patterns to be ridden shall be supplied by the judges and approved by show management. It will be posted no less than one hour prior to start of the first section.
- vii. If the senior judge requests additional testing by switching horses, this may be done following the individual pattern work.
- viii. In the event that one horse has to be ridden multiple times in the initial round for this class, the horse on which additional testing is to be ridden will be determined by the judges.

C. Hunt seat Equitation Over Fences

- i. Riders will be given a 2.5-minute individual warm-up in designated area. Coaches can be present and helping riders during warm-up.
- ii. Practice fences will be set in warm-up arena and will include a cross-rails, oxer and vertical fence. A maximum of three jumps can be made at the rider's discretion within the allotted time period. 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.
- iii. Any schooling of the horse outside of the warm up time by a competitor results in disqualification.
- iv. Following warm-up, the rider will enter competition arena. If competition arena is not ready for entrance (previous rider still on course, resetting of course, etc.) rider will be allowed to walk on a slack rein until directed into arena.
- v. Numerical scores from each judge will be added together and the composite score will be announced after each course is completed.
- vi. The top 4 scoring riders will return to the competition arena with their horses. The senior judge (designated at random prior to competition) can instruct riders, if he/she wants, for the riders to switch horses, and/or ride a test designated by the judges. The test will be in accordance with [USEF 2005 Hunter Seat Equitation over Obstacles rules](#). Coaches may enter arena at this time to help riders remount and adjust stirrups.

- vii. Once riders enter the competition arena, coaches must refrain from coaching, speaking to or communicating with their riders. Stewards will be responsible for giving warnings to coaches that are not following this rule. Following a warning, if a coach repeats this offense, a rider may be disqualified from a class by a steward.
- viii. In the event that one horse has to be ridden multiple times in the initial round for this class, the horse on which additional testing is to be ridden will be determined by the judges.

D. Reining

- i. Riders will be given a 2.5-4-minute individual warm-up in designated area. Coaches can be present and helping riders during warm-up.
- ii. Although no limit on maneuvers will be specified, riders are encouraged to refrain from any maneuvers or drilling of skills that may excite the horse.
- iii. Any schooling of the horse outside of the warm up time by a competitor results in disqualification.
- iv. Following warm-up, the rider will enter competition arena. If competition arena is not ready for entrance (previous rider still on pattern, etc.) rider will be allowed to walk on a slack rein until directed into arena.
- v. Numerical scores from each judge will be added together and the composite score will be announced after each pattern is completed.
- vi. Once riders enter the competition arena, coaches must refrain from coaching, speaking to or communicating with their riders. Stewards will be responsible for giving warnings to coaches that are not following this rule. Following a warning, if a coach repeats this offense, a rider may be disqualified from a class by a steward.
- vii. In the event that one horse has to be ridden multiple times in the initial round for this class, the horse on which additional testing is to be ridden will be determined by the judges.

III. Judges

- A. Two carded/rated judges will be used for each discipline. Judges will not confer during the judging phases of the classes.

- B. Hunt seat judges shall be recognized USEF large R hunter seat judges.
- C. Western judges shall be approved AQHA judges.
- D. A senior judge for each class will be designated by random draw prior to the start of the competition. The senior judge will be responsible for breaking of any ties and for designating switch rides in the Equitation over Fences classes.
- E. Classes will be judged according to the class routine outlined above.

IV. Scoring and Draw

- A. Riders will be drawn into class sections by random prior to arrival by a non-biased outside company. Actual draw for horses will take place at the welcome party to be held Thursday night.
- B. Judges will not confer on any placings, but only on designating the Equitation over Fences and on the Flat tests prior to the start of the competition.
- C. Placings from each judge are combined by assigning scores using a scoring system of multiple judges to eliminate ties (Western 45-36-28-21-15-10-6-3-1, Hunt Seat 55-45-36-28-21-15-10-6-3-1). This system is used to determine the six tested riders in the flat and the final placings in that class and the Horsemanship and any Horsemanship riders asked to do additional testing.
- D. Numerical scores are given and announced in the Equitation over Fences and Reining classes. The total scores will determine the four riders re-tested in the Equitation over Fences. Ties are broken by the senior judge's placings.
- E. Team scores in each class will be recorded using the following scale for places first through sixth: 7,5,4,3,2,1. Teams will drop one low score from each discipline to determine the team placings. For the overall team award, the top 7 hunt seat scores and the top 7 western scores will be recorded.
- F. If a tie score for high point team within a discipline remains after all classes are placed/ridden within that discipline, the school that dropped the highest score will be declared the discipline champion. If a tie still remains, the tied schools will choose one rider to perform in a designated ride-off. For the hunt seat discipline, the ride-off will include both flat and fences work. For the western discipline, the ride-off will include both horsemanship and reining work.
- G. If a tie score for overall team remains after all classes of the show are completed, the school that dropped the highest total points (hunt seat and western combined) will be

declared the overall champion. If a tie still remains, the tied schools will choose one rider from each discipline to perform in a designated ride-off that will include flat work from both disciplines, as well as over fences work and reining tests.

V. Show Stewards

A. One Official USEF independent show stewards shall officiate over each discipline (Huntseat and Western). There will also be two independent stewards to assist with each discipline.

B. Show stewards will be responsible for overseeing: class routine, safety of horses and riders, designation of re-rides, watching for abuse during warm-ups, watching for coaching from outside of arenas, as well as being a liaison between the judges and show management.

C. Stewards will also be responsible for enforcement of the rules herein as well as have the power to confer with judges in respect to disqualification of riders or excusing horses from the competition (due to lameness or safety reasons).

D. Stewards will be allowed to repeat tests to riders given by the judges without any further interpretation. (for example: In the case of a hearing impaired rider, a steward may assist in the explanation of the prescribed test without any further interpretation.)

E. Assistant Stewards will report any concerns to the Official Steward who will be the final authority of the matter.

VI. Equipment

A. Equipment provided by show management for the horses shall be considered legal equipment. This may include but not limited to: martingales for over fences classes, boots, non-traditional bits, cavasons for western horses, etc.

B. All horsemanship horses shall be ridden one handed in a curb bridle.

C. It is possible that some reining horses shall be ridden two-handed in a curb or snaffle bridle.

D. Designated horse handlers will be allowed to adjust saddles and girths.

E. All Hunt seat riders shall wear ASTM-SEI approved helmets whenever mounted and the harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time

must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place.

F. Riding attire should remain within the guidelines of the USEF and AQHA. This allows for the representation of schools by using colors and/or embroidery.

G. A horse description list will be provided at the event that will include the allowance of spurs, bats, etc. English spurs will be classified as “none, Tom Thumb or Prince of Wales”. Western spurs will be classified as “none, ball or rowel”. Riders may bring their own spurs to be approved by show management. No “rock-grinders” will be approved for the western.