

2026 USHJA ZONE 9 EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIFICATIONS

The USHJA Zone 9 Equitation Championship is open to junior and Adult Amateur members residing in Zone 9 who have placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a state equitation medal or any national equitation class throughout the qualifying period. The course is a medal- type course consisting of a minimum of 10 fences with at least one combination and two changes of direction. The top 12 riders from the jumping phase (3'0", 3'3", and 3'6" combined) will return for a flat phase.

I. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

- A. The Zone 9 Equitation Championship is open to junior and Adult Amateur members of the USHJA who reside in Zone 9.
- B. An eligible rider must be a current Active USEF and USHJA member in good standing (seeEQ103). The burden of proof of eligibility to compete will rest with and be the sole responsibility of the rider, and not of the USHJA. USHJA staff is not available to determine each rider's eligibility.
- C. The 3'0" section is limited to riders who have not competed three (3) or more times in any class or division at 3'3" or higher.
- D. The 3'3" section is limited to riders who have not competed three (3) or more times in any class or division at 3'6" or higher.
- E. Junior riders may qualify by placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any of the Zone 9 state equitation medals or in any national equitation class in any state or zone. The Qualifying period to end 14 days prior to the horse show dates of where the Championship is being held. Below are the classes to count for qualifying:

State Equitation Medals

- Northwest Foundation Medal 14 & under
- WSHJA 3' Good Seat and Hands
- WSHJA 3'6" Good Seat and Hands
- Johnny Johnson Equitation Challenge
- OHJA 3' Children's or Adult Medal
- OHJA 3'3" Junior/Senior Medal
- OHJA 3'6" Junior/Senior Medal

National Equitation Classes

- THIS Medal
- ASPCA Maclay
- Ariat Medal
- WIHS Medal (Hunter and Jumper phases)
- USEF Hunt Seat Medal
- USHJA Hunter Seat Medal
- USHJA Jumping Seat Medal
- NHS Hamel
- NCEA Medal

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. The class will be divided into three (3) height sections: 3', 3'3", and 3'6". However, the three (3) height sections will be judged as one (1) class.
- B. The first round course shall consist of at least ten (10) fences with at least one (1) combination and two (2) changes of direction.
- C. The first round will start with the 3' section, followed by the 3'3" section and ending with the 3'6" section.

- D. Regardless of rider call-back order, if a ride off is conducted the 3'6" riders will jump first, followed by the 3'3" riders, and ending with the 3' riders.

III. **SCORING**

- A. The top 12 competitors will return for a flat phase.
- B. A minimum of the top four (4) riders may return after the flat phase for further testing.
- C. See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions.
- D. In all sport or education related matters, where there are either discrepancies or deficiencies in the specifications, procedures or any unforeseen circumstances related to a USHJA property, the President and Executive Director will consult with the Task Force/Committee Chair (if applicable), the Officers of the USHJA and USHJA legal counsel (if applicable) before making any final decisions.

IV. **AWARDS**

- A. An engraved picture frame will be presented to the Champion and Reserve Champion.
- B. Bridle ribbons and rider sashes will be presented to the Champion, Reserve Champion, and third place finishers.
- C. Bridle ribbons will be presented to riders placing 4th through 8th.
- D. Saddle pads will be given to the top 12 riders.

The USHJA Zone 9 Equitation Championship and the related format and specifications are the sole properties of the USHJA and may only be held, conducted or used upon the terms and conditions specified by the USHJA. USHJA reserves the right to change language in documents related to the conduct of the Zone 9 Equitation Championship as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any deviations from the class specifications for the Zone 9 Equitation Championship are not permitted without the express written permission from USHJA prior to the printing of the prize list.

For any rules not specified above, please refer to the current USEF Rule Book.

