



**2026 L.M. “Sandy” Gerald**  
**USHJA Zone 3 Equitation Championship Specifications**

The L.M. “Sandy” Gerald USHJA Zone 3 Equitation Championship wishes to honor the late Sandy Gerald, who passed away unexpectedly in the spring of 2016. Sandy was an exceptional horseman, coach, course designer and judge, whose legacy lives on in Zone 3. This class is open to junior members residing in Zone 3 who have won a state, USEF, Maclay, or WIHS Medal 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’ 3’3”, and 3’6” combined) will return for a flat phase.

**I. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE**

- A. The Zone 3 Equitation Championship is open to junior members of the USHJA who reside in Zone 3.
- B. Junior riders may qualify by winning any of the Zone 3 state equitation medals including VHSA Junior and Children’s Medal, NCHJA Children’s Medal, EJ Haun Memorial Medal, MHSA Hunt Seat Medal Horse, Gittings Horsemanship Medal, etc. or by winning any national equitation class in any state or zone between July 28, 2025 and July 15, 2026.
- C. 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.

**II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. The course shall consist of at least ten (10) fences with at least one (1) combination and two (2) changes of direction. The top 12 competitors will return for a flat phase. A minimum of the top four (4) riders will return after the flat phase for further testing.
- B. The class will be divided into three (3) height sections: 3', 3'3" and 3'6". However, the ~~two (2)~~ three (3) height sections will be judged as one (1) class. The 3' and the 3'3" sections are limited to riders who have not yet competed three (3) or more times in any class or division at 3'6" or higher.

**III. SCORING**

- A. The class must be scored numerically.
- B. See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions.
- C. 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. The Uptown Award shall be awarded by the judges to the horse most suited to the class.

*The USHJA Zone 3 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 3 Equitation Championship as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any deviations from the class specifications for the Zone 3 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.*

