



2026 USHJA ZONE 7 EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIP

CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

I. QUALIFYING

- A. The USHJA Zone 7 Equitation Championship is open to any rider that is an Active/Competing USHJA and USEF junior member, at the time of the competition, and has placed first or second place in a USEF Hunter Seat Medal class since the last day to qualify for the Zone Championship the previous year. The competition management is responsible for verifying eligibility.
- B. Once a rider has won the USHJA Zone 7 Equitation Championship, he will not be allowed to compete again and will be invited to present awards for the following year.

II. COMPETITION FORMAT

- A. Round 1- Equitation Round
- B. Round 2 – Based on the scores from Round 1, the top 15 riders will be called back in reverse order for another equitation style round. The course will consist of a minimum of 8 jumps.
- C. (Test)– Based on the combined scores from Rounds 1 and 2, the final work off will consist of a minimum of the top 4 riders. Tests 1-19. The riders will jump a third course designated by the judges using components of the Round 1 and/or Round 2 courses up to a maximum of 8 jumps. The Round 3 course will be announced with final competitors in the ring. Riders will work off from lowest to highest combined scores. No trainer assistance will be allowed once the top finalists have been announced. The Round 3 scores will not be announced until the awards ceremony.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS-ROUND 1 & ROUND 2

- A. To be shown over a course of not fewer than eight obstacles at 3'6" with spreads to 4'0" (Exception: triple bar type obstacles, maximum spread of 5'0").
- B. The course must include one combination including an oxer and two changes of direction (change of lead) after the first obstacle.

IV. SCHOOLING

- A. Commencing at midnight the day before the start of the competition and continuing until finished competing, only the competition rider may ride his entry. These riders must wear their competition number at all times anywhere on the grounds whenever mounted. Riders changing horses for the Zone 7 Equitation Championship may do so only in the case of illness or injury to the declared horse and must obtain approval from the show committee.

V. JUDGES

- A. *See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions.*
- B. The judging panel will consist of two (2) "R" Licensed judges.
- C. The panel will sit together for the duration of the class.
- D. The judges are encouraged to design the course. If the judges are unable to design the course, a licensed course designer must be used.

VI. JUDGING SYSTEM

- A. The scores will be combined from all rounds to determine the winner.

VII. AWARDS

- A. The previous year's winner, if available, will assist in the presentation of the Top 10 ribbons.
- B. Ribbons will be awarded 1st-10th place with the presentation of awards to be given in reverse order.
- C. The Overall Champion and 2nd place winner will be presented a scholarship to the college/trade school of their choice. The scholarship must be remitted directly to the college/trade school within two (2) years of becoming eligible for college.

The USHJA Zone 7 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 USHJA Zone 7 Equitation Championship as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA Zone 7 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.

