



## **2026 USHJA 3'3" JUMPING SEAT MEDAL FINALS SPECIFICATIONS**

### **I. Qualifications to Compete**

- A. Riders must be a current active USEF and USHJA Junior member in good standing at the time of the competition.
- B. A rider is qualified to compete in the USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals when they have accumulated a minimum of fifteen (15) points in any USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal classes held from August 2 of the previous competition year through August 1 of the current competition year. The USHJA at its discretion can open up qualifying procedures to allow for additional entries to fill this championship, should insufficient entries be received by the deadline. Additional riders will be invited based on their points earned.
- C. Any Junior rider that has jumped 1.30m or above or competed in a 3\* USEF Show Jumping Talent Search class and/or Final is no longer eligible to compete in a USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal class or Finals.
- D. Riders are prohibited from competing in a USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals and a USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals in the same competition year.
- E. Riders must remain eligible through the completion of the finals.
- F. Past winners of the USHJA 3'3" Junior Jumping Seat Medal Final are no longer eligible to compete in the class or finals.

### **II. Competition Format**

The 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals will be composed of three (3) phases: Phase I (Flat Phase), Phase II (Gymnastics Phase) and Phase III (Jumping Phase).

- A. Phase I (Flat Phase): Flatwork with no more than twelve (12) riders at one time with all groups performing the same test. To be judged on rider's position, seat and the correctness and effectiveness of the aids. Excellence and effectiveness on the flat will be rewarded. The performance begins when the class is called to order. Riders will show in both directions as a group at the working walk, the working trot sitting, and the working trot rising, as well as showing a lengthening of stride; the working canter, and the working canter showing a lengthening of stride. All riders shall be required to show at the working canter on the counter lead in both directions. Judges may require any additional tests on the flat (see EQ113). In addition, basic dressage movements may be tested including but not limited to Shoulder-in, Shoulder-out, Haunches-in, and Haunches-out. The starting order of Phase I shall be assigned by a random draw. All ties will be randomly drawn within that placing to determine the Phase II order.
- B. Phase II (Gymnastics Phase):
  - 1. Fences shall be set between .85-.95m.
  - 2. Phase II exercises may include trot fences, not to exceed .85m. Placing rails, trotting rails and cavalettis are prohibited.
  - 3. Rails knocked down will be treated more leniently than in the Phase III (Jumping Phase). Phase II will have a multiplier of 1.5.
  - 4. The start order of Phase II will go in order of scores received in Phase I from lowest to highest.
- C. Phase III (Jumping Phase): Must be held in a jumper ring utilizing jumper style fences.
  - 1. To be shown over a course of ten (10) to twelve (12) numbered obstacles set at a height of 1.0m with spreads up to 1.10m (triple bar up to 1.15m).

2. To include: one (1) double combination and one (1) triple combination, or three (3) double combinations.
  3. The course must also include a dry, above-ground Liverpool.
  4. Time allowed will be calculated at 350 meters per minute.
  5. The course will be posted and open thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the competition.
  6. Two cumulative refusals will incur elimination.
  7. Rails down will result in a deduction of four (4) points from the riders' score, time faults in a deduction of one (1) point for each second commenced over the time allowed.
  8. **If as a result of a disobedience a competitor displaces or knocks down any obstacle or a flag marking the limits of the water jump, of a natural obstacle or in all cases where the nature of the obstacle is changed by knocking down the flag, the tone is sounded and the time is stopped until the obstacle has been rebuilt. When the obstacle has been rebuilt, the tone is sounded to indicate that the course is ready and that the competitor can continue the round. The competitor is penalized for a refusal and a time correction of 6 seconds is added to the time taken by the competitor to complete their round. The time is restarted at the moment when the horse leaves the ground at the obstacle where the refusal occurred.**
  9. Phase III will have a multiplier of two (2). The start order of Phase III will be the reverse order of standings after Phases I and II. Ties will be broken by the score from Phase II. **Riders that receive a zero in the gymnastics phase are ineligible to return for Phase III.**
- D. A work off is required for all riders within three (3) points of the leader following the completion of Phase III. The work off will consist of a shortened course with a time allowed calculated at 375m/minute. Scores will not be announced for this phase. Ties will be broken by the score from Phase III (Jumping Phase).

### III. **Competition Schedule**

- A. Schedule
  1. Jog (prior to start of Phase I)
  2. Phase I (Flat)
  3. Phase II (Gymnastics)
  4. Phase III (Jumping)
  5. Work off (if needed)
- B. If needed, Competition Management is permitted to schedule the 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals over two (2) days.
- C. Jog Format:
  1. All horses entered in the USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final must jog for soundness during the Official Jog prior to the start of the first round in order to compete. The Official Jog must be held within 24 hours of the start of the first round. This jog will be run in a manner similar to an FEI jog.
  2. A horse must be officially entered in the class before it will be allowed to jog. **All horse entries, including substitutes, must be entered in the class before the show office closes, the day prior to the Official Jog.**
  3. Proper attire is required. In addition, Juniors are required to wear protective headgear.
  4. All horses must be presented at the Official Jog with their competition number and wearing a bridle, including noseband.
  5. The judging panel for the Official Jog shall consist of the competition veterinarian and a minimum of one competition judge.
  6. The jog surface must be level. Similar to an FEI Veterinary Inspection, horses shall be evaluated going directly away and back from the veterinarian and judge, after which, upon the recommendation of the veterinarian, the participating judge will decide if the horse passes.
  7. If a horse does not pass the jog; the exhibitor may request to re-present the horse. The judge(s) may decide to allow the horse to re-present at any time up to one hour prior to the start of the

class. The veterinarian and one of the judges from the original panel must be present. In this case, the decision of the participating judge is final and not subject to appeal.

#### IV. **Tack**

- A. Refer to rule EQ106.5b.
- B. In Phase I, martingales are prohibited.
- C. In Phases II and III, only running martingales used in the conventional manner are permitted.

#### V. **Schooling**

- A. Horses must be present on the competition grounds for a minimum of twelve (12) hours before the start of the ***finals***.
- B. Trainers/Coaches are permitted to ride and school competitors horses.
- C. Trainers/Coaches are permitted to walk Phases II and III with the competitors.

#### VI. **Judges and Judging Procedures**

- A. See GR1304 for Judging restrictions.
- B. The USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals will be judged by a panel of two (2) "R" or Registered Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Division judges. One of the "R" registered judges must be approved by the USHJA Equitation Task Force prior to the final.
- C. Both judges will sit together for the duration of the class and provide one (1) numerical score for each competitor in each phase. A qualified scribe must be provided by the competition.
- D. Open numeric scoring will be used in Phases I-III, and not in the work off phase.
- E. Riders must compete on the same horse in all phases; no substitution of horse is allowed.

#### VII. **Awards**

- A. Ribbons will be awarded to 1st -12th place for each phase and for overall placings. The presentation of awards is to be given in reverse order.
- B. The Overall Champion will be presented with a rider sash, horse cooler, and a sponsor award if available.
- C. Recognition shall be given for the Best Horse. This shall be awarded to the horse deemed by the judges to be the best and most suitable 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals horse.

#### VIII. **USHJA Contact Information**

If questions arise pertaining to the USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Finals that cannot be answered by the Show Steward, Technical Delegate, or Competition Management based on the class specifications provided, please contact one of the following USHJA representatives:

USHJA Equitation- (859) 225-6700 Press 4 for Competitive Programs

Sissy Wickes, Chair of the USHJA Joint Equitation Task Force - (610) 308-9940

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*Any deviations from the class specifications are not permitted without the express written permission from USHJA prior to the printing of the prize list.*

*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.*

