

2026 Zone 5 Horsemanship Class Specifications

The Zone 5 Horsemanship Class was created in 2005 to recognize junior members who place great importance on becoming well-rounded horsemen. The class tests participants mounted knowledge and skill, as well as their understanding of quality horse care. This three phase equitation class includes a 50 question written exam, as well as a flat phase and an over fences phase.

I. ELIGIBILITY

- A. An eligible rider must be a current Active USEF and USHJA member in good standing (see EQ103). 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.
- B. The Zone 5 Horsemanship Class is open to Junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year (GR128) and reside in Zone 5.
- C. Once a rider has won the Zone 5 Horsemanship Class he/she will not be allowed to compete again and will be invited to present awards the following year.
- D. Riders competing in the Zone 5 Horsemanship Class may not enter the Maclay Warm- Up.

II. COMPETITION FORMAT

- A. The Horsemanship Class is a three phase competition consisting of a written exam, a flat phase, and an over fences phase. Riders must remain on the same mount throughout all phases of the class unless the judge requests a change.
 1. Written Exam: The exam consists of 50 questions based on the USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Study Guide, as well as questions pertaining to tack and format of classes from the Equitation and Jumper chapters of the current USEF Rule Book.
 2. Flat Phase: All riders will compete in the flat phase.
 3. Over Fences Phase: All riders will compete in the over fences phase.
 4. Round 2 (Work Off Round): If deemed necessary by the judges, the top 4 riders after combining the written exam, flat phase, and over fences scores will be invited to compete in Round 2 using EQ 112, tests 1-18.
- B. Class Order:
 1. Written Exam
 2. Over Fences Phase- The order-of-go will be determined by the scores of the written exam with the lowest score going first.
 3. Flat Phase- Riders will be divided into groups of 10 based on a random draw.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. The course must include at least 12 hunter/jumper style fences set at 3'6" in height with a minimum of two (2) jumps with no ground lines and two (2) combinations.
- B. The course must also include an "S" turn and a narrow fence with or without standards.
- C. Course to be designed similar to an ASPCA Maclay class.

IV. JUDGING SYSTEM AND SCORING

- A. The judging panel will consist of one "R" judge and one "r" hunter judge. A scribe must be assigned to the judging panel to assist with the numerical scoring.
- B. Riders will receive numerical scores for each of the three phases. The scores will be combined from all three

phases to determine the overall top 10.

- C. The scores used to determine a competitor's final score will be calculated as follows:
 - 1. The written exam shall count for 25% of the overall score.
 - 2. The flat phase shall count for 25% of the overall score.
 - 3. The over fences phase shall count for 50% of the overall score.
- D. See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions.
- E. 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.

V. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

- A. In the event of a tie following the flat phase, the numerical score provided for each rider in the over fences phase will be used as the tie breaking score.
- B. In the case of a tie between the overall top 4 riders at the conclusion of the class, riders will be asked to compete in Round 2 to break the ties.
- C. In the case of a tie between the riders placing 5th-10th, the over fences phase score will be used to break the tie.

VI. AWARDS

- A. The previous year's winner, if available, will assist in the presentation of the overall Top 10 ribbons.
- B. The Overall Champion will be presented the Zone 5 Horsemanship Perpetual Trophy which will be kept on display at the USHJA Headquarters. The rider will receive a Keeper Trophy.
- C. Recognition will be given to the Trainer of the Overall Champion.
- D. Ribbons will be awarded 1st-10th place with the presentation of awards to be given in reverse order for all three phases and the overall awards.

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

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The USHJA Zone 5 Horsemanship Class 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 5 Horsemanship Class as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any deviations from the class specifications for the Zone 5 Horsemanship Class 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.

