

### **USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Specifications**

1. **Minimum Eligibility Requirements:** Participants must be a current USHJA member in good standing above the Outreach level, and must not have reached their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. The zone of each participant is determined by the participant's home address as recorded with USHJA as of the current competition year.
  
2. **Nationals Qualifying Procedures:** Participants must register for the USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge and complete Level One and Level Two quizzes no later than September 1. Participants must complete Level One and Level Two quizzes online using their designated Horsemanship Quiz Challenge username and password obtained during registration.
  - A. Online quizzes will be available in early February each year.
  - B. Individual quizzes may vary; each quiz is generated from a pool of questions of comparable difficulty.
  - C. Each participant has one (1) opportunity to score 80% or above on the Level One Quiz in order to advance to the Level Two Quiz. There is no time limit for completing the quiz.
  - D. Login information for the Level Two Quiz is not valid unless the Level One Quiz is passed with a score of 80% or above. Each participant has one (1) opportunity to score 90% or above on the Level Two Quiz. There is no time limit for completing the quiz.
  - E. Participants must pass the Level Two Quiz with a score of 90% or above to be eligible for selection to compete in the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Nationals.
  - F. USHJA will invite each qualified participant to the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Nationals via email beginning in September.
  
3. **Nationals Competition Specifications:**
  - A. Twenty-four (24) individuals will be invited to participate in the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Nationals. The list of invited finalists will be comprised of the top individual scorer on the Level Two Quiz from each of the 12 USHJA Zones, and the next 12 highest-ranked Level Two finishers nationally. If any invited finalist cannot attend, or a Zone does not have a finisher with a score of 90% or higher on the Level Two Quiz, that spot will be open to the next nationally ranked finisher. If there is a Level Two Quiz tie, the following tie-breaking procedure will be followed until the tie is broken.
    - The tied participants' Level One Quiz score will be used to break the tie.
    - If a tie still exists, the tied participants' answers on the Level Two Quiz will be used to break the tie. The participant who answers the first question correctly will advance to HQC Nationals. Should more than one tied participant answer the first question correctly, the participant who answers the second question correctly will advance to HQC Nationals, and so on, until one finalist has been determined. The question order is:
      - Question 1
      - Question 2
      - Question 3
      - Question 26
      - Question 27
      - Question 28
      - Question 51
      - Question 52
      - Question 53
      - Question 76

- Question 77
  - Question 78
- If a tie still exists, the participants' answers will continue to be compared following the above pattern (i.e. Question 4, Question 5; Question 6; Question 29, Question 30, Question 31, etc.) until one of the tests shows an incorrect answer.
  - If a tie still exists, the above tie-breaking question order will be used on the tied participants' Level One Quizzes until the tie has been broken.
- B. The National competition consists of four phases:
- Written Exam – 30% of the total score
  - Horsemanship/Identification Exam – 30% of the total score
  - Interview – score used as a tiebreaker as outlined in sections E, F and G below
  - Practicum Exam – 40% of the total score
- All finalists will take the Written Exam, Horsemanship/Identification Exam and one of the Practicum Exams (either A or B).
- C. The scores from the Written Exam and the Horsemanship/Identification Exam will be combined and the 12 Individuals with the highest combined scores will compete in Practicum A on the second day of the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Nationals.
- D. Finalists ranked 13<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> based on their combined scores following the Written Exam and Horsemanship/Identification Exam will compete in Practicum B on the second day of the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Nationals but will not be eligible for prizes.
- E. In the event of a tie in overall scores after the Written Exam and the Horsemanship/Identification Exam, the Written Exam score will take precedence. If the Written Test scores are tied, the Interview score will be used to break the tie.
- F. Final Score Tabulation: The Written Exam is 30% of the total score, the Horsemanship/Identification Exam is 30% of the total score, and the Practicum Exam is 40% of the total score. If ties remain in the final score, the Written Test Score will be used to break the tie. If the Written Test Scores are tied, the Interview score will be used to break the tie.
- G. If ties remain in individual phases for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> place awards, the Interview score will be used to break the tie.
- H. Once an individual has won the Overall Champion award at the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Nationals, they are no longer eligible to be invited to participate in future Horsemanship Quiz Challenge Nationals competitions.

*The USHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge 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 Horsemanship Quiz Challenge as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity.*



