

THE
THOROUGHBRED MAKEOVER

2026 RULEBOOK





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THE THOROUGHBRED MAKEOVER

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The Thoroughbred Makeover is an initiative of

Retired Racehorse Project

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

www.theRRP.org

secretary@theRRP.org

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Edgewater, MD 21037

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OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION, MISSION, AND GOALS

The Thoroughbred Makeover is a training competition designed to showcase the versatility and athleticism of the Thoroughbred horse. The most lucrative of any training competition of its kind, the event offers at least **\$135,000** in prize money, distributed to top finishers in 10 disciplines [across two divisions](#). Riders (referred to as “trainers” regardless of professional status) first apply to participate based on their demonstrated riding ability. Once accepted, trainers then register a recently retired racehorse or former broodmare and prepare it over the course of the year, culminating in a competition in the heart of the Thoroughbred racing industry in Lexington, Kentucky. Formats for competition are designed to test the quality and progress of each horse’s training.

The Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium takes place at the iconic Kentucky Horse Park on October **7-10, 2026**. It includes educational opportunities, a vendor fair, a horse sale (the Makeover Marketplace), and the Thoroughbred Makeover competition itself.

The Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium is organized by the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to facilitating placement of Thoroughbred ex-racehorses in second careers.

The RRP created the Thoroughbred Makeover to showcase the trainability and talent of off-track Thoroughbreds, and to inspire trainers to secure the futures of these animals through correct and thorough re-training. In addition to benefiting the horses, the Thoroughbred Makeover is intended to help trainers establish themselves professionally or as amateurs in their respective disciplines. Without good trainers, Thoroughbred racehorses cannot become great riding horses.

The Thoroughbred Makeover also serves as a national gathering of the organizations, trainers, and farms dedicated to serving these horses when they retire from racing, referred to collectively as the “Thoroughbred Aftercare” industry. The Thoroughbred Makeover offers networking and development opportunities to serve this community by way of educational seminars and demonstrations.

This rulebook covers event formats, rules, and policies in depth. It is the obligation of participants to educate themselves with the resources made available to them. Those with interest in participating are encouraged to start by reviewing the [Want to Apply?](#) section of the website.

COMMUNICATIONS

The RRP issues official communications through a combination of email and bulletins posted to the [Makeover Trainer Portal](#), found under the My Account section of the website. These emails are sent via the same distribution service as organizational eblasts, so unsubscribing from emails from the RRP will cause participants to miss key communications from the RRP. Participants are responsible for proactively monitoring their inboxes for communications and notifying staff if they are not receiving emails.

While the organization does have an active social media presence, including several Facebook groups, official announcements will always be issued by email. Anyone sending messages to the organization’s social media inboxes will be directed to contact the RRP office directly. Private messages to staff are not an acceptable way to do business with the organization.

The organization is comprised of a small staff that services hundreds of entries annually in addition to engaging in other activities. As such, the RRP has invested considerable time in developing multiple resources to help participants adequately prepare themselves for the event and increase awareness around its various deadlines and protocols. This includes video tutorials, webinars (which are always recorded), a [Want to Apply?](#) section of the website, bulletins, resources in the [Trainer Portal](#), and more.

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The RRP office can be contacted at any time via secretary@therrp.org. The RRP is headquartered in Maryland and operates on a 9 AM-5 PM Monday-Friday schedule. While we do our best to respond to inquiries as quickly as possible, there are times of the year where we experience exceptionally high volumes of communication. Please allow one to two business days for a response.

During the event, staff will utilize WhatsApp (or similar service) to communicate with competitors. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure they have access to the communications.

PAPERWORK DEADLINES

The Thoroughbred Makeover is a unique competition that requires participants to submit paperwork at different times throughout the year in order for the RRP to promote its charitable mission and manage the logistics of such a large, multi-faceted event. This section lays out those forms, deadlines, what fees to expect, and when fees are due. Forms will always open at 10am EST on a business day and paperwork deadlines will always be at 5 PM EST on a business day unless noted otherwise. All forms and payments are processed via the [Trainer Portal](#). Please review this schedule of key deadlines and the following *More Information on Fees* section carefully, as they are likely to adjust slightly from year to year.

Key Deadlines		
<i>Additional details about fees are in the following section.</i>		
Form/Action	Applicable Dates	Purpose
Trainer Application	Application preview and drafting opens December 15, 2025; submissions accepted January 5-23, 2026. Acceptances announced February 17, 2026	Approves individuals to participate in the Thoroughbred Makeover. All candidates must complete a new application regardless of prior acceptance. Each rider participating in the Makeover will complete one \$200 application regardless of their type of entry (individual, team captain, or team member). The application fee is \$200 per person, regardless of the number of entries they are associated with. These are the fees associated with trainer participants. Trainers and team captains will declare on their application the number of horses they intend to register. Horse registrations are billed at the point of trainer application submission at a rate of \$150 per horse in addition to the trainer application fee. Application and horse registration fees are due upon submission, and invoices are not sent. Entries with unpaid fees or missing documentation as of January 23 will be waitlisted and assessed a late fee.
Horse Registration Form	January 5-July 28, 2026	Enters an eligible horse into the Thoroughbred Makeover with an approved trainer or team captain. Horse registrations may be submitted along with the trainer application or at any time through close of business on July 28. Trainers may manage or change their entries throughout the year online in the Trainer Portal. Trainers with no horse registered as of horse registration close are automatically withdrawn.

Key Deadlines <i>Additional details about fees are in the following section.</i>		
Form/Action	Applicable Dates	Purpose
Earliest Date for EHV-1 Compliance	April 5, 2026	EHV-1 vaccines administered <i>before</i> this date will <i>not</i> be in compliance with Makeover vaccination policies (no more than six months prior to move-in).
Application Waitlist, Trainer Change Close	January 23, 2026- June 26, 2026	Applicants who miss the winter application period may submit an application until June 26 at a rate of \$300. Team members applying to join an already-accepted team are subject to the \$300 late application rate but will not be waitlisted. This is also the last date for trainer replacements, team member changes, entry type changes (from individual to team or vice versa), and video submissions for limited non-jumping restriction reconsiderations.
Final Entry Form	August 4-28, 2026	Finalizes the entry for the Thoroughbred Makeover including discipline choices, jump heights, horse sale status, microchip reporting, and stabling needs. Final Entry fees vary based on selections made (full details below) and are due upon submission. Invoices are not sent. Entries with unpaid fees as of August 28 are considered a scratch. Late Final Entry submissions cannot be accommodated.
Final Entry Edits	Close September 4, 2026	Marketplace entry, stabling needs, and jump heights may be updated from Final Entry close until September 4 . Any changes requested after this date are subject to a change fee. Discipline selections may not be changed after Final Entry close on August 28 .
Latest Date for EHV-1 Compliance	September 21, 2026	EHV-1 vaccines administered <i>after</i> this date will <i>not</i> be in compliance with Makeover vaccination policies (no less than 14 days prior to move-in).
Clinic Registration	October 9, 2026	Clinic Registrations for 2026 Makeover horses will be in-person beginning at 7 AM on Friday, October 9. Interested participants will pay the steward at the in-gate of the relevant clinic venue.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FEES

The Thoroughbred Makeover fee schedule is structured in two stages to align with the processes and deadlines associated with the event:

- Registration fees, which are due at the beginning of the year and are non-refundable, are designed to cover the significant administrative cost of reviewing and processing trainer applications and horse registrations, providing additional support and resources to participants throughout the year, and to support the mission of the Retired Racehorse Project.
- Final Entry fees, billed in late summer, are those associated with the competition in October and are refundable according to the *Final Entry Fee Refunds* section below.

Please review this section carefully as it is subject to change from year to year. For additional resources, a chart with the breakdown of the Thoroughbred Makeover fees can be found on the [Want to Apply](#) page of our website.

Registration Fees: Trainer Application & Horse Registration

The trainer application fee for the Thoroughbred Makeover is \$200 per trainer, meaning each individual trainer, team captain, or team member will complete ONE application at a rate of \$200, regardless of the number/combination of teams/horses they are associated with. **If the application is accepted, the fee is non-refundable.** If an application is not accepted, the associated fee(s) will be returned minus a \$50 processing fee. Trainer applications received after **5 PM EST on January 23, 2026**, are processed at a rate of \$300.

Individual trainers and team captains may register up to three horses at a rate of \$150 each. No participant is allowed to be associated with more than three horses, whether as the individual trainer, team captain, team member, or catch rider. Individuals and team captains will declare the number of horses they intend to register on their trainer application and will be billed those fees along with their application fees. Team members are not responsible for declaring or registering horses. **If the trainer application is accepted, horse registration fees are non-refundable.**

Final Entry Fees

The following Final Entry fees are charged based on the selections made on the Final Entry form in August:

- First Discipline (includes schooling and drug testing fees): \$150/horse
- Second Discipline: \$100/horse
- Stalls (for horses or tack, flat rate for the week): \$255/stall
- Ship-ins (no stall): \$60/Final Entry form
- Non-compete horse fee: \$50/horse
- Makeover Marketplace Listings (per horse)
 - Standard: \$50
 - Featured: \$60
- Trainers will be notified of clinic registration fees by August

The RRP has the right to limit discipline entries based on schedule capacity, in which case rides will be scheduled in order of Final Entry receipt until the [discipline](#) is full. See *Waitlist* section for more information.

A horse may not be entered in more than two disciplines.

Stall fees do not include bedding or any stabling supplies/equipment. Stalls do not need to be stripped upon departure. **Stalls will not be available for move-in or setup before 12:00 PM, Monday [October 5, 2026](#).**

Late Fees and Change Fees

Late paperwork submissions or change requests (such as late additions to the Marketplace, stabling assignments, or ride times) are only accepted under extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the RRP staff. The RRP reserves the right to assess a fee of up to \$100 when processing late submissions or change requests.

No Show Fee

In situations where a ride time is scheduled and the horse will either not

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be presented in that [discipline](#) or is scratching the competition entirely, trainers must notify show management in a timely fashion via the scratch form in the [Trainer Portal](#), or direct communication at the ingate. Form submissions will receive an email confirmation to the email on file for the trainer or team captain. **Emailing or calling the Show Secretary are not accepted form of scratch notification.**

Trainers who fail to present their horse for their scheduled rides without sufficient notification will be assessed a \$100 No Show fee which must be paid prior to applying for any future Thoroughbred Makeover.

Parking

As of 2024, vehicle parking at the Kentucky Horse Park is free. This is subject to change. There is no added fee for dropped trailer parking.

Stabling Supplies, Golf Cart, and Round Pen Rental

Dever is the Kentucky Horse Park-contracted vendor for golf cart and round pen rental as well as feed and stabling supplies. Trainers are responsible for making their reservations directly with Dever, not with KHP or the RRP. Call 859-233-9702 for reservations.

The Kentucky Horse Park permits exhibitor-owned mini-dirt bikes, 4-wheelers, golf carts, bikes (including electric bikes), Segways, and scooters, etc. Speed limits must be observed, and operators of motorized vehicles must be at least 16 years of age.

Trainers may bring their own choice of bedding and do not need to strip stalls upon departure. There is a Tractor Supply Company located 10 minutes from the Park in Georgetown.

Additional Expenses to Consider

The costs of acquiring a horse, training and care for up to ten months, hauling to Kentucky, and participating in a major national competition are considerable. There is no guarantee that the investment will be repaid from the potential sale of the horse, sponsorship revenue, or prize money. Trainers who are not prepared to assume full financial responsibility regardless of outcome should not apply.

Final Entry Fee Refunds

Refunds are not automatically processed or issued. Refund requests must be made in writing to secretary@therrp.org. In order for the refund request to be considered, it must be received by 5 PM EST on the corresponding deadline, and the trainer must have already withdrawn the entry and horse registration through the [Trainer Portal](#). Requests for a refund of Final Entry fees may be made on the following schedule:

- Marketplace fees may be refunded if the horse is withdrawn from the Marketplace prior to **August 28, 2026**. Marketplace fees are non-refundable after **August 28, 2026**.
- 100% of stabling and discipline fees if prior to **September 4, 2026**
- 100% of stabling and discipline fees minus a \$75 processing fee per horse if after **September 4, 2026**, and prior to when stall assignments and ride times are published (approximately 10 [business](#) days prior to the start of competition)
- **No refunds on stabling and discipline fees will be considered after ride times and stall assignments are published.**

This refund schedule does not apply to registration fees, which are non-refundable.

TRAINER ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

Trainer Eligibility

Any individual in good standing with the RRP aged 12 or older (see *Definition of Trainer* for further information) may submit an application to be accepted as a Thoroughbred Makeover trainer. A free website user account will be required to access the application and [Trainer Portal](#), throughout the year.



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Definition of Trainer and Trainer Status

For the purposes of the Thoroughbred Makeover, the “trainer” is the person (or persons in the case of team entries) primarily responsible for training the horse in preparation for the competition. Trainers may have professional, junior, or amateur status. In the case of team entries, teams may be a mix of trainers of any status. Juniors are between the ages of 12 and 18 as of **December 31, 2026**. Trainers younger than the age of 12 as of **December 31, 2026**, are not eligible to compete.

Amateur and professional statuses are as defined by the trainer’s answer to the following application question:

In the past 12 months, have you been compensated in any way for riding, training or giving lessons?

**This would include ANY type of riding or lessons, including exercise riding at the track and ANY type of compensation, including reduced board or product.*

Those over the age of 18 as of **December 31, 2026**, who answer YES to this question will be given a trainer status of professional.

Those over the age of 18 as of **December 31, 2026**, who answer NO to this question will be given a trainer status of amateur. If a trainer answers NO to this question at the time of application and later begins to accept compensation for riding, training, or giving lessons, they must inform the Show Secretary right away. and their status will be updated to professional. If a trainer answers NO to this question, but the selection committee or RRP staff is provided with evidence to the contrary, the trainer’s status will be updated to professional.

Fundraising activity for the purpose of covering the expense of participating in the Thoroughbred Makeover does not impact amateur status with the RRP. It is possible, however, that those sponsorships could impact amateur status with other governing bodies of equestrian sports.

Note that all trainers compete against each other in the same disciplines, but that special \$500 awards are given to the Retiring Racehorse Division’s 1st place team, 1st place amateur, and 1st place junior in each of the ten disciplines based on the results of preliminary competition.

Individual versus Team Entry

The team option is designed for groups of at least two riders, such as show stables or collegiate teams, to share in the process of preparing the horse for the Thoroughbred Makeover. Teams will compete in the same divisions and will be eligible for the same prize money and awards as individual entries (one trainer with no teammates). Teams and individual entry trainers may enter up to three horses. Trainers may participate in a combination of entry types, but no participant may be affiliated with more than three horses at any time, whether as an individual trainer, team member, team captain, or catch rider. Horses may not be cross-entered as both team and individual entry horses. Horses may not compete under more than one individual entry. However, trainers may elect to swap an entry status (from individual to team or vice versa) and/or add or remove team members up until **June 26, 2026**. All horses may compete in one or two disciplines regardless of team or individual entry status. A minimum of two team members must be present and compete the horse in each discipline the horse is entered in at the Makeover. Teams must be able to demonstrate a common tie (board at the same farm, members of a collegiate equestrian team, or at minimum, residence in close proximity to one another geographically) that allows them to collaborate in the training process throughout the year leading up to the Makeover.

All team participants will complete an application, whether as a captain or team member. The team captain is considered the owner of the entry and is responsible for establishing the team name, filing horse registrations, Final Entry, and any other actions on behalf of the team. Team members will have an opportunity to indicate which team they will be added to on their application. Applicants who are denied as individuals may not be added as team members. Applicants that apply, and are accepted, only as team members must be cleared by the selection committee to add (or change to) an individual or team captain entry.

Trainer and Horse Relationship

The RRP encourages trainers to take every opportunity to thoroughly prepare their horses for competition and so allows for horses to be sent out for professional training and for other individuals to ride them. If they choose to take advantage of outside help from a professional, the trainer must be the primary rider of the horse after **July 31, 2026**,

and the trainer must ride, drive, or otherwise direct the horse in the Thoroughbred Makeover competition.

The RRP encourages camaraderie between trainers at the Makeover, and there are no limitations on allowing other trainers to ride your horse in non-competition settings (hacking the grounds, for example). Accepted trainers and team members must warm up their own horses prior to entering the arena for competition.

Discipline Selection

Trainer applications are reviewed based on the trainer's declared discipline background, but trainers may choose to compete in any of the 10 disciplines offered, which they will confirm on their Final Entry form in August. Note the following conditions:

- Unless sufficient jumping video is provided with the application, trainers will be jumping-restricted at Final Entry. Trainers will be notified if they have a jumping restriction in their acceptance letter. Trainers may have this restriction lifted if they provide adequate jumping video to the Show Secretary by **June 26, 2026**. The selection committee will review the submitted jumping video and determine whether the jumping restriction will be lifted.
- Trainers entering the Field Hunter [discipline](#) at Final Entry are required to submit a letter from a Masters of Foxhounds Association-recognized hunt certifying that the trainer has hunted first or second field at least twice in one formal hunt season within the past two years. The letter is due by **August 28, 2026**, and must be signed, dated, and on letterhead. A new letter must be provided each year for all participating individuals, team captains, and team members.
- Trainers that enter Polo on their Final Entry form but did not originally indicate Polo as their primary discipline on their application will be required to submit video demonstrating Polo specific skills such as short work and stick and ball work. This video must be submitted to the Show Secretary by **June 26, 2026**.

While the Thoroughbred Makeover can be an opportunity for a trainer to experiment in a new discipline, the RRP expects trainers to appropriately prepare their horses for that discipline. The competition formats in each discipline are not designed for casual participation, and entering horses in novel disciplines without adequate preparation is discouraged. If a trainer selects a discipline on their Final Entry form that differs from their original application's discipline selection, the selection committee reserves the right to request video from the trainer demonstrating the new discipline's specific skills.

Trainer Application Form

The purpose of the trainer application is for the RRP to make the best possible determination that the trainer can successfully introduce their horse to a new discipline in the time period allotted for the competition. Not all fields in the application are required, but trainers will need to provide enough information to paint a comprehensive picture of their ability level and horsemanship. This application should be considered a horseman's resume. All participants are required to complete a trainer application each year, whether they are applying as an individual trainer, team captain, or team member.

Prior-year trainers will need to certify the ownership status of any Makeover Graduate not previously marked sold prior to accessing the application.

Mail-in applications are not accepted. Note that the RRP may use the information you provide in promotional materials.

Application Supporting Documentation

An application guide, including detailed explanation of each field of the application along with other tips and resources, can be found on the [Want to Apply](#) page of our website. There are some additional supporting documentation requirements that must be included with the trainer application submission:

- **Video:** Video is essential in aiding the selection committee to determine if a trainer meets the primary selection criteria as described below. Video is not optional, and insufficient video is one of the chief reasons an applicant may not receive an acceptance. Submitted video must demonstrate the required elements found in the [Application Video Guide](#). There are additional tips and guidelines for creating quality application video on the [Want to Apply](#) page of our website.



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- **Veterinarian Recommendation:** Trainers must provide an updated veterinary recommendation each year. This is a simple statement, signed and on practice letterhead, certifying that the veterinarian believes the applicant has the resources to properly care for a transitioning Thoroughbred. The recommendation must be from a licensed veterinarian that is practicing equine medicine. Applicants who are veterinarians themselves are prohibited from writing their own recommendations. A sample is available on the [Want to Apply](#) page of our website. The recommendation can be attached at application submission or uploaded in the [Trainer Portal](#), prior to application close.
- **Participation Agreement:** The participation agreement includes standard event release of liability and an acknowledgement of the Thoroughbred Makeover rules and code of conduct. The participation agreement can be accessed in the [Trainer Portal](#), prior to application close.

Applications missing the above requirements upon application close on **January 23, 2026**, are considered incomplete and will be automatically waitlisted. Trainers may provide the missing documentation along with a late fee of \$100 to have their application considered up until **June 26, 2026**.

Selection Criteria

The RRP Thoroughbred Makeover Selection Committee, comprised of a diverse selection of non-staff individuals who have competed and/or officiated at the Makeover, will review applications and approve or disapprove applications primarily based on the following factors:

- Evidence from the application, from past Thoroughbred Makeover results, and other evidence that the trainer will effectively and safely introduce an off-track Thoroughbred with no experience outside racing to one or more of the ten Thoroughbred Makeover disciplines, demonstrating that horse's talent and trainability
- Evidence that the trainer is committed to the mission of the RRP and has responsibly cared for and effectively trained horses in the past
- Should the event be over-subscribed, additional factors may be taken into consideration to meet capacity:
- Need for adequate representation within each discipline
- Need for representation by professionals, amateurs, and juniors
- Need for geographic diversity
- Affiliation with institutions that are committed to the mission of the RRP

Note that previous acceptance or completion of a prior Thoroughbred Makeover does not guarantee acceptance in future years.

Approval

The RRP will notify applicant trainers of the status of their application by email on **February 17, 2026**.

Trainer Withdrawal

Once a trainer is accepted into the Thoroughbred Makeover, they may withdraw at any time. The only accepted means of withdrawal is by using the form available in the [Trainer Portal](#).

Trainer Replacement

In situations where an approved trainer has a horse registered in the Thoroughbred Makeover, and that trainer becomes unable to participate due to extraordinary personal circumstances outside their control, the trainer can seek permission from the RRP to nominate a replacement trainer to take over the horse's training. The nominated replacement trainer must submit a Thoroughbred Makeover Trainer Application. The registration fees will be waived, as the original payment will transfer with the entry. The RRP Thoroughbred Makeover Selection Committee will review the application and notify both original and replacement Trainer of its decision. As this is a transfer of entry, the new trainer does not need to be of the same status as the original trainer. The original trainer must confirm their intent to release the horse's entry and forfeit all rights to the entry to the replacement trainer. The original trainer is withdrawn as of completion of the replacement process. Trainer replacements are not accepted after **June 26, 2026**.

Catch Riders

Catch rides at the Thoroughbred Makeover are permitted at the discretion of event management under extenuating circumstances for trainers who are **unable** to present their horse in competition. Unlike a trainer replacement, the original trainer retains all rights to the entry, including disbursement of prize money. For individual entries, the catch rider must be of the same status as the trainer (professional, junior, or amateur) AND an already-accepted 2026 Makeover trainer. Catch riders joining a team may be of any status. Once a catch rider takes over the ride, the original trainer will not present the horse in any remaining portion of competition. No participating rider can be associated with more than three horses throughout the course of competition.

Trainers wishing to have a catch rider present their horse in competition must submit their request via the catch ride request form in the [Trainer Portal](#), which will be made available prior to stabling move-in. Catch rider requests must be submitted prior to the catch rider entering the competition venue on the horse. In the event of scheduling conflicts, catch riders who are already scheduled to ride other horses during competition must prioritize their original horses/ride commitments. Should such a conflict arise, the original trainer may opt to nominate a new catch rider to resolve the conflict or scratch the entry.

Due to the last-minute nature of catch ride requests, the RRP will accept the request form as the trainer's certification that the nature of their request is an appropriate use of the catch ride option. The trainer does not need to wait for additional approval once they have filed a catch ride request form. Trainers are responsible for understanding appropriate use of the catch ride option and for nominating an appropriate rider. The RRP may request additional documentation to support the need for a catch rider at any time. **The catch rider option is made available to accommodate horses completing competition where their trainer becomes unable to participate, not to trade riders around to optimize results. Trainers found in violation of these conditions risk disqualification from competition.**

LATE APPLICATIONS AND WAITLISTS

Late Trainer Applications

Trainers who miss the January application period may apply until **June 26, 2026**, at a rate of \$300. The \$150 per horse rate is not subject to a late fee. Depending on event capacity, these applications may be subject to the application waitlist.

Application Waitlists

In the event that application numbers exceed the event's schedule capacity, those who applied during the January application period but who are not issued an application decision on **February 17, 2026**, will be automatically waitlisted and notified as such. The application waitlist is published in the [Trainer Portal](#).

Those on the application waitlist should expect that they may not hear anything about their entry status until after the **July 28, 2026**, horse registration deadline. At this point RRP Staff will determine how many waitlist applications may be accepted and notify those applicants accordingly in the order in which they were received. If not accepted, registration fees will be refunded minus the \$100 late fee and \$50 administrative fee.

Discipline Waitlists

The RRP reserves the right to waitlist discipline entries in any discipline after final entries have closed **August 28, 2026**. The waitlist will be determined by the order in which the Final Entry was received. Discipline waitlists (if necessary) will be posted in the [Trainer Portal](#), shortly following the Final Entry close, and those impacted will be notified by email by **September 1, 2026**. Trainers impacted by discipline waitlists will be given the opportunity to change to another discipline at that time.

HORSE ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

The Thoroughbred Makeover offers two divisions of eligibility: the original "Retiring Racehorse" eligibility and the new "Former Broodmare" eligibility. Trainers will declare which eligibility classification their horse qualifies for on

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their horse registration. These divisions will compete concurrently, but as the eligibility criteria are different, they will have separate results and prize money. Horses are not permitted to compete in both divisions. If a horse is eligible for both divisions, the trainer must select one division on the registration form.

The RRP does not impose an age range on horse eligibility or restrictions on discipline participation based on age. Trainers are responsible for making discipline selections that they believe are suitable for their horse's age, condition, and training progress and objectives. Age is not a factor considered in judging.

Those in need of clarification on eligibility are encouraged to contact the RRP prior to acquiring and starting to work with a prospective horse. Trainers are responsible for independently verifying their prospective horse's eligibility to the best of their ability and should not assume that the person they are acquiring the horse from has done their due diligence prior to listing a horse as "Makeover Eligible." The RRP will accept the trainer's pledge that a horse is eligible unless it is made aware of evidence to the contrary. Third parties are welcome to present evidence of ineligibility directly to the RRP in accordance with the protocols outlined in the [Protests and Complaints](#) section.

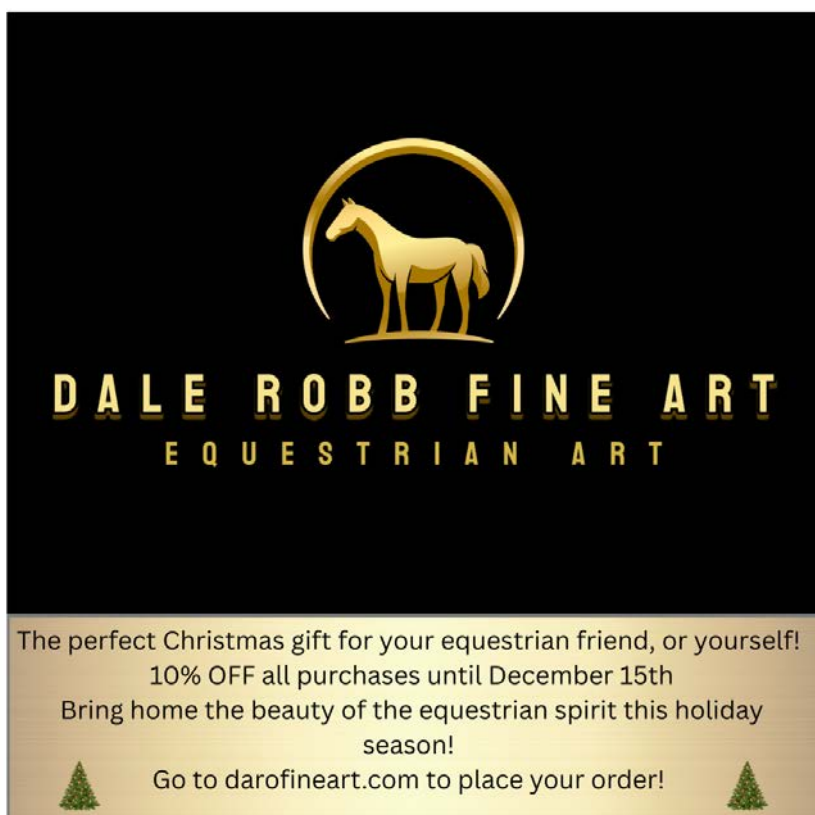
Retiring Racehorse Eligibility

- 1) Must be registered with The Jockey Club and have a Jockey Club-registered microchip. Thoroughbreds from foreign countries must have equivalent registration. The Jockey Club switched from tattoo to microchip identification effective with the 2017 foal crop. Older horses and international horses may or may not have a microchip, but the RRP requires that a Jockey Club-registered microchip be inserted to be eligible to participate, regardless of whether the horse was previously tattooed. ***All horses bound to compete in Kentucky must have a Jockey Club-registered microchip number recorded on their Final Entry which will be validated during their Arrival Exam.*** See [Microchipping](#) in the *Horse Welfare* section for further information.
- 2) Must have raced or had a published work on or after **July 1, 2024**. The definition of a race or published work for the purposes of this rule is one that takes place during the period when the horse was in race training and was recorded to the horse's Lifetime Past Performance report for North American racing, or equivalent foreign recording systems in other countries, including both flat and steeplechase. Works

clocked and published for horses not in race training as a means of establishing Thoroughbred Makeover eligibility do not make the horse eligible.

- 3) Must not have started training for a second career before **December 1, 2025**, other than a maximum of 15 allowable rides or training sessions that introduce skills specific to non-racing careers. See conditions below:

- a. Horses that cross-trained in other disciplines during their active racing careers are eligible as long as they did not show or compete.
- b. Serving as a pony at the track after retiring from racing and before **December 1, 2025**, counts towards the 15-ride restriction.
- c. Non-discipline-specific groundwork such as lunging, long lining, and round pen work from the ground does not count as training for a second career.



Free-jumping, liberty work, or trick training would be considered discipline-specific groundwork and would count towards the 15-training-session limit.

- d. Tack-walking as part of a documented rehab plan does not count towards the 15-training-session limit. Trainers registering these horses must be prepared to furnish a signed and dated letter on letterhead from their vet detailing the rehab plan.

The intent of the 15-ride limit is to have horses start the competition at as close to the same point in retraining as possible, while still allowing for trial rides while the horse is at an aftercare facility or with a reseller. It is meant to be a means of evaluation, not an opportunity to start training.

- 4) Horses that competed in sports other than racing before **December 1, 2025**, are ineligible.
 - a. Horses retired from racing may hilltop or hunt third field within the 15-ride limit.
 - i. Horses with verifiable starts or training as steeplechasers may hunt first or second field in organized foxhunting meets during their active race training. This is considered cross-training and does not count towards the 15-ride limit.
 - ii. Horses cannot participate in hunter paces before **December 1, 2025**. Hunter paces are considered competitions and would be a violation of the eligibility criteria.
 - b. Showing in-hand only in sport horse suitability-type shows such as halter/conformation, registry tests, Young Event Horse, Young Horse Show series, etc. is allowed.

Any other competitions, whether virtual or in-person, including liberty competitions, are a violation of this eligibility criteria.

For the purposes of establishing eligibility in the Thoroughbred Makeover, an event is considered a competition if it meets any of the following criteria: publicly marketed as a competition/show, issues placings, issues scores, issues competitor numbers, or requires participants to follow a predetermined course or pattern. Horses that participate in such an event prior to **December 1, 2025**, are ineligible. The selection committee has the final say in determining if a horse's participation in an event is a violation of the eligibility criteria.

Former Broodmare Eligibility

- 1) Must be registered with The Jockey Club and have a Jockey Club-registered microchip. Thoroughbreds from foreign countries must have equivalent registration. The Jockey Club switched from tattoo to microchip identification effective with the 2017 foal crop. Older horses and international horses may or may not have a microchip, but the RRP requires that a Jockey Club-registered microchip be inserted to be eligible to participate, regardless of whether the horse was previously tattooed. ***All horses bound to compete in Kentucky must have a Jockey Club-registered microchip number recorded on their Final Entry which will be validated during their Arrival Exam.*** See Microchipping in the *Horse Welfare* section for further information.
- 2) Must have one lifetime race or published work. This work does not have to occur in a particular time period for broodmares. The definition of a race or published work for the purposes of this rule is one that takes place during the period when the horse was in race training and was recorded to the horse's Lifetime Past Performance report for North American racing, or equivalent foreign recording systems in other countries, including both flat and steeplechase. Works clocked and published for horses not in race training as a means of establishing Thoroughbred Makeover eligibility do not make the horse eligible.
- 3) Broodmares are not subject to the 15-ride limit.
- 4) Must have a reported foal or cover by a Jockey Club-registered stallion within the previous two breeding seasons (**2024 or later for the 2026 Makeover**). This is verified by EquineLine's *Mare Produce Record* report.
- 5) Horses that competed in sports other than racing before **December 1, 2025**, are ineligible.
 - a. Horses retired from racing may hilltop or hunt third field within the 15-ride limit.
 - i. Horses with verifiable starts or training as steeplechasers may hunt first or second field in organized foxhunting meets during their active race training. This is considered cross-training and does not count towards the 15-ride limit.
 - ii. Horses cannot participate in hunter paces before **December 1, 2025**. Hunter paces are considered competitions and would be a violation of the eligibility criteria.
 - b. Showing in-hand only in sport horse suitability-type shows such as halter/conformation, registry

tests, Young Event Horse, Young Horse Show series, etc. is allowed. Any other competitions, whether virtual or in-person, including liberty competitions, are a violation of this eligibility criteria.

For the purposes of establishing eligibility in the Thoroughbred Makeover, an event is considered a competition if it meets any of the following criteria: publicly marketed as a competition/show, issues placings, issues scores, issues competitor numbers, or requires participants to follow a predetermined course or pattern. Horses that participate in such an event prior to **December 1, 2025**, are ineligible. The selection committee has the final say in determining if a horse's participation in an event is a violation of the eligibility criteria.

Horse Acquisition and Ownership

Trainers may acquire their horse through any of the multiple channels available in the aftercare industry: directly from the track (with or without an agent), a non-profit aftercare facility, a for-profit reseller, etc. Race connections may also retain ownership of their horses and support the horse's transition with a Makeover-accepted trainer. Trainers may own their Thoroughbred Makeover horse or ride under contract for the horse's owner. Trainers are encouraged to have written training agreements with their owners that include a commitment by the owner to allow the horse to participate in the Thoroughbred Makeover. The trainer is the sole authority over the horse's entry regardless of who paid the application fee, and prize money is paid to the trainer. Trainers should consider including terms in their training agreement that cover expenses, prize money, and what happens should the horse need to be withdrawn from competition.

Although the RRP encourages trainers to obtain their horse's Jockey Club registration papers, they are not required to compete.

Although the RRP encourages trainers to obtain their horse's Jockey Club registration papers, they are not required to compete.

Horse Registration Form

Trainers must register their Thoroughbred Makeover horses as soon as they acquire them and no later than **July 28, 2026**. The horse registration form is a vital contribution of metrics relating to the RRP's charitable mission, and trainers grant the RRP permission to publish all information in their horse registration form except for their email, address, phone number, and purchase price of their horse. The Horse Registration Form is available via the [Trainer](#)

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Portal, and will include the following fields, which are required unless otherwise noted:

- Jockey Club name
- Date of last race or published work
- Date of last reported cover or foaling (former broodmares only)
- Name of previous owner
- Name and contact information of current owner
- Narrative describing how you or the current owner acquired horse and the price or adoption fee you paid for the horse
- Narrative describing any known training done between retirement from racing and **December 1, 2025**
- If applicable, identification of any aftercare organization that assisted in transitioning the horse from racing
- Additional notes about horse's history (optional)
- Conformation photo (optional)
- Horse head photo (optional)
- Photo of horse with you (optional)

Horse Additions for Accepted Trainers

Accepted trainers who wish to add a horse after **February 17, 2026**, may do so up to **June 26, 2026**, at the rate of \$150 with no additional fee. Depending on event capacity, these horse additions may be subject to the application waitlist. Trainers wishing to add a horse to an accepted entry must email secretary@therrp.org for the horse registration fee invoice. Once paid, they will be able to register the additional horse.

Horse Withdrawal and Replacement

Trainers may withdraw a horse from the Thoroughbred Makeover at any time via the Trainer Portal. Trainers may register a new horse in place of a withdrawn horse until **July 28, 2026**.

Trainers will only be able to register a new horse after withdrawing the original one. Trainers cannot have more active (i.e., with Pending or Accepted status) horse registrations than they applied for or paid for. [Trainers cannot change horses or reactivate withdrawn horse registrations after July 28, 2026.](#)

THOROUGHGBRED MAKEOVER COMPETITION COMPONENTS

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

Trainers will compete their horses in one or two of 10 disciplines in what is referred to as preliminary competition, which takes place on Wednesday and Thursday. In the Retiring Racehorse division, ribbons for 1st-10th overall, ribbons for 1st-10th junior, amateur, team, prize money for 1st place junior, amateur, team, and special awards will be awarded based on preliminary competition results. The preliminary competition serves as a qualifier for the discipline championships for Retiring Racehorse division, which is a separate competition.

In the Former Broodmare, division ribbons 1st through 10th and prize money will be awarded based on preliminary competition results. Broodmares will not compete in the discipline championships.

DISCIPLINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

[Starting in 2025, the RRP replaced the old Finale format with a new "Discipline Championships" format to allow for more horses to compete for the core prize money.](#) Under this format, the top ten retiring racehorses from each discipline in the preliminary competition compete in the discipline championships on a clean slate, competing for new scores. [Ribbons and prize money will be awarded to 10th place based on these results.](#) At this time, horses in the former broodmare division will not compete in discipline championships, and their prize money will be distributed based upon preliminary competition results. [See Prize Money and Ribbon Distribution for more information.](#)

Formats for championship tests are provided under the [Discipline Competition Formats](#) section.

Most championships will take place in the same venue where the preliminary competition is held, but this is subject to change. Provisional championship venue selections will be made available to trainers prior to the opening of the Final Entry period.

Once preliminary competition results are finalized, horses that qualify for the championship but do not participate in it (for example, if the rider needs to leave the show grounds for personal reasons, or the horse does not pass the championship jog) will finish the competition in the bottom of the championship placings. If more than one horse does not compete in a given discipline's championship, they will finish at the bottom of the championship based on their placing from preliminary competition. For example, if the second and fourth-placed horses from the same discipline are unable to compete in the championship, they will finish in ninth and tenth respectively.

If a top ten horse is disqualified or eliminated from competition **prior to the completion of the preliminary competition scoring protest period**, placings will be adjusted accordingly, and the next highest placed horse will be invited to compete in the championship.

There is no longer an overall Thoroughbred Makeover Champion. The discipline championships are not livestreamed.

THE THOROUGHBRED MAKEOVER MARKETPLACE

The Thoroughbred Makeover Marketplace is an optional opportunity for Thoroughbred Makeover trainers who choose to offer the horses that they have trained for sale. The RRP will offer a digital sale catalog for potential buyers with photos and video links; participating horses will be identified for sale via bridle numbers, stall cards, and PA announcements when those horses are competing. **A standalone print catalog will be distributed at the event.** Neither the RRP nor any of its sponsors will be a party to any transactions that takes place between sellers and buyers, but sellers are encouraged to consider voluntary contributions to the RRP of 5% of their sale price, which will go toward helping to further the RRP's mission.



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Entry Fee

Trainers will have two listing options when they confirm their horse's sale status on their Final Entry form:

- \$50 Standard Listing for inclusion in the online and print sale catalogs, RRP social media album, and identification throughout the event as a sales horse
- \$60 Featured Listing for the same amenities as the Standard, plus priority listing in the digital catalog

Horse Listing

Trainers will confirm if they want their horses included in the Marketplace on the Final Entry form, at which point they will be billed for their choice of listing. After submitting their Final Entry form, trainers have until **September 4, 2026**, to create their ad via the Horse Listing form in the [Trainer Portal](#). Digital catalog ads may be continuously updated in the weeks leading up to and after the event as desired; however, ads will print as they appear on the website as of **September 4**.

The RRP reserves the right to request that trainers modify their ad copy or provide different photos in any instance where it deems appropriate. **Marketplace ads without photos as of September 4, 2026, will not be included in the print catalog.**

Pricing and Contracts

Trainers may price their horses at whatever amount they feel is fair and may raise or lower their asking price at any time. Trainers are responsible for screening potential buyers and are under no obligation to sell to buyers that they deem unsuitable for their horse. Trainers listing horses owned by non-profit aftercare organizations are welcome to list their horses as adoptable and to include the approval processes, fees, and restrictions they normally require. Trainers are expected to provide their own sale contracts that must include anti-slaughter and notification of resale language found in the [Horse Welfare](#) section of this rulebook.

Marketing

[The RRP promotes the Thoroughbred Makeover Marketplace as a shopping opportunity for shoppers and adopters.](#) Links to the Thoroughbred Makeover Marketplace Listings will be shared extensively through social media and e-blasts. The RRP is not solely responsible for the successful marketing of these horses, and trainers are encouraged to share their listings beyond RRP channels.

Soundness Issues and Pre-Purchase Exams

Buyers tend to pursue horses for which medical history and radiographs are available, even when those records identify blemishes. The RRP strongly encourages Thoroughbred Makeover trainers to make veterinary reports and radiographs available from any pre-purchase exams that are done when they acquire their Thoroughbred Makeover horse, as well as any veterinary records from before or since they acquired the horse. You may note the existence of these radiographs and reports when listing the horse in the Thoroughbred Makeover Marketplace.

The RRP reserves the right to remove videos and photos from the online Marketplace which show horses who would not meet the soundness and/or body condition requirements for competition.

Buyers should be encouraged to conduct pre-purchase exams when purchasing horses. A team of veterinarians from Hagyard Equine Medical Institute will be on call to conduct these exams for buyers during and after the Thoroughbred Makeover.

Trial Rides

Sellers may allow horse shoppers to ride horses during the Thoroughbred Makeover at their discretion and under their supervision only if the rider has a wristband certifying that they have signed an RRP liability release. Releases and wristbands are available at the [info desk](#). Sellers are encouraged to also require riders to sign their own liability release forms.

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For more information, please visit
godolphinlifetimecare.com/us/home
or contact kmorgan@godolphin.com



CLINICS

The Thoroughbred Makeover Clinics will take place on Friday, **October 9, 2026**, following the conclusion of preliminary competition. The clinics serve as an opportunity for **graduate horses** as well as **2026** horses and trainers that **did not qualify for the discipline championships** to receive additional education from the judges. Clinic opportunities will be available in a select number of disciplines and will be taught by the discipline's preliminary competition judges. Information on clinic formats, clinicians, and pricing will be made available to trainers prior to the start of the Final Entry process.

Clinic Registrations for 2026 horses and trainers will be in-person beginning at 7 AM on Friday, October 9. Interested participants will pay the steward at the in-gate of the relevant clinic venue with card only. There are a limited number of clinic spots available, and registrations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Clinic registrations for 2026 horses will not be available online or before the event. Horses and trainers who qualify for the championships are prohibited from participating in Friday's clinics in any discipline.

A limited number of clinic spots will be available to Makeover graduate horses; **a graduate horse is defined as any horse that was registered for a previous Thoroughbred Makeover, regardless of whether they completed the actual competition. Clinic registrations for graduate horses open in the Trainer Portal, on August 4, 2026, and close on September 4, 2026. 2026 trainers who register for a clinic with a graduate horse must nominate a clinic catch rider or scratch the clinic if they qualify for the championships on a 2026 mount. If a graduate horse is scratched due to the trainer qualifying for the 2026 discipline championships, a refund of the clinic fees will be issued minus a \$15 processing fee.** More information on clinics will be released on the [General Event Information](#) page of the website before clinic registrations open.

EVENT POLICIES

RULE CHANGES

The RRP may amend these rules and policies at any time without notice. Amendments will be posted to the website and announced via email to trainers. Trainers are responsible for reviewing the website for updated rules.

Rulebooks cannot be drafted to account for every possible scenario. There may be circumstances that arise during the course of the competition year that require event management to make a determination that they believe to be fair and in the best possible interest for all parties and horses. The RRP may do this at any time without notice. Should such a scenario arise, event management will make a good-faith effort to notify those impacted by such decisions.

PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

By participating in the Thoroughbred Makeover, trainers become ambassadors not only for the RRP and the event, but also for the Thoroughbred breed; therefore, the RRP expects trainers and those associated with them (friends, family, coaches, students, employees, etc.) to be good stewards of the aftercare community and to conduct themselves with the highest degree of horsemanship and sportsmanship before, during, and after the Thoroughbred Makeover. Submission of a Trainer Application signifies the participant's willingness to hold themselves to this standard, to support the mission of the RRP, and to abide by the rules and policies set forth in this rulebook. The RRP can decline acceptance or eliminate a trainer from competition at any time due to violations of the code of conduct. If a trainer is eliminated from competition based on code of conduct violations, they will be removed from results displays and may be asked to leave the grounds at the discretion of event management.

Inappropriate behavior, whether in person or online, may include, but is not limited to:

- Possession, use, or distribution of any illegal drugs
- Harassment, bullying, profanity, vulgar language or gestures, or bad-mouthing (i.e., using words or ac-

tions that intimidate, threaten, demean, degrade, or persecute others), which includes public complaints about event policies, decisions, or protocols outside of the appropriate channels

- Failure to follow rules
- Abusing or neglecting a horse or unsafe horsemanship
- Unethical practices in horse-related transactions
- Attempting to garner favoritism from judges or otherwise influence competition outcomes
- Any verbal or physical act of discourtesy toward a judge, fellow competitor, event official, show staff, or Kentucky Horse Park staff member on the part of a trainer or associated individual
- Theft, vandalizing, or willfully damaging the property of others
- Theft of photography from RRP marketing and/or show photography services
- Accusing other participants of any of the above in public settings; if a participant has concerns about another participant's behavior, that person should notify RRP staff via appropriate channels. See [Complaints](#) section below.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

This section defines protocols for how the RRP will respond to protests (an objection to [judging](#) or scoring) and complaints (any alleged violation of rules or event policies), both during the event, and periods before and after.

All protests and complaints will be submitted via the website as a means of official record and reviewed by the relevant parties based on the nature of the complaint. Relevant parties could include but are not limited to RRP staff, the Thoroughbred Makeover Infractions Committee, the Consulting Veterinarian, and event officials. Protests and complaints may not be made anonymously, but the identity of complainants will be kept confidential.

Trainers may only protest their own judging or scores. Protests against another competitor's results will not be accepted. If a trainer believes a possible rule violation may have impacted another competitor's results, they must submit an official complaint rather than a protest.

Senior RRP staff and Makeover stewards have the authority to directly address violations of rules and policies with official warnings. Multiple warnings or egregious violations will be subject to Ground Jury or Infractions Committee review and may result in disqualification from the event and banning from future participation.

Protests

Event management offers a protest period on [preliminary competition results](#). Trainers will have access to copies of their scorecards via the [Trainer Portal](#), and will be notified when each day's protest period for their discipline has begun. [The protest period for each day of competition begins when the discipline's results are marked "scoring complete" and ends at 8 AM EST the following morning.](#) Results are subject to change until this period is complete and results are marked as "final." Protests of any nature will not be honored after the protest period is completed. If a protest is submitted incorrectly (ex: outside of the protest period or against another competitor's results), the RRP will withhold any fees charged by the payment processor and only issue a partial refund. Stewards' and other officials' decisions and rulings are final and non-appealable. Protests to discipline championship results, jog results, or decisions made by veterinary personnel will not be accepted.

Protests to Judging

Trainers may protest the scores awarded to them by judges in preliminary competition. Protests of this nature must be submitted via the protest form in the [Trainer Portal](#), with a \$100 protest fee by [8 AM EST of the following morning](#) after discipline results being marked "scoring complete" for the day. The Chief Steward will review the scores with the applicable judges and respond to the competitor. If the judge decides to amend their score, the protest fee will be refunded to the competitor.

Protests to Scoring Errors

Protests relating to errors in scoring input or math (calculation errors or missing scores) must also be submitted via the protest form in the [Trainer Portal](#), by [8 AM EST of the following morning](#) after discipline results being

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marked “scoring complete” for the day and will be corrected at no cost to the competitor. Event management may also correct these errors on its own during the protest period without receipt of a protest from a trainer.

In the event of a miscalculation of points for awards, the RRP reserves the right to correct the placings and awards, and the decision of the RRP is final, and in its sole and absolute discretion.

Complaints

To protect the integrity of the competition, the RRP encourages participants and third parties alike to report possible violations of event policies and rules, especially those related to the code of conduct, horse welfare, and entry eligibility. The RRP will accept reports of this nature at any time [through the Trainer Violation Report Form](#) whether they occur during the event, or at any period of time before or after. [This form is found via the “Report a Rule Violation” button on the footer of the RRP website.](#)

Complainants will provide as much detail as possible to support their complaint, including photos/screenshots, chronology, and witnesses. If there are additional witnesses who may wish to support the complaint, they will contact the RRP independently and of their own volition. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the RRP may choose to impose a deadline for parties to file supporting evidence for the complaint. The RRP reserves the right not to pursue any complaints which it deems are lacking in sufficient evidence or documentation.

Applicable parties will review all relevant information available and respond to the complainant in a timely manner as deemed appropriate. Applicable parties could include but are not limited to RRP staff, the Thoroughbred Make-over Infractions Committee, the Consulting Veterinarian, and event officials. Other than an acknowledgement of receipt, complainants are not entitled to specifics as to how the complaint was addressed with the subject.



Jones Walker LLP is proud to sponsor **The Retired Racehorse Project**.

Jones Walker’s equine law team offers strategic counsel to clients in the thoroughbred and sport-horse industries, including owners, breeders, competitors, trainers, racetracks, equine trade associations, and horse show organizers. We handle purchases and sales, syndications, public auctions, state and federal regulatory compliance, contracts of all types, litigation, and dispute resolution. With firsthand industry involvement and support from the firm’s tax, immigration, employment, corporate, mergers and acquisitions, litigation, non-profit, and intellectual property practices, we provide comprehensive guidance helping clients navigate legal and business challenges with confidence and clarity.



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PRIZE MONEY AND RIBBON DISTRIBUTION

Through its fundraising efforts, the RRP guarantees a base prize money pot of **\$135,000** which for 2026 is comprised of \$125,000 for the Retiring Racehorse division and **\$10,000** for the Former Broodmare division. Private donors and sponsors may elect to fund special awards, which contribute to the overall prize money available but are subject to third party-stipulated eligibility criteria and renewal from year to year. Special awards are not considered part of the guaranteed base prize money.

The following chart defines prize money distribution per each of the 10 disciplines. This distribution is the same for all 10 disciplines regardless of entry numbers. In the event the RRP can offer base prize money greater than \$135,000, the distribution will follow the percentage provided.

***Prize money for the 2nd placed Former Broodmare in each discipline is dependent on the renewal of the ASPCA Reimagining Racers grant and is not guaranteed.**

Paid on Preliminary Competition Results	Base	as %
1st place Junior	\$500.00	0.36%
1st place Amateur	\$500.00	0.36%
1st place Team	\$500.00	0.36%
1st place Former Broodmare	\$1,000.00	0.72%
2nd place Former Broodmare*	\$400.00	0.29%
Paid on Championship Results	Base	as %
Champion Retiring Racehorse	\$5,000.00	3.60%
Reserve Champion Retiring Racehorse	\$1,500.00	1.08%
3rd Retiring Racehorse	\$1,300.00	0.94%
4th Retiring Racehorse	\$1,000.00	0.72%
5th Retiring Racehorse	\$700.00	0.50%
6th Retiring Racehorse	\$500.00	0.36%
7th Retiring Racehorse	\$250.00	0.18%
8th Retiring Racehorse	\$250.00	0.18%
9th Retiring Racehorse	\$250.00	0.18%
10th Retiring Racehorse	\$250.00	0.18%
Per Discipline	\$13,900.00	10.00%

Prize money checks will be made payable to the trainer of the horse, in recognition of the fact that this is a training competition. For team entries, the prize money will be paid to the team captain. The RRP is not party to how trainers, owners, and team members agree to share prize money.

Prize money checks will be issued by mail approximately three to four weeks **AFTER** the event upon receipt of drug test results. In late October, an RRP staff member will contact all Trainers owed prize money by email to confirm payee information and mailing address. Trainers may provide instructions for alternate payees at this time, if desired. Trainers receiving checks totaling \$600 or more will also be issued an IRS form W9 for electronic signature. These checks will only be released upon receipt of a completed W9. Sums of prize money not released due to outstanding payee information or W9s as of December 31 will be considered abandoned. Abandoned or unawarded (i.e.; no winner) will be retained for the following year's prize money.

All trainers agree to forfeit 100% of any prize money or awards won if drug testing on their horse comes back positive for prohibited substances above allowed levels (see [Drug Testing](#) section) or if their horse is ever determined to be ineligible due to exceeding the 15-ride limit.

Ribbons for 1st-10th place overall, as well as 1st-10th for junior, amateur, and team entries will be awarded in each discipline based on results from preliminary competition in the Retiring Racehorse division. Ribbons will be awarded in the Former Broodmare divisions for 1st-10th places based on preliminary competition results. Additional [Champion through 10th place](#) ribbons will be awarded based on discipline championship results.

All [2nd-10th](#) preliminary competition ribbons will be available to pick up on Friday [at the show office](#) shortly following the conclusion of the protest period. 1st-placed broodmares, juniors, amateurs, and teams are invited to participate in their discipline championship's mounted awards ceremony [and will be presented with their ribbons at the Competitor Awards Party](#).

Trainers will receive a completion ribbon for each horse upon check-in at the Makeover.

[Ribbons not picked up at the competition will be mailed to the trainer at the address on file. Prizes will be mailed at the request of the trainer for the cost of postage. Requests to mail prizes must be received by December 31 or they will be considered abandoned, and the RRP will not mail them out past this date.](#)

SPECIAL AWARDS

Many aftercare organizations, state horsemen's or breeders' associations, or private donors support the Thoroughbred Makeover and promote their own initiatives by sponsoring a special award to recognize horses affiliated with their cause. Special award sponsors pay any added prize monies to the RRP to hold in escrow and be paid out with all other prize money. Eligibility criteria for special awards is determined by the sponsor, and horses will either be automatically nominated, or their eligibility will be certified by the sponsor, depending on the eligibility criteria. Once nominations have been finalized, RRP staff will alert trainers via email. Trainers are then responsible for checking their horse's nominations and reporting missing or incorrect nominations by the deadline established in the email.

Some special awards, such as those for graduates of specific aftercare programs, are dependent on trainers accurately reporting this information on the horse registration. The RRP is not responsible for horses who are excluded from nomination due to failure to correctly disclose this information on the horse registration.

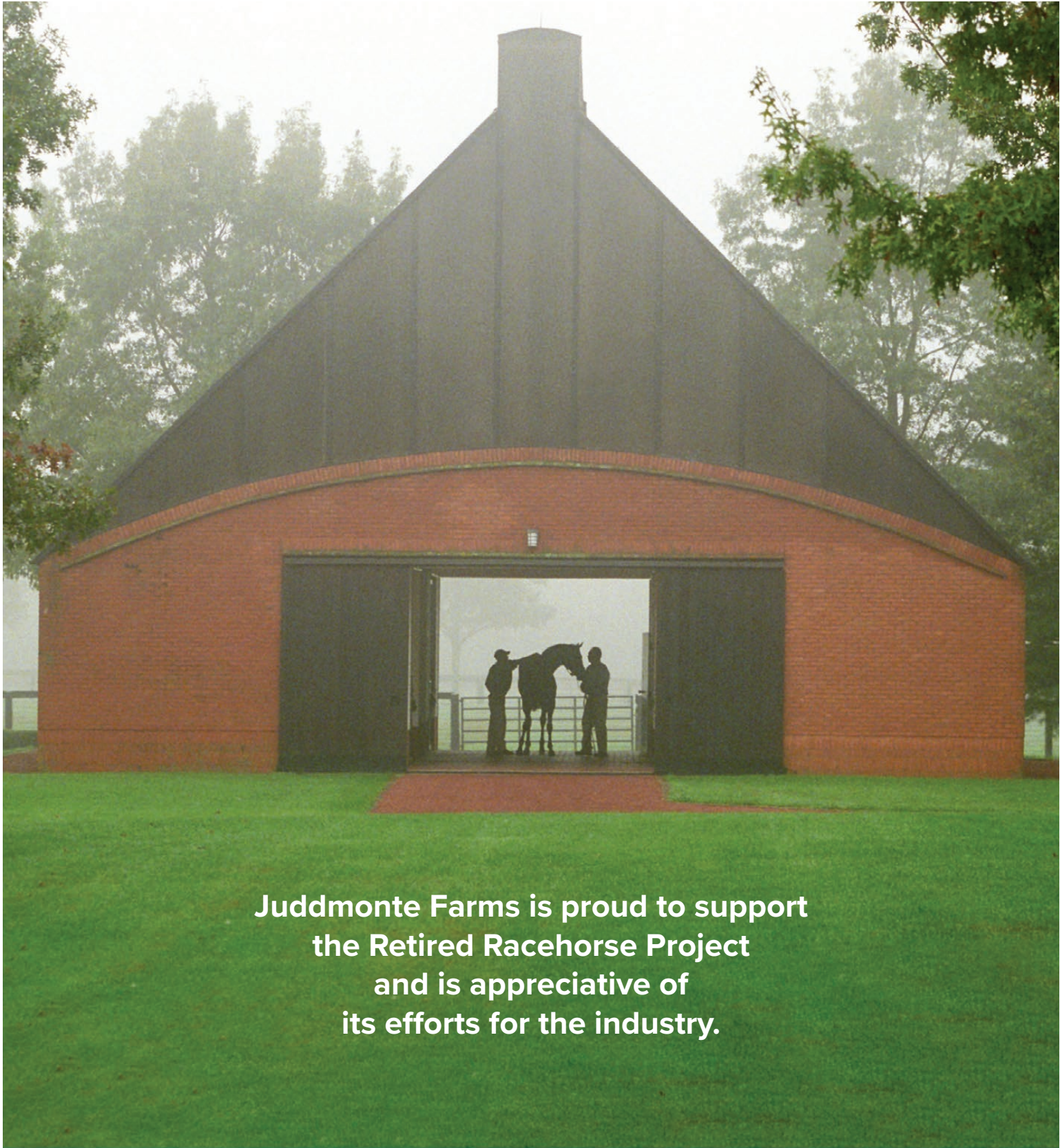
Special awards results will be determined based on results from the preliminary competition. Ties will be resolved based on the preference of the sponsor. In the event of a miscalculation of points for awards, the RRP reserves the right to correct the placings and awards, and the decision of the RRP is final, and in its sole and absolute discretion. Unless noted otherwise, horses participating in the Former Broodmare division will not be eligible for special awards.

A list of all Thoroughbred Makeover awards and eligibility criteria is available on the website. Special award prizes and prize money are contingent on sponsors or private donors and are subject to renewal from year to year, therefore they are not included in the total guaranteed prize money. The RRP only guarantees the core prize money described in the Prize Money and Ribbon Distribution section.

HORSE WELFARE

Horse Protection Policy

When a trainer enters a horse in the Thoroughbred Makeover, he or she agrees to take responsibility for the horse's well-being and to sell or place it in a responsible manner. If a horse is withdrawn, whether it is replaced by another horse or not, the trainer will submit an online Thoroughbred Makeover Horse Withdrawal Form indicating the status of the horse. If any trainer is found to have knowingly sent a horse to a kill buyer or to a live-stock auction to be sold for under \$1,000, the trainer will be removed from the competition and be banned from participation in future RRP events.



**Juddmonte Farms is proud to support
the Retired Racehorse Project
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Abuse and Neglect

Abuse and neglect of horses is a violation of the Participant Code of Conduct. Alleged instances of horse abuse or neglect prior to, during, or after the Thoroughbred Makeover will be investigated by the Infractions Committee and/or the Ground Jury and may be grounds for disqualification. Practices considered to be abuse or neglect include but are not limited to: inflicting physical harm, willful overworking, misuse of training equipment, or withholding grain or water as means of behavior modification. During competition, officials have the right to order veterinary evaluation of any horse who appears to be impaired or in physical discomfort or distress.

See the [Protests and Complaints](#) section for protocols for reporting violations of any event policy.

Selling Your Thoroughbred Makeover Entry and Status Reporting

Trainers are not restricted in their decision to sell their Thoroughbred Makeover entries, and the RRP is not a party to the sale. All registered horses, regardless of whether or not they were included in the Thoroughbred Makeover Marketplace or completed the competition in Kentucky, are to be protected by including the following language in any bill of sale or adoption contract:

- 1) Notification of Resale Clause: Buyer or adopter agrees to make a reasonable effort to notify Seller when the horse is made available for sale in the future.
- 2) Anti-Slaughter Clause: Buyer or adopter will not knowingly sell the horse to a “kill buyer” or allow the horse to be sold at public auction for less than \$1,000.

Whether Thoroughbred Makeover horses sell in advance of the Thoroughbred Makeover event, during it, or at any time after, all trainers agree to notify the RRP of the sale via an online form. Sale notification to the RRP will include the name of the buyer and the purchase price or adoption fee. The RRP agrees to keep this information confidential unless both buyer and seller agree for it to be made public. The RRP will aggregate sale statistics for public reports.

USE OF RRP LOGOS AND IMAGES

Upon request and approval, Thoroughbred Makeover trainers are granted a limited, revocable, non-exclusive right to use the Thoroughbred Makeover and RRP logos and trademarks on their own private promotional materials, to promote events or for other commercial. The RRP is entitled to approve pre-production proofs of products incorporating its logos or artwork and request changes as needed. Logo use permission may be revoked at any time, and upon notice, the trainer must remove all use of RRP intellectual property and cease and desist from further use of the intellectual property until further notice.

RRP logos may never be used on merchandise that is for sale without written consent by the RRP.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

The RRP encourages trainers to promote their participation in the Thoroughbred Makeover through local mainstream media, equestrian media, and their own networks. The RRP will provide sample press releases and guidance to trainers who request assistance in this area. [Trainers are encouraged to forward to the RRP links to press coverage of the Thoroughbred Makeover that is generated by their efforts.](#)

[Thoroughbred Makeover trainers are encouraged to maintain training reports, blogs, and otherwise report on their progress with their Thoroughbred Makeover horse, and link these sites via their profile on the RRP website so that the public can follow and learn from their work.](#)

USE OF TRAINER MEDIA

Thoroughbred Makeover trainers agree to allow the RRP to reprint, share, and otherwise promote blogs, images, and video of their Thoroughbred Makeover horse, as well as to use images of them and their horse taken at the Thoroughbred Makeover for promotional purposes.

VENDOR CONFLICTS

The RRP recognizes that many trainers serve as product representatives, brand ambassadors, or similar for companies (such as supplement manufacturers, therapy systems, and tack manufacturers) to defray the cost of competition expenses.

In consideration of our vendors who pay for booth space in the vendor fair, event management requests that trainers wishing to do business at their stalls first obtain permission from event management in order to avoid conflicts with paying vendors. Event management reserves the right to remove unauthorized vendor set-ups in the barns during the event.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The RRP retains photographers for the purpose of providing competition photos for trainers to purchase as well as to cover the media needs of the organization. Posting images from photography services without purchasing is considered theft and a violation of the Competitor Code of Conduct. Not all photography captured at the Thoroughbred Makeover is publicly available for sale; screenshots of marketing images for personal or promotional use by trainers is strictly forbidden.

The photography policy for outside photographers can be found on our [website](#), and is pending the contracting of an official show photographer.

DOGS AT THE MAKEOVER

Well behaved, leashed dogs are welcome at the Thoroughbred Makeover. However, the safety and enjoyment of equine and human participants is the priority of event management. Dog owners must maintain full control of their dogs at all times and maintain a reasonable distance (approximately 15 feet) from horses and arena perimeters/in-gates to avoid disruption or distress for others. Management reserves the right to require the removal of dogs from the grounds that are deemed to be insufficiently or inappropriately managed by their owners.

MANAGEMENT

The Thoroughbred Makeover is an initiative of the RRP, a non-profit organization staffed by employees, contractors, and volunteers, with oversight by its Board of Directors.

Members of the RRP Board of Directors, its staff, and contractors are eligible to participate in the Thoroughbred Makeover as trainers. They may also serve as coaches, trainers, employees, or employers of participating Thoroughbred Makeover trainers.

Members of the RRP Board of Directors, its staff, and contractors are not eligible for the Ambassador Award.

PUBLIC HEALTH OR EQUINE INFECTIOUS DISEASE CRISIS

If faced with an active public or equine health crisis such as COVID-19 or EHV-1, the RRP staff will assess the impact on participants and the logistical and financial viability of running the event as planned and determine any necessary change of plans as early as prudently possible.

If the Makeover operates during an active public health crisis, the RRP is committed to producing a safe event in compliance with any and all applicable mandates set forth by local government, state vet, or by venue management. Protective/preventative mandates could include, but are not limited to, mask-wearing and use of personal protective equipment, social distancing, testing on-site or prior to travel, temperature-monitoring, disinfection efforts, and other biosecurity measures. Where possible, participants will be made aware of any such mandates at least 30 days prior to move-in.

*The story of racing
is written one moment at a time.*

A breeder buys a promising mare.
A foal arrives in the middle of the night.
A word before a race.
A win by a nose.
A last second bid.
And suddenly...lives change.

It's a story that's bigger than all of us.
And it start with the smallest moments.



WATCH NOW

Unwillingness to comply with safety measures will result in immediate removal from the show grounds. The RRP will not be held liable for any losses or damages claimed as a result of event cancelation NOR as a result of contracting any communicable disease at the event.

COMPETITION POLICIES

JUDGES

The Thoroughbred Makeover is not sanctioned by any federations and so is not obligated to contract carded judges. In most cases, judges are credentialed with relevant federations where applicable to the discipline. Event management selects judges who are well-qualified horsemen in their respective disciplines and known to be supportive of the mission of the event.

Judges may not judge a trainer for whom they have served as coach, trainer, employer, or employee during the preceding 30 days. Judges will also not judge members of their immediate family.

If for any reason and at any time during the course of the competition, a judge becomes unable to complete their scheduled duties, event management will contract the most suitable and readily-available replacement possible and notify trainers in the affected discipline.

STEWARDS

Each of the ten disciplines will have a steward observing the competition venue(s) and reporting rule violations. A Ground Jury is responsible for monitoring activities beyond the competition venues. A Chief Steward will supervise the Ground Jury and discipline stewards and serve as the final arbiter in cases of protest during the event.

The Thoroughbred Makeover is not sanctioned by any federations and so is not obligated to contract carded officials. Event management selects officials who are well-qualified horsemen in their respective disciplines and known to be supportive of the mission of the event. In many cases, officials are also highly experienced and credentialed horse show professionals.

Stewards may not arbitrate issues involving a trainer for whom they have served as coach, trainer, student, client, employer, or employee during the preceding 30 days. Stewards may also not arbitrate issues involving members of their immediate family.

INJURY AND LIABILITY

Thoroughbred Makeover trainers release and hold harmless the RRP, its Board of Directors, its staff, and its sponsors from liability for damages resulting from their participation in the Thoroughbred Makeover before, during, and after the event. Trainers acknowledge that they participate at their own risk and will sign liability waivers at the point of application as a part of their participation agreement.

All riders who experience a fall where they do not land on their feet and their shoulder hits the ground or where they otherwise reasonably appear to be in pain or impaired from the fall must be seen by an EMT.

Horses who fall and their hip or shoulder hit the ground, **whether in competition or anywhere on the show grounds**, must be evaluated by the treating veterinarian before continuing in any portion of competition. **The horse and rider must receive clearance from the Ground Jury before continuing any portion of competition.**

Incidents of falls and/or injury will be documented with the use of an incident report. Event management has the right to request documentation from a veterinary or medical professional clearing a rider or horse to continue in competition.

All individuals on horseback for **any portion** of the Thoroughbred Makeover must have submitted a signed liability

waiver to the RRP. [Any individual under the age of 18 or riders of any age while jumping must wear an ASTM-approved helmet at all times.](#) All individuals must be able to direct the horse they are on independently and without assistance. The RRP prohibits more than one individual from sitting on a single horse simultaneously except for when it pertains to Freestyle prop schooling and performances.

ARRIVAL EXAMS & HEALTH PAPERWORK

All horses competing in the Thoroughbred Makeover will pass an Arrival Exam certifying that they are in good condition to participate in the event. Note that ALL horses in Thoroughbred Makeover stabling/affiliated with the event are subject to the health documentation and vaccination requirements; this includes non-competing horses. Detailed information about the Arrival Exam procedure can be found in the Competition Policies section.

Soundness

All horses competing in Kentucky are subject to a baseline soundness exam at the walk as part of the Arrival exam. Judges or officials in all Thoroughbred Makeover disciplines are authorized to eliminate horses should they feel that they are not appropriately sound for the discipline test they are being asked to complete. Lameness may not compete.

Horses advancing to the discipline championships will take part in a jog inspection on the Friday prior to the championships. This inspection will be overseen by a panel of veterinarians and the Ground Jury. See the appendix for more information about championship jogs.

Body Condition

Any horse that arrives at the Thoroughbred Makeover with a Henneke Body Condition Score below 4.0 (out of 9) will not be allowed to compete. Information on body condition scoring is available in the [Trainer Portal](#). Trainers

**Congratulations to all the
Graduates of the
Former Broodmare Division**



LANE'S END

Proud Co-Sponsor of the Former Broodmare Division

may find it helpful to have their vet assess their horse's body condition score using the full Henneke system when the horse is acquired and again in the 3-4 weeks prior to shipping to the Makeover so any adjustments can be made.

Coggins, Health Certificates, and Vaccination Records

ALL horses in Thoroughbred Makeover stabling/affiliated with the event are subject to these health documentation requirements; this includes non-competing horses and Adoption Barn horses. The Thoroughbred Makeover and Kentucky Department of Agriculture require current (within 12 months) proof of negative Coggins and a health certificate for all horses on the grounds of the Kentucky Horse Park. Health certificates must be issued within 30 days for out-of-state horses and within 12 months for in-state horses.

Proof of vaccination for equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1 or "Rhino") is also required. Records must reflect vaccine administration no more than six months (**April 5, 2026**) and no fewer than 14 days (**September 21, 2026**) prior to arrival at the Kentucky Horse Park. This means that every horse at the Kentucky Horse Park during the Makeover must have been vaccinated for EHV-1 between **April 5 and September 21, 2026**. The following are the only forms of accepted vaccination documentation:

- Bill/receipt with vet practice name, contact info, date, and horse's name, indicating EHV-1 administration
- A letter on practice letterhead, signed and dated, certifying administration
- Name and vaccine type noted by veterinarian on signed health certificate/import documents

Trainers must be prepared to show these documents upon arrival at the Kentucky Horse Park, at check-in, and at any point throughout the event. Horses with insufficient health paperwork will be immediately quarantined and asked to leave the grounds.

Microchipping

Trainers are required to report a Jockey Club-registered microchip number on Final Entry forms for those horses bound to compete at the Kentucky Horse Park in October. All Jockey Club-registered horses from the 2017 foal crop and subsequent crops have been microchipped instead of tattooed. Older horses may have already had a microchip inserted or will need to have one inserted. Given the increased use of microchips, trainers should scan their horses to see if a microchip has already been inserted prior to ordering and inserting another one in error. Most ambulatory vets will have a microchip reader, or they can be purchased inexpensively from retailers such as Amazon. Most North American horses will have their microchip inserted in the nuchal ligament on the left side of their crest. Some other countries (including Canada) insert the chip in the horse's upper lip. Tattoos will not be accepted as an alternative to microchips.

Trainers needing to purchase a microchip may do so from whatever source they choose, as long as the serial number is 15 digits (ISO 11784/11785 compliant). The RRP shop and The Jockey Club both sell compliant microchips. Note that microchips, from whatever source, are not pre-registered to any databases. It is the responsibility of the owner to register them with the Jockey Club once inserted.

Microchip numbers must be reported to the RRP during the Final Entry form submission period, **August 4-28, 2026**. Trainers having trouble locating their horse's microchip or registering a microchip with the Jockey Club are responsible for contacting the Show Secretary before the Final Entry period begins.

More information microchipping is available on the Jockey Club website and in the Trainer Portal.

Drug Testing

The RRP invests considerable resources in drug testing to protect the welfare of the horses and to ensure a level playing field for all trainers. The Thoroughbred Makeover observes the list of restricted and prohibited substances as published in the current USEF Guidelines for Drugs and Medications. All discipline championship winners will be tested. In addition, random testing will be enforced, and positive results will be cause for disqualification. Drug testing can include blood and/or urine testing, at the discretion of event management. See Drug Testing Procedure for more information.

Note that some classes of drugs are permissible below certain levels. Trainers are required to report the use of these drugs by uploading a [Medication Report Form](#) in the [Trainer Portal](#), prior to the start of competition.

ARRIVAL EXAM PROCEDURE

All horses competing in the Thoroughbred Makeover will be subject to a simple veterinary exam upon their arrival at the Kentucky Horse Park in October. The Arrival Exam allows the RRP to enforce horse welfare requirements relating to soundness, conditioning, and microchipping as set forth in the Thoroughbred Makeover rules.

Arrival Exam Process

In September, a check-in schedule will be published. These will be the times that check-in will be open and Arrival Exams will be performed. If trainers are aware that their travel plans will not allow them to check in during these hours, they must notify the show secretary immediately to make alternate plans.

Once horses have arrived at the Horse Park, their trainers (or a representative) must promptly come to the check-in area (designated by management in September), where event staff will verify that all health paperwork, including Coggins, health certificates, vaccine records, and microchip numbers are on file. At this time, trainers will receive their competitor packet and competitor number and will be placed in an online queue of checked-in entries ready for their exams. Trainers will return to their stalls to wait for a member of the veterinary team to meet them to complete the first phase of the exam. The online queue can be monitored from the [Trainer Portal](#). Ship-ins will be directed to a designated area to park while waiting for their arrival exam. Trainers may not check-in in advance of their horses arrival at the park.

Teams of licensed veterinarians will be deployed in the barns, meeting trainers at their stalls to perform the preliminary phase of the exam according to the order of the online check-in queue. With the assistance of veterinary interns and volunteers, they will assess the following:

- a) Temperature
- b) Pulse, noting if an arrhythmia or murmur is present
- c) Respiration
- d) Henneke Body Condition Score
- e) Swelling or blemishes
- f) Verify identity of the horse via microchip scan
- g) Verify health records on file

Horses will then advance to the soundness phase of the exam, which will require them to walk on a firm surface on a straightaway and perform 10-meter circles to the left and to the right. This will take place in a dedicated, quiet area by a separate veterinarian.

At this point, the horse will either pass the exam or be referred for a recheck exam. The following reasons would be cause for a recheck exam:

- a) Temperature greater than **101.4** (see *Procedural Notes* for more information on sustained temperatures)
- b) Presence of an arrhythmia or murmur
- c) Body Condition Score less than 4
- d) Significant, acute, or painful swelling
- e) Microchip non-match
- f) Unsound at the walk

Horses passing the Arrival Exam will receive a set of colored stickers indicating their eligibility to compete. This sticker must be displayed on the horse's competitor number(s).

If a horse is referred for a recheck exam, and the recheck exam results in the same findings as the first, the horse is entitled to a final examination with a third veterinarian. This third examination may take place at a later time and must be coordinated with the Consulting Veterinarian. Should the horse fail to pass all examinations, they will not be eligible to compete. This decision will be final and may not be protested. Taking into account the reason or not passing the exam, the Ground Jury and veterinary team will make a decision on next steps based on the

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best interest of the horse as well as the population of horses on the grounds.

Arrival Exam Procedural Notes

- Should a long wait for exams develop, trainers may school their horses prior to completing the exam, but they are responsible for proactively ensuring their horses complete the exam within the available schedule.
- The check-in and Arrival Exam process is led by the show secretary and Consulting Veterinarian. Approved veterinarians will staff the process, as well as volunteers who need not be equine medical professionals.
- Body Condition Score (BCS) will be assessed using the long-form Henneke scoring method, which scores six locations on the horse's body on a scale of one to nine and averages them. Horses must be in a body condition score of four or better to compete.
- The surface for the soundness exam will be a solid surface free of rocks and debris. Barefoot horses may wear boots.
- All horses must pass a soundness exam at the walk. However, judges still have the right to excuse horses that they feel are not sufficiently sound for the discipline they are being asked to compete in. Horses excused from the competition ring will be assessed by the treating veterinarian and Chief Steward to determine if they should complete the competition.
- Those examining horses will do so with exam gloves unique to each horse. Exam equipment (thermometers, stethoscopes) will be cleaned with Clorox wipes after each horse.
- Horses with inadequate vaccine or health record documentation will be asked to leave the grounds immediately.
- Horses who have a temperature in excess of **101.4** upon initial evaluation will be rechecked within two hours. If the temperature is sustained at that time, the horse will be immediately moved to a quarantine stall, and the trainer will need to order additional veterinary work-up at their own expense. The horse may remain in quarantine on-site until the results of the veterinary work-up are returned, at which point the veterinary team will resume the Arrival Exam. If the trainer declines to order additional work-up, they will be asked to remove the horse from the grounds immediately.

Trainers should work closely with their veterinarians throughout the Makeover preparation period to manage condition and soundness and to ensure their horses are adequately prepared for competition. The RRP makes resources available to trainers on nutrition and soundness and is always available should a trainer need assistance with their horse's preparation. Trainers may contact the RRP with any questions at secretary@therrp.org.

CHAMPIONSHIP JOGS PROCEDURE

Horses who are advancing to the discipline championships will complete an in-hand inspection at the trot before a panel of licensed veterinarians and the Ground Jury on the Friday prior to the championships. The "jogs" will take place on an inspection lane on arena footing at least 30 meters in length. Arena footing may be rolled or conditioned such that it is suitable for handlers to run on. Horses will be presented in a discipline-appropriate headstall OR a nice halter with reins or a lead shank. Trainers may elect to use a chain shank and/or carry a dressage whip if needed. Horses may not be jogged in wraps or leg boots. Hoof boots are allowed. Horses and trainers will be well-groomed and presented in clean, tidy tack and attire.

Horses will jog grouped by discipline and in numerical order within their discipline. An order of go will be made available at the championships briefing. Trainers should plan on allowing 2-3 minutes per horse. Horses in the championships in multiple disciplines will only need to be presented once.

- Trainers will walk their horse up to the start of the lane and hold their horse for a walk-around inspection by the lead veterinarian.
- When instructed, trainers will proceed forward at the walk, and then pick up the trot where indicated, proceeding down to the turnaround.
- Horses will walk through the turnaround to the right, then proceed back down the lane at the trot, coming down to the walk where indicated.
- A member of the Ground Jury will indicate if the horse is accepted or if it will go to the holding box to wait for reinspection after several minutes.

- If the horse does not pass on reinspection, it will not compete in the championships and will finish in tenth place in discipline championship results. The outcomes for the championship jogs are final and may not be protested.
- If a horse does not pass on reinspection, the trainer has 30 minutes from when the decision was issued to request evaluation using the lameness locator tool. The trainer must verbally request the evaluation to the jog steward. The evaluation will cost \$100 and must be paid upon evaluation request. If the lameness locator does not indicate any lameness in the horse, the trainer will be refunded the \$100 and the horse will be permitted to participate in the championships. If the lameness locator does indicate lameness in the horse, the \$100 will not be refunded, the findings will be shared with the trainer, and the horse will not be permitted to compete in the championships.
- The outcomes of the jog inspection are final, and protests will not be considered. The veterinary team will make use of a simple log to note of the basis of their decisioning which the trainer may request to review following the jog. Beyond review of this log, event management will not entertain further discourse on the outcomes of the jog inspection.

For those who are unfamiliar with “jogs” in competition, it is important to understand that management, preparation, and presentation can influence the result of a jogged evaluation. Horses should be managed thoughtfully throughout the competition, taking into consideration long days on potentially hard ground, less access to turnout than usual, and level of physical exertion. Trainers should consider what management practices and supportive therapies might benefit their horses, such as wrapping, cold hosing, sole packing, sole pads or hoof boots, PEMF treatments, etc. Horses should not be presented in the jogs cold. A hack or lunging session to warm up is encouraged as well as practice jogging your horse. The pace of your horse’s trot can influence their presentation in the jog. For effective presentation, horses should be moving at a forward trot-- trainers should expect to *run* with their horses. If trainers are not capable of or uncomfortable handling their horses in this way, they may nominate a representative to present the horse on their behalf.



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DRUG TESTING PROCEDURE

In support of the Thoroughbred Makeover's prioritization of the health and welfare of horses, drug testing is enforced at the event.

The Thoroughbred Makeover observes the USEF Drugs and Medications Guidelines' list of restricted and prohibited substances as a well-established standard. However, the Thoroughbred Makeover is not a USEF-licensed competition and so establishes its own procedure for testing administration as follows.

Samples will be collected of blood and/or urine at the discretion of event management.

Random testing will be enforced and can occur at any time throughout the week of the event. These tests will be performed stall-side. Event management will put a list of bridle numbers into a random number generator to impartially select subjects of random testing.

All discipline championship winners will be tested upon leaving the arena after the discipline's award ceremony. For safety and convenience, RRP staff will designate stalls for the use of testing. [Championship participants will be made aware of where and when they should report for drug testing during the championship briefing.](#)

All sample collections will be overseen by a licensed veterinarian and a member of the Thoroughbred Makeover Ground Jury and/or the Consulting Veterinarian. Event management will supply these officials with a collection log that will include bridle numbers, horse names, and microchip numbers along with a set of labels with unique serial numbers.



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Trainers (or a representative) will handle their horses to facilitate collection and will comply readily with any requests made by officials. Failure to cooperate with testing procedures risks disqualification from the competition.

Technicians performing collections will wear gloves and utilize fresh needles, vials, etc. Samples will be split between two containers and labeled as sample A and B along with a serial number label and placed in tamper-evident bags in the presence of the trainer or representative. If containers become contaminated with material such as bedding or soil, a fresh container will be used.

Horses will be positively-identified by microchip scan and associated sample serial numbers will be added to the log as they are collected. Both collecting technician and the trainer (or representative) will sign off on the collection log. Event management will retain the collection log, and the overseeing veterinarian will promptly submit samples to the contracted laboratory with only the serial numbers to identify the samples.

Upon receipt of the lab report, event management will notify any trainer of a failing result within three business days. Trainers whose horse receives a failing result have the right to test sample B at their own expense at a mutually agreed-upon laboratory. Trainers must submit their request in writing via the protest form no more than 15 days following their result notification. Upon receipt of request for retesting and payment of associated fees (\$100 protest fee plus the cost of testing and any shipping), event management will promptly facilitate the retest.

Event management will direct the laboratory to dispose of samples following the 15-day protest period and once any retests are completed. Drug test results are final and may not be disputed after this time. Failed drug tests will result in disqualification from the competition. Trainers are solely responsible for the outcome of drug tests and agree to forfeit any and all awards and prize money in the event of a disqualification.

EQUIPMENT

The Thoroughbred Makeover is a busy environment with hundreds of green horses. For safety reasons, the RRP requires trainers to observe minimum equipment requirements while handling horses on the grounds of the event:

- Horses must be ridden in a headstall with reins: no riding in halters. Bridleless handling/riding is only allowable during the Freestyle [discipline](#) or during dedicated Freestyle prop schooling.
- While riding or handling horses, trainers must wear closed-toe shoes, preferably with a hard sole and heel.
- Shorts while riding are only allowed if worn with full chaps.
- Bareback riding is only allowable during the Freestyle [discipline](#) or during dedicated Freestyle prop schooling.
- The RRP strongly encourages riders of all disciplines to wear an ASTM-approved helmet. Juniors and all riders taking part in jumping disciplines are required to wear a helmet. [Any rider found to be jumping without a helmet will be eliminated.](#)

Equipment rules vary by discipline and are consistent with the traditions and practices of those disciplines; however, ***event officials have the authority at any time to instruct any rider or handler to remove or alter equipment that they deem to be improperly utilized, inhumane, or create unfair advantage in competition.***

The following equipment rules are specific to the Thoroughbred Makeover and supersede any third-party (USEF, etc.) equipment rules cited in the following discipline specific sections.

- [Use of auxiliary reins such as draw reins and German martingales is permissible in schooling but is prohibited in competition unless otherwise noted in the discipline descriptions.](#)
- [Use of auxiliary reins and mechanical devices is prohibited in the Dressage competition and warm up arenas at all times.](#)
- [Schooling over fences in auxiliary reins is only permissible in the Hunter-Jumper Complex.](#)

- Use of chambons, neck stretchers, Pessoa rigs, or similar equipment is only permissible while lunging in the appropriate rings as identified on the facility map.
- Neck straps constructed of leather or other smooth, non-rigid, breakaway material at least ¾" wide are allowed in all competition venues and must be secured to the saddle.
- The use of pinch boots (i.e.: hind boots constructed to apply pressure and influence the horse's hind end action) is prohibited in all disciplines. Refer to [FEI Jumping rules Annex VIII, Art. 2.2 c & d](#) for specifications.

See discipline descriptions for further information on acceptable equipment.

SCHOOLING AND COURSE WALKING

Event management wants to create an event that sets horses up for a successful experience and therefore offers ample schooling opportunities in both competition and warm-up arenas.

Ticketed schooling will be available in competition arenas prior to the start of the event (typically Tuesday on a normal event schedule). Trainers will receive two tickets for ticketed schooling per horse which they may use in the competition venue of their choice. **Note that ticketed schooling in competition venues is made available as a means for arena familiarization, not as a prolonged training opportunity.** Ticketed schooling does not guarantee a specific amount of time in the arena. Schooling attendants are tasked with monitoring these spaces to ensure safety and good horsemanship. Those who are uncooperative with schooling attendants or who violate schooling protocols risk removal from the event.

A detailed schooling schedule will be made available to trainers in September. Trainers are obligated to plan accordingly based on schooling availability, as additional schooling opportunities will not be made available. It is highly recommended that trainers take advantage of ticketed schooling opportunities as early as possible. There is often a long wait for ticketed schooling venues at the end of the day due to trainers waiting until the afternoon to school their horses. Ticketed schooling venues will NOT be kept open past their scheduled times to accommodate a waitlist.

Courses will be posted in the [Trainer Portal](#), prior to the start of competition. Where possible, course maps will be posted ringside. Paper copies of courses will not be provided. In instances where competition courses are not open for schooling (Competitive Trail, Eventing Cross Country, Ranch Trail and Field Hunters), they will be open for course walking/inspection on foot prior to the start of competition. Horses are not permitted to be on or in proximity to these courses outside of competition. Trainers are expected to keep their horses well and clearly away from outdoor competition courses.

Championship horses will have the opportunity for arena familiarization (flat schooling only) in their designated championship venues on Friday, during which time the course will be set for that venue's first event the following morning. Arena Familiarization will likely not be offered for the Competitive Trail venue. Course walking for applicable disciplines in the championships will be available prior to the start of that discipline for a period not to exceed 10 minutes.

See the following Schooling Policies section for more information.

SCHOOLING POLICIES

- Arenas are available as outlined on the schooling schedule, which will be published in the [Trainer Portal](#), in September. Arenas are considered closed at times outside of the schooling/competition schedule. Venues not listed on the schooling schedule are not included in the RRP's rental agreement with the park and therefore are off-limits to Makeover participants.
- Ticketed schooling is offered in competition arenas prior to the start of preliminary competition (typically Tuesday) This allows trainers to school over fences and in dressage arena in the applicable venues but

is not an opportunity for prolonged schooling. Trainers should NOT expect to school a full dressage test or course over fences.

- At check-in, each trainer will receive two schooling tickets per horse in their competitor packet. These schooling tickets will provide them with access to their choice of up to two available competition venues and are not available for non-competing horses. Extra tickets are not offered for purchase. Upon receiving their schooling tickets, trainers will write their horse's bridle number down on each ticket.
- When arriving at a ticketed arena, trainers will check in with the schooling attendant and give them their ticket. The attendant will keep a rotation, and if the arena is too full, the attendant will advise the trainer when to come back.
- Attendants are tasked with keeping arenas orderly and not over-filled. They have the authority to ask trainers to leave who have been in the arena longest in order to allow others in who are waiting to school.



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- The following courses are not open for schooling under any circumstances: Cross Country, Field Hunters, and Competitive Trail, and Ranch Trail. These courses will be open for trainer inspection on foot only.
- Trainers are free to hack around the grounds of the park but are expected to keep their horses well and clearly away (at least 100 feet) from obstacles on the outdoor courses listed above.
- For Freestyle riders with routines involving liberty, props, firearms, or other potentially disruptive activity, event management will have a sign-up at check-in for slots for "Prop Schooling" in the Covered Arena. Trainers will have 10 minutes on their own to run through their routine after hours (late evening) the night prior to preliminary Freestyle competition. Limit one time slot per horse. Prop schooling does not require a ticket.
- Barrel Racers will also receive a dedicated time in the Covered Arena that will allow them to run patterns and school without disrupting others.
- Warm up arenas are not subject to ticketed schooling.
- Lunging is only permitted where indicated on the schooling schedule.
- **Riders must follow arena eti-**

quette in all shared riding venues. Arena etiquette includes but is not limited to passing left to left, calling out their intent to jump a fence, following directional flagging on jumps where applicable, and otherwise maintaining safe control of their horse. Failure to observe arena etiquette should be reported to the ring steward.

- [Altering the directional flagging on any jump in any venue is prohibited.](#)
- The Dressage arena is NOT open for hand walking on competition days.
- The Show Hunter ring will be open for hacking only in the morning prior to the start of the competition day.
- Jump courses will not be set at a particular height at a particular time. Trainers may adjust the height of fences, not to exceed competition height, but may not move standards in anyway.
- Schooling on any of the competition courses after preliminary competition, whether in the arena or on cross country, is prohibited unless otherwise stated by show management.
- Trainers who are uncooperative with schooling attendants or who are found violating the schooling schedule or policies may be removed from competition.

COMPETITOR NUMBERS

Each horse will be issued a competitor number. A bridle number and back number (Eventers and Field Hunters will also receive an insert for a pinny/bib number holder) will be included in the trainer packet, which is collected at check in. Bridle numbers will also be issued for non-competing horses. No horse is to be outside of its stall without a bridle number on its headstall or halter. Trainers will compete using the number that is appropriate for the discipline (back number around the waist or pinned to the saddle pad, etc.). Field Hunters will also receive a saddle cloth for use during the mock hunt. See the Field Hunter discipline section for details.

Dear Fellow Horsemen,

The National HBPA, which represents nearly 30,000 owners and trainers across North America, strongly advocates respect for the dignity and the welfare of horses of all breeds. We are here to embolden, foster and provide education regarding responsible ownership and management that will reduce the number of unwanted racehorses. We passionately support the development and enhancement of off-the-track Thoroughbred (OTTB) retirement facilities and adoption groups along with programs at affiliated racetracks providing for the aftercare of our horses when their racing careers are over. We are especially proud to be a sponsor of the Retired Racehorse Project.

Please join the National HBPA in support of Thoroughbred aftercare and the Retired Racehorse Project.

***Sincerely,
Eric J. Hamelback
National HBPA, Chief Executive Officer***



DISCIPLINE COMPETITION FORMATS

A NOTICE TO ALL TRAINERS

The Thoroughbred Makeover is a training competition, established to showcase the versatility and trainability of the Thoroughbred. As such, the format of each discipline will vary from what trainers may be accustomed to experiencing in competitions in their respective disciplines. This is in order to serve the mission of the event, and to accommodate for the experience level of the horses, as well as for logistical realities.

Trainers are expected to take the competition format, schedule, and their horse's current fitness level into account when selecting their disciplines on their Final Entry form. The preliminary competition is held across only two days, and some disciplines may be more physically taxing on horses than others. Trainers should use caution when electing to enter one horse in two disciplines, such as Eventing and Field Hunters, that have multiple phases which require high levels of exertion. It is the responsibility of the trainer to scratch a horse showing signs of exhaustion and to put the welfare of the horse above all else. Otherwise, the ground jury reserves the right to remove a horse showing signs of exhaustion from any remaining phases of competition.

Please note that there are **not** separate divisions based on jump height selection or trainer status (junior, amateur, professional, or team). The only two divisions offered are the Retiring Racehorse division and the Former Broodmare Division.

JUDGING RUBRIC AND TERMS

Across all disciplines, it is important to note that horses are being judged on their progress in training in their respective discipline. In addition to the development of discipline-specific skills, judges will be looking at foundational qualities such as freedom and regularity of gaits, desire to go forward, and acceptance of aids.

All scores are awarded based on a scale of 0 to 10 are based on the following rubric:

10	Excellent	4	Insufficient
9	Very good	3	Fairly bad
8	Good	2	Bad
7	Fairly good	1	Very bad
6	Satisfactory	0	Not performed
5	Marginal		

Half points are permitted in all disciplines.

Common Impression Scores awarded throughout disciplines include the following qualities and directive ideas:

- Rideability, demeanor, or manners (used interchangeably): confidence, willingness to perform the task at hand, acceptance of aids, relaxation, softness in the bridle
- Form or style over fences: correct and efficient jumping form and carefulness
- Performance between fences: consistent rhythm, appropriate pace, desire to go forward, ability to adjust balance before fence, and jumping out of stride
-
- Open gallop: desire to go forward, ground cover, balance/not bearing down on the forehand, ease and efficiency of gallop
- Pace: regularity of speed and rhythm of stride, adjustability, relaxation, balance
- **Horsemanship of rider: effective use of aids and appropriately setting the horse up for each question or obstacle**

Scoresheets will be made available to trainers upon completion of scoring. Trainers are not entitled to see the scoresheets of other trainers.

FAULTS AND ELIMINATIONS

This section defines competition-based eliminations that are applicable across all disciplines and how they are applied to results. See discipline formats for additional discipline-specific information.

Horses will be eliminated for the following reasons as applicable by discipline:

- a) Going off course/pattern. Commencing a performance without appropriate acknowledgement from the judge (or other starting protocol as defined by discipline) is considered going off course. Going off course/pattern will result in a technical elimination (TE) rather than a standard elimination (E). See the following discipline format sections for more information.
- b) For all jumping disciplines, faults are assessed at four points per occurrence for knock downs and eight points per occurrence for disobediences. Please see [USEF rules for Eventing \(subchapter EV127\)](#) for the definitions of knock down and disobedience.
 - Horses are allotted no more than four knock downs per jumping phase/trip. A horse will be eliminated at the fifth knock down occurrence in one phase. Each occurrence of a knock down will be marked with a “K” on the horse’s scorecard.
 - Horses are allotted no more than two disobediences per jumping phase/trip. A horse will be eliminated at the third disobedience occurrence in one phase. Each occurrence of a disobedience will be marked with a “D” on the horse’s scorecard.
 - Faults for knock downs and disobediences are now assessed separately, and the two different fault types will not be combined in such a way that results in elimination.
- c) Fall of rider



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A technical elimination (TE) will appear in the show results rather than a standard elimination (E) if the fault is a rider error (example: going off course/pattern or missing start or finish flags), and not caused directly or indirectly by the horse. Leaving the boundaries of the competition venue will continue to result in a standard elimination (E).

Horses who are eliminated for any of the above reasons may complete the current phase of the test

at the discretion of the judge. If the judge allows the pair to complete the current/remaining phase(s) of the discipline test, the rider will receive a completed scorecard but will be listed on results as an elimination.

Horses who fall (defined as the hip or shoulder touching the ground) in competition will not complete any remaining phase of their discipline test and will be listed as an elimination on results for that discipline. If they are scheduled to compete in another discipline, they must be cleared to do so by the treating veterinarian and Ground Jury. **Horse falls that occur anywhere on horseshow grounds, regardless of whether or not they are in a competition venue, are subject to clearance by the treating veterinarian and Ground Jury before participating in any remaining portion of competition.**

Judges may excuse a horse at any time at their discretion for reasons such as:

- a) Unsoundness
- b) Dangerous or out of control riding
- c) Poor horsemanship/sportsmanship on the part of the trainer

If a horse and rider are excused for any of the above reasons, the pair must leave the competition arena immediately and receive approval from the Chief Steward and/or treating veterinarian before participating in any further portion of the competition. Excusals will be listed on results as an elimination.

See the Participant Code of Conduct section for more information on eliminations based on code of conduct violations.

BARREL RACING

Preliminary Competition Format (120 points inverted to a maximum of 6 points added to run times)

All horses will complete a horsemanship pattern and two (2) timed barrel runs. The horsemanship pattern will be performed before the first timed run and the two timed barrel runs will be scheduled on separate days.

Horsemanship Pattern (100 points inverted to a maximum of 5 points)

The horsemanship pattern consists of 10 movements designed to assess the fundamentals of the horse's training. Two judges will consider ability to maintain an even pace, responsiveness to aids, and general demeanor of the horse. The horsemanship pattern is intended to be ridden in the manner in which trainers are riding their barrel horses at home and should not be considered a traditional western horsemanship show class, i.e. if a trainer rides two-handed, they should ride the pattern accordingly, regardless of bit.

Horsemanship Impression Scores (20 points inverted to a maximum of 1 point)

- a) Responsiveness to aids (10 points)
- b) **Horsemanship of rider (10 points)**

Each movement/quality will be scored on a scale of 0 to 10 for a total of 120 possible points. The horsemanship scores will be averaged between two judges and inverted from the possible score of 120. Inverted scores will then be multiplied by a coefficient of 0.05, thus reducing the inverted score to a maximum of 6 points. Example: An averaged horsemanship score of 75 is inverted out of 120 to a score of 45, then multiplied by the coefficient of 0.05 to become an added time of 2.25 seconds to the timed runs. See Scorecards and Competition Patterns section for a copy of the horsemanship pattern.

Timed Barrel Runs

The barrel pattern will be set using metal barrels set according to the diagram in the Scorecards and Competition Patterns section. A laser timer will be used, and reruns will be granted in the event of timing equipment failure. Drags will be performed every fifth run. There is no division split. Order of go will be reversed from run one to run two.

Run times will be recorded to the third decimal place and added to the inverted score from the horsemanship pattern. Placings for preliminary competition will be determined by total scores ranked lowest to highest.

Championship Competition Format (Run time only)

The ten horses with the lowest score after the preliminary competition will advance to the Barrel Racing Championship on a clean-slate score to complete one more timed barrel run to determine 1st-10th championship placings.

Additional Information

Team Format

Team horses must be presented by at least two trainers. A different trainer may present the horse in the horse-manship pattern, and in each of the timed runs. One trainer will present the horse in the Barrel Racing Championship.

Barrel Racing Faults, Eliminations, Ties, and Formalities

“No Time” is given for breaking the barrier, loss of forward motion after starting the timer, any run time over 60 seconds, or going off pattern. No Time will be calculated and displayed as a run time of 60 seconds. No Time runs are not eliminations.

Knocking a barrel completely over will result in five seconds added to the run time for each occurrence. No more than two barrels may be knocked over in a single run. Knocking three barrels over in a single run is an elimination.

Failure to cross the timer start line within two minutes of being called to the ingate or complete a pattern/phase are eliminations.

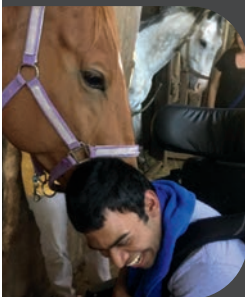
Re-runs are granted in the event of timer malfunction or misplacement of barrels.

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Ties in preliminary competition will be broken with the fastest second run time. Ties in the championship will be broken with the lowest horsemanship score from preliminary competition.

Judges and timers will indicate to the ingate by radio when they are ready for the trainer to commence their horsemanship pattern and runs.

Barrel Racing Attire and Equipment

Western attire and equipment are required. Adult trainers may wear a western hat instead of an ASTM-approved helmet. All trainers must wear a long-sleeved western shirt.

Wraps, protective boots, and hoof boots are permitted.

Snaffle bits, combination bits, shank bits and hackamores may all be used with one or two hands. Any bit having a fixed rein requires the use of a curb chain or strap, including all shanked bits. Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4" in diameter. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single or double twisted wire, or smooth chain mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed. Bicycle chain is prohibited in any equipment. Combination bits and hackamores may include a noseband constructed of nylon, leather, rawhide or rope. Any rawhide or twisted rope noseband that is part of a combination bit or hackamore must be padded. No other functional part of the bit or headstall may be constructed of rawhide; headstalls may include decorative rawhide.

Headstalls, tie-downs and bonnets may not be constructed of wire, solid metal, or twisted rawhide or rope, no matter how padded. Flat nylon, cotton or leather tie-downs, bonnets and training aids (auxiliary reins) are permitted.

For all phases of the Barrel Racing test, tie-downs and other training aids shall be fitted such that the horse's natural headset while standing/immobile is not altered or impeded. Stewards have discretion over determining appropriate fit of tie-downs.

Spur shanks may not exceed 2.5" in length. Spur rowels may not exceed 1" in diameter and must be blunt. See Equipment section above for more information.

COMPETITIVE TRAIL

Preliminary Competition Format (115 points, variable dependent on course design)

The Competitive Trail course will be comprised of approximately ten obstacles on the grounds of the Horse Park. Horses will complete the course individually within a maximum time that will be provided based on the course design. Competing in-hand is not an option. Two judges will be seated separately and, depending on course design, will either each score one half or the entirety of the course.

Horses will need to be prepared to encounter obstacles traditionally found in Competitive Trail classes including but not limited to:

- Water crossing
- Dragging/pulling: tarps, logs, items on a pulley
- Challenges to visual perception: geo boards, water boxes
- Challenges to tactile stimulation: brush simulations (pool noodles), cowboy curtains
- Tests of surefootedness: bridges, multi-level bridges, teeters, raised poles or "rocks"
- Tasks while riding: checking mail, ringing a bell, picking up and carrying items such as a flag, bucket, or rain slicker
- Dismount, mount, ground tie, handling while dismounted (picking hooves, fly spray)
- Backing, sidepassing, tight turns
- Trot and canter where appropriate
- Encounters: tents, fake animals, balloons

Judges will reward horses who negotiate obstacles with a calm and confident demeanor, show a desire to move forward with a steady pace, and exhibit care and surefootedness throughout the course.

Horses are not allowed to be within 100 feet of any obstacle in advance of their ride, unless during event management-sanctioned schooling. A competitor briefing will take place prior to the start of the [discipline](#) where trainers will be provided with a course map and directives and have an opportunity to examine obstacles on foot prior to the start of competition.

Competitive Trail Course (100 points, variable dependent on course design)

Horses will receive a score of 0 to 10 on each obstacle from one or both of the two judges, 0 being not performed or skipped, 10 being perfect. Judges may choose to award partial credit at their discretion for an attempt on an obstacle that is not completed, if the effort demonstrates skills necessary to negotiate the obstacle. Each of the judges will also award Overall Impression scores.

Overall Impression Scores (15 points, each with a coefficient of .5)

- a) Responsiveness to aids (10 points)
- b) **Horsemanship of Rider (10 points)**
- c) Horse's Demeanor (10 points)

Obstacle scores from each judge will be added to averaged impression scores. Placings for preliminary competition will be determined by total scores ranked highest to lowest.

Championship Competition Format (115 points, variable based on course design)

The ten horses with the highest score after the preliminary competition will advance to the Competitive Trail



Championship on a clean-slate score to complete a trail course to determine 1st-10th championship placings. In the championship, both judges will judge the entire course, and both their obstacle and impression scores will be averaged.

Maximum points available are dependent on course design. The championship course is typically **ten** obstacles.

Additional Information

Team Format

Team horses must be presented by two trainers who will swap halfway through the course. One trainer will present the horse in the Competitive Trail Championship.

Competitive Trail Faults, Eliminations, Ties, and Formalities

Partial scores may be awarded for obstacles that are initiated but not completed.

Horses exceeding the maximum course time will be excused (indicated by whistle or other alert sound) and must exit the course immediately via the most direct route available. They are not eliminated and will be given a scorecard reflecting the obstacles **initiated** within time.

Trainers may elect to skip obstacles either prior to, or after initiating an attempt at an obstacle by raising their hand and indicating to the judge that they intend to skip. Appearing to initiate an obstacle out of sequence without the trainer indicating their intent to skip an obstacle, or exiting the path reasonably interpreted by the course map is considered off course. Horses eliminated for going off course may complete the course at the discretion of the judges if they are still under course time. See Eliminations section above for more information.

If an obstacle on course presents the rider with the option to dally, the rider should only do so if they are able to execute a safe and correct dally. Judges may penalize the competitor with a lower score for that obstacle if they dally incorrectly.



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Three obstacles on each course will be designated and ranked as tie-breakers.

Judges will radio to a starter when they are ready, who will send the horse out on course. Time will start once the starter sends the horse out.

Competitive Trail Attire and Equipment

All trainers must wear boots and either long pants or breeches. Equipment and attire may be either English or western, and adult trainers may wear a western hat with western attire. Horses must wear a saddle and a headstall with reins. Riding bareback or bridleless is prohibited. Martingales, tie-downs, or any mechanism that restrains the head or neck are prohibited.

Wraps, protective boots, and hoof boots are permitted.

Ear plugs and noise-cancelling bonnets are permitted.

Horses may be ridden in a snaffle bit, bosal or hackamore regardless of age. Trainers shall ride horses in this tack with two hands. Combination bits are prohibited.

Trainers riding in a shank bit will do so with one hand only. Two-handed riding in a shank bit will result in deductions from the

score per obstacle element. Shank bits must be used with a curb chain or strap. See Equipment section above for more information.

DRESSAGE

Preliminary Competition Format (190 points)

Horses will perform a Dressage test, immediately followed by a Demonstration Ride before separate judges. Both the test and demonstration rides will be performed in a standard (60x20 meter) dressage arena.

Dressage Test (100 points)

All horses will perform their choice of the 2023 US Equestrian Federation Training Level Test 2 or Western Dressage Association of America 2022 Basic Level Test 1 before a single judge. See the [appendix](#) for test copies.

Both tests are scored using USEF/WDAA scoresheets, awarding a percentage score of maximum possible points.

Trainers may have a test caller.

Demonstration Ride Compulsory Movements (60 points, with a coefficient of .5 for 30 points)

All horses will then perform a five-minute demonstration ride before a separate judge in a separate arena. Horses should perform whatever movements best demonstrate the level and quality of their training within the Dressage Training Pyramid [while including the compulsory movements](#). Note that judges will penalize efforts to perform movements beyond a horse's level of training and development. The demonstration ride is not performed to music. Time will start upon entering the arena and saluting the judge. A signal will sound when five minutes is up. Trainers need not salute at the conclusion of the demonstration ride but **do need to show a halt with immobility for a minimum of a three-second count (at any point within the five minutes after their initial salute)**.

All trainers must include each of the following compulsory movements at least once in their demonstration ride. Each movement is worth 10 points and if movements occur more than once throughout the performance, they will be averaged.

- a) Halt with immobility for a minimum of a three-second count
- b) Walk in either direction
- c) Trot/Jog to the left
- d) Trot/Jog to the right
- e) Canter/lope to the left
- f) Canter/lope to the right

Demonstration Ride Impression Scores (60 points)

The demonstration ride will be judged with scores in the following six categories on a scale of 0 to 10:

- a) Rhythm (10 points)
- b) Relaxation (10 points)
- c) Connection (10 points)
- d) Impulsion (10 points)
- e) Straightness (10 points)
- f) Level of Development (10 points)

Trainers may not have a test caller for the Demonstration Ride.

Scores for the test and demonstration will be added. Placings for preliminary competition will be determined by total scores ranked highest to lowest.

Championship Competition Format (60 points)

The ten horses with the highest score after the preliminary competition will advance to the Dressage Championship on a clean-slate score to complete a demonstration ride scored in the same fashion as the preliminary competition with scores averaged between two judges to determine 1st-10th championship placings.

The championship demonstration ride is performed to music. If trainers do not select music, the announcer will do so for them.

Additional Information

Team Format

Team horses must be presented by two trainers: one for the test and one for the demonstration ride. One trainer will present the horse in the Dressage Championship.

Dressage Faults, Eliminations, Ties and Formalities

Two points will be deducted for the first test error and four for the second error. The third test error is an elimination. Horses will be eliminated for stepping out of the arena with all four feet at any point during the test or demonstration ride, or for taking more than 45 seconds to enter the arena after being rung in.

In both the test and demonstration ride, judges will ring in horses with the start signal indicated on signage visible on the judge's box. Riders will salute on centerline as dictated by the test and at their letter of choice for the demonstration ride.

While trainers will be given a ride time for their demonstration ride, this is simply for scheduling purposes. Riders are not guaranteed to receive a break between the two phases and will proceed from the test to the demonstration ride at the steward's discretion. Team entries will be permitted to swap riders (using the mounting block at



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the ingate) between phases but may not have time to school with the second rider. Horses are not to exit the competition venue between phases.

Once the horse enters the ingate of the competition venue, no coaching is permitted. If a trainer receives coaching once they have entered the competition venue ingate, they will be disqualified. Coaching is prohibited between the test and demonstration ride.

In the championship, the ingate will send the rider into the arena. Music will start at the trainer's signal to the announcers, time will start at the trainer's salute to the judges on centerline.

Ties in preliminary competition will be broken with the score from the demonstration ride. Ties in the championship will be broken first with the Relaxation score and next with the Level of Development score.

A reader may be used in the test only. Readers are prohibited in the demonstration ride.

Dressage Attire and Equipment

USEF rules for Dressage (see USEF Subchapter DR120 and DR121) and Western Dressage (see USEF Subchapter WD-5) will be in effect. Bit check will be performed at-random. Whips under 47.2 inches (120 cm) may be carried in preliminary competition. Horses may wear wraps in the championship awards ceremony if desired. Wraps and whips are not permitted in the championship.

EVENTING

Preliminary Competition Format (290 points, variable dependent on course design)

The eventing format will be comprised of a dressage test, and one combined jumping phase on grass which will include a combination of show jumping and cross-country style fences. The course for the jumping phase will be offered at Beginner Novice and Novice height options, which trainers will select on their Final Entry form.

Dressage Test (100 points)

All horses will perform **USEF 2026 Novice Test B** in a small arena (see appendix for test copy). USEF score-sheets will be used, but scores will be left as positive percentages rather than being translated to penalty scores.

Jumping Phase (150 points, variable dependent on course design)

All horses will be judged on cross-country terrain over a course of approximately five show jump fences and 10 cross-country-type obstacles which are likely to include water, ditches, and banks. **The first fence will be set to ease the pair into the course and jump fill and ground lines will be used where appropriate.** Two tracks will be offered, one up to max Beginner Novice dimensions (2'7") and the other up to max Novice (2'11").

Jumping Phase Overall Impression Scores (40 points)

The judge will award a score of 0 to 10 on each jumping effort. Judges will also award a score of 0 to 10 on four Overall Impression categories:

- a) Rideability (10 points)
- b) **Horsemanship of rider (10 points)**
- c) Form Over Fences (10 points)
- d) Open Gallop (10 points)

Scores for the two phases will be added. Each effort in a combination (A/B fences) is scored separately and averaged. Placings for preliminary competition will be determined by total scores ranked highest to lowest.

Championship Competition Format (190 points, variable dependent on course design)

The ten horses with the highest score after the preliminary competition will advance to the Eventing Championship on a clean-slate score to complete a jumping course scored in the same fashion as the preliminary jumping phase test (including Overall Impression scores). The championship phase will utilize two judges, and their

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scores will be averaged to determine 1st-10th championship placings.

The championship course will include a mix of show jumps and cross-country portables in an arena on footing, similar to Arena Eventing, rather than on grass over the cross-country course as in preliminary competition. **The championship round may include a ditch.** Trainers will choose their jump height at the championship briefing the day before. Portables will not exceed Beginner Novice height.

Additional Information

Team Format

Team horses must be presented by two trainers, one for each phase. One trainer will present the horse in the Eventing Championship.

Eventing Faults, Eliminations, Ties, and Formalities

Jumping faults and eliminations are assessed according to the Faults and Eliminations section above. Horses eliminated in the Show Jumping phase must receive permission from the judge to complete the Cross-Country phase.

In the Dressage phase, two points will be deducted for the first test error and four for the second error. The third test error is an elimination. Horses will be eliminated for stepping out of the arena with all four feet at any point during the test or demonstration ride, or for taking more than 45 seconds to enter the arena. Horses eliminated in the Dressage phase must receive permission from the judge to complete their jumping phases. See Faults and Eliminations section above for more information. A reader may be used for the Dressage test.

In the Dressage phase, the judge will ring in horses with the sound indicated on signage visible on the judge's box. Riders will salute on centerline as dictated by the test.

In the jumping phase, the judge will radio to a starter, who will send the horse out on course from a clearly identified starting point.

In the championship competition, the ingate will send trainers into the arena. Trainers will approach the judges box and salute, waiting for a start signal to commence the course.

Ties in preliminary competition will be broken based on the collective remarks from the dressage test. Ties in the championship will be broken first with the Gallop score and next with the Rideability score.

Eventing Attire and Equipment

Attire and equipment are to be in accordance with USEF Eventing Division Rules Subchapter EV-1. Bit check in Dressage will be performed at random. Whips under 47.2 inches (120 cm) may be carried in the Dressage test.

Trainers must wear their cross-country vest and number displayed in a pinney holder for the jumping phase of preliminary competition. Pinney number inserts will be provided in the trainer packet at check-in. See Equipment section above for more information.

FIELD HUNTER

Preliminary Competition Format (210 points)

Horses will complete a three-part test to assess their preparedness to join the hunt field as a safe and enjoyable partner. The Field Hunter preliminary competition is spread over two days, with the Under Saddle and Individual tests on the first day, and the Mock Hunt on the second.

To simulate the hunt field to the best degree possible, courses will be comprised of cross-country portables of natural construction, such as logs and coops, and may vary in height, not to exceed 2'7". Approaches to jumps may be on ascending or descending ground, with limited sight lines (as in coming around a corner), or with other

conditions to be expected when riding in open land or woods. *This [discipline](#) is not appropriate for trainers with no prior experience with the sport of Foxhunting. See Additional Information section below for more details.*

Under Saddle (60 points with a coefficient of .5 for 30 points)

Horses will perform under saddle in an open area at the walk, trot, canter, halt, back, and stand as directed by the judges. This may be divided into flights of approximately 12 horses based on the size of the [discipline](#).

Three judges will award a score of 0 to 10 on six categories. The scores awarded in these categories will be the average of the three judges' scores:

- a) Halt/Stand (10 points)
- b) Back (10 points)
- c) Walk (10 points)
- d) Trot (10 points)
- e) Canter (10 points)
- f) General Demeanor (10 points)

Individual Test (130 points with a coefficient of .5 for 65 points, variable dependent on course design)

At the conclusion of the under saddle portion, each horse will perform an individual test.

Horses will need to be prepared to encounter obstacles traditionally found in the hunt field, including but not limited to:

1. Jumble of logs and tree branches or pine boughs to pick through.
2. Bridge crossing
3. Upright cornstalks to pass through
4. Branch debris to place against side of coop and/or scatter before fence
5. Coat or whip with lash to be picked up from rail and placed elsewhere
6. Person holding a tray for the rider to retrieve and replace a cup from
7. Jumps on angles
8. Ditch and/or bank
9. Footing changes
10. Open Gallop Stretch
11. Trot fence
12. Gate to open and close
13. Rail to be dropped
14. Water Crossing

The three primary judges will divide the course into three zones and separately judge the fences and activity within their designated zone, awarding a score of 0 to 10 on each fence. (Note that these scores are by zone and not an average.) Three obstacles will have an added element of difficulty such as water, drop rail, or a trot fence. These elements will have a coefficient of 2.

Individual Test Overall Impression Scores (20 points, with a coefficient of .5 for 10 points)

Judges will also award a score of 0 to 10 on two Overall Impression categories:

- a. Rideability (10 points)
- b. Horsemanship of rider (10 points)

Mock Hunt (90 points, variable dependent on course design)

On the second day, all entries will gather for a stirrup cup and then proceed to a mock hunt, following a field master over fair hunting country with obstacles and typical hunting situations, including checks, [open gallop](#), ware staff, queuing up in front of a fence, water crossing, and natural jumps. The mock hunt may be divided into flights of approximately 12 horses based on the size of the discipline. Fence judges and/or video footage will be used to assess for disobediences at each of approximately 10 obstacles.

The three primary judges will divide the mock hunt course into three zones and separately judge the fences and activity within their designated zone, awarding scores of 0 to 10 for each fence in their zone.

Mock Hunt Overall Impression Scores (30 points, with a coefficient of 0.5 for 15 points)

Judges will also award a score of 0 to 10 on three Overall Impression categories:

- a) Rideability in a Group (10 points): Pleasant to ride - no bucking, crow-hopping, head tossing, etc.
- b) **Pace (10 points)**
- c) **Boldness and Courage (10 points)**

*Jumping efforts will be scored in the mock hunt.

The scores awarded by the three judges in the Under Saddle phase will be averaged and added to the zoned judges scores from the individual test and mock hunt. Placings for preliminary competition will be determined by total scores ranked highest to lowest.

Championship Competition Format (145 points, variable dependent on course design)

The ten horses with the highest score after the preliminary test will advance to the Field Hunter Championship on a clean-slate score to complete a jumping course scored in the same fashion as the preliminary Individual Test (with no coefficient) and the addition of impressions scores.

Championship Test (130 points, variable dependent on course design)

Horses will be scored on a scale of 0 to 10 for each course element by all three judges.

Championship Impression Scores (30 points with a coefficient of .5 for 15 points)

- a) Rideability (10 points)
- b) **Pace (10 points)**
- c) **Boldness and Courage (10 points)**



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The sum of these scores will be averaged between three judges to determine 1st-10th championship placings.

The top ten horses will perform in an enclosed arena demonstrating the skills required of a field hunter. Horses will jump individually and may be asked to perform other tasks specific to the work of a field hunter ([see list of Individual Test obstacles](#)). All horses will jump the same height in the championship; fences will not exceed 2'7".

Additional Information

To ensure safety and proper hunt field etiquette, trainers entering the Field Hunter [discipline](#) at Final Entry are required to submit a letter from a Masters of Foxhounds Association-recognized hunt certifying that the trainer has hunted first or second field at least twice in one formal hunt season within the past two years. The letter is due by **August 28, 2026**, and must be signed, dated, and on letterhead. A new letter must be provided each year for all participating individuals, team captains, and team members.



The Field Hunter test is broken into three parts over two days. The Field Hunter course will be open for inspection on foot prior to the start of the [discipline](#). A course map will only be provided for the Individual Test.

Trainers will be provided with large-print numbers to be inserted in a pinney holder as well as bridle numbers and must wear both for the duration of their judging. To aid in correct identification of horses, trainers will be provided with a race-style saddle towel to be worn between their saddle and pad. The saddle towel must be worn for the under saddle and mock hunt phases but is optional for the individual test. The saddle towel must be returned to the RRP staff after the mock hunt. Saddle towels can be returned to the info desk.

If there are multiple flights in the mock hunt that then need to be combined due to scratches or eliminations, the combined group will start at the later scheduled time. Trainers will be informed of this change by 6 PM the evening before.

Team Format

Team horses must be presented by at least two and up to three trainers, one for each phase. One trainer will present the horse in the Field Hunter Championship.

Field Hunter Faults, Eliminations, Ties and Formalities

Faults for disobediences and eliminations are assessed according to the

Faults and Eliminations section above. Horses unable to attempt a fence due to disobediences in front of them in the mock hunt field must circle to the back of the field to reattempt. Reattempts do count as a disobedience, as they are the result of following too closely in the field.

Horses will be eliminated during the mock hunt for failing to follow or for overtaking the Master (off course). See [Eliminations](#) section above for more information.

Ties in preliminary competition will be broken with the mock hunt score. Two elements of the championship course will be identified as tie breakers.

In the Under Saddle phase, horses will assemble in the designated area and follow instructions as dictated over a bullhorn. In the Individual Test, judges will radio to a starter to send horses out on course. In the Mock Hunt, the field will follow the direction of the Master and staff. In the championship, trainers will wait to begin their course until they are given the start signal from the judges.

Field Hunter Attire and Equipment

Ratcatcher or formal hunting attire are both acceptable. Riders may wear colors if desired. ASTM-approved helmets are required for all riders. Horses should be properly turned out in traditional hunting tack. Braiding is optional. Horse and rider are not judged on appointments. See the [Master of Foxhounds Association Guidebook](#) for clarification on hunting appointments. See Equipment section above for more information.

FREESTYLE

Preliminary Competition Format (150 points)

This category of competition allows trainers to present horses in disciplines other than the nine offered, or to perform in any manner that demonstrates the trainability and talent of the horse. Trainers will perform a five-minute routine of their own creation which includes minimum compulsory movements and additional skills as desired.

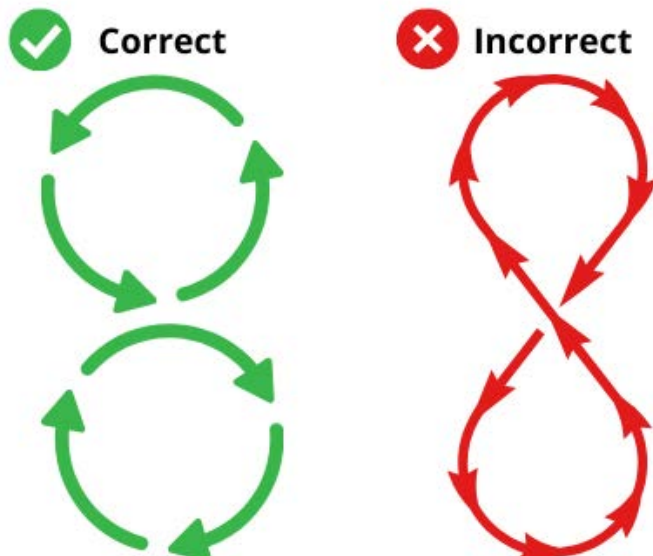
Judges will consider the quality of fundamental training skills demonstrated in compulsory movements, the degree of difficulty of the performance, and the demeanor of the horse.

Compulsory Movements (60 points)

All trainers must include each of the following compulsory movements at least once in their Freestyle regardless of the mode in which they choose to present their horse (ridden, driven, bridleless or bareback, at liberty, etc.). Each movement is worth 10 points and if movements occur more than once throughout the performance, they will be averaged.

- g) Halt with immobility for a minimum of a five-second count
- h) Backing four steps
- i) Figure-eight at the trot/jog **with both circles being 15 to 20 meters. See graphic for additional information.**
- j) Canter/lope circle left **(20 meters or larger)**
- k) Large canter/lope circle right **(20 meters or larger)**
- l) Simple or flying lead change through change of direction

Figure eights are to be ridden as two fully-rounded circles with a distinct change of bend through the center, rather than tear drop-shaped and ridden straight across a diagonal.



Overall Impression Scores (60 points, each category with a coefficient of two)

- a) Attention, Communication, and Connection (10 points): Observable connection, clarity, fluidity, subtlety, ease of communication between horse and trainer
- b) Relaxation (10 points): The horse demonstrates relaxation and enjoyment of the work being asked. Does not show signs of resistance or tension.
- c) Degree of Difficulty (10 points): Presenting the horse bridleless or at liberty, more advanced flatwork, or use of challenging props, for example

Entertainment Value (10 points)

Creativity with props, costuming, theme, or music.

Performances will be scheduled at eight-minute intervals which includes up to five minutes of judged time and three minutes of prop-setting time. Trainers exceeding the total eight minutes of arena time will incur a .5-point fault for every full second in the arena over the allowed time.

Placings for preliminary competition will be determined by the sum of these scores, averaged between the two judges and with any time faults deducted.

Championship Competition Format (150 points)

The ten horses with the highest score after the preliminary test will advance to the Freestyle Championship on a clean-slate score to complete another routine scored in the same fashion as preliminary competition to determine 1st-10th championship placings. Trainers may perform the same routine or a new one. The same specifications apply to the championship performance.

Additional Information

Team Format

A minimum of two trainers must ride, drive, or otherwise participate in the direction of the horse during the Freestyle performance.

Freestyle-Specific Eliminations, Faults, Ties, and Formalities

Trainers will be immediately excused and eliminated for performances that involve prohibited props or elements as described below, or any riding deemed by the judges to be unsafe. See Eliminations above for more information.

Time faults will be assessed for going over arena time as described above.

Ties in both preliminary competition and the championship will be broken using first the Relaxation score and next the Degree of Difficulty.

Trainers are responsible for storing their props either at/in their stalls, trailers, or offsite. The RRP does not provide prop storage, and trainers are prohibited from storing their props in or near the covered arena.

In both preliminary and championship competition, judges will radio the ingate when they are ready for the next horse. Riders will signal the announcer's booth to start the music (which they may do from the ingate prior to entering the arena) and the five minutes of judged time will start when the horse enters the arena.

Guidelines and Restrictions for the Freestyle Performance

- 1) The freestyle competition will take place in the 130' x 300' Covered Arena. Gate openings will be blocked with cow panel for safety during liberty performances.
- 2) Music must be expletive-free and "family friendly." Music must be uploaded in mp3 file format only via the [Trainer Portal](#), no later than 5 PM the evening prior to the Freestyle competition. If music is not received by this deadline, the announcer will pick music for the competitor.

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*Comparing 2025 list prices of Quest Gel (\$13.40) and Quest Plus Gel (\$16.50) against Panacur® POWERPAC (\$79.50), Zimecterin® (\$7.52), and Zimecterin® Gold (\$14.72)

†Compared to the labels of Panacur® POWERPAC, Zimecterin® and Zimecterin® Gold.

1. American Association of Equine Practitioners. AAEP internal parasite control guidelines. <https://aaep.org/guidelines-resources/internal-parasite-control-guidelines>. Published August 28, 2019. Accessed February 20, 2025.

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- 3) There will be no microphone provided or allowed for the trainer or anyone else to narrate the performance. While competitors may elect to customize their audio, the RRP staff reserves the right to reject the audio if deemed inappropriate.
- 4) Power sources will not be provided for props.
- 5) Each horse will be given a maximum of five minutes to perform and an additional three minutes will be provided for set-up and take-down of props. In cases where props take more than three minutes to set up and remove, performances must be shortened to ensure that the next horse can start on time. No contestant will be allowed more than a total of eight minutes for performance plus set-up and take-down. An LED timer at the announcer's booth will display a countdown for trainers to reference throughout their time in the arena and trainers will be penalized for going over time. A 30-second warning to the end of the five-minute time will be announced in the arena. In the event of a timer malfunction, a stopwatch will be used, and trainers will be informed that the timer will not be visible.
- 6) Trainers will describe in advance any props that will be used and provide their own crew for setup and removal. Plans to use firearms, animals other than horses, or any props that might be disruptive to horses must be pre-approved by the RRP. Firearms must be checked by the Freestyle steward prior to the start of the performance. Pyrotechnics or props that produce fire of any type are strictly prohibited. Risky or unsafe maneuvers will not be rewarded in scoring. Inclusion of individuals under the age of 12 in routines is prohibited. Other individuals participating in routines who are not already-accepted trainers must sign a liability release. Stewards will check for wristbands showing that participants have signed liability release forms. Judges may end the performance at any time and eliminate the entry if they determine that the horse or trainer are at risk, or the horse is suffering from abuse.
- 7) Trainers are prohibited from using the LED board for their routine under all circumstances.
- 8) The figure-eight should be symmetrical and ridden as two full circles, overlapping in the middle. Points may be deducted if each circle is not "closed", the figure-eight is not symmetrical, or it is not within the 15-20 meter size requirement on each side.

Freestyle Attire and Equipment

Trainers must choose equipment that is safe and not harsh to the horse. Non-traditional or potentially controversial equipment may be pre-approved by the RRP in advance of the competition. Email inquiries to secretary@therrp.org.

Costumes and props for both horse and rider must be designed with consideration for safety and family-friendly presentation. Additionally, the RRP discourages acts of cultural appropriation in Freestyle routines, defined as "the unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one people or society by members of another and typically more dominant people or society." The horse has played a primary role in many cultures worldwide throughout history. Trainers wishing to honor those cultures are asked to do so with the utmost respect and sensitivity.

Adult trainers may choose to ride without a helmet if desired as a part of their costume. ASTM-approved helmets are required in routines which include jumping. [Trainers who jump without a helmet during their routine will be eliminated.](#)

Judges and Stewards have the authority to require removal or alteration of equipment, costumes, or props that they deem to be inhumane, inappropriate, unsafe, or create unfair advantage in competition. See Equipment section for more information.

POLO

Preliminary Competition Format (110 points)

Horses will complete a two-part test designed to assess their preparedness to be ridden competitively on a team, judging horse's adjustability, straightness, handiness, and speed and agility. This test will take place on one of the Kentucky Horse Park's polo fields with boundaries defined to only use approximately half of the field.

Short Work Pattern (100 points, each with a coefficient of .5 for a total of 50 points)

Horses will complete the Short Work pattern (see index) comprised of the following compulsory movements scored on a scale of 0 to 10:

- a) Right circles: one large fast, one small slow (10 points)
- b) Left circles: one large fast one small slow (10 points)
- c) Lead change right to left (10 points)*
- d) Lead change left to right (10 points)*
- e) Rollback right to left (10 points)
- f) Rollback left to right (10 points)
- g) Gallop (10 points)
- h) Halt with immobility for a minimum of a five-second count (10 points)
- i) Backing four steps (10 points)
- j) Slow lope/canter (10 points)

*A well-executed flying change will be rewarded over a simple change. A well-executed simple change will be rewarded over a poorly executed flying change.

Stick and Ball Work (40 points)

Trainers will stick and ball for up to two and a half minutes which must include at least one of each of the following compulsory strokes scored on a scale of 0 to 10:

- a) Near side forehand (10 points)
- a) Off side forehand (10 points)
- b) Near side backshot (10 points)
- c) Off side backshot (10 points)

A pattern is not provided for the Stick and Ball work. If any strokes are performed more than once, a score will be awarded for each occurrence and then averaged.

Overall Impressions (20 points)

- a) Responsiveness to aids
- b) Horsemanship of rider

Placings for preliminary competition will be determined by the sum of these scores, averaged between the two judges.

Championship Competition Format (200 points)

The ten horses with the highest score after the preliminary test will advance to the Polo Championship on a clean-slate score to complete a two-part test averaged between the two judges to determine 1st-10th championship placings. Horses will first complete the same short work pattern from preliminary competition. Then, the top six placed horses after the championship short work phase will be invited back to play three-on-three in a seven-minute chukker. The competitive nature and speed of the chukker will be determined by the trainers and judges before the start of the championship and upheld by an umpire.

Championship Short Work Pattern (100 points)

The championship short work will be scored in the same fashion as the preliminary competition, except without the .5 coefficient.

Championship Chukker (100 points)

Each judge will rank the horses competing in the championship chukker 1st through 6th. The horses will receive the following points for each ranking:

- 1. 100 points
- 2. 90 points
- 3. 80 points
- 4. 70 points
- 5. 60 points
- 6. 50 points

To decide their rankings in the chukker, the judges will be observing the following characteristics:

- a) Boldness of horse in traffic
- b) Responsiveness to rider
- c) Adjustability of pace
- d) Maneuverability
- e) Speed and stamina

If a horse does not participate in the chukker phase of the championship competition, they will receive 0 points for this phase.

The 1st-6th championship placings will be determined by the sum of these scores, averaged between the two judges. The 7th-10th championship placings will be determined by the short work pattern scores, averaged between the two judges.

Although the championship competition for Polo is in two phases, the same rider must present the horse for both phases.

Additional Information

Team Format

Team horses must be presented by two trainers, one for each part of the test. One trainer will present the horse in the Polo Championship.

Polo Eliminations, Faults, Ties, and Formalities

In the Short Work phase, there will be penalties for going off pattern. Two points will be deducted for the first error and four for the second error. The third error is an elimination. A reader may be used for the short work pattern. Horses may be eliminated from the championship chukker by the umpire for unsafe play. In the Short Work phase, there will be penalties for riding outside of the parameters set by the cones. Two points will be deducted for the first error and four for the second error. The third error is an elimination. See Eliminations section for more information.

In preliminary competition, ties will be broken with the Stick and Ball score. In the championship competition, ties will be broken first with the chukker score and next with the score for the halt in the short work pattern.

In both preliminary and championship competition, judges will indicate by whistle (or other start sound) when they are ready for the trainer to commence each phase of the discipline test. The umpire will direct play in the championship chukker.

The teams for the championship chukker are determined in based on the placings from the short work phase of the Polo Championship. The horses that sit in 1st, 3rd, and 5th place after the short work phase will be on one team. The horses that sit in 2nd, 4th, and 6th place after the short work phase will be on the other team. If the stewards are given advanced notice that a top 6 placed horse will not be able to participate in the chukker, they will look for a volunteer player.

Trainers that enter Polo on their Final Entry form but did not originally indicate Polo as their primary discipline on their application will be required to submit video demonstrating Polo specific skills such as short work and stick and ball work.

Trainers are permitted to ride with two hands during the short work pattern if they wish.

Polo Attire and Equipment

Attire and equipment are to be in accordance with United States Polo Association Rulebook. Polo horses may school and compete in draw reins. See Equipment section above for more information.

RANCH WORK

Preliminary Competition Format (250 points, variable depending on course design)

The Ranch Work test has two parts. First, horses will perform AQHA Ranch Riding Pattern 1, followed by a ranch trail test. Judges will be looking for horses who are prepared to become a working and/or competing ranch horse, characterized by a desire to move forward at an even pace and to negotiate tasks commonly found in a ranch setting without resistance, as well as a keenness for cattle work.

Ranch Riding Pattern (120 points)

Each maneuver will be judged on a scale of 0 to 10, 0 being not performed and 10 being excellent.

Ranch Riding Impression Scores (30 points with a coefficient of 0.5 for 15 points)

- a) Responsiveness to Aids (10 points)
- b) Demeanor (10 points)
- c) Evenness of Pace (10 points)

Ranch Trail (100 points, dependent on course design)

Each obstacle will be judged on a scale of 0 to 10, 0 being not performed and 10 being excellent.

Judges may choose to award partial credit at their discretion for an attempt on an obstacle that is not completed, if the effort is mostly completed and demonstrated the skills necessary to negotiate the obstacle. The course will demonstrate all three gaits and may include but is not limited to any of the following elements:

- Exposure to cattle
- A gate
- A bridge
- Sidepassing
- Backing
- Dragging an object
- Riding over logs or poles
- Ground tying
- Swinging and throwing rope

Show management reserves the right to include other elements not on this list that reasonably represent tasks that could be asked of a working ranch horse.

Some obstacles will have an added element of difficulty such as working the pen/exposure to cattle. These elements will have a coefficient of 2.

Course maps will be distributed, and the course will open for inspection on foot for 20 minutes prior to the start of the class. The course will have a maximum time based on course design which will be published on course maps.

Ranch Trail Impression Scores (30 points with a coefficient of 0.5 for 15)

- a) Responsiveness to Aids (10 points)
- b) Demeanor (10 points)
- c) Horsemanship of rider (10 points)**

Placings for preliminary competition will be determined by the sum of these scores, averaged between the two judges.

Championship Competition Format (100 points)

The ten horses with the highest score after the preliminary test will advance to the Championship on a clean-slate score and compete in a two-phase competition including a cattle sorting test and a rail phase. Impression scores will be averaged between the two judges and added to points for correctly sorted cattle to determine Championship placings.

Sorting (50 points)

Ten cattle numbered 0-9 will be in a pen configured in a figure-eight with a gap in between. The judges will give the trainer a cow number and the horse will cross the middle of the pen, starting a three-minute timer, and proceed to sort cattle into the opposite side of the pen, starting with the assigned number and working in ascending order. If a correctly sorted cow passes back into the original side of the pen, the horse must move that cow back before moving on to the next. If a cow passes into the opposite side out of order, the horse/trainer must move it back to the original side before proceeding to the next number cow. Trainers will sort as many cows as they can within the three minutes. Correctly-sorted cows, fully in the opposite side of the pen at the conclusion of the three minutes are counted for five points each.

Sorting Impression Scores (30 points)

- d) Proficiency with cattle (10 points)
- e) Responsiveness to aids (10 points)
- f) Horse's demeanor (10 points)

Rail Phase (40 points with a coefficient of .5 for 20 points)

Following the sorting test, horses will return to the arena and be judged on the rail at the walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring. Judges have the discretion to ask for extension in all gaits as well as halt and back. Judges will score the following qualities:

- a) Consistency of gaits
- b) Smoothness in transitions
- c) Quality and style of movement
- d) Softness through the body

Additional Information

Team Format

Team horses must be presented by two trainers, one for each part of the test. One trainer will present the horse in the Ranch Work Championship.

Ranch Work Eliminations, Faults, Ties, and Formalities

Horses are eliminated for going off pattern in the Ranch Riding pattern.

Horses exceeding the maximum course time on the Ranch Trail course will be excused (indicated by whistle or other alert sound) and must exit the course immediately via the most direct route available. They are not eliminated and will be given a scorecard reflecting the obstacles **initiated** within time.

Trainers may elect to skip obstacles either prior to or after initiating an attempt at an obstacle by raising their hand and indicating to the judge that they intend to skip. Appearing to initiate an obstacle out of sequence without the trainer indicating their intent to skip an obstacle or exiting the path reasonably interpreted by the course map, is considered off course. Horses eliminated for going off course may complete the course at the discretion of the judges if they are still under course time. See Faults and Eliminations section above for more information.

Trainers will not be faulted for using their hand to praise their horses.

For preliminary competition, three obstacles of the ranch trail test will be identified as tie breaking elements. For championship competition, ties will be broken with the sorting score, then by the Proficiency with Cattle score.

For preliminary competition, judges will radio the ingate when they are ready for a horse. Judging will (and time in the case of the trail course) commence when the horse enters the arena. For the championship sorting, judges direct the trainer to commence sorting by whistle or other alert sound after giving the trainer the starting cow number. **If the total number of horses participating in the championship is over 7, the rail phase will be split into two groups of 5 or less.**

Ranch Work Attire and Equipment

Western tack and attire are required. Adult trainers may wear either a western hat or ASTM-approved helmet. Trainers must wear a long-sleeved western shirt; chaps or chinks are optional.

Wraps, protective boots, and hoof boots are permitted.

This discipline is meant to showcase skills utilized by the working ranch horse; therefore, excessive silver on tack is discouraged. Manes should be left natural, not banded or braided. Tail extensions are not permitted. Hoof polish is discouraged.

Horses may be ridden in a snaffle bit or bosal regardless of age. Riders shall ride horses in this tack with two hands. Mechanical hackamores, side pulls and other bitless bridles are prohibited. Gag and slip bits are prohibited whether used with one or two hands. Cavessons are prohibited.

Snaffle bits include O- or loose ring, eggbutt or D-ring; snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4" in diameter. The inside circumference of the snaffle bit ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval, or egg-shaped and be constructed of unwrapped smooth metal. The mouthpiece may be inlaid, but it must be smooth. The mouthpiece may be solid, or may be two or three pieces; three-piece mouthpieces may include a connecting bar or a round connecting barrel. All snaffle bits must include a leather curb strap, attached below the reins; curb straps should be a minimum of 1/2" inch in width and lie flat against the jaw. Mecate reins, including a tie rein, may be used with a snaffle bit; otherwise, split reins must be used.

Bosals must use a complete mecate rein, including a tie rein. Bosals should be constructed of flexible, braided rawhide, leather, or rope, and have a non-metal flexible core. There must be no rigid material under the jaw, no matter how padded. Horse hair bosals are prohibited.

Trainers riding in a shank bit will do so with one hand only. Two-handed riding in a shank bit will result in a penalty for the maneuver. The hand on the reins may not be changed, with the exception of during the ranch trail when necessary to execute an obstacle (i.e. opening a gate). Reins should be returned to the original hand after completion of the obstacle.

Shanks shall not exceed 8" in length, and shanks may be fixed or loose. The mouthpiece should be round, oval, or egg-shaped and be constructed of unwrapped smooth metal. The mouthpiece may be inlaid, but it must be smooth. Mouthpieces may be solid, single or double-jointed. Nothing may protrude beneath the bar, such as extensions or prongs. Ports are to be no higher than 3 1/2"; rollers and covers are acceptable. All shank bits must be used with a curb strap or chain. Curb straps should be constructed of leather or chain and be a minimum of 1/2" inch in width, lie flat against the jaw and be free of barbs, wire and twists.

Reins used with a shank bit must be either split or closed with romal. Closed reins without romal may not be used. Romal will be carried in the free hand with approximately 16 inches of space between the free and rein hand. No finger between the reins is allowed. For ranch trail obstacles including a ground tie, trainers using romal should use a get-down rope or hobbles. The get-down rope may be run through an optional bosalito.

Get-down ropes and mecate tie reins must be directly secured either to the trainer's belt loop or tied around the horn, with appropriate slack as to not act as a restraint.

Headstalls may not be constructed of wire, solid metal or twisted rawhide, no matter how padded. Decorative rawhide is permitted. Tie-downs, or any mechanism that restrains the head or neck, are prohibited.

Optional equipment includes a rope or riata, hobbles (attached to saddle) to use for ground tying, spurs (which may not be used in front of the cinch) or a get-down rope, which may or may not be run through a bosalito.

Spur shanks may not exceed 2.5" in length. Spur rowels may not exceed 1" in diameter and must be blunt. See Equipment section above for more information.

SHOW HUNTER

Preliminary Competition Format (280 points)

Show hunters are subjectively judged, based on the horse's quality of movement and performance both over fences and under saddle. Judging will be based on style, pace, rhythm, manners, and relaxation. Horses will be scheduled in groups of no more than 12 based on course height, jumping two over-fences trips at the same height, and judged on the flat in a group in the Under Saddle phase.

Over Fences (160 points; 80 points per course)

Each horse will jump two show hunter courses comprised of eight fences. Trainers may elect to jump the courses set at 2'6" or 3'. Height selections will be made on the Final Entry form. Trainers should select the height that best demonstrates the quality and progress of their training. Horses will be scored on a scale of 0 to 10 on each fence for a total of 80 points per round.

Over Fences Impression Scores (80 points; 40 points per course)

- a) Pace (10 points)
- b) Style over fences (10 points)
- c) Manners (10 points)
- d) **Horsemanship of rider (10 points)**

A rotation within the group will be kept at the ingate for the two over fences trips. Horses may complete their two trips back-to-back without exiting the arena. A well-executed flying change will be rewarded over a simple change. A **well- executed** simple change will be rewarded over a poorly executed flying change. **Deductions regarding flying or simple changes, adding in the lines, etc. will be assessed in the impression scores.**

Under Saddle (40 points)

Following the two over fences rounds, horses will be judged on the flat in groups no larger than 12 at the walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Judges will score the following qualities:

- a) Relaxation (10 points)
- b) Rhythm (10 points)
- c) Style of movement (10 points)
- d) Manners (10 points)

Placings for preliminary competition will be determined by the sum of these scores, averaged between two judges.

Championship Competition Format (140 points)

The ten horses with the highest score after the preliminary test will advance to the Show Hunter Championship on a clean-slate score to complete one more over fences round, scored in the same fashion as preliminary competition (80 points for the over fences trip and 30 points on impression scores averaged between two judges), and an under saddle phase. The under saddle phase will be scored in the same fashion as preliminary competition with the addition of a .5 coefficient for a total of 20 points.

Championship Over Fences (80 points, variable dependent on course design)

Horses will be scored on a scale of 0 to 10 for each jump by both judges.

Championship Over Fences Impression Scores (40 points)

- a) Pace (10 points)
- b) Style over fences (10 points)
- c) Manners (10 points)

d) **Horsemanship of rider**

Under Saddle (40 points with a coefficient of .5 for 20 points)

- a) Relaxation (10 points)
- b) Rhythm (10 points)
- c) Style of movement (10 points)
- d) Manners (10 points)

Placings for the Show Hunter Championship will be determined by the sum of these scores, averaged between the two judges. The trainer will select the height of their course at the championship briefing.

Additional Information

Team Format

Team horses must be presented by two trainers and up to three, one rider in each trip. One trainer will present the horse in the Show Hunter Championship.

Show Hunter Eliminations, Faults, Ties, and Formalities

See Eliminations section for more information on faults and eliminations applicable to Show Hunters.

In preliminary competition ties will be broken with the over fences score from the second trip. In championship competition ties will be broken first with the Pace score and next with the Style score.

[If a trainer is riding more than one horse in the championship, the under saddle phase will be split.](#)

Show Hunter Attire and Equipment

Attire and equipment are to be in accordance with USEF Hunter Division Rules Subchapter HU-3. See *Equipment* section above for additional information.

SHOW JUMPER

Preliminary Competition Format (220 points, variable on course design)

Trainers will select a maximum jump height range of .80-.85, .90-.95, or 1.00-1.05 meters. Height selections will be made with discipline selections on the Final Entry form. The test includes three parts:

Phase One: Flat Work (20 points)

Each horse will enter the arena at a trot, halt, and salute the judges. Upon hearing the start signal, they will then proceed to perform a simple flatwork pattern which may be started tracking in either direction. See Competition Patterns section for more information on this flatwork pattern. Horses will be scored on a scale of 0 to 10 on the following qualities:

- a) Way of Moving: Balance, stride, adjustability, rhythm
- b) Acceptance of rider's aids

Phase Two: Jumping Round One (90 points, variable dependent on course design)

After the flat pattern horses will proceed, without stopping or waiting for a signal, to a show jump course of 8-12 efforts. The course will begin with a trot fence and will include one combination. Heights will be .80-.85, .90-.95, or 1.00-1.05 meters as selected by the trainer before the start of the Makeover. The first half of the course will be set at the lowest end of the height range selected, but the jumps may begin to reach the top end of the height range in the second half of the course. This course will be ridden for optimum time at 350 meters per minute, as posted on the course map. Judges will award a score of 0 to 10 on each jumping effort. Time faults will be assessed at a rate of .5 points per commenced second over Time Allowed deducted from the total points. A timer display will be used.

Phase Three: Jumping Round Two (60 points, variable dependent on course design)

Following the conclusion of Phase Two, trainers **will** wait for the start signal before cantering a shortened course over some of the same jumps set at the same specifications. This course will present turning or adjustability questions and may include fence options which will allow the trainer to demonstrate the horse's suitability for Show Jumping. Round two will **not** be timed, and speed greater than 350 meters per minute will **not** be rewarded at the sacrifice of balance, adjustability, or jumping form. Judges will award a score of 0 to 10 on each jumping effort.

Each effort in a combination (A/B fences) is scored separately and averaged.

Jumping Impression Scores (50 points)

The flatwork and gymnastic performances will be assessed in this category along with the two rounds. Judges will award a score of 0 to 10 on the following qualities:

- a) **Horsemanship of rider**
- b) Acceptance of rider's aids
- c) Straightness between fences and over the jumps
- d) Relaxation, confidence, carefulness
- e) **Technique: Elevation, use of the back, front end, back end, balance on and off the ground, stride, adjustability, rhythm**

Preliminary competition results will be determined by the sum of these scores, averaged between the two judges. Time and jumping faults will be assessed as described in the Show Jumper Eliminations, Faults, Ties, and Formalities section below.

Championship Competition Format (200 points, variable dependent on course design)

The ten horses with the highest score after the preliminary competition will advance to the Show Jumper Championship on a clean-slate score to complete two rounds, scored in the same fashion as preliminary competition (but with no flat work phase). The jump height will be chosen by the trainer at the championship briefing.

Additional Information

Team Format

Team horses will be presented by two trainers: one for Phase One (the flat work phase), the second for Phases Two and Three. The team horses will exit the arena following Phase One to change trainers. After the next few scheduled rounds have gone, the steward will rotate the horse back in with the second trainer to complete the two jumping rounds.

Show Jumper Eliminations, Faults, Ties, and Formalities

Jumping and time faults and eliminations are assessed in accordance with the Faults and Eliminations section above. If eliminated, trainers may complete the remainder of the test at the discretion of the judge.

Time faults for Phase Two will be assessed by deducting .5 of a point for each commenced second over Time Allowed. Ties will be broken with the time closest to Optimum Time on round one in preliminary and championship competition respectively. Horses exceeding the Time Limit are eliminated.

Optimum Time is determined using the standard formula of four seconds less than Time Allowed. Time Allowed is determined based on speed of 350 m/m. The Time Limit is twice the Time Allowed. Course times may only be adjusted once during the early rounds of the competition, never later than after the third competitor to complete Jumping Round One without a disobedience.

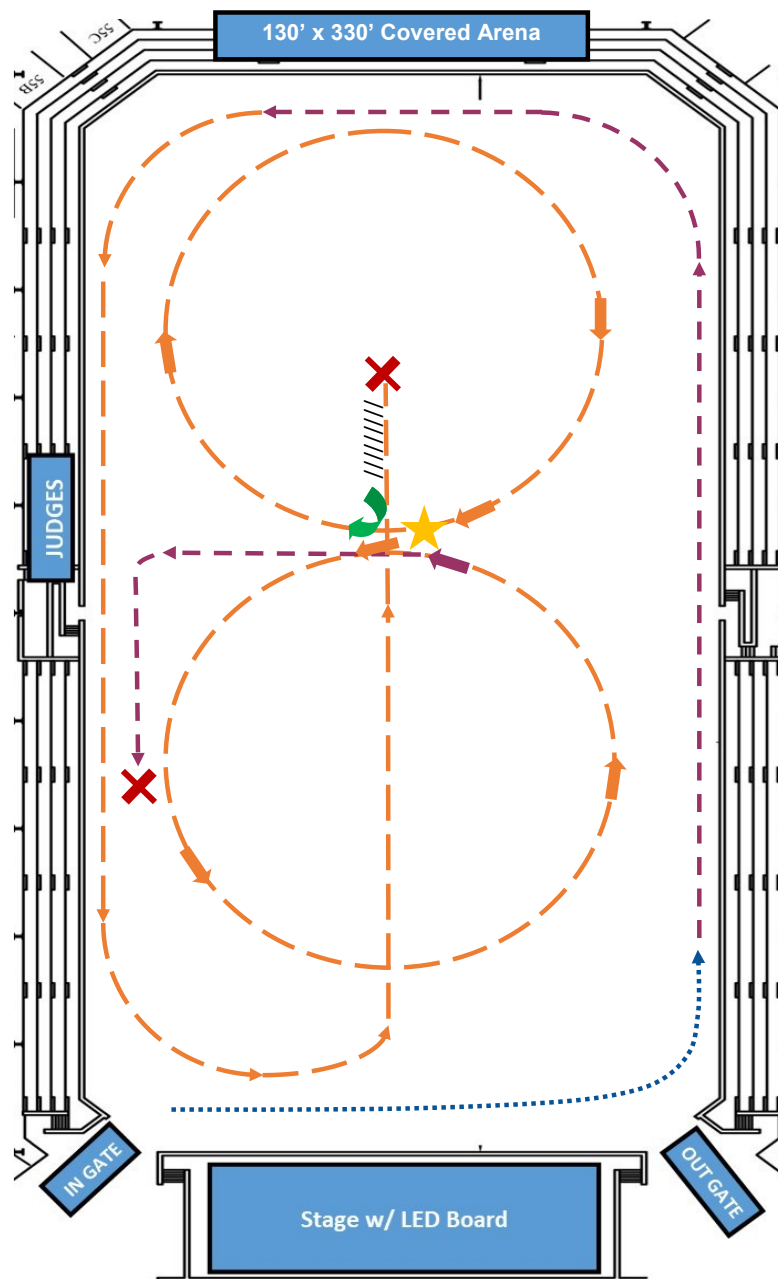
All vertical fences will have a clear ground line.

In championship competition, trainers will approach the judges stand to salute and will commence their round one at the sound of the whistle and will wait for a whistle to commence round two.

APPENDIX: SAMPLE SCORECARDS, COMPETITION PATTERNS, AND OTHER REFERENCES

Full-size PDFs of all patterns and tests are available for download from the [Trainer Portal](#).

BARREL RACING: HORSEMANSHIP PATTERN

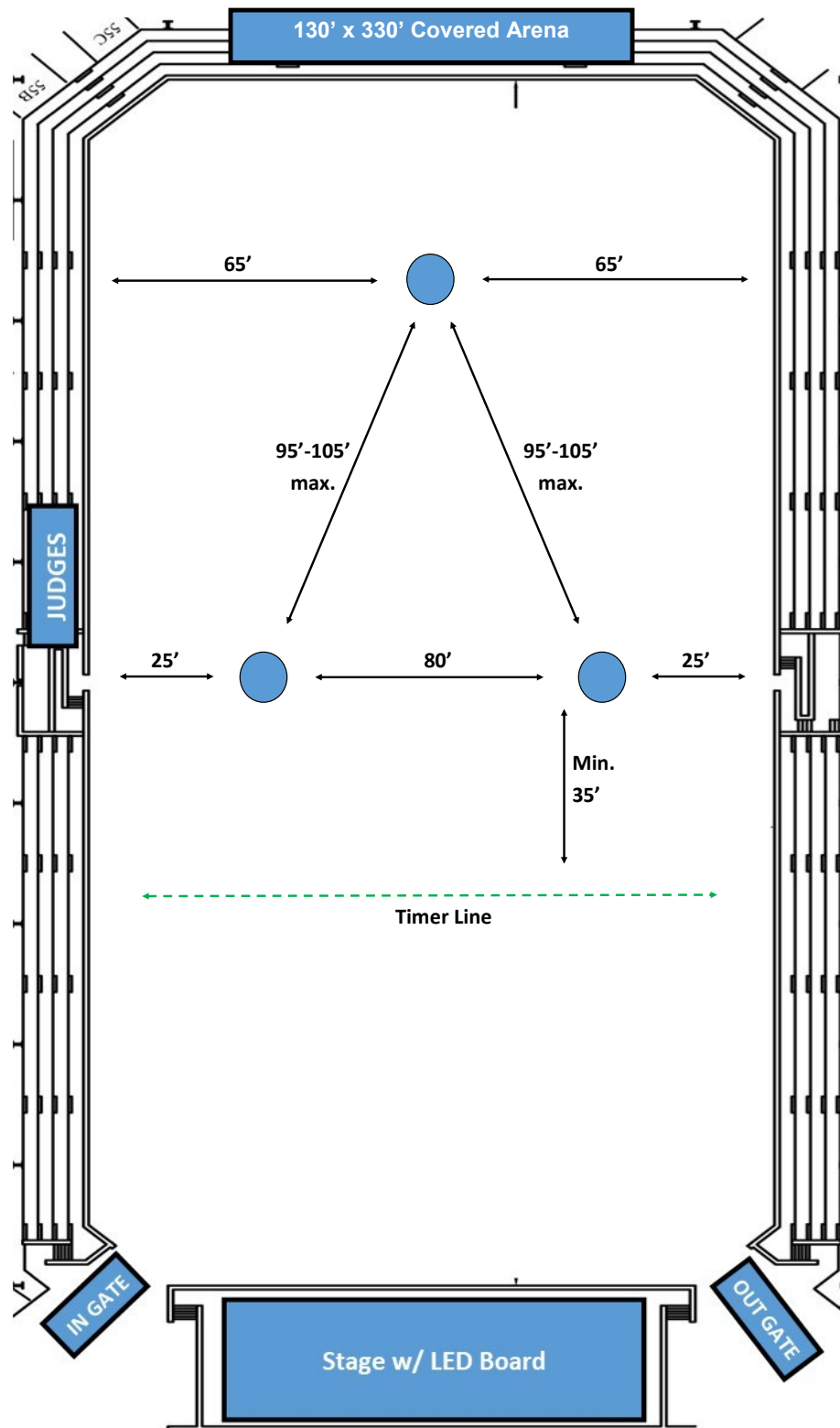


1. Enter the arena at walk
2. Jog
3. Pick up the left lead and lope down the long side and up the center
4. Halt
5. Back three steps
6. Execute a 3/4 turn to the right
7. Depart and lope a circle to the right
8. Flying or simple change and lope circle to the left
9. Begin jog at center
10. Halt and pause to show completion of pattern

- Walk
- - - - - Jog
- — — — — Extended Jog
- — — — — Lope
- \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\ Back
- ✗ Halt ★ Lead Change

BARREL RACING: HORSEMANSHIP PATTERN CONTINUED SCORECARD

BARREL RACING: BARREL PLACEMENT DIAGRAM



Not to scale.

Actual measurements may vary slightly but will meet the minimums and maximums where identified.

COMPETITIVE TRAIL SCORECARD

DRESSAGE: USEF TEST



2026 USEF TRAINING LEVEL TEST 2

PURPOSE

To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, by showing suppleness both laterally and longitudinally, moving freely forward in a clear rhythm with a steady tempo, and readily accepting contact with the bit. Correct geometry and lines of travel should be shown.

All trot work may be ridden sitting or rising, unless otherwise stated.
Halts may be through the walk.

READER PLEASE NOTE: Anything in parentheses should not be read.

INTRODUCE

ENTRY NO:

Stretch circle in trot

Conditions:

ARENA SIZE: Standard or Small
AVERAGE RIDE TIME: 5:30 (Std.) or 4:30 (Small)
(from entry at A to final halt)
Suggested to add at least 2 min. for scheduling purposes

MAXIMUM PTS: 290

TEST		DIRECTIVES	POINTS	COEF	TOTAL	REMARKS
1.	A X	Enter working trot Halt, salute Proceed working trot	Regularity and quality of trot; willing, calm transitions; straightness; attentiveness; immobility (min. 3 seconds)			
2.	C B	Track right Circle right 20m	Regularity and quality of trot; shape and size of circle; bend and balance			
3.	K-X-M	Change rein	Regularity and quality of trot; straightness; bend and balance in corner	2		
4.	Between C & H	Working canter left lead	Willing, calm transition; regularity and quality of gaits; bend and balance in corner; straightness	2		
5.	E	Circle left 20m	Regularity and quality of canter; shape and size of circle; bend; balance			
6.	Between E & K	Working trot	Willing, calm transition; regularity and quality of gaits; straightness; bend and balance in corner			
7.	A Before A A	Circle left 20m rising trot, allowing the horse to stretch forward and downward while maintaining contact Shorten the reins Working trot	Forward and downward stretch over the back into a light contact, maintaining balance and quality of trot; bend; shape and size of circle; willing, calm transitions			
8.	F F-E	Medium walk Change rein, medium walk	Willing, calm transition; regularity, overtrack, and quality of walk	2		
9.	E-M M	Change rein, free walk Medium walk	Regularity and quality of walks; reach, overtrack, and ground cover of free walk allowing complete freedom to stretch the neck forward and downward; straightness; willing, calm transitions	2		
10.	C	Working trot	Willing, calm transition; regularity and quality of trot; bend and balance in corner; straightness			
11.	E	Circle left 20m	Regularity and quality of trot; shape and size of circle; bend; balance			
12.	F-X-H	Change rein	Regularity and quality of trot; straightness; bend and balance in corner	2		
13.	Between C & M	Working canter right lead	Willing, calm transition; regularity and quality of gaits; bend and balance in corner; straightness	2		
14.	B	Circle right 20m	Regularity and quality of canter; shape and size of circle; bend; balance			
15.	Between B & F	Working trot	Willing, calm transition; regularity and quality of gaits; straightness; bend and balance in corner			
16.	A X	Down centerline Halt, salute	Bend and balance in turn; regularity and quality of trot; willing, calm transition; straightness; attentiveness; immobility (min. 3 seconds)			
Leave arena at A in free walk.						

DRESSAGE: WDAA TEST



WDAA 2026 WESTERN DRESSAGE BASIC LEVEL TEST 1

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION® OF AMERICA

PURPOSE	NEW REQUIREMENTS	ENTRY NO:
Tests confirm that the horse is supple and moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, accepting light contact with the bit. The horse demonstrates a greater understanding of the aids and calm acceptance of the bridle; greater emphasis is placed on relaxation, willing cooperation, harmony, rideability and pure gaits. The horse is beginning to develop more impulsion and balance.	20 meter circle at the free jog 20 meter circle at the working lope	ARENA SIZE: Small (40m x 20m) or Large (60m x 20m) AVERAGE RIDE TIME: 5:00 (Small) or 6:00 (Large)
		MAXIMUM PTS: 260

All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.

*COEFFICIENT

		TEST	DIRECTIVES	POINTS	*	TOTAL	REMARKS
1	A	Enter working jog	Straightness; straight, balanced, immobile halt with prompt, smooth transition to jog; regularity and quality of the jog and walk.				
	X	Halt through the walk, salute Proceed working jog					
2	C	Track left, working jog	Balance and bend in the turn and corner; straightness; regularity and quality of the jog.				
3	E	Circle left 20m, working jog	Size and shape of circle with inside bend; regularity and quality of the jog.		2		
4	Before E	Working lope left lead last quarter of the circle	Willing, smooth transition; regularity and quality of the lope.				
5	E	Circle left 20m, working lope	Size and shape of circle with inside bend; regularity and quality of the lope.				
6	Before E	Develop working jog last quarter of circle	Willing, smooth transition; balance and bend in the corner.				
7	Between A & F	Develop working walk	Willing, smooth transition; regularity and quality of the walk.				
8	B - E E	Half circle left 20m, free walk Working walk	Horse willing to freely stretch the neck forward and down; relaxation; swing through the back; ground cover; straightness; willing, smooth transition; balance and bend in corner; regularity and quality of the walks.		2		
9	A B	Working jog Turn left	Willing, smooth transition; balance and bend in the corner and turn; straightness; regularity and quality of the jog.				
10	E	Turn right	Balance and bend in the turn and corner; straightness; regularity and quality of the jog.				
11	C Before C	Circle right, 20m, free jog Gather the reins, working jog	Stretch forward and down over the topline; moderate lengthening of stride and frame; maintaining balance and tempo; smooth, willing release and retake of the reins; size and shape of circle with inside bend; regularity of the jogs.		2		
12	B	Circle right 20m, working jog	Size and shape of circle with inside bend; regularity and quality of the jog.		2		
13	Before B	Working lope right lead last quarter of the circle	Willing, smooth transition; regularity and quality of the lope.				
14	B	Circle right 20m, working lope	Size and shape of circle with inside bend; regularity and quality of the lope.				
15	Before B	Develop working jog last quarter of the circle	Willing, smooth transition; balance and bend in the corner.				
16	A X	Down centerline Halt through the walk, salute	Balance and bend in the turn; straightness; regularity and quality of the jog and walk; balance in downward transition to square, straight halt, immobility.				

Leave arena at A in a walk with looped or long reins.

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DRESSAGE: DEMONSTRATION RIDE SCORECARD

EVENTING: DRESSAGE TEST

Effective December 1, 2025



2026 USEA NOVICE DRESSAGE TEST B

CONDITIONS:

Bridle: A plain snaffle bridle, made entirely of leather or leather like material, with either a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband or crossed noseband. For drawings of permitted bits and nosebands please see Annex 1.

Small Arena: 20m x 40m **Time:** Approximately 4:00

Large Arena: 20m x 60m **Time:** Approximately 4:30

Suggested to add at least **2 minutes** for scheduling purposes.

	TEST	DIRECTIVE IDEA
1. A C	Enter working trot. Track right.	Straightness of entry; quality and regularity of trot; balance and bend on turn.
2. M-X-K Centered over X	Working trot. Transition to medium walk 4-6 steps; proceed working trot.	Willing, calm transitions; quality and regularity of gaits.
3. B	Circle left 20 meters, working trot.	Quality and regularity of trot; balance and bend; size and shape of circle.
4. Between M and C	Working canter left lead.	Willing, calm transition; quality and regularity of gaits; balance and bend in corner.
5. C	Circle left 20 meters, working canter.	Quality and regularity of canter; balance and bend; size and shape of circle.
6. Between E and K	Working trot.	Willing, calm transition; quality and regularity of gaits; balance and straightness.
7. A	Medium walk.	Willing, calm transition; quality and regularity of gaits.
8. F-X-H	Change rein free walk.	Quality and regularity of walk, with reach and ground cover, allowing complete freedom to stretch the neck forward and downward.
9. H-M M	Medium walk. Working trot.	Willing, calm transitions; quality and regularity of gaits.
10. B	Circle right 20 meters, working trot.	Quality and regularity of trot; balance and bend; size and shape of circle.
11. Between F and A	Working canter right lead.	Willing, calm transition; quality and regularity of gaits; balance and bend in corner.
12. A	Circle right 20 meters, working canter.	Quality and regularity of canter; balance and bend; size and shape of circle.
13. Between E and H	Working trot.	Willing, calm transition; quality and regularity of gaits; balance and straightness.
14. B	Half circle right 10 meters to centerline.	Quality and regularity of trot; bend and balance on half circle; straightness on centerline.
15. G	Halt, may be through the walk; Salute.	Willing, calm transition; straight, attentive halt; immobility (min. 3 seconds).

Leave arena free walk on long rein at **A**. All trot work may be done rising or sitting unless stated otherwise. Halt may be done through the walk.

COLLECTIVE MARKS		Points	Coefficient		
Harmony of athlete and horse.	A confident partnership created by adhering to the scale of training.	10	2		
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS:					170

EVENTING: SHOW JUMPING SCORECARD

EVENTING: CROSS COUNTRY SCORECARD

FIELD HUNTER SCORECARD

FREESTYLE SCORECARD

Freestyle

☐ -Elimination

☐ -Technical Elimination

☐ -Rider Fall

Time: _____

2026 Thoroughbred Makeover Preliminary Competition

 Demonstration
Judge 1

No: _____

Trainer: _____

Horse: _____

Date/Time: _____

Compulsory Movements

**Multiple scores for the same movement will be averaged. Award 0-10 points per movement with 10 being excellent. Half points are permitted.*

Movement	Comments	Score	Score	Score	Avg (Office Only)
1. Halt with Immobility (5 Seconds)					
2. Backing 4 Steps					
3. Large Figure-Eight at the Trot/Jog					
4. Large Canter/Lope Circle LEFT					
5. Large Canter/Lope Circle RIGHT					
6. Simple or Flying Lead Change					

Entertainment Value

Award 0-10 points with 10 being excellent. Half points are permitted.

Qualities	Comments	Score
1. Creativity Props, costuming, theme, or music.		

Overall Impression Scores

Award 0-10 points per quality with 10 being excellent. Half points are permitted.

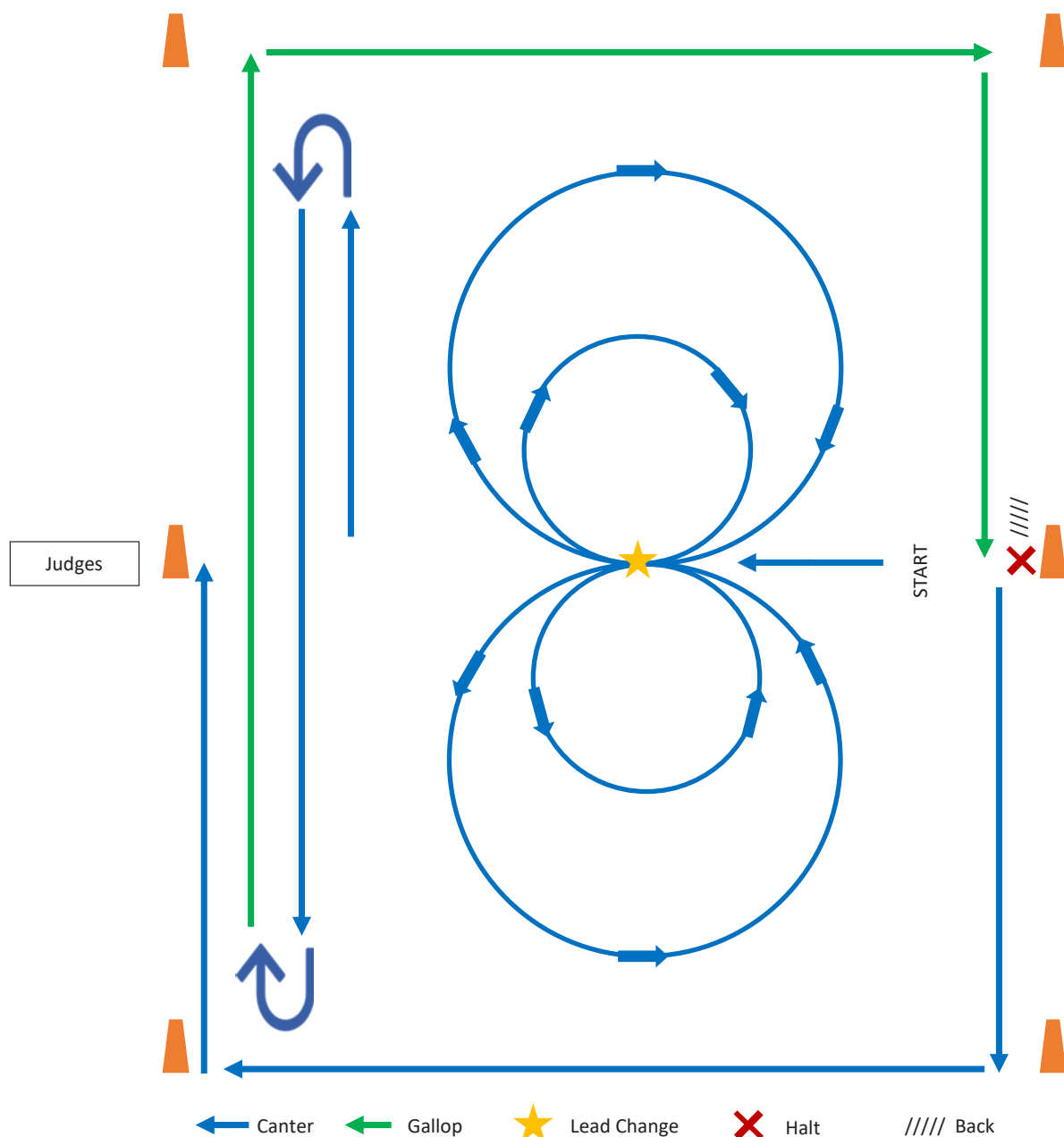
Total (Office Only)

Qualities	Comments	Score
1. Attention, Communication & Connection Observable connection, clarity, fluidity, subtlety, ease of communication between horse & trainer		
2. Relaxation The horse demonstrates relaxation & enjoyment of the work being asked. Does not show signs of resistance or tension.		
3. Degree of Difficulty Presenting the horse bridleless or at liberty, more advanced flatwork, or use of challenging props		

Total CM Score:	
+ Entertainment Score:	
+ Total Impression Score X 2:	
= Total Score:	

Judge: _____

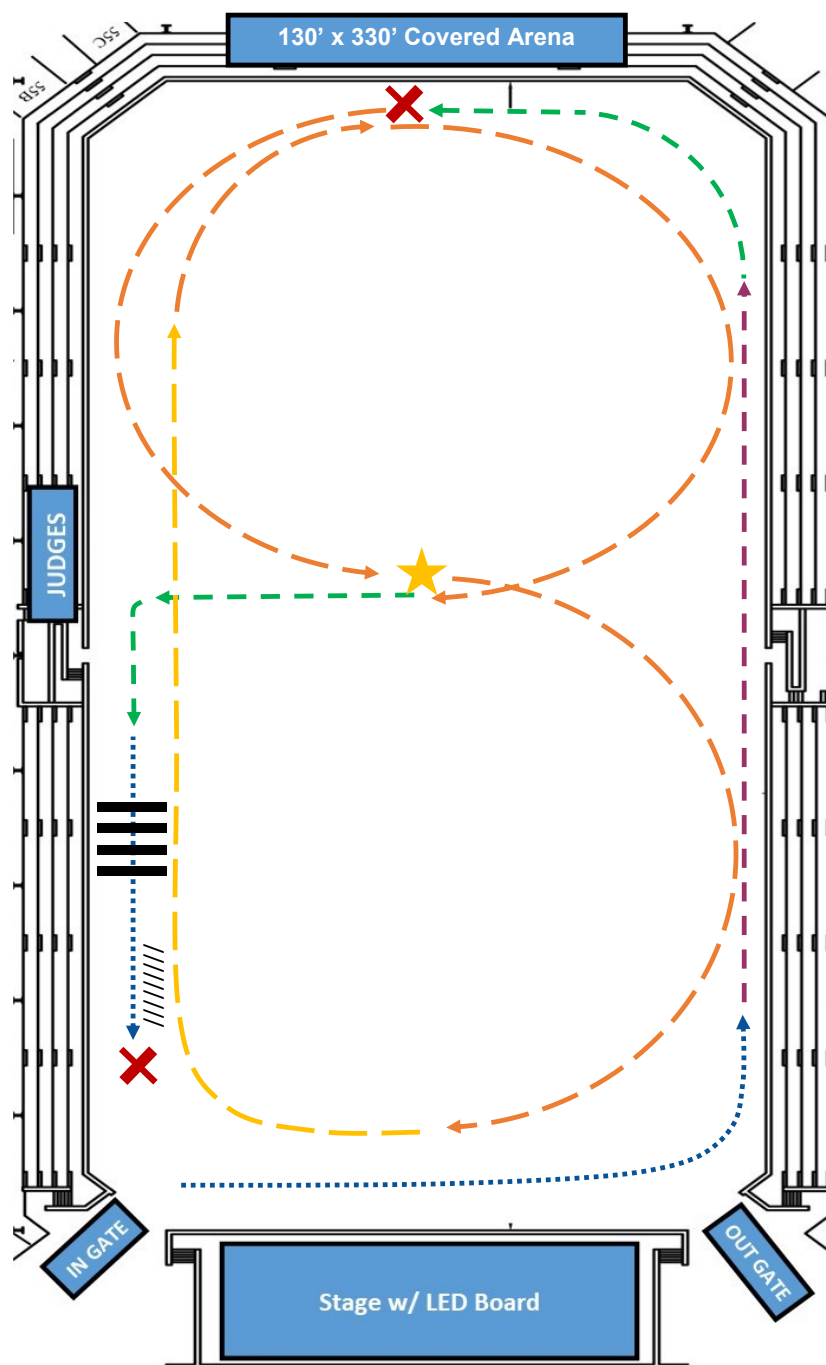
POLO: SHORT WORK PATTERN



1. Enter the arena facing the judges, wait for a whistle to start
2. Proceed forward at a canter and into one large fast circle to the right
3. Canter one small slow circle to the right
4. Perform lead change from right to left
5. Canter one large fast circle to the left
6. Canter one small slow circle to the left
7. Perform lead change from left to right
8. Turn right and continue towards the boards/wall
9. Perform a left rollback at the end cone
10. Canter off in the opposite direction
11. Perform a right rollback at the end cone
12. Canter off in the opposite direction
13. Transition to a gallop and take a large lap around to the far side
14. At the center cone, halt for five seconds
15. Back four steps
16. Canter off slowly and past the judges to exit

POLO: SCORECARD

RANCH WORK: RANCH RIDING PATTERN



1. Walk
2. Jog
3. Extend the jog at the top of the arena, stop
4. Perform a 360 degree turn to the left
5. Depart on the left lead lope to the center of the arena
6. Simple or flying lead change
7. Continue on the right lead lope
8. Extend the lope up the long side, maintaining the right lead
9. Collect the lope around the top of the arena, continuing right
10. Downward transition to extended jog
11. Walk over poles
12. Stop and back

- Walk
- Jog
- Extended Jog
- Lope
- Extended Lope
- \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\ Back
- ✗ Halt
- ★ Lead Change

RANCH WORK: SCORECARD

Ranch Work

☐ -Elimination

☐ -Technical Elimination

☐ -Rider Fall

2026 Thoroughbred Makeover Preliminary Competition

Ranch Riding Pattern Judge 1

No: _____

Trainer: _____

Horse: _____

Date/Time: _____

Ranch Riding Pattern

Award 0-10 points per movement with 10 being excellent. Half points are permitted.

Movement	Comments	Score
1. Walk		
2. Jog		
3. Extend the jog, at the top of the arena, stop		
4. 360 degree turn to the left		
5. Left lead 1/2 circle, lope to the center		
6. Change leads (simple or flying)		
7. Right lead 1/2 circle		
8. Extended lope up the long side of the arena (right lead)		
9. Collect back to a lope around the top of the arena and back to center		
10. Break down to an extended jog		
11. Walk over poles		
12. Stop and back		

Overall Impression Scores

Award 0-10 points per obstacle with 10 being excellent. Half points are permitted.

Qualities	Comments	Score
1. Responsiveness to Aids Acceptance of aids, relaxation, softness in the bridle		
2. Demeanor Proficiency, willingness to perform the task at hand		
3. Evenness of Pace		

Additional Comments

Total (Office Only)

Total Riding Pattern Score:	
+ Total Impression Score X 0.5:	
= Total Score:	

Judge: _____

SHOW HUNTER SCORECARD

SHOW JUMPER: FLAT PATTERN



Judges will be looking for a complete pattern that demonstrates adjustability and balance of stride.

This sample is numbered for clarity. The pattern can be executed from the initial salute in either direction.

1. From the in-gate, approach the judges stand at the trot. Halt and salute approximately at the X facing the judges, and wait for a start signal to begin the figure-eight pattern.
2. To begin the figure-eight pattern, depart to canter in either direction from the walk and begin to form the first circle. *Circles should be large, at least 100 feet in diameter (shown approximately to scale above).*
3. Lengthen the stride at the canter along the outer half of the circle
4. Collect the canter stride
5. Change direction across the center of the arena either through a simple or flying change, continue at the canter to form the other half of the figure-eight on the opposite lead as the first.
6. Lengthen the stride along the outer half of the circle
7. Collect the canter stride
8. Downward transition to trot
9. Trot partway up the middle of the figure-eight then halt and back three to four steps straight back, with the horse's side positioned perpendicular to the judges stand (not head-on)

SHOW JUMPER: SCORECARD

LONG-FORMAT HENNEKE BODY CONDITION SCORE CHART

HENNEKE BODY CONDITION SCORE SHEET

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ANIMAL ID: _____

DESCRIPTION: _____

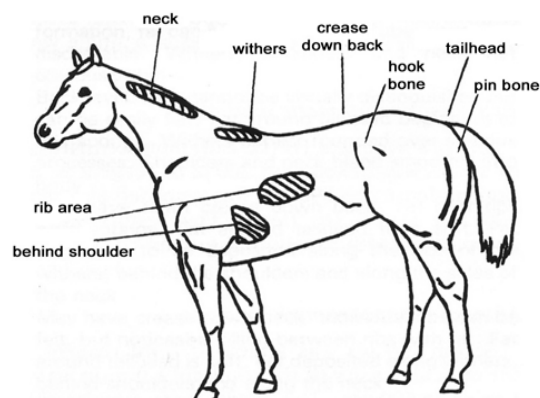
☐ VISUAL or ☐ HANDS-ON ASSESSMENT

COMMENTS: _____

OVERALL BODY CONDITION SCORE: _____ ÷ 6 = _____

sum total overall score

(circle descriptions for each area of the body then average together)



modified from Henneke et al. EVJ 1983;15:371-372

Condition	Neck	Withers	Shoulder	Ribs	Back	Tailhead Area
1 Poor (extremely emaciated)	Bone structure easily noticeable	Bone structure easily noticeable	Bone structure easily noticeable	Ribs projecting prominently	Spinous processes projecting prominently	Tailhead, pinbones, and hook bones projecting prominently
No fatty tissue can be felt						
2 Very Thin (emaciated)	Bone structure faintly discernible	Bone structure faintly discernible	Bone structure faintly discernible	Ribs prominent	Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent	Tailhead prominent Pin bones prominent Hook bones prominent
3 Thin	Neck accentuated	Withers accentuated	Shoulder accentuated	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernible	Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes, but easily discernible. Transverse processes cannot be felt	Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded, but are still easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable
4 Moderately Thin	Neck not obviously thin	Withers not obviously thin	Shoulder not obviously thin	Faint outline of ribs discernible	Negative crease (peaked appearance) along back	Prominence depends on conformation. Fat can be felt. Hook bones not discernible
5 Moderate	Neck blends smoothly into body	Withers rounded over spinous processes	Shoulder blends smoothly into body	Ribs cannot be visually distinguished, but can be easily felt	Back is level	Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy
6 Moderately Fleshy	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat beginning to be deposited behind shoulder	Fat over ribs feels spongy	May have a slight positive crease (a groove) down back	Fat around tailhead feels soft
7 Fleshy	Fat deposited along neck	Fat deposited along withers	Fat deposited behind shoulder	Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable fat filling between ribs	May have a positive crease down the back	Fat around tailhead is soft
8 Fat	Noticeable thickening of neck	Area along withers filled with fat	Area behind shoulder filled with fat	Difficult to feel ribs	Positive crease down back	Fat around tailhead very soft
9 Extremely Fat	Bulging fat	Bulging fat	Bulging fat	Patchy fat appearing over ribs	Obvious crease down back Flank filled with fat	Bulging fat around tailhead (prepared by A Kane USDA APHIS 11/21/17)