Athletic Equestrian League 2019-2020 Rulebook

Athletic Equestrian League
PO Box 595
Plymouth, NH 03264
(603) 359-0008
athleticequestrian@gmail.com
www.athleticequestrian.com
©AEL 2019

June 2019
All references to signature allow for electronic signatures.

RULE I Membership Classification

1100 Team Membership

1101 Any equestrian athletic team interested in participating in the activities of the Athletic Equestrian Association (AEL), and willing to subscribe to the Rules of the AEL, is eligible for membership.

1102 An eligible Team must apply for membership online annually on the official AEL Team Membership form, and such form must be properly signed by the designated Team Coach**.**

1104 The AEL Team Membership form must be accompanied by a check or credit card in the amount of $200.00. Canadian checks or credit cards must be in U.S. funds. Teams new to the AEL are allowed to pay a one-time introductory fee of $25 for

one competition before deciding to go with full membership. If they decide to do more competitions, they will pay the balance of $175.00.

1105 The AEL Team Membership application must include:

A. Name, address, phone number of the coach.

B. Home barn/school team name.

C. Name and address of home barn/school and team coach.

D. Signature of coach

E. Signature of barn owner.

1106 For a Team to be considered an AEL member in good standing, the AEL Team Application and payment must be received by the AEL business office at least two weeks before the first competition in which they seek to participate.

1200 Individual AEL Membership

1201 Eligibility for Membership and Participation.

A. In order to become an Individual AEL Member, an athlete must be in 4th to 12th grade, for team and individual competition. In addition, members may be individual members classified as Minis in 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade or as adults who are above the age of 18 and have graduated from high school.

B. Annually, prior to their first competition, an eligible athlete must apply online for membership on the official AEL Individual Membership form, to indicate participation in the AEL. The application must be signed by that individual, and their parent if the athlete is under age 18, and must be filed with the AEL. It must include an individual membership fee of $35.00. Athletes new to the AEL are allowed to pay a one-time introductory fee of $10 for one competition before deciding to go with full membership. If they decide to do more competitions, they will pay the balance of $25.00. **Each athlete and parent MUST electronically sign the online individual membership application, team trainers or coaches may not sign for an athlete or parent.**

1203 Should a team or individual check be returned for insufficient funds, the team or individual responsible shall be notified in order to resubmit the check. If the check is not made good within 15 business days, the team or individual responsible shall be ineligible to compete until funds are negotiable.

1300 Individual Eligibility Packet

1301 Individual Placement Form

In order to compete in AEL competitions, an individual member interested in AEL competitions must submit a completed AEL Placement Form to the team coach **who will approve it electronically online** prior to the member's first competition. An Individual Placement form shall include the following:

A. Name, email address, home address.

B. Date of initial AEL participation.

C. Current Flat and Fences Divisions.

D. Riding experience, including level and duration of instruction in the following areas.

:

1. Hunter Seat/Dressage/Balanced Seat

2. Jumping

3. Horse showing

F. Signature of applicant and parent.

G. Signature of coach.

H. Date of application.

1302 Classification by Coach

It is the responsibility of the coach to accurately enter athletes in the proper class according to their individual skill and experience levels and in compliance with the definitions and descriptions of those levels as set forth in the Rules.

1303 Classification by Show Steward

Classification of athletes need not be automatic. When classification is unclear, upon submission of biographical information, the show steward at the rider's first competition may review the rider's ability for proper classification. If rider is reviewed at the higher class and is moved down, all points and ribbons won in the class shall be forfeited. If rider is reviewed in the lower class, they must ride unjudged for that one class.

1304 It is the responsibility of the coach to move riders to the proper class when they have acquired the proper number of points. If a rider has progressed sufficiently in skills, s/he may be moved to a higher class.

1305 Once a rider has competed at a level, s/he may not move to a lower level unless directed to do so by the ruling body of the AEL.

1306 Athletes compete in three phases in AEL competitions: 1) Flat Phase; 2) Fences Phase; and, 3) Practicum.

1307 Falsification of Forms
The falsification of the AEL Club Membership Form or Individual Membership Form may be cause for immediate expulsion of the individual, and/or coach from the AEL.

1308 Forfeiture of Points

A rider showing in a class for which s/he is ineligible shall forfeit any points, ribbons and trophies won in such class. See Rule 3502-E&7302-F.

1400 Competition Membership

1401 AEL Competitions shall be classified as State Regional, State, Conference or National Competitions. Competition hosts will be responsible for providing suitable facilities, horses, tack and equipment. AEL rules shall govern all classes held at AEL competitions.

A. An AEL State Regional Competition shall be a competition held by a member team in good standing under AEL Rules, and in compliance with the Rules. It shall be open to any member team in good standing within its State Region. A State Region must hold a minimum of five and a maximum of ten competitions to qualify athletes for State Finals. Each State Region shall determine the maximum entry fee that may be charged.

B. An AEL State Competition shall be held annually by each State under the auspices of the AEL State Organizer at least one week prior to the Conference Finals. A State Competition may charge an entry fee to be determined by State Organizer panel.

C. An AEL Conference Finals Competition shall be held annually by each conference at least 21 days prior to the start of the National Finals. A Conference Finals may charge an entry fee as agreed upon by the Conference Organizer panel.

E. The National AEL Competition shall be held annually. The AEL National Organizer Panel shall approve the site of the show and the judges. The show shall be open to those riders who qualify. For the National Finals, the committee may charge an entry fee up to an amount approved by the National Finals Organizer Panel.

1402 Dues for Recognized Competitions

A. AEL State Regional Competitions shall not pay set dues but shall remit to the AEL $5.00 of each entry fee. These funds should be remitted within 10 days of the competition. All funds must be in United States currency. If dues are not remitted within 10 days, the Team may be suspended until such time as dues are paid.

B. There shall be no dues for the Conference or National Competitions.

RULE II State and Conference Organization

2100 The AEL is divided into States and Conferences.

Each Conference shall be made up of 8 or 9 states and each Conference shall have a Conference Organizer.

Northeast Conference: ME, NH, VT, NY, MA, RI, CT, PA
Central East Conference: IN, OH, KY, WV, MD, DE, VA, NC
Southeast Conference: LA, AR, TN, MI, AL, FL, GA, SC
Midwest Conference: KS, MN, WI, IA, IL, MI, IN, MO
Southwest Conference: Southern CA, NV, UT, AZ, CO, NM, TX, OK, HI
Northwest Conference: Northern CA, WA, OR, ID, MT, SD, NE, ND, SD, AK

2200 State Area
Each State shall have a State Organizer. States can be divided into Regional areas as the State Committee sees fit.

2300 Regional State Areas
Each State shall be divided into as many Regional areas as needed. Each Regional State area will have a Regional State Organizer.

RULE III Rule Interpretation and Enforcement

3100 Applicability and Definition

3101 The provisions of these rules shall apply to the following persons: exhibitor, coach, rider athlete, competition official, competition employee, member of the family of the above, individual, and member clubs, and member competitions, who act in a manner in violation of the Rules of the AEL or deemed prejudicial to its best interests. Any action in connection with a competition in violation of the Rules, by a member of the family of a person participating in the Competition, who is described in the previous sentence, may be deemed to have been committed by such person and subject to penalties.

3102 Non-Protestable Decisions

A. The soundness of a horse or the suitability of a rider or a horse, when determined by a Competition Steward or by a Competition Judge, is not a violation.

B. A Judge's decision, representing her/his individual preference, is not a violation of the rules.

3103 The construction or application of AEL Rules is governed by the State of New Hampshire.

3104 If the rules of the AEL do not apply to a given situation, the rules of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association(IHSA) shall govern.

RULE IV Organization and Procedures for Competitions and Duties of Competition Personnel

4100 Host Teams

4101 Any Team in good standing, with approval of the State Organizer, may host a regular point competition.

4102 Host Teams shall provide suitable facilities, horses, and equipment for all entries..

4103 Host Teams may limit entries to any number of riders, which shall be binding on all participating Clubs.

4200 Minimum Entry Requirements for Regular member shows and classes

4201 A minimum of two (2) Teams must compete in an official State Regional

Competition. In cases of inclement weather, for points to count, fifty (50) % of the entered riders must attend.

4202 In order for a competition to count, **all Team(4th-12th grade)** regular competition classes for which rules are provided, must be offered. **Minis and Adults are optional classes which the host team can determine if they will be offered. The competition invitation must state when the Minis class will be held and if the Adults will ride within the regular classes or have their own division as a class.**

4203 In order for a class to count there must be a minimum of 3 riders in the ring. Riders who have been entered in a lower class unjudged for reclassification will not count toward the minimum of three entries.

4204 If less than 3 entries, class may be run at discretion of competition committee but points will not count.

4300 Class Routine

4301 All classes for which rules are provided herein must be conducted accordingly. If rules of the AEL do not apply to any given situation, the rules of the IHSA shall govern.

4302 Care and control of horses including any drugs or medications administered shall be the sole prerogative of the horse provider or their designated representative. Administration of drugs and medications shall be limited to therapeutic use only, and used for the well-being of the horse. The administration of central nervous system drugs is prohibited in AEL competition.

4303 A class in operation at the time of the stopping of a show for any reason shall cease and no placements shall be made.

4304 In the event that a class in which horses compete individually is stopped while in progress, due to storm, accident, or other emergency, the following procedure shall govern:

1. If the class is continued at the same session of the competition, it shall proceed from the point at which it was stopped.
2. If the class is continued at a succeeding session of the competition, it shall be held over in its entirety and no scores credited in the first session shall count.

4305 If the class in which horses compete together is stopped while in progress due to storm, accident, re-ride or other emergency, the class (or test), when

recommenced, shall be held over in its entirety, and no consideration shall be given to the performance during the original session.

4306 If a show is stopped while in progress and is unable to recommence, no points will be awarded for the competition.

4307 Special classes may be offered by the competition committee if time and horse availability permit; but they must be scheduled after the regular classes are completed.

4308 It is recommended that fences consist of natural posts and rails, painted rails, and brush. All fences must have wings at least 12 inches higher than the top of the fence. Ground lines are mandatory.

4309 All horses to be used in over fences classes must be schooled on the flat for flat horses and over fences for fences horses, prior to the competition.

4400 Falls, Refusals and Eliminations

4401 A rider is considered to have fallen when s/he is separated from their horse that has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.

1. In the event of a fall/accident where the rider is apparently unconscious or concussed, s/he is precluded from competing until evaluated by qualified medical personnel. If the rider refuses to be evaluated, s/he is disqualified from the competition.

2. If qualified medical personnel determines that a rider has sustained unconsciousness or a concussion, the rider must be precluded from competing until cleared to compete. In order to return to competition, the rider shall submit a signed letter, completed by a licensed medical professional, stating that the rider is cleared to compete. The letter shall be submitted to the Team Coach, with a copy to the State Organizer, in order to compete in the AEL.

4402 A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle on the ground.

4403 Falls will result in elimination.

4404 Three refusals **or fences test errors** will result in elimination.

4405 No courtesy fences will be allowed after elimination.

4500 Drawing for Horses

4501 Drawings for horses will be done by the Steward and Competition Management prior to the start of the show. Horses in each class will be listed and the Steward will choose numbers in random order for each horse. At least one alternate will be listed for each class. Horse draw can be organized so each athlete rides the same horse in both Flat and Fences, or be organized so each athlete draws a different horse for Flat and Fences.

4502 Competition hosts shall provide a height/weight limit chart that lists if smaller horses(under 14.3 hands) have a height or weight limit. In addition, any smaller rider(5'3" or under) may choose not ride a mount 16 hands or taller. The Club coach shall inform show management and the alternate horse will be used.

4600 Re-rides

4601 When through no fault of the rider, a horse performs so poorly that it is impossible to fairly judge the rider's ability, a re-ride may be granted.

4602 Only the Steward and Judge will determine if a re-ride is allowed.

4603 If a re-ride is granted, it shall be judged as if the first ride never occurred.

4604 If a re-ride is granted in a class in which riders compete individually, the re-ride shall take place after all other rides in that class have been completed.

4605 If a re-ride is granted in a class in which riders compete together, see Rule 4305.

4700 Tack and Aids

4701 Neither substitution of tack or aids nor addition of materials by exhibitors which could affect horse or tack shall be permitted unless approved by show management.

4702 Use of Whips and Spurs

A. Crops, whips, or bats may be carried only when specified by the Competition Committee. Crops etc. are not to be used prior to entering the ring. One or two disciplinary applications in the event of disobedience are sufficient. The Steward may rule that a rider be disqualified for improper use of a whip.

B. Spurs provided by the horse provider are permitted in Open, Intermediate and Novice. It is up to each horse provider to determine if they will allow

spurs to be used on their horse.

4703 A list of aids appropriate to each horse must be posted or accompany each horse. Riders shall comply with the suggested use of aids.

4704 Dress and Headgear

A. In the phases of competition, both Flat and Fences**,** all AEL athletes and all warm-up riders at an AEL sanctioned competition, must wear protective headgear which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. It must be properly fitted with harness secured per the helmet manufacturer. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further competition until such headgear is properly in place. It is the responsibility of the athlete to see that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, is properly fitted, and in good condition.

B. Athletes in the AEL shall wear tall boots or half-chaps/paddock boots, breeches, a long or short-sleeved shirt with a collar, ASTM-SEI helmet and gloves. It is recommended that Clubs wear matching shirts and also matching color breeches, if possible.

4800 Awards - Ribbons and Trophies

4801 The color of awards at all competitions shall be:

First Place……Gold Medal
Second Place……Silver Medal
Third Place…….Bronze Medal
Fourth Place……White Ribbon
Fifth Place……Pink Ribbon
Sixth Place……..Green Ribbon

4802 Three medals and three ribbons shall be awarded in each class.

4803 Medals, ribbons and trophies shall be furnished by the host Team except at Conference and National Competitions.

4804 Champion and Reserve Trophies shall be awarded to the first and second place teams and the High Point Open Athlete, High Point Intermediate Athlete, High Point Novice Athlete, High Point Advanced Beginner Athlete and High Point Beginner Athlete. **Host teams that offer Minis and Adults shall also award trophy or prize for High Point Mini Athlete and High Point Adult Athlete.**

4806 In the event of a tie for Champion Team, the scores shall stand and the

competition committee shall rule on the awarding of trophies and ribbons.

4807 In the event of a tie for High Point Athletes and class placings, the tie shall be broken by the Athletes' Flat scores, if the tie still remains, the tie shall be broken by the Athletes' Fences scores. If the tie still remains, the tie shall be broken by the Athletes' combined Flat and Fences scores. If the tie still remains, the judge shall break the tie.

4900 Personal Conduct of Exhibitors, Coaches, and Show Personnel

4901 General

It is expected that competitors, spectators, and coaches will behave in a manner that reflects the dignity of the sport. Ill-mannered conduct will not be tolerated; the competition management may expel from the grounds any person whose behavior is deemed dishonest, unethical, unsportsmanlike, or detrimental to the health, safety, or well-being of any horse, person, or the League during the progress of the competition.

4902 Cruelty

Equestrian sport is made possible by the animals, who serve the rider. This is a sport of grace and elegance, where rider and animal work as a team. There is neither grace nor elegance in an abusive spectacle. It is the responsibility, therefore, of all parties concerned to be aware of the conduct of participants and the condition of the horses; and, if a violation is observed, a report must be made immediately to the Steward.

4903 Alcohol

The use or possession of alcohol, or any illegal substance by the competitors or coaches is strictly forbidden on the show grounds, and any participant apprehended with such materials will automatically be suspended from the League.

4904 It is the responsibility of all parties concerned to consider the welfare of the horse. The administration of central nervous system drugs is prohibited in AEL competition. See Rule 4302.

RULE V Competition Officials and Their Duties

5100 Competition Officials

5101 The term "competition officials" shall include and refer to all persons directly engaged by the competition.

5102 Officials and their duties shall include:

A. Competition Organizer, who shall be responsible for the operation of the competition.

B. Competition Secretary, who shall be in charge of:

1. Hiring the Judge and Steward necessary for the operation of the competition.

2. Appointing and identifying in the program one Steward who shall be present throughout the show.

3. Mailing the competition entry form and information.

4. Processing the entries, complete with AEL entry statement and signed by each athlete's parent.

5. Providing qualified medical personnel on grounds for all scheduled performances and an ambulance on the show grounds or on call for the entire scheduled competition. Qualified medical personnel is a currently certified or licensed EMT or Paramedic, or a Physician or nurse trained in pre-hospital trauma care and currently certified or licensed in their profession. A physician or nurse trained in pre-hospital trauma care is a physician or nurse who is currently certified in Advanced Trauma Life Support, Basic Trauma Life Support, Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support, or who has First Responder or comparable certification. It is strongly recommended that EMTs and/or Paramedics be used to fill this position. Medical personnel must not exceed the scope of their practice.

6. Marking the official programs with special regard to scratches, substitutions, additions and other corrections.

7. Checking class sheets against actual riders and numbers.

9. Apply for the competition date.

10. Report to the show steward in writing, any act on the part of any person deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the League.

11. Furnish the judge in each class the AEL Flat Score Sheets, AEL Fences Tests and the AEL Practicum Tests.

12. Be responsible for all matters in connection with substitutions.

13. Ensure that no entry shall compete until their parent has signed the entry blank.

14. Familiarize the judges with the AEL Rules and the AEL Judge's Guidelines.

15. Remit dues to the AEL within ten (10) days of the competition.

5200 Judges

5201 Qualifications

A. To officiate at an AEL competition, a person must be a coach in the IHSA and/or the IEA. A judge can also be selected from the recognized USEF judge list, either recorded or Registered, in Hunter Seat Equitation.

B. A judge not qualified as stated in A. may be used with prior written and signed consent by the closing date of the competition of the coaches of each team entered. If the judge is later protested by a participating Club and their designated coach did not sign the consent prior to the show then said show shall be declared invalid and no points won at said show shall count.

C. A judge may not officiate if s/he has had a professional relationship as defined by the IHSA rules, but to include clinics with any exhibitor or member college, within 60 days prior to the show.

D. Judges shall judge and score the Flat and Fences Phases only. A separate Practicum Judge will score the Practicum tests. A Practicum Judge should have a working knowledge of the CHA Composite Manual and be familiar with the AEL Practicum Tests.

5202 Responsibilities of a Judge

A. Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and the

selection of the best rider under the conditions of the class. A judge serves three interests: their own conscience, exhibitors, and spectators. A Judge is obligated to adjudicate each class in conformity with the rules and specifications of the AEL Rules and the AEL Judge's Guidelines.

B. The decision of each judge constitutes solely their individual preference and not a verdict by the League.

C. No one shall approach a Judge with regard to a decision unless s/he first obtains permission from the Steward, who shall arrange an appointment with the Judge at a proper time and place.

D. A Judge may order from the ring any horse or rider whose actions may endanger other exhibitors.

E. A Judge should inspect courses of fences after they have been set.

5300 Show Steward

5301 Number required

A. Any local or State competition shall have one (1) qualified steward.

B. A Conference Competition shall have three(3) qualified stewards. One steward shall act as the draw steward.

C. The National Finals Competition shall have not more than five (5) qualified stewards.

5302 Qualifications

A. An AEL Steward may be anyone over 21 who is not an Individual AEL Member. It is suggested that IHSA team coaches be used.

B. A steward must have a current working knowledge of AEL Rules and know the difference between AEL competition and that of the IHSA or USEF.

C. **No person may serve as a steward at a competition hosted by the Team with which s/he is associated in any manner.**

5303 Duties and Powers of a Show Steward:

Show Stewards serve to interpret the Rules of the League.

Stewards' duties include but are not restricted to:

A. Protect the interests of exhibitors, Judges and Competition Management.

B. Investigate and act upon any alleged rule violations, without waiting for a protest.

C. Report to the Competition Committee any misrepresentation or substitution of entry without waiting for a protest.

D. Ascertain that all Judges are recognized in the divisions to which assigned.

E. Report to the Competition Committee any violation of the Rules and prefer charges against the violator if not otherwise properly handled.

F. Supervise the drawing of horses.

Stewards' powers include but are not restricted to:

A. Permit rerides, under specific conditions, as agreed upon by the Competition Management and horse providers.

B. Determine, under extenuating circumstances or extreme unfairness to one or more competitors, if a class should be rerun.

C. Determine the suitability of rider to horse, rider to class, and horse to class level.

D. Stop a class in the event a horse or competitor should be considered unsafe.

5304 Classification of Riders by Steward

A. Classification of riders need not be automatic. When classification is unclear, upon submission of biographical information, the show steward at the rider's first competition may review the rider's ability for proper classification. If rider is reviewed at the higher class and is moved down, all points and ribbons won in the class shall be forfeited. If rider is reviewed in the lower class, they must ride unjudged for that one class.

B. The show stewards of the AEL will give advice if requested, and shall have the power to reclassify riders who are competing at incorrect levels. All points and ribbons won in such classes shall be forfeited.

5400 Competition Invitation, Entry Blank, and Program

5401 Competition Invitation

A. The Competition Invitation shall contain:

1. The name of the Judge.

2. Name and address of Competition Organizer.

3. The date, location, phone number for the Competition.

4. Time of registration and start of the Competition.

5. Closing date of entries.

6. Information about food and entertainment.

7. Amount of entry and other fees. Once distributed, the fees may not be changed for said show.

8. Disclosure statement.

B. Competition Invitation must be emailed not less than two (2) weeks prior to the closing date of entries.

5402 Entry Blank

A. The entry blank must contain spaces for name, class numbers, and the name of the Club.

B. Each Parent must sign the AEL membership release for their child **online at the start of the competition year**. In the event of failure to do so, the first entrance into the ring of and exhibitor of that institution shall constitute acceptance of the AEL Rules.
Each entry blank must contain the following statement and entries under the age of 18 must have the release form signed by a parent online.

****

This entry constitutes an agreement and affirmation that the Athlete/Parent making it, the Club, and each of its riders, coaches and trainers shall accept and abide by the rules of the AEL and of the Competition, that each rider is eligible as entered, that they will accept as final any rulings of the AEL with respect to their conduct and each entry agrees to defend and hold the AEL, its directors, officials, employees and all persons, stables or

other entities providing facilities, horses or equipment for the Competition, harmless for any claim, action or suit, for injury, property damage or death sustained during participation in the show by the entity, his or her coach, trainer or visitors.

Furthermore, the Club, riders, coaches, trainers, and/or any affiliate, agent, and/or representative of the foregoing, hereby acknowledge and recognize that competing in an AEL competition may result in substantial and serious injury, including, but not limited to, maiming, paralysis, and/or death; that all of the foregoing persons openly and freely accept all of the potential risks associated with participation in an and Each Parent must sign the entry blank for their child. In the event of failure to do so, the first entrance into the ring of and exhibitor of that institution shall constitute acceptance of the AEL Rules.

5403 Entries

A. The acceptance of substitutions is entirely at the discretion of the Competition Committee.

B. A Competition may adopt its own policy regarding the refunding of entry fees to an exhibitor who cancels entries after the closing date. However, each entry shall still be charged the $5.00 due to the AEL.

C. In case of discrepancy between information in the program and that of the entry blank, the entry blank shall take precedence.

D. It is recommended that all entries received by the closing date be acknowledged by competition secretary, including a schedule indicating the classes for each entry.

RULE VI Judging Requirements

6100 General

6101 In AEL Divisions, only the rider is being judged; therefore no penalty should be assessed because of the horse's conformation, color or way of going.

6102 Falls, Refusals and Eliminations (See Rule 4400).

6103 Any competitor not having their mount under sufficient control shall be removed from the ring and shall be disqualified or remounted at the stewards' discretion.

6104 No attendant shall be allowed in the ring except at the request of the judge or steward.

6200 Flat Phase

6201 General

Competitor should have a workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. Riders will wear colored wristbands, one on each wrist. Riders will wear their assigned rider number on their left arm.

6202 Hands

Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical or on the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to rider's elbow.

6204 Basic Position

The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation, ankles flexed, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on ball of foot. Riders will be scored on the basics of Balance Seat, in other words, when the rider's center of gravity is as close as possible to the horse's center of gravity. The rider is in correct alignment when there is a straight, vertical line from the rider's ear to the shoulder to the point of the hip to the back of the heel. In addition, the eyes are forward, the back is straight, the seat bones are planted in the deepest part of the saddle, the legs are underneath the rider, not out in front, the ball of the foot is on the stirrup, and the toe is pointed up, with the heel down. A good, balanced seat is relaxed and supple, not tight and tense.

6205 Class Routine

A. Flat Phase

Competitors shall enter ring in a class with a maximum of 6 riders and shall proceed at least once around the ring at each appropriate gait and on command, reverse and repeat. The order to reverse may be executed by turning away from the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. The judge will score each task on a scale of 0 to 5 points for each task, with a total score possible of 40. The judge can run the class according to their judging needs. In other words, if the judge can only watch 3 riders at a time perform the halt, they can ask the class to halt twice in one direction. Judges are encouraged to use the entire scale, rewarding those riders who achieve a good Balance Seat as outlined above and also those riders who demonstrate an ability to ride an unfamiliar horse in a capable fashion. Judges should also penalize riders who are tight and tense and grab the reins for balance. Entries shall then line up on command, and any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate movements as requested by the Judge included in class requirements.
At the end of the flat phase, the judge will write further comments in the "Comments" box. Judges are encouraged to comment with further explanations of why riders scored as they did, as time allows.

B. Fences Phase

The performance begins when the horse enters the ring or is given the signal to proceed after entering the ring.

Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the fault of the rider. When two jumps are scored as one "test" and the rider has a refusal at the second fence, the rider shall circle back and take the second fence only, not the entire line.

Number of strides shall not be considered unless it is the fault of the rider.

A well-executed simple change must not be penalized.

Three cumulative refusals will eliminate. No courtesy fence will be allowed after elimination.

Each level will perform their tasks according to their AEL Fences Phase Tests. **Riders will walk into and out of the arena, and shall trot or**

canter (depending on the first task in their fences test) to their first element. Riders do not need to perform an opening and closing circle.

When two jumps are scored as one "test" and the rider has a refusal/run-out at the second fence, the rider shall circle back and take the second fence only, not the entire line. The judge shall not score the "task" higher than a "2" if there is a refusal/run-out, and they need to mark the refusal at the bottom of the score sheet. In addition, if a rider has a refusal/run-out on a single fence, they shall circle back and take the fence again, and shall not score higher than a "2" and the judge shall circle the fault at the bottom of the scoresheet.

If an athlete forgets their fences test or goes off course, the judge shall ring a bell or blow a whistle. The athlete can confer with their coach or the judge to get them going in the correct direction. The judge shall circle -10 at the bottom of the fences test for "first test error." If it happens again, same procedure but the judge shall circle -20(the athlete will have a total of -30), if it happens a 3rd time, athlete is excused.

For Minis and Beginners during a fences test while trotting over a line of two jumps in a row, posting diagonal is not to count since the riders are required to be in two-point over the poles.

C. Practicum Phase

Each Division will have progressively more difficult Practicum tasks, and all Practicum tasks will take into account rider knowledge and safety. All Practicum tasks will be pulled from the CHA(Certified Horsemanship Association) Composite Manual.

The Practicum judge shall have a master class scoresheet which they will mark the athlete's score. They will determine the athlete score by looking at the AEL Practicum tests which the show manager has run off for them, and write that score onto the master class scoresheet. The Practicum judge will provide the scores to the scorers, and also let the announcer know who still needs to take their Practicum so that the Practicum runs in a timely manner.

RULE VII Point Requirements and Scoring

7100 Points

7101 Procedures

A Cumulative and aggregate point totals of teams and individuals shall be kept by the Organizer of each State Region. Such current scores shall be available to participating Clubs at each competition.

B. The official point records shall determine class advancement of Athletes, eligibility for State competitions, Regional High Point Rider, and Regional High Point Team.

C. All points recorded by the State Organizer will become final and not subject to protest at the close of each show season; therefore any adjustments or corrections must be made before the last competition of the season.

7200 Individual Point Procedures and Requirements

7201 Competitors must move to the next division when they have acquired 750 points in their assigned division. They are also qualified for State Regional competition.

7205 For Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Novice, and Intermediate, place standings will carry over from year to year until their 750 points are attained.

7206 Upon qualifying out of a Division, a competitor will be considered in the next higher Division whether s/he has actually competed in the new Division or not.

7207 Riders in Open will start each year with zero points and must acquire 250 to qualify for State Regional competition. In the event of a disparity in the number of shows held within a State Region and no rider qualifies in these classes, the number of points may be lowered to qualify the next highest competitor(s).

7300 Scoring for Regional State Competitions

7301 Class section placings will be determined by adding the competitors' Flat Phase, Fences Phase and Practicum Score. The Flat Phase will count for 40 points of the score, the Fences Phase will count for 40 points of the score, and the Practicum Phase will count for 20 points of the score. In the event of a tie for class placing, the tie shall be broken by the Athletes' Flat scores, if the tie still remains, the tie shall be broken by the Athletes' Fences scores. If the tie still remains, the tie shall be broken by the Athletes' combined Flat and Fences scores. If the tie still

remains, the judge shall break the tie.

7301 Point Requirements for High Point Riders

A. Champion High Point Riders shall be determined by totaling the points **from all sections within a class**.

B. In the event of a tie for High Point Athletes, the tie shall be broken by the Athletes' Flat scores, if the tie still remains, the tie shall be broken by the Athletes' Fences scores. If the tie still remains, the tie shall be broken by the Athletes' combined Flat and Fences scores. If the tie still remains, the judge shall break the tie.

7302 Point Requirements for High Point Teams

A. Each team's highest placed Open, Intermediate, Novice, Advanced Beginner and Beginner Competitor's scores will count toward the team total and all be added together for the team score for the day.

B. In the case of a tie for the team championship of a regular show, teams shall remain tied. Distribution of ribbons will be at the discretion of the show.

C. If an ineligible competitor's score is used as a team rider, the team will lose that score and one more score will be dropped, regardless of the size of the team. The score to be dropped will be the lowest score greater than zero.

RULE VIII Format Description and Definitions of Divisions

8100 Eligibility for Divisions

8101 Definitions

A. Mounted Competitions

A mounted competition is any recognized or unrecognized horse show, event, Pony Club, 4-H or other type of horse show. Any un-mounted competition such as lead-line classes, showmanship, judging competitions, etc, do not count as mounted competition.

B. Instruction

Any number of lessons taken within a week (Monday-Sunday) constitutes a week of instruction.

8102 Specifications for Placement of AEL Competitors

Minis

Mini riders are in 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade. Mini points will not count toward team totals and the addition of Mini classes is up to competition management. **Minis will perform the Minis fences tests included in each Fences test. The Minis division is considered a development division and is intended for the introduction of young riders to competition. Minis are permitted to have their fences tests read to them.**

Beginner

Beginner flat riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, and rising trot. **Beginner riders will be asked to halt, and do the two-point position at the walk in one direction**. Beginner riders have had less than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot and have not shown in a mounted competition at the canter.

Beginner riders have not shown in a mounted competition over cross-rail fences.

Advanced Beginner

Advanced Beginner flat riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, rising trot and canter. **Advanced Beginner riders will be asked to halt and do the two-point position at the trot in one direction.** Advanced

Beginner riders may have had more than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot and can canter in a group in the arena. Advanced Beginner riders have not shown in a mounted competition over 12" fences.

Advanced Beginner fence riders will compete over a set pattern of ground poles, which will include work at the walk, trot, canter and halt.

Class 3: Novice

Novice flat riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, rising trot, and canter. **Novice riders will be asked to halt and do sitting trot in one direction.** Novice riders have had more than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot and the canter. Novice riders have not shown in a mounted competition over fences higher than 18".

Novice fence riders will compete over a set pattern of cross-rails, which will include work at the walk, trot, canter and halt

Class 4: Intermediate

Intermediate riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, rising trot and canter. **Intermediate riders will be asked to halt and do the sitting trot in one direction.** Intermediate riders have had more than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot, lengthened trot and canter. Intermediate riders have not shown in a mounted competition over fences higher than 2'6".

Intermediate riders will compete over a set pattern of 2'-2'3" verticals, which will include work at the walk, trot, canter and halt.

Class 5: Open

Open riders compete in both directions of the ring at the walk, rising trot and canter. **Open riders will be asked to halt and hand-gallop in one direction.** Open riders have had more than 36 weeks of riding instruction and are capable of performing the rising trot, lengthened trot, canter and hand gallop. Open riders may have shown in a mounted competition over fences higher than 2'6".

Open fences riders will compete over a set pattern of 2'3"-2'6" fences, which will include work at the walk, trot, canter, hand gallop and halt.