



## **2020-2021 AEL Virtual Judge's Guidelines**

### **Flat Phase**

- Riders will wear their assigned rider number on their left arm.
- Write in the rider, number, class section, and team at the top of the page.
- **Beginner: Walk and Rising Trot in both directions. Tests: Halt and Trot 2-point in one direction.**
- **Advanced Beginner: Walk, Rising Trot and Canter (judge to decide how many to canter at a time) in both directions. Tests: Halt and Trot 2-point in one direction.**
- **Novice: Walk, Rising Trot, and Canter in both directions. Tests: Halt and Trot 2 point in one direction.**
- **Intermediate: Walk, Rising Trot and Canter in both directions. Tests: Halt and Sitting Trot in one direction**
- **Open: Walk, Rising Trot and Canter in both directions. Tests: Halt and Hand Gallop in one direction.**
- 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.
- The judge will score each athlete on a scale of 0 to 40 points. 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 as one of the tests, 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.

**Incorrect diagonals, incorrect leads and loss of gait are circled on the bottom of the scoresheet and are subtracted from the total score accordingly.**

- At their request, the judge will have a scribe to mark down the judge's scoring and comments for each rider. Judges are encouraged to write as many comments as possible and watch the entire class and then mark their final score at the end of the class.
- **Riders are not scored against the others in the section, they are scored against the ideals on the bottom of the page. In other words, you do not "place" the class, you could possibly have identical scores for multiple riders. The riders will have their fences and practicum scores added to their flat total which will place the class.**
- **If a rider has all the "ideals" at one level of scoring but is weak in one area, the judge should mark them at the lower end of the higher scale**
- In the Minis classes, Minis can be led with a lead rope attached or with the coach or other handler walking nearby. In addition, coaches are permitted to stand in the arena if they aren't directly leading their Minis

### **Virtual Competition Rules that Judges' need to know:**

- Coaching during the test is allowed on the edge of the arena like at normal competition. You must have separate individual recording. The mini division can be on lead line and/or assist from the coach. If an athlete goes off course or forgets their fences test, the coach who is assisting(not the videographer) must blow a whistle or otherwise inform the athlete that they are off course. The coach shall then call the athlete over and correct her/him and then the athlete may proceed.
- We will make every effort to judge this class fairly with the knowledge that there are inherent challenges to judging online shows that make it different from the real-life experience.
- Filming must be clear, horizontal and filmed on the length of the arena. No filming will be accepted that is blurry, dark, vertical or filmed where the judge can't fairly judge the rider.
- Use of crop and spurs under rule 4702A and 4702B are still as follows: only Open, Intermediate and Novice levels are permitted to use spurs as provided by the horse provider.
- Any violation of rules must be reported to the specified show organizer and then onto an AEL staff member.
- Coaches and athletes will not take multiple video attempts and send the best recording, they must send the first and only attempt. It is important to maintain sportsmanship, integrity and horsemanship during virtual competitions. The only exception is when the athlete is in danger due to an unanticipated horse issue and the athlete is granted a re-ride like in regular competitions.

## Fences Phase

- The flat class grouping will proceed directly to their fences phase, order to be determined by the competition committee. Riders will do their qualified fences level.
- 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.
- **Beginner: Rising Trot, and Halt over ground poles in 2-point.**
- **Advanced Beginner: Rising Trot, Halt and Canter over ground poles in 2-point.**
- **Novice: Rising Trot, 2-point Trot, Halt, and Canter over cross-rail fences.**
- **Intermediate: Rising Trot, Sitting Trot, Halt and Canter over 2'-2'3" fences**
- **Open: Rising Trot, Halt, Hand Gallop and Canter over 2'3"-2'6" fences.**
- The judge will score each task on a scale of 0 to 5 points for each task.
  - 5      Excellent**
  - 4      Good**
  - 3      Performed**
  - 2      Performed with error**
  - 1      Attempted**
  - 0      Not Performed**
- At their request, the judge will have a scribe to mark down the judge's scoring for each rider as they perform each task.
- 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 coach 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 3<sup>rd</sup> time, athlete is excused.
- In the Minis classes, Minis can be led with a lead rope attached or with the coach or other handler walking nearby. In addition, coaches are permitted to stand in the arena if

they aren't directly leading their Mini. Minis are permitted to have their fences tests read to them.

- **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.**

## **Practicum Phase**

- The Practicum Judge should have a working knowledge of the Certified Horsemanship Association(CHHA) Composite Manual. All Practicum tests are pulled from the CHA Manual.
- Each competitor will be asked their questions and/or asked to demonstrate, if that is in their test.
- 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 let the announcer know who still needs to take their Practicum so that the Practicum runs in a timely manner.

## **Scoring**

- Each competitor will be scored 40 points for Flat, 40 points for Fences and 20 points for Practicum.
- 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.