

## 2024 Official Rule Changes

**Bold indicates new language. Strikethrough indicates removed language.**

1.

102.BEGINNER EQUITATION: Open to riders 18 years of age and under who have not previously competed in any class requiring canter ~~or~~, hand gallop, **or jumping. Rider not eligible for any classes other than those designated as BEGINNER at the same horse show.** To be asked to walk and trot only both ways of the ring. Children riding in this class are not eligible to ride in any class in the show which requires canter. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Managers may split the class at their discretion.

103.BEGINNER HORSEMANSHIP: Open to riders 18 years of age and under who have not previously competed in any class requiring canter ~~or~~, hand gallop, **or jumping. Rider not eligible for any classes other than those designated as BEGINNER at the same horse show.** To be asked to walk and trot only both ways of the ring. Children riding in this class are not eligible to ride in any class in the show which requires canter. Judges will ask a question of each contestant. To be judged as an Equitation Class. Children riding in this class are not eligible to ride in any class in the show which requires a canter. Not USEF/NEHC rated. Managers may split the class at their discretion.

120. BEGINNER PLEASURE: Open to all horses or ponies ridden by children 18 years old and under as of December 1st of the previous year who have not previously competed in classes requiring a canter ~~or~~, hand gallop, **or jumping. Rider not eligible for any classes other than those designated as BEGINNER at the same horse show.** To be shown at the walk and trot ONLY. To be judged on manners, suitability of the mount for the rider and performance. Children riding in this class are not eligible to ride in any class in the show which requires a canter. Not USEF rated.

**Intent: Create greater clarity that Beginners may not cross-enter into any other class/division at the same show, and cannot have competed at the canter and/or jumping.**

2.

251/252.SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION OVER FENCES: Over fences class will include a minimum of 4 **6** and maximum of 8 fences not to exceed 18" **with at least one change of direction after the first fence.** Simple changes will be deemed acceptable.

355/ 356.LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION OVER FENCES: Open to junior and amateur riders 13 years of age and over who may not compete in any other equitation class or division at any show and have not ever competed in a jumping class over 18" in height. Simple changes will be deemed acceptable over fences. Over fences class will include a minimum of ~~4-6~~ and a maximum of 8 fences not to exceed 18" **with at least one change of direction after the first fence.** . Can be combined with the Short Stirrup division if entries warrant at show management's discretion.

270.VHJA SHORT STIRRUP MEDAL:Open to riders 12 years and under who are VHJA members and eligible for the Short Stirrup equitation class. To be shown over a minimum of ~~5-6~~ and a maximum of 8 fences not exceeding 18" in height **with at least one change of direction after the first fence**, spread not to exceed height, with one of the following options to be part of the course: a bending line or rollback turn. No combinations. Simple changes will be deemed acceptable. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system. Not USEF/NEHC rated.

271.VHJA LONG STIRRUP MEDAL: Open to junior and amateur riders 13 years of age and over who may not compete in any other equitation class or division at any show and have not ever competed in a jumping class over 18" in height, **with at least one change of direction after the first fence, and with** one of the following options to be part of the course: a bending line or rollback turn. No combinations. Simple changes will be deemed acceptable. To be judged using the open numerical scoring system.

**Intent: Some shows still run the Short Stirrup as twice around the outside lines in one direction.**

3.

CHILDREN'S EQUITATION: Each rider will choose one fence height at a given show **with the exception of the combination of the Children's Equitation 3' and Children's Equitation 3'3".-Not USEF/NEHC rated.**

350. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION FLAT 2': For riders under 18 as of December first of the previous year who have not competed over fences exceeding 2'3" at the same show. One year-end award for classes 350. 351 & 352.

351/ 352. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION OVER FENCES 2': Each rider will choose one fence height at a given show. For riders under 18 years of age as of December 1st of the previous year who have not competed over fences **which exceed** 2'3" at the same show. To compete over a course of a minimum of 6 fences not to exceed 2' in height. No in and out. One year-end award for classes 350, 351 & 352.

550. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION FLAT 2'6":For riders under 18 years of age, who in the previous year have not competed over fences 3' or higher. One year-end award for classes 550, 551 & 552.

551/ 552. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION OVER FENCES 2'6": Each rider will choose one fence height at a given show. For riders under 18 years of age, who in the previous **year show season** have not competed over fences 3' or higher. To compete over a course of a minimum of 6 fences not to exceed 2'6" in height. No in and out. One year-end award for classes 550, 551 & 552.

~~751/ 752. CHILDREN'S EQUITATION OVER FENCES 3'0": Each rider will choose one fence height at a given show. For riders under 18 as of December 1st of the previous year. No other limitation as to rider, except for riders who win one blue ribbon at this level are no longer eligible to compete in Children's Equitation 2'6". To be shown over a course of a minimum of 8 fences not to exceed 3'. The course must include two changes of direction and must include one combination. One year-end award for classes 750, 751 & 752.~~

~~CHILDREN'S EQUITATION OVER FENCES 3'3": Each rider will choose one fence height at a given show. For riders under 18 as of December 1st of the previous year. No other limitation as to rider, except for riders who win one blue ribbon at this level are no longer eligible to compete in Children's Equitation 3'. To be shown over a course of a minimum of 8 fences not to exceed 3'3". The course must include two changes of direction and must include one combination.~~

**Intent: Create greater clarity of intent in the 2'6" regarding moving up to 3', and to allow greater flexibility in the 3' & 3'3" season cross-entry for improved numbers in the class.**