

# USEA Future Event Horse Program Organizer Guidelines

---

## Basic Guidelines

All Future Event Horse (FEH) Competitions are held under the auspices of the USEA and are considered as USEA "Tests." The USEA establishes the guidelines and the policies for the Future Event Horse Series. In all cases the decision of the Judge is final.

Note: Should there be questions regarding the Judge(s) decision please contact the Judge(s) after the competition. Judge(s) will be available for a period of 30 minutes for consultations.

## Classes, Divisions and Age Groups

Separate classes will be held for yearlings, two-year-olds and three-year-olds and the goal is to offer these classes by gender. Where sufficient entries permit (sufficient entries are considered to be 2 or more) Organizers will hold a class for both fillies and colts/geldings. Where there are combined classes of fillies and colts/geldings all will be judged as one class and the highest placed filly and colt will be recognized. For example, if there is only one filly in the class and she places third overall she will be recognized as the winning filly of that age group receiving a blue ribbon.

Combining age groups is not allowed. Each age group will be judged independently of the other. A yearling will not be judged in the two- or three-year old class, and a two-year-old not be judged in a three-year-old class.

The first and second placed horses of each division are eligible for the Division Championships (e.g., Yearling, Two-Year Old, and Three-Year Old). The maximum number of horses to compete for a Division Championship will be four (i.e., first and second placed Fillies and first and second placed Colts/Geldings). **New for 2012 – Horses must receive a minimum qualifying score of 68% to be eligible to compete in the FEH Series championships.**

For the Series Championship Competitions (currently West Coast, East Coast, and Central United States) is the only time that there are more ribbons needed, and that is for the Over All Champions and Reserve. The USEA provides ribbons for the Series Championship Competitions.

Horses must be registered with the USEA and owners are encouraged to submit a copy of the horse's papers or any pedigree information available prior to entry.

January 1 will dictate the age of the horse. For example a horse born in 2007 will be considered one-year old on January 1, 2008.

## General FEH Definitions

**Breeder:** the owner, or lessee of the mare when she was bred.

**Colt:** an entire male horse three-years-old or younger.

**Filly:** a female horse three-years-old or younger.

**Gelding:** a gelded horse three-years-old or younger.

**Handler:** the person presenting the horse to the Judge and leading the horse during the walk and trot phases.

# USEA Future Event Horse Program Organizer Guidelines

---

**Whip Assistants:** the person designated by the Handler and/or Owner to follow behind the horse to encourage it to move forward.

## Organizers Physical Requirements

- First and foremost the Competition arena must be enclosed with a gate which is able to be closed and latched while there are horses in the enclosure. This does not mean that the area must be indoors, only that it must have fencing at a reasonable height to prevent young horses from jumping out of the enclosed area.
- The organizer will also provide a separate warm-up area for the FEH competitors to stand and/or walk around while waiting for their turn to enter the ring. This area should not be shared with riding warm-up, and should ideally be in a quiet, low traffic space.
- Organizer will attempt to hold the FEH Competition in areas with the least amount of distractions for young horses to enable them to show themselves to their best advantage.
- The competition arena will be set up with a 30 meter equilateral triangle. A 15 meter triangle will also be marked within the larger triangle. The presentation for conformation will be at the apex of the triangle where the judge will be waiting. The points of the triangle should be marked with a horse safe marker (i.e., cones, barrel with plants, box with plants, etc.). There will be a jump pole placed at the apex of the triangle approximately 3 feet away running parallel to the base of the triangle.
- Organizers will need to obtain, contract and compensate (if appropriate) and provide for the following personnel:
  - Judge(s);
  - Scribe (one per judge);
  - Ring Steward for the competition arena;
  - Check-In Steward (knowledgeable regarding appropriate biting, halter and bridle fit, etc.);
  - Scorer to tabulate the score sheets;
  - Score Sheet Runner;
  - Announcer.
- The event Organizer will request FEH Score Sheets from the USEA.
- Organizers are responsible for ordering USEA FEH ribbons for their FEH competitions. The exception to this rule are the Series Championships (i.e., West Coast, East Coast, Central); when the USEA will provide the ribbons for the Championship competitions. There should be ribbons for each of the following classes (ribbons for 5 places), divisions (champion and reserve champion). For the Series Championships (currently we hold West Coast, East Coast, and Central FEH Championships) there will be an overall show Championship pinning the overall show champion and reserve champion.
  - Yearling Fillies Class
  - Yearling Colts/Geldings Class
  - Yearling Division
  - Two-Year Old Fillies Class
  - Two-Year Old Colts/Geldings Class
  - Two-Year Old Division
  - Three-Year Old Fillies Class
  - Three-Year Old Colts/Geldings Class

# USEA Future Event Horse Program Organizer Guidelines

---

- Three-Year Old Division

## **Method of Presentation**

- Handlers will enter the competition arena at the walk. Horses will be halted at the presentation area and prepared for inspection by the Judge(s) who may give additional instructions. The Judge will walk around the horse to inspect it from the near side, the off side, the front and rear.
- Handlers will then be asked to walk the horse up the left hand side of the triangle to the 15 meter mark, across the top of the 15 meter triangle and back down the right hand side to the presentation point.
- Handlers will then trot the horse back up the left hand side of the triangle to the top (30 meter mark) across the top of the triangle and back down the right hand side to the presentation point. The Judge may ask for any of these movements to be repeated.
- Back at the presentation point, Handlers will stand the horse up for a final review facing the opposite direction they faced originally and any further instructions from the Judge.
- Horses must always be shown to the right of the Handler and must always be turned away to the right so as to avoid a youngster stepping on or pushing the Handler off balance.

## **Equipment**

- Braiding is optional but recommended (required for the Series Championships).
- Bridles are required on all horses two-years-old and older in the competition ring.
- Bridles consist of a snaffle type bit with two reins and headstall with throatlatch. Nosebands are optional. Horses may also be shown with a Newmarket chain shank, or coupler and appropriate lead, instead of reins. Bridles are to properly fit the horse; this is a safety factor for both the horse and the Handler.
- Yearlings may be shown in either a halter or bridle.
- Each horse must have a separate handler at all times.
- Bandages of any kind are prohibited.
- For all horses, good grooming and well maintained hoof condition are expected.
- Handlers should be dressed in neat attire, (such as khaki pants with polo shirt or 'whites' used at breed shows and inspections) and good footwear which will allow you to run safely. When FEH is being held in conjunction with the riding competition, boots and breeches will be considered appropriate.
- Handlers may carry one standard whip.
- Whip assistants may carry one standard whip.
- Disruptive noise makers, snapping whips or any other noise-making device are not permitted in the competition ring or the warm-up area.
- No other assistance from within or without the show arena is allowed.
- Only one horse at a time is permitted in the competition arena, with the exception of the Division Championships.
- Unruly horses or one whose actions threaten to endanger the Handler, Officials or others must be excused.