

Young Event Horse Organizer Guidelines

USEA Young Event Horse (YEH) competitions for four-year-olds and/or five-year-olds can be offered on the same date as a USEA Recognized Event, or may be offered as standalone competitions. Entries may be light at a standalone competition, especially if the concept is new to the area. To improve the bottom line, organizers may add other activities, such as cross-country schooling, a derby, a combined test, a schooling dressage show, a schooling event, or any other combination of educational or competitive opportunities likely to attract additional entries. For practical tips about making standalone events financially feasible, check out USEA's magazine, *Eventing USA* Nov/Dec 2014 issue article on standalone events or go to www.useventing.com.

Use this step-by-step outline to plan your YEH competition. For further questions, concerns, or to obtain proper paperwork and documents related to YEH, please contact Kate Lokey at the USEA at klokey@useventing.com or (703) 779-9897.

SET YOUR DATES

Get started by contacting the USEA representative (listed above) to request the dates for your competition. You will receive information about what is required in your *Omnibus* listing, and when to submit it. You must get your date approved by both the USEA and your Area Chair. It is best to do this before the calendar year starts. You must get your dates approved by the USEA at least three months in advance, but it is recommended to get your dates approved at least six to eight months in advance.

HIRE JUDGES

YEH competitions need a minimum of two judges to run efficiently. At least one of them must be on the list of approved YEH judges, which can be viewed here: <http://useventing.com/resource/young-event-horse-judges-list>

Dressage, conformation and jumping can all be judged by qualified individuals who are not listed as YEH judges *if they are approved by the USEA*. Before hiring non-YEH judges, contact the USEA to get the approval process started. It is recommended to have one judge for dressage while another judge officiates the conformation. It will be necessary to hire two judges, who may or may not be the same as the dressage and conformation judges, for the jumping/galloping phases. You may, for example, want a Sport Horse Judge for the conformation phase, a knowledgeable Eventing professional trainer/competitor for the jumping phases and a dressage judge for the dressage phase. Many combinations are possible, and these additional judges often donate their time, or exchange it for a cross-country school over your course or an entry to another event. For each phase's judges, please refer to the following chart:

Dressage Phase	Conformation Phase	Jumping & Galloping Phase
YEH Judge or USEF Dressage Judge	YEH or FEH Judge, or a Registered Sport Horse Breeding Judge	Main judge MUST be a YEH judge from USEA list. An additional jumping judge is recommended, and can be a 3* or 4* rider, Level 3 or 4 ICP instructor, or top YEH Trainer. If additional judges are used, they should meet with the YEH judge prior to the start of the competition to discuss YEH guidelines and score sheets.

Please note that if the YEH classes are held at a competition that also holds a Recognized USEA Horse Trial, the officials must be notified ahead of time if the organizer plans to use them for YEH classes, and it must be written in their contract. It is not acceptable to notify the officials that they are judging the YEH classes after they have agreed to the job at the Horse Trials, so please take proper measures to ensure everyone is well informed and a complete contract is in place.

STAFFING

Judges need a scribe for each phase which may require three to four scribes in place at the same time. A ring steward is also needed for each phase, and a jump crew is recommended for the jumping/galloping phase. One or two scorers are necessary, depending on the timing of each phase and the number of entries. An announcer is optional, but can be very helpful, and is recommended.

SCHEDULING

Allow 8-10 minutes per horse for judging each phase. Judges should be encouraged to communicate with competitors after each phase, if time allows, and also after the awards are given. Dressage is usually scheduled first, followed by conformation. Horses tend to stand more quietly for the conformation phase after they've worked off some energy, and once the first horse completes the dressage phase, it can go directly to conformation, with the two phases running simultaneously. You may follow dressage with the jumping phases, but be aware that riders need time to change equipment and warm up before jumping. Depending on the layout of the venue and access to trailers and warm-up areas, individual jumping times should be at least 45 minutes after the dressage and conformation phases have been completed.

ENTRY FORMS

Entry forms must be completely filled out to be accepted. This information is essential for USEA, so please be sure all entries comply. A USEA ID number is required for all horses and riders. If breeding is known, the breed, sire, dam and dam's sire must be listed. If breeding is unknown, that must be indicated in writing. It is not acceptable to leave it blank. All horses and riders must have current USEA memberships, and will not be allowed to compete if they are not properly registered. Please provide printed out USEA membership applications on-site:
http://useventing.com/sites/default/files/membership_application.pdf

PROGRAM

Include a program insert if possible, listing each horse with its rider, owner, breeder, plus the horse's pedigree. Note if a horse is for sale.

BRIDLE NUMBERS

Bridle numbers are sufficient identification for all phases of competition and should be worn at all times.

DRESSAGE ARENA

A large (20 X 60 meters) dressage arena is preferable for YEH, because the additional space allows a clearer demonstration of the quality of the horses' gaits. However, a small arena (20 X 40 meters) is permitted.

CONFORMATION AREA

The site for judging conformation should be level, with a straight strip at least 20 meters long. The footing is to be dry and firm on a hard surface that is suitable for jogging, ideally on pavement. If on grass, it must be mowed to no more than a uniform two inches high. YEH conformation is judged on a straight line, never on the triangle as it is for FEH.

SCORE SHEETS & DRESSAGE TESTS

Score sheets and dressage tests are available from USEA at no charge to organizers. The USEA will send the score sheets to the organizers roughly two weeks before the start of the Event. Score sheets are in triplicate, with one copy to be given to the rider, one copy sent to USEA, and one copy kept by the organizer. A master score sheet for results is also available and should state the optimum score when posted, to make the results easier for observers to evaluate.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Results must be emailed, faxed or otherwise immediately provided electronically to the USEA within 48 hours after completion of the YEH classes. This is required to keep the National Leaderboard current. A hard copy of score sheets is also to be placed in the mail within 48 hours after completion of the classes. Mail to: United States Eventing Association, Attention: Kate Lokey, 525 Old Waterford Rd., NW, Leesburg, VA 20176.

AWARDS

For all qualifying events, the organizer must provide ribbons and prizes, but for Championships, the USEA will provide ribbons and prizes. For qualifying events, ribbons for 1st through 6th place and a prize or trophy for the winning horse in each age group are suggested. Additional prizes and awards are always welcomed. Competitions are encouraged to offer individual awards, such as Highest Scoring Thoroughbred or other specific breed(s); trophies similar to the Safe Harbor Award given at the Championships; or create your own awards that are meaningful in your area (honoring a local horse or breeder, for example, or a prize for the highest scoring horse bred in your state).

JUMPING PHASE: STANDARDS & COURSE DESIGN GUIDELINES

The standards of the jumping courses will progress throughout the year, increasing in height and difficulty in order to prepare each horse to arrive prepared for the YEH Championships in late fall. Each course must include a show jumping section and a cross-country section comprising of water, changing terrain (up/down bank and/or “jump on mound”) and a related combination. Jumps that allow the horse to display its boldness are encouraged, such as ditches, trakehners, Welden’s walls, etc. However, accuracy questions such as corners, chevrons and skinnies with jumpable faces of less than 8’ should not be used. The course should always have a flow that allows for smooth riding. All cross-country fences should be inviting and ascending, and should in no way trick the horse, but give them confidence. The final fence of the cross-country section should be a jump of a steeplechase or ascending design which allows the riders to jump this fence out of stride. The total jumping efforts of the class should never exceed 15 efforts, including both the show jumping and cross country tests. All jumps used in the jumping test should meet the same safety standards as any USEA Recognized Event. The gallop strip at the end of the jumping course should be approximately 100m long, preferably flat or with an uphill grade. With no TD to inspect the jumping courses’ safety, it is the reasonability of the organizer or their designated course designer to ensure the course meets all requirements. If a course designer is not used, the responsibility of safety falls on the organizer.

Horses may walk through the water complex and may walk up to and sniff any “spooky” looking jumps for 30 seconds before their test. The organizer may designate a time before the jumping phase begins (recommended 30-45 minute window) to allow all riders to walk their horses (mounted or un-mounted) around the course, through the water, and sniff any or all jumps. Horses are absolutely not allowed to jump the jumps on the course, but riders may show their horses the fences. An official must be present during this introduction period, to ensure all rules are followed and no fences are jumped.

Age	Four Year Old	Five Year Old
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Time of year	January - July	July – November	January – July	July – November
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Test	Show Jumping	Cross Country						
Height	2’3”- 2’11”	2’3”- 2’11”	2’7”- 3’3”	2’7” - 3’3”	2’7”- 3’3”	2’7” - 3’3”	3’ - 3’6”	3’3- 3’6”
# of efforts Min. - Max	4-5	6-10	4-5	6-10	4-5	6-10	4-5	6-10
# of jumps at max Height	No more than 30%, but must have at least 1 at max height	No more than 30%, but must have at least 1 at max height	No more than 30%, but must have at least 1 at max height	No more than 30%, but must have at least 1 at max height	No more than 30%, but must have at least 1 at max height	No more than 30%, but must have at least 1 at max height	No more than 30%, but must have at least 1 at max height	No more than 30%, but must have at least 1 at max height
Combinations No less than	3 stride	4 stride	2 stride	3 stride	2 stride	3 stride	1 stride	2 stride
Approximate Speed	300mpm	350mpm	325mpm	375mpm	325mpm	400mpm	325mpm	450mpm