

# **USEA YOUNG EVENT HORSE (YEH) PROGRAM**

## **RULES & GUIDELINES**

### **MISSION & PURPOSE**

The goal of the Young Event Horse Division (YEH) is to identify young horses that possess the talent and disposition which, with proper training, can excel in the uppermost levels of eventing. While the ultimate aim is to identify the future three- and four-star horses, many fine event horses which will excel at the lower levels may also be competing.

The YEH Series gives owners and breeders the opportunity to showcase the potential of their four- and five-year-old horses while encouraging the breeding and development of top-level event horses for the future. Classes focus on education and preparation of the event horse in a correct and progressive manner. YEH competitions will have a short show jumping section, giving the horses the opportunity to show their carefulness and scope. This test will be immediately and directly followed by a cross-country section. This will give the horses a chance to showcase their braveness and demonstrate to the judges the horses' willingness to travel across the country. When galloping between the jumps, the horse should show purpose, balance and rideability consistent with the development of an upper level prospect. The intent of the jumping section of the YEH is to assess a horse's current ability as well as potential for the future. The horse is not to be "tricked" or "tested" but should be given the opportunity to show its athletic ability and gallop, as well as skills in assessing and negotiating the course as a whole. It is the responsibility of the designer of these courses to provide adequate questions for the horses to demonstrate their ability, as well as ensure no horse will be disillusioned to the sport after participating in a YEH class.

### **DIVISIONS**

YEH competitions offer classes for 4-year-old and 5-year-old. Horses are considered to be one year older on January 1 each year regardless of birth month.

4-year-old classes are for horses attaining four years of age in the current calendar year.

5-year-old classes are for horses attaining five years of age in the current calendar year.

### **CLASS FORMAT**

**At YEH qualifying events,** young horses will complete two sections:

- 1) Dressage, worth 30% of the total final score
- 2) Jumping Test/Gallop/General Impression, worth 70% of the total final score

**At YEH Championships,** young horses will complete three sections:

- 1) Dressage, worth 20% of the final total score
- 2) Conformation/Type, worth 10% of the final total score
- 3) Jumping Test/Gallop/General Impression, worth 70% of the final total score

## REQUIREMENTS TO COMPETE

Membership in the USEA is required for both the horse and rider at YEH qualifiers and at championships. The rider must have a full competing membership. In order to maintain complete records, all horses competing in YEH competitions must be registered with the USEA to participate in YEH classes, at least at the Limited Registration Level. Registration will insure that the horses' full pedigree and competition results will be maintained – the owner or rider is responsible for updating the horse's profile with pedigree. A copy of any breed registry papers must be included with the USEA horse registration application.

Foreign Horses: Foreign horses must attend and achieve a qualifying score at a sanctioned YEH competition in the United States in order to participate in the championships.

### Championships:

- Qualified horses will be allowed to participate in one championship only.
- Horses must earn a score of 75 percent or higher at one qualifier to qualify for the championships.
- The qualifications remain with the horse, and another rider may “catch-ride” a qualified horse at YEH Championships, so long as the rider is qualified to ride at the Training level.
- In the case of a tie, a tie-break will be determined by the higher jumping score.

## REGULATIONS

Time Schedule: At qualifying YEH competitions, there will be no conformation phase. Dressage will be run first allowing about 8 minutes per horse, and the jumping/galloping phase will run after the dressage is completed, also allowing about 8-10 minutes per horse. Organizers should allow a minimum of 45 minutes between dressage and jumping phases for each horse. At Championships, dressage will be immediately followed by the conformation phase, and the jumping/galloping phase will be run last.

### **DRESSAGE TEST:**

Horses will perform a modified dressage test judged on overall collective impressions, not by each individual movement. The horse will be scored on the walk, trot, and canter, as well as submission. There are two dressage tests for each age group; one for qualifying competitions and one for the championships, which are available in the documents section of the USEA website.

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 at qualifying competitions. At Championships, a large arena is required.

### **CONFORMATION/TYPE EVALUATION** (Championships only):

Each horse will be stripped of tack and shown in hand to the judge. Horse must be shown in a snaffle bridle. Handlers are to stand their horse up in an open stance for inspection by the judge, who will assess conformation and type. The horse is judged on potential for soundness, speed, and stamina. Handlers will be asked to walk and trot the horse in a straight line for soundness and correctness. Color, size and gender should not be a factor in the horse's score.

The site for judging conformation should be level, with a straight strip at least 20 meters long. The footing should 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, very similar to that of an FEI veterinary inspection or jog.

## **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’ must 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. On both show jumping and cross-country fences, there should be fillers and ground lines. 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 responsibility 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. The YEH Judge **must** give final approval of the course, and the YEH Judge may act as TD.

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.

### **Jump Course Guidelines for YEH QUALIFIERS**

<b>AGE:</b>	<b><u>FOUR-YEAR-OLD</u></b>		<b><u>FIVE-YEAR-OLD</u></b>	
<b>TIME OF YEAR:</b>	January-June	July-October	January-June	July-October
<b>HEIGHT:</b>	2’3” – 2’7”	2’7” – 2’11”	2’7” – 2’11”	2’11” – 3’3”
<b>APPROX. XC SPEED:</b>	325 mpm	350 mpm	375 mpm	420 mpm

- Every fence is numbered separately, including water and each individual fence of a combination
- There must be exactly five (5) show jumps (#1-5) and ten (10) cross-country fences (#6-15)
- All combinations must be a minimum of two (2) strides

### **Jump Course Guidelines for YEH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

<b>AGE:</b>	<b><u>FOUR-YEAR-OLD</u></b>	<b><u>FIVE-YEAR-OLD</u></b>
<b>HEIGHT:</b>	2’11” – 3’3”	3’3” – 3’7”
<b>APPROX. XC SPEED:</b>	375 mpm	450 mpm

- Each combination will be marked (A&B). Therefore, there will be more than 15 jumping efforts
- There may be two (2) option fences, one at 3’9” for SJ, and a more complex combination on XC, since some horses show their scope better over larger or more complex fences
- There must be five (5) numbered show jumps (#1-5) and ten (10) cross-country fences (#6-15)
- All combinations must be a minimum of two (2) strides

**\*If a competitor jumps any fences on the YEH competition (qualifiers or championships) course before their allotted ride time, it is Elimination.**

**\*Falling results in Elimination**

## EXERCISING & WARMUP

Dressage will take place in a regulation dressage arena. The organizer may permit schooling at specified time(s) in or around the dressage arena for YEH competitors. Saddlery rules for each phase will apply to the warm up areas as well.

For the jumping phase, horses may walk/trot through the water complex and may walk up to and sniff any “spooky” looking jumps for 30 seconds before their test. OR, the organizer may designate a time before the entire 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 not permitted 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.

\*If a competitor jumps any fences on the YEH competition course before their allotted ride time, they will be eliminated.

## DRESS & SADDLERY

### DRESS:

Dress code is relaxed at qualifying competitions. ASTM/SEI approved helmets mandatory for all phases. Braiding is not required at qualifying competitions for any phase, although it is recommended in Dressage. Braiding is required at Championships for Dressage and Conformation.

Dressage phase: Collared shirt with sleeves, breeches, boots and ASTM/SEI approved helmet. At Championships, a show coat is requested. Whips are allowed at YEH Championships. Spurs per dressage phase in USEF Eventing Rules are permitted.

Conformation phase: Dress as for Dressage, or collared shirt with sleeves and khaki pants, protective shoes or boots. ASTM helmet required.

Jumping phase: Cross-country attire with safety vest and medical armbands or bracelets, along with ASTM/SEI approved helmet. Spurs & whip per cross-country phase in USEF Eventing Rules are permitted.

### SADDLERY:

Dressage and Conformation: Only snaffle bridles per dressage phase in USEF Eventing Rules may be used in dressage and conformation. *No boots or bandages are to be worn in Dressage or Conformation.*

Jumping phase: Boots and martingales are optional for jumping. Equipment per cross country phase in USEF Eventing Rules may be used, but judge may penalize the need for overly severe equipment in the horse's overall impression and/or rideability score, at their discretion.

## OTHER GUIDELINES

- All horses participating must be issued a bridle number, which they should wear at all times when exercising or competing.
- Any unruly horse of any gender or age which endangers its rider/handler, other horses, their rider/handlers, the judges, or the ring crew may be dismissed by the judge.
- YEH horses may be subject to drug testing and must be made available for testing if requested by officials or testing veterinarians.

## JUDGE REQUIREMENTS

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/ jumping. It may 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 (at Championships only), a knowledgeable Eventing professional trainer/competitor for the jumping phases and a dressage judge for the dressage phase.

Dressage Phase	Conformation Phase (at Championships only)	Jumping & Galloping Phase
YEH Judge Or USEF Dressage Judge Or USEF Eventing 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. The additional jumping judge will NOT fill out a scoresheet. They will provide advice to the YEH judge, who will fill out one scoresheet.

## HELPFUL LINKS

Scoresheets:

[YEH Scoresheets – Qualifier](#)

[YEH Scoresheets – Championships](#)

Dressage Tests:

[YEH 4YO Qualifying Dressage Test](#)

[YEH 5YO Qualifying Dressage Test](#)

[YEH 4YO Championship Dressage Test](#)

[YEH 5YO Championship Dressage Test](#)

Judging and Scoring:

[Guidelines for Scoring/Judging](#)

[Guide for YEH Judges](#)

Organizer Documents:

[YEH Organizer Guidelines](#)

Grants/Awards:

[Holekamp/Turner YEH Le Lion d’Angers Grant Information](#)