

2014 WCE Medal Final Specifications

Eligibility: Open to riders who have accrued at least ten (10) points in WCE Medal Jr/Am qualifying classes since the preceding final. Previous winners of the medal final are not eligible. All riders will compete in rounds one and two. The top 10 riders after the first 2 rounds will compete in Round 3.

Warm up Class: Open only to WCE Medal Final Riders who are qualified and entered in this year's final. These riders may ride multiple horses in the warm-up class, but only one (1) in the medal final. The warm up class will be judged as a 1.10m jumper class, Table IV, sec 1 (Optimum time). A second refusal will eliminate.

Judging: A minimum of two USEF licensed equitation judges, sitting apart, will be used for each round. Each class will be judged under the current rules and standards of the USEF equitation division with the exception that competitors will be eliminated upon the second refusal. Four (4) points will be deducted for each knockdown on course. Judges are asked to walk each course and where there are striding options the judges are asked not to penalize any option that might be used to achieve the best result appropriate to the individual horse/rider combination. The open numerical scoring system will be used, with a score announced after each round.

Judge 3:

For each round, there will be a knowledgeable jumper person designated as Judge 3, who is not required to be USEF licensed. Judge 3 will be located separately and will give each rider a proficiency score from zero (0) to five (5) based on the round as a jumper ride. This includes an evaluation of the rider's ability as a show jumping rider, and the manner in which the course was ridden regarding technical merit, judgment, and the execution of an efficient, time saving pace and track in meeting the specific challenges incorporated into the course by the designer. The proficiency score will be added to the average score from the other two judges. To be clear, Judge 3 can add up to five (5) points per round at his or her discretion.

Time and Time Penalties:

Time allowed is an important factor in this class and it may only be changed by the course designer if he thinks a gross error was made in his original calculation. Additionally, the time allowed may only be adjusted once during the early rounds of a given competition, never later than after the third competitor to complete the course without a disobedience or if any of the first three take more than 45 seconds to cross the start line. During each round, one point (1) will be subtracted from the rider's score for every commenced-second taken over the time allowed. This deduction, if any, will be announced after each round where it occurs.

Horse & Equipment: Stallions are allowed per USEF jumper division rules. A jumper type horse with jumper equipment is allowed and will not be penalized. No draw reins or German martingales allowed. However, standing and running martingales are permitted.

Format:

Round 1 will be judged under a modified power and speed format (Table II, sec 2(c)), with no time allowed for the power phase and a 375 meters/minute time allowed for the speed phase. Horses will continue on to the speed phase regardless of knockdowns or a refusal.

Round 2 will be judged over a time first jump-off course (Table II, 2a) that will include at least one double and one triple combination (or three doubles), as well as a liverpool, and a time allowed based on a time of 350 m/m.

Round 3, which will immediately follow the conclusion of round 2, will be judged over a (Table II. 2a) jump-off type course with a time allowed based on a speed of 375 m/m.

Riders must walk courses for Rounds 2 and 3 prior to Round 2.

The scores from Rounds 1 and 2 will be averaged and carried into Round 3. Only the top ten (10) riders will compete in Round 3. The score from Round 3 will be averaged with the average brought in to produce an overall score. There will be no further rounds or work offs after Round 3.

Ties: Ties for any place in Rounds 1 and 2 will be broken by Judge 3's proficiency score. The third round will include the top 10 riders, if there is a tie for the 10th spot all tied riders will compete in Round 3. Ties for the overall placing, if any, will be broken by the time taken in round 3, with the faster time receiving the higher placing.

Courses: Courses throughout the final will consist of advanced equitation/jumper type fences 1.10m (3'7") in height, with spreads from 1.10m to 1.25m (3'7" to 4'1"). A plank may not be the top element of any obstacle. Natural fences, a Liverpool, and a small water jump may be included at the course designer's discretion.

Start Order: Round 1 will be drawn. Round 2 will be reverse order from Round 1. Round 3 will be low score to high score from the average of the first two rounds.

Schooling Rules: USEF Jumper schooling rules will be followed for all phases of this final. Starting 30-minutes before each round, riders may not school for this class in any ring other than the designated warm-up.

Awards: After Rounds 1 and 2 riders will receive ribbons through 8th place in both the Junior and Amateur sections. After Round 3 the top ten (10) riders overall will receive awards. Special awards for riders and their trainers will go to the highest placing rider from each age break (junior or amateur), if both juniors and amateurs place within the top ten (10) overall.

Substitutions: The same horse must be ridden through all phases of the competition. However, in the event of illness or injury of the horse, a rider may petition to ride a substitute horse. This substitution must be approved by a committee consisting of the show manager (or designated representative), the technical delegate, and the official veterinarian who has in fact examined the horse and determined its unsuitability to continue.

Special Condition: If a competitor or trainer wishes to discuss any part of the WCE Finals with a judge or the course designer, the technical delegate or a show steward must also be present.

Protests: A protest must be made in writing within one half hour of the class of the situation being protested and handed to one of the following: the technical delegate, a show steward, or the show manager. A committee, consisting of the technical delegate, a show steward, and a representative of show management, will be convened as soon as feasible to rule on the protest. This committee will be the sole arbiter of the protest and its decision will be final without further recourse of any kind.

RIDER/TRAINER MEETING: There will be a rider/trainer meeting with the technical delegate, the judges, and a designated management representative, during which questions may be asked about the parameters and expectations of the class. The draw will be held at this meeting. The time for the meeting will be listed on the schedule and posted in the horse show office.