



2019/2020 Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search

Class Rules - effective September 1, 2019

EQ110 Requirements for Specific Classes

9. **USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class**, a test of the abilities of an individual as a show jumping rider, is open to Junior/Young Riders under Federation rules, who are members of the Federation.

a. Definitions and Eligibility

1. **Junior Rider** - An individual who has not reached his 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year. The age of an individual on December 1st will be maintained throughout the entire competition year (See GR128).
2. **Young Rider** - Individuals are eligible as Young Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the **end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21** (See GR150).
3. Winners of the Finals, who are Junior or Young Riders under Federation rules, may continue to compete in the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class, in pursuit of additional wins leading towards Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals in recognition of these wins, but may not compete in future Finals.
4. Non-U.S. citizens may compete in the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class, but not the Finals.

b. Applying to Host a USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class

1. All competitions planning to hold a 1*, 2* or 3* USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class **must apply in writing at least eight weeks prior** to the competition to the United States Equestrian Federation office at the Lexington, KY address, for permission to hold the class. Please include the name of the competition, the dates, and the name, address and email of a contact person. 3* USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class applications will be reviewed separately.
2. For every three (3) consecutive weeks of competitions held at any one facility and by any one Licensee, competitions may only hold one (1) 3* USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class.

3. Competitions may only offer one (1) USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class regardless of the level.
- c. Class Specifications** – The USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class will be conducted using a star (*) level based on the difficulty and class specifications. Star levels will be conducted as follows:
1. For a 1* or 2*, both the Jumping and Flat phases of the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class must be held in a jumper or equitation competition ring.
 2. For a 3*, the Jumping phase of the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class MUST be held in one of the main Grand Prix Jumping competition rings.
 3. The time allowed for all 1* and 2* classes will be figured at 350 meters per minute.
 4. The time allowed for a 3* will be figured at 375 meters per minute, if arena size permits.
 5. The time must be manually or electronically timed for 1* and 2* USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class.
 6. The time must be electronically timed for 3* USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class.
 7. The Jumping phase of the class shall be held prior to the Flat phase over a Junior Jumper styled course with a minimum of ten numbered fences at the respective heights, spreads, and other obstacles as delineated below.
 - a. **1*:** Fence heights will be 1.10m to 1.15m (3’7” to 3’9”) with a minimum of three (3) spreads (as defined in JP125), excluding triple bar (if any). The course must include one (1) double and one (1) triple combination (or three (3) doubles), and at least one (1) Liverpool covered with water.
 - b. **2*:** Fence heights will be 1.15m (3’9”) with a minimum of three (3) spreads (as defined in JP125), excluding triple bar (if any) and water obstacle. The course must include one (1) double and one (1) triple combination (or three (3) doubles), one (1) water-filled Liverpool, and a water-filled water jump (minimum 2.45m (8’) with an option fence.) The water must have a rail over it and must be colored black or blue so the bottom is not visible.
 - c. **3*:** Fence heights will be 1.15m (3’9”) with a minimum of three (3) spreads (as defined in JP124), excluding triple bar (if any), and water obstacle. The course must include one (1) double and one (1) triple combination (or three (3) doubles), one (1) water-filled Liverpool, and a dug in water-filled open water jump of 3.05m to 3.65m (10’ to 12’) with or without a rail over it, at the judge’s discretion in consultation with the Course Designer, a rail may be added over the water in the interest of safety to the competitors. The water must be colored black or blue so the bottom is not visible.
 8. **Certificate of Compliance:** All levels of USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Classes must be certified by the following: A course plan showing the actual height and spreads of all the fences, signed by the Judge and Steward which must be included in the Steward’s report to the Federation.
 9. **Altering Jumping Specifications:** The specifications at which a given 1*, 2* or 3* USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class is held may be altered from that listed in the prize list with the joint approval of the Course Designer, Judges and competition management only in the case of inclement weather, or unsafe conditions. See GR832.6 for class postponement due to weather conditions. All changes **must** be specifically noted in the Steward’s report for the competition.

10. **Flat Phase:** In the flat phase, riders will show in both directions as a group at the working walk, the working trot sitting, and the working trot rising, as well as showing a lengthening of stride; the working canter, and the working canter showing a lengthening of stride. All riders shall be required to show at the working canter on the counter lead for at least one full revolution of the arena in both directions. No more than 12 shall counter canter at one time. Judges may require any additional tests on the flat (see EQ113). In addition, basic dressage movements may be tested including but not limited to Shoulder-in, Shoulder-out, Haunches-in, and Haunches-out. At least 12 riders, if available, must be called back for the flat phase.

d. Course Requirements

Although the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class is located and described in the Equitation (EQ) Chapter of the USEF Rule Book, both the course materials and equipment used and the conduct of the class will be in accordance with the rules and procedures delineated in the Jumper (JP) chapter of the USEF Rule Book unless specifically noted herein. This specifically includes, but is not limited to, rails, planks, gates, jump cups, breakaway safety cups, lath or plasticine, numbers, and flags.

e. Other Judging Considerations

1. **Jumping Phase** - To be judged on style, function and execution.
 - a. The performance begins once the horse enters the ring.
 - b. Time and jumping faults must be taken into consideration in the judge's evaluation of the rider.
 - c. Rules regarding Time to Start (JP136.3 and .4) and Starting and Stopping (JP137.1) will apply.
 - d. Two refusals will incur elimination.
 - e. The proper use of the whip should not be penalized.
 - f. Water Obstacle: In the event that there is an obvious fault at the water obstacle, first score the fault within the context of the round. Unless the fault is caused by a major rider error, it should not be considered a major riding fault.
 - g. No separate water jump judge is required.
2. **Flat Phase** - To be judged on rider's position, seat and the correctness and effectiveness of the aids. Excellence and effectiveness on the flat will be rewarded. The performance begins when the class is called to order.

f. Other Class Considerations

1. If 40 or more entries are received the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class may be split and run as two (2) separate classes. If 50 or more entries are received, the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Class must be divided equally and run as two (2) separate classes.
2. Competitors must use the same horse in both phases. Competitors may ride stallions.
3. At least 12 riders, if available, must be called back for the flat phase.
4. All riders must ride in the jumping phase, which will be offered first and constitutes entry into the class as a whole, regardless of whether the rider is one of those called back for the second, flat phase. To fill a class, **three (3) competitors must complete the course.**

g. Saddlery

1. Legal bits include snaffles, pelhams, gags, kimberwicks, and two or three ring bits. Full bridles may be used. Any other bits (including but not limited to hackamores, etc.) are prohibited. Exception: Hackamores may be used in jumping phases of the USEF Talent Search Classes and Finals. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible.
2. Legal nosebands include leather cavesson, flash, drop and figure eight.
3. Martingales are not permitted on the flat in any class or phase unless class specifications allow their use. Running Martingales used in the conventional manner are legal in the over fences phase only. Standing martingales, German martingales, draw reins, or restricted martingales are prohibited in all phases.
4. Bit converters may be used.
5. Blinkers are prohibited.
6. Cable or metal tie downs are prohibited for use on horses and ponies.
7. Curbs. When using a curb with any leverage bit, it must be constructed of loose links, joints, and/or lie smooth against the jaw of the horse and be free of twists, sharp objects or anything inhumane. A curb may be wrapped or inserted into a cover for the comfort of the horse. A curb may not be used in conjunction with wire, metal, rawhide, metal “keepers”, or any other substance except for attachment of curb to the bit
8. The total maximum weight of equipment allowed to be added to a Horse’s leg, front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings, etc.), is 500 grams or 17.637 ounces (shoe excluded). Failure to comply with this paragraph will incur disqualification.
9. Type of saddle is optional

h. Qualifying For The Finals

A graduated point scale based on difficulty and class specifications, a 3* being the most difficult and a 1* be the least difficult, will be used for Finals qualification. Information about the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East and West and qualifying procedures for each can be found on the USEF web site by clicking [here](#). Qualifying procedures cannot be changed without the approval of the USEF Show Jumping High Performance Committee following notification of USHJA of such changes.

i. Talent Search Finals

The USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals will be judged by at least one judge who holds an “R” Registered status in the Hunter Seat/Jumping Equitation Division. Additional individuals are eligible to judge with a guest card.

If you have any questions regarding the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Program please contact Erin Keating at ekeating@usef.org.