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Utah 4-H Stadium Jumping

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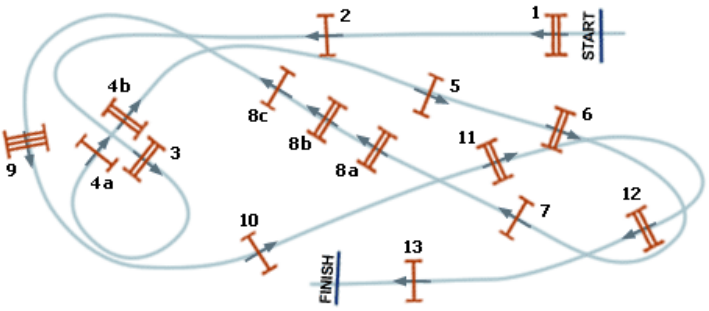
Youth showing in 4-H English events can show in a jumping class. This class is not the same as hunter over fences classes. In hunter over fences classes the horse should maintain a steady canter throughout the course, meeting each fence in stride and jumping with style. (See "Showing the 4-H Hunter," 4-H/Equine/2009-02pr.) In a jumper class the horse is not judged on style or way of going but only on jumping without faults. The course is designed to prove the suppleness, obedience, and jumping ability of the horse. At the same time it demonstrates the competitor's knowledge of pace and the use of the horse in the jumping arena. Unlike equitation over fences classes, jumper classes do not evaluate the rider's position although proper position will aid the horse and will help ensure a solid, safe ride.

The jumper course, unlike the hunter course, requires sharp turns, combinations and multiple changes of direction. Due to the greater degree of difficulty, more agility and athleticism are required from the horse and rider. The difficulty of the course and obstacles should be in direct relationship to the level of the competition. Each course will include 6 to 10 jumping efforts. The judge will blow a whistle to indicate the rider can begin the course. The exhibitor must salute the judge and be acknowledged before crossing the start line.

Two point position



A horse accumulates penalty points due to dis-obediences on course. The faults and penalties on course include:

▫ Knocking down an obstacle	4 penalties
▫ First disobedience	4 penalties
▫ Second disobedience in the whole Test	8 penalties
▫ Third disobedience in the whole Test	Disqualification
▫ First fall of competitor in which the shoulder or hip does not touch the ground	8 penalties
▫ First fall of rider in which the shoulder or hip hits the ground	Disqualification
▫ First fall of horse	Disqualification
▫ Second fall of competitor	Disqualification

TIME FAULTS. The official **time allowed** for the course is determined by the length of the course and the speed demanded. Completing the course in less than the time allowed is not rewarded. Exceeding the time allowed is penalized by one penalty point per second or part of a second over the allotted time. Exceeding the **time limit**, which is twice the time allotted, requires elimination of the exhibitor.

There are some differences in the tack and equipment allowed for jumpers vs. hunters.
The bridle on a jumper horse allows more than just a plain cavason nose band. A flash, figure eight and dropped noseband are all considered legal.

Flash Figure Eight Drop Cavason

A standing martingale is also legal and commonly seen in Jumper classes. Another large difference in tack is that, unlike the hunter classes, any boots and wraps are allowed and commonly seen. This is on both front and rear legs.

Polo Splint Boots Bell Boots Open Front Fetlock Boot

In Utah 4-H, the rider in a jumper class, should turn out in full hunter attire. This includes an approved hard hat, an English shirt with collar, an English riding jacket, breeches or jodhpurs, belt, and tall boots or paddock boots with garters. The judge may allow rider's to remove their coats due to hot temperatures. Rider must have a short or long sleeve English shirt underneath to show without the jacket. Shirts without sleeves are not allowed. Typically the jacket, hard hat and boots are black or a dark color. The breeches are usually beige in color. The rider's hair should be tied back and secured in a bun or inside the helmet. Gloves are optional, but if worn should be the same color as the jacket. If the rider uses spurs they must be an English type "nub" spur, rowel spurs are not permitted.

The turn out of the horse is similar in many ways to the hunter horse. In jumpers, the horse should be clean and clipped along the muzzle, under the chin, along the ears and a small bridle path if desired. The main difference is in the braiding of the mane. While hunters require braiding, the jumper horse is usually shown with a loose mane. Length should be determined by the breed specifications.

Hunter Jumper

The Course:

Along with the tighter turns and more frequent changes of direction, the jumps themselves are quite different than with a hunter course. Stadium jumps are usually loud in color with creativity in the obstacle encouraged.

In addition, jumps will also be “flagged” meaning that there will be numbers placed down in order on the course. The rider should keep these numbers on their right hand side at all times.

Due to the degree of difficulty in these classes, safety can become a concern. A youth rider should not attempt a jumper course unless they are very competent in maintaining a two point position and handling a horse through a hunter course. Development of jumping skills in hunter classes will allow the rider to gain skills in determining strides between and over jumps along with riding with style and finesse.

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