



# Rule Book



## **RULES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BIEL COMPETITIONS: REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

BIEL rules shall govern all classes held at all BIEL shows. . If the rules of BIEL do not apply to a given situation, then first the rules and regulations of Equestrian Bahamas and if not resolved then the rules of USEF (for the Hunt Seat discipline) may be used as a reference for guidance in making an equitable decision under the circumstances, including but not limited to procedural questions.

### **1) Eligibility**

To be eligible to compete in the BIEL, a rider must be:

- Enrolled in school (including a home school) in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas
- Less than 18 years old
- A financial (paid) junior member of Equestrian Bahamas, and
- Taking at least one riding lesson per week with an Equestrian-Bahamas recognized instructor.
- Eligible to compete in scheduled classes, according to specifications/restrictions found in Appendices I and II.

### **2) Team eligibility**

- a) A BIEL team must be :
- Comprised of no less than two riders
  - Coached by an EB-recognized equestrian coach. This coach is responsible for:
    - Selecting/approving members of the team to ride
    - Entering team riders in the appropriate classes by submitting their names on the approved BIEL show entry form(s)
    - Instructing/coaching team riders on show day

### **3) Hosting and Co-hosting**

- a. The Host facility is considered to be the facility at which the competition takes place. Up to two co-host teams may assist as necessary.
- b. Co-hosting is defined as the provision of horseflesh and equipment, and the division of cost, reward, labor and services among not more than three teams, as determined by governing board of the Bahamas Interscholastic Equestrian League (BIEL)
- c. The Host facility will be responsible for providing suitable facilities for stabling of horses, practice areas, riding of classes, warm up and cool down of horses, as well as storage and maintenance of tack and equipment.
- d. It is the responsibility of the host facility along with any co-hosts to ensure that suitable horses and equipment are provided for all entries. 'Equipment' includes all tack for each horse, including but not limited to: halter, lead rope, stable sheet, bridle, bit(s), reins, martingale, saddle, girth, saddle pad(s), boots, polo wraps and standing wraps. 'Equipment' shall also refer to all grooming and horse and tack cleaning supplies.

### **4) Programs**

- a. Printed show programs are required and should be distributed to each coach on the day of the show. An official copy must be present at the collecting ring for the use of the show steward, and one reserved for filing with the BIEL records. However, it is not mandatory that additional copies be available for sale or distribution. These programs can be printed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper stock and should contain a statement of prizes offered for each class, the classes listed in order, the tentative time schedule of classes, and the names of show steward(s) and other officials. If

available, a program insert sheet can include an alphabetical list of exhibitors by team with their numbers and class sections entered, with a numerical list of exhibitors in each class.

## **5) Officials, Judges and Stewards**

The term “show official” shall include and refer to all persons directly engaged by the show, including the Show Manager, the Show Secretary, Steward(s), and Judge.

### **a. Show Manager**

The coach of the host team is ultimately responsible for running a safe and quality competition that complies with all BIEL Rules and Regulations. In the event that the coach is unable to serve as show manager, the host facility has the right to designate a show manager, who will become the primary decision maker for that show. The designated show manager must be a member of Equestrian Bahamas, and shall be present during competition. The Show Manager is responsible for:

1. Applying for the show date.
2. Hiring the judges, officials and staff necessary for the operation of the show.
3. Appointing and identifying in the program the show stewards who shall be present throughout the show.
4. Providing qualified medical personnel on grounds for all scheduled performances. Qualified medical personnel shall be defined as a currently certified or licensed EMT or Paramedic, or a Physician or nurse trained in pre-hospital trauma care and currently certified or licensed in their profession. The medical personnel who will be on the grounds during the competition must be listed in the prize list.
5. Reporting to show stewards in writing, any act on the part of any person deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the BIEL.
6. Furnishing the judges in each class a scorecard containing exact specifications as shown in the prize list or as amended if in conflict with the rules.

### **b. Show Secretary**

In situations when the host coach does not serve as show secretary, the host facility should designate a show secretary. The role of the show secretary is to manage and record show entries and results. The designated show secretary must be a member of Equestrian Bahamas, and must be present during competition. The Show Secretary is responsible for:

1. Distributing the prize lists.
2. Processing the entries.
3. Marking the official programs with special regard to scratches, substitutions, additions and other corrections including horse assignments and any changes or alternates to the original draw.
4. Checking class sheets against actual riders and numbers.
5. Providing one (1) copy of the program that contains all changes, corrections, scores, scratches, substitutions and official results to BIEL.
6. Verifying that the correct fees have been collected and remitted to BIEL in a timely manner. BIEL may suspend a Team until the rider membership fees are paid, and no individual or team points won by the host team, and/or those riders who have not paid, shall be counted in determining eligibility for the National Competition unless and until the show fees are paid to and received by BIEL.
7. Recording all matters in connection with substitutions.
8. Ensuring that no entry shall compete until the designated Team coach has signed the entry blank.
9. Remitting any and all dues collected during the show to the Equestrian Bahamas Treasurer within fourteen (14) days of the show.
10. Remitting both individual rider and team points and results to the Equestrian Bahamas Horse Show Committee within fourteen (14) days of the show.

### **c. Judge**

#### **i) Judge Qualifications**

1. To officiate at a regular season BIEL show, a Hunt Seat judge must be licensed in the division he/she is to judge as follows: USEF registered "r" or recorded "R" in Hunt Seat Equitation.
2. A judge not qualified as stated may be used only with prior written consent from all coaches of teams participating in that region. Unless they are on the BIEL pre-approved list, a non-licensed judge must be approved every time she/he is to be hired.
3. A pre-approved list of non-licensed judges may be established; however such judges should be used only: 1) if no USEF 'r' or 'R' judge is available; 2) in the event of an emergency substitution due to travel disruption of licensed judge, etc.
4. Non-licensed judges may not be used to judge the National Championship Final.
5. A non-licensed judge may only be hired if unanimous written consent is obtained from all coaches of teams participating in that show.
6. A person may judge only one BIEL show within the same competition season, whether during the regular season or National Championship Finals.
7. A judge may not officiate if he/she has had a professional relationship as defined by the USEF, AQHA or NRHA rules, including clinics with any exhibitor or Member Team, within sixty (60) days prior to the show.
8. No BIEL individual member may show before a judge with whom he/she has had a professional relationship as defined by the USEF, AQHA or NRHA rules, including clinics, within sixty (60) days prior to the show.
9. Judges are to be listed in the prize list and submitted to Equestrian Bahamas show subcommittee for approval.

#### **ii) Responsibilities of a Judge**

1. Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and the selection of the best rider under the conditions of the class. A judge serves three interests: her/his own conscience, exhibitors and spectators. She/he should make clear to the audience that the best rider wins. The attention of the judges is directed to the difference in requirements between USEF equitation classes and BIEL equitation classes. A judge is obligated to adjudicate each class in conformity with the rules and specifications of that class as they appear in the EB/BIEL Rule Book.
2. The decision of each judge constitutes solely her/his individual preference and not a verdict by BIEL.
3. A judge must order from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors.
4. A judge should inspect courses of fences after they have been set.

### **d. Show Steward**

#### **i) Steward Qualifications**

A BIEL Steward must be twenty-one (21) years of age, an EB member in good standing, and must have read and fully understood the Rules and Regulations of BIEL, Equestrian Bahamas and USEF. A BIEL Show Steward should hold any one of the following qualifications:

1. Licensed USEF steward for Hunter/Jumper disciplines; or
2. Current EB or BIEL Board Member or employee; or

3. BIEL Member coach, in good standing, who has neither a team, nor individual members of that team, otherwise participating in the competition.

**ii) Pre-approved Steward List**

A pre-approved list of show stewards not meeting criteria 1 - 3 may be established each year, but be approved annually by a majority of Equestrian Bahamas officers and active coaches in the BIEL. Once on the pre-approved list, the show steward may be used without soliciting written approval. Consent from coaches of teams that join after the approval and publication of the pre-approved list is not required.

**iii) Number of Show Stewards**

A Regular BIEL Show must have at least one (1) qualified Show Steward as defined above. Whenever possible, the Show Steward should not be affiliated with the Event Host or host facility. If a ruling relates to a horse provided by a Show Steward, other Show Stewards or the Judge will cast the deciding vote.

National Finals shall have at least two (2) qualified Show Stewards.

**iv) Duties of a Show Steward**

Show Stewards serve to interpret the BIEL Rules and Regulations. Stewards' duties include, but are not restricted to the following:

1. Protect the interests of exhibitors, judges and show management.
2. Supervise the schooling of horses.
3. Supervise the drawing of horses, or select a designated alternate to do so.
4. Determine the suitability of rider to horse (tall or small), rider to class, and horse to class level, using horse descriptions as a guide.
5. Investigate and act upon any alleged rule violations without waiting for a protest.
6. Report to the show committee any misrepresentation or substitution of entry without waiting for a protest.
7. Ascertain that all judges are recognized in the divisions to which assigned.
8. Post warm-up pattern for over fences classes.
9. Report to the show committee any violation of the Rules and proffer charges against the violator if not otherwise properly handled.
10. Permit re-rides, under specific conditions, as agreed upon by the show and stable management, or as allowed by these Rules.
11. Determine, under extenuating circumstances or extreme unfairness to one or more exhibitors, if a class should be rerun.
12. Stop a class in the event a horse or rider should be considered unsafe.
13. Prepare a Show Steward report, using the form provided, for submission to EB/BIEL show officials within seven (7) days of the competition.

**6) Classification of Riders by Steward**

If a rider's classification is called into question during a competition, that rider shall be allowed to compete at the level into which he/she is entered, pending review and investigation as per the following procedure.

When rider classification is called into question during a competition by an event host, coach, show steward, or judge, the Show Steward will review the rider's ability for proper placement and make a written recommendation in the Show Steward report, which is submitted to EB/BIEL show officials within seven (7) days of the competition.

The Show Steward's recommendation will be reviewed by the EB/BIEL show committee, and ONLY that committee shall have the authority to reclassify a rider competing at an incorrect level. All points and ribbons won at the incorrect level shall be forfeited, and points and ribbons reassigned as if that rider had not competed at that level.

## **7) Non-Protestable Decisions**

The following decisions cannot be protested under any circumstances:

1. The soundness of a horse or the suitability of a rider or a horse, when determined by a Show Steward or by a Judge, is not a violation of the rules.
2. A judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference, is not a violation of the rules. If the rules of BIEL do not apply to a given situation, then first the rules and regulations of Equestrian Bahamas and if not resolved then the rules of USEF (for the Hunt Seat discipline) may be used as a reference for guidance in making an equitable decision under the circumstances, including but not limited to procedural questions.

## **8) Use of horses**

No mount should be scheduled for use, or used, more than 6 - 8 times in any one day of BIEL competition. Variables are based upon characteristics of each horse, facility, courses, and judging.

Small ponies shall not be used in BIEL shows except in extreme need.

## **9) Show Information Requirements**

The following information must be posted for all coaches and riders in a timely manner:

1. Schooling pattern for over fences must be posted by 7 am along with the order of go for schooling.
2. Class lists displaying riders names, along with classes/sections in which they are riding should be posted at 7 am
3. Horse list displaying horse names, descriptions, and eligibility per class/section should be posted at 7 am
4. Courses for over fences classes must be posted no earlier than 8 am, and not less than thirty (30) minutes before the class is to run. Warm-up patterns for in-ring warm-up should also be indicated.
5. A point chart showing the points accumulated by team and individual riders should be posted for public view, and updated after each class is completed.

## **10) Team Lists**

It is the responsibility of the team coach to submit a listing of all riders comprising each team, and the classes for which such riders will be entered, to the Host facility. These rider listings and class entries must be submitted on an official BIEL entry form, before the show entry closing date.

Each team may enter no more than one (1) rider per class. When a team consists of more riders than available entry slots, it will be the coach's responsibility to determine which riders will represent the team, in which classes, in a manner most beneficial for the team.

Teams with more than ten (10) riders may consider dividing their members and competing as two separate teams: for example XYZ 'A' Team, and XYZ 'B' Team.

## **11) Class Procedures**

### **a. Classes to be offered**

In order for a show to count, a host must offer all of the following classes. A class offered on the entry blank will be considered as offered even if there are zero entries in the class. Specifications for these classes may be found in the Appendices of the Rule Book.

Class 1: Open Equitation Under Saddle

Class 2: Open Equitation Over Fences (2'6")

Class 3: Advanced Intermediate Equitation Under Saddle

Class 4: Advanced Intermediate Equitation Over Fences (2' 3")

Class 5: Intermediate Equitation Under Saddle

Class 6: Intermediate Equitation Over Fences (2')

Class 7: Novice Equitation Under Saddle

Class 8: Novice Equitation Over Fences (X-Rails)

Class 9: Beginner Equitation Under Saddle (Walk, Trot, Canter)

Class 10: Beginner Equitation Under Saddle (Walk, Trot)

**b. Minimum Entry Requirements for Regular Shows and Classes**

In order for a class to count towards accumulated points, there must be a minimum of two (2) riders in each class. If there are fewer than two (2) riders in a class, (in other words if there is only one competitor in a class) then that rider may compete in the class but no points will be awarded or accumulated towards a championship.

**c. Class Procedures: Split Classes**

Hunt Seat flat classes must be split at twelve (12) riders.

At the judge's discretion, over fences classes may be split at twelve (12) riders.

BIEL will run, award ribbons, and issue points separately for each of the split classes, as if they were separate classes and had not been split.

**d. Inclement Weather and stopping of shows**

Equestrian is a rain or shine sport. In the case of inclement weather, it will be the decision of the Host facility whether or not to stop the competition. In cases of inclement weather, the minimum entry requirements set forth for regular shows must be met for points to count.

A class in operation at the time of the stopping of a show for any reason shall cease and no placements shall be made at that time.

In the event that a class in which horses compete individually is stopped while in progress, due to storm, accident, or other emergency, but can be deemed to continue at a later session of the same show, it shall proceed from the point at which it was stopped.

If the class in which horses compete together is stopped while in progress due to storm, accident, re-ride or other emergency, but can be deemed to continue at a later session of the same show, then the class (or test), when recommended, shall be held over in its entirety, and no consideration shall be given to the performance during the original session.

If a show is stopped while in progress and is unable to recommence, then any points earned for a completed class will be awarded to the individual rider's point totals, but no team points will be awarded at that show.

## **12) Schooling of horses**

Schooling times must be set so that all riders and coaches may have the opportunity to observe.

All schooling riders must be either (a) an EB member or (b) a non-member eighteen (18) years of age or older who has signed the EB/BIEL - approved non-competitor Schooling Waiver of Liability form.

All horses (jumping and non-jumping) must be schooled during a posted time on the day of competition. On the day of the show, horses will have an allotted schooling time in the show ring of 15 minutes.

When schooling on the flat, non-jumping horses must do a minimum of one lap at each gait in each direction.

Horses are to be schooled over fences using a pre-set schooling course which is provided by the show steward. The schooling course should incorporate all the fences, to be jumped in the appropriate direction and at the highest height over which the horse is scheduled to compete.

Owners or trainers of horses in the draw will notify the show steward of the name of the schooling rider assigned to school each horse on the day of the competition. Schooling riders shall be assigned to no more than four horses per competition.

If a rider schools a horse prior to competition, that horse becomes ineligible to be drawn by that rider for competing in his/her designated class.

Hunt Seat horses may be schooled using equipment required to help them perform their best. Before the completion of schooling, horses must be schooled in the show tack and aids listed in the horse description.

At the completion of the designated 15 minutes of schooling the horse should be given into the care of the horse provider until the beginning of the competition. Once the horse has been drawn in the pool for a designated class, it is the responsibility of the horse provider to present the horse – fully tacked up and with all necessary equipment in place - in a timely manner for competition.

## **13) Horse Descriptions**

It is the responsibility of the horse provider to submit a full horse description for each horse to be entered into the draw to the Show Steward. These descriptions may be submitted before the show, or must be given to the Show Steward or Schooling Supervisor no later than 7 am on the morning of the show.

Horse descriptions are not provided to the judge.

Horse descriptions should include:

- Name, age, gender basic description of mount, including colour, height and markings
- Any rider height or weight restrictions to be placed on horse
- Suitability of horse for various classes; e.g. flat only, maximum 2', etc. If the horse is suitable to be entered for all classes this should be stated.
- Reliability of lead changes in each direction, simple and flying
- A basic rating of temperament on a 1-10 scale – 1 being 'bombproof', 10 being 'highly excitable'
- Listing of required tack and equipment which will be provided by the horse provider. Examples are: Earplugs, martingale, wither pad, boots and/or polo wraps
- Listing of recommended aids for riding. Examples are: crop necessary, spurs for flatting but not for jumping, etc. These riding aids are NOT provided by the horse provider. The



recommendations notwithstanding, it is the responsibility of the rider and coach to determine which, if any, of such aids will be used, and in what situations.

#### **14) Drawing for Horses**

Drawings will be by lot, and will take place immediately upon the completion of the morning schooling.

Drawing of horses shall take place under the direction of the show steward, in the presence of the school coaches, and EB/BIEL officials.

For each class a list of suitable horses will be submitted for the draw. According to the number of riders in the class the applicable number of horses will be drawn, plus two alternate horses.

All requests for re-draws must be made directly to the Show Steward, and must be submitted immediately after the contested draw is made. Riders are expected to compete in the appropriate class on the horse which was drawn, with the following potential exceptions:

1. The rider is the owner, former owner or leaser of selected horse
2. The rider is deemed unsuitable for the selected horse, given that the selected horse has been tagged as 'height-restricted' (unsuitable for riders taller than 5'6"), or 'weight-restricted' (unsuitable for riders weighing more than 135 lbs), or both.
3. A coach feels that a rider has drawn a horse that the rider is not capable of safely riding, based on the given horse description.

In the event of #1 (rider is owner, former owner, or leaser of horse), or #2, (rider is deemed unsuitable for the selected horse due to height or weight restrictions), the request for a re-draw may be made to the Show Steward by any of the coaches or EB/BIEL officials presiding at the draw, including the Show Steward. In this instance, the Show Steward will grant permission for a re-draw and direct that the name of the previously drawn horse be withheld from the re-draw. If all horses have already been drawn, the steward will instruct that the rider be moved to one of the designated alternate horses.

In the event of #3, (that is, a coach feels that a rider has drawn a horse that the rider is not capable of safely riding, based on the given horse description), only the rider's coach may request a re-draw, and only the Show Steward may determine whether or not to accommodate the request. In this case, the Show Steward will determine whether or not the rider can be moved to the designated alternate. If the Steward decides not to grant the request, the coach has the right to withdraw the rider from the competition.

If a horse is injured in the course of the competition, or over the course of the competition proves less tractable than expected, a rider's coach has the right to request that the rider be moved to the alternate horse. In the case of injury to the horse, the Show Steward may not refuse the request for transfer. In the case of horse behaviour, the transfer is at the discretion of the Show Steward.

#### **15) Handover of mounts from providers to riders**

Provision must be made for the adequate and safe handling of all equines. Once the horse assignments are drawn, all horses are brought, with appropriate equipment, to a designated area. The providers of the horses are responsible for the animals until the riders mount and the competition begins.

At this point coaches are expected to have a brief meeting with their teams, discussing horse assignments, descriptions and strategies. Coaches may take their riders to walk the courses, which are now posted. After the course walk riders for the first class should mount their assigned horses.

#### **16) Appointments: Tack and Aids**

The allowed tack and aids for each horse are submitted with the horse description, and provided by the horse provider. No substitution of tack or aids by exhibitors shall be permitted unless approved by the Show Steward with permission from the horse provider.

It is the coach's and the rider's responsibility to check the tack before mounting; any tack concerns must be communicated to the horse provider or Show Steward for adjustment.

Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands, are recommended. Two-ring bits, three-ring bits and gags are not considered conventional equipment for hunter seat equitation classes, and a judge at his own discretion can penalize a horse with nonconventional types of bits or nose bands. Boots and conservative colored bandages are permitted. Type of saddle is optional.

Martingales may be used in both under saddle and over fences classes. Standing martingales are recommended. All other types of martingale are considered unconventional equipment for hunt seat equitation, and may be penalized at the discretion of the judge.

No mounted exhibitor may wear or carry an electronic communication device (i.e., cellular telephone, pager, walkie-talkie, etc.) while in the competition ring. The penalty for wearing or carrying a forbidden device if observed by the judge may be elimination from the class during which the device was worn or carried.

Exception: A handicapped participant may wear an electronic communication device if, prior to the class, he/she presents to the Show Steward written justification from treating personnel setting forth the necessity of the equipment.

The use of safety stirrup irons is strongly encouraged. When traditional stirrup irons are used, they must be silver in color or non-colored stainless steel with the stirrup bar in the down or open position. All hunt seat stirrup irons must have stirrup treads.

### **17) Use of Whips and Spurs**

Crops, whips or bats may be carried and spurs worn only when specified by the horse provider in the horse description, affirmed by the Show Steward, and communicated to the coaches.

Horse providers may determine whether spurs to be used should be blunt or smooth, and should specify maximum length allowed. No spur of longer than 1/2" length will be permitted. Ball spurs will be permitted, but roweled spurs are forbidden.

Although it is the responsibility of the horse provider to provide a list the recommended aids, riders should be prepared to provide their own crop/bat/spurs. Riders who use anything other than the approved listed aids will be eliminated.

Crops, whips and bats are not to be used outside the schooling ring and show ring.

One or two disciplinary applications in the event of disobedience are sufficient. Use of the crop or spur should not be penalized when it is appropriate to the situation and/or mount.

The Show Stewards may rule that a rider be disqualified for improper use of crops, whips or bats.

The need for crops and spurs may change throughout the day, according to the class being ridden. Exhibitors should ask the Show Steward whenever there is a question as to what is listed in the horse description.

### **18) Proper Show Attire**

It is the tradition of the show ring that riders are correctly attired for the class in question and horses properly presented. Exhibitors and judges should bear in mind that at all times entries are being judged on ability rather than on personal attire. However, show management may, at its discretion, bar any entry

or person from entering the ring if not suitably presented to appear before an audience and must bar riders without protective headgear from any Hunt Seat classes.

Riders should wear show jackets in dark colours, tan or beige coloured breeches or jodhpurs, and boots.

### **19) Rider Warm-up**

The Host facility must provide a Schooling Supervisor to assist the Show Steward where necessary.

No rider, coach or anyone else may adjust any tack or equipment, except stirrup lengths, without the approval of either the Schooling Supervisor or the Show Steward.

No tack or equipment (e.g. spurs or crops) will be allowed if not included in the pre-provided horse descriptions.

#### **a. Warm up for Flat Classes**

There is no warm up for Flat Classes. Flat Class riders will mount and enter the competition arena with no additional warm-up before entry into arena.

#### **b. Warm up for Over Fences Classes**

Riders in over fences classes will enter the ring according to the pre-set jumping order. The rider may enter the ring with their coach. To warm up for the over fences class, riders will be allowed to ride one lap in each direction around the ring, and to jump three (3) practice jumps according to a pre-set practice jump pattern posted by the Show Steward. Practice jumps may or may not be a part of the actual show course, but must be set and adjusted by the schooling supervisor and/or show steward and be at the same height as the class in the show arena.

After the warm-up pattern is completed, the rider may confer with their coach for up to thirty (30) additional seconds. At this point the coach must leave the ring, and the rider will begin the judged round.

### **20) Judging Requirements – Hunt Seat Equitation General Guidelines**

In all BIEL classes, good horsemanship is paramount. Judges are to find the “Best Riders” and not necessarily the best mount.

In equitation classes, only the rider is being judged; therefore no penalty should be assessed because of the horse’s conformation, color or way of going. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show horse. Results as shown by performance of the horse are NOT necessarily to be considered more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them. A rider must be prepared to perform the tests appropriate for the class in which the rider is participating.

Any rider not having his/her mount under sufficient control shall be removed from the ring by the stewards and shall be disqualified or remounted at their discretion.

Riders must remain on the same mount throughout all phases of an equitation class until the judge requests a change. No attendant shall be allowed in the ring except at the request of the judge or stewards.

If additional tests are desired and appropriate, the judge’s instructions to riders shall be publicly announced. It is suggested that the judge go over these instructions with the announcer to assure mutual understanding of the wording. Judges shall not confer with riders individually during the lineup.

Rider should have a competent appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise.

To mount, take up the reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand, insert foot in stirrup and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. All reins must be picked up at the same time.

The eyes should be up, and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation, ankles flexed, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on ball of foot.

At the walk and slow trot, body should be vertical; posting trot, inclined forward; canter, half-way between the posting trot and the walk; galloping and jumping, same inclination as the posting trot.

## **21) Hunt Seat Class Routine**

### **a. On the Flat**

- Contestants shall enter ring and shall proceed at least once around the ring at each appropriate gait and on command, reverse and repeat.
- Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Entries shall then line up on command, and any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate tests included in class requirements.

### **b. Over Fences**

- The performance begins when the rider has completed the warm up pattern, the trainer if necessary has left the ring, and the rider is given the signal to proceed. Once having entered the ring to commence the warm-up pattern, the rider shall not leave the ring until the over fences portion of the class is completed.
- Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the fault of the rider.
- Except in combinations, number of strides shall not be considered unless it is the fault of the rider.
- Although a flying change of lead is preferable, a well-executed simple change must not be penalized.
- Each contestant may include one courtesy circle, if desired, before approaching the first jump. She/he shall then proceed around the course, keeping an even pace throughout. Three cumulative refusals will eliminate. If a refusal occurs in a double or triple, riders shall re-jump all elements of the combination. No courtesy fence will be allowed after elimination.

## **22) Course Requirements and Hunt Seat Tests**

Classes over fences shall be held over at least eight (8) jumps, type to be left to the discretion of management.

A Hunt Seat judge may choose from the tests listed in BIEL Hunt Seat Equitation Tests 1-16, listed in the Appendices of the Rule Book. Tests may be performed collectively or individually. No other tests may be used. Instructions must be publicly announced.

## **23) Falls, Refusals and Eliminations**

Three (3) refusals will result in elimination.

In Hunt Seat classes, no courtesy fences will be allowed after elimination.

If elimination occurs during a ride-off, the contestant shall be placed in last of all of those chosen for the ride-off. A rider is considered to have fallen when the rider is separated from the horse that has not fallen in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle on the ground.

Falls during the judged portion of competition will result in elimination unless it is undeniably clear that the rider fell from the horse through no fault of said rider and due instead to the unanticipated actions of the horse.

Re-rides after falls are rare exceptions and may only be granted by show stewards.

#### **24) Helmet Safety**

At all times while mounted, riders must wear a harnessed and fully fastened protective ASTM- approved safety helmet. For the show ring, protective headgear must be conservatively coloured with no additional adornments.

While competing in a jumping class, if a rider's chin strap becomes unfastened, the rider may stop, re-fasten the chin strap and continue his/her round without penalty or elimination. A judge may, but is not required, to stop a rider and ask them to refasten a chin strap which has become unfastened, again without penalty to the rider.

#### **25) Concussion/Injury Awareness**

Safety of our participants is of the utmost importance. When a participant in a BIEL competition exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury while participating in a practice or competition, the individual shall be removed from the practice or competition. Further, the individual removed from competition must be assessed by a physician or other licensed healthcare provider and must receive written clearance from such physician or healthcare provider before competing in another BIEL competition.

It is the rider's responsibility to secure a written statement from a health care provider specifically clearing them for equestrian activities. The rider must give that statement to his/her coach who must submit that statement to the Equestrian Bahamas and/or BIEL officials.

All falls and any accidents must be documented in the Show Steward's report. The decision of the official show medical personnel named on the prize list as to whether or not a rider is fit for continuing competition is final.

#### **26) Re-rides**

When through no fault of the rider, a horse performs so poorly that it is impossible to fairly judge the rider's ability, a re-ride may be granted.

A re-ride must be requested before the lineup in a flat class or before the last horse leaves the ring in an over fences class.

Only the coach of the rider involved may request a re-ride. Under unusual circumstances a judge may confer with the show steward to request a re-ride.

Although they may confer with show management and the judge, only the show steward may grant or deny a re-ride.

If a re-ride is granted in a class in which riders compete individually (e.g. over fences), it shall be judged as if the first ride never occurred and the re-ride shall take place after all other rides in that class have been completed.

If a re-ride is granted in a class in which riders compete together (e.g. flat classes), it will be the Judge's discretion whether to restart the class from the beginning or resume the class from the point when it was stopped.

During a competition, if it is determined by the show steward that a rider fell from the horse through no fault of the rider and due instead to the unexpected and unanticipated actions of the horse being ridden, the rider shall be granted a re-ride.

### **27) Approaching the Judge**

No one shall approach a judge with regard to a decision unless she/he first obtains permission from a Show Steward, who shall arrange an appointment with the judge at a proper time and place. In order to inspect a judge's card, an exhibitor must first obtain show management's permission and be accompanied by his/her coach and the show steward.

### **28) Show Results: Awards, Ribbons, Trophies and Points**

In the matter of rider placement, the decision of the judge is final and not subject to appeal.

Teams may enter a maximum of one rider per class.

At the end of each class, the results of the class will be announced, and the school which each rider represents will be awarded points according to the placing of the rider. All riders placing in positions 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> will earn points.

The Show Secretary must act as or designate a point keeper at each regular show. The point keeper will be responsible for tracking team points during the horse show. Team points will be transferred to the publicly posted points chart by the Show Secretary.

The Host facility may determine when team awards and ribbons will be distributed. It is suggested that team point totals be calculated after each class, and overall team ribbons be handed out at the end of the show.

The ribbon colours at all shows (maximum of 6 placings) shall be as follows.

<b>Placing</b>	<b>Points Awarded</b>	<b>Ribbon Colour</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	7	Blue
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5	Red
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	Yellow
4 <sup>th</sup>	3	White
5 <sup>th</sup>	2	Pink
6 <sup>th</sup>	1	Green

The host facility shall furnish all ribbons and trophies, except for any perpetual trophies provided by BIEL.

The official point records shall be maintained by Equestrian Bahamas and/or BIEL personnel.

### **29) Team Composition**

Team coaches will determine which riders participate in which classes, according to the competency of the rider and the needs of the team. At all times the safety of riders and horses should be the primary consideration in assigning teams.

### **30) Tie Breaker Rules**

At all shows, for all placings, team ties shall be broken first by the total number of first (1st) place finishes, then by total number of second (2nd) place finishes, then by total number of third (3rd) place finishes, then by total number of fourth (4th) place finishes, then by total number of fifth (5th) place finishes. If a tie still exists, then it shall be broken by the highest total of over fences points. If the number of over fences points are equal then the team title shall be shared.

### **31) Personal Conduct of Exhibitors, Coaches, and Show Personnel**

It is expected that any and all participants and attendees, including but not limited to: exhibitors, spectators, coaches, school employees, and EB/BIEL officials will behave in a manner that reflects the dignity of the sport. Management of the host facility may expel from the grounds any person whose behavior is deemed dishonest, unethical, unsportsmanlike, unbecoming to the BIEL, or detrimental to the health, safety or well-being of any horse or person during the progress of the show. If a violation of BIEL rules is observed, a report must be made immediately to the Show Steward, and this report documented in the Steward's Show Report.

## **APPENDIX I – BAHAMAS EQUESTRIAN INTERSCHOOL LEAGUE HUNT SEAT CLASS DESCRIPTIONS: SPECIFICATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

**Class 1: Open Equitation Under Saddle:** To be shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Open to riders capable of performing BIEL Equitation Tests 1 – 16. This class should be considered equivalent to IEA Varsity Open Equitation on the Flat.

**Class 2: Open Equitation Over Fences (2'6"):** One round only of 8-10 fences at 2'6" maximum height. Oxers are allowed, and combinations are permitted. Riders should be capable of jumping 3' 0" - 3' 6" on their regular mounts at home and must have shown in EB-recognized horse shows. Coaches should be confident that riders in this class would be able to safely perform over a 2'6" hunter or equitation course on an unfamiliar horse. To be considered equivalent to IEA Varsity Open Equitation o/f 2'6".

**Class 3: Advanced Intermediate Equitation Under Saddle:** To be shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Open to riders capable of performing BIEL Equitation Tests 1 – 16. Competitors should be considered eligible for IEA Varsity Intermediate Equitation on the Flat.

**Class 4: Advanced Intermediate Equitation Over Fences (2'3"):** One round only of 8-10 fences at 2'3" maximum height. Oxers are allowed, but no combinations are permitted. Riders should be capable of jumping 2'9" – 3' on their regular mounts at home and must have shown in EB-recognized horse shows. Coaches should be confident that riders in this class would be able to safely perform over a 2'3" hunter or equitation course on an unfamiliar horse. Competitors should be considered eligible for IEA Varsity Intermediate Equitation o/f 2'.

**Class 5: Intermediate Equitation Under Saddle :** To be shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Open to riders capable of performing BIEL Equitation Tests 1 – 12. To be considered equivalent to IEA Varsity Intermediate Equitation on the Flat.

**Class 6: Intermediate Equitation Over Fences (2'):** One round only of 8-10 fences at 2'0" maximum height. Oxers are allowed, but no combinations are permitted. Riders should be capable of jumping 2'6" – 2'9" on their regular mounts at home and must have shown in EB-recognized horse shows. Coaches should be confident that riders in this class would be able to safely perform over a 2'0" hunter or equitation course on an unfamiliar horse. To be considered equivalent to IEA Varsity Intermediate Equitation o/f 2'.

**Class 7: Novice Equitation Under Saddle:** To be shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Open to riders capable of performing BIEL Equitation Tests 1 – 9. To be considered equivalent to IEA Junior Varsity Novice Equitation on the Flat.

**Class 8: Novice Equitation Over Fences (X-Rails):** One round only of 8-10 fences at cross rail height. No oxers or combinations are permitted. Riders should be capable of jumping 2'0" – 2'3" on their regular mounts at home and must have shown in EB-recognized horse shows. Coaches should be confident that riders in this class would be able to safely perform over a cross rails hunter or equitation course on an unfamiliar horse. To be considered equivalent to IEA Junior Varsity Novice Equitation o/f x-rails.

**Class 9: Beginner Equitation Under Saddle (Walk, Trot, Canter):** To be shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Open to riders capable of performing BIEL Equitation Tests 1 – 6. Riders must have shown in EB-recognized horse shows at cross rails or above. Riders entering this class are not eligible to enter any other class in the competition except Class 10. To be considered equivalent to IEA Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation on the Flat Walk/Trot/Canter.

**Class 10: Beginner Equitation Under Saddle (Walk, Trot):** To be shown at the walk and trot both ways of the ring. Open to riders capable of performing BIEL Equitation Tests 1 – 6. Riders must have shown in EB-recognized horse shows, but riders who have shown at 2'0 or above in recognized horse shows are not eligible to enter this class. Riders entering this class are not eligible to enter any other class



in the competition except Class 9. To be considered equivalent to IEA Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation on the Flat Walk/Trot.

## **APPENDIX II: BAHAMAS INTERSCHOOL EQUESTRIAN LEAGUE HUNT SEAT EQUITATION TESTS**

A rider must be prepared to perform the test appropriate for the class in which the rider is participating. Riders may be requested to perform the following tests collectively or individually during a show or competition. A Hunt Seat judge may choose from the following tests using tests 1-6 for Beginner Equitation riders, tests 1-9 for Novice Equitation riders, tests 1-12 for Intermediate Equitation riders, and tests 1-16 for Advanced Intermediate Equitation and Open Equitation riders. Instructions for performance of the test must be publicly announced. Any one or combination of appropriate or equivalent tests may be used.

1. Answer an appropriate horsemanship question (regarding horsemanship, tack and equipment, and/or conformation) tailored to the rider's ability level
2. Halt (4 to 6 seconds)
3. Sitting trot
4. Two point position at the walk and/or trot
5. Ride a figure eight at trot, demonstrating a change of diagonals
6. Ride without stirrups at the walk or trot.
7. Jump a shortened course
8. Trot a jump, not to exceed 2'
9. Ride a figure eight at the canter, demonstrating a simple change of lead
10. Canter without stirrups. Riders must be given the option to cross their stirrups
11. Demonstrate a simple change of lead down the centre of the ring
12. Half turn on the forehand
13. Canter on the counter lead. No more than 8 horses may counter-canter at any one time
14. Half turn on the haunches through the walk
15. Hand gallop
16. Jump without stirrups

(Jumping tests should only be used in over fences classes)