

ATHLETIC EQUESTRIAN LEAGUE

Practical Horsemanship for the Equestrian Athlete

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: VIRTUAL COMPETITION

Q: How do teams set up filming their team members' submissions?

A: When we tested this process for our Virtual Nationals, a lot of the teams set up "Virtual Horse Show Filming Day." They would set a day for the filming, assign duties (jump crew, videographer, in-gate, etc) and had the day as close as they could to feel like a real competition. One team even hosted a lunch halfway through the day. Applause from team members are encouraged at the end of the videos!

Q: How do I send you my video?

A: Upload your video to YouTube, list as public or unlisted and email to competition organizer with athlete's full name, number, and team.

Q: Where can I find the course?

A: AEL website under virtual competitions are the courses listed in the virtual judging scoresheet.

Q: Can my coach offer tips/advice while I'm riding?

A: Coaching is allowed from the edge of the arena like at normal horse shows. Your coach can't video and coach. Minis are allowed to have coach in the arena with them and be lead by an assistant or by their coach.

Q: Can I add music to my video?

A: No music and the natural background noise must be heard. Tests with no sound at all will not be accepted.

Q: Do I have to wear show attire for my test?

A: Yes, you must appear in AEL show attire with your armband number. Colored wristbands are not necessary. You must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.

Q: Does the competition organizer need to create a competition program?

A: Yes! We want these competitions to feel as much as they can to a real competition and the judge will need them so they can make sure they have all of the riders judged. Once entries are closed please send out the program to all team coaches.

Q: Who will judge my round?

A: Judges will be selected with the understanding that they will make every effort to judge the competition fairly with the knowledge that there are inherent challenges to judging online shows that make it different from the real-life experience.

Q: What length of time do you have to film videos and submit?

A: We suggest a two week turnaround from when entries close and when the results will be shared. Teams can start filming once it is confirmed their entry is received.

Q: When will the results be announced and how?

A: We suggest either Zoom, Facebook live, Google Hangout, etc to announce the results! You can also film the results, post on Youtube video and set a time that the video will go live. Judges or guest speakers are also welcome to make a few comments! It is fun to be able to see all the other teams.

Q: Will ribbons and prizes still be handed out?

A: Yes! We suggest after results are announced that within a week the ribbons are shipped out to the designated coaches to hand out to their team members.

Q: How will the judge get the scoresheets to the competition organizer?

A: We suggest as the judge is working through to the videos to fax, scan or take a picture of the sheets so the competition organizer can start scoring. Once all judging is complete, the judge will mail the original scoresheets to the competition organizer. The competition organizer can either mail the scoresheets with the ribbons to teams or scan and email after results are announced.

Q: How much are entry fees?

A: In general they are \$35-\$45/entry fee but it is up to each competition organizer. Even though it is virtual competition you have to remember that each competition organizer still needs to cover judge fees, ribbons, and the cost of doing the physical paperwork. We suggest that each team coach charges a small fee to cover the process of horse usage, coaching, videoing and uploading.

Q: Are there show number limits?

A: Nope! We do suggest that if you have over 75 athletes that you hire two judges. One judge would cover the Mini/Beginner/Advanced Beginner and the second judge would cover Novice/ Intermediate/Open. Unless a single judge feels like they can manage 75+ videos by themselves.

Q: For colleges or prep schools, not all my team members are allowed back on campus, can they still participate?

A: Yes! If they are at their home barn and want to participate they are more than welcome to as long as they can ride a horse other than their own.

Q: For colleges or prep schools, can my Class of 2020 students compete?

A: Yes! They would compete in the appropriate AEL level. If they are at their home barn and want to participate they are more than welcome to as long as they can ride a horse other than their own.

Q: Will there be a Nationals? If yes, what are competition requirements?

A: Yes! We are hoping that we can host a live nationals in Spring 2021 but if not we will definitely host a virtual nationals. You only need to compete in **4** competitions to qualify.

Q: What other ideas have teams incorporated into the virtual competition?

A: Glad you ask! For educational and learning purposes, one team had each individual score their own round and the coach scored the riders round. They then have a set time to compare the scores along with the judges. From that discussion they planned how and what that rider can improve upon.

Still have questions? Email Sally at athleticequestrian@gmail.com

