**NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE**

**EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIP**

**RULE BOOK**

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**American National Riding Commission**

***Updated September 2015***

**About the American National Riding Commission**

**Background**

The American National Riding Commission (ANRC) was established in 1936 to initiate a standardized method to educate riders and a system to assess riding ability based on the teachings of Captain Vladimir Littauer, a Russian who came to the United States in the thirties and established a riding school. Littauer’s Forward Riding System has influenced many professional riders and trainers, including Jane Dillon, George Morris, Joe Fargis, Lendon Gray, Pam Baker and Bernie Traurig. The ANRC uses the concepts of the Forward Riding System as a foundation for its educational programs reflecting the changes and developments that are ongoing in today’s world of equestrian sport.

**Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of the ANRC is to promote the highest quality of educated riding and related services within schools, colleges, universities, and public and private concerns by providing the following programs:

* Instructional riding clinics
* A Rider Certification Program called “*Rider Certification Levels*” to strengthen riding knowledge and equitation skills
* An apprentice judging program for future ANRC judges and clinicians
* Sponsoring the *ANRC National Intercollegiate Equitation Championship* annually
* Publishing the “Riding Highlights” newsletter with information on ANRC activities
* Offering forums and symposiums on related topics
* Cooperating with other organizations whose purposes are in accord with those of the ANRC

**Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the ANRC is to focus on a contemporary, systematic approach to riding that is aimed towards riders, trainers, or instructors who want to improve equitation and teaching skills, gain a better understanding of riding theory, and improve the performance of a field hunter, show hunter, jumper or pleasure horse. To achieve this goal, the ANRC provides qualified judges and clinicians to conduct ANRC Rider Certification Centers, instructional Clinics, intercollegiate competition, and other educational programs. All programs are designed for horses and riders at various stages of training, and emphasis is placed on developing a cooperative effort between the horse and rider to achieve a quality level of performance.

For more information about ANRC activities and programs, visit the website: www.anrc.org.

**ANRC National Intercollegiate Equitation Championship Rules and Specifications**

**Overview**

The ANRC Intercollegiate Equitation Championship is generally held in April on a Thursday through Sunday. Colleges generally compete on their own horses. If needed in case of distance, or the inability of a horse to compete, the host college may arrange for leased horses. Entered college teams compete in the following phases:

* Program Ride – a program ride with USEF Hunter Equitation tests
* Medal Phase
* Derby Phase
* A written test on riding theory and a specified stable management topic

Weather permitting, schooling is allowed in each riding phase on Thursday and/or Friday. The competition officially begins with the written test on Thursday and the Novice (2’6”) Division Program Ride Phase on Friday. The Nationals 3’ Program Ride Phase is held on Saturday and the Medal Phase and Derby Phase for both divisions are held on Sunday. Awards are given at the conclusion of each division as specified..

###### Performance Expectations

In each phase, competitors will be expected to demonstrate a strong intermediate level of riding (*refer to description in the study guide*). Competitors will be judged on their ability to demonstrate a secure, working position and use of intermediate techniques to achieve a good performance.

**Basic Position**

* The rider should demonstrate the four fundamentals of a good working position:
* security of the rider
* unity of the rider and horse
* non-abuse of the horse
* effective and efficient use of the aids and controls plus the seven physical qualities which contribute to them.

# Control

* Each phase should be performed on soft contact throughout unless otherwise specified, arms following the balancing gestures of the horse's head and neck. Soft and precise control is required at all gaits, transitions, movements, and jumps. The primary aim is soft but definite cooperation of rider's hands and legs with the horse's efforts and reactions.

# Performance

* The horse should be relaxed, alert, and connected, have impulse forward at all speeds, move with long, low strides, maintain an even pace, jump with even arcs, jump out of stride, and fold evenly. The horse should move on the line and should accept the bit with head and neck extended and mouth closed.

**Phase Specifications and Requirements**

# Program Ride Phase

* The required ring size is 100' x 175' minimum and 200' x 300' maximum.
* There is one trotting fence between 2’ and 2’6".
* There is one cantering fence at 3’ for Nationals riders and 2’6” for Novice riders.
* The Meet Director will provide demonstration ride(s) for the judges to observe and confer on prior to the first competitor. The number of demonstration rides will be determined by the Meet Director, but the maximum is three.
* The official program rides for the competition will be included in the prize list and can also be found on the ANRC website: [www.anrc.org](http://www.anrc.org).

**Derby Phase (10-12 Fences)**

* The course may include any of the following when terrain permits:
* Downhill fence
* Uphill fence
* Vertical fence
* Spread
* Bank - maximum height 2’3”
* Ditch – maximum width 2 ft., maximum depth 12”
* Trakehner – maximum height 3 ft., maximum width 2’6”
* Fences will be 3' maximum in height for Nationals riders and 2’6” for Novice riders, except for banks
* USEF Hunter Seat Equitation rules will be used where applicable.

# Medal Phase

* The course will consist of 8-10 fences or not more than 12 jumping efforts with at least two changes of direction and one combination.
* Fences will be 3’ maximum in height for Nationals riders and 2’6” for Novice riders.
* USEF rules for Hunter Seat Equitation will be used where applicable.

**Written Test**

* A written theory examination provided by the ANRC will be made up questions relating to the theory of forward riding and horse science/horse management taken from the USHJA Trainer’s Certification Manual. There will be a specific topic for the horse science/horse management questions assigned each year.
* The questions may be true/false or multiple choice.
* There will be questions within the test to serve as tiebreakers. If a tie still remains, the individual with the highest total score on the program ride will be granted the higher written test placing.

**Tack**

* A hunter-type saddle must be used in all phases.
* The competitor may be eliminated for improper tack or equipment.
* The following are prohibited at all times including in all phases and schooling:
* Side reins
* Draw reins
* Chambons
* German martingales
* Bitting rigs.
* Dropped nosebands, abrasive nosebands, figure eights and/or flashes
* Hackamores
* Hoods or blinkers
* Any bit that is overly severe (e.g. twisted wire, gag bit, elevators, or any bit with similar action)
* Boots and exercise bandages are permitted in all the phases during schooling and competition.
* A crop over 30" in length is permitted **ONLY** during schooling.

Any questions on the acceptability of tack must be directed to the Steward(s) who will make an immediate decision. An appeal must be made no later than 30 minutes before the starting time of the first horse.

# Program Ride Phase

* A leather bridle with a snaffle is required (see USEF Rule Book, DR 26, with the exception of the Baucher labeled number 7 which is prohibited). Martingales are forbidden.

Derby and Medal Phases

* The following are permitted: A snaffle bit (including twisted metal and Dr. Bristol), Tom Thumb pelham (straight or jointed); standing martingale; however, the judges may penalize an excessively tight martingale.

###### RIDER Appointments

* Hunting attire or hunter horse show attire must be worn for all mounted phases.
* Shadbellies are permissible in the Derby Phase.
* All riders must wear ASTM approved protective headgear with secured harness at all times when mounted.
* Boots and breeches, or chaps and riding boots when schooling, must be worn at all times when mounted.
* Blunted spurs (Prince of Wales or Hammerhead or Impuls) and/or a crop less than 30" long may be used in all phases of the competition.

# Eligibility

* A rider must be a full-time undergraduate student or part-time senior who has completed all requirements for graduation, at the time of the Championships.
* A rider must be a USHJA member at the outreach or competition level.
* The entered college must be a current ANRC member.
* An entered rider must be an amateur according to USEF rules.
* A rider will have four years eligibility, not necessarily in succession
* The registrar must sign entries from each competing college, and each rider's signature is required on the entry blank to verify that he/she is a full-time undergraduate or part-time senior who has completed all requirements for graduation.
* Each college may enter one team at each level and will designate a maximum of three riders who will represent the school. The top two scores from each phase will count toward team overall points. The team riders must be designated at the coach’s meeting that is held after schooling but prior to the start of the competition. After that time, changes will be allowed only with a doctor's/vet's certificate stating horse or rider’s inability to compete prior to the commencement of the first riding phase.
* Any rider is eligible to compete in the National Division. A college may enter additional riders in the National Division to compete as individuals. Individuals will be accepted on a space-available basis.
* Any rider is eligible to compete in the Novice Division if they have never competed at the National Division in any prior ANRC National Championship. A competitor who competed in the Novice Division in any prior ANRC National Championship and placed 1-10 in the overall Novice Individual Standings is prohibited from entering the Novice Division, and is eligible to enter in the National Division. A college may enter additional riders in the Novice Division to compete as individuals. Individuals will be accepted on a space-available basis.

# Qualifications

* Entries may be limited. Priority will be given to entries received by the closing deadline that have all completed paperwork and payment in full for entry fees and stabling. The Meet Director will make the final decision on the acceptance of entries.

## entries and Fees

* Entry forms and fees must be sent in by the deadline set by the host college.
* The prize list will state the refund policy in case of riders entered and not exhibiting.

### Draw Procedure

* A Steward shall perform an independent draw for each phase.
* The name of each college competing will be drawn randomly to determine the college’s order of go. This will be done for each of the three phases, so that a college may be first in one phase and last in another phase.
* An individual competitor from a college fielding a team or an individual competitor who is the sole representative of a college will be included in the team draw. Individual competitors will compete in the beginning of the order, before all other team competitors.
* The coach will designate the order of go of their riders. The riders will compete in that order for each phase, although the team order may vary in each phase.

### General Rules for Competitors And Coaches

**Schooling and Horses**

* Schooling will normally be allowed in all three riding phases.
* **An officially designated coach must be present with their team during all mounted schooling sessions and riding phases.** If the school does not send a coach with the team, then either a rider or someone accompanying the team must be designated in writing by an authorized agent of the college or university to act as coach for the riders and assume the coach's responsibilities.
* Schooling times will be provided and scheduled on the two days prior to the competition by the Steward or Meet Director. Earlier schooling must be requested in writing or by phone from the Meet Director prior to that date.
* Once the competition areas have been approved by the designated stewards(s) and/or meet director, jumps may be adjusted during scheduled schooling, but no permanent alterations may be made to any part of the jumping courses, schooling areas or arenas.
* No schooling in a phase is allowed once that phase has started. Practice fences and a warm-up area meeting USEF specifications for hunter shows will be provided for each phase.
* Poling and rapping are prohibited.
* Only entered riders may ride entered horses on the grounds.
* Coaches, trainers, and others may not ride/school entered horses on the grounds.
* Entered horses must be declared at check-in. Another horse may be substituted if an entered horse is unable to compete. The back-up horse *may not* be schooled until it has been declared in the competition area. A back-up horse *may no*t be substituted after the entered horse has competed in any phase.

**During the Competition**:

* ASTM approved protective headgear with a secured harness is required for all competitors while mounted.
* No person will be allowed in the competition area during the time of judging, except those with official duties to perform.
* An ambulance or emergency service provider (EMT) will be present at all riding phases.
* Competitors may not hold official positions during the competition.
* Horses will have a mandatory trot area as part of the two jumping phases (Derby and Medal) to be evaluated for soundness by the judges.
* A written program will be provided at the competition. All entries will be listed in the program and will include the rider’s college and hometown.
* Exhibitors' numbers will be provided at the competition and must be worn in such a way as to be clearly visible to the judges during the competition.
* Questions or disputes that arise, and are not addressed in the ANRC Championship Rules as posted on [www.anrc.org](http://www.anrc.org) will be the decision of the Steward(s).The Stewards may refer to the ANRC Intercollegiate Committee for clarification regarding any dispute or infraction of the rules. Any infraction of the rules by a coach or competitor on the competition grounds could result in elimination.
* **The host of the Championship or the ANRC will not be responsible for any accident which may occur to or be caused by any person or animal at the show; neither will the college riding teams or the stable be responsible. Each college team will be responsible for the health and safety of its own members.**

###### Judging and Scoring

# Program Ride Phase (35%)

* Program rides furnished by the ANRC will be used.
* Judges may sit wherever they choose but the location must be the same for all competitors. Each judge must have a separate vantage point.
* Each movement will be given a score from 0-10 with 10 being the highest. The score given for each part of the general impressions will be multiplied by the appropriate coefficient indicated on the scoring sheet. The scores for each movement and general impressions will be added together for the total score, a maximum of 250 points. The two judges' scores are averaged, and then multiplied by .14 to convert the score to 35% and ranked in descending order. Scores will be computed then posted.
* Ties will be resolved by the scores given under general impressions first by (1) position of rider, then (2) effective and efficient use of the aids, then (3) contact and impulse, then (4) quality of performance, then (5) stabilization of the horse. If a tie still exists, it must be broken by the designated tie breaker judge for the program ride.

0 = movement not performed

Elimination = fall of horse or fall of rider

Elimination = failure to enter the ring within 60 seconds after bell or whistle has sounded

Penalties for errors:

1st error = 3 points

2nd error = 6 points

3rd error = elimination

The scribe for the senior judge will sound a whistle or a bell to give the rider a one minute warning to start his/her test and begin timing with a stopwatch. If the rider does not start his/her test after 40 seconds, the scribe will call out a 20 second warning. If the rider has not started the test within 60 seconds after the initial bell or whistle has sounded, he/she will be eliminated.

* Score sheets will be available for one hour after the **last** Program Ride score has been computed and posted.
* Coaches may read and return score sheets.
* No protests on the Program Ride Phase scoring will be considered after this one hour viewing.
* The score sheets will be held by the Show Secretary during the competition. A college representative may pick up the score sheets and official results from the Show Secretary when the entire competition is completed
* The rider’s use of voice will not be penalized.
* The ride may not be called.
* If the rider forgets a movement it is considered an error and a whistle will be blown. The rider should stop immediately and return to a point indicated by the judge.

# Derby Phase (30%)

* USEF rules for hunter seat equitation over fences will be used in this phase.
* A score from 1-100 will be awarded for the rider's hunter seat equitation over an outside course. Two scores will be given for each round and announced after each round.
* The two scores are averaged then multiplied by 30% and ranked in descending order.
* Ties will be resolved by using the highest score of the designated tie breaker judge.

# Medal Phase (30%)

* USEF rules for hunter seat equitation over fences will be used in this phase.
* A score from 1-100 will be awarded for the rider's hunter seat equitation performance over a Medal type course and will follow the rules for that class. One score will be given for each round and announced after each round.
* The judges' score is multiplied by 30% and ranked in descending order.
* Ties will be resolved by agreement of the judges.

**Written Phase (5%)**

* The Meet Director will be responsible for having someone available to administer the written test.
* A score from 1-100 will be given, multiplied by 5%, and ranked in descending order.
* There will be designated questions within the test to serve as tiebreakers. If a tie still remains, the individual with the highest total score on the program ride will be granted the higher written test placing.
* Written tests will be available for one hour after the **last** Program Ride score has been computed and posted.
* Coaches may read and return written tests.
* No protests on the Written Test Phase scoring will be considered after this one hour viewing.
* The written tests will be held by the Show Secretary during the competition. A college representative may pick up the tests from the Show Secretary when the entire competition is completed.

**Overall Scoring**

* The top two scores in each phase are used to determine the overall team score.
* Ties for Overall Team Champion or Reserve Champion will be broken by taking the highest team score in the Derby Phase. If there is still a tie, it is broken by taking the highest team score in the Program Ride Phase. The judges will break any tie thereafter.
* Ties for Overall Individual Champion or Reserve Champion will be broken in the same manner as for Overall Team Champion or Reserve Champion by using the highest individual score in the Derby phase. If there is still a tie, it is broken by using the highest score in the Program Ride Phase.
* Ties for team placings in each phase will be broken by using the highest individual score of the two team members from each team that is tied. If the teams are still tied, ties would be broken as follows:
* Program Ride: use the highest raw score given by the designated tie breaker judge for that phase. (The same judge may not be used to break ties in any other phase.)
* Ties for the Written Test: use the score from the tie-breaker questions. If a tie still remains, the team with the highest total score on the program ride will be granted the higher written test placing.
* Derby Phase: use the highest score from the designated tie breaker judge for that phase. (The judge may not be designated to break ties in any other phase.)
* Medal Phase: broken by agreement of the judges

**Awards**

* Overall High Point Nationals Team receives the Betty Belser Memorial Trophy and a ribbon for each team member and coach. Teams placing 2-6 receive a ribbon for each team member and coach.
* Overall High Point Nationals Individual receives the Jon Conyers Memorial Trophy, a championship ribbon and the USHJA Equitation Award. Individuals placing 2-10 receive a ribbon. The top ten finishers receive a USHJA keepsake to recognize excellence in equitation.
* Overall High Point Novice Team receives a perpetual trophy courtesy of USEF and a ribbon for each team member and coach. Teams placing 2-6 receive a ribbon for each team member and coach.
* Overall High Point Novice Individual receives a championship ribbon. Individuals placing 2-10 receive a ribbon.
* Teams ranked 1-6 in each phase of the National Division and Novice Division receive ribbons for each team member and coach.
* Individuals ranked 1-10 in each phase of the National Division and Novice Division receive a ribbon.

**ANRC CERTIFICATIONS**

Riders competing at Nationals who score 70% or better on each of the riding phases and 80% or better on the written test will be awarded ANRC Certifications – Level Two for Novice Riders and Level Three for Nationals Riders. Their names will be announced at the awards ceremony immediately following the ANRC National Collegiate Championship.

**USHJA AFFILIATE AWARDS**

As an affiliate of the United States Hunter/Jumper Association, ANRC is participating in the USHJA Affiliate Equitation Awards and Affiliate Excellence Awards.

**The USHJA Affiliate Equitation Award** recognizes **the top three ranked competitors** that have competed in a National Level Championship composed of multiple phases and includes a written test that emphasizes stable management topics and riding theory.

**The USHJA Affiliate Excellence Awards** are given by ANRC in the categories named below. In addition to being recognized by ANRC, all USHJA Affiliate Excellence Award winners will receive a **free USHJA membership** at their current level, **a gift from the USHJA**, and have their **names, biographies and photos included in the USHJA Affiliate Yearbook! A winner** must be a current member of the USHJA at the $15 Outreach level or higher and be in good standing with USHJA and their affiliate association. **Winners may apply for recognition by USHJA at the regional level by October 1.**

**ANRC Collegiate Amateur Rider Excellence Award**

The ANRC Board of Directors will present the ANRC Collegiate Amateur Rider Award to an individual or team competitor at the ANRC Intercollegiate National Championship. The recipient of this award will best represent the spirit of intercollegiate competition in all phases of the championship, and will demonstrate outstanding horsemanship and sportsmanship. An ANRC Board member or an official coach may nominate a competitor at any time during the competition, but no later than the conclusion of the final mounted phase. A designated committee consisting of at least three ANRC board members will determine the recipient of the award based on feedback received from coaches, stewards and judges. The winner will be announced at the ANRC National Championship awards ceremony.

**ANRC Scholastic/Collegiate Coach Excellence Award**

The ANRC Board will recognize annually an outstanding individual who has supported the mission of the ANRC organization and has personified the Forward Riding System in his or her professional area, whether it involves teaching, riding, training, judging or technical support. A designated committee consisting of at least three ANRC board members will determine the recipient of this award based on feedback from ANRC members and the equestrian community at large. The winner will be announced at the ANRC National Championship awards ceremony.

ANRC Instructor Excellence Award

The ANRC Board will recognize annually an outstanding riding instructor who is dedicated to teaching the American Forward Riding System. This award is designed to recognize a dedicated teacher who has spent time “in the ring” encouraging love and growth of forward riding to entry level riders, primarily at unrecognized competition level. A designated committee consisting of at least three ANRC board members will determine the recipient of this award based on feedback from ANRC members. The winner will be announced at the ANRC National Championship awards ceremony.