

EQUESTRIAN



Grooming and Tacking

MODIFIED EVENTS

Horse Parts Identification

Spoon Race

Barrel Race

Dressage

Drill Team 2-person

Drill Team 4-person

Showmanship

TRADITIONAL EVENTS

English Equitation

English Trail

Pole Bending

Western Trail

Flags

Team Relay

Western Pleasure

Driving

Unified Team Relay

UNIFIED EVENTS

Unified Drill Team 2-person

Unified Drill Team 4-person

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Equestrian shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. Special Olympics has created these rules based upon Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) rules, which shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Equestrian or Article I. In such cases, the [Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Equestrian](#) shall apply.

COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

1. Coaches of Equestrian delegations MUST have been certified by attending a Special Olympics Equestrian Coaches Training School.
 - a. A Coaches Training will be held in early Spring 2025.
2. Each event must have at least three (3) entries. The Equestrian Sport Management Team reserves the right to cancel any event with less than three (3) entries.
3. Refer to the Equestrian Riding Patterns document located in the Resource Library on the SOIN website for updated riding patterns and horse part ID parts.
4. Event Limits
 - a. Riders may enter up to six (6) total events. Events may be mounted or unmounted.
 - b. Only two (2) riders are allowed to compete on any one (1) horse. If two (2) riders share a horse, only one (1) rider can be Level A.
 - c. Coaches with athletes sharing a horse should try and prevent having said athletes compete in the same events, especially with different tack.
 - d. Athletes must stay within their selected level.
 - e. Athletes who choose supported classes in mounted events may choose independent classes in unmounted classes and vice versa.
 - f. All mounted or all unmounted classes must be performed at the same level.
 - g. Driving is considered an unmounted event.

DIVISIONING

1. No qualification scores are required.
2. Individuals will be placed in competitive divisions by the Equestrian Sport Management Team according to riding level and assistance needed.
3. Individuals from the same County Program may be placed in the same division.
4. When entering trail class, athletes must enter a class appropriate to their tack and riding style.
5. Athletes will not be disqualified for Maximum Effort for equestrian.

SPORT RULES

UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

1. All athletes MUST wear a SEI-ASTM approved helmet with full chin harness when working with a horse.
2. All athletes must wear long pants. While show clothes are appropriate for the class entered are highly encouraged, they are not required. Jeans and/or khakis may be worn. Shirts must have sleeves. No tank tops, halter tops, tube tops, etc., allowed.
3. All athletes are required to wear hard-soled boots with a heel. If an athlete cannot wear this type of boot, a form from a doctor is required.



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GENERAL RULES

1. Levels
 - a. The level system within the format of a regular horse show provides coaches with an effective guide for assessing athletes' abilities and placing them in the most appropriate events. The approach is consistent with the Special Olympics philosophy that coaches shall ensure that athletes compete in events within their sport which challenge their potential and are appropriate to their ability.
 - b. All Athletes may only compete in one level for the entirety of the competition.
 - c. The level system is as follows
 - i. Level A = walk, trot, and canter;
 - ii. Level B = walk and trot; and
 - iii. Level C = walk.
2. Classes
 - a. Supported Classes
 - i. Refers to any help inside the riding arena.
 - ii. This support may consist of a horse handler, one (1) or two (2) side-walker(s) or any combination thereof.
 - iii. Readers are not classified as support.
 - iv. The athlete's coach may not be support.
 - v. Athletes are required to be in control of their horse.
 - vi. Support is for safety only.
 - b. Independent Classes
 - i. May have no assistance upon entering the arena.
 - ii. If any support enters the arena during the class, the athlete will be disqualified.
 - iii. Spotters will be placed around the arena for safety purposes.
 - iv. Readers are allowed.