



**National Capital Short Stirrup Equitation League (NCSSEL) Rules**  
2015-2016

**RULES**

Rule I. TEAMS

Section 1. Team Makeup

A. In order to field a team for the NCSSEL, a riding academy, school, center, or any other equestrian facility must have a regularly scheduled schooling program. Participating schools will compete with teams consisting of no more than nine (9) riders on the team roster. All riders on the roster must meet the qualifications of the League. Teams are not required to have alternate riders to be a part of the League.

B. Each team will pay a League registration fee as determined by the Board to cover the cost of ribbons and other overhead expenses for the League. Any team not paying the fee by October 1st, shall forfeit their spot in the League.

C. In addition, each team will pay a League Security deposit as determined by the Board to cover the host school's meet costs in the event a scheduled team forfeits the meet. Any team not paying the fee by October 1st, shall forfeit their spot in the League. This money, if not used by a team, will be applied to the Finale Entry fees. In the event a forfeiture occurs and the money is used, the team that experienced the forfeiture must replenish the League Security deposit prior to participating in any subsequent meets.

D. Each team must submit a roster of riders containing name(s), age/birth date(s), mailing addresses, e-mail address, and phone numbers no later than fifteen (15) days or October 1st prior to the first meet. This must be received by the Recording Secretary with certification from the team coach that all members of the team meet the eligibility requirements established by the League.

(a) Any rider who has or is participating in the A-league or B-League of the NCEL shall not be eligible to participate in the "Short Stirrup" League even if they change schools. However, a rider beginning the year in the B League may not move to the "Short Stirrup" league during the season unless they participate only as an alternate rider.

E. Six members will ride for the school's team as primary riders at each meet and no more than three members shall serve as alternates. Alternates must be prepared to be substitutes for

primary riders. At the discretion of each team, primary riders and alternate riders may change their designation for any meet.

F. Schools may enter only one team in the league unless voted upon by the current Board members. Exemption from this rule is granted for one year.

G. Any team who decides not to participate in the league after submitting the registration form shall be responsible for the full registration fee and not entitled to a refund.

H. Teams in the league agree to:

(1) Keep the security deposit up to date after any forfeits,

(2) Participate in the finale meet,

(3) Send a representative(s) to the banquet to receive team awards.

(4) If any team violates more than one of the above agreements during one competition year, they will be considered in default and will no longer be able to compete in the League until the Executive Board reviews the default and agrees to waive such default, and all financial obligations are resolved.

## Section 2. Rider Eligibility

A. Each team member is to be a junior rider defined as an individual who has not reached his nineteenth birthday prior to January 1st, of the beginning of the current competition year.

B. Each team member must be enrolled at their member school as a student in a regular lesson program (at least weekly) as of October 1st, in the year in which they participate.

C. A rider, to participate in the League, may not have shown at any formal or rated show where fence heights exceed 2 feet. A formal show is defined as a competition open to any rider and managed by a sponsoring organization. Informal events open only to riders at a particular Barn and designated as part of the regular schooling program are not considered formal shows.

D. All riders must wear appropriate English show attire and ASTM-approved helmets that must be secured at all times when mounted.

E. A Participation Agreement/Release Form must be signed by every rider over eighteen years of age participating in the League or by the rider's parent or guardian, if under eighteen years of age. All participation agreements must be completed and given to the host school prior to the start of the first meet of the season. A rider that has not turned in a completed agreement may not ride. It will then be the responsibility of the host school to immediately get the completed forms to the President.

## Rule II. HOST SCHOOL

Section 1. Host schools are responsible for:

A. Providing adequate facilities for the meet which must include an indoor ring. If the host school does not have an indoor, they must rent one. The schools attending the meet, not the host school will decide if the host school must use the indoor.

B. Providing or securing an adequate number of school horses.

C. Identifying the horses to be used and providing a brief behavior description of each.

D. Making available suitable tack for each horse.

E. Reporting the results of the meet to the Secretary of the League within seven (7) days after the meet.

F. Providing and compensating a qualified judge. Insuring that the judge is informed of the League competition procedure and is supplied with a copy of the rules and study guide. Judges must not be affiliated in any way with the host school and may judge only one meet in each league within a competition year.

G. Managing the competition and insuring that it runs in a timely and orderly fashion and to that end the host school shall:

(1) Prepare and supervise the drawings.

(2) Design and post all courses. Fences are to be simple and shall not include in and-outs or other combinations, roll-tops, and oxers.

(3) Prepare and post jump orders for all classes over fences.

(4) Present ribbons/awards.

(5) Provide sufficient personnel for running the show.

## Section 2. Horses and Tack

- A. All horses and ponies used in the League meets must be school horses. School horses are defined as horses used in a regular lesson program. Privately owned horses may be used provided they are used in a regular lesson program; however, a rider can not draw or ride his or her own horses or a horse they are leasing in any meet.
- B. Horses must be suitable for use and high strung or extremely difficult to handle horses shall not be used. Horses with a tendency to kick must wear a red tail ribbon. No horse shall be used which has been administered a tranquilizing substance.
- C. If a host school can not provide the required number of horses, they may ask another school to bring some animals including suitable tack and identification cards.
- D. Horses may go more than once in over fences classes at the discretion of the host school.
- E. All horses must be ridden with the tack they are accustomed to and martingales will be permitted in flat classes.
- F. No bit or tack adjustments will be allowed unless approved by the host school.
- G. At the discretion of the host school, riders may use their own saddles. The host school which permits riders to use their own saddles should be prepared to provide girths. If a host school does not permit riders to use their own saddles, then there shall be no tack changes during the meet.
- H. Crops and spurs may be used at the express discretion of the host school.

## Rule III.REGULAR MEETS

### Section 1. Procedure at Regular Meets

A. Sufficient meets shall be scheduled in an attempt that each team within a League plays every other team within a league at least once during that competition year; however, complicated scheduling may not always permit this.

(1) The Board will determine and publish the meet schedule as soon as possible to accommodate scheduling conflicts and preferably not later than thirty (30) days prior to the competition season. Normally, meets will be held on Sundays at a time agreed to by the respective teams. Exceptions, due to holidays, adverse weather, etc., may be granted if agreed to by all of the participating teams.

B. The Board will determine the meet fee that each school will pay to the host school to cover the costs of the judge and other barn overhead costs. The host school shall be responsible for collecting the class fees and paying the judge.

(1) The League teams will be notified of the show fees at the beginning of each year. Fees are determined by a vote of Board members at the previous Spring meeting.

(2) The meet fee shall be paid to the host school at the beginning of the meet in the form of one check written by the participating teams (no individual checks from each competitor). Furthermore, the fee due to the host school shall be based on a per school fee plus alternate classes. No discount will be offered if a full team (less than 6 primary riders) is not present regardless of the reason.

(3) If a team forfeits a meet and/or doesn't show up for a meet, they will still be held responsible for the full team fee. The team security deposit will be forwarded to the host school to cover the meet expenses.

C. Visiting teams are to be at the host school one hour before meet time but no earlier than 90 minutes ahead of time.

(1) The horse draw will occur at 10 am, and the meet will begin promptly at 11 am unless otherwise arranged by a consensus of the teams attending the meet.

D. At the scheduled time, the coaches will draw the horses, by lot, for all classes. Participating coaches will draw the two riders who will be the competitors in the finale class. Those coaches will then draw their mounts for that class.

E. In the event a visiting team is not present 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the meet; the host school may draw for their visiting teams mounts.

F. Host schools may delay the start of a meet for up to one hour if a visiting school has not arrived.

G. Any team, which arrives after the meet commences, will be allowed to participate for the remaining classes. They may not participate in any class which has already started.

H. If a large rider draws a small horse or a small rider draws a large horse, they may with the consent of all participating coaches draw again at the suggestion of the host school and no rider shall ride a horse other than the horse drawn by lot without the consent of the host school and all participating coaches.

I. If a majority of the coaches at any meet agree that a particular horse appears unsafe, then the host school shall withdraw that horse from competition and substitute it with any other horse(s).

J. All meets shall be governed by rules established by the League. If there is not a rule addressing an issue, then the USAE rules shall apply and if there is not an USAE rule, then the decision shall be decided in accordance with the usual and customary practices at local shows.

## Section 2. Classes

A. Each team may have six (6) primary riders who compete for points at any specific meet as well as up to three (3) alternate riders who will only ride the alternate classes at any specific meet.

(1) For a 4-team meet, there will be three (3) classes consisting of showing at the walk and trot in both directions and three (3) classes consisting of showing at the walk, trot, and canter in both directions. Jumping classes will consist of a four (4) fence and a six (6) fence course with a height of not higher than eighteen (18) inches. Each team will enter two (2) of its primary riders in each flat class and three (3) of its primary riders in each over fences class.

(2) For a 3-team meet, there will be two (2) classes consisting of showing at the walk and trot in both directions and two (2) classes consisting of showing at the walk, trot, and canter in both directions. Jumping classes will consist of a four (4) fence and a six (6) fence course with a height of not higher than eighteen (18) inches. Each team will enter three (3) of its primary riders in each flat class and three (3) riders of its primary riders in each over fences class.

(a) The Finale class will be a walk, trot, canter class that will include two (2) fences chosen by the judge. Those jumps must consist of jumps jumped in previous classes with no change in height, composition, or decoration. Finale riders will not be asked to ride on the flat without stirrups. In addition, finale riders will be asked a question from the League Study Guide provided to each rider. The question may not count more than 25% of the rider's score for the class.

B. A rider is not required to ride in an over fences class. The two (2) riders in the Finale class will be chosen by random draw. Except for the Finale class, no primary rider may ride in more than three (3) classes.

C. Primary and alternate riders may be re-designated for each meet. The two individuals from each team that accumulate the highest number of primary rider points will be the Finale class riders for the Finale meet.

(1) Equitation on the Flat.

(a) Riders may be asked to demonstrate competence at the posting trot, sitting trot, two-point trot or extended trot at the discretion of the judge.

(2) Equitation Over Fences

(a) Riders shall jump a course of four fences. To be judged on position, hands, seat, legs, and control.

(b) Riders shall jump a course of six fences, one of which shall be trotted and shall be required to halt at a designated spot during the course. To be judged on hands, seat, legs, and control.

(3) Alternates Classes

(a) Each alternate will participate in three classes. The first will be a Equitation on the Flat class with riders being asked to walk and trot both directions of the ring. The second class will consist of walk, trot and canter in both directions. The amount of canter will be determined by the attending coaches in the coaches meeting, depending on the ability of the alternates present. The third class will be a Four fence jumping class. The course will consist of four fences set along the outside of the arena. Alternate fences should be no higher than 18 inches. Lower than 18 inches is acceptable.

(b) If there are over 8 alternates registered for any alternate class at a meet, the class will be split into two sections, and each section will be pinned to 6th place.

(4) Finale Class.

(a) The riders in the finale class will be asked to walk, trot, sit trot, and canter with stirrups; to jump a two-fence line set at eighteen (18) inches; and to respond to one question from the study guide selected by the Judge. To be judged on position, hands, seat, legs, control, and 25% on response to question.

Section 3. Class Procedure

A. Each rider will be allowed approximately a two (2) minute warm-up on the flat and be allowed to jump two (2) warm-up fences of their choosing before doing their judged course of fences. Coaches may be in the ring to assist their riders during the practice/warm-up.

B. Alternates will be given the two (2) minutes for the flat classes and two (2) fences for the Four fence class prior to the start of the class.

C. Finale class riders will not be given time to warm-up prior to the start of the class.

#### Rule IV.FINALE MEET

A. The finale meet, held at a mutually agreed to location, will be the last meet of the season. All teams will bring their own horses to this event. Team and individual points will be credited toward the final standings. The two riders with the most individual primary rider points prior to the finale meet will represent their teams in the Finale class at the finale meet.

B. The NCSSEL will recognize the Champion and Reserve Champion team of the finale meet.

C. Team horses used at the Finale meet must have a current Coggins Certification.

D. Team horses may be braided at the discretion of each team.

#### Rule V. COACHES

Section 1. Each team will have a designated coach who is responsible for:

- (1) Identifying themselves at the start of each meet
- (2) Registering their students in the appropriate classes
- (3) Transportation and timeliness of their riders for the horse draws
- (4) Schooling as provided in these rules.
- (5) Sportsmanlike behavior of their riders and parents during the meet
- (6) Prompt payment of entry fees to host school.
- (7) Completing the Nomination form.
  - (a) Each team is asked to nominate their favorite horse at each meet.
  - (b) Each team is asked to nominate three riders from opposing teams for sportsmanship. Nomination forms must be given to the host coach before the start of the Finale class.
  - (c) Each coach must submit the email evaluation of the meet within one week of each meet. Team scores will not be posted on the website until the evaluations are received.

Rule VI.POINTS AND AWARDS

Section 1. Ribbons

A. Ribbons for all meets will be secured by the Treasurer and provided to the host school.

B. At regular meets, six ribbons will be awarded in each class. At the finale meet, up to 12 ribbons will be awarded in each class.

Section 2. Points

A. Points will be designated in the manner shown below. No provisions will be made for ties.

First Place 7 points

Second Place 5 points

Third Place 4 points

Fourth Place 3 points

Fifth Place 2 points

Sixth Place 1 point

B. Points accumulated by each team will be totaled to determine the final standings at the end of the meet.

C. In the event that 1 or more teams forfeit a meet, the team points will be adjusted as shown below. Full points as provided in Paragraph A above will be credited towards an individuals cumulative point total.

	4 Team Meet	3 Team Meet	
	1 team forfeits	2 teams forfeit	1team forfeits
First Place	5-1/4 points	3-1/2 points	4-2/3 points
Second Place	3-3/4 points	2-1/2 points	3-1/3 points
Third Place	3 points	2 points	2-2/3 points
Fouth Place	2-1/4 points	1-1/2 points	2 points
Fifth Place	1-1/2 points	1 points	1-1/3 points
Sixth Place	3/4 points	1/2 points	2/3 points

D. Points will be accumulated throughout the season for teams, for individual riders, and also for individual alternate riders toward season-end awards.

(1) Teams will be credited for all points earned by the primary riders in all classes. Alternate rider points shall not accumulate as team points.

(2) Individual riders will be credited for all primary rider points earned in order to determine season-end awards. Finale and alternate class points shall not accumulate toward primary rider season-end awards.

(3) Individual alternate riders will be credited for all points earned in alternate classes towards the alternates' season-end award, provided they ride as an alternate more than one time.

E. In case of a tie for end-of-year final standings, the following procedures will be followed;

(1) If each team in the tie has had at least two (2) alternate riders participate in the meets, then the team with the most total alternate points for the season will receive the higher placing.

(2) If the tie can not be resolved according to the paragraph above, then a "hack off" class will be held following the Finale class at the Finale meet. Each team involved in the tie will have its Finale riders show in a Command class. The judge will determine the specific elements to be shown.

### Section 3. Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

A. The NCSSEL celebrates the end of the season with an Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. The Banquet Committee Chair is responsible for coordinating all details of the function.

B. The agenda for the Annual Meeting will cover any issues submitted by the Board for review by the general membership. The Officers and Board members for the next year will be selected.

C. The Banquet is a gala event recognizing each team and rider. Awards presented by the NCSSEL are:

(1) High Point Team – The High Point and Reserve High Point Teams accumulating the most points during the season are recognized by an appropriate perpetual plaque/trophy to display in their barn for the year.

(2) Team Ribbons – Each team's members will be recognized with a ribbon according to their team's final point standings at the conclusion of the league season.

(3) High Point Riders – The High Point and Reserve High Point Riders are recognized by an appropriate perpetual plaque/trophy, which will be presented to the rider's barn for display. The High Point and Reserve High Point Rider will also receive an individual trophy to keep. The remaining High Point riders will be recognized with medals/ribbons through 10th place.

(4) Alternate High Point Riders – The Alternate High Point Rider and Reserve Alternate High Point Rider are recognized by an appropriate perpetual plaque/trophy, which will be presented to the rider's barn for display. The Alternate High Point and Reserve Alternate High Point Rider will also receive an individual trophy to keep. The remaining Alternate High Point riders will be recognized with medals/ribbons through 10th place.

(5) Horse of the Year Award – The League also presents the Horse of the Year Award to the horse at each barn determined by nominations received at each meet during the season. Each winning horse will receive a stall plaque.

D. If a perpetual trophy is damaged, destroyed, stolen or lost while in a team's possession, the team shall pay the league for the cost to replace it. In addition, it is the team's responsibility to return all perpetual awards no later than the Finale Meet of that competition year.

#### Rule VII. PROTESTS AND GRIEVANCES

A. All protests and grievances must be presented to the Coach of the school hosting the meet.

B. The coach of the host school shall then discuss the complaint, protest, or grievance with all participating coaches out of the hearing of all team participants and attempt to reach a consensus decision.

C. If no decision can be reached by the coaches, then the officiating judge shall make the decision, which shall be final and accepted by coaches and riders in a sportsmanlike manner.

D. Appeals from any decision made pursuant to this section may be made in writing and shall then be considered at the next League meeting.

#### Rule VIII. AFFILIATION

A. The NCSSEL is a paid affiliate of the Nation Capital Equitation League (NCEL). If issues arise during the year that are not explicitly covered by the NCSSEL by-laws or rules, the NCEL by-laws and rules will be applied.

