

# *International Saddle Seat Test Event/Invitational*

## *RULES AND REGULATIONS*

*Revised to reflect votes/amendments passed by ISSEA*

*As of May 15, 2017*

### ARTICLE 1. GOVERNING BODY - ISSEA

- A. The International Saddle Seat Equitation Association (ISSEA) is the governing body, which is composed of countries that are uniting with the common goal of promoting and growing the Saddle Seat Equitation discipline on an International level.
- B. Refer to the Constitution of ISSEA for complete details regarding the organization and activities of ISSEA.
- C. The ISSEA is not associated in any way with the selection of Team members to the International Saddle Seat Test Event/Invitational (hereinafter referred to in this document as the "The Event").

### ARTICLE 2. OPERATIONS

- A. ISSEA will not interfere with the sport policy or local sport of any country to the extent that those policies do not conflict with ISSEA rules and with the exceptions listed below.
  - 1. Any competitor in the Event must be a national of the country which is entering such competition. A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he or she may elect.
  - 2. In the event that two or more countries do not have sufficient numbers to support a team, those countries may join together to form a multi-nation team. The term of such team will be exclusive to that year alone. Riders on this team must be nationals of the countries putting forth the multi-nation team.
- B. The Event Competition is a not-for-profit event.
- C. ISSEA will control all matters concerning International competitions of the Saddle Seat Equitation discipline in matters such as, but not limited to:
  - 1. Rules governing the Event competition;
  - 2. Act as liaison with organizations such as the Olympic Committee; and
- D. The ISSEA Office-Bearers and General Assembly members in attendance (or country representative named by proxy) shall act as the Event Rules Committee during the Event along with an appointed Steward or equivalent. The Steward will be on hand in an official advisory capacity to interpret and enforce ISSEA rules and give counsel as to customary international procedure regarding, but not limited to, sportsmanlike conduct, judging standards, class conduct, shoeing regulations, and officials' conduct.
- E. Any problem unique to this competition will be acted upon immediately by the Event Rules Committee.
- F. All Event Rules Committee decisions will be final. (For Committee definition, see Article 2.D.)

### ARTICLE 3. CLASS CONDUCT

- A. Approximately six (6) appropriate individual workouts per competition will be furnished to each country's representative a minimum of one month prior to the Event. ~~Judges must select Two (per section)~~ **two (per section) will be randomly drawn at the draw of horses** to be used in the Event competition (*amended 5-15-17*).
- The following tests are not permitted:
- 1. Ride without stirrups for a brief period of time, no more than one minute at the trotting phase.
  - 2. Exchange horse, no more than three pairs of riders to exchange.
  - 3. Backing
- B. The competition will be structured as follows:
    - 1. There will be a three and five gaited section of competition.
    - 2. There will be two Phases of the competition, referred to as Phase I and Phase II.
    - 3. Each Phase will consist of two segments:
      - a. Rail work: athletes will work at a walk, trot, and canter (five gaited may include slow gait and rack depending on horse availability) both directions of the ring. The competition manager will divide athletes into groups of sizes deemed manageable with regard to the horses being used for the competition. Sections may be divided at the discretion of the hosting nation and the Event Rules Committee.
      - b. Pattern work to be executed individually. Each segment will be scored.
    - 4. The above segments will be scored by a panel of judges (refer to Article 7, Scoring).
    - 5. Each segment will count equally, and each Phase will carry equal weight in the final calculation.

6. Countries may elect to use their sixth rider at the beginning of the next segment (rail or pattern) in accordance with Article 4, section C.
  7. Athletes will compete on not less than two horses during the competition. (Exception: Riders who are interchanged between segments may not compete on two horses.)
  8. If these above guidelines are followed, all points from both Phases will be considered valid.
  9. Substitution of horses
    - a. There will be NO SUBSTITUTION of horses unless a horse is sick, injured or a safety risk.
    - b. The Judges and /or the Event Rules Committee may rule on the safety risk of a horse. A rider may, in this circumstance, complete the competition on that team's sixth horse.
    - c. When a horse is eliminated because it is a safety risk, if there are still horses remaining in the pool, the team can redraw in order to replenish their quota of horses.
    - d. The official Veterinarian will be the only person authorized to validate a horse's soundness, sickness or injury and declare that horse withdrawn.
  10. The Judges and/or the Event Rules Committee may rule on the safety risk of a rider. In this circumstance, a rider may be excused from competition and/or replaced with another member of the team.
  11. Time outs
    - a. ***A competitor is entitled to request a time-out for a period not to exceed five minutes in aggregate in order to make obvious adjustments or to repair broken equipment or to rectify a similar condition. (amended 2-23-16)*** ~~If, during the competition, a rider requires an official time-out (five minutes).~~ Should a rider require a second time-out (also five minutes), that rider must use their team's sixth horse. Failure to do so will result in elimination from that segment.
    - b. One time-out (five-minute) per horse per segment can be used for shoeing. If a shoe cannot be replaced, the horse's liaison may agree to let the horse continue without the shoe. If a horse cannot continue, refer to rule 11a.
    - c. During a timeout, the farrier if applicable, a groom, one representative for the horse and one representative for the rider (as appointed by the Country) may enter the arena and assist with the time out.
  12. FALLS. The fall of horse or rider does not necessarily cause elimination, but is penalized at the Judge's discretion.
  13. Rider Attire

As this is an open breed competition, the following rules regarding attire will apply:

    - a. Riders must wear informal attire for all segments and phases of the Event Competition, regardless of the time which the competition is being held. (Exception: In extreme weather, the Event Rules Committee may allow riders to adjust their attire accordingly). Informal attire is defined as: jacket with collars and lapels of the same conservative color with matching jodhpurs, a collared shirt, tie, vest, and complimentary gloves, jodhpur boots, and derby or soft hat (protective headgear may be worn without penalty).
    - b. Blunt end (unrowelled only) spurs and/or riding crops are optional and should be cleared with the hosting nation.
  14. Tack
    - a. Bridle: Entries shall be shown in full bridles (curb and snaffle) or snaffle bridle with two reins.
    - b. Saddle: Flat English-type. Forward seat, Western and side saddles are prohibited.
  15. Coaching during competition
    - a. Allowed during rail performance
    - b. Not allowed during pattern work
  16. Warm up
    - a. Riders will be given a five (5) minute warm-up prior to the start of their rail work segment.
    - b. ***Riders will be given a one (1) minute warm-up, of rail work only, prior to their individual pattern segment. (amended 2-23-16)***
- C. Practice sessions
1. Two practice sessions, limited to twenty (20) minutes each, will be scheduled prior to the start of the competition, with times provided to each team coach.
  2. If a rider has to substitute his/her horse from the general back-up pool only due to circumstances beyond the rider's and/or competition committee's control, that rider only will have the chance to an additional twenty (20) minute practice session, and not any other rider of that team and/or the whole team involved. Exception: Even under such circumstances, no additional practice session will be allotted to a team if the substitution occurs either during competition or in too close proximity to the start of competition to make holding such practice time feasible.
  3. Beginning with the first official day of the competition, which is established by the latest arrival date as determined and publicized to all participants by the hosting nation, teams may not engage in private practice sessions. Private practice session is further defined as any group session not included in the official schedule of events as established by the hosting nation.
  4. The practice sessions are closed sessions - no parents/supporters and/or competitors allowed. (Exception: Coaches of other teams and trainers of horses being used may attend.)
- D. Team members may not compete in classes outside of the Event at the competition where the Event is being held.

## ARTICLE 4. TEAMS

### A. Riders.

1. Each country's three and five gaited section will consist of up to six (6) riders, any five (5) of which will compete, but if there are six (6), all six (6) must compete in at least one segment unless an injury or illness prohibits such participation. Scores will be tied to back numbers so riders being activated for a segment must use the same back number as the rider in the previous segment.
2. A rider must be at least 12 years of age as of the first day of practice before the Event competition to be eligible to ride in that The Event competition.
3. Each team member must meet the specifications for amateur status as dictated by their own national policy.
4. Riders must be citizens of or domiciled in the Country they are representing.
5. Each rider participating in the Event will be required to pay a \$50.00 tip per section shown (three and/or five gaited) at the competition.
6. Each rider (or their parent for minors under 18) will be required to sign waiver forms provided by the hosting nation one month prior to the Event Competition.
7. Saddles are to be provided by each rider. Specific arrangements can be made prior to the Event with the Event Committee Chairman of the host nation, but the nation requiring assistance in locating saddles will need to compensate host nation for use of borrowed saddles.
8. Teams must be declared to ISSEA six months prior to the Event Competition including the names of each rider and section they will be competing in, names of coaches and other support staff attending with the team.

### B. Coaches/Managers/Assistants.

1. Teams may have at least one coach per section (three and five gaited) and may choose to have additional representatives assisting the team.
2. Team awards will be limited to two positions per section (three and five gaited) of each team.

### C. Use of the sixth rider. Countries may elect to use their sixth rider at the beginning of the next segment (rail or pattern) during the competition, however, the following restrictions apply:

1. Teams must declare all six riders when submitting their participation for the Event. Riders may not be changed after 10 days prior to the start of practices for the Event Competition.
2. All six riders will be permitted to attend official functions.
3. All six riders may participate in official team practices.
4. Teams must declare sixth rider use within one hour prior to the start of each day's competition.
5. ***If sixth rider is used at the beginning of second segment, rider must be mounted on same horse that was used during the previous segment. (amended 2-23-16)***
6. ***Rider may ride horse on the rail one day and the same horse on pattern the next day or vice versa. (amended 11-1-16)***

### D. Each country's team should be prepared to appear at presentations in uniform apparel, which easily identifies the nationality of that team.

### E. Participation in the Event constitutes acceptance by team members and coaches to abide by the procedure, rules and judgments of ISSEA and the Event Rules Committee.

## ARTICLE 5. HORSES

### A. Horses for Competition

1. Will be carefully selected from breeds that are used for and trained in Saddle Seat Equitation.
2. Should be carefully selected for their soundness, their safe manners and their training/suitability as either 3- or 5-Gaited Equitation horses.
3. Countries hosting the event will make every effort to provide a minimum of six horses for each section, as well as several reserves in case of emergency. In the event there are not six horses/team for each section, the number of horses/team will be evenly distributed amongst the team members keeping fairness and horse welfare in mind.
4. Breeds and Crossbreeds which are recommended, but not limited to consist of the following: American Saddlebred, Arabian, Friesian, Morgan, National Show Horse and South African Boerperd.
5. Each horse will use its own bridle and girth.

### B. Draw of Horses

1. In a lottery style drawing to be held at a designated time, the riders/coaches from each of the teams will draw six horses.
2. They may observe these horses previously as the horses complete their owner-specified daily workout and make temporary assignments of horses to each team member.

3. Coaches will be furnished a biography of each horse selected for their team. Whenever a trainer or groom is present to supply background personally, the coaches may utilize that resource. Recommended settings for equipment for each horse will be provided in the biographies furnished to the coach.
4. An official will be provided to act as a liaison between the owner / trainer of each horse and the team coach for any matter relating to health or training measures.
5. No rider may compete on a horse, which they have owned, trained or shown within six months prior to the Event. If such a horse is drawn, it must be used for another member of that team.
6. Coaches may experiment with various horse / rider combinations during the practices.
7. ONE HOUR PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION, final assignments of horse / rider combinations must be submitted to the official The Event horse show office. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by majority agreement. Teams must declare horse/rider combinations for each segment within one hour prior to competition.
8. The hosting country's rules regarding Drugs and Medications must be strictly enforced.
9. Any substance must be administered by the donated horse's trainer, designated agent or veterinarian. Such administration should be disclosed to the team riding the horse.
10. No one from the competing teams may enter a pool horse's stall without express permission of that horse's trainer or designated agent.
11. Adjustments are allowed. Any changes (i.e., new bit) must be made to a horse after working through the horse's trainer or designated agent.

## Article 6. OFFICIALS

### A. Judges.

1. The selection of judges should be fair with all affiliated members to be involved.
2. There will be three judges officiating the Event unless the ISSEA Assembly approves additional judges as indicated below.
3. Judges must not judge two consecutive The Event competitions.
4. Judges from Medal (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) Winning Countries
  - a. Each medal winning country from the preceding The Event will nominate a minimum of one judge (two are suggested) for the upcoming The Event.
    - i. Judge must be from the country for which they have been nominated
    - ii. The judges they nominate must be senior licensed judges in saddle seat equitation for a minimum of 5 years.
    - iii. These countries will be responsible for paying for the flight of the judges they nominate, but not accommodations.
    - iv. A medal winning country may advise that no nominee is agreeable for submission, in which case ISSEA will make a determination as to how to proceed.
    - v. The ISSEA Assembly will review the nominations and qualifications of the judges submitted for approval
5. Other participating countries may also submit a nominee.
  - a. The nominated judge may be from another country.
  - b. Any judge so nominated MUST have fundamental experience and knowledge of Saddle Seat Equitation
  - c. The country who nominates must supply proof to the ISSEA Board that the judge nominated has the necessary knowledge and experience – preferably at the international level – so as to be deemed qualified to judge a The Event.
  - d. Countries under this category agree to pay all expenses for their nominated judge including: flight, hotel, transportation and stipend.
6. As a way to encourage countries' ability to put forth qualified judging nominees in the future, any participating country may petition ISSEA for approval to send a learner judge to the event. Scores given by the learner judge shall not be considered official and will not be publicized outside of ISSEA.
7. Judges must not have had client relations with any riders within 30 days of the Event Competition. Such involvement includes: coaching, training or sale of horses; regardless of whether funds are directly paid to the judge.

### B. Steward

1. There will be a Steward or equivalent at the Event. The Steward will be on hand in an official advisory capacity to interpret and enforce ISSEA rules and give counsel as to customary international procedure regarding, but not limited to, sportsmanlike conduct, judging standards, class conduct, shoeing regulations, and officials' conduct.

### C. Veterinarian

1. The official veterinarian shall be a licensed graduate of an accredited veterinary school in good standing in his/her locale of practice.
2. The contact information for the veterinarian will be provided to the coaches of each country at the draw.
3. The veterinarian may be on call, but must be called on for evaluation if a country questions the soundness of a horse after they have practiced or competed on said horse.

## ARTICLE 7. SCORING

**[Note: As a one-time exception for the 2017 US Saddle Seat Invitational/Test Event, a three-judge panel will use the Hi-Low scoring system. The highest and lowest judges' scores to be discarded and the middle judge's scores to count per rider per day. (amended 11-1-16)]**

A. Scoring will be numeric throughout. An explanation of the numeric scoring system is as follows:

1. RAIL: Rail work will be evaluated using a numerical system based on a perfect score total of 100 from each judge.
2. PATTERN:
  - (a) The individual workouts shall each be worth 100 points.
  - (b) Equal points for each segment, proposed to be 10 points per segment
  - (c) A workout to consist of 10 segments in total being 8 x pattern segments + 1 x Overall Picture segment + 1 x Horsemanship segment
3. ORDINAL CONVERSION: The numerical score given by the judges for each athlete at the conclusion of each phase (with phase defined as rail work, or pattern) will be converted into an ordinal, with each judge's highest numerical score converting to a '1', the next highest a '2', etc.
4. The riders with the lowest raw score (not lowest ordinal) from each team will be dropped at the conclusion of each combined phase (rail and pattern).
5. In the event of a tie, preference will be given to the lower combined rail ordinal scores from all judges. If a tie still exists, preference will be given to the athlete with the lower combined pattern ordinal score from all judges. If none of the above methods are sufficient to break the tie, the lower combined total ordinal scores for the rail work and pattern segments of the competition as issued by ONE judge determined by the Committee to serve as the Referee shall have precedence. The referee shall be announced prior to the start of the competition, generally at the event where athletes draw for horses, order of go, etc.
6. The grand total score for each team shall be a combination of the ordinals awarded by all judges from all rail work and patterns, minus the lowest raw score for each team as indicated above. The team with the lowest total ordinal score will be named the Gold Medal Winners, with the next lowest Silver and next lowest Bronze.
7. Individual workouts are posted for coaches and riders to review and /or practice usually the day before the workout competition.
8. Individual workout scores are totaled using a scribe and figures are relayed to the Ringmaster. Each rider's total workout scores (not individual workout segment scores) from the judges will be announced. Rail work scores are not to be announced. These scores will only be made public following the announcement of the Medal winners at the Awards Ceremony. Judges' names will be announced in association with the scores being read.
9. Following the first combined phase, each team's Coach/Manager will be provided with a printout of only their team's individual workout and rail scores. ***Pattern score sheets will be made available electronically to each team representative after each session. (amended 3-13-17)*** During the second combined phase, the individual workout scores will also be announced, but no distribution or announcement of teams' rail scores will be made. The rail scores are not to be distributed until after the competition and will remain confidential to the scorer and the auditor only. Copies of full results to be provided by the host nation to the ISSEA representative for each nation within 30 days of the close of the competition.

B. Awards for the Event will be presented to the top three scoring teams - customarily Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. Medals of participation are to be awarded to teams from any non-medal winning country.

C. At the awards presentation, the national anthems of the top three teams will be played. There are no specific regulations on team presentation. The Hosting Country will make a point to follow all countries' customs. All countries must supply in writing all requests for anthem and any national customs to the hosting country at least six (6) months prior to the competition.

D. Team captains are asked to receive the award on behalf of their team.

E. Coaches are asked to be present with their team at the awards presentation.

F. The judging and scoring system can and may be changed within 1 year from commencement of the competition.

## ARTICLE 8. AWARDS

The event will conclude with the announcement of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal winning Teams. Medals will be awarded to each team member accordingly.

## ARTICLE 9. HOSTING NATION – EVENT COMMITTEE

A. The ISSEA shall be advised of the Event Committee members from the next hosting nation along with the identity and contact information of the relevant committee members at least one year prior to the next The Event competition.

B. The hosting nation's Event Committee is responsible for the organization of the host country's participation in the Event and shall be reportable to ISSEA.

C. Copyrights and Exploitation Rights. ISSEA acknowledges and agrees that Hosting Nation owns and retains all copyrights and exploitation rights in and to the Event Competition, including but not limited to all rights to video, cable, broadcast, film, internet, photography, and new media, which may be granted to third parties at the discretion of Hosting Nation. ISSEA agrees to accept the photographer and videographer chosen by Hosting Nation so long as Hosting Nation provides ISSEA with written permission from such photographer and videographer granting ISSEA access at no cost to ISSEA to photos and video footage from the Event Competition for ISSEA's non-commercial use for

promotional efforts and editorial efforts. Furthermore, such photographer and videographer must grant Hosting Nation permission to convey this right to third parties for the purpose of fulfilling Hosting Nation's promotional and editorial efforts. This required written permission from Hosting Nation's photographer and videographer must be provided to ISSEA prior to the start of the Event Competition and such permission must survive the termination of this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 10. HOSTING NATION OBLIGATIONS

In consideration for hosting the Event, the hosting nation agrees to the following responsibilities:

- A. To supply the venue for competition and horses for the Event (see Article 5A).
- B. To order the awards for the event.
- C. To pay for and arrange rooming accommodations, local transport and a stipend for three Judges. Flights for judges will be the expense of the visiting nation who recommends such judge. Additional judges' expenses will be the full responsibility of the countries who recommend them.
- D. To assist with arrangement of rooming accommodations for the visiting nations' teams only. Such information to be provided to visiting nations at least four months prior to the event. (Supporters and Teams to stay at different rooming venues).
- E. To assist with arrangement of local transport reservation for the visiting nations, provided visiting nations communicate their needs.
- F. To host one meal for the visiting nations during or prior to the competition.
- G. To provide a competition and practice schedule at least two months prior to the event.
- H. To provide general information for accommodations for visiting nations' supporters at least four months prior to the event, but hosting nation is not responsible for booking.
- I. To provide general information about the locale of the event to visiting nations at least two months prior to the event.

#### ARTICLE 11. VISITING NATION OBLIGATIONS

Visiting nations and their riders agree to the following stipulations in consideration for their participation in the Event:

- A. To supply or make arrangements for airfare for their judge recommendation, team members, coaches and assistants / chaperones.
- B. To inform official participants from their nation that all personal expenses are the obligation of each individual. Special arrangements should be made for paying these expenses (i.e. unscheduled meals, phone calls, transportation, shopping, entertainment, etc.).
- C. Shall be responsible for payment of their rooming accommodations. Each nation shall pay \$1,000 USD deposit to the hosting nation (if requested) to be applied toward the cost of accommodations with the host hotel. Such deposit must be received 30 days from request. Balance due is payable by the visiting nation prior to departure.
- D. Shall be responsible for payment of their local transportation. Host country will assist with transportation arrangements as needed.
- E. Shall be responsible for providing and paying for the meals of their respective teams and/or making arrangements with their riders to pay for their meals.
- F. Shall be responsible for any damage done to equipment or to return borrowed equipment for their respective horses, provided that it is not determined the equipment was deteriorating prior to the ride.

#### ARTICLE 12: ISSEA OBLIGATIONS

- A. ISSEA must provide a copy of all rules and regulations to all competing countries/teams.
- B. ISSEA must provide a copy of all rules and regulations to the event announcer.
- C. ISSEA will be responsible for the cost of the awards for the Event and should be consulted by the host country as to the expense prior to ordering the awards.
- D. ISSEA will be responsible for providing assistance to the host country for horse transport based on available funds up to \$2,500. (amended 5-15-17)***

#### ARTICLE 13. OTHER REGULATIONS

- A. ISSEA and the Event Rules Committee reserve the right to amend or add rule(s) or regulation(s) at any time.
- B. All changes for horses, riders, officer positions and rules must be submitted in writing to ISSEA officers and hosting country's officers.
- C. Proxy voting will be allowed in writing 1 day minimum before meeting.
- D. All matters arising in connection with the execution of the Event competition that are not specifically addressed herein shall be subject to the jurisdiction of ISSEA, the Event Rules Committee and/or the competition Steward. Resolution of all matters shall be final.

Official Event Logo shall include the hosting country's flag and the ISSEA logo