



## **Youth Show Jumping Foundation** **U25 Challenge**

### **“An American Jumping Style of Riding Competition”**

The Youth Show Jumping Foundation (YSJF) seeks to identify, highlight, and reward youth jumping riders 25 and under who show both interest and promise to become serious show jumping athletes on a national and international stage.

The YSJF's U25 Challenge invites athletes competing at 1.10, 1.20, and 1.30 meters to compete in an American Jumping Style of Riding competition. Athletes will compete in two initial phases. The de Nemethy Prep Phase incorporates dressage and gymnastics elements designed to show an athlete's skills in preparing for a jumping competition. The Show Jumping Phase is conducted under Table II, Sec. 2d and includes a water option.

The highest scoring athlete from each of the height sections will move forward to the third phase, the Ride Off Challenge. The three athletes will each jump a 1.10-1.15 meter course on their own horse. Each athlete will draw a Selected Ride-Off horse, and each athlete will ride this second, unfamiliar horse over the same course. The athlete with the highest combined scores from all phases will be declared the overall champion.

Each of the three Ride Off Challenge athletes will receive a YSJF Training Grant to use toward furthering their horsemanship knowledge, specialized coaching, or a select competition. The trainer of the overall champion will receive \$3,000.

#### **Eligibility to Compete:**

- The YSJF U25 Challenge is open to Juniors, Amateurs, and Professionals 25 and under based on the USEF's age definition.
- Athletes may not have competed in an FEI 2\*, 3\*, 4\*, or 5\* competition above 1.40m
- Athlete/Horse combinations competing in the U25 Challenge may not compete in any other class at the show once the U25 Challenge begins. Athletes who do not qualify for Phase III may elect to show their U25 Challenge horse in other classes at the conclusion of Phase II.
- Horses entered in the U25 Challenge may be entered and compete in up to two (2) classes at the same show on the days preceding the start of the U25 Challenge.
- There is no qualifying required to participate in the Challenge.
- Athletes, trainers, and owners must be current active members in good standing with USEF and USHJA.
- Horses must be registered with the USHJA (see 2. JP100) and recorded with the USEF (see GR 1102).



- Athletes, trainers, and owners must be registered with the Youth Show Jumping Foundation (YSJF).
- All USEF General and Jumping rules will be in effect.
- All athletes, trainers, and owners must accept the Youth Show Jumping Foundation Code of Conduct and Best Equestrian Practices.
- Waivers must be signed and submitted before participation.
- Additional information is on the **Youth Show Jumping Foundation** website at [www.YouthShowJumpingFoundation.com](http://www.YouthShowJumpingFoundation.com)
- **Refer to the competition's prize list for additional requirements to enter and compete.**

### **Competition Format:**

- The U25 Challenge is a three (3) phase competition consisting of the de Nemethy Prep Phase (consisting of dressage and gymnastics elements), the Show Jumping Phase, and a Ride Off Challenge of the top three athletes.
- The competition will be held over two days.
- Height sections:
  - 1.10m–1.15m
  - 1.20m–1.25m
  - 1.30m–1.35m
- Each height section will have a Phase One (I) and Phase Two (II) with the top rider from each height section invited to participate in the Phase Three (III) Ride Off Challenge.
- Horse inspections will be held before Phase I and Phase III.
- Any height section with fewer than six (6) riders will be combined with the next lower height and run at the lower of the two heights.
- Selected Ride-Off Horses - YSJF will select and accept four horses provided by owners and/or trainers to use in Phase III – Ride-Off Challenge. These horses will have demonstrated experience competing at 1.20m or higher, and the horses will be evaluated by YSJF and/or designated professionals for the horses' suitability for the U25 Challenge.
- The top three riders in the Ride-Off Challenge will draw from this pool of horses for the horse each will compete on. There will be a 20 minute familiarization and warm up period that is detailed below.

### **Phase I – de Nemethy Prep:**

- Athletes will be asked to demonstrate various dressage movements within the gymnastics course to showcase rideability in order to prepare both horse and rider for the Table II competition in Phase II.
- The gymnastics course must include a bounce, one or two double combinations, long and short lines, and an equal amount of left and right leads.



- Dressage movements will include lengthening, collection, halt, and lateral movements.
- Scores will have a multiplier of 1.5 (see judging section for more information).

### **Phase II – Show Jumping:**

- Phase II is a show jumping course conducted under Table II 2.(d) set at 350m/m. Time allowed will be in effect for both phases of the course.
- A liverpool with water is required as part of the course.
- An 8' to 10' water jump with a rail is required. The water jump is not required to be dug in, but must be presented as if it were. The water jump must be presented as an option and riders will receive bonus points for jumping it. See below for details on the bonus points.
- To demonstrate rideability, a jump must follow the water option and the numbered fence.
- The course must include a wall, three double combinations or a double and a triple combination, and at least two unrelated distances between fences.
- The (d) portion of the course will be judged as a jump off. Rideability, strategy, and handiness will be judged.
- Phase Two will have a score multiplier of 2x
- Water Jump Bonus Points: Judges will award up to three (3) points for successfully jumping the water option or up to three (3) penalty points for difficulties riding to and over the water option.
- Time Faults will be penalized with one (1) penalty for each commenced second by which the time allowed is exceeded in each phase of the course.
- Rails will be penalized with one (1) to four (4) penalties at the judges' discretion.

### **Phase III - Ride Off Challenge:**

- The top scoring athlete from each height section will move forward to the Ride Off Challenge.
- If there are only two height sections, the athlete with the next highest overall score from either section will fill the third spot for the Ride Off Challenge.
- Ties for a height section high score will be determined by the highest score in Phase II.
- Should ties still exist after comparing scores from Phase II, the highest score in Phase I will be used.
- Should ties still exist, after comparing scores from Phase II and Phase I, the most efficient time in the (d) portion of Phase II will be used.
- All horses participating in Phase III, including Selected Ride-Off horses will jog for soundness.
- No water jump will be used in the Ride Off, however a liverpool with water is required in the Ride Off course.
- The course must consist of at least two double combinations.

### **Phase III Format:**

- The three Ride Off Challenge athletes will each draw for a Selected Ride-Off horse.



- After the draw, the athletes will have 20 minutes to familiarize themselves with their Selected Ride-Off horse.
- Athletes may flat and jump the Selected Ride-Off horses and may not jump more than 12 jumps.
- A liverpool will be available to use for schooling.
- Warm up fence heights may be up to 1.10m with no more than two jumps allowed at 1.15m.
- Athletes will jump a Table II course set at 1.10m – 1.15m with no jump off.
- Order of Go: The lowest scoring athlete from the three will compete first to the highest scoring athlete competing last. Athletes will compete on their own horses first, followed by the Selected Ride-Off horse in the same original order of go.
- Scores will be assigned to athletes on their own horse and on their Selected Ride-Off horse for a total combined score for Phase III.
- Scores from Phase I and Phase II will be added to the scores from Phase III with total scores for each athlete announced before the next athlete enters the ring.
- Phase III time faults and rail penalties will be calculated the same as Phase II.

**Awards:**

- For Phase I and Phase II, ribbons will be given to the overall placings 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> in each height section.
- For Phase III, ribbons, medals and sashes will be awarded to the top three athletes. Athletes will also receive a YSJF Grant Request Form that specifies various ways the grant can be used, and the YSJF reserves the right to approve grant requests.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Gold Medal Individual Training Grant \$3,500.00
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Silver Medal Individual Training Grant \$1,500.00
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze Medal Individual Training Grant \$1,000.00
- U25 Challenge Ride Off Gold Medal Trainer: \$3,000.00
- Best Selected Ride-Off horse: Trophy, ribbon, and sash.

**Attire:**

- Formal attire is required for all phases with athletes wearing white breeches only. (JP111.9a)
- Athletes and/or designated representatives must be appropriately dressed during the horse inspection and course walk. Athletes must wear boots and breeches. A designated representative must be professionally dressed for the official horse inspection, including wearing appropriate footwear. Juniors and Amateurs must wear a helmet for the horse inspection. Please refer to USEF rule JP111.9c.

**Tack:**

- USEF approved Jumper tack is allowed (see JP111 for details) except:
  - No Standing Martingales



- No German Martingales
- Draw Reins may be used only for prize giving ceremonies.

### **Schooling:**

- Schooling may only take place in the designated schooling ring for the U25 Challenge.
- The location and schooling times will be provided to riders by horse show management.
- A schooling supervisor will be stationed at the schooling ring during all U25 schooling sessions.
- Horses must wear their number anytime they leave the stall, including during schooling.

### **Rider Meeting:**

- A mandatory rider meeting will be held before Phase I. If the athlete cannot attend the meeting, a designated representative must check in on behalf of the athlete.
- The location, date, and time of the rider meeting will be provided by show management.
- Athletes, parents, and trainers will be provided with very important information regarding the class and the YSJF.
- The YSJF reserves the right to hold additional meeting(s) at any point during the competition.

### **Horse Substitution:**

- Rider Horses: If during the U25 Challenge the official show vet declares a horse as ill, unsound, or not fit to continue, the rider may petition to substitute a horse. The Official Competition Veterinarian, the YSJF Representative, the TD, and a senior Competition Management representative will meet and confer regarding the substitution request.
- Selected Ride-Off Horses: If a Selected Ride-Off horse is deemed unsuitable, whether due to injury, illness, or extreme or unusual behavior during the warm up period or in the competition round, the rider may be granted a substitute Selected Ride-Off horse. A committee made up of the Official Competition Veterinarian (only in case of soundness), the YSJF Representative, the TD, and a senior Competition Management representative will meet and confer regarding the substitution request. This committee may request input from the representative of the Selected Ride-Off horse in question.

### **Horse Inspection:**

- The horse inspection will be held before Phases I and III to evaluate for soundness and fitness to perform.
- The location and date/time of the horse inspection will be provided by horse show management.

### **Selected Ride-Off Horses:**



- The Selected Ride-Off horses are selected for use in this specialty class only and will be approved by a YSJF representative.
- Approved Selected Ride-Off horses must be registered with the YSJF.
- Selected Ride-Off horses may compete in up to two classes at the horse show before the U25 Challenge competition begins.
- Any participant in the U25 Challenge found to have ridden a Selected Ride-Off horse within 15 days preceding the U25 Challenge will be eliminated.
- Selected Ride-Off horses are exclusively used for Phase III – Ride Off of the U25 Challenge competition.
- A minimum of four Selected Ride-Off horses will be used for the competition. Three horses are designated for the draw, and the fourth horse is a substitute horse in case of issues with one of the three Selected Ride-Off horses.

#### **Judging:**

- The U25 Challenge is judged on effective American Jumping Style of Riding.
- Two judges will officiate and provide one score for each phase of the competition with the exception of the Ride Off where a score will be given to the athlete on their horse and a second score given to the athlete on the Selected Ride-Off horse.
- Phase I is judged based on the execution of dressage movements along with athlete's ability to optimize the gymnastic exercises.
  - Scored with a multiplier of 1.5x
- Phase II is judged on effective riding, time, handiness and strategy over a Table II 2(d) course with time allowed in effect for both phases of the course.
  - Scored with a multiplier of 2x
- Judges must walk all courses in Phases I, Phase II, and Phase III.
- Please see scoring details for rails and time penalties in Phase II above.

#### **Host Criteria:**

- Two judges will officiate with one USEF "R" Equitation judge and one past or present High-Performance rider or trainer, who may or may not be a USEF Licensed Official.
- A Schooling supervisor is required.
- Host will provide the following awards:
  - YSJF Ribbons to the overall winner in Phase I and Phase II for each height section to 8th place.
  - YSJF ribbons and sashes for top three (3) in the Ride Off.
  - Trainer Award to the Overall Trainer in the amount of \$3,000.00
  - Best Challenge Horse Award trophy, sash, and ribbon
  - Selected Ride-Off horses (4) will receive complementary stall and entries.



- Selected Ride-Off horses will be selected by an appointed individual(s) selected by the YSJF.
- Selected Ride-Off horses must be sound and capable of jumping 1.15m -1.20m and must have no vices.
- The U25 Challenge may be held on a grass field or a sand/geotextile ring. Management must specify footing type in the prize list.
- The course designer must walk each of the courses with the judges and technical delegate.

**Technical Delegate:**

- The competition organizer must provide a Technical Delegate, who must be approved by the YSJF. The TD is responsible for the overall conduct of the U25 Challenge and serves as an interface and facilitator for everyone involved in the U25 Challenge.
- In case of a dispute, a rule or specification interpretation, or a violation, a committee made up of a senior person representing competition management, the TD, and a YSJF Board Member will convene to address the issue(s). Decisions from this group will be final and unappealable. YSJF representatives will review the matter after the event to discuss whether any changes or clarifications need to be made to the U25 Challenge.
- The guiding principles for any dispute will be fair competition, sportsmanship, horse and athlete welfare, and a level playing field.
- The appointed TD must attend the rider meeting and be familiar with all rules and scoring methods.
- The TD is responsible for obtaining copies of results from all phases, copies of judging cards, and copies of all courses. These materials need to be provided to the YSJF representative at the event or sent to the YSJF office within ten days of the conclusion of the competition.
- The TD must remain at the ring throughout all phases of the competition, and is responsible for participating in all course walks.

***The YSJF U25 Challenge and the related format and specifications are the sole properties of the YSJF and may only be held, conducted, or used upon the terms and conditions specified by the YSJF. The YSJF reserves the right to change language in documents related to the conduct of the U25 Challenge as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any deviations from the class specifications for the YSJF U25 Challenge are not permitted without the express written permission from YSJF prior to the printing of the prize list.***