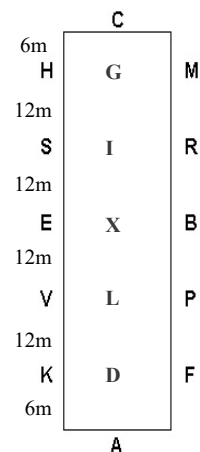


DIRECTIVES FOR THE 2026 NATIONAL SHOW SSA EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIP TESTS, CYGNET & NEWCOMERS EQUITATION AND EQUITATION JUMPING

- For qualification and conduct of tests, see Handbook Competition Rules, Sections I & II. Section II, paragraph D.6 does not apply to the Cygnet Championship (Competitors DO NOT REQUIRE Qualifying points for the Cygnet Championship)
- Competitors' turnout will be judged **immediately after** their Tests
- The Open & Intermediate Tests will be ridden in a 60m x 20m Arena. Cygnet, Novice and Newcomers Tests will be ridden in a 40m x 20m Arena
- In accordance with NSSSG rules, where the construction of the arena makes it impossible for competitors to ride round the outside, before the judges' signal to enter is sounded, they may ride inside the arena. Where a 40m x 20m Arena has been created within a 60m x 20m Arena competitors are permitted to ride in the entire Arena. Depending on the circumstances, competitors have the option of entering at A from inside or outside of the Arena
- Two Judges will assess the Correctness of the Rider's position and the influence on the Horse/ Pony's way of going and the Stability and Balance of the Saddle. One Judge will be positioned at "C" and one on the ¾ line for the Newcomers, Junior Novice and Adult Novice; one Judge will be positioned at "C" and one at "E" for the Junior Open, Adult Intermediate and Adult Open. There will be one Judge, positioned at "C", for the Cygnet.
- The Newcomers Class(es) required movements are detailed in the National Show Schedule
- Judges are requested to be mindful of their written comments, which should be tactful, diplomatic and constructive
- If awarding a mark of 5 or under, a comment should be made



These Directives have been compiled at the request of Judges, in order to establish a riding standard for Competitors, Instructors and Judges. Judges should ensure they have learnt the test(s) and be able to judge movement by movement and be confident with the test sequence.

CYGNET, YOUNG RIDER NOVICE, JUNIOR NOVICE, ADULT NOVICE & NEWCOMERS EQUITATION

RIDER

- Adopts a correct position showing suppleness and straightness and is in balance with the horse/pony.
- Has a secure seat independent of the reins.
- Applies correct aids effectively, avoiding unnecessary movement.
- Has horse/pony going freely forward accepting a consistent light contact from the rider.
- Performs transitions within a given area with ease.

HORSE/PONY

- Moves freely forward in a consistent rhythm, with regular unhurried paces.
- Is calm, relaxed and obedient to the aids.
- Remains straight when moving on straight lines and bends accordingly when moving on curved lines, showing some suppleness.
- Executes transitions smoothly and in balance, working to a consistent contact.
- Remains still when halted.

YOUNG RIDER OPEN, JUNIOR OPEN & ADULT INTERMEDIATE TESTS

RIDER

- Maintains a correct, supple, secure position with straightness and poise and is free from any form of stiffness.
- Has a secure seat independent of the reins and rides showing balance and harmony.
- Uses unobtrusive, effective aids and is more aware of weight aids and their influence on the horse/pony.
- Maintains a constant, light, acceptable contact with the horse's/pony's mouth and rides from leg to hand, thus becoming more effective.

HORSE/PONY

- Moves willingly forward and freely in all paces with regular, unhurried steps.
- Maintains balance and rhythm, showing suppleness in all paces.
- Willingly accepts the contact at all times, without tension, showing a correct outline and self-carriage.
- Executes transitions smoothly and calmly at a specific point.

ADULT OPEN TEST

RIDER

- Maintains a correct position combined with a secure, supple independent seat showing poise and horsemanship.
- Is able to execute the movements correctly and accurately.
- Is able to apply unobtrusive, effective aids, riding from leg to hand and use weight aids effectively as necessary.
- Rides a calm, rhythmical, accurate test, riding effectively and in total harmony with the horse/pony.

HORSE/PONY

- Maintains rhythm and balance at all paces, showing suppleness and straightness.
- Moves freely forward, to a consistent contact, in self-carriage and showing impulsion.
- Movements are carried out accurately and calmly, without resistance. Variation within the paces is shown as required

EQUITATION JUMPING

The notes below are appropriate for all Equitation Jumping classes.

Two Judges will assess competitors from different positions in the Arena.

- Arrives in the Arena appropriately prepared.
- Approaches each fence on a good line.
- Establishes a quality of pace suitable to jump each fence.
- Finds an appropriate and acceptable take off point for each fence.
- Maintains a balanced and secure position throughout the round.
- Maintains an acceptable rein contact with the horse/pony throughout the round.
- On the getaway from each fence; is balanced, under control and on the correct lead for the next fence.
- Maintains fluency throughout the round.

Please refer to the Handbook Guidelines for correct Equitation Turnout