

## **NCHJA “C” Show COVID-19 Protocols and Safeguards - FINAL**

As an affiliate of the USEF/USHJA, the North Carolina Hunter Jumper Association (NCHJA) is dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of horses and participants. USEF/USHJA has centralized the requirements and recommendations for competitions from public health experts that will be in effect at USEF/USHJA competitions, and NCHJA has adapted them herein to apply to “C” shows.

While there is no way to eliminate all risks related to COVID-19, the following requirements and recommendations are aimed to decrease the risk of COVID-19 infection. They are subject to modification as the guidance from the government and public health officials changes.

All NCHJA-sanctioned competitions must comply with all applicable federal, state and local regulations, requirements, and orders as well as WHO recommendations and CDC guidelines as they relate to mass gatherings and sporting events. There will be times when regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements may differ. In these instances, the more restrictive regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements will prevail and supersede all others.

Horse Show Managers must immediately implement the NCHJA “Requirements” listed on the following pages, and are very strongly encouraged to implement all “Recommended Best Practices” included, or similar practices, for mitigating risks related to COVID-19, until further notice.

### **Requirements:**

- 1) All participants must execute a waiver and release of indemnity for NCHJA. Consider adding to entry blanks for simplicity.
- 2) If a COVID-19 incident or outbreak occurs, NCHJA, all participants, and competition staff must be notified.
- 3) A copy of these protocols must be available a minimum of 14 days prior to the start of the competition to all participants, officials, and competition personnel.
- 4) All volunteers, officials, competition staff, and service providers must have their temperatures monitored once daily prior to the start of competition. Anyone with a temperature of 99.5° F (37.5° C) or higher will be asked to leave the facility.
- 5) Anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, has tested positive for COVID-19 within last two weeks, or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last two weeks\* cannot enter the competition grounds.

\*Exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties are exempted from this restriction.

- 6) Facemasks or face coverings are mandatory for all staff, officials, volunteers, service providers, and participants in any setting where there is a possibility of being within six feet of any other individual, when not mounted on a horse.
- 7) Horse Show Managers must provide facemasks or face coverings and hand sanitizer to competition staff, volunteers, and officials.

**\*\*A participant cannot be disqualified or penalized for wearing a facemask or face covering while competing\*\***

- 8) Signage that displays all applicable federal, state and local regulations, requirements and orders as well as WHO recommendations and CDC guidelines as they relate to mass gatherings and sporting events must be posted.
- 9) Social distancing requirements in compliance with current CDC and WHO guidelines must be enforced throughout the competition grounds at all times.
- 10) Trainers will be responsible for the conduct and adherence to these rules and guidelines during the competition. Trainers and/or barns are subject to expulsion from the grounds if guidelines are not followed. Please discuss with your group the importance of following the guidelines for all barn clients and support staff.
- 11) No public, spectators, or non-essential personnel such as guests or extended family are allowed at the competition.
- 12) Arrange judges' and other officials' areas to comply with social distancing requirements.
- 13) Maintain social distancing requirements at the ingates, course boards, and ring master/announcer stations. Consider multiple course boards, distributing copies of courses on paper or online apps, and both "in" and "out" gates, where possible.
- 14) Configure stabling to comply with social distancing requirements in order to manage concentration of horses and people.
- 15) Horse Show Managers will be responsible for informing individuals when they are not in compliance with the protocols and safeguards in effect at the competition, and Stewards shall report such situations on the Steward Report. Individuals refusing to comply with these protocols may be asked to leave the show grounds by the Show Manager.
- 16) Hand sanitizer and/or disinfectant spray must be provided at ingates, in the office, in the stabling areas, in the schooling areas near schooling jumps, near bathrooms or port-a-jons, and by any doors or high-touch surfaces.
- 17) Water available at ingates should be bottled only – no water coolers.
- 18) Restrict competition office access to essential personnel only. The number of participants allowed in the office at one time should be limited. Provide markers to

delineate 6 feet spacing between people in the office and in any waiting lines (e.g., markers on floor).

- 19) Install or make use of clear plastic, glass, windows, or other type of protective shield/barrier in front of office staff.
- 20) Determine equine/human capacity in relation to schooling areas, and restrict access in order to maintain social distancing requirements.
- 21) Create a method of giving ribbons and trophies that reduces or eliminates hand-to-hand contact.

**Recommended Best Practices:**

- 1) Social areas are strongly discouraged unless social distancing requirements are enforced in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations, requirements and orders as well as WHO recommendations and CDC guidelines as they relate to mass gatherings and sporting events. Any refreshments offered should be pre-packaged and available “to go.”

Limit and organize seating areas to comply with social distancing requirements.

- 2) Signage throughout the competition grounds (i.e. competition office, competition and schooling areas, barns, etc.) which includes recommendations about good hygiene along with informing participants and others about ways to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission is recommended to be posted.
- 3) Shows are strongly encouraged that all entries, adds, scratches, and feed/bedding orders be completed and paid for online.
- 4) Provide an ‘in’ door and an ‘out’ door to the office, if possible.
- 5) Consider utilizing technology for information transfer to mitigate the risk of virus spread by the manual transfer of paper (i.e. judge’s cards, scoresheets, etc.).
- 6) Mounting blocks should be available to avoid one-on-one contact between riders and grooms/assistants.
- 7) Participants are strongly encouraged to minimize time spent at the showgrounds, in order to limit contact and exposure between individuals.
- 8) NO LITTERING to minimize staff picking up potentially contaminated debris