

## Official ILHA Competition Rules

*Membership in the ILHA is a privilege not a right. Competing in ILHA shows is a benefit of the membership privilege.*

### ATTIRE

- Competitors are required to wear a long sleeve shirt with a collar (any style) and pants for all ILHA competitions. ILHA Freestyle classes are exempt from the attire requirements.
- Footwear can be any style but must be equine appropriate and safe (open-toed shoes are prohibited). Footwear during ILHA Freestyle classes must also be appropriate and safe.
- Violations of the ILHA attire rules will result in an automatic: “No Score”.
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### HELMETS

- All competitor 18 and under must wear a properly fitted helmet that is securely fastened under the chin for any ridden work in any ILHA Class (including Freestyle classes).
- Failure to comply with the ILHA helmet rule will result in a “No Score” for the pattern.

### TIME ALLOTTED

- Unless otherwise stated, the maximum time allowed for any ILHA pattern during a competition is 4 minutes.
- Unless otherwise stated, the maximum time allowed for ILHA Judges to judge a pattern in a Live Show is 2 minutes between competitors.
- The time allotment may be changed by the Show Manager for a show only if competitors and judges are informed of the changes prior to the start of the show.

### ARENA SET-UP

- For all patterns requiring cones:
  - Two cones must mark the center box of the arena/round pen/show area for

judging.

- Width – These two center cones must be 9 feet apart.
- Location – Start at the center of the arena or show area. Place one cone 4 feet 6 inches toward one end of the arena and 4 feet 6 inches from the center toward the other end of the arena. The total distance measured from the inside of one cone to the inside of the other cone must equal 9 feet.
- Two cones must mark the exact center line of the arena/round pen/show area and are to be placed up against the perimeter but on the inside of the fence/panel/arena wall/etc. A video showing how to set up cones can be found on the ILHA website under the Competition Tab.
- For all patterns with cones, all 4 cones must be in the arena and in the correct position before the horse enters. There is no penalty for cones that are knocked down.

#### VIDEO POSITIONING

- For Virtual Shows filming must take place from the center of the arena where the judge's seat would be (please see video on ILHA website for the diagram). All 4 cones must be visible at the beginning of the pattern but do not have to be visible for the entire pattern. For sake of accuracy the video may zoom in the competitor and horse but both the competitor and horse must be visible at all times.
- There cannot be any editing or breaks in the video of the pattern submitted for judging.
- Any violation of the ILHA Videoing rules will result in an automatic "No Score".

#### PATTERN JUDGING

- All Pattern maneuvers are scored on a scale of 0 (did not complete maneuver) to 5 (completed maneuver perfectly) including half points.
- All Freestyle elements are scored on a scale of 0 – 10 including half points unless otherwise stated.
- Penalties include:

- The horse going off pattern (does not adhere to the pattern as written). If the horse breaks pattern the maneuver that was not completed will receive a score of “0”. Scoring will resume with the next maneuver according to the pattern.
- If a horse goes off pattern (does not adhere to the pattern as written) a second time the pattern will receive a “No Score” for not completing the pattern as written.
- Any maneuvers added between the final maneuver of the pattern and exiting the arena will result in a “No Score”.
- Disconnection between horse and competitor
  - If a horse disconnects from the competitor by physically leaving and/or ‘running off’:
    - The first occurrence will result in a score of “0” for the maneuver during which they left and scoring will resume at the next maneuver after the horse and trainer reconnect and proceed with the pattern.
    - The second occurrence will result in an additional 5-point penalty.
    - The third occurrence will result in an “No Score” for the pattern.
  - If a horse disconnects from the competitor by physically leaving during a Freestyle performance:
    - The first occurrence will result in a 2-point penalty.
    - The second occurrence will result in an additional 5-point penalty.
    - The third occurrence will result in a “No Score” for the performance.

#### UNPLANNED DISMOUNT

- Any unplanned dismount of the rider resulting from horse's movement (including but not limited to horse bucking, running off or not under rider's control) and/or rider's loss of balance will result in a “No Score” for the pattern. Unplanned Dismounts will be determined at the Judge's discretion.
- If there are two judges and at least one declares an “Unplanned Dismount” both judges must give a “No Score” for the pattern.
- If there are an three or more judges the majority must declare an “Unplanned Dismount” for there to be a “No Score”.

- If there are an even number of multiple judges at least two judges must declare an “Unplanned Dismount” for there to be a “No Score”.

## LAMENESS

- If a horse is unsound/lame during an ILHA pattern or performance it will result in an automatic “No Score”.
- Soundness is determined at the sole discretion of the Judge

## EQUIPMENT

- The following tools & equipment are permitted for use during ILHA competitions:
  - Clickers are allowed in the competition arena and may be used at any time.
  - Liberty sticks, carrot sticks and whips (lunge, dressage, carriage, etc.) are permitted to direct and/or guide horse(s).
  - Halters, bridles, and/or bits are permitted if listed for specific classes.
  - Saddles, bareback pads, surcingles and other equipment are permitted where listed by class.
  - Spurs are permitted for ridden classes unless otherwise stated.
  - Use any equipment not listed in the ILHA Rules is at the Judge’s discretion. If a competitor has any questions, they must present them to judges or the show manager at least 24 hours before the show for approval or rule clarification.
- Any violation of the ILHA Equipment Rules will result in a “No Score”.
- The use of any piece of equipment will be governed by ILHA Judges, Stewards or officials of the event. Any tool or equipment may never to be used excessively, in an inhumane manner or in an abusive way. Violation of this will result in an automatic “No Score” for the pattern and a disqualification of the trainer from the remainder of the show.
- Any use of any equipment excessively, in an inhumane manner or in an abusive way at any ILHA event result in the termination of the ILHA Membership of all individual(s) involved.
- Enforcement of the Equipment Rules are at the discretion of ILHA Officials.

## TREATS/FOOD

- Administration of any treat or substance given orally either by hand, via a tool, or placed on equipment/props/ground during pattern or in the competition arena is prohibited.
- Violation of the ILHA Treats Rule will result in a “No Score”.

## CALLERS

- Competitors have the option of having a someone call out the pattern while they are performing at any ILHA show.
- Callers must be located outside of the arena or round pen where the pattern is taking place.
- Callers are only permitted to call the pattern as written.
- The use of callers will not be reflected in the scoring.
- Violations of the ILHA caller rules will result in an automatic: “No Score”.
- Coaching the competitor in any way by the caller or anyone outside the arena is not allowed and will result in an automatic “No Score”.

## FLAGGERS

(Optional use of flaggers)

- Flaggers may be provided at any ILHA event at the Show Manger’s discretion.
- Flagger are only permitted for ILHA classes involving horse(s) at Liberty unless otherwise stated.
- If Flaggers are available, all competitors will have the option of using flaggers.
- Flaggers must remain outside of the arena (in a minimum of 2 corners or at each of the 4 corners of the arena) and can only assist with a horse that has disconnected from the competitor.
- Flaggers can only assist if they are called on by the competitor either verbally or by signaling with a wave or nod or similar gesture.
- Flaggers can only flag from their respective area of the arena and must stop flagging when the horse reconnects with the competitor.
- If a Flagger accidently enters the arena and assists a horse or mistakes a cue and

enters the arena the competitor will have the option of starting the pattern over and can chose to do so immediately or be moved to the last competitor of the class. If the competitor chooses to redo their pattern the new pattern will be judges and all scores in the pattern they chose to redo will be erased.

- Any violations of the Flaggers rules will be decided in favor of the competitor.

