

A Brief Guide to the Basic Rules of Combined Training

Welcome to Central Vermont Horse Trials. To help our new participants in participating in the CVHT, we are including a basic list of “dos and don’ts.” Our list is not intended to be a guide to the sport. The United States Eventing Association (USEA) puts out several publications about Combined Training, including a rule book (download a pdf at <http://useventing.com/competitions/rules>) and an excellent introduction to the sport: *A Guide to your First Event* (order at www.eventingusa.com or call 703/779-0440).

All competitors must wear an ASTM/SEI certified equestrian helmet whenever they are mounted while at the event and must wear an approved safety vest for the jumping phases, as they run back to back at CVHT.

CLOTHING: Since CVHT is a schooling event, competitors should do their best to meet the following standards for the sport:

In the **Dressage** phase, competitors wear a white/light- colored shirt with either a stock tie or choker, dark riding coat, light-colored breeches, and black or brown tall riding boots (while half chaps are not allowed at a sanctioned event, they are at CVHT). In the **Cross-country** phase, competitors wear a shirt with sleeves, no neckwear. Cross-country safety vests are mandatory. In the **Stadium** phase, competitors typically wear the same clothing as XC. At CVHT, competitors are scheduled to go to stadium after XC they will not have a start time but will ride in the same order as cross country.

HORSES: Braiding is not required for any phase of the event. At sanctioned events, riders typically braid for dressage, but take out the braids before the cross-country phase.

TACK: English saddles are required for all phases. For the dressage phase, competitors may carry a whip (less than 120 cm/47 inches, including the lash). Snaffle bits are required, but martingales, leg bandages or boots are not allowed. For the jumping phases, a crop or bat may be carried, any bit may be used, and running martingales (not standing) are permitted.

General Information about the Riding Phases

The 2016 USEA Rules for Eventing will be followed with the exceptions noted below. If you have any questions, please come to the information table for clarification.

DRESSAGE: Please check in with the ring steward near the dressage arena when you begin your warm-up to make sure the schedule is on time and let the steward know you are warming-up. When the competitor before you has saluted and started to leave the arena, you may begin riding around the outside of the dressage arena. When the judge signals (typically a bell or whistle), you have 45 seconds to enter the arena at A and begin your test. If the bell rings during your test, you have made an error. Stop riding so the judge can let you know what your error was and tell you where to pick-up the test. At

a sanctioned event, if your horse leaves the dressage arena, you are eliminated. However, since CVHT is a schooling event, you will be allowed to complete your test.

JUMPING PHASES: It is forbidden for competitors to ride the cross-country or stadium courses before the competition; however, riders are allowed to walk (without their horses) both courses. The cross-country course will be open for walking any time prior to 8:00 AM and 15 minutes prior to the beginning of each division. Stadium will be open for walking prior to 8:00am.

CROSS COUNTRY/STADIUM: Warm-up will be together, as you will proceed from completion of your cross country directly to stadium. All competitors must ride safely and be respectful of other horse-rider pairs. Jumps are flagged and may be jumped only in one direction, keeping the red flag on the right and the white flag on the left. The penalty for jumping a warm-up fence in the wrong direction is elimination. Please check-in with the ring steward before warming up.

CROSS-COUNTRY: You must be ready at your scheduled time, the warm up steward will give you the ok to proceed up the walkway to the start box. To clear an obstacle you must go between the red and white flags in the correct order, then cross between the finish flags after the last obstacle.

Scoring: 1st refusal at any obstacle = 20 penalties. 2nd refusal at the same obstacle = 40 penalties. 3rd refusal at the same obstacle = Elimination. 4th refusal = Elimination. However, since this is a schooling horse trial, if you are eliminated at an obstacle you may continue as long as safety is not an issue, you are not holding up other competitors, and you have not been asked to leave the course by an event official.

Stadium will be in the same order as cross country you may proceed down the road upon completion of the course. When it is your turn to start the stadium course, as in dressage, you have 45 seconds after the bell is sounded to begin the course. Be sure to go through the start flags and just like in warm-up, keeping the red flags on your right, while you jump the consecutively numbered obstacles. After the last fence, be sure to go through the finish flags.

Scoring: Rail down = 4 penalties. 1st refusal = 4 penalties. 2nd refusal = 8 penalties. 3rd refusal = Elimination. However, since this is a schooling horse trial, at the discretion of the Stadium Judge, you may be allowed to continue in this phase and go on to cross-country.

You may school at the end of the event accompanied by another rider or coach.

We hope everyone will have fun
and enjoy the day!