

USETA Survey #2 Results Are In!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our second membership survey! We received **139 responses**, providing valuable feedback on several important topics facing our industry. Your input helps guide USETA's advocacy efforts and future initiatives.

Here are a few highlights:

✅ **87.8%** support the creation of a **Veterinary Review Panel** to evaluate anomalous positive drug tests and determine whether detected substances were present at performance-enhancing levels before penalties are assessed.

✅ **77%** support limiting **open numerical scoring** to hunter classics, derbies, WCHR competitions, and other featured events rather than utilizing it in all hunter classes.

✅ **77.7%** support replacing open numerical scoring in large hunter classes with **periodic standby orders**, allowing exhibitors to track potential placings without continuous numerical scoring.

✅ **71.9%** support establishing a **Designated Trainer Liaison** at horse shows to improve communication between trainers, exhibitors, and show management.

These results demonstrate strong member interest in improving fairness, transparency, and communication while preserving the traditions and integrity of our sport.

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to participate. Your voice matters, and these survey results will help shape USETA's priorities as we continue advocating on behalf of professional trainers and the hunter/jumper community.

Together, we're stronger in numbers.

Veterinary Panel

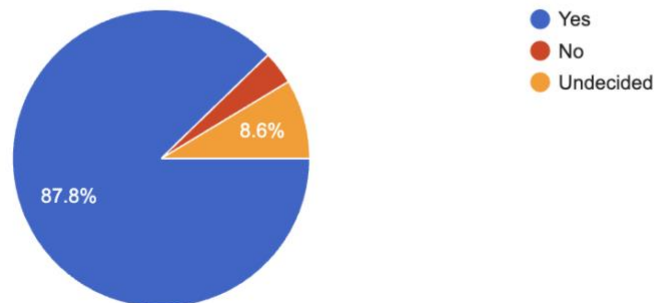
Because of the increased sensitivity of drug testing capabilities, increased use of supplements, and environmental factors outside of a trainer's control, exhibitors are experiencing anomalous drug testing positives. Examples of this include the following:

A. Cross-contamination resulting in the presence of prohibited substances like caBeine, CBD, or trazadone.

B. Overages of therapeutic medications even when administered under the allowable amount and outside the allowable window of time.

Are you in favor of USEF utilizing a panel of 3-5 practicing equine veterinarians to evaluate anomalous positive drug test results to determine if the substance was present in an amount that had a performance-enhancing effect and to use that determination as a factor in applying a penalty?

139 responses



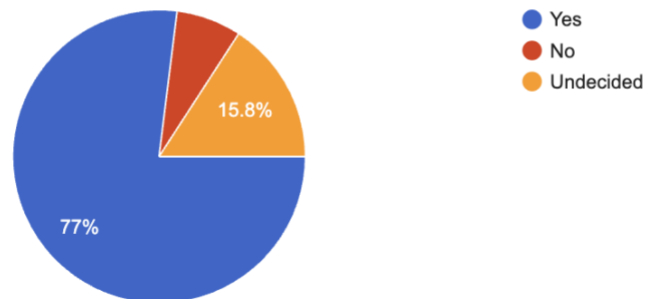
Open Numerical Scoring

Historically, hunter round scores were not announced except in classics or derbies because hunter judging is based on relative placement in each class. Some hunter judges and trainers have noted issues with the extensive use of open numerical scoring. Examples include the following:

- A. In large classes, continuing to score rounds that will be outside of the ribbons is time-consuming and cumbersome.
- B. Open numerical scoring can interfere with the training of riders who attach more meaning to the score than the feedback from their coach or trainer.
- C. Layperson confusion (e.g. parents of junior riders) because scoring can vary significantly from judge to judge.

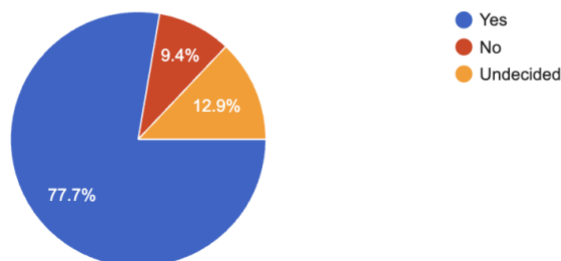
Are you in favor of utilizing open numerical scoring only in classics, derbies, WCHR competitions, or some other special event such as a hunter showcase?

139 responses



Are you in favor of a judge giving a standby order at regular intervals in large classes (other than classics, derbies, WCHR, etc.) instead of utilizing open numerical scoring as a way for exhibitors to keep track of potential placement?

139 responses



Designated Trainer Liaison

Show managers and trainers agree that open lines of communication regarding competitions are important. To facilitate communication, it has been proposed that shows have a Designated Trainer Liaison who will communicate directly with show management on behalf of trainers and exhibitors. This designation would not prevent individuals from communicating with show management on their own but rather would be a way for people who might otherwise be hesitant about approaching management to have a conduit for their concerns or suggestions. Are you in favor of having a Designated Trainer Liaison at each show?

139 responses

