

**ELITE  
EQUESTRIAN  
EVENTS**

**2016 RULE BOOK**

**RULES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2016**



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**Elite Equestrian Events strives to provide quality equine competitive sports for the trail rider.**

## **Elite Equestrian Events 2016 RULES Effective March 1, 2016**

**Rules published here are effective March 1, 2016, unless otherwise specified at the time of their enactment. These rules will remain in effect except as superseded by rule changes enacted by Elite Equestrian Events. All riders will be made aware of any superseded rule change at riders briefing and a copy of the rule book will be made available at every event for competitors to review.**

## ELITE EQUESTRIAN EVENTS DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY

1. Elite Equestrian Events does not assume the responsibility for the safety of any participants, volunteers, attendees or anyone on event grounds at any Elite Equestrian Events event.
2. All riders assume the risk of horseback riding. All riders MUST sign an Elite Equestrian Events waiver/release of liability acknowledging their assumption of risk in order to participate in any Elite Equestrian Events activity. A youth MUST have a parent or legal guardian sign for them acknowledging all of the above.
3. A youth is an individual under the age of 18.
4. A youth MUST wear an approved SEI/ASTM approved riding helmet and be accompanied by an adult rider. One adult rider is allowed to accompany up to six youth riders. Each youth rider MUST provide a written authorization from a parent or legal guardian permitting the youth to participate in an event.

## MEMBERSHIP

Currently Elite Equestrian Events does NOT offer or require a membership to participate in the competitive trail series events.

## ELITE EQUESTRIAN EVENTS DIVISIONS

**OPEN** – Open to any age rider, if under the age of 18, participation rules of the Youth division apply, . This is a competitive division. Obstacles in this division will be more difficult than those of the Amateur Division. Benefits of this division include ribbons 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> places, points towards series end prizes. Any rider may enter the open division but may not regress. A rider may ride one horse in open division and ride a different horse in Amateur division. A rider may ride more than one horse in the Open division. All points follow the horse and rider team.

(Example- One rider may bring two horses, a seasoned horse and an unseasoned two year old horse, the rider may choose to enter the seasoned horse in the open division and enter the unseasoned two year old horse in the amateur division.)

**AMATEUR** – Open to any age rider, if under the age of 18, participation rules of the Youth division apply. This is a competitive division. Obstacles in this division will be less difficult than those of the Open Division.

Benefits of this division include ribbons 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place and points towards series end prizes. An Amateur is classified as an individual that has NOT won 10 blue ribbons in Elite Equestrian Events series. Any amateur rider that has won 10 blue ribbons MUST move up to the Open division the following series. A division move is NOT required mid series.

A rider may ride more than one horse in the Amateur division. A rider may ride a horse in the Open division and a different horse in the Amateur division, keeping in mind that once entered in Open division, that particular horse and rider team may NOT regress back to Amateur division. All Points follow horse and rider team. (Example- One rider may

bring two horses, a seasoned horse and an unseasoned two year old horse, the rider may choose to enter the seasoned horse in the open division and enter the unseasoned two year old horse in the amateur division.)

**NOVICE**- Open to any age rider, if under the age of 18, participation rules of the Youth division apply. This is a competitive division. Obstacles in this division will be less difficult than those of the Open Division. Benefits of this division include ribbons 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place and points towards series end prizes. Novice riders are defined as those riders that have little to no experience or are new to the equine competitive trail sport. The riders that compete in Novice are allowed to compete in two consecutive series. They **MUST** advance to the Amateur Division after their second series. The number of actual rides they participate in each series is irrelevant. (Example – A Novice rider rides in only one spring/summer series ride and one fall/winter series ride, novice rider must advance to Amateur division. If Novice rider does not participate in two consecutive series rides, they can remain in the Novice division). A Novice rider may not compete in any other division other than Novice. A Novice rider may ride more than one horse in the Novice division. All points follow the horse and rider team.

**Youth** - Open to any rider under the age of 18. This is a competitive division. Obstacles in this division will be less difficult than those of the Open Division. Benefits of this division include ribbons 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place and points towards series end prizes. If rider has been competing in the Youth division and has an 18<sup>th</sup> birthday during mid series, youth rider is allowed to finish out the current series they are participating in and **MUST** move to Amateur division at the start of the following series. All youth riders must be accompanied by an adult. All youth riders must have signed waiver/release of liability form signed by a parent or legal guardian authorizing the youth to participate in the event. All youth riders **MUST** wear an SEI/ASTM approved riding helmet.

**Friends** – Open to any age rider, if under the age of 18, participation rules of the Youth division apply. This is a NOT a competitive division. This division is for those that would like to come and see what competition trail riding is all about. Friends can ride along the trail, try the obstacles and participate in the activities offered during the event. Friends are NOT judged and do NOT have the benefit of ribbons or series end prizes. Depending on the number of Open, Amateur, Novice and Youth participants, Friends division participants may be asked to ride out at a later ride out time so the judged competitors can get back in a timely fashion and management can get scoring completed to keep the flow of events smoothly.

**In-Hand** – Only offered in our Arena Challenge. Open to any handler, if under the age of 18, participation rules of the Youth division apply. This is a competitive division. Obstacles in this division will be the same as the Amateur division. Benefits of this division include ribbons 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place and points towards series end prizes. A rider must ride their horse through the course first before taking horse in-hand. Multiple horses may be taken through by the same handler. Any equine shown in this division MUST be shown in halter and lead rope only. This division is open to any equine, weanling and up.

#### **ELITE EQUESTRIAN MEDIA RULE**

Elite Equestrian Events reserves the right to video tape, photograph, and/or record in any way, any person or any animal participating. Participation in any event hosted by Elite Equestrian Events gives Elite Equestrian Events authorization to use all that is obtained as Elite Equestrian Events sees fit for promotion of events.



## ELITE EQUESTRIAN EVENTS RULES

1. **Proper horseback riding attire must be worn, long pants, boots or heeled riding shoes, no tennis shoes, no shorts, no loose fitting clothing.**
2. **Horses MUST wear some type of head gear.**
3. **Horses MUST wear some type of saddle with stirrups, no bare back pads.**
4. **No type of head restraint or training device allowed, including but not limited to any type of martingale, tie down, overcheck etc.**
5. **No radios or extra items that do not pertain to trail riding may be taken out on trail.**
6. **Use of aids such as spurs, crops etc. are allowed but excessive or harsh use of aids are not allowed and could result in disqualification.**
7. **Participants (Youth) under the age of 18 MUST wear a helmet.**
8. **All horses entered in any event must be serviceably sound**
9. **Stallions are allowed but cannot be shown by a minor and MUST have a yellow ribbon in their tail.**
10. **Negative coggins is required to be on premise and must be shown at check in.**
11. **No performance enhancing drugs.**
12. **No Excessive force or sportsman like behavior.**
13. **Fire arms must not be carried out on trail.**
14. **No pets allowed out on trail, in barn or arena. Pets must remain contained at participants truck and trailer.**
15. **A rider may NOT pony another horse.**
16. **Schooling on obstacles during the event is NOT allowed.**
17. **A Fall of the horse or rider is a disqualification.**
18. **Participants must stay on marked trail.**
19. **All riders must sign up for a ride out time and MUST be checked off the ride out roster before proceeding down the trail.**
20. **No alcohol or drugs.**
21. **Judges decision is final, riders are not allowed to protest.**

## **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

- Involuntary fall of horse or rider
- Very noticeable lameness
- Rude or unsportsmanlike behavior
- Any drug or alcohol use
- Carry of firearms

**RIDE HOST RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REMOVE ANYONE FROM THE PREMISES FOR ANY REASON RIDE HOST SEES FIT.**

## **SERIES POINTS**

**All points will accumulate and count towards series end.**

**All points follow each horse and rider team, one rider may have multiple sets of points with different horses, in different divisions.**

**1<sup>st</sup> – 4 Points**

**2<sup>nd</sup> –3 Points**

**3<sup>rd</sup> –2 Points**

**4<sup>th</sup> –1 Point**

**5<sup>th</sup> –No Points**

**6<sup>th</sup> -No Points**