

**2025 / 2026 Rules and Regulations of the
Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Horse Show Adult Equitation Championship
and all
Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Horse Show Adult Medal Classes
and all
Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Horse Show Adult Area Championships**

**** PLEASE NOTE: Membership in the National Horse Show Association (NHSAA) is required for all riders competing in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services NHS Medal Classes/Taylor Harris Insurance Services NHS Adult Area Championship Classes/Taylor Harris Insurance Services NHS Adult Championship and all trainers who have riders competing in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services NHS Medal Classes/ Taylor Harris Insurance Services NHS Adult Area Championship Classes/ Taylor Harris Insurance Services NHS Adult Championship. The membership/qualifying year is September 1 – August 31. ****

The National Horse Show Association of America, Limited (“NHSAA”) is responsible for the organization, presentation and administration of the Taylor Harris Insurance Services (THIS) National Horse Show Adult Equitation Championship (Finals). To ensure the selection of appropriate judges and course designers for the Championship, the NHSAA communicates with the National Horse Show Association Equitation Committee. USEF rules govern this competition, The Taylor Harris Insurance Services NHS Adult Medal Area Championship classes (Area Championships) and the Taylor Harris Insurance Services National Horse Show Adult Medal qualifying classes (THIS NHS Adult Medal). In case of any conflict between these Rules and USEF rules, USEF rules shall govern.

ALL RIDERS AND TRAINER MUST BE CURRENT NHS MEMBERS TO COMPETE IN THE MACLAY, HAMEL MEDAL AND THIS ADULT MEDAL CLASSES AT THE TIME OF THE SHOW IN ORDER FOR POINTS TO BE ACCRUED TOWARDS QUALIFYING FOR OUR EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS. POINTS WILL NOT BE AWARDED RETROACTIVELY TO RIDERS THAT COMPETED BUT WERE NOT MEMBERS OF NHSAA. IF YOU COMPETE IN AN ASPCA MACLAY CLASS AS A NON-MEMBER, IT WILL HOWEVER COUNT AS ONE OF YOUR (14) SHOWS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT YOU RECEIVE POINTS.

Courses for the THIS NHS Adult Medal Classes, Area Championships and Finals

- To be shown over a course of not less than eight obstacles.
- Course must include:
 - One combination (including an oxer)
 - At least two changes of direction after the first obstacle
 - At least three of the following
 - Bending Line
 - Narrow Jump (5'6"-8')
 - Roll back turn
 - Fence at the end of the ring
 - Long approach to a single jump
- 1/3 of the obstacles must be oxers
- Obstacle height to be set at 3'
- Maximum width of oxers 3'3"
- Maximum width of triple bars and hogs backs 3'6"
- Liverpools, water jumps or water used as decoration are prohibited
- Banks, ditches, grobs and other natural obstacles are prohibited

Specifications for the THIS NHS Adult Medal Classes, Area Championships and Finals

The THIS NHS Adult Medal, Area Championships and Finals are open only to senior amateur members of the USEF who have reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year in accordance with GR101. Previous winners of a THIS NHS Adult Equitation Championship age section who have aged into the next age section may compete in any THIS NHS Medal classes, Area Championships, as well as the next comparable THIS NHS Adult Equitation Championship age section. Previous winners of the THIS NHS Equitation Championship eldest section are ineligible to compete in any THIS NHS Adult Medal, Area Championships, or the Finals.

Riders must be current members of the National Horse Show Association (“NHS”) to compete in all THIS NHS Adult Medal Classes, Area Championships, and Finals. Trainers (or coaches when applicable [see USEF GR108]) of riders competing in all THIS Adult Medal Classes, Area Championships, and Finals must also be members of the NHS. The NHS Membership year is September 1 through August 31. Adult rider annual contributions shall be \$35. Trainer (or coach) annual contributions shall be \$50. A rider may enter any NHS Adult Medal anywhere in the United States according to the conditions published in the current Rule book of the USEF.

THIS NHS Adult Medal Classes

Judging

Riders will be judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control of the horse. Judging will be equally weighted between the jumping rounds and the flat phase. Following completion of the jumping phase, the judges will select the riders with the best overall jumping rounds to advance to the flat phase. Any rider who has a refusal, loss of stirrup iron, or breaking of stride on course will be ineligible to qualify for the flat phase.

Tack Changes—Changing of tack, including bit and/or bridle, between phases is permissible.

Following the Flat Phase—Following completion of the flat phase, all tack and equipment used during the preliminary over-fences round may be replaced on the horse prior to any testing, if applicable. Horse Show Management must allow sufficient time for any rider requiring a tack change to do so before testing begins.

Only riders who have completed the course and competed in the flat phase may receive ribbons or points. USEF Tests 1-23.

Conditions for holding the THIS NHS Adult Medal Classes:

- Only competitions recognized by the USEF are eligible to hold the THIS NHS Adult Medal.
- All competitions must apply to hold the THIS NHS Adult Medal 30 days in advance using the forms found on www.nhs.org.
- Only one rider per horse.
- To fill a THIS NHS Medal three (3) competitors must complete the course.
- If necessary to fill a THIS NHS Adult Medal class it may be combined with any Local, Regional or National Adult Equitation Class provided there is a testing phase (either on the flat or over fences) included as part of the class routine.
- If there are 40 or more entries at the beginning of a THIS NHS Adult Medal, it may be divided by every other number and run as two separate sections.
- If there are 50 or more entries at the beginning of a THIS NHS Adult Medal, it must be divided by every other number and run as two separate classes.
- A THIS NHS Adult Medal class may be split by age (18-24 and 25 and Over) at any time as long as there are at least three competitors in each age group.
- A THIS NHS Adult Medal class may not be run using a California split.

THIS NHS Adult Area Championship Classes

Membership

To compete in the 2026 THIS NHS Adult Championship Classes riders must have been members of the National Horse Show Association (“NHS”) for the current years qualifying period (September 1, 2025-Aug 31, 2026).

Judging

Riders will be judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control of the horse. Judging will be equally weighted between the jumping rounds and the flat phase. Following completion of the jumping phase, the judges will select the riders with the best overall jumping rounds to advance to the flat phase. Any rider who has a refusal, loss of stirrup iron, or breaking of stride on course will be ineligible to qualify for the flat phase.

Tack Changes—Changing of tack, including bit and/or bridle, between phases is permissible.

Following the Flat Phase—Following completion of the flat phase, all tack and equipment used during the preliminary over-fences round may be replaced on the horse prior to any testing, if applicable. Horse Show Management must allow sufficient time for any rider requiring a tack change to do so before testing begins.

Only riders who have completed the course and competed in the flat phase may receive ribbons or points. USEF Tests 1-23.

Conditions for THIS NHS Adult Medal Area Championship Classes:

- Only competitions recognized by the USEF are eligible to hold the THIS NHS Adult Medal Area Championship Classes.
- Only one rider per horse.
- The same horse must be used for all Rounds/Phases of the competition.
- Two refusals will eliminate a rider from competition.
- Conventional tack per USEF EQ 105.5a. Martingales not permitted for the flat phase.
- To fill a THIS NHS Adult Medal Area Championship Class three (3) competitors must complete the course.
- A THIS NHS Adult Medal Area Championship may not be run using a California split.

Qualifying for THIS Finals at the Area Championship:

The Champion, Reserve Champion and Third place finisher from each THIS Area Championship, if not otherwise qualified, will receive invitations to compete in the Taylor Harris Insurance Services NHS 3'3" Equitation Finals provided they have points from competing in THIS Adult Equitation classes in the same competition year.

QUALIFYING

To qualify for the Finals conducted by the NHSSA, contestants must win a total of ten points from THIS NHS Adult Medals. Points to be based on the scale of 10, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and ½ points for first through eight place in any THIS NHS Adult Medal. The qualifying period for each year's Finals ends August 31. If a horse show starts on or before August 31, THIS NHS Adult Medal Class points acquired at that show will count towards the current year.

FINALS

Three separate and distinct THIS NHS Adult Equitation Championships will be offered, broken into three age groups using a floating split to keep age groups even.

Judging

To be judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control of the horse. Judging will be equally weighted between the jumping rounds and the flat phase.

First Round

To be shown over a special course of jumps set to the above stated specifications and posted one hour before the start of the class. The course for the Finals shall be designed by a USEF Course Designer who must be selected and/or approved by the NHSSA. The Judges for the Finals will have input and give approval on the course design.

Flat Phase

A minimum of twenty-four (24) riders, if available, are required to show at a walk, trot, and canter. At the sole discretion of the judges, additional flat work may be called for, but all groups must be asked to perform the same test. No more than twenty (20) riders at a time may be asked to work together. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible. Following a flat, all tack/equipment that was used in the preliminary over fences round prior to testing may be put back in place.

Second Round

All riders who competed in the Flat Phase will be asked to return for a final round over a second course following the above listed specifications. The final round course may include tests.

Testing

Testing of up to six riders is optional using USEF Tests 1-23.

Conditions for holding the THIS NHS Adult Medal Finals

Horses that compete in the Hamel Foundation National Horse show 3'3" Equitation Championship or the THIS National Horse Show Adult Equitation Championship are eligible to compete in the Maclay National Championship Class.

Only one rider per horse.

The same horse must be used for all Rounds/Phases.

Two refusals will eliminate a rider from Finals competition.

Conventional tack per USEF EQ 105.5a. Martingales not permitted for the flat phase.

Trainers/Coaches permitted to ride and school competitors' horses.

Trainers/Coaches permitted to walk any and all courses with competitors.

In the event a horse becomes incapacitated in any phase of competition, upon examination of the Horse show's veterinarian and a judge or steward, a substitution of a horse that has been previously entered and checked in may be permitted by the NHSAA.

Awards

The Judges will select a Champion and a Reserve Champion.

Ribbons through tenth place.

Trophy to the Trainer of the winning rider.

Entries and Entry Closing Dates

For the closing date of entries, please refer to the National Horse Show prize list. Entries must be on the Official Entry Form, signed and submitted with the class entry fee made payable to the NHSAA. The NHSAA reserves the right to reject any late or unsigned entries or entries not submitted with all entry fees.

Questions and Disputes

Any questions or disputes relating to the Championship, other than that specifically described above, shall be decided according to the rules of the USEF, if applicable, or according to the Prize List if such question is not covered by the rules of the USEF.