



MEMORANDUM

TO: Registered and Recorded Hunter Judges

FROM: United States Hunter Jumper Association

DATE: March 29, 2021

RE: Jogging FAQ for Hunter Judges

Below are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Judges when officiating Hunter classes that include a jog at Federation Licensed Competitions. The intent is to ensure consistent practices if/when a horse or pony's soundness comes into question. Below addresses the appropriate procedures for evaluating soundness when trotting a circle at the end of the class.

This resource is a collaborative effort of USHJA and USEF staff, volunteers, and Licensed Officials.

Jogging FAQs for Licensed Officials

Q: How will the exhibitors know where to perform the jog?

A: Horses will be jogged in the direction of a normal closing circle. Some course designers may choose to note a specific area on the course diagram.

Q: What should I do if a rider trots a circle but I didn't feel I saw the horse trot for long enough or the rider did not use a loose rein?

A: Call the back gate/starter or the announcer and have them ask the rider to trot another circle on a loose rein. It is a good idea to communicate with your back gate/starter at the beginning of the day and let them know how you plan to handle these situations.

Q: What should I do if I ask a rider to jog a second circle and the rider chooses to jog the opposite way?

A: Request the rider to jog another circle and specify which way to track.

Q: If scores are not given, how will an exhibitor know that their horse has been eliminated due to unsoundness?

A: Judges should call the back gate/starter over the radio and let them know that the horse will not be considered for an award in that class. The back gate/starter can then share this information with the exhibitor or trainer.

Q: In a back-to-back class, may an exhibitor return for the second class after being eliminated for soundness in the first class?

A: Yes, the horse may have sprung a shoe or stepped on a rock in the first jog. If the horse jogs lame again, you will again let the back gate/starter know that the horse will not be considered for an award.

If the horse is too lame to perform in the second class, immediately let the back gate/starter know that the horse may not return and inform the steward as soon as possible.

Q: What happens in the case of a sprung shoe?

A: If the horse jogs lame it will not be eligible for an award in that class but may return for future classes. Judges should not allow the horse to leave and be seen by a farrier then re-present the horse.

Q: Are judges required to ask for a second circle from all horses that are unsound - regardless of their degree of lameness?

A: No. There are different reasons to ask for a second circle. One would be to recheck soundness. Another would be because either the exhibitor failed to trot the circle, or the licensed official did not see the horse perform the circle. Use of the second circle is completely at the judge's discretion.

Q: Should a rider be allowed to request to re-present their horse to the judge for soundness?

A: No. An exhibitor may always ask for a meeting with the judge by contacting the steward, but the judge's decision is final.

Q: What score will be given if a horse jogs lame?

A: Elimination for the class (EL). If the class is the first round of a two-round class (such as a Classic) the horse is ineligible to compete in the second round.