



## FAQ: Conflict of Interest Rules for Hunter and Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Judges

On December 1, 2024, the conflict of interest rules for Hunter and Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Judges will be updated to provide more clarity. The following FAQ is a general guide to help navigate the conflict of interest rules located in GR1039. The list of rated hunter sections is located in GR312. Please note this FAQ does not encompass all potential situations that may arise. Any questions related to the conflict of interest rules must be submitted in writing to [coi@usef.org](mailto:coi@usef.org).

- 1) Can I officiate back-to-back weeks at the same venue, regardless of licensee?

**Answer:** Yes, with conditions. Judges are permitted to officiate back-to-back weeks at the same venue so long as they do not officiate the same section when the section is rated the same.

Example: Two competitions have a Hunter Premier rating and are within 125 radial miles of one another and occur within 20 days of each other. At the first competition a judge only officiates the Premier rated Performance and Green Hunter sections. At the second competition the same judge can officiate for all other Premier rated sections except the Performance and Green Hunter sections.

- 2) Can I officiate the same section, with the same rating, at the same venue within a 20-day period?

**Answer:** No, judges are not permitted to officiate the same section with the same rating within a 20-day period or 125 radial miles.

Example: A judge officiates a National rated Children's Hunter section. Within the next 20 days, the same judge cannot officiate a National rated Children's Hunter section within 125 radial miles of the first competition.

- 3) Can I officiate the same section, with the same rating, back-to-back weeks if the competitions are more than 125 radial miles apart?

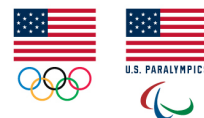
**Answer:** Yes, conflict of interest rules do not apply to competitions more than 125 radial miles apart or more than 20-days apart.

- 4) Can I officiate the USEF Hunter Seat Medal equitation class at a Premier rated competition if I officiated that same equitation class at a Regional rated competition within a 20-day period, and the competitions are within 125 radial miles of each other?

**Answer:** No, this is not permitted because the judge is officiating the same equitation class, which is included in the classes that are restricted according within the rule.

- 5) A Hunter Judge officiated a Premier rated Performance Hunter section at a competition last week. Can the same judge officiate a National rated Performance Hunter section this week within 125 radial miles?

**Answer:** Yes, this is permitted as the sections have different ratings.



- 6) A Hunter Judge officiated the National rated International Hunter Derby class last week. Can the same judge officiate the National rated International Hunter Derby this week within 125 radial miles?

**Answer:** No, this is not permitted as it is the same class with the same rating.

**Further Examples:**

Week 1 and Week 2 are within 125 radial miles and 20-days of each other. Please note that sections at Hunter competitions are no longer referred to as "A" or "AA" rated. As defined in GR312, certain hunter sections and classes will hold the same rating of the competition (Premier, National, or Regional).

Hunter Judges		
Week 1	Week 2	Permitted or Not Permitted?
Officiate the Premier 3'6" Performance Hunter section	Officiate the National 3'6" Performance Hunter section	Permitted
Officiate the Premier 3'6" Performance Hunter section	Officiate the Premier 3'6" Performance Hunter section	Not permitted (same section with same rating)
Officiate the Premier 3'3" Performance Hunter section	Officiate the National 3'6" Performance Hunter section	Permitted
Officiate the Premier Performance Hunter section	Officiate the Premier Regular Pony Hunter section	Permitted
Officiate the Premier Performance Hunter section	Officiate the Regional Performance Hunter section	Permitted
Officiate the Premier rated International Hunter Derby class	Officiate the National rated National Hunter Derby class	Permitted
Officiate the Premier rated International Hunter Derby class	Officiate the Premier rated International Hunter Derby class	Not permitted (same Derby class with same rating)
Officiate the National rated International Hunter Derby class	Officiate the Regional rated National Hunter Derby class	Permitted

Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Judges		
Week 1	Week 2	Permitted or Not Permitted?
Officiate the USEF Hunter Seat Medal class at a Premier rated competition	Officiate the USEF Hunter Seat Medal class at a National rated competition	Not permitted (same class)
Officiate the ASPCA Horsemanship class at a Premier rated competition	Officiate the USEF Hunter Seat Medal class at a Premier rated competition	Permitted
Officiate the USEF Hunter Seat Medal class at a Premier rated competition	Officiate the USEF Hunter Seat Medal class at a Regional rated competition	Not permitted (same class)