

**Open Free Jumping Competition**  
**sponsored by**  
**American Hanoverian Society**  
**Mid-Atlantic Hanoverian Breeders Club**

**Rules and Jumping Chute Set up**

**OPEN COMPETITION**

The competition is open to all registered horses with papers. The competition will have one class for three year olds and one class four and five year olds (this class may be split based on age if entries warrant). Each horse should be entered in the age class based on the year foaled. For example, all horses born in 2005 are to be shown in the three year old class in 2008.

**JUDGING**

Free jumping is used to evaluate the natural talents of young jumping horses. This information is useful for early evaluation of horses for their jumping potential and for breeding purposes. Each horse is given a score from 1 to 10 on each of the following three components.

Technique -The judges will provide a score for the horse's technique over the jumps. Elements of this score include tightness and quickness of the front legs, bascule and use of the neck, suppleness of the back, and style of the hind legs.

Scope -The judges will provide a score for the horse's scope over the jumps. Elements of this score include carefulness and ease with which the horse handles the maximum height and width of the oxer.

Canter and Overall Impression -The judges will provide a score for the horse's canter and overall impression. Elements of this score include canter form and stride, athleticism, type, character, temperament, intelligence, and suitability as a grand prix jumper.

Horses in the competition are judged by comparison relative to a scale employed by various warmblood breeding societies. A perfect score is 30. The judging panel will consist of two or three judges.

## JUMPING CHUTE AND ARENA SETUP

The jumping chute will be setup such that horses enter the chute on the left lead and head away from the in gate. The jumping chute will be closed at its end to facilitate capture.

The jumping chute will be comprised of three jumps. The distance from the first jump to the second jump will be 22 feet 6 inches and the distance from the second jump to the third jump will be 24 feet.

The first jump will be a simple crossrail or vertical with a height not greater than 20 inches. The second jump will be an oxer having a height of the back rail not less than 20 inches and not greater than 28 inches and a spread not less than 18 inches and not greater than 24 inches.

The third jump will be an oxer having a spread not less than 36 inches. The front rail of the oxer will be 3-4 inches lower than the back rail on each pass.

For three year olds, the height of the back rail will be set as follows:

Height 1 0.9m (3 feet)

Height 2 1.0m (3 feet 3 inches)

Height 3 1.1m (3 feet 7 inches)

Height 4 1.2m (3 feet 11 inches)

For four and five year olds, the height of the back rail will be set as follows:

Height 1 0.9m (3 feet)

Height 2 1.1m (3 feet 7 inches)

Height 3 1.2m (3 feet 11 inches)

Height 4 1.3m (4 feet 3 inches)

Additional heights of the back rail greater than Height 4 may be provided at the discretion of the judges and the ring steward in consultation with the owner.

## CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

Each horse is to be lead into the arena by a handler of the owner's choice. People allowed in the ring will be the judges, the judges' assistant, the ring steward, and three whip handlers (one after the first jump, one after the second jump, and one behind the horse at the entrance). Owners may utilize the whip handlers provided (preferred) or provide their own whip handlers; however, safety of the horse and the participants will not be compromised.

Each horse will be allowed 1-2 minutes of free running in the arena to warm up during which the judges will assign the score for Canter and Overall Impression. The ring steward will direct the handler when to enter the chute. The ring steward in consultation with the judges will control the raising of the jumps and whether the horse will proceed to the next level.

Each horse will be allowed a maximum of two successful attempts at each height for a typical total of 8 passes through the chute (plus any refusals). Each horse will be allowed two refusals; on the third refusal, the horse will be excused from the arena. After the third refusal, a courtesy pass at a lower height may be provided upon request.

Each horse will receive a score provided the horse, at least one time, successfully jumps (i.e., without lowering a rail) Height 3 as specified for each class. Horses not successfully jumping Height 3 at least one time will not receive a score.

At any time, the judges in consultation with the ring steward may excuse any horse, owner, and/or handler(s) from the arena or the property, if in their discretion, the horse and/or the handler are not adequately prepared or equipped for the competition, the horse is handled in an unsafe or abusive manner, or in any other situation that presents unsafe or unfavorable conditions to the horse, the handler, the owners, the judges, the spectators, the participants, the sponsors, and/or their respective agents or employees. In such event, no entry or stabling fees shall be refunded.