2026 SNHSA Rulebook Changes and Amendments

Changes and revisions made to the 2026 SNHSA Rulebook are outlined below. The 2026 SNHSA Rulebook is available on the SNHSA.org website. The following is a summary of all of the changes and additions that were approved by the Board for the 2026 show season.

Summary of changes (all additions for 2026 are noted in turquoise below):

1) Article I. Section B.1.: SNHSA anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy
2) Article I. Section I.: Board of Directors additions and changes, Committee changes
3) Article II. Section B.: Duties of Directors, deleted rule regarding chairs and co-chairs requirement
4) Article II. Section D.: Stewards redefined
5) Article II. Section E.3.: Meeting rule word changes
6) Article IV. D. reword Conditions of Participation at SNHSA-sanctioned events
7) Article V. Section C. 2-3 and 7: Change of show date requirements for Show Managers and wording regarding stewards.
8) Article V. Section E. 2-3: Change of wording and deletion of SNHSA Special Events requirements
9) Article VI. Section A. 4: special jumper class designations for jumper classes
10) Article VII. Section C. 2 & 4.: Allow previous Medal Final winners to compete in Medal classes
11) Article VII. Section E. SNHSA Pro/Jr-Am Speed Derby: change number of fences for the course
12) Article VII. Division 10 – Mini Hunter change of fence height to 2'
13) Article VII. Division 22 – High Pony Jumper – change of fence height to .90 meters and dropped mandatory optimum time
14) Article VII. Division 18-28: Renamed Jumper classes and changed some fence height and cross-entry fence heights.
15) Article VII. D. 4: Adjust 3rd height of Challenge Cup to match the new division specs.
16) Article VII. D. 5: cross-entry rule defined for change of 3rd height of Challenge.
17) Article V. B. 2: The Board has waived the number of show weekends or individual SNHSA-sanctioned shows for the 2026 show season

Rule changes made 4/16/26

18) Article VII. G.: Changed Division name, eliminated age-group references for Equitation Divisions
19) Article VII. G: Changed Walk/Trot Division to Equitation
20) Article VII. G: Changed Jr/Am Crossrail division to Hunter/Equitation and added Hunter Over Fences
21) Article VI. A. 4b.: Changed the Special Declaration form wording for Special Equitation classes to reflect the change of Equitation divisions

Rule changes made prior to 7/7/26

22) Article VII. G.: Adjusted the cross-entry rule for Division 6 – Jr/Am Crossrail 18" Hunter/Equitation
23) Article II. D. 3: Updated the steward rule to meet USHJA rules

Rule change made 8/19/26

24) Article VII. E.: Removed the requirement for Pro rider for the Pro/Jr-Am Speed Derby; renamed as the **SNHSA Speed Derby**

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1) Article I. Section B. 1. SNHSA anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy

B. Purpose

The purpose of **these rules and bylaws are to communicate our culture,** provide guidelines for those who wish to obtain SNHSA sanction for their horse shows**,** explain the point system for SNHSA year-end awards**,** and to present the rules **for showmanship and horsemanship**. **Our organization has used the NorCal Rulebook, United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) and US Equestrian resources for adopting larger community standards, principles and guidelines.**

1) It is the policy of [SNHSA] not to discriminate based on race, creed, marital status, gender sexual

orientation, age, physical disability, veteran status, political affiliation, color, religion or national origin. Harassment of any nature is illegal and will not be tolerated.

2) Article I. Section I. 2026 Board of Directors

	Board member and position	Committees	Contact information
Officers	**Liz Reader President**	• Awards and Recognition • Competition Standards and Structure	(775) 220-2270 snhsa.president@gmail.com
	Annelise Appleseth 1st Vice President	• Competition Standards and Structure • Member Education and Opportunities • Awards and Recognition	(651) 497-7827 ajaequestrian@gmail.com
	Susan Howe Secretary/Treasurer	• Awards and Recognition • Member Communications & Outreach • Fundraising and Sponsorship	(775) 750-6475 susanhhowe@gmail.com
Emeritus	**Lynne MacLean**	• Fundraising and Sponsorship • Competition Standards and Structure	(775) 722-4261 m.lynne.maclean@gmail.com
Members at Large	**Mindy Suszan**	• Member Education and Opportunities • Member Communications and Outreach	(775) 232-4235 mindysuszan@yahoo.com
	Elle Morrison	• Fundraising and Sponsorship • Member Education and Opportunities	(714) 728-9286 anamom310@gmail.com
	John Blomeyer	• Fundraising and Sponsorship	(925) 406-9153 johnblomeyer@gmail.com
	Amanda Brock	• Awards and Recognition • Fundraising and Sponsorship	(775) 336-8194 nunnybear@yahoo.com
Probationary Members	**Samantha Bouchie**	• Competition Standards and Structure • Fundraising and Sponsorship	(603) 707-9229 sampipingrock@gmail.com

2026 Committees

Committee	Chair	Committee Members
Awards and Recognition	**Annelise Appleseth**	Susan Howe, Lisa Mays, Liz Reader, Amanda Brock
Fundraising and Sponsorship	**Elle Morrison**	Lynne MacLean, Susan Howe, John Blomeyer, Samantha Bouchie, Amanda Brock
Competition Standards and Structure	**Liz Reader**	Lynne Maclean, Annelise Appleseth, Samantha Bouchie
Member Education and Opportunities	**Annelise Appleseth**	Mindy Suszan, Lisa Mays, Elle Morrison
Member Communications and Outreach	**Susan Howe**	Mindy Suszan

3) **Article II. Section B.: Duties of Directors, deleted rule regarding chairs and co-chairs requirement**

Duties of Directors

1. Directors are required to attend all Board meetings and to notify the secretary if they cannot attend.
2. Directors are:
   a. ~~required to chair or co-chair a committee to effectively accomplish the duties and the goals of the association.~~
   b. expected to co-steward at least one show with a qualified Director during their first year.
   c. expected to steward at least one show annually from the second year forward.

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4) **Article II. Section D.: Stewards redefined**

D. Stewards

A~~n~~ current or former SNHSA Officer or Director shall serve as Steward at all SNHSA-sanctioned horse shows.

1. Once the show calendar has been finalized, the Board of Directors will assign Stewards to each show and notify the show manager of the Steward's name.
2. For all USHJA Outreach competitions SNHSA will follow all USHJA Steward requirements and guidelines.

4. For each show, a Steward's report form shall be submitted to the SNHSA ~~President or Vice Presidents~~ board only if a formal complaint is submitted, and/or in the event of a fall of horse or rider. Falls of horse or rider shall be reported to the show office by the party for who fell or their representative immediately. The steward report shall include:
   a. Steward's name
   b. Horse show location
   c. Horse show manager
   d. Judge's name
   e. Space available for incidents, comments, resolutions, and protest(s) filed.

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5) **Article II. Section E. 3.: Board meeting rule word changes**

3. **Attendance by Board members**: Board members are expected to attend monthly Board meetings, offered virtually and in-person. Board members must inform the secretary of their meeting preference, virtual or in-person, at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
   a. All Board members are required to attend in-person two strategic planning meetings in the year, which occur in the Spring and in the late Fall.
   b. All Board members are expected to volunteer for duties at the SNHSA Benefit Weekend.~~, usually held in September~~
   c. Board members shall notify the SNHSA Secretary or President if they cannot attend a meeting. Failure to notify the Board of an absence will be an unexcused absence.
   d. A Board member may have two unexcused attendances per year.

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6) **Article IV. D. reword Conditions of Participation at SNHSA-sanctioned events**

D. Conditions of Participation at SNHSA-sanctioned events ~~horse shows~~

Each person, by attending a SNHSA event, either as a participant or a spectator ~~becoming a member of SNHSA~~, agrees and promises to indemnify and hold SNHSA harmless (for him/herself, his/her heirs, children, minor dependents, spouses, and/or wards), as well as the SNHSA Board of Directors, and any persons working on behalf of SNHSA, of and from any and all obligation, liability, claim, injury or damage sustained or incurred by said person, or by his/her horse, pets, other property or family members, or as a direct or indirect result of any participation in, or presence at any horse show, meeting, event, or any other activity of any kind or nature whatsoever,

in which the SNHSA may be involved or associated, with the same identification to include any and all legal expenses that may be incurred.

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7) Article V. C. 2-3 and 7: Change of show date requirements for Show Managers

2. Show managers have first right of refusal to their previous year's show date up until the year end planning meeting, or Dec. 1st whichever is later. After that time, all dates for which date reservations have not been submitted, shall be released and become available to any applicant for a sanctioning fee of $75.
   ~~**Oct. 15th is the deadline** each year for submitting date reservations. Previous year's show managers shall be given preference for comparable show dates for the current competition year. The preliminary show calendar will be confirmed by the November meeting.~~
3. ~~After Dec. 1, all dates for which date reservations have not been submitted, shall be released and become available to any applicant for a sanctioning fee of $75.~~

7. Each SNHSA-sanctioned show must be attended by a SNHSA Board member.~~, who will serve as the Show Steward.~~

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8) Article V. Section E. 2-3: Change of wording and deletion of SNHSA Special Events requirements

E. Location of SNHSA Benefit Show(s) and/or benefit shows

1. The SNHSA Benefit Show(s) will be held at a facility and date voted on by the Board of Directors.
   a. For purposes of year-end awards rules, Venue is defined as the show management, regardless of the physical location.
   b. For year-end awards in the Equitation Division: For the purpose of venue, **a rider** who wishes to accrue points for year-end awards, and who already has two different venues, may designate the SNHSA Benefit Show as a third, or "wild card" venue
   c. For year-end awards in Jumper or Hunter divisions: For the purpose of venue, for **horses** to accrue points for year-end awards with two different venues already, the Benefit Show can be designated as a third, or "wild card" venue.
2. All show managers who held SNHSA-sanctioned shows ~~at their facilities~~ during the competition year will be eligible to host the Benefit Show.
3. ~~The SNHSA Medal Finals will be held at the same facility and weekend as the Hunter and Equitation divisions Benefits. The SNHSA Jr/Am Challenge Cup and Pro/Jr-Am Speed Derby will be held at the same facility and weekend as the Jumper divisions Benefit.~~

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9) Article VI. Section A. 4: special jumper class designations for jumper classes

4. **Point Declarations for special classes at sanctioned shows**
   In order for points to be allocated from special classes offered at SNHSA-sanctioned horse shows, riders must complete a **SNHSA Special Class Declaration Form**. Unless the Special Class Declaration Form is completed and submitted to the show secretary at the time of entry or prior to the start of the class, riders will not receive points for the special class.
   a. **Special jumper classes:**
      1) Points may be earned for jumper classes with corresponding jump heights.
      2) Exceptions:
         - 0.65m - 0.65m Jumper or 0.65m Low Pony Jumper ~~Kindergarten or Low Pony Jumper~~
         - ~~.75m-.80m - Pre-Training or High Pony Jumper~~
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- .90m – 0.90m High Pony Jumper, 0.90m Low Child/Adult Amateur Jumper, or 0.90m Jumper ~~Level 1 Jumper or Low Child/Adult Amateur Jumper~~
- ~~1.0m - Level II or Level III Jumper~~

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10) Article VII. Section C. 2 & 4.: Allow previous Medal Final winners to compete in Medal classes

C. 2. SNHSA Mini Medal Final specifications:

f. ~~The~~Winners of SNHSA Mini Medal Finals ~~is no longer eligible to~~ may compete in ~~the~~ SNHSA Mini Medal Classes, but may not compete in future Mini Medal Finals. ~~Mini Medal winners may, however, compete in the JR/AM Medal Classes.~~

4. **SNHSA Jr/Am Medal Final specifications:**

f. ~~The~~Winners of the SNHSA JR/AM Medal Final ~~is no longer eligible to~~ may compete in ~~the~~ SNHSA Mini or JR/AM Medal Classes, but may not compete in future Jr/Am Medal Finals.

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11) Article VII. Section E. SNHSA Pro/Jr-Am Speed Derby: change number of fences for the course

E. SNHSA Pro/Jr-Am Speed Derby

5. The course will consist of no fewer than 12 ~~16~~ total fences, with each rider's section consisting of a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of ~~no fewer than~~ eight (8) fences. The rider competing at a height of 0.70m ~~(2'3" Puddle Jumper)~~ will ride first, and the rider competing at 0.90m ~~(2'11" Level I/Low Child/AA Jumper)~~ will ride second.

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12) Article VII. Division 10 – Mini Hunter change of fence height

Division 10 – Mini Hunter 2' ~~to 2'3"~~ Open

Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony must be registered with SNHSA in order for points to accrue for year-end awards. To be judged on performance, soundness and manners. Extreme speed will be penalized. To be shown over a course of fences 2'~~ to 2'3"~~. **Horse/rider combination may not cross-enter over 2'6" at the same show.**

1. Classes:
   a. To be judged over a course of fences 2'0"~~ to 2'3"~~. Oxers not to exceed 2' in width.
   b. Hunter Under Saddle – To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely.

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13) Article VII. Division 22 – High Pony Jumper - change of height to .90 meters, drop mandatory optimum time

Division 22 - 0.90m High Pony Jumper ~~High Pony Jumper Division 0.75 to 0.80 meters - Mandatory Optimum Time (Table IV)~~

Horse/rider combination must choose which pony jumper division to compete in, but must not compete in both divisions at the same show. Optimum time is not mandatory for this division.

To be shown over a course of fences ~~.75 to .80~~ 0.90m with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony registered with SNHSA in order for points to accrue for year-end awards. **Horse/rider combination may not cross-enter the Low Pony Jumper Division at the same competition.**

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14) Article VII. Division 18-28: name and fence height changes, and cross-entry fence height updates

Division 18 – 0.65m Jumper ~~Kindergarten Jumper meters~~ - Mandatory Optimum Time (Table IV).
To be shown over a course of fences 0.65 meters with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. No solid jumps permitted. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony registered with SNHSA in order for points to accrue for year-end awards. **Horse/rider combination may not cross-enter into any class over .80m or 2.6" at the same competition.**

Division 19 – 0.65m Low Pony Jumper ~~0.65 meters~~ - Mandatory Optimum Time (Table IV).
To be shown over a course of fences 0.65 meters with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. No solid jumps permitted. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony registered with SNHSA in order for points to accrue for year-end awards. **Horse/rider combination may not cross-enter the High Pony Jumper or any class over .80m or 2'6" at the same competition.**

Division 20 – 0.70m Jumper ~~Puddle Jumper meters~~ - Mandatory Optimum Time (Table IV).
To be shown over a course of fences 0.70 meters with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. No solid jumps permitted. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony registered with SNHSA in order for points to accrue for year-end awards.

Division 21 – 0.80m Jumper ~~Pre-Training Jumper 0.75 to meters~~ - Mandatory Optimum Time (Table IV).
To be shown over a course of fences ~~0.75 to~~ 0.80m with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony registered with SNHSA in order for points to accrue for year-end awards.

Division 23 – 0.90m Low Child/Adult Amateur Jumper ~~0.90 meters~~ (Non-Pro)
To be shown over a course of fences 0.90m with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony must be registered with SNHSA for points to accrue for year-end awards.

Division 24 – 0.90m Jumper ~~Level I Jumper 0.90 meters~~
To be shown over a course of fences .90 meters with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony must be registered with SNHSA for points to accrue for year-end awards.

Division 25 – 1.0m Jumper ~~Level II Jumper 0.95 to 1.0 meters~~
To be shown over a course of fences ~~.95 to~~ 1.0m with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony registered with SNHSA for points to accrue for year-end awards.

Division 26– 1.05m Jumper ~~Level III Jumper 1.0 to 1.05 meters~~
To be shown over a course of fences ~~1.0 to~~ 1.05 meters with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony registered with SNHSA for points to accrue for year-end awards.

Division 27 – 1.10m Jumper ~~Level IV Jumper 1.10 to 1.15 meters~~
To be shown over a course of fences 1.10m ~~to 1.15 meters~~ with spread/width not to exceed height of fence. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony must be registered with SNHSA for points to accrue for year-end awards.

Division 28 – 1.15 – 1.20m Jumper ~~Level V Jumper 1.20 meters~~
To be shown over a course of fences 1.15 to 1.20m with spread/width not to exceed height of

fence. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony registered with SNHSA for points to accrue for year-end awards.

15) **Article VII. D. 4: Adjust 3rd height of Challenge Cup to match the new division specs.**

4. The Challenge Cup teams compete at three levels: 0.70m (2'3" or .70m Jumper), 0.90m (2'11" or .90m High Pony Jumper, .90m Low Child/AA Jumper or .90m Jumper), and 1.0m (3'3" or 1.0m Jumper).

16) **Article VII. D. 5: cross-entry rule defined for change of 3rd height of Challenge**

5. Those horse/rider combinations competing at 0.70m (2'3") may not have competed at SNHSA shows over 0.95m (3'1") during the current show year. Each horse may only compete on one team.

17) **Article V. B. 2: The Board has waived the number of show weekends or individual SNHSA-sanctioned shows for the 2026 show season**

1. **Managers are responsible for knowledge of the SNHSA Rules and Bylaws, and are subject to the fines and late fees described therein. For the 2026 show season, this rule has been waived:** Each manager will be limited to a maximum of three (3) weekends or six (6) individual SNHSA-sanctioned horse show days, whichever is greater, a year. Modifications can be made at the discretion of the Board.

18) **Article VII. G.: Changed Division name, eliminated age group references for Equitation Divisions**

Equitation Divisions

Division 1 – 2'3" Equitation ~~13 & Under~~

Open to Junior and Adult Amateur riders ~~aged 13 and under~~. Rider must be a SNHSA member for points to accrue for year-end awards. The horse/pony does not have to be registered.

1. Classes:
   a. Hunt Seat Equitation – Flat
   b. Equitation Over Fences – **2'3" ~~or 2'6" or 2'9"~~ and horse/riders combinations ~~entered in the 2'3" fence height~~ may not cross-enter over 2'6" at the same show.**

Division 2 – 2'6" Equitation ~~14-17~~

Open to Junior and Adult Amateur riders ~~aged 13 and under~~. Rider must be a SNHSA member for points to accrue for year-end awards. The horse/pony does not have to be registered.

1. Classes:
   a. Hunt Seat Equitation – Flat
   b. Equitation Over Fences – ~~2'3" or~~ 2'6" ~~or 2'9" and riders entered in the 2'3" fence height may not cross-enter over 2'6" at the same show.~~

Division 3 – 2'9" Equitation ~~18 & Over~~

Open to Junior and Adult Amateur riders ~~aged 13 and under~~. Rider must be a SNHSA member for points to accrue for year-end awards. The horse/pony does not have to be registered.

1. Classes:
   a. Hunt Seat Equitation – Flat
   b. Equitation Over Fences – ~~2'3" or 2'6" or~~ 2'9" ~~and riders entered in the 2'3" fence height may not cross-enter over 2'6" at the same show.~~

19) Article VII. G: changed Walk/Trot Division to Equitation

Division 5 – Walk/Trot Equitation (Non-Pro)

Rider must be a SNHSA member ~~and horse/pony must be registered with SNHSA in order for points to accrue for year-end awards.~~ Riders will ride for Gold, Silver and Bronze year-end awards. Open to beginner riders who have never shown in a class requiring the canter (non-pro). To be judged on performance and manners. Extreme speed will be penalized. **Riders may not cross-enter into any class to be judged at the canter at the same show.** To be shown over a simple course of no more than four (4) poles.

1. Classes:
   a. ~~Hunt Seat~~ Equitation – Flat
   b. ~~Hunter Under Saddle – To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely.~~
   c. Walk/Trot Equitation Over Poles – Rider to two-point over poles and post the trot in (between, with diagonals to count around the corners but not between poles.
2. If any Walk/Trot class has eight (8) or more entries, it must be split into two sections. Two sets of awards and ribbons must be given, and SNHSA points will be given to each section.
3. Criteria for year-end awards in Walk/Trot are based on points **earned** versus points available and are as follows:
   a. 1 point earned for every class the rider enters and completes.
      10 points – Gold (if rider meets the Venue Rule requirement)
      8 points – Silver
      6 points – Bronze
4. To be eligible for year-end awards in the **Walk/Trot division**, riders are not subject to the Venue Rule requirement. The only qualifications for Silver and Bronze awards are that the rider must be a SNHSA member.
   a. Riders who meet the Venue Rule requirement are eligible to earn the Gold award if they have earned the required amount of points.

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20) Article VII. G: Changed Jr/Am Crossrail Division to Hunter/Equitation and added Hunter Over Fences component

Division 6 – Jr/Am Crossrail 18" Hunter/Equitation (Non-Pro)

Points for this division will be awarded to the rider. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony must be registered with SNHSA in order for points to accrue for year-end awards. To be judged on performance, soundness and manners. Extreme speed will be penalized. Trotting is allowed. To be shown over a course of fences 18". **Horse/rider combination may not cross-enter over 2'0" at the same show.**

1. Classes:
   a. To be shown over a course of fences 18".
      i. Hunter Under Saddle **–** To be shown at a **walk and trot only,** both ways of the ring. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely.
      ii. Hunter Over Fences 18"
      iii. Hunt Seat Equitation – flat, walk/trot only, both ways of the ring.
      iv. Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences 18"

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21) Article VI. A. 4b.: Changed the Special Declaration form wording for Special Equitation classes to reflect the change of Equitation divisions

b. **Special equitation classes:**

~~1)~~ For a special equitation class, ~~all age-appropriate equitation divisions are eligible to Juniors and Amateurs,~~ points will be allocated to the corresponding height division.

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22) Article VII. G. Adjusted the cross-entry rule for Division 6 – Jr/Am Crossrail 18" Hunter/Equitation *(This rule is retroactive to the beginning of the 2026 Show Season.)*

Division 6 – Jr/Am Crossrail 18" Hunter/Equitation (Non-Pro)

Points for this division will be awarded to the rider. Rider must be a SNHSA member and horse/pony must be registered with SNHSA in order for points to accrue for year-end awards. To be judged on performance, soundness and manners. Extreme speed will be penalized. Trotting is allowed. To be shown over a course of fences 18". **Horse/rider combination may not cross-enter over 2'0" or .65m jumpers at the same show.**

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23) Article II. D. 3: Updated the steward rule to meet USHJA rules

3. Stewards must meet all requirements for the appropriate USHJA category, Outreach competition, be an SNHSA member in good standing, and be on the approved SNHSA stewards list.

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24) **Article VII. E.: Removed the requirement for Pro rider for the Pro/Jr-Am Speed Derby; renamed as the SNHSA Speed Derby**

2. Teams consist of two riders, a Professional, ~~and either~~ a Junior or Adult Amateur rider. Both riders must be SNHSA members in good standing. Coordinating team attire is encouraged for each team.
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