

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/19/2024	

Rule Change Intent

The jogging of a circle at the conclusion of the round has shown to be an efficient way to confirm whether a horse is sound. It is now time to make the process more consistent across the rated sections in the hunters and equitation. Many riders do it as a matter of habit now, and it is a good habit that should be reinforced. With inconsistencies between rated sections, it just makes it more confusing and chaotic for judges and exhibitors.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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EQ102 Judging

1. **SOUNDNESS.** *All horses/ponies must be serviceably sound. The following options may be used to determine soundness.*

- A. *Trot a circle on a loose rein following any equitation round over fences. Exception: Jogging will not be required in testing phases.*
- B. *In hand jog preceding a championship/finals class.*

Horses/ponies that are unsound will be eliminated and ineligible for an award in that class. The judge's decision regarding soundness is final. Horses/ponies that are not presented for soundness, must be asked to return to the ring immediately for soundness review. If the exhibitor does not return, they will be eliminated the relevant class.

Unsoundness does not penalize a competitor unless it is sufficiently severe to impair the required performance. In such cases, the imposition of a penalty is at the judge's discretion. (Exception: Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes held at Hunter/Jumper Competitions where, in a case of unsoundness sufficiently severe to impair the required performance, the judge(s) must eliminate the competitor from that class and inform the competition manager, who in conjunction with the Official Veterinarian and the Steward, will evaluate disqualifying the horse from further participation in the competition.)

HU138 Adult Amateur

[...]

~~5. Adult Amateur Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~

HU139 Low Adult Amateur

[...]

2. Low Adult Amateur Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.

HU144 Children's Hunter Sections

[...]

~~3. Children's Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~

4. Individual classes may be entered. (Exception: Under Saddle classes. See HU 129.2).

HU145 Low Children's Hunter Horse Sections

[...]

~~2. Low Children's Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~

HU146 Low Children's Hunter Pony Sections

[...]

~~3. Low Children's Hunter Ponies are not required to jog for soundness.~~

HU147 USHJA Hunter Sections

[...]

~~7. USHJA Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~