

## **Judging Equitation**

Hunt seat equitation on the flat is an evaluation based on the ability of a rider to perform various maneuvers in harmony with his/her horse. The communication between horse and rider through subtle cues and aids should not be obvious. Equitation is judged on the rider and his/her effect on the horse. Hunt seat equitation on the flat provides a base for a natural progression to over fence classes.

**SCORING may be on a basis of 0-20 with ½ point increments acceptable, an approximate breakdown follows:**

**20:** Excellent equitation including body position and use of aids. Pattern is performed promptly, precisely, and smoothly.

**18-19:** Generally excellent performance with one minor fault in appearance and position of exhibitor or execution of the pattern

**16-17:** Generally good pattern execution and equitation with one minor fault in precision or execution of pattern (performance), or appearance and position of exhibitor.

**14-15:** Average pattern that lacks quickness or precision, or rider has obvious equitation flaws that prevent effective equitation, or commits two or three minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

**12-13:** One major fault or several minor faults in the performance and/or appearance and position of exhibitor that precludes effective communication with the horse.

**10-11:** Two major faults or many minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor

**6-9:** Several major faults or one severe fault in the performance, or appearance and position of exhibitor. Exhibitor demonstrates a complete lack of riding ability or commits a severe fault in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

**1-5:** Exhibitor commits one or more severe faults in the performance, or appearance and position of exhibitor, but does complete the class and avoids disqualification