

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	

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
HU 118 (134-24)	

Arabian
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/31/2025 Draft 1: Although the committee agrees with the intent of this rule change, the verbiage as currently written would require all EQ sections to complete the option B method for soundness, in which the committee does not agree with. If the verbiage was amended to apply the two options of checking soundness only for an equitation round over fences, the committee would approve.

Connemara
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/25/2025

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Morgan
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/20/2025 Draft 1: The committee does not agree with the manner in which the verbiage is currently written. As proposed, the rule would apply to all Equitation classes in all divisions and would require them to complete the in-hand jog preceding a championship/finals class. If the verbiage was re-configured to only apply for any equitation round over fences, the committee would approve.

National Hunter Committee
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/14/2025

National Show Horse
Draft 1: No Action 03/19/2025

Saddle Seat Eq

USHJA

EQ102 Judging

1. **SOUNDNESS.** *All horses/ponies must be serviceably sound. Horses/ponies that are unsound will be eliminated and ineligible for an award in that class. The judge's decision regarding soundness is final. The following options may be used to determine soundness in hunter/jumping seat equitation.*
 - 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.*

~~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.~~