



# Horseathlon®

## Regulations

Version 2021 (V1.2)

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## 1. Foundational principles

**Horses are not sports equipment, but sensitive and delicate creatures. Anyone who takes part in an equestrian event with their horse bears a great responsibility.**

In a Horseathlon® competition, the focus is on the motivated cooperation of the horse. Work is done with understanding, affection, and respect. Horseathlon® competition is not about achieving the goals of "higher", "faster" or "further" in a short time. Those who consider the aspects of equine training through Horseathlon® will realize what the true goal of an equine sport must be: Namely, the confirmation of a harmonious relation and insightful work.

- Horseathlon® is open to all equids: Horse, pony, mule, donkey. All breeds are welcome.
- Horseathlon® is open to all horse lovers - be it in mounted as well as in guided categories.
- Horseathlon® is open to all equine riding styles, be it English, Western, Classical, Baroque or Gaited.
- Horseathlon® is open to all age groups. The different categories provide an excellent opportunity for both horse and rider to compete in a competition that suits their ability and performance level.
- The promotion of young talent is particularly close to our hearts.

### Notes

In this document, the masculine form is used for simplicity, the feminine form is of course included.

When the phrase "horse" is used, pony, donkey and mule are always included. When the phrase "rider" is used, the handlers of the unmounted categories are always included.

## 2. General provisions

### 2.1 Destination

Promote equine equestrianism and the versatility of recreational riding.

### 2.2 Testing

Horseathlon® is an eventing competition consisting of the following three disciplines:

- Trail/dressage ridden. This discipline shows the horsemanship skills and the attention of the horse to the rider's aids.
- Trail guided. This shows the horse's attention and obedience, as well as the harmony between handler and horse.
- Serenity. This shows the horse's trust in its handler and its composure in the face of unfamiliar situations.

For the purposes of these regulations, all types of tasks are set in a way that promotes cooperation between man and horse and does not expose them to any danger.

A distinction is made between the 1\*(one-star) event and the 2\*\*(two-star) event:

- In the 1\* event, a course with 5 obstacles per discipline is completed.
- In the 2\*\* event a course with 8 obstacles per discipline is completed.

### 2.3 Ensuring compliance with ethical guidelines

The organizer provides, if possible, an experienced professional as an ethics supervisor HORSEATHLON, who supervises the compliance with the ethical guidelines HORSEATHLON as well as the compliance with the following competition rules.

### 2.4 Precondition for a valid registration

Horses must be free of injuries and contagious diseases.

- The main judge has the authority to exclude a horse from the competition The age of the horse must be provable on request.

### 2.5 Eligibility

All riders and handlers who have the necessary knowledge and skills to complete an eventing course as described in article 2.2 and who have a horse, pony, donkey, mule or mule that is at least 4 years old (3 years old when unriden) are eligible to participate. SVPS riding license is not required.

### 2.6 Tender

The organizer prepares the announcement according to the Horseathlon®Competition Commission.

Entries for the events must be made using the Internet form (online) or the entry form. The registrations must be filled out correctly, legibly and completely. For children and young people under 18 years the signature of the legal guardian is mandatory.

### 2.7 Entry fee

The entry fee is determined by the organizer after consultation with the Horseathlon®Competition Commission.

In case of non-participation in the test, there is no right to a refund of the entry fee. The organizer retains the authority to exercise discretion regarding this ruling..

If the event is cancelled by the organizer, the paid entry fees will be refunded in full within 60 days (exception: catastrophic events).

## 2.8 Prizes

Prizes are at the discretion of the organizer.

## 2.9 Officials

Judges and co-judges are provided by the Horseathlon® Competition Committee. They are trained and authorized by this body.

As a rule, the trail/dressage judge acts as chief judge.

The course builder for 2\*\* events is provided by the Horseathlon® Competition Committee.

For 1\* events, the course builder is provided by the organizer and only receives the course plan from the Horseathlon® Competition Commission.

The panel of judges and the course builder form the jury. The co-judges are excluded.

## 2.10 Sanctions law

Riders/leaders or horses that are obviously overtaxed in a test may be excluded by the judge. Riders/handlers who mishandle or overtax their horses on the warm-up area may be warned or excluded from the competition by the supervisor present on the warm-up area and appointed and authorized by the Horseathlon® Competition Committee.

In case of gross misdemeanors, participants can be banned from further events after a written warning and in case of repetition.

## 2.11 Right of recourse

The decisions of the jury, judges, course builders and the organizing committee are binding. The persons concerned have the possibility to submit a written appeal to the Horseathlon® Competition Commission within three days after the incident. A deposit of CHF 100 must be paid at the same time as the appeal.

The Horseathlon® Competition Commission will make the final decision. If the appeal is approved, the deposit will be refunded.

# 3. Regulations for participants

## 3.1 Attire rider/guide

Clean, appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes are required in all disciplines.

For children and young people under 18 years of age, the wearing of a riding helmet with three-point fastening or a western hat with safety shell is mandatory for the ridden tests.

A helmet is recommended for adults. The Horseathlon® Competition Committee and the organizers draw the attention of riders who ride without a helmet to the fact that they do so at their own risk and disclaim any liability.

## 3.2 Bridle and equipment

Ground work:

In serenity and trail guided, halters, knotted halters or padded cross bridles are allowed. Crops or carrot sticks without string are allowed.

Riding:

All normal horse bits and bitless bridles are permitted (exceptions see article 3.3).

Crops or carrot sticks are allowed. A saddle is mandatory.

## 3.3 Prohibited equipment

- Sneakers or low shoes in the ridden disciplines
- Spurs (exception: level 1)
- Saddle and bridle during guided phases
- Mechanical hackamore, serreta
- Bits with a shank, curb bits (exception: level 1)
- Chin straps or chin chains that are buckled too tightly, sharp nose straps like bicycle chains, etc.
- Any type of locking strap, locking noseband as well as Mexican nosebands and Hanoverian nosebands.
- Any type of auxiliary reins.
- Fly masks and blankets in the course.

At any test, the judge may require the removal of equipment if it is not appropriate for the horse or gives the rider/handler or horse an unfair advantage.

In case of wrong equipment or accessories the participant can be excluded from the test.

## 3.5 Number of participations

- A participant may compete with a maximum of two horses per show day.
- A horse may only be used once per day (exception: Horseathlon®Children and 1\* -Event.)

In a 1\* event with different handlers, the horse may be entered 1x for the ridden course and 1x for the guided course, or 2x for the guided course.

## 3.4 Test / Course

- The obstacles must be completed in the prescribed order.
- Each obstacle must be approached from the prescribed side.
- Each obstacle must be completed in the prescribed gait.
- The competitor may ride/approach an obstacle no more than three times, after which they must immediately continue the course upon a hint from the judge.
- The course builder will set a maximum time for completing the course. However, the given time must allow a calm working/riding.
- There is a maximum of one jumping task per course. Obstacle height: max. 50 cm.

Trail/Dressage:

Ridden test with obstacles on the theme of trail, skill and dressage.

Trail guided:

Guided test with obstacles on obedience, dexterity and dressage in hand.

Serenity:

Guided test with obstacles and scare obstacles on the theme of composure.

### 3.6 Implementation

- The course plans will be published or sent by the organizer one to three weeks before the event.
- The courses must be completed by heart.
- Joint course inspections will only take place in exceptional cases. The maximum time can be seen on the respective course plan.
- The starting times specified by the organizer must be strictly adhered to.
- Participants who arrive late may be excluded from the competition.
- The course may not be entered with the horse before the test. Violation leads to disqualification.
- Only the horse-rider pair that completes the test may be in the course. If another horse-rider pair enters the course without permission, this can lead to disqualification.
- The competitor has to register correctly with the judge when entering the course, stating name and first name, name of the horse and starting number.
- A possible change of rider or horse must be reported to the secretary's office at least 30 minutes before the start of the competition, otherwise the pair of riders will be excluded from the competition.
- If safety requires it, the judge may prohibit the participant from starting at any time.
- If safety requires it, the jury or the judge can change the conditions of the test or stop the test.
- Riders/handlers who punish their animals without reason or excessively or endanger themselves and others, whether in the course or in the warm-up area, may be excluded by the judges.

## 4. Categories and difficulty levels

General notes

Category names Levels / Difficulty

D = ridden category

F = guided category

1 = difficult

2 = medium difficulty

3 = easy

The entry age is open for all categories; exception: Horseathlon®Child. Only one recommendation will be given for each category.

### 4.1 Category D1 - ridden difficult

- Mounted category for advanced horse-rider pairs. Challenging tasks are set.
- With a result of 225 points in the 2\*\* event and 135 points in the 1\* event, the team is qualified for the Swiss Championships.



- Youth under 18 qualify at this level under the same system as adults.
- Recommended minimum age rider: 18 years.

#### 4.2 Category D2 - ridden medium

- Mounted category for experienced horse-rider pairs. The tasks set are of medium difficulty.
- With a minimum score of 240 points for a 2\*\* event and a minimum score of 144 points for a 1\* event, you are qualified for the Swiss Championships.
- Youth under 18 qualify at this level under the same system as adults.
- Recommended minimum age rider: 16 years.

#### 4.3 Category D3 - ridden easy

- Mounted category for Horseathlon® beginners. The tasks are kept relatively simple.
- A SM qualification is possible in the category D3 only for participants under 18 years.
- With a result of 225 points in the 2\*\* event and 135 points in the 1\* event, the team is qualified for the Swiss Championships.
- More capable riders have the right to change to the D2 category at the next Horseathlon® event in order to qualify for the Swiss Championships there.
- Recommended minimum age rider: 14 years.

#### 4.4 Category F1 - guided difficult

- Unmounted category for advanced participants. Difficult tasks are set.
- With a result of 150 points in the 2\*\* event and 95 points in the 1\* event, the team is qualified for the Swiss Championships.
- Recommended minimum age of the guide: 16 years.

#### 4.5 Category F2 - guided medium

- Unmounted category for more experienced participants. The tasks set are moderately difficult.
- With a result of 160 points in the 2\*\* event and 104 points in the 1\* event, the team is qualified for the Swiss Championships.
- Recommended minimum age of the guide: 14 years.

#### 4.6 Category F3 - guided easy

- Unmounted category for Horseathlon beginners. The tasks set are relatively simple.
- A Swiss Championship qualification is not possible in the category F3. More capable riders have the right to change to the category F2 already for the next Horseathlon® in order to qualify for the SM there.
- Recommended minimum age of the guide: 12 years.

#### 4.7 Category K - Horseathlon® Children

- Only a simplified, child-friendly course with eight tasks, which are a mixture of ground work and composure. (Two children start with one horse. One child rides the second leads the horse. In the middle of the course the positions are switched).
- In addition, ten simple questions about horses and riding can be asked; The answer is to be selected from three possibilities.
- Two age levels:
  - K1: 6 - 9 years
  - K2: 10 - 13 years

- Swiss Championship qualification is not foreseen in this category

#### 4.8 Out of competition (hors concours) start

- Hors Concours starts are possible, but must be clearly marked on the entry, registration, start and ranking lists.
- The implementation of this rule is the responsibility of the person in charge of the accounting office of the corresponding Horseathlon® competition.

### 5. Reviews

#### 5.1 Horseathlon® Competition

- The implementation of the evaluation is carried out according to the following aspects:
  - manner of the horse at the obstacle or in the task
  - Attention to the aids of the rider
  - Little aid
  - Figure accuracy
  - The rider pair receives a maximum of 10 points per correctly completed obstacle.
- The notes have the following statement:
  - 10 = excellent
  - 9 = very good
  - 8 = good
  - 7 = pretty good
  - 6 = satisfactory
  - 5 = enough
  - 4 = deficient
  - 3 = quite bad
  - 2 = bad
  - 1 = Very bad
  - 0 = not executed
- Scores up to 6 receive a comment on the score sheet from the judge. For scores 7 and above, comments are optional.
- Finally, the last marks apply to the overall impression of the rider/handler and the handling and aids given by the rider and the attention, trust, calmness and obedience on the part of the horse. Here, too, a maximum of 10 points can be achieved.
- An obstacle not tackled/ridden will score 0 points.
- An obstacle not approached in the correct order will score half of the achieved points.
- For program errors, such as starting with the wrong hand or completing the entire obstacle on the wrong hand, a deduction of 50% of the achieved points will be made.
- A deduction will be made for each unnecessary interruption of the given gait.
- A rider/handler or horse that receives outside help will receive a deduction. Any action by a third party inside or outside the course that is likely to help the horse or rider, regardless of whether it is done with the knowledge and will of the rider is considered "Outside help. The decision on outside assistance rests with the judge. The Horseathlon® Competition Commission may impose further sanctions.

- In case of equal scores, the competitor with the higher score in the ridden course for D categories and better trail guided for F categories will be ranked better (0.1 points extra).

If this is also identical, the younger horse will be ranked better.

## 6. Horseathlon® Swiss Championships

- The Swiss championship takes place in late autumn each year.
- Those who qualify will be contacted by the Horseathlon® Administration.
- A rider/handler can qualify several horses but can only start with two horses at the Swiss Championships.
- The rider/guide cannot be replaced.

### 6.1 Qualification mode for the Swiss Championships

- The participants of the levels 1 and 2 qualify for the Swiss Championship. In level D3 only young people under 18 years qualify.
- There is no qualification for the F3 category.
- For more information on the Swiss Championship, see Chapter 6.

## 7. Final provisions

### 7.1 General clause in the absence of regulation

In the absence of a provision applicable to a particular circumstance, the competent bodies shall decide in accordance with these regulations.

### 7.2 Disagreement clause

In the event of any discrepancy between the German, French and English texts, the German text shall prevail.

### 7.3 Entry into force of the regulations

These regulations shall enter into force on January 1, 2021.