



Hunter/Jumper Optional Focus Area Skills Checklist

Member's name: _____

Safe development of the hunter-jumper requires that both the horse and rider acquire specific knowledge and skills. The following are suggested skills for different age/skill levels. The Hunt Seat & Jumper publication (Learning to Jump with Your Horse – PNW 488) is available as a Leader Guide for this optional focus area. Each Level may take 2 or 3 years to complete; emphasis should be placed on being able to consistently perform these skills.

	Date Completed	Approved By
Level 1		
1. Identify different type of bits, bridles, saddles and personal attire used.	_____	_____
2. Explain why horses younger than 4 years of age should not be jumped.	_____	_____
3. List at least four (4) essential traits that the horse and rider each need. Why?	_____	_____
4. Why is it important to do lots of bending, turning, lateral work and change of pace exercises on the flat before and during jumper training?	_____	_____
5. What is the difference between a 2-point and 3-point jump position? When are each used?	_____	_____
6. Why is cavaletti and flat work important before jumping? How much time daily and times per week should be spent actually jumping fences?	_____	_____
7. What major problems occur if stirrups are forward or behind vertical?	_____	_____
8. List causes and solutions for refusals, runouts, rushing, and bucking.	_____	_____
9. Demonstrate these skills (<i>in order of progression</i>):		
a. Properly saddle, bridle, and adjust all tack for correct fit.	_____	_____
b. Calm control of the horse at all gaits and transitions (including simple changes, halts, and backing).	_____	_____
c. Correctly post and change diagonals in a serpentine and figure 8.	_____	_____
d. Proper jump position (2-point) while working all three (3) gaits on a lounge line, both directions; first with stirrups, then without stirrups.	_____	_____
e. Crest release while doing cavaletti work in proper jump position.	_____	_____
f. Cavaletti work in jump position, plus a single 15-inch jump located 9 feet beyond last cavaletti.	_____	_____
g. Cavaletti plus a series of three jumps (grid or bounce) set 9 feet apart at 12, 15, or 20 inches in height with no problems.	_____	_____
h. Trot in jump position over single jumps 15 to 18 inches	_____	_____

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high. i. Trot over cavaletti with low jumps (grid or bounce) safely without using contact on reins; utilize leg pressure or other appropriate aids. j. Calmly trot over series of low jumps 18 to 24 inches high; use ground pole. k. Calmly canter over a simple course of at least one change of direction and one spread jump. l. Correctly braid the mane and French braid the tail of your horse. | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Describe how in hunt seat equitation over fences riders are judged and list faults of the rider that judges consider. | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. List at least four reasons for disqualification from a jumping class. | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

Level 2 – Complete Level 1 before proceeding to level 2

- | | Date Completed | Approved By |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the different types of saddles, bridles, and bits, and why they are used. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. How does the rider's movement/balance affect how the horse jumps? | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Why is it important for the horse to be in the correct lead when jumping? | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. List five unsoundness/conformation faults that might affect jumpers. Explain each. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. What is the distance between in-and-out jumps? Why? How does this distance affect short-strided horses and ponies vs. long-strided horses? | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Demonstrate these skills (<i>strive for consistency and perfection</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pick up the correct diagonals without looking. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Trot over cavaletti and single low jump (20 inches) located 9 feet beyond lasts cavaletti, without using stirrups or reins. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Trot over cavaletti and series of low jumps (20-24 inches) in a grid, without using stirrups or reins. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Counter-canter both directions; tell leads by feel, without looking. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Hand gallop and pull up; no movement after stopping. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Do leg yields and half-halts from the collected trot, extended trot, collected canter, and extended canter. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Jump a low (20-24 inch high) 36-foot in-and-out at the trot, then canter. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. Jump a low (20-24 inch high) 24-foot in-and-out at the trot, then canter. | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Jump a course of at least eight jumps (20-24 inches high) with one 36-foot in-and-out, one oxer, and at least one change of direction, without problems. | <hr/> | <hr/> |

