

UNITED LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS

Rules for the

2022 – UNITED LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS

1. TEAMS

- 1.1 **Number of teams:** The maximum number of teams accepted for registration is 16 (sixteen).
- 1.2 **Registration:** The closing date for the 2022 United League of Champions is 18 April 2022.
- 1.3 **Team agreement:** A team will be considered registered once the registration document has been completed and signed by the team manager and all the registered athletes, and the fee has been received. The fee for registration is R32,000.00 (thirty- two thousand rand) and is the same for all teams.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION

- 2.1 **Roster:** Teams register a roster to include a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 athletes. These athletes must be adult SASJ registered athletes (18yrs and older) and must be entered into the show at which they are nominated to ride for the team.
- 2.2 **Athletes:** Of the athletes registered, the team must nominate at least 1 under 25 athlete who is to participate in a minimum of 2 qualifying events. This is to encourage the exposure and training of future professional show jumping athletes.

3. TEAM MANAGER

- 3.1 The team manager is the only spokesman and designated representative of a team;
- 3.2 The team manager is the contact person between his/her team and the ULC, host organisers and the officials at each ULC Event;
- 3.3 The team manager will be considered as an additional person responsible, in accordance with FEI rules;
- 3.4 The team manager will sign the team registration document and be registered in that capacity with ULC.

4. ULC EVENTS

- 4.1 **Length of ULC season:** There will be 5 qualifying events and 1 final event.
- 4.2 **Dates:** The qualifying events will be held at each of the 5 WCQ shows currently on the SASJ calendar. The final will be held on 25 – 27 November for top 50% of teams.
- 4.3 **Participation:** The best 4 out of 5 results of each team will count towards qualification for the final so teams must compete in at least 4 of the 5 qualifying competitions. The team manager is to declare which athletes and horses will represent the team at the latest 1 week before the start of the WCQ event concerned for the qualifiers and at the latest 1 week before the start of the final event. Dates will be communicated.

- 4.4 **Composition:** At each ULC event (including the final) 1 athlete will compete in the 1.20m division. **Such athlete may not have attained any ranking points in a higher division (1.30m upwards) in the preceding year (2021) up to closing date of team registration – 18 April 2022.** This athlete/s will be nominated for the 1.20m division for the series.
1 athlete will compete in the 1.30m division with a horse **which may not have attained any ranking points in a division above 1.35m in the preceding year (2021) up to closing date of team registration – 18 April 2022.**
1 athlete will compete in the 1.35 division with a horse **which may not have attained any ranking points in a higher division (1.40m upwards) in the preceding year (2021) up to closing date of team registration – 18 April 2022.**
1 athlete will compete in the 1.40m division on any open registered horse.

5. COMPETITION FORMAT AND SCORING

5.1 Type of competition:

- a. **Qualifying Events:** The qualifying events will be held over a 2phase competition (Rule 274.2 at a speed of 350m/min). The 1.20m nominated athletes from each team will ride 1st after which the course will be raised for the 1.30m athletes, then the 1.35m athletes and finally the 1.40m athletes.
- b. **ULC Final:** The final shall be a competition held over 2 full rounds and in the event of an equality of scores for 1st place, there will be a jump off against the clock. The jump off will be over a 1.30m/1.35m track and the team managers will nominate either their 1.30m or 1.35m athlete to jump off.
(Art. 264.1.6; 264.1.7; 264.3.4; 264.6.1; 264.6.3; 264.8.1; 264.8.4; 264.9.2; 264.9.2.1; 264.9.2.2)

5.2 Team Placing:

- a. **Qualifying Events:** The final result of the teams is decided by adding the penalties and times of the best 3 scores from each team.
- b. **ULC Final:** The top 50% of the teams according to points shall qualify for the final. All teams in the final will start on a 0 score. (See 5.1b above).

- 5.3 **Prize Money:** Prize money shall be awarded to the 1st 3 teams in both the qualifying events and the ULC final and shall be paid to the team manager. The total prize money for each qualifier is R18750.00 and the total prize money for the final is R250 000.00. There will be no levies deducted as the ULC will pay these to SASJ.

- 5.4 **Starting order of the ULC athletes:** The 1.20m nominated athletes from each team will ride 1st after which the course will be raised for the 1.30m athletes, then 1.35m athletes and finally the 1.40m athletes.

- 5.5 **Substitution:** Substitution of a horse or athlete after being declared can only occur until sixty (60) minutes prior to the beginning of the ULC competition in the case of exceptional circumstances or for medical and/or veterinary reason (with official declaration of the medical doctor or veterinarian).

Substitution can only be made for the athletes or horses that the team manager has registered for the ULC.

- 5.6 **Last minute substitution:** Notwithstanding the above, stipulated under article 5.5 – should circumstances so dictate – the FEI Veterinary Delegate at the event, respectively an official medical doctor may declare a horse respectively athlete unfit to compete during the warm up, i.e. during the period of 60 minutes or less before the horse and/or athletes will be due to compete in any of the ULC competitions.

If applicable, the FEI Veterinary Delegate and/or Medical Doctor will advise the Ground Jury accordingly. At the Ground Jury's discretion, the manager of the team in question, as well as the Event's Sports Director, will be informed that the horse and/or athlete concerned will not be allowed to compete. Subsequently, the Ground Jury President – at his/her sole discretion and considering all relevant circumstances – may:

- a. allow the ULC Team concerned to replace the horse (that has been officially declared unfit to compete) by another horse, provided that the new horse has been officially entered for the event and provided that all conditions of the schedule for the event concerned will be respected;
- b. allow the team concerned to replace the athlete (that has been declared unfit to compete) by another member of the ULC Team concerned, provided that the new athlete has been officially entered for the event and is a registered athlete of the team;
- c. if deemed necessary, adjust the starting order of the teams in the ULC competition in question, in order to allow the replacing horse and/or athlete a fair amount of time for warm up / preparation purposes, before competing.

5.7 **ULC Competition starting order:**

- a. **Qualifying Events:** The starting order of the teams in the qualifying competitions will be established according to a manual draw to be done the day before the competition.
- b. **ULC Final:** The starting order of the qualified teams for the final shall be established according to a manual draw to be done the day before the competition.

5.8 **Points:** Points are awarded at each ULC qualifying event as follows:

PLACE	POINTS	PLACE	POINTS
1	30	9	13
2	25	10	12
3	21	11	11
4	19	12	10
5	17	13	9
6	16	14	8
7	15	15	7
8	14	16	6

Points won by teams who tie for any place are aggregated and then divided equally among the teams in question. The score must be correct to 2 decimal places; the second decimal place will be rounded up from .005 and rounded down from .004.

- 5.9 **Elimination/Retirement:** If an athlete is eliminated or retires, they will be penalised with 20 penalties more than the athlete who has been the most severely penalised of all the athletes who completed the competition. This applies to the qualifiers only.
- 5.10 **Disqualification:** Should a horse or rider be disqualified from the competition due to non adherence to the rules herein or any FEI rules, this will result in disqualification of the team and no points will be received for the ULC event concerned.
- 5.11 **Team not starting:** A ULC team not starting at all, will not receive any points for the ULC event concerned.
6. **ULC Overall Classification for Final Qualification:** The ULC overall classification for qualification into the final is based on each team's points earned at each ULC qualifying event. After completion of the 5 qualifiers, each team's best 4 results will be calculated according to points. In the event of a tie of total points for any position after the 5 qualifying events, the team with the greatest number of 1st place finishes is ranked ahead of any other team tied for the same number of points. If there is still a tie, the team with the greatest number of 2nd place finishes is ranked ahead of the other team and so on until all teams with the same number of points have been separated. The top 50% of teams will go through to the final.
7. **Miscellaneous**
- 7.1 Every conceivable eventuality cannot be provided for in these ULC rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Ground Jury to make a decision in a sporting spirit, based on common sense and fair play, by approaching as near as possible the intention of these rules.
- 7.2 Should there remain any omissions in the ULC rules, such omission shall be interpreted in a manner compatible to the fullest extent with the other provisions of these rules, other rules and regulations of SASJ, the FEI and sporting spirit.