

UNITED LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS

Rules for the

2023 – UNITED LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS

1. TEAMS

- 1.1 **Number of teams:** The maximum number of teams accepted for registration is 10 (ten).
- 1.2 **Registration:** The closing date of registration for the 2023 United League of Champions is **31 March 2023**, by which date registration fees must be received.
- 1.3 **Team agreement:** A team will be considered registered once the registration document has been completed and signed by the team owner, manager and all the registered athletes, and the fee has been received.
- 1.4 **Fee:** The fee for registration of a team is R50,000.00 + VAT (fifty thousand rand).

2. TEAM COMPOSITION

- 2.1 **Roster:** Teams are to 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) or Junior riders that have a licence to compete in the adult division 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 the following on registration:
- At least 1 (one) U25 athlete, who may compete in any division 1.20m – 1.40m and 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.
 - At least 1 (one) 1.20m athlete. **Such athlete may not have attained any ranking points in a division higher than 1.20m in the preceding year (01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023)** This/these athlete/s will be nominated for the 1.20m division for the series.
 - At least 3 open athletes. These athletes may participate in any division from 1.30m – 1.40m.
- 2.3 **Horses:** Horses do not need to be registered on the team roster. Athletes may choose to nominate any horse at each leg, provided that:
- All nominated horses are registered with SASJ.
 - Horses must be entered into the show at which they are nominated to compete for the team.
 - The horses nominated to compete in the **1.30m** and the **1.35m** divisions **may not have attained any ranking points in a division higher than 1.35m in the preceding year (01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)**.

3. TEAM OWNER

- 3.1 The team owner is the person identified as the owner of the “franchised team” and thus has the rights to “the team” name, branding and any privileges earned by the team such as qualifications.
- 3.2 The team owner is the person responsible for all financial obligations regarding the team and the ULC including registration fees and receipts of any prize monies.
- 3.3 The team owner shall nominate either him/herself or another individual who will act as the team manager.
- 3.4 The team owner will sign the team registration document and be registered in that capacity with the ULC.

4. TEAM MANAGER

- 4.1 The team manager is the only spokesman and designated representative of a team. All and any communication regarding the team, nominations, draw, queries, complaints must be done via the team manager and the league manager.
- 4.2 The team manager is the contact person between his/her team and the ULC, host organisers and the officials at each ULC Event.
- 4.3 The team manager will be considered as an additional person responsible, in accordance with FEI rules;
- 4.4 The team manager will sign the team registration document and be registered in that capacity with ULC.

5. ULC EVENTS

- 5.1 **Length of ULC season:** There will be 5 qualifying events and 1 final event.
- 5.2 **Events:** All qualifying events and the final will be held at each of the following National Shows currently on the SASJ calendar for 2023:

• Leg 1	Stud 334 WCQ	Kyalami Park Club	04 – 07 May 2023
• Leg 2	Biogen WCQ	Maple Ridge	25 – 28 May 2023
• Leg 3	Foresyte WCQ	Shongweni Club	15 – 18 June 2023
• Leg 4	Stokkiesdraai WCQ	Stokkiesdraai, Brits	06 – 09 July 2023
• Leg 5	UAG SA Derby	Kyalami Park Club	27 Sept – 01 Oct 2023
• Final	ULC Final	Summit Ridge	23 – 26 November 2023

5.3 **Participation:** At each league event including the final, the teams shall nominate the athletes and horses to compete in the following divisions according to the rules set out in (2.2 and 2.3) above:

- 1.20m
- 1.30m
- 1.35m
- 1.40m

5.4 **Declaration:** The team manager is to declare their nominated team, in writing to the league manager at the latest 1 week before the start of the event concerned. This applies to the qualifiers as well as the final. The closing date for nominations will be communicated in writing to the team managers.

6. COMPETITION FORMAT AND SCORING

6.1 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).
- 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)

6.2 **Starting order of the ULC teams:** The starting order of the teams in the qualifying competitions and the final will be established according to a manual draw to be done the day before the competition.

6.3 **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.

6.4 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 final result of the teams is decided by adding the penalties and times of the best 3 scores from each team over the 2 rounds and then adding the penalties and times of those athletes in the jump off should this be the case.

6.5 **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, and the time recorded for that athlete shall be 20 seconds more than the slowest time recorded of the competition. This applies to the qualifying competitions only.

6.6 **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.

6.7 **Team not starting:** A ULC team not starting at all or not fielding a minimum of 3 athletes, will not receive any points for the ULC event concerned.

7. ULC OVERALL CLASSIFICATION FOR QUALIFICATION INTO THE FINAL

7.1 **Qualifying Legs:** Teams will be awarded points at each qualifying leg as per the points table below. After completion of the 5 qualifiers, each team's best 4 results of the 5 legs will be calculated according to points. The top 5 teams on points will qualify to ride in the ULC Final.

7.2 **Equality of Points:** In the event of an equality 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.

8. PRIZE MONEY AND AWARDS

8.1 **Qualifying Legs:** Prize money shall be awarded to the 1st 3 teams.

8.2 **ULC Final:** Prize money shall be awarded to all 5 teams competing in the ULC Final.

8.3 **ULC Series Winners:** After the UCL Final, points will be awarded to the 5 teams from 1st to 5th as per the points table below. Prize money shall be awarded to the top 3 teams of the series.

8.4 **Rider of the Series:** An award will be given to the best rider of the series. This shall be calculated as follows:
After each leg the 40 competitors will be ranked individually according to penalties and time. Points shall be awarded from 40 (highest placed athlete) to 1 (lowest placed athlete). Eliminations and disqualifications of athlete or team will result in a 0 score. The athlete with the highest no of points after the 5 legs and the ULC Final will be the winner.

8.5 **Team 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.

9. GENERAL

9.1 **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.

9.2 **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.

9.3 **Athlete and Horse Ranking Points (See 2.2 and 2.3):** Ranking points refer to the SASJ rankings available on the SASJ Website for all SASJ registered athletes and horses. In the case of athletes or horses that have competed outside of South Africa, these ranking points shall refer to any points, places, rankings, money etc received by any other F.E.I. registered show jumping federation.

9.4 **Miscellaneous**

- 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.
- 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.

ADDENDUM TO THE RULES OF THE UNITED LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS 2023

ACCEPTANCE OF TEAMS FOR REGISTRATION 2023

1. **Number of teams:** The maximum number of teams accepted for registration is 10 (ten).
2. **Registration Fee:** The fee for registration of a team is R50 000.00 + VAT (fifty thousand rand), (plus the bid amount should this be the case) payable by **31 March 2023**.
3. **Expression of Interest:** All teams wishing to enter the 2023 UAG League of Champions must submit in writing to the league manager, an expression of interest to register their teams, by **15 February 2023**.
4. **Automatic Acceptance:** The top 5 (five) teams that qualified for the 2022 United League of Champions Final will have automatic acceptance to register their teams for the 2023 league.
 - 4.1 **Remaining Entries Available:** Should all of the above 5 teams submit their E.O.I's, there will be 5 (five) remaining entries available; should only 4 of the above teams submit E.O.I's, there will be 6 (six) entries available and so on.
 - 4.2 **Acceptance of Registration:** The remaining teams that have submitted their E.O.I's by the due date above will be accepted for registration and notified in writing. Should there be more E.O.I's received than the number of entries available, there will be a bidding process to determine which teams are accepted for registration.
5. **Bidding:** Should a bidding process be required, the teams involved shall be notified in writing and informed of the number of entries available and the number of participating teams.
 - 5.1 **Bidding Date:** This will be held on or before the **10 March 2023**. The venue and date will be communicated to the teams involved at least 7 days prior to the event.
 - 5.2 **Attendance:** All team owners are required to be present at the bidding. Should a team owner be unable to attend they may nominate a proxy which must be done in writing to the league manager.
 - 5.3 **Process:** The bidding shall take place in the format of an "anonymous bid".

There will be 3 rounds of bidding for each entry.
After each round the bid amounts will be revealed.
The highest bid after the 3rd round will secure the entry.
The remaining bidders will then bid for the next available entry as above, and so on until all entries are secured.
In the event of an equality of bids after the 3rd round, the bidding will continue to a further round among the tied bidders.
Bidding will start for each entry at R50 000.00 (fifty thousand rand), and increase in increments of R1000.00 (one thousand rand).