



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
JUMPING RIDING AMBASSADORS
WWW.AJAMBASSADORS.COM

PROCEDURE REGULATIONS

Challenge Cup for AJA members, version 2021

1. Idea and concept

1.1 Definition

The AJA (= International Association of Jumping Riding Ambassadors) is organising an international competition for its members for an unlimited time within the small tour (approx. 1.10 m) with two formulas:
formula I: the Challenge Cup qualifying competitions with an annual ranking;
formula II: the Challenge Cup Final.

1.2 Aim

The aim of the Challenge Cup is to give publicity to the Ambassador Class (women and men from the age of forty-five) and to gain recognition. Moreover, this Cup should offer the participants of the international AJA events additional riding highlights and provide the organisers with attractive information for their promotional publicity.

1.3 Implementation procedure

Each organiser of an international AJA tournament will hold a 'Challenge Cup competition', which will also be recorded as a scoring competition for the annual evaluation of the Challenge Cup ranking and as a qualifying competition for the Challenge Cup Final, respectively. The Challenge Cup year is not the calendar year, but, instead, runs from one final event to the next final event.

2. Scoring and qualifying competitions

2.1 Holding scoring and qualifying competitions, respectively

The organiser will hold analogously to the Europa Cup competition a so-called Challenge Cup competition with two different rounds, according to FEI articles and conditions in the Schedule. The sixteen best athletes will receive points for the annual ranking.

One horse per rider.

2.2 Eligibility to participate in the Small Tour Challenge Cup competition

The Challenge Cup is classed as an AJA competition.

To participate in classes designated as AJA competitions, riders must be current members of the AJA (with membership fully paid in the current year), candidates for AJA membership, or riders invited by the organizers.

Only the AJA members who have submitted their registration for the Challenge Cup and who have paid their fees for the current year are eligible.

Non-AJA-members are allowed to participate in the competitions for either the Challenge Cup or for the Europa Cup by means of an AJA-Wildcard, issued by the AJA Technical delegate.

Athletes who have once been AJA members and were excluded by the AJA general assembly for any reasons are not permitted to participate.

Horses may not have participated in any class for the Large tour during this tournament. Points are awarded for qualification and/or ranking of the Challenge Cup for AJA to members who are registered in the Challenge Cup and who have paid their membership fees for the current year.

Horses: six-year-olds and older

2.3 Remuneration and awarding of prizes for the Challenge Cup competition

Regardless of the number of participants at the start, at least the sixteen best athletes will be placed. The organiser will award them the usual prizes in kind and the AJA will award a plaque to the best sixteen combinations. The winner receives the AJA honorary prize.

3. Annual rankings

3.1 Evaluation of the Challenge Cup competition as scoring and qualifying competition, respectively:

Regardless of the number of participants placed by the organiser, only the first sixteen Challenge Cup participants will be awarded points. Those who have been eliminated will not receive any points. The number of participants has no influence on the points:

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Points	20	17	15	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

3.2 Calculation of the annual ranking

The ranking list is calculated by adding together the number of points from the qualifying competitions, where the rider and not the horse is given a score. When placing is tied, the points of the relevant placings are added and divided by the number of tied-placed riders. This will result in an equal number of points at the end:

- the number of first places;
 - the number of second places;
 - the number of third places;
 - etc.
- are decisive.

The technical committee of the AJA has the power to limit the number of scoring results per season.

3.3 Remuneration for the annual ranking

The first sixteen placed of the ranking will receive honorary prizes from the AJA.

3.4 Prize-giving ceremony for the annual ranking

The prize-giving ceremony for the annual ranking takes place when the Final is held.

4. Final

4.1 Eligibility to participate in the Final

In principle, all athletes who have at least one point will qualify for the Final. However, a maximum of eight athletes per nation are eligible to participate. So where more than eight athletes from one nation have scored, only eight athletes can participate in the Final: in principle, the eight best placed when qualifying. Should one or more of these eight not wish to participate, the next best placed automatically move up a place.

Should there be several riders with the same number of points in the eighth place of a country ranking, they are all eligible to participate. In such a case, when qualified riders drop out, the next placed riders can only move up until the maximum number of eight is reached.

Eight AJA members from the host nation who are registered for the Challenge Cup are also eligible to participate, irrespective of whether they have qualified or not.

The winner of the current year's ranking and the winner of the previous year's Final are also qualified. Should one of the winners not participate, no-one shall move up.

The horse does not have to qualify for the Final.

All competitions of the Final are to be ridden with the same horse.

Horses that participate in the Final, can only participate in the warming-up or the first competition for the Small Tour on the first day of this event and in the 2 competitions of the Challenge Cup Final (see Recommendation for the timetable for the Challenge Cup Final classes options I, II and III).

Exception: if a combination is excluded or has abandoned the event in the small nations competition, this combination is allowed to participate in the other competitions of this CSIV-B during the next days (one competition per day).

4.2 Holding the Challenge Cup Final competitions

The winner and the following fifteen placed riders from the Challenge Cup Final will be evaluated from four rounds table A (two rounds of the Small Tour team competition + two rounds of the Challenge Cup).

The first competition counting for the Challenge Cup Final is the Small Tour Team competition and will take place over two rounds according to FEI article 265.2 and the description in the Schedule.

Qualified athletes who are not in a team will participate in the Small Tour team competition as individual participants.

All participants in the Final who are not eliminated in the first round of the Small Tour team competition may start in the second round, either as members of one of the best six teams or as an individual participant. The starting order of the individual participants will be decided by a draw and they will start before the teams.

All athletes who have not been eliminated or have not retired in the team competition qualify for the second competition of the Challenge Cup Final on the last day.

The second competition counting for the Challenge Cup Final, will take place over two different rounds and no jump-off, according to the FEI articles and description in the Schedule.

One horse per athlete.

All competitions of the Final must be ridden with the same horse.

Recommendation for the timetable for the Challenge Cup Final classes, option I:

First day in the morning:	Veterinary inspection
First day in the afternoon:	Qualifying warm-up competition
Second day:	First round of competition 1: the Small Tour team competition
Third day:	Second round of competition 1: the Small Tour team competition
Fourth day:	Competition 2: Challenge Cup

Recommendation for the timetable for the Challenge Cup Final classes, option II:

First day in the morning:	Veterinary inspection
First day in the afternoon:	Qualifying warm-up competition
Second day:	Two rounds of competition 1: the Small Tour team competition
Third day:	Rest day
Fourth day:	Competition : Challenge Cup

Recommendation for the timetable for the Challenge Cup Final classes, option III:

This is a competition over 3 days.

The day before the competitions:	Veterinary inspection
First day:	1m10 Small Tour competition, not counting for the Final.
Second day:	Two rounds of competition 1: the Small Tour team competition
Third day:	Competition : Challenge Cup

4.3 Invitation of participants in the Final

After the last qualifying competition before the Cup Final, the technical committee will draw up a list immediately showing the qualified riders from each nation and the reserve participants.

4.4 Prize-giving ceremony for the Final competition

The prize-giving ceremony for the Small Tour team competition will take place immediately after that competition. The prizes in kind will be provided by the organiser. The honorary prizes and twenty-four plaques for the winners will be provided by the AJA.

The prize-giving ceremony for the Challenge Cup Final will take place immediately after the Final of the Challenge Cup competition. Irrespective of the number of participants, the sixteen best athletes in the final placing will receive honorary prizes from the AJA as well as prizes in kind and plaques from the organiser.

4.5 Cancellation of the Final

If there are less than ten qualified participants for the Final or athletes from less than three nations, the Final will not be held.

5. General

5.1 Scoring, qualifying and Final events

The tournament calendar and, hence, the organisers of the Challenge Cup competitions are proposed annually by the AJA board and approved by the annual general assembly. The organiser of the Final is selected by the AJA board.

5.2 Change from the Europa Cup

Every AJA member can change once per year from the Europa Cup to the Challenge Cup or vice versa. The change must be notified to the technical committee by the close of entries for the next tournament. In case of a change, the points gained in one Cup cannot be carried over to the next.

5.3 Exclusion in case of sanctions

Athletes who are barred by their NF during the Challenge Cup year, will be dropped from the rankings. Furthermore, the AJA disciplinary committee can also exclude athletes in special circumstances.

5.4 Draft schedules

Draft schedules must be presented well in advance to the technical committee of the AJA for scrutiny, before they are submitted to the responsible NF.

5.5 Administration

The technical committee of the AJA will name one or more members to manage the Challenge Cup and to be responsible for the contact between the AJA, the organisers, the athletes and possible sponsors.

5.6 Result service

The technical committee of the AJA will maintain a result service that will evaluate the rankings of the Challenge Cup competitions, will adjust the intermediate overall ranking and will draw up the final overall ranking. The current ranking will be published on the Internet at www.ajambassadors.com.

5.7 Sponsorship

One or more sponsors can be invited to fund the prizes in kind and/or to support athletes from neighbouring Eastern European countries (payment of travelling expenses).

5.8 Publicity/PR

The organisers of the Challenge Cup competitions will undertake everything in their power to ensure that advance and subsequent media coverage is given to the Challenge Cup and that the event is recognised.

5.9 Various

In all cases not covered by the present regulations, the technical director of the AJA, who is present, must make a decision based on the provisions of the FEI and with the agreement of the jury in such a manner as to ensure that a correct and fair solution is reached for the good of the sport.

5.10 Validity of the regulations

The present regulations in their thirteenth version dated **February 2021** replace the regulations of January 2019 and all other versions. In case of translation differences, the English version shall apply.

As of **February 2021**