

show jumping

AT THE EVENT AT REBECCA FARM

To complete this final phase with finesse, riders need athletic horses in excellent physical condition. Particularly after the more grueling cross-country element that is

completed the day before, both competitor and horse must summon their final reserves.

Though it is hard to get out of this final event phase with a perfect score, champions are typically made by jumping “clear” and without incurring time or fault penalties.

During this event, horse and rider jump a series of rails set at specific heights according to their competitive level. Penalties result when rails are knocked down during a jump or when the course is not completed within a window of allotted time.

The objective in show jumping is to prove that the horses have retained their suppleness, energy, and obedience in order to jump a course of 11 to 15 obstacles. The Jumping test takes place on the last day of competition and after a second horse inspection. Riders may voluntarily retire their horses if they seem unfit to continue.

“No matter what the standings are coming into show jumping, it can all get mixed up,” explained Olympian Karen O’Connor. “That’s how the sport is. It takes some luck, some experience, and technique. You roll the dice. Everyone is trying to win.”

The Rebecca Farm show jumping arena is known as a challenging arena. Show jumping course designer Marc Donovan has a talent for placing the maximum amount of difficult jumps into one area.

The winning individual is the competitor with the lowest total

of penalty points. The winning team is the one with the lowest total of penalty points, after adding together the final scores of the three highest placed competitors in the team.



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