



MEDIA GUIDELINES

We welcome your interest in and your coverage of the 2008 Red Hills Horse Trials.

To provide competitors the best possible chance to successfully complete The Event, and to give you the opportunity to get the best coverage, we provide the following information and guidelines.

Please note that you will be provided with a media vest and credentials upon check in at the Media Tent.

PLEASE NOTE: Your media credential to cover the Red Hills Horse Trials is granted on the condition that you agree to all guidelines.

Parking

Parking for the Press is in the Media/Handicapped Parking Area, reached through the Gate B entrance. Stay in the right hand lane as you enter the Park and follow the signs to Media Parking on the left. Your rear view mirror parking card (enclosed) identifies you as a journalist (M).

Media Tent

The Media Tent is located next to the Cross Country shuttle drop off, adjacent to the Entrance Tent.

There will be an experienced media staff to assist you. Please feel free to ask any one of them for whatever you may need.

The Media Tent will be open at 7:30 a.m. each day of the event beginning on Friday, March 14, 2008. The Tent will have programs, Orders of Go and refreshments. There will be workspace available for all journalists.

Wireless Internet access is available. If you do not have wireless, there will be wireless cards for you to use, but please be sure that your computer is equipped to handle them.

There is no unescorted access allowed to the barn area. This is a regulation of the Federacion Equestre Nacional (FEI) which applies to anyone who is not a competitor, not professionally associated with a competitor, or an appropriately credentialed member of the event staff. If you wish to set up interviews with the competitors please see one of the Media staff to set this up for you. You may also contact the Stabling Staff in the tent attached to the Stabling Office.

Security will be stationed on grounds so you will need to wear your Media Vest at all times.

Dress

Members of the media are requested to be appropriately dressed at all times.

Food

There are many food vendors on grounds and water will be available in the Media Tent.

Photographers

Photographers are not allowed in the Sponsor Tent, Barn Area (unescorted), inside the Stadium Arena, or in or on any jumps on the Cross Country Course. There will be designated areas on Cross Country where you will be able to shoot but absolutely no one will be allowed anywhere near a jump where movement or camera action might endanger the competitor, the horse, or yourself. Violation of this guideline will result in immediate removal from the grounds.

Program

The Official Event Program is one of your best sources of background information on the sport of Eventing and this year's competition, the organizers, the conditions under which the competition is run, etc. Programs will be available for you in the Media Tent.

Approaching Riders

NO RIDER SHALL BE APPROACHED OR SPOKEN TO WHILE MOUNTED AND/OR PREPARING FOR A HORSE INSPECTION OR THE COMPETITION.

Access to Stables

The stabling area is restricted and secured by a fence and guard 24 hours a day. Under the international rules governing this competition, media are not allowed in the stabling area unescorted.

Interviews

If you wish to arrange interviews with competitors, officials, special guests, etc., there will be a sign-up board in the Media Center. You should put down the name(s) of the individual(s) and indicate whether you wish to arrange a private interview.

Media personnel will set up the interview times and arrange an escort to the barn area. You must have an escort in the barn area at all times.

Park Transportation

Spectator Shuttles are available to provide transportation. Departure is from the shuttle holding area located adjacent to the Media Tent. The Shuttles will not take you to specific jumps, but will get you close enough so that the walk is not long.

When possible, Media Center staff will make every effort to assist you with transportation.

The Media Tent is provided with 2 golf carts but should there not be any available shuttles Media Tent staff will make every effort to assist you with transportation.

Results

Results of each day's competition and accumulated point totals will be available in the Media Center at the end of each day. Results also will appear on the Red Hills Web Page, www.rhht.org

VETERINARY IN-BARN INSPECTION

Thursday, March 13 - 1:00- 6:00 p.m.

Need to Know: This is an informal inspection to determine the soundness and general condition of the horse prior to beginning the competition. Horses will be presented in hand to the Veterinary Delegation. The horse will be stood before the Delegation for general inspection, walked away from the Delegation and then trotted briskly for a distance. The horse will then be turned and trotted toward the Delegation. Any horse appearing unsound or lacking physical conditioning will not be allowed to begin the competition.

Picture Tips: The In Barns will take place in front of the Veterinary Tent to the west of Barn C. The area will be accessible without special credentials.

DRESSAGE TEST

Friday – 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Timetable

Current timetables (Order of Go for each competitor) will be available at the Media Center Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

Dressage Test

Dressage will be held in three competition arenas, Arenas A, B, and C, in the field to the north of the Oak Hammock; the fourth arena will be in the field to the south of the oak hammock.

The Dressage Test takes an average of five (5) minutes to ride. To give the judges time to give the collective marks and comments, rides are scheduled at 8-minute intervals with a break after every six (6) to eight (8) horses to drag the arena.

Need to Know: Dressage Commentaries will be made covering the World Cup Arena, Arena B, in two segments on Friday, one in the morning, one after lunch.

Quiet is essential. No loud motor driven cameras, please.

CROSS COUNTRY TEST

Saturday, March 15 – 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Consult the Event Complex map available at the Media Center for the track of the Cross-Country Course and the numbers, names and dimensions of the obstacles.

Be prepared to move around to catch the action.

Need to Know: Stay on the outside of the ropes or barriers defining the galloping lanes. You may cross the course ONLY at designated crossover points. Stewards and Fence Judges will be pleased to advise you on when and where to cross and on the best spots for good photographs. There will be special positions for media only at designated jumps. Stewards and Jump Judges will be happy to direct you. You must heed all Cross-Country officials — their word is law for the day. Their job is to ensure the safety and welfare of the horse, its rider and all others. For everyone's safety, we also require that all dogs be leashed and children watched closely.

Picture Tips: Spread fences, drops, banks, water obstacles and combination fences always provide excellent possibilities, but there are photo opportunities at almost every fence, even those that do not appear notable on first inspection.

FORMAL HORSE INSPECTION

Sunday, March 16 - 7:30 a.m.

This is a formal inspection of the horses competing in the FEI divisions, the purpose of which is to assure that the horses remain sound and fit to begin the third and final test of the competition, the Jumping Test. Each horse will be presented to a delegation composed of the Ground Jury and the Veterinary Commission, with the President of the Ground Jury in charge. Each horse in turn will be stood in front of the Delegation for general inspection, walked four steps away from the Delegation, and then trotted briskly in hand for a specified distance. The horse will then be turned and trotted briskly back toward the Delegation.

The horse will be "passed" (often termed "accepted") by the Delegation, or "not accepted," either on account of unsoundness or lack of condition. The latter will not be allowed to compete in Show Jumping. There is no appeal against the decision of the Delegation if the horse fails the inspection. In some instances, if the Delegation is not completely sure the horse is unfit for competition, it will direct the horse to an officially supervised Holding Area for further examination. The horse will be examined by the Associate FEI Veterinarian who will report his findings to the Delegation, which will then call the horse for re-inspection.

Picture Tips: Horses will be braided and shown in hand in bridle only; competitors will be appropriately dressed. Good photo opportunities are available in the Collecting Area where several horses are being walked prior to inspection, as well as when the horse is stood before the Delegation and jogged.

JUMPING TEST

Sunday, March 16 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Jumping Test takes place on the last day of the competition and is run in reverse order of standing after the Cross-Country Test. The arena, or stadium (hence the term Stadium Jumping), is completely enclosed and the interior is a colorful mixture of brightly painted fences decorated lavishly with flowers and greenery.

Picture Tips: The design of the course exerts as much influence as do the obstacles. Spreads, double and triple combinations and verticals compose the course and each one and where it is positioned asks a different question of horse and rider, testing the horse's handiness and obedience while examining the rider's ability to direct his horse. Schooling in the warm-up area also presents interesting photo opportunities.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Sunday, March 16 – After each division

Presentation of the awards is an elegant and picture-perfect end to the competition. Opportunities abound for pictures of the winners of the various trophies.

All credentialed media photographers will be allowed in the arena for the Awards Presentations.

AVENUE OF SHOPS, EXHIBITS, SADDLERS ROW & FOOD VENDORS

The Avenue of Shops is located just after you pass through the Welcome Tent at the bus drop off. You will find many shops with a large variety of products as well as the Red Hills Outfitters, where you may purchase logo products. Signs will point you through the Avenue on to the Exhibit area and then to Saddlers Row, which features many tack items as well as horse trailers and trucks. Just past there you will find food vendors. On Saturday there will be food vendors up on the Cross Country area as well as The Taste of Red Hills.

There will be an autograph session with many of the riders participating. Please see the Orders of Go Schedule and listen for announcements of the exact time. The Session will take place in front of Red Hills 101 and the Outfitters Shop.

DEMONSTRATIONS & EXHIBITIONS

There will be a Cross Country Walk, sponsored by FRM, for Media and Spectators on Friday after the last Dressage ride. The meeting point is the Cross Country Shuttle drop off, adjacent to the Welcome Tent.

A tour of Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park, by Tyler Macmillan from Northwest Florida Water Management District, will depart on Sunday from the Cross Country Shuttle stop at the top of the Avenue of Shops and leave at 10:30 a.m.

It will be followed by the Botanical Tour lead by Jean McCully, leaving at 11:30 from the same spot.