



Road to the Top Jumper Challenge 2026

This document outlines the concept for a new equestrian jumping competition specifically designed for young equestrians to showcase their style and skill in the jumper ring.

The Jumper Challenge is aimed at equestrians who are actively pursuing a career in the equestrian industry.

This competition offers individuals a platform to demonstrate their skills, acquire valuable competition experience, and build connections with peers, sponsors, and prospective employers. It also serves as an opportunity for RTTT to increase awareness of the program, to provide a revenue source, and to identify and recruit athletes.

Class Restrictions/Specifications

The Traverse City Horse Shows competition is open to riders under the age of 25.

The LA Equestrian Center competition is open to riders under the age of 30.

Class Format

The competition will be run as a Table II, 2b jumper class format at 1.15m.

This height is challenging enough to test experienced riders and horses but is also accessible for those who are building their careers without being overly demanding on younger professional prospects or less experienced horses. Depending on the success of the initial event, additional classes at slightly different heights may be introduced in future iterations.

Class Conditions:

- This class is a jumper seat equitation class held in the jumper ring over a course of
- fences set at 1.15m in a Table II, 2b format.
- A jumper type horse and conventional jumper equipment will not be penalized.
- Standing and running martingales ARE permitted
- Draw reins and German martingales are NOT permitted

Course Design

Courses will be designed to be technically demanding, incorporating various types of obstacles including:

- Verticals
- Oxers
- Triple bars
- Combinations (doubles and triples)
- Liverpool
- Open water for extra points (+2) (if available)
- The time allowed will be a significant factor

Judging Criteria

- The class will be judged under a modified Table II, 2b format with jumping and time faults being calculated.
- The class will be judged by two R licensed officials, one with a hunter/equitation license and one with a jumper license.
- The jumper judge will assess jumping and time faults.
- The equitation judge will award a score based on technical skill and style of riding. This score will break the tie for the riders who have an equality of faults in their jumping score.
- At the completion of the first round all riders with CLEAR rounds (no jumping or time faults) AND an equitation score of 75 or better will immediately (after the tone) complete the jump off/work off shortened course.
- The equitation judge's score for a rider's jump off round is ADDED to his or her first-round score. The rider with the least faults and the highest cumulative score is the winner.
- Two refusals will incur elimination.
- The open numerical scoring system will be used, and jumping faults and the judge's equitation score will be announced after each round. There is no need to deduct the time and jumping faults from the numerical score. The judge can do that on their card if they wish but it will not be announced. Just the jumping/time faults and the tie breaking judge's score will be announced.
- The remaining placings for the class (competitors not participating in the jump off), will be determined by the rider with the least number of faults and the highest judge's score.



Event Schedule

Pacific Ridge Labor Day, Los Angeles, CA, Friday, September 4, 2026

Tournament of Champions, Traverse City, MI, Saturday, September 5, 2026

Entry Fee:

\$200.00 - Donation to Road to the Top

Prize Money (sponsored):

\$25,000 per class per location.

Prize money per class will be distributed to the listed trainer of the placed entries as follows:

1st	30%	\$7,500
2nd	22%	\$5,500
3rd	13%	\$3,250
4th	8%	\$2,000
5th	6%	\$1,500
6th	5%	\$1,250
7th	4%	\$1,000
8th	3%	\$750

Qualifying Criteria:

The following 2026 placings qualify riders for the RTTT Jumper Challenge:

- 1st - 4th Place in WIHS Jumper Phase
- 1st - 2nd Place in 1* USET Talent Search class
- 1st - 4th Place in 2* USET Talent Search class
- 1st - 6th Place in 3* USET Talent Search class
- 1st - 4th Place in 1.25m or higher Junior/Amateur/Open Jumper class
- 1st - 4th Place in California Style of Riding Class

