

AUGUST MAUI JIM EVENTING DERBY SCHEDULING, RIDE A TEST AND JUMP SCHOOLING, AND RULES

The August Maui Jim Eventing Derby at Lamplight Equestrian Center, will offer several redesigned features. The July Derby was very successful, but never satisfied to rest on their laurels, the organizing committee has evaluated the results, sought competitor input, and as a result, they have made some minor adjustments to the format for the upcoming August 13-15 event.

Friday, August 13, will be devoted to Jump Schooling, a \$10 add on, and Ride A Test, an opportunity to ride a dressage test in front of a USEF Dressage judge and receive a critique and some helpful hints. This is offered at a cost of \$25. The Ride A Test will be scheduled with specific times assigned. The Jump Schooling will take place in the Lamplight Grand Prix ring (where all the Derby jumping phases will run) and will give horses a chance to familiarize themselves with the arena and its surroundings. Horses will go in groups of (approximately) five according to level, and three or four fences will be available to jump. Trainers are encouraged to accompany their students. The tentative plan is to run the groups “downward” in level starting with Preliminary and working down through Starter.

The actual competition starts on Saturday, August 14. Because the Derbies are run in the following sequence – a “short” jumping phase and Dressage test on one day, and a longer jumping phase on the following day – Saturday will kick off with the first jumping phase in the Grand Prix ring. Dressage will start in two arenas later in the morning. Again tentatively, we will start with the Starter level and work up with Preliminary going last. All phases will be scheduled with assigned riding times.

A deviation from this format is being considered for Preliminary, but we are waiting to see how many horses the division attracts before finalizing plans. In this deviation, Preliminary riders would ride their Dressage test earlier in the day and run their “short” jumping phase in the late afternoon in conjunction with a wine and cheese reception. If there is sufficient interest, we may run a Calcutta sweepstakes in which the entries in the division are auctioned off prior to jumping, and the resulting “pot” is divided 60-40 between the winning rider and winning “owner.”

On Sunday, August 15, the second, or “long” jumping phase will take place for everyone. Awards will be given out following each division. There will be ribbons through 10th place and cash and prizes for each division as well as a cash award for the best cumulative score at each level based on participation in both the July and August Derbies. There will also be a special prize for the best scoring Master Amateur riding an Off the Track Thoroughbred as well as a new trophy given in memory of Louise Wentworth for the most improved score from the July to the August Derby.

A couple of rules have also been tweaked following the July event. In addition to helmets and boots, breeches and shirts with sleeves must be worn while mounted. Formal clothes are not required, but wearing something Hawaiian to honor our sponsor, Maui Jim, Inc., is encouraged. Opting out of or elimination from a phase will result in a 200 penalty add on.

The August Derby will maintain the relaxed and casual ambience of the July competition. This encouraging atmosphere surrounded by the comfortable viewing areas and extravagant landscaping of Lamplight make for a pleasurable weekend of fun for all.