Need to Know News for the 2021 Competition Season

this year will take place on Thursday, October 14 and Friday, October 15. According to a U.S. Eventing Association press release, all phases of the 4-Year-Old division will be held on Thursday, with the 5-Year-Olds competing in dressage and conformation on Thursday and the jumping/gallop phase on Friday.

The Dutta Corporation returns as the YEH Championships title sponsor for both championships.

To qualify for the East Coast championships, horses must earn a score of 75% or higher at any YEH qualifier during the 2021 season. Currently, there are 13 YEH qualifiers on the Area II schedule, six of which are held in Maryland. The East Coast championships will accept up to 40 qualified horses in the 4-Year-Old division and up to 55 horses in the 5-Year-Old division. If entries fill, a waitlist will be made with horses ranked in order of qualifying scores with the highest scoring horses being taken off the waitlist first if spaces open up.

In addition to national championship honors, 5-Year-Old competitors will be riding for the Holekamp/Turner YEH Lion d'Angers Grant. This grant includes a round-trip flight donated by The Dutta Corp. to France to compete in the FEI World Young Horse Championship as a seven year old. The grant winner will also receive \$17,500 if the horse is an American-bred and \$8,000 if imported.

New Interscholastic Eventing League

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In August 2020, the Eventing Association Board of Governors approved the creation of the USEA Interscholastic Eventing League (IEL).

The mission of IEL is "to bring together junior riders with a common interest and provide a supportive community through which students can continue to pursue their riding interest."

The program has already gained in popularity with 13 teams in Area II (which includes Maryland) signing up within the first month! Teams may be associated with a school, barn, trainer or even a group of friends wanting to form their own team. Each team must have a minimum of three riders to register but teams may scramble with other teams as needed at individual events.

Any USEA-recognized event can offer an IEL Team Challenge. Currently there are nine events in Maryland alone hosting these competitions, and the list keeps growing! The IEL competitions are held in conjunction with USEA events and teams register ahead of time for additional team awards.

The USEA hopes this program will increase membership as well as educate and engage riders in 7th through 12th grades. It also becomes a pathway into the USEA's Intercollegiate Eventing program, which has been running since 2014 for college teams.

For more information on how to join a team and rules for the league, see useventing.com.

New Young Jumper Championships

The US Hunter Jumper Association has announced that the new USHJA Young Jumper Championships is set to begin with the 2021 season. The finale will be held at the Traverse City Fall Horse Show on September 8-12 in Michigan and will hold separate championships for 4- through 8-year-old horses. Prize money will be given through 15th place for each age group with bonus prize money offered for U.S. breeders and American-bred horses.

Four-year-old horses do not have to qualify ahead of time, however they must meet the eligibility requirements listed at ushja.org. Five-, six- and seven-year-old horses qualify through USHJA Young Jumper Championships Qualifying classes at USEF-licensed competitions. Eight-year-old horses qualify with one clear round in classes at 1.30 meter or higher held at USEF-licensed competitions. The qualifying period ends August 15.

For more details and a qualifying competition schedule, see ushja.org.