

## **2009 QUIZ AT LP FIELD**

*Site-driven logistics & potential rule changes.*

This section contains discussions re: the following:

- Site-driven logistics related to LP Field
  - Proposed changes to tie-breaking procedure
  - Relevant weight of Barn & Classroom scores to other Phases
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### ***Site-driven logistics related to LP Field --***

**PLEASE SEE MAPS ALSO ATTACHED TO THE E-MAIL.**

Quizzards will, at one time or another, occupy space on four (4) levels of LP Field:

- Level 1 is an underground tunnel that may be used to travel back & forth -- ***in escorted groups*** -- between the East & West sides of the stadium.
- Level 2 is ground level. You will enter at Level 2 from the parking lots.
- Level 3 is an escalator mezzanine. Unless you're slated for Classroom #2, you will only pass through this level when moving back & forth between Level 2 & Level 4.
- Level 4 is the Club Level of LP Field. We will be using Level 4 on both the East & West sides of LP Field.

Quizzards may use the stairs and escalators to move between the levels of LP Field. ***Unless there is a documented need submitted to the Organizer/Secretary PRIOR TO QUIZ (even it's 10 min. prior to Quiz in case of an accident the day before/morning of), no Quizzard may use the elevators.***

The two sides (East & West) of LP Field are mirror images of ea. other. At Level 4 (where Quizzards will spend most of their time) and Level 3 (the escalator mezzanines & home of Classroom #2 on the East side), the two sides are ***NOT*** connected to each other.

LP Field security will be at all Level 2 exits on both the East & West sides from 8 a.m. 'til midnight.

At least one Barn Cat will be stationed at the base of the East-side Level 2 escalator/stairs to ensure that no non-competitors/non-***currently active*** volunteers go past the Neutral Zone once the competition area is closed to non-competitors/non-volunteers at 8:50 a.m.

At least one Barn Cat will be stationed on the East-side Level 3 escalator mezzanine to direct traffic (such as point out the location of Classroom #2 and ensure that no one wanders off into the private suites).

At least one Barn Cat will be stationed at the top of the East-side Level 4 escalator/stairs to ensure that...oh, just because!

All attending MidSouth VRS's & Officers who don't have other jobs will be stationed in the "barn aisles" to maintain order -- **and answer competitors' questions** -- from 8:50 a.m. when all volunteers & non-competitors/non-volunteers head off to Orientation 'til the last inquiry/protest period of the day comes to an end.

There **is** a PA system on the Club Level (Level 4) of LP Field!!! This means that testing delays, score postings & score posting delays can be announced so that all competitors can hear about them. The PA speaker system does **not** extend to the Information Desk/Neutral Zone on Level 2.

TEAM STALLS WILL HAVE TABLES & CHAIRS!!!!!!

Where you're supposed to be when will depend on whether you are a competitor, a volunteer (and what kind of volunteer) or a non-competitor/non-volunteer. Here's how the day will unfold:

Registration/Information Desk/Neutral Zone and Possum Trot and Walnut Creek Silent Auctions will be on Level 2 of the **EAST** side (*if you stand in the Ramada Inn Limited @ Stadium's parking lot & look toward downtown Nashville, your view will be blocked by the LP Field doors you'll enter for Registration*). This is where EVERYONE will START the day. Competitors and volunteers will pick up their packets between 8 & 9 a.m. Non-competitors/non-volunteers are welcome to escort their competitors up to Level 4 to the Team Stalls. However, **NO ONE** is allowed in the Barn, Classroom, Mega-Room and Stations spaces. (*Bag Ladies/Bag Men -- and you will know who you are as soon as you receive your 2009 Quiz job assignment -- **MUST** pick up your packets **at the stroke of 8 a.m.** At 8:05 a.m., you will **be escorted** to Level 4 of the West side to label & distribute volunteer lunches and bandanas. You will stay on the West side for Orientation & then you'll **be escorted** back to Level 4 of the East side to label & distribute competitor lunches.*)

At 8:50 a.m., all competitors are to be in their stalls.

At 8:50 a.m., all volunteers are to be gathered in the Registration area, ready to **be escorted** from the East to the West side of LP Field.

At 8:50 a.m., **ALL non-competitors/non-volunteers** (inc. non-competing siblings; they won't bother me, I'll try not to bore them & **all** parents need to hear the first 10-15 minutes of the Orientation briefing) may either gather with the volunteers in the Registration area to WALK, **escorted**, to the West side of LP Field -- knowing they'll have to WALK, **escorted**, back -- or hop in their cars & DRIVE around to the West side of LP Field.

At 9 a.m., all volunteers **AND all non-competitors/non-volunteers** will attend Orientation on Level 4 of the **WEST** side of LP Field. After 10-15 minutes, Phase volunteers will be dismissed to continue Phase-specific training. They will **be escorted** back to the East side of LP Field. Non-competitors/non-volunteers who walked over with them will walk back, **escorted**, with them. Non-competitors/non-volunteers who drove around from the East side will head back to their cars & whatever they want to do with themselves for the rest of the day.

At 9:50 a.m., all competitors will **be escorted** to the West side of LP Field for the Written Test.

At 10 a.m., I will welcome competitors to Quiz, make brief remarks, introduce the Technical Delegate who will probably make brief remarks, introduce other Quiz officials and invite competitors to ask questions. Immediately after that, UR/D1 competitors & their Chaperones will **be escorted** back to the East side of LP Field to have the Written Test and Tie-Breaker Question (if any) read aloud to them, D2 competitors will **be escorted** to a nearby room to have the Written Test and Tie-Breaker Question (if any) read aloud to them, D3 competitors will **be escorted** to a nearby room to have the Written Test and Tie-Breaker Question (if any) read aloud to them & any competitors with an officially documented need for an individual Reader/Scribe for the Written Test and Tie-Breaker Question (if any) will **be escorted** by their Reader/Scribe to a place where they can take the Written Test and Tie-Breaker Question (if any) in peace. The remaining competitors will then take the Written Test and Tie-Breaker Question (if any). ***When Reader/Scribe-assisted competitors finish, they will rejoin the main group and sit quietly 'til the Written Test and Tie-Breaker Question (if any) are completed.***

At 11 a.m. or as soon as ALL "West-side" groups (the main group, all Reader/Scribe-assisted competitors, the D2's & the D3's) have finished the Written Test and Tie-Breaker Question (if any), all "West-side" competitors will **be escorted** back to the East side to rejoin the UR/D1's and have lunch.

For the rest of the day, all TESTING takes place on the **EAST** side.

At 11:30 a.m., Barn, Classroom, Mega-Room and Stations testing begins! Division IA Chaperones will shepherd their teams to & from each Phase. MidSouth VRS's & Officers -- who don't have other Quiz jobs -- will be available to answer any pleas for help from Division IB, IC, II, III, IV or V competitors.

Barn will be on Level 4 between the escalator/stairs and the windows.

Classroom #1 will be on Level 2 behind the Information Desk & Classroom #2 will be on Level 3 in a hallway leading to some of the private suites. Instead of being posted outside the entrances to the Classrooms, the Classroom sections of Quiz for Dummyz will be posted at the top of the escalator/stairs on Level 4. Five minutes before your testing session is due to begin, report to the top of the escalator/stairs on Level 4 where you will be met by your Classroom's Room Steward or Runner who will call roll, encourage you to review the Classroom section of Quiz for Dummyz and **escort you** to your Classroom. Your Classroom's Room Steward or Runner will also **escort you** back to Level 4 after your testing session.

Mega-Room will be in a room at one end of Level 4.

Stations will be in a room at the other end of Level 4.

Scoring, Reference and Final Scores are all on Level 4.

Immediately after the last testing session in each Phase, an announcement will be SHOUTED in the Neutral Zone. Any non-competitor/non-volunteer who wishes to view that Phase's set-up will need to gather at the base of the Level 2 escalator/stairs ***IMMEDIATELY***. The gathered group will **be escorted** from the Neutral Zone to the Phase space where the set-up will be open for viewing for THIRTY (30) MINUTES after which time the non-competitor/non-volunteer group **will be escorted** back to the Neutral Zone on Level 2. I **DO** realize that unanticipated schedule delays can make this process very unwieldy. I **DO** promise -- but, unfortunately, cannot guarantee -- that we will do our dead level best to stick to the schedule as

published in the program. ***I also realize that it's hard to view any other Phase set-up if you're stuck volunteering in a Phase, especially if it's the Phase that finishes last. I would encourage Clubs to spread their volunteers around among the Phases. That way, by the end of the day, at least one volunteer from each Club will have an insider's take on each Phase and you can all compare notes when you start preparing for the next Quiz!***

Competitors will be released to their Chaperones and/or parents in the Neutral Zone on Level 2 of the East side when they have signed off on their final scores or their final score inquiry/protest period ends, whichever comes first. This means that you will need to plan to meet your child at this time, based on & absolutely, positively no later than your child's finish time as listed on his/her roster published in the program.

The Regional Council Meeting will be in a room at one end of Level 4 on the **WEST** side at 5:30 p.m. Meeting participants will need to **DRIVE** to the West side entrance.

The Banquet, Awards and Dance will be on Level 4 of the **WEST** side. Since that is the side from which everyone will depart LP Field after the Banquet, Awards and Dance, **everyone** must **DRIVE** to the West side for this activity. *(All Ticket Takers & Gatekeepers -- you'll know who you are when you receive your 2009 Quiz job assignment -- need to be on duty by 6 p.m. Club "claim stakers" need to check-in by 6:15 p.m.)*

**ADD MAPS**

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## ***Proposed changes to tie-breaking procedure --***

Here's what I've asked the National Quiz Committee to consider. If they don't enact the proposal as a Rule change, I will seek permission from USPC Activities Director Wayne Quarles to use this at our Rally even if it's not part of the national Rulebook (*like a lot of things we do at our Quiz Rally that aren't part of or are at odds with the national Rulebook!*).

With 200-250 competitors, we have positively ***Gordian*** ties at MidSouth's Quiz Rally. It takes a great deal of time to pull the Tie-Breakers, get the TD into scoring to break them & then break ties based on ***microscopic*** differences. At all other Rallies, there are multiple "layers" of ways to break ties: At Dressage Rally, there are 3 ways to break individual ties & 2 ways to break team ties. At D1 Rally, there are 3 ways to break individual ties (no teams at D1 Rally). At D2 & D3 Rallies, there are FOUR ways to break individual ties & THREE ways to break team ties! At C Rallies, there are 2 ways to break individual ties & 3 ways to break team ties. At Show Jumping Rallies, there are 2 ways to break individual ties & FOUR ways to break team ties! Be still my heart!!! Chief Scorer Dana Kamp would be posting scores within 15 min. of the end of ea. division's last testing session if we had those kinds of tools!!!!

I realize that different Regions are allowed to pick & choose different Phases for their Quiz Rallies but the tie-breaker could be conditional:

Individual ties are broken first by Mega-Room scores (if any), then by Written Test scores (if any), then by Classroom scores (if any) and finally by individual Barn scores (if any).

*My reasoning for that order is that Mega-Room scores have the greatest variation, Written Test scores are next & 3 rounds of Classroom means more score variation than 1 round of Barn. Off the cuff while momentarily distracted from his day job, Chief Scorer Dana Kamp suggested reversing the order for the same reasons. As a #'s guy, he believes we should break ties from least variation to most variation.*

Team ties are broken first by Stations scores (if any), then by team Barn scores (if any) and then by the highest total score of the teams' third-placed competitors' Classroom scores (if any), then by those competitors' Mega-Room scores (if any) and finally by those competitors' Written Test scores (if any).

*My reasoning for that order is that Stations is a team activity & Barn has a team element; then, among individuals, again, Mega-Room scores have the greatest variation & Written Test scores are next with Classroom bringing up the rear among those 3 Phases. Again, Chief Scorer Dana Kamp would reverse the order of recourse to Mega-Room and Written Test.*

Here's what one mom (mother of 2 Quizzards) said about that:

That sounds like a very logical idea to me. Would that have changed the outcomes of this year's Quiz? Of course, I could look it up myself but I am guessing that you already toyed with the results to check. I think that would be a FABULOUS way to break ties. The parents would like it as well so they don't have to guess what it was or wasn't included in Susie's answer that was in Jane's answer. They can just look at the scoreboard! LOVE IT!

And Deborah's response:

You give me too much credit. I did NOT check before I spoke. I just know from scoring all the Rallies at Mega-Rally that it takes me SECONDS to break all the ties v. the HOURS it takes to break all the ties at Quiz. And I know it's not -- AT ALL -- that I'm faster than Dana. It's that Dana and TD Pierre are hamstrung by the lack of better tie-breaker procedures.

The reason I didn't check first is because it doesn't matter. Whatever procedure you put in place, the results will vary from what they would have been if you'd put a different procedure in place. For instance, take USEA horse trials. Ties are broken as follows:

#### INDIVIDUAL FINAL CLASSIFICATION.

- In the event of equality between any two or more competitors, the classification is
- b. decided by the best cross-country score, including faults at obstacles and time penalties. If there is still equality, the best will be the competitor whose cross-country time was closest to the optimum time.

#### TEAM FINAL CLASSIFICATION.

- In the event of equality between any two or more teams, the winning team will be that
- b. whose third placed competitor has the best score.

If you broke individual ties by best dressage score instead of by best XC score, the results might very well be different.

If you broke team ties by best 2nd placed competitor per team instead of by best 3rd placed competitor per team, the results might very well be different.

USEA chooses to break individual ties based on XC because -- I'M ASSUMING -- XC is the essence of eventing. I'm not sure there is an "essence of Quiz," but I'm quite certain the most score variation for individuals occurs in Mega-Room so that's where I want to look first to break ties. USEA chooses to break team ties based on 3rd placed competitors because -- I'M ASSUMING -- you're comparing the worst of one team to the worst of the other team & therefore the better team wins. I like the idea of bringing the team elements of Stations & Barn into the team tie-breaking process. Just my personal preference.

In my opinion, HOW you break ties is not as important as that the procedure for doing so is (a) clearly defined to competitors & spectators and (b) designed to be efficiently & effectively implemented.

The current Quiz tie-breaking procedure fails on both counts. The Tie-Breaker Question is, quite obviously, not public knowledge & it takes bloody forever to implement through a WILDLY subjective process.

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### ***Relative weight of Barn & Classroom to other Phases --***

Here's what a Quiz mom (4th timer with an 8-year-old D1 & an 11-year-old D2) e-mailed the chair of the National Quiz Committee. There has been no resolution as yet but I think it may be awhile in coming & I wanted to get the rest of the information contained in this document to all Quizzards soon so rather than wait, I'm just letting you know where we currently are.

**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2008 10:38 PM

**To:** dick@thehorseinsport.com; activities@ponyclub.org

**Cc:** 'Deborah Lovett'; Pierre Billard

**Subject:** USPC Quiz

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Having attended my fourth Quiz Rally with my children (an 8-year-old D1 and an 11-year-old D2) I have finally determined that Quiz is won or lost in the Barn (for non-qualifying D's) and in Barn and Classroom for the qualifying competitions. As I studied the outcomes I began to question the methodology of having these Phases' question point values so out of context with the other Phases. Is it a 'hangover' from when Quiz (a.k.a Know-Down) was just a written test and oral questions? Why are they so out of sync with the other Phases?

I think that the question point values in Barn and Classroom are too heavily weighted. One issue is with the 'asking up' formulation of scoring on the outcome of the competition. Since all D's are grouped in the same Division – a D1 asking for a 15-point question (a D3) question is going to get the same number of points for a D3 asking for the same value question (a C2 question). The depth of knowledge for a C2 question verses a D3 question is enormous – yet the D3 who doesn't 'ask up' to this level has very little chance of placing in the competition unless they have that C2 knowledge. This seems very unfair and from a D3's perspective I would think that they may not want to go to competitions if they know that their lower ranked competitors have an edge. With all we are trying to do to keep the older kids interested in Pony Club I think this is one overlooked area that needs to be addressed. I know we want to separate the kids who take Quiz seriously from those that don't but I think we are making it more of a test of a lucky draw rather than a test of knowledge.

I have several suggestions – just thoughts really – about how the Classroom/Barn section could be reformulated to be more equitable. I would probably have to consult a statistician to figure out the correct point values so these are strictly conjecture.

First, the three questions would be at three different levels – (D1, D2 and D3) or (D2, D3 and C1). Keep a standard – don't allow anyone to 'ask up' for extra points. That way everyone would be challenged evenly.

Second, change the point values of the questions in classroom to be in better sync with the other sections. As it is right now there are:

- 25 questions on the Written Test (1pt. each)
- 1 individual question at Barn – (from 5-15 points) + 1 team question
- 3 questions at Classroom (from 5-15 points each – or 15-45 points if you ask up)
- 6 tables of questions at Mega-Room – (1 pt. per item at ea. Table)
- 6 tables of questions at Stations (20 TEAM pts. per Station; no individual pts.)

So as you can see, the average worth of a question in the other Phases is 1-2 points – so the obvious question is why are the Classroom and Barn questions worth up to 15 points for one correct answer? Perhaps they should be 2 pts., 4 pts. and 6 pts.?

Perhaps this topic has been heavily discussed over the years and it was unbeknownst to me. So, if there is a solid basis for these point values being designated as such, I would love to hear the reasoning.

I look forward to your reply,

**From:** Deborah Lovett [mailto:dekalo@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2008 10:56 PM

Just to clarify a few of \_\_\_\_'s points...

MidSouth has 1 round (1 individual question per team member & 1 team question) in the Barn Phase, the minimum required for a qualifying Rally. Other Regional Rallies & Championships may have more rounds. Of course, more Barn rounds would only make success MORE heavily weighted toward Barn scores.

MidSouth has 3 rounds (1 individual question per team member) in the Classroom Phase, again, the minimum required for a qualifying Rally; and, again, more Classroom rounds would only make success MORE heavily weighted toward Classroom scores.

There ARE 6 rounds in Mega-Room at MidSouth's Quiz Rally BUT the max. possible points is different for different divisions. In 2008, the breakdown was as follows:

- Divisions IA (< 9 D's) & IB (10-12 UR/D1's) - 59 max. possible pts.
- Divisions IC (10-12 D2/D3's) & II (13 > D's) - 90 max. possible pts.
- C's (Jr. & Sr.) - 88 max. possible pts.

There ARE 6 rounds of Stations at MidSouth's Quiz Rally and the max. possible pts. per Station is 20 for the TEAM (no individual points are awarded in Stations).

**From:** Deborah Lovett [mailto:dekalo@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2008 8:02 AM

This doesn't address the Barn Phase weight issue but it's a possibility for Classroom since the Rules mandate 3 rounds. Each competitor's first Classroom question would be at his/her Rating & worth 5 pts. Each competitor's second Classroom question would be at the Rating above his/her Rating & worth 10 pts. Each competitor's third Classroom question would be at 2 Rating levels above the competitor's Rating & worth 15 pts.

In addition to not addressing Barn, the preceding suggestion also doesn't address the issue of how much more a D3 has to know to answer a C2 question than a D1 has to know to answer a D3 question. Even if we expanded our Region's new policy for next year (*Division IA competitors will not be allowed to compete in Divisions IB, IC or II under any circumstance no matter how much one of them loves their older sister or can't tear themselves away from their older Clubmate*) and said NO ONE could compete out of division, you'd still have UR/D1's, D2's & D3's lumped together in Division IA (<9 D's) & Division II (13> D's). \_\_\_\_\_: As a parent of current competitors, would you be ok with the 1st = same, 2nd = +1 & 3rd = +2 concept in Classroom? Would it take prohibiting ALL out of division competition to make it palatable? And would even that overcome the fact that you have all D's in 2 divisions?

I also know the Classroom Coordinator would hug & kiss me no end because they wouldn't have to pick NEARLY as many questions v. having to cover every possible contingency (everybody in the division

asks for a question at their Rating level **AND** everybody in the division asks for a question 1 Rating level higher **AND** everybody in the division asks for a question 2 Rating levels higher).

**From:** Dick Adams [mailto:dick@thehorseinsport.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2008 5:41 PM

**To:** "Deborah Lovett "; " \_\_\_\_\_ "; dick@thehorseinsport.com; [activities@ponyclub.org](mailto:activities@ponyclub.org)

**Cc:** "Pierre Billard "; Danakamp@gmail.com; njssmith@aol.com

**Subject:** RE: USPC Quiz

Deborah,

I needed to think about this overnight. It is something that we can discuss as a committee. Please keep coping me on this as it seems to be growing.

Thanks

Dick Adams