

Weather Emergency Plan for Rallies

All competitors are responsible for knowing the contents of this plan and following the procedures in it if the plan is activated.

Purposes: (1) To achieve the highest level of safety for all participants and their mounts, spectators, and others. (2) To preserve the integrity of the rally to the extent consistent with safety.

Summary: In the event of severe weather the Regional Supervisor will suspend the competition. At that time, participants and their mounts will take cover until the Regional Supervisor directs that it is to be resumed or terminated.

Overall Responsibility: Regional Supervisor. The RS may request advice from others such as the Technical Delegate, the Chief Horse Management Judge, and persons knowledgeable about weather patterns at the rally site. The Regional Supervisor also makes the decision to resume the competition or terminate it. In the absence or incapacity of the Regional Supervisor, a Vice Regional Supervisor will make the determinations. The decision of the Regional Supervisor is final and not subject to protest.

Procedure: The procedure differs depending on whether the competitors have been assigned stalls in a permanent structure or not.

Notification	Notification will be made by the most expedient means. If possible the PA system will be utilized. Two-way radios and runners may be utilized. The message will be that “The Regional Supervisor has put the Weather Emergency plan in effect. Take cover immediately.”
Mounts	When stalls are assigned: All mounts are returned immediately to their assigned stalls. When NO stalls are assigned: Mounts that are already on trailers will remain on trailers. All mounts not already on trailers will be taken to the indoor ring.
Competitors	All competitors go to the indoor and assemble by team. Captains (pinnies with numbers ending in 1 or 6) will account for their team members and report to the Chief Horse Management Judge as soon as their team is assembled.

Conduct in the Indoor Ring: The Chief Horse Management Judge is in control in the indoor ring. He/she will designate a separate area in which parents and spectators may assemble. In the interest of safety and preserving the integrity of the competition parents/spectators may NOT join the competitors unless directed to do so by the Chief Horse Management Judge. While in the indoor ring unauthorized assistance rules remain in effect.

Questions and Answers:

Question: May competitors remain in the trailer area, parking area, or the riding areas?

Answer: No, all competitors must go to the indoor ring immediately. Competitors may NOT remain in the trailer, parking, or riding areas. Competitors who do not go promptly to the indoor ring are considered to have left the rally without permission and are disqualified from the competition. Their parents will be notified to pick them up and remove them from the grounds as soon as weather permits.

Question: May competitors remain with their parents in their vehicles?

Answer: Parents and legal guardians have the prerogative of withdrawing their children from the rally. Competitors who remain with their parents in their vehicles are considered to have been withdrawn from the rally by their parents.

Question: My horse is an easy loader. When I get the message that the emergency plan is in effect, should I load him instead of taking him to the indoor?

Answer: No, you should not load him. Take him to the indoor immediately.

Question: What should I do when I get to the indoor?

Answer: Assemble with your team. If you have your mount with you, try to keep him separated from other horses. Await instructions from the Chief Horse Management Judge. If you are the Captain, once your team is assembled you should let the CHMJ know. Remember that rally rules, including unauthorized assistance, remain in effect.