

## 2017 Stirrup Cup Program and Championship Event Specifications

The goal of the awards program is to recognize the accomplishments of USHJA members and to promote the Regional I (B) and Regional II (C) hunter rated competitions and Jumper Level 1 and Jumper Level 2 jumper rated competitions. This awards program is a separate program from the USEF Horse of the Year Program. The USHJA Stirrup Cup Awards are an additional and unique awards program that you are automatically enrolled in by being a member of USHJA and competing in Regional I (B) and Regional II (C) rated competitions.

### **I. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Horse owner, rider and trainer must be Active/Competing members of USHJA and USEF. Membership must be active on or before the first day of competition as outlined in the USEF rulebook.
- B. Horses must have a USEF Annual or Life recording and a USHJA horse registration.
- C. Starting December 1, 2016, the competition year will be December 1 to November 30.

### **II. POINTS**

- A. Hunter and equitation points will be based on the current increment system for Regional I (B) and Regional II (C) rated competitions established by USEF. Jumper points will be based on the current increment system for Level 1 and Level 2 rated competitions. Only points earned at Regional I (B) and Regional II (C) USEF-licensed competitions, and points earned at Jumper Level 1 or 2 rated competitions will count for this award program.
- B. Points can only be obtained in states within the owner's home zone, which is determined by the owner's USEF point state.
- C. In order to receive a Stirrup Cup Award, the horse must have earned points at a minimum of three shows.
- D. Awards will be given to the top six in each section in each zone.
- E. Stirrup Cup points may only be accumulated in an owner's home zone; points accumulated in a contiguous state or country never count toward Stirrup Cup awards.

### **III. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS**

1. The following classes will follow the National Specifications found in the USEF Rule Book:
  - a) Green Hunter (3'0" and 3'3"), Performance Hunter 3'3", Amateur Owner Hunter (3'3" and 3'6"), Junior Hunter (3'3" and 3'6"), Pony Hunter, Small Hunter, Thoroughbred Hunter, Thoroughbred Jumper, Junior Jumper, and Amateur Owner Jumper
2. The following sections will follow the USHJA Zone Specifications:
  - a) Children's Hunter Pony, Children's Hunter Horse, Adult Amateur Hunter, Children's Jumper, Adult Amateur Jumper, and Age Group Equitation
3. The following sections will follow the specifications as listed:
  - a) Low Children's Hunter Horse
    - Eligibility: Open to exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.
    - Cross Entry: Riders may not cross enter at the same competition into the Children's Hunter, Pony Hunter or any class/section where fences exceed 2'9" (Exception: 3'0" Equitation).
    - Height of Fences: 2'6"
  - b) Low Adult Amateur Hunter
    - Eligibility: Open to exhibitors who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.
    - Cross Entry: Riders may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where fences exceed 2'9" (Exception: 3'0" Equitation).
    - Height of Fences: 2'6"
  - c) Low Pony Hunter

- Eligibility: Open to exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.
  - Cross Entry: Low Pony Hunter riders may not cross enter into any class where fences exceed 2'9" or into any rated section at the same competition.
  - Height of Fences: 2'0"
  - Combining/Dividing: Can be split
- d) 0.90m Children/Adult Amateur Jumper
- Eligibility: Open to horses and ponies ridden by junior or adult riders.
  - Cross Entry: Riders may not have competed in classes where fences exceed 1.05m.
  - Height of Fences: 0.90m (2'11")

- IV. STIRRUP CUP CHAMPIONSHIP** – Each zone has the ability to host a Stirrup Cup Championship. The host location shall be approved by the applicable zone hunter committee, Hunter Working Group, and Executive Director.
- A. A Stirrup Cup Championship host must apply for a two year competition agreement. Only two year competition agreements will be accepted.
- B. Host Minimum Criteria
1. Must be established (has occurred for at least three years) and have a minimum of 75 horses for each of the three prior years.
  2. Must have a Regional I or II Hunter rating and a Jumper Level 1 or 2 rating. No FEI rating is allowed.
  3. Must disclose other special classes, finals, championships occurring and demonstrate the Stirrup Cup Championship classes will have the highest or equal billing and promotion as any other feature event/classes.
  4. Officials requirements:
    - a) 'R' Steward, if two hunter/equitation rings – at least one 'R' Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Judge, if three or more hunter/equitation rings – at least 50% of the judges must be 'R' Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Judges, Jumper Judge may not serve as either announcer or starter.
    - b) Must have a course designer present.
  5. Must have announcers with no other duties.
  6. Must have a featured award presentations and a dedicated award presenter.
  7. Prize money is optional but must adhere to the ratings of the show. Any prize money offered must be stated in the application, along with a list of classes, Championship class format, schedule, and list of key staff and officials.
- C. Competitor Qualifying Criteria
- a) Stirrup Cup Championship classes are open to all competitors who meet the minimum Stirrup Cup Program eligibility requirements outlined in Section I.
- D. Each USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship must offer all of the following USHJA Stirrup Cup Awards sections. Complementary sections may be combined if there are not at least three entries in each section. Please note the age groups offered may vary for each zone. All age group sections must be run in accordance with the Zone Specifications.

**HUNTER**

- USHJA Hunter 2', 2'3", 2'6", 2'9", 3'
- Children's Hunter Horse
- Children's Hunter Pony
- Adult Amateur Hunter
- Low Children's Hunter Horse
- Low Adult Amateur Hunter
- Green 3' and 3'3"
- Low Amateur Owner 3'3"
- Low Junior Hunter 3'3"
- Low Pony Hunter

**EQUITATION**

- Equitation 17 & Under
- Adult Equitation 18 & Over

**JUMPERS**

- Children's Jumper
- Adult Amateur Jumper
- 0.90m Children/Adult Amateur Jumper

- E. Competition Format – Stirrup Cup Championship must be offered under the Section or Classic Format.
1. Hunter – Section Format:
    - a) Must be offered with a minimum of two over fences classes and one under saddle as defined in HU148.
    - b) Management may designate the classes of the existing section that will count for the USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship Points. Additional classes are not required to be held for the USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship.
    - c) Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th in each class will receive Stirrup Cup Championship Points. Stirrup Cup Championship Points will be awarded for Champion and Reserve Champion.
  2. Hunter – Classic Format:
    - a) Must be offered with two over fences classes as part of the Hunter Classic.
    - b) Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th in the second round of the Hunter Classic will receive Stirrup Cup Championship Points.
  3. Jumper – Section Format:
    - a) May be offered as two or three individual classes.
    - b) Management may designate the classes of the existing section that will count for the USHJA Stirrup Cup Points. Additional classes are not required to be held for the USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship.
    - c) Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th in each class will receive Stirrup Cup Championship Points.
  4. Jumper – Classic Format:
    - a) May be offered in a two round/one jump-off Jumper Classic
    - b) Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th in the Championship overall placings of the Classic will receive Stirrup Cup Championship Points.
  5. Equitation – Section Format:
    - a) Must be offered at two over fences classes and one under saddle.
    - b) Management may designate the classes of the existing section that will count for the USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship Points. Additional classes are not required to be held for the USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship.
    - c) Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th in each class will receive Stirrup Cup Championship Points. Stirrup Cup Championship Points will be awarded for Champion and Reserve Champion.
  6. If a host competition combines Stirrup Cup Championship classes with open classes, the competition must pin the Stirrup Cup Championship classes separately.
- F. Additional Fees (“Armband Fees”)
1. If the competition charges exhibitors an additional fee (“Armband Fees”) to compete in the Stirrup Cup Championship, a minimum of 3 exhibitors must pay the additional fee and compete in order for the Stirrup Cup Championship Points to be awarded.
  2. Host competitions may only charge additional fees (“Armband Fees”) to participate in the USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship under the following conditions:
    - a) The fees are included in the qualifying criteria developed by each Zone and approved by the USHJA.
    - b) The fees in the qualifying criteria are being assessed to benefit the Zone.
    - c) The fees are remitted to the USHJA within 10 days of the conclusion of the competition.
- G. Contact Information - Please contact USHJA if questions arise pertaining to the USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship cannot be answered by the show steward, management or the zone committee representative based on the class specifications provided (USHJA Phone: 859-225-6700).

## **V. STIRRUP CUP CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS**

- A. In order to earn Championship Points, the owner of the horse/pony must reside within the Zone. All riders and owners must be Active/Competing members of USEF and USHJA and horses must be USEF recorded and USHJA registered in order to earn points.
- B. In Hunter and Jumper sections the owner of the horse must reside within the Zone in order to participate in the Stirrup Cup Championship and receive Championship Points. In Equitation sections the rider must reside

within the Zone in order to participate in the Stirrup Cup Championship and receive Bonus Championship Points.

- C. A minimum of three exhibitors must compete in a Stirrup Cup Championship in order for Stirrup Cup Championship Points to be awarded. The definition of compete for Hunters and Age Group Equitation is in accordance with HU133 and the definition of compete for Jumpers is in accordance with JP135.13.
- D. Hunter Stirrup Cup Championship Point Chart

Champion and Reserve Championship points will be given to the Stirrup Cup Championship sections that follow HU148. Champions will receive 80 points for each section completed and Reserve Champions will receive 48 points.

Placing	Championship Points for Each Class (Section Format)	Championship Points for Each Class (Classic Format)
1	40	80
2	30	60
3	20	40
4	12	24
5	10	20
6	8	16
7	6	12
8	4	8
Champion	80	
Reserve	48	

E. Jumper Stirrup Cup Championship Point Chart

Children's/Adult Amateur Jumpers, Thoroughbred Jumpers and Low Pony Jumpers will receive points from the Stirrup Cup Championship Bonus Point Chart excluding Champion and Reserve points.

Junior/Amateur Owner Jumpers and 1.20 Jumpers will be based on one point for every dollar won unless no money is awarded and then these classes will receive the points from the Stirrup Cup Championship Bonus Point Chart excluding Champion and Reserve points.

Placing	Championship Points for Each Class (Section Format)	Championship Points for Each Class (Classic Format)
1	40	80
2	30	60
3	20	40
4	12	24
5	10	20
6	8	16
7	6	12
8	4	8
Champion	<b>NA - Jumpers</b>	
Reserve	<b>NA - Jumpers</b>	

F. Equitation Stirrup Cup Championship Point Chart

Champion and Reserve Championship Points will be given to the Stirrup Cup Championship sections that follow HU148. Champions will receive 80 Championship Points for each section completed and Reserve

Champions will receive 48 Championship points.

Placing	Championship Points for Each Class
1	40
2	30
3	20
4	12
5	10
6	8
7	6
8	4
Champion	80
Reserve	48

*The USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship and the related format and specifications are the sole properties of the USHJA and may only be held, conducted or used upon the terms and conditions specified by the USHJA. USHJA reserves the right to change language in documents related to the conduct of the USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship which is not conducted in accordance with the USEF Rules and Zone Specifications will not count for Championship Points. Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA Stirrup Cup Championship are not permitted without the express written permission from USHJA prior to the printing of the prize list.*

*For any rules not specified above, please refer to the current USEF Rule Book.*

