



USHJA NATIONAL HUNTER CLASSIC SPECIFICATIONS

1. Course Requirements

i Round One: Hunter Classic Course

- a. A minimum of ten obstacles must be offered in the Hunter Classic Round.
- b. Fence heights 3'0"
- c. There must be four option fences set at 3'3" to 3'5".
- d. At least one In and Out
- e. At least one Bending Line
- f. At least one line with an unrelated distance
- g. At least one long approach
- h. Jumps:
 - i Obstacles must simulate those reminiscent of the hunt field and course must offer a variety of Classic jumps with different appearances such as: natural post and rail, stone wall, white board fence or gate, coop, aiken, hedge, oxer, brush, logs, natural foliage.
 - i Natural obstacles such as banks and ditches are allowed.
 - i A 3" difference is required for the back element of all oxers.
 - i Ground lines are not to exceed 18" in depth from the vertical plane of the jump. For appropriate jumps, no ground line is acceptable.
 - i The jumpable portion of any fence must be a minimum of 8 feet on its front face.
 - i Flat cups may only be used for log fences and in accordance with Federation rules.

i Round Two: Handy Hunter Course

- i A minimum of eight obstacles must be offered in the Handy Hunter Round.
- i Fence height 3'0"
- i There must be four option fences set at 3'3" to 3'5"
- i The course should simulate riding over hunt country and must have a minimum of two handy options, such as: tight turns, different tracks, clever options for jump approaches, pen type obstacles, hand gallop a jump, trot a lowered obstacle not to exceed 2'6" in height, walk over an obstacle not to exceed 18" in height, lead over an obstacle, halt and/or back, open gate while mounted. Gimmicky options are not appropriate.
- i A minimum of twelve (12) entries, including horses tied for 12th place, must return for Round Two, if available. If more than 12 entries are to return for Round Two, it must be so stated in the Prize List. In that case, all horses tied for the last place designated to return will also be eligible to compete in Round Two.

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- i Obstacles must simulate those reminiscent of the hunt field and course must offer a variety of Classic jumps with different appearances such as: natural post and rail, stone wall, white board fence or gate, coop, aiken, hedge, oxer, brush, logs, natural foliage.
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- i Flat cups may only be used for log fences and in accordance with Federation rules.

3. Jog

Horses entered in this class will **NOT** be required to jog for soundness. Any unsoundness during the competition will be reflected in the scores from the judges (GR 1031.7).

4. Tie Breaking Procedures

In the case of ties occurring in the overall placings, the handy round scores will be used to break any ties.

There will **NOT** be a jump off for tied horses.

5. Award Presentations

All riders in the Top 8 overall (or their designated representative if not available) must ride for ribbons in order to receive prize money. Although not required, a show may choose to award separate ribbons for Round One, if so stated in the prize list.

6. Class Specifications

- i A minimum of \$2,500 prize money must be offered per class.
- i The entry fee cannot exceed 5% of the prize money offered. (Exception: The required USHJA per entrant fee may be in addition.)
- i In order for National Hunter Classic points to be awarded, riders must complete a USHJA Exhibitor Declaration Form. If the Exhibitor Declaration Form is not complete and submitted to the show office at the time of entry or at least one hour prior to the start of the class, riders will not receive points for the National Hunter Classic.
- i The number of horses a rider can ride in a National Hunter Classic may be limited if so specified in the Prize List.
- i The Prize List may specify that in order to be eligible to compete in a National Hunter Classic, a horse must compete in one or two classes at the same competition.
- i During the two phases of the National Hunter Classic, all horses entered must be ridden only in the designated National Hunter Classic warm-up area(s) wearing their classic competition number. This includes horses entered simultaneously in another class, if any. Entered horses ridden or schooled

elsewhere on the competition grounds or NOT wearing their classic competition number will be eliminated from competing in the classic and the entry fee will be forfeited.

- i Management will designate a knowledgeable technical person, other than a member of management or one of the classic judges, to serve as the technical delegate for each National Hunter Classic. This TD will be present during both phases of the class, and available to competitors and officials to answer questions and resolve disputes that arise pertaining to the Classic.
- i A computer ranking system tracks the money won for both the horse and rider.
- i The National Hunter Classic is a featured class of the horse show, and must be presented as such with regard to arena size and location, jump quality, decorations, footing and ring preparation, lighting, etc. The ring used must have spectator seating, a quality sound system, and a dedicated announcer with no other duties during the Classic.
- i It is important for management to make sure that the pointing and scoring system is fully understood by spectators. In this vein, the USHJA requests that announcers announce scores using their own style, but containing the following information in a clear manner:

Round 1

- "The judges score an 84. An additional 4 points will be awarded for the four higher option fences that were taken, giving our entry a final score of 88 for this round."

Round 2

- "The judges score an 84, plus a handy bonus of 8 points. An additional 4 points will be awarded for the four higher option fences that were taken, giving our entry a final score of 96 for this round."
- i The course diagrams for each round must be posted a minimum of one hour before the start of the first round, unless the second round is held at another time. In that case, the course for the second round must be posted a minimum of one hour prior.

7. Judging System

- i Each class must have a minimum of two judges who sit together. One judge must be an "R" judge, the other may be either a "R" or "r" judge. The judging panel will provide one score and the scores from each round will be either averaged or added as specified in the Prize List to obtain the overall total for each horse.
- i Round One- Judged on performance, hunter pace and style, quality and substance, movement and brilliance. After the judges score is given, one point will be added for each high option fence jumped without major fault (maximum of four points).
- i Round Two- Judged on performance, hunter pace and style, quality and substance, movement and brilliance. After the judges' score is given, one point will be added for each high option fence jumped without major fault (maximum of four points). In addition, a maximum of 10 bonus points may be awarded by the judges to each horse/rider combination for handiness of round and brilliance of pace. This score will be announced separately and added to each rider's score.
- i Overall Score - The final score from each round will be either averaged or added as specified in the Prize List to obtain the overall total for each horse.
- † Attire: formal/dress attire (per HU 126):

Buff breeches and shad belly
White breeches and dark or scarlet coat, hunt colors coat or official
sponsor or team jacket permitted

Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA National Hunter Classic are not permitted without the expressed 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.

HU189 USHJA National Hunter Classic.

USHJA National Hunter Classics may only be offered at USEF Licensed “A” or “AA” Competitions

1. USHJA National Hunter Classics are open to all horses and ponies; however, distances will not be adjusted for ponies.
2. All USHJA National Hunter Classics must meet the requirements set forth by USHJA. Information on class procedures, class requirements, judging system and course requirements is available from the Programs Department in the USHJA office.
3. Competition management will collect and remit to USHJA the per horse entrant fee determined by the USHJA. This fee may be in addition to the 5% entry fee maximum.
4. Bonus points will be awarded to each horse’s respective section as declared at time of entry except horses/ponies ridden by juniors or amateurs will be awarded points in their respective sections. Zone points will be awarded as follows, 1st -100, 2nd-80, 3rd-70, 4th-60, 5th-50, 6th-40, 7th-30 and 8th-20.
5. Prize Money must be distributed as follows: 30% for 1st, 22% for 2nd, 15% for 3rd, 10% for 4th, 7% for 5th, 6% for 6th, 5% for 7th, 5% for 8th.
6. Riders, owners and trainers must be current active members of USEF and USHJA before the start of the class. (See GR202).
7. Horses and ponies competing in this class must be registered with the USHJA prior to the start of the class.
8. To be eligible for Horse of the Year points per GR1110, horses and ponies competing in this class must have an active Federation recording.
9. No more than one National Hunter Classic may be held during a given competition.
10. Each class must have a minimum of two judges who will sit together and give one score.