



2025 USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Championship Specifications

Effective for the 2025 GHI Championship – 3’3”/3” and 3’6”/3’9”

Changes from 2024 in bold, italics, and underlined.

I. Eligibility and Entry Fee

- A. All horses that are enrolled in the USHJA GHI program will be invited to compete in the USHJA GHI Championship. ***It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to enroll their horses annually according to their USEF Green eligibility.*** Green eligibility must be confirmed before competing in the Championship.
- B. Pre-Entry Fee is **\$950**. A minimum of 80% of each entry fee and 60% of all enrollment fees received between December 1, 2024, and the date of the 2025 Championship will be added back to the total prize money. \$250 of the Pre-Entry Fee is non-refundable, regardless of when/if an entry scratches.
- C. Upon entering, each entry must declare the height they will jump in the Championship: 3’, 3’3”, 3’6”, or 3’9”. The height declaration may not be changed after the order of go has been drawn, and the horse must compete at the declared height throughout the entirety of the competition.
- D. Post-Entry Fees are **\$950** plus a late fee of \$1,700 (equaling **\$2,650**), paid after the closing date of entries. Post-Entry Fees are 100% non-refundable.

II. Championship Policies

- A. Soundness – horses are required to trot a circle on a loose rein at the end of the over fences performance. Horses may be asked to return to the ring and trot another circle at the judge’s discretion. **Judges have the authority to disqualify a horse due to unsoundness at any time during the over fences performance.**
- B. Starting on the day prior to the start of the championship, horses and riders must wear their actual competition number while mounted.
- C. Formal attire is optional in the preliminary rounds. Formal attire is required for the Championship Tier I Rounds (see HU107).
- D. Horses are NOT required to have competed in a Green Hunter section at any USEF Licensed Competition to compete in the Championship. However, competing in the Championship will affect their Green status.
- E. Rider Change Policy – if a rider is unable to continue to compete on a horse in any round of the competition, the rider and/or trainer must request permission from the GHI Championship Ground Jury to change riders before the start of the next round of competition. The decision of the GHI Championship Ground Jury is final and binding and not subject to further appeal of any kind.
- F. GHI Championship Tier I Round – in the event that a horse-and-rider combination qualified for the Championship Tier I Round is unable or chooses not to compete, the next highest scoring horse-and-rider combination will move up in the order and so on the make every effort that 30 horses start for the Championship Tier I Round.



III. GHI Championship Ground Jury

A. The GHI Championship Ground Jury will consist of the Competition Manager or Licensee, the Championship Liaison, at least two representatives from the USHJA IHD and Incentive Task Force, one Steward, and one Judge. All individuals must be present at the Championship and be Senior Active or Life members in good standing of USHJA and USEF. Ground Jury members may not have a horse or rider competing in the Championship. The Ground Jury will hear any questions raised during the Championship regarding the conduct of the competition. The decision of the Ground Jury is final and binding and is not subject to further appeal of any kind.

IV. Course Requirements for All Rounds

- A. A minimum of eight obstacles must be offered in each round and the course must be suitable and encouraging for Green Hunters.
- B. Fence heights offered will be 3', 3'3", 3'6", and 3'9".

V. Judges

- A. There will be a total of six judges for this competition.
- B. Each judge must be an R-licensed Hunter judge that must be in good standing with USEF and USHJA.

VI. Judging System

- A. The Green Hunter Incentive Championship shall be judged on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going using the open numerical scoring system.
- B. In all rounds, each panel of judges will award the score they feel is appropriate for each horse based on its own merits. The system will use half and full point increments to determine the score. This allows for duplicate scores to be given by the judging panels within the same round.
- C. A score will be announced after each round.
- D. 3'3" Scores
1. The total scores of each horse-and-rider combination from the First Round will determine their First Round score. The Top 10 horses of these scores will be awarded a 'bye' to the Championship Tier I Round.
 2. The total scores of each horse-and-rider combination from the Second Round will determine their Second Round score. The Top 10 horses of these scores will be awarded a 'bye' to the Championship Tier I Round.
 3. The total scores of each horse-and-rider combination from the First and Second Round will be added together to determine the cumulative score from both rounds. The Top 10 horses, including ties, with the highest cumulative scores from the First and Second Rounds will qualify for the Championship Tier I Round in addition to the horses qualifying from the First and Second Rounds. These scores will also determine the additional minimum of 10 Tier II and additional minimum of 10 Tier III entries that will compete for the Final Tier II or Tier III Awards, respectively.
- E. 3'6"/3'9" Scores
1. The total scores of each horse-and-rider combination from the First Round will determine their First Round score. These scores will also determine the additional



minimum of 10 Tier II and additional minimum of 10 Tier III entries that will compete for the Final Tier II **or Tier III** Awards, **respectively**.

- F. Scores from the preliminary rounds will not carry over, all entries in the Championship Tier I Rounds will start on a clean slate.
- G. The total scores of each horse-and-rider combination from the Championship Tier I Round will determine their Final Round scores and the overall GHI 3’/3’3” and 3’6”/3’9” Championship placings.

VII. Rider Ranking System – Tier II and Tier III

- A. Refer to the USHJA website for Tier eligibility lists.
- B. Tier II **and Tier III** entries **who are** eligible for the Final Tier II **and Final Tier III** Awards and prize money are **those** entries competing in the Championship Tier I Round and **or** the next 10 **respective** Tier entries determined by scores in the preliminary rounds of the GHI Championship.
 - 1. **A minimum of 10** additional 3’/3’3” Tier II **and a minimum of 10 additional Tier III** Entries – highest cumulative scores from the First and Second Round not competing in the Championship Tier I Round.
 - 2. **A minimum of 10** additional 3’6”/3’9” Tier II Entries **and a minimum of 10 additional Tier III** – highest scores from the First Round not competing in the Championship Tier I Round.
- B. Tier II **and Tier III** entries are placed amongst themselves, regardless **of the round they jumped in. Tier II entries who qualify for the Championship Tier I Round are eligible for prize money in Tier I and Tier II sections. Tier III entries who qualify in either the Championship Tier I or the Tier II Round are eligible for prize money in Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III sections.**
- C. 20% of the total prize money for the 3’/3’3” and 3’6”/3’9” Championships will be awarded to the Final Tier II Placings, respectively.
- D. **10% of the total prize money for the 3’/3’3” and 3’6”/3’9” Championships will be awarded to the Final Tier III Placings, respectively.**
- E. Prize money will be paid out to the following percentages:

1 st place	30%	6 th place	6%
2 nd place	20%	7 th place	5%
3 rd place	15%	8 th place	4%
4 th place	9%	9 th place	3%
5 th place	7%	10 th place	1%

VIII. Competition Format

- A. The GHI Championships will hold separate sections for 3’/3’3” and for 3’6”/3’9”.
- B. USHJA and competition management reserves the right to amend the schedule and/or format based on the individual host event.
- C. 3’/3’3” Format
 - 1. The competition is held over two preliminary rounds, the Championship Tier I Round, the Tier II Round, **the Tier III Round**, and if required, the Jump Off Round.
 - 2. The First Round consists of eligible and entered horses present for this event. The Top 10 horses from the First Round are awarded a ‘bye’ to the Championship Tier I

Round. The Top 10 horses from the First Round may elect not to compete in the Second Round at their discretion.

3. The Second Round consists of eligible and entered horses who competed in the First Round of this event. The Top 10 horses from the Second Round, who were not in the Top 10 from the First Round, are awarded a 'bye' to the Championship Tier I Round.
 4. The Championship Tier I Round consists of a minimum of 30 horses. The Top 10 from the First Round, Top 10 from the Second Round, and the Top 10 horses with the highest cumulative scores from the First and Second Rounds, including ties, who were not awarded a 'bye'.
 5. 3'3" Tier II Round – a ***minimum*** additional 10 horses ridden by Tier II riders, who are not already competing in the Championship Tier I Round, will compete over the same course for the Final Tier II awards. Tier II entries will be placed amongst themselves, regardless if they are in the Tier I ***Championship*** or Tier II Round.
 6. ***3'3" Tier III Round – a minimum additional 10 horses ridden by Tier III riders, who are not already competing in the Championship Tier I Round, will compete over the same course for the Final Tier III awards. Tier III entries will be placed amongst themselves, regardless if they are in the Tier I Championship or Tier III Round.***
 7. Scores from the preliminary rounds do not carry over; horses in the Championship Tier I, Tier II, ***and Tier III*** Rounds will start with a clean slate.
 8. The Jump Off Round, if required, consists of the horses tied for overall first place after the Championship Tier I Round. All other ties will remain tied.
- D. 3'6"/3'9" Format
1. The competition is held over one preliminary round, the Championship Tier I Round, the Tier II Round, ***the Tier III Round***, and if required, the Jump Off Round.
 2. The First Round consists of eligible and entered horses for this event.
 3. The Championship Tier I Round consists of the Top 30 horses from the First Round, including ties.
 4. 3'6"/3'9" Tier II Round – a ***minimum*** additional 10 horses ridden by Tier II riders, who are not already competing in the Championship Tier I Round, will compete over the same course for Final Tier II awards. Tier II entries will be placed amongst themselves, regardless if they are in the Tier I ***Championship*** or Tier II Round.
 5. ***3'6"/3'9" Tier III Round – a minimum additional 10 horses ridden by Tier III riders, who are not already competing in the Championship Tier I Round, will compete over the same course for Final Tier III awards. Tier III entries will be placed amongst themselves, regardless if they are in the Tier I Championship or Tier III Round.***
 6. Scores from the preliminary round do not carry over; horses in the Championship Tier I, Tier II ***and Tier III*** Rounds will start with a clean slate.
 7. The Jump Off Round, if required, consists of the horses tied for overall first place after the Championship Tier I Round. All other ties will remain tied.

IX. **Orders of Go**

- A. The preliminary rounds order of go will be determined using a random draw within each height section.



- B. The Championship Tier I Rounds order of go will be determined using a random draw within each height section. The height section of the horse with the highest score will jump last in the order.
- C. In the case of multiple horses being ridden by the same rider, every effort will be made so that there will be a minimum of eight horses (if available), separating multiple rides.

X. Tie Breaking Procedures

- A. All ties in the preliminary rounds will remain tied. Duplicate ribbons and coolers (if applicable) will be ordered, prize money will be split evenly and tied entrants must determine the distribution of awards amongst themselves.
- B. All ties for 3’/3’3” or 3’6”/3’9” Champion (first place) from the Championship Tier I Round may compete in a Jump Off Round. If both exhibitors agree NOT to jump off, the exhibitors will be named co-winners. Prize money will be split evenly, and tied entrants must determine the distribution of awards amongst themselves. If one of the tied exhibitors declines to jump off, that exhibitor must sign a forfeiture agreement which will be provided at the time of the jump off.
- C. All ties other than first place in the 3’/3’3” Championship Tier I Round and 3’6”/3’9” Championship Tier I Round will remain tied. Prize money will be split evenly and tied entrants must determine the distribution of awards amongst themselves.

XI. Awards

- A. Awards will be given to the 3’/3’3” and 3’6”/3’9” Champion and placings determined by the Championship Tier I Round.
- B. After each round of the GHI Championships, ribbons will be presented to the top 12 horses placed in their individual heights (3’, 3’3”, 3’6”, and 3’9”).
- C. Total prize money will consist of 80% in add-back money from entry fees, 60% of all annual enrollment fees received between December 1, 2024 and the date of the 2025 Championship, and 100% of the Post Entry Fee monies, with a guaranteed minimum purse of \$25,000.
- D. 70% of the total prize money will be awarded to the respective 3’/3’3” and 3’6”/3’9” Championships top 30 as follows:
 - 1. 3’/3’3” First Round – 20% of total prize money
 - 2. 3’/3’3” Second Round – 20 % of total prize money
 - 3. 3’/3’3” Championship Tier I Round – 30% of total prize money
 - 4. 3’6”/3’9” First Round – 30% of total prize money
 - 5. 3’6”/3’9” Championship Tier I Round – 40% of total prize money
- E. Prize money percentages will be calculated on the gross amount and will be distributed through 30th as follows:

1 st place	25.00%	16 th place	1.30%
2 nd place	17.70%	17 th place	1.23%
3 rd place	10.35%	18 th place	1.15%
4 th place	6.50%	19 th place	1.05%
5 th place	4.80%	20 th place	0.90%
6 th place	4.10%	21 st place	0.85%
7 th place	3.60%	22 nd place	0.80%
8 th place	3.00%	23 rd place	0.75%
9 th place	2.65%	24 th place	0.70%



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10 th place	2.45%	25 th place	0.65%
11 th place	1.82%	26 th place	0.55%
12 th place	1.70%	27 th place	0.55%
13 th place	1.55%	28 th place	0.55%
14 th place	1.40%	29 th place	0.55%
15 th place	1.35%	30 th place	0.55%

- F. All prize money will be paid within 30 days of the competition.
- G. HOTY Points – the USHJA GHI Championships will count towards National and Zone HOTY points or money won awards. National Horse of the Year points/money are awarded to each horse’s respective Green Hunter height section. Horses will be awarded both HOTY points and the value of their money won for their Green Hunter section, toward the appropriate HOTY and money won standings. **Money won from the Final Tier II and Final Tier III awards will also count toward the rider’s money won standings.**

*Points may not be credited toward the HOTY awards for the Green Conformation 3’6” of the High Performance Conformation Hunters.

First and Second Rounds		Championship Tier I Round	
Place	Points	Place	Points
1 st	150	1 st	400
2 nd	140	2 nd	370
3 rd	130	3 rd	340
4 th	120	4 th	310
5 th	110	5 th	280
6 th	100	6 th	250
7 th	90	7 th	220
8 th	80	8 th	200
9 th	70	9 th	180
10 th	60	10 th	160
11 th	55	11 th	140
12 th	50	12 th	120
13 th	45	13 th	100
14 th	40	14 th	90
15 th	35	15 th	80
16 th	30	16 th	70
17 th	25	17 th	60
18 th	20	18 th	50
19 th	15	19 th	40
20 th	10	20 th	30

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