



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTER RIDER

2025 PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS

(Changes from 2024 marked in bold italic and underlined.)

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTER RIDER 2025 PROGRAM **SPECIFICATIONS***

*Effective for competitions starting December 1, 2024-
November 30, 2025

I. Enrollment

- A. In order to be eligible for WCHR National and Regional Awards riders and owners must have a current enrollment in the WCHR program.
- B. Riders and Owners must be current Active members of USEF and USHJA and have a current WCHR enrollment by midnight Eastern Time of the final licensed day of a competition of the WCHR Event in order for their points to count towards regional and national standings.
- C. Riders must declare their category and region when enrolling in the WCHR program.
- D. The following rider categories are available for program participants to declare for:
 1. Adult Amateur
 2. Amateur Owner 3'3"
 3. Amateur Owner 3'6"
 4. Children's
 5. Developing Professional
 6. Junior 3'3"
 7. Junior 3'6"
 8. Pony
 9. Professional
- E. Developing Professional: **Riders are eligible to compete as a Developing Professional for the duration of the competition year if,**
 1. **Riders are in their first competition year as a declared professional with USEF and USHJA, regardless of previous results as a Junior or Amateur.**
 2. **Riders who meet the criteria listed below as of December 1 of the current competition year, regardless of results obtained within the same competition year.**
 - a. Rider has never placed in the top ten (10) of the WCHR Professional National Standings.
 - b. Rider has never been a WCHR Professional Regional Champion.
 - c. Rider has never won the Developing Professional Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.
 - d. Rider has never won the Developing Professional National Title.
 - e. Rider has never placed 1st-12th in the Professional Challenge during the WCHR Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.

- f. Rider has never been Champion or Reserve Champion in a Professional Hunter section at 3'6" or higher at the following competitions: Devon, Capital Challenge, Pennsylvania National Horse Show, Washington International Horse Show and/or The National Horse Show.
 - g. Rider has never competed and placed in an FEI Grand Prix Competition(excluding Young Riders).
- F. Riders may declare for only one (1) category and region when enrolling in the WCHR program. With the exception of the Central Mountain Region, members may choose either the Southwest, or South Central Region to pair with in order to accumulate regional points. The paired region must be declared at the time of enrollment renewal.
- G. A Farm/Business Owner enrollment requirement is still in effect for those owners interested in accumulating points toward Owner awards for horses whose owners of record are farms or businesses.

The WCHR Program follows the USEF model by requiring the owner of record of each horse competing to be currently enrolled in WCHR, in order to accumulate points toward WCHR Owner awards and trophies. If a horse's recorded owner is a farm/business, the farm/business must be currently enrolled in WCHR at the time of competition for owner points earned by that horse to be considered valid. WCHR considers the owner of record to be the owner(s) of record with USEF.

- H. All WCHR Enrollment applications must be completed online.
- I. WCHR Enrollment Applications given to a competition show secretary for submission will NOT be accepted.
- J. Enrolled riders/owners are responsible for maintaining their eligibility.
- K. A participant may change his category once during the enrollment year. All points in the original category are non-transferable and will be forfeited, while points in the new category will be retroactive for the qualifying year. Members have until **July 1** to notify the USHJA of the change in writing. It is recommended that a method of delivery which provides delivery confirmation be used. No category changes will be made after **July 1** of the qualifying year. **If the final WCHR Event in a region begins prior to, **July 1** no category changes will be accepted once the final WCHR Event has commenced.*
- L. A WCHR Program participant may change his declared region one (1) time during the WCHR enrollment year. **No region change will be made after July 1.** Participants may only change their region if they have not competed in a WCHR Event in the region which they originally declared.
 - 1. WCHR points will not be retroactive for the participant's new region. Participants must send a request for a change of WCHR region to USHJA in writing. It is recommended that a method of delivery which provides delivery confirmation be used. USHJA is not responsible for requests not received.

II. Regions

- A. The country is divided geographically into eight regions, these regions include:
 - Central Mountain – Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah * May pair with Southwest or South Central
 - Mid Atlantic – Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
 - Midwest – Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin
 - Northeast – Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New

York, Rhode Island, Vermont

- Northwest – Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming
- South Central – Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas
- Southeast – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina
- Southwest – California, Hawaii, Nevada

III. Judging System

- A. Judges will give open numerical scores for every over fences round in each division during the WCHR Event.
- B. No entry may receive the same score as another entry in the class.

IV. Points

- A. Active WCHR enrolled participants will receive points based on their placing in the category they have registered for when completing their enrollment.
- B. All points earned in the specific section registered will count towards National points.
- C. Only points earned in the specific section at the recognized regional events in the region declared by the rider will count towards Regional Standings.
- D. Enrolled participants that declare Central Mountain Region have the option to the pair with either the Southwest, or South Central Region in order to accumulate regional points.
- E. A horse must be ridden by the same rider in all classes throughout its respective section at each WCHR Event (Exception: Under Saddle classes) in order for the points to count. Riders competing on more than one horse will only accrue points earned by their highest placing horse overall in their respective WCHR category at each WCHR Event. Model Classes and Hunter Classics do not count.
- F. A Professional and/or Developing Professional rider's standing will be determined by the total points earned by their highest placing horse overall in one eligible hunter section in which that horse/rider combination competes. In the event that a Developing Professional's highest placing horse overall at a competition comes from one of the 3'0" or 3'3" WCHR hunter sections, the points earned on that horse count only toward their Developing Professional Rider standings. **At the same competition, a Developing Professional's highest placing horse in a 3'6" or higher WCHR section will earn points toward their Professional Rider standings.** *This may result in a rider's Developing Professional standings differing from their Professional standings.*
- G. Points from a rider's top four (4) WCHR Events will be used to determine the National and Regional standings.
- H. In all hunter sections, the tier from the increment chart (J.1) utilized to calculate points is based on the number of entries in the first over fences class. (Exception: High Performance Hunter and Performance Hunter 3'6" and 3'3")
- I. Points can be earned (based on eligibility under current USEF rules) in the following increments:

<i>WCHR Increment Chart - Number of Exhibitors</i> (updated)				
<i>Ribbon</i>	<i>3 to 8</i>	<i>9 to 15</i>	<i>16 to 25</i>	<i>26 +</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>

1. **Champion will be awarded 2.0 times the total 1st place point value of the first class in that section and Reserve Champion will be awarded 1.2 times the total 1st place point value of the first class in that section.**
2. If a WCHR Hunter section only offers three to four classes total versus the traditional five classes, over fences will be pointed with a multiplier so all WCHR Hunter sections earn points as if it was a five-class section.
 - a. When a WCHR section is offered with two over fences and one under saddle class, points earned in each over fences class will be multiplied by two.
 - b. When a WCHR section is offered with three over fences classes and one under saddle class, points earned in each over fences class will be multiplied by 1.33.
 - c. When the total number of points earned in a section is not a whole number, the point total will be rounded up or down, according to accepted principles of rounding (i.e. 124.49 will be rounded down to 124 and 124.50 will be rounded up to 125).

V. **Special Events**

The WCHR Program offers special events, each of which has their own specifications. Information about the special events is available at www.ushja.org.

VI. **Competition Requirements**

- A. WCHR Events may only be offered at USEF licensed Channel I (Premier or National) competitions.
- B. Competition Management will remit complete results for all WCHR Event Classes to USHA, USEF and Ryegate within 10 days of the conclusion of the competition.
- C. WCHR Events are prestigious competitions and must be presented as such with regard to arena sizes and locations, stabling, jump quality, decorations, footing and ring preparation, etc. The rings must have spectator seating, and a quality sound system. An electronic scoreboard is recommended.
- D. The following WCHR hunter sections must be offered:
 1. Green Hunter 3'6"
 2. Green Hunter 3'9"
 3. Green Conformation Hunter 3'6"
 4. High Performance Conformation Hunter
 5. High Performance Hunter
 6. Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6"

7. Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3
 8. Adult Amateur Hunter
 9. Junior Hunter 3'6"
 10. Junior Hunter 3'3"
 11. Children's Hunter Horse
 12. Children's Hunter Pony
 13. Small Pony
 14. Medium Pony
 15. Large Pony
- E. Offering the following WCHR hunter sections is also recommended
1. Performance Working Hunter 3'6"
 2. Performance Working Hunter 3'3"
 3. Green Hunter 3'0"
 4. Green Hunter 3'3"
 5. Young Hunter 6 & Under 3'0"
 6. Young Hunter 7 & Under 3'3"
 7. **Green Pony Hunter**
- F. Competition management will provide information on the WCHR program to exhibitors and spectators.
- G. Competitions will be required to hang signage promoting the WCHR Events during the competition.

VII. Judging Requirements

- A. All judges must be USEF licensed and in good standing with USEF and USHJA.
- B. No guest cards will be granted for this competition.

VIII. Other

- A. Any request by Host Competition to change the date of the WCHR Event Competition from the agreed upon date must be submitted in writing and received by USHJA at least thirty (30) days prior to the previously agreed upon date of the WCHR Event Competition. Requests for date changes not received at least thirty (30) days prior to the previously agreed upon date will not be considered. Upon approval, management must notify exhibitors of the date change via website, email and signage in accordance with USEF GR 904 as soon as practical, following approval of same by USHJA.
- B. If Host Competition wishes to change the management and/or location of the competition, (SeeUSEF GR 304), it must submit a written request to USHJA for permission to change the management and/or location of the WCHR Event Competition when it submits its request for change of management and/or location to USEF. In any event, said request to change WCHR Event Competition management and/or location must be received by USHJA at least sixty (60) days prior to the agreed upon date of the WCHR Event Competition. Host Competition acknowledges and agrees that USHJA is not required to approve the WCHR Event Competition under a new management and/or at a new location if that management and/or location does not provide a suitable manager and/or venue for the WCHR Event Competition and that said decision remains solely in the discretion of USHJA.

USHJA Contact Information

If questions arise pertaining to the World Championship Hunter Rider program that cannot be answered from the class specifications provided, one of the following USHJA representatives must be contacted to resolve any questions regarding the judging procedures or class specifications:

David Warner -USHJA Sport Programs Coordinator- (859) 217-6740

Louise Serio- WCHR Task Force Chair – (610) 636-0768

Brit McCormick – USHJA President - (972) 467-6008

The USHJA World Championship Hunter Rider Program 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 World Championship Hunter Rider Program as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA World Championship Hunter Rider Program 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.

