



**USHJA CHILDREN’S AND ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020 SPECIFICATIONS**

Changes from 2019 marked in bold italic and underlined.

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I. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

- A. Riders wishing to participate in the USHJA Children’s and Adult Amateur Hunter Championships must be a U.S. resident and must complete an application. The rider must be a current Active USEF and USHJA Junior or Amateur member in good standing (see GR202.1 & HU 100). **Each rider’s Zone is determined by the rider’s point state as recorded with USEF as of December 1, 2019**
- B. The horse must be registered with USHJA (see HU 101.1) and recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR 1102, in good standing under USEF rules, and shown under the owner of record who must be an Active member of USHJA and the USEF (see GR 1110.3)
- C. As part of the application process, the rider, parent (if rider is under 18 years of age), and owner(s) certify that they have read and understand the USEF Code of Conduct, and agree to be bound by it.

II. Application

- A. Each rider will submit an application and application fee to USHJA in order to be considered for a team. Applications must be received in the USHJA office no later than 60 days prior to the start of the Zone’s 2020 Championship.
- B. The qualifying standings will be based on the hunter increment point chart used to calculate Zone HOTY standings ***for the Children’s Hunter Horse and Adult Amateur Hunter divisions*** (per GR1131.5) and will display current point totals. A box will be added for the Children’s/Adult Amateur Regional Hunter Championships to indicate if a rider has applied to the program. Horse-and-rider combinations can acquire points in any state and Canada. See below for an example.

Zone 5 Children’s Hunter Standings

Rank	Rider	Points	Applied
1	KNOX, GRACE/ RAPIDASH –IL	386	X
2	ROHRBACH, ADELINE/ CLOUD 9 – IL	157	X
3	OLIVIA JACQUELINE/ LET’S GO – IL	143	
4	DARBOR, SARAH / REMARKABLE – IL	87	
5	BRACKETT, LOUISA/ LADY B LUCKY – IL	86	X
6	DENNIS, NICOLE/ DREAM BOY – IL	60	
7	SEIKEL, MICHAELA/ WINSTONE – IL	57	
8	PAULI, KAT/ T. REX – IL	54	
8	NOLAND, NICOLE/ JUST FOR FUN – IL	54	X

III. Qualifying Procedures

Qualifying begins at the conclusion of each Zone's 2019 Qualifying Period and will include competitions with a start date of no less than 60 days prior to the start of the Zone's 2020 Championship. Horse-and-rider combinations must accumulate at least 0.5 points in their respective Children's or Adult Amateur Hunter section during the qualifying period in order to be eligible to compete in the Championships.

A. Children's Hunter:

1. Riders cannot compete in a class that exceeds 3'3" during the qualifying period (Exception: riders may compete in the USHJA National Hunter Derby, Junior Hunter 3'3" section and the Children's Jumper section during the qualifying period).

B. Adult Hunter

1. Riders cannot compete in a class that exceeds 3'3" during the qualifying period. (Exception: riders may compete in the USHJA National Hunter Derby, Amateur Owner 3'3" section and the Adult Amateur Jumper section during the qualifying period).

C. Waiver

1. If a rider has an extenuating circumstance and wishes to apply for a waiver to any of the requirements in Section I and/or Section III, they must apply to the USHJA explaining the circumstances and details. The respective zone committee will evaluate the request and provide a recommendation to the USHJA Ch/AA Hunter Task Force, which will make the final decision whether to accept or deny the waiver.
2. Waivers will not be granted for classes that do not meet the minimum fence height.
3. In no case will a waiver include any classes that occur less than sixty (60) days prior to the Championship, when the qualifying period ends.
4. No waivers will be granted for riders that have jumped over the maximum fence height restrictions more than one (1) time.
5. Waivers must be submitted at least twenty one (21) days prior to the Championship. Any waivers submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

IV. Composition of Teams and Individual Competitors

- A. A maximum of 6 teams per zone (24 competitors) for the Children's Championships and a maximum of 6 teams per zone (24 competitors) for the Adult Amateur Championships will be eligible.
- B. A team will consist of a minimum of three horse-and-rider combinations but not more than four. These riders will participate in the Team Competition and are also eligible to qualify for the Individual Competition.
- C. A fifth horse-and-rider combination will be assigned to each team and serve as the team's Traveling Replacement horse-and-rider combination should a member of the team be unable to participate.
- D. The fifth horse-and-rider combination will compete only in the Individual Championship unless competing as a substitute on a team.

- E. Each team will be fielded by a random draw at the competition.
- F. If a zone is unable to field a team, that zone may send up to two eligible horse-and-rider combinations to participate in each of the Individual Championships (Children's and Adult). The horse-and-rider combinations will be fielded by the order of the standings.
- G. If a zone is unable to field a team of at least three horse-and-rider combinations, the zone may apply to the USHJA to combine with another zone. Once all of the entries are submitted, the USHJA will make the final decision to combine the horse-and-rider combinations no later than the first Chef d'Equipe meeting at the Championships.
- H. A rider may not compete on more than one team.
- I. Horse substitutions will not be permitted.

V. Team Selection

- A. Horse-and-rider combinations from each zone will be ranked according to points won at USEF Licensed competitions in the Children's ***Horse*** and Adult Amateur Hunter sections offered with fence heights of 2'9"- 3'3".
- B. Horse-and-rider combinations can acquire points in any state and Canada. Riders from all Children's Hunter Horse sections ***(14 & Under and 15-17)*** will be combined to create one ranking list in each zone in order of total points earned for the Children's Hunter section.
- C. ***Horse-and-rider combinations can acquire points in any state and Canada.*** Riders from all Adult Amateur Hunter sections ***(18-35, 36-49, and 50+)*** will be combined to create one ranking list in each zone in order of total points earned for the Adult Amateur Hunter section.
- D. In the event of a tie in the standings, the tie will be broken by the number of first places won by the horse-and-rider combination, followed by the number of second places, and so on until the tie is broken.
- E. If a rider has more than one horse in the top positions of his zone's standings, the rider may choose which horse he will compete and the next highest ranked horse-and-rider combination will move into the vacancy.
- F. Once the teams are formed, in the event a qualified horse-and-rider combination is unable to compete due to illness or injury to a rider or horse, or other unforeseen circumstances, the team's alternate will compete. If the alternate is unable to compete, the next highest ranked horse-and-rider combination in the zone will move into the vacancy.

VI. Chef d'Equipe and Zone Coordinator

- A. Individuals will be asked to apply to USHJA to serve as the Chef d'Equipe. The applicants must meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Current Active member in good standing with USHJA and USEF.
 - 2. Declared professional with USEF
 - 3. Reside within the zone for which they are applying to serve as the Chef d'Equipe.
 - 4. Confirm they will be attending the designated Children's/Adult Amateur Hunter Championships.
- B. The zone committee will select individuals to serve as team Chefs d'Equipe.

- C. Individuals selected to serve as team Chefs d'Equipe must have completed the following requirements prior to their service:
 - Safe Sport training from the United States Olympic Committee within the past five (5) years.
 - Background Check within the past three (3) years.
 - Service Agreement including USHJA Waiver and Release
- D. USHJA may appoint a Zone Coordinator.

VII. **Scoring**

- A. There will be a total of ***two*** judges. Judges will be seated ***together***.
- B. ***Judges will submit one score together.***
- C. One judge must be an R-licensed hunter judge while the other may be an R-licensed or r-licensed judge.
- D. All judges must be Federation licensed and in good standing with the Federation and USHJA.
- E. No guest cards will be granted for this competition.
- F. The judges will be hired by the host competition manager.
- G. One official scorekeeper provided by competition management will be assigned for all phases of the Championship and should be seated near the announcer.
- H. The ***judges*** will remain the same throughout the Championship.
- I. Prior to the start of the Championships, ***one judge*** must be designated as the tiebreaking panel for the Team Competition and the other ***judge*** must be designated as the tie breaking panel for the Individual Competition.

VIII. **Championships Competition Format**

Championships must be held over two days. Children's and Adult Amateur riders have separate Team and Individual Competitions. Each Team and Individual Championship must be held under the following format:

- A. Team Competition – Day One
 - 1. All teams approved by USHJA are eligible to compete in the Team Competition.
 - 2. Phases:
 - 1) Under Saddle
 - 2) Classic Hunter Style Course
 - 3) Classic Hunter Style Course
 - 3. The phases must be held in the order listed above.
 - 4. Each course must consist of a minimum of 10 fences.
 - 5. Fence heights of 3'0"
 - 6. The Under Saddle and two Classic Hunter phases will be placed and awarded individually.
 - 7. Overall team awards to be presented at the conclusion of Day One.
 - 8. The winning team will be the team with the highest overall score. (*See Section VIII.A for definition of overall score.*)
- B. Individual Competition - Day Two
 - 1. The top 40 placed horse-and-rider combinations, including combinations tied for 40th from the Team Competition are eligible to compete. If, for any reason, one or more

of the qualified horse-and-rider combinations are unable to start, they will not be replaced.

2. The total score of each horse-and-rider combination in each phase of the Team Competition will be added together to determine each horse-and-rider combination's overall score in order to determine the Top 40 competitors for the individual championships.
3. Scores earned during the Team Competition do not carry over to the Individual Championship.
4. The Traveling Alternate from each team will automatically be qualified to participate if they do not participate in the Team Competition.
5. The total number of individual exhibitors competing in the Individual Championship will include the Top 40 individual horse-and-rider combinations from the Team Competition, all of the eligible Traveling Alternates and individual horse-and-rider combinations qualifying from zones unable to field a full team or form a full team with another zone. (*See VIII.B*)
6. Phases:
 - 1) Under Saddle
 - 2) Classic Hunter Derby Style Course
 - 3) Handy Hunter Course
7. The phases must be held in the order listed above.
8. Each course must consist of a minimum of 10 fences, with three option fences set at 3'3".
9. Fence heights of 3'0"
10. The Under Saddle, Classic Hunter Derby and Handy Hunter phases will be placed and awarded individually.
11. The Overall Individual awards will be presented at the conclusion of the Day Two.
12. The Individual Champion is the horse-and-rider combination with the highest overall score from the Individual Championship. (*See Section VIII.B for definition of overall score.*)

IX. Judging System

A. Team Competition

1. The Under Saddle phase of the Team Competition shall be judged by the panel and numerically scored on quality, movement, manners and way of going. Riders will be placed in groups of 10 for the under saddle phase. Groups determined by random draw.
2. The Over Fences phases of the Team Competition shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going.
3. ***The judges may not award*** the same base score to any two competitors in anyone phase.
4. Each team of four will discard its lowest horse- and-rider combination's overall score. The remaining three horse-and-rider combinations' total scores will be added together to determine the team's score. A team with three riders will not discard any score.

5. Each team's overall score is determined by adding together the team's scores from all three phases.
6. If a horse-and-rider combination is eliminated in any phase, they are still eligible to compete in any additional phases.

B. Individual Championship

1. The Under Saddle phase of the Individual Championship shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, manners and way of going by one panel. One ***judge*** will be designated to judge the Children's Under Saddle and the other will judge the Adult Amateur Under Saddle during the Team Competition. For the Individual Competition, ***judges*** will be designated to judge the opposite group than the Team Competition. Riders will be placed in groups of 10 for the under saddle phase. Groups determined by random draw.
2. The Classic Hunter Derby phase of the Individual Competition shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, jumping style, manners, and way of going. After the judging panel's base score is given, one point will be added for each high option fence jumped.
3. The Handy Hunter phase of the Individual Championship shall be judged on performance, hunter pace, jumping style, quality and substance, movement, handiness and brilliance of pace. Handiness is defined as ground saving movement without adversely affecting performance or style. Brilliance of pace is defined as a faster pace than ordinary, without sacrificing performance or style. **Handiness is taken into account in the judges' base score.** After the judging panel's base score is given, one point will be added for each high option fence jumped.
4. The Option Bonus Score of one additional point per judging panel must be awarded even if there is a refusal, rail down or loss of good jumping style at that higher height option fence, providing that the horse-and-rider combination does jump the higher height option fence. (Maximum of three points per judging panel).
5. ***The judges may not award*** the same base score to any two competitors in anyone phase.
6. The total score of each horse-and-rider combination in each phase will be added together to determine each horse-and-rider combination's overall score.
7. If a horse-and-rider combination is eliminated in any phase, they are still eligible to compete in any additional phases.

X. Tie Breaking Procedures

A. Team Championship

1. ***The judges may not*** award the same base score to any two competitors in anyone phase.
2. All ties in the overall results will be broken by the single highest base score given to any one team member by the designated tie breaking judging panel in the second over fences phase.
3. There will NOT be a jump off for tied teams.

- B. Individual Championship
 - 1. **The judges may not award** the same base score to any two competitors in anyone phase.
 - 2. All ties in all phases will be broken by the base score, before adding height bonus points, of the designated tie breaking judging panel.
 - 3. All ties in the overall results will be broken by the second phase base score, before adding height bonus points, of the designated tie breaking judging panel.
 - 4. There will NOT be a jump off for tied horses.

XI. Starting Order for the Team and Individual Championships:

- A. Team Competition - The order in which the teams will compete in the Team Competition will be determined by a random draw and the order will be followed for both over fences phases. The order of go for the team will be determined by the Chef d'Equipe and will be followed for both over fences phases.
- B. Individual Competition - The starting order for the Classic Hunter Derby phase will be determined by a random draw. The starting order for the Handy Hunter phase will be according to the reverse order of scores earned in the Classic Hunter Derby phase, with the lowest score returning first.
- C. Under Saddle Phases – Riders will be placed in groups of 10 for the under saddle phase in both the Team and Individual Competitions. Groups determined by random draw.

XII. Tack, Equipment and Attire

- A. Refer to HU126, HU127 and HU128 in the USEF Rule Book for current specifications.

XIII. Soundness

- A. All horses entered in the Children's and Adult Amateur Hunter Championships must jog for soundness during the Official Jog prior to the start of the first phase of the Team Competition in order to compete. The Official Jog must be held within 24 hours of the start of the first phase of the Team Competition. This jog will be run in a manner similar to an FEI jog. All horses entered in the Children's Hunter Championships must be jogged for soundness by a junior.(HU134)
- B. A horse must be officially entered in the Championship before it will be allowed to jog. All horses are subject to drug testing during the jog and must be compliant with USEF Drugs and Medications rules.
- C. Proper attire is required (i.e., riding clothes or proper attire which an exhibitor would wear to compete in a model class).
- D. All horses must be presented at the Official Jog with their actual competition number and wearing a conventional hunter bridle, including noseband.
- E. The judging panel for the Official Jog shall consist of the competition veterinarian and one judge from each of the judging panels.
- F. The jog surface must be level. Horses shall be evaluated from the side.
- G. If a horse does not pass the jog; the exhibitor may request to re-present the horse to the panel of officials present during the original jog. The officials may decide to allow the horse to re-present at any time up to one hour prior to the start of the first phase of the Team

- Competition. Following consultation with the veterinarian, the decision of the participating judge(s) is final and binding and not subject to further appeal of any kind.
- H. Horses not accepted at the re-inspection and jog for soundness will not be allowed to compete in the Championships or the competition during which the Championships are held for a period of 48 hours following the horse inspection.

XIV. Horse Restriction

- A. Horses must wear their competition numbers while on the competition grounds. Different color back numbers will be provided to the horses entered in the Championship if held in conjunction with another competition.
- B. Commencing with the start of the Official Jog, the following restrictions apply to the competing rider and their horses
1. Only the competing rider may be mounted on the **Championship** horse until that horse has completely finished competing in the Championship.
 2. No horse competing in the Championship may compete in any other class at the same or concurrent competition until the horse has completely finished competing in the Championship.
- Any violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of any scores received and elimination of the horse- and-rider combination for the remainder of the competition.

XV. Championship Points

- A. Participants competing in the USHJA Children's/Adult Amateur Hunter Championships will accrue Zone HOTY championship points for their respective placing according to the point scale outlined below regardless of whether the event is held within their home zone.
- B. Team Competition
1. The following Zone HOTY championship points will be awarded to each team member in the top eight teams in the Team Competition Overall Standings.
Championship points to be awarded to each horse-and-rider combination's applicable Children's or Adult Amateur Hunter Section for the current competition year.
1st – 120 points
2nd – 105 points
3rd – 90 points
4th – 75 points
5th – 60 points
6th – 45 points
7th – 30 points
8th – 15 points
- C. Individual Competition
1. The following Zone HOTY championship points will be awarded in each of the three phases comprising the Individual Championship. Championship points to be awarded to each horse-and- rider combination's applicable Children's or Adult Amateur Hunter Section for the current competition year. There will be no additional championship points for the overall individual winner.
1st – 40 points

- 2nd – 35 points
- 3rd – 30 points
- 4th – 25 points
- 5th – 20 points
- 6th – 15 points
- 7th – 10 points
- 8th – 5 points

XVI. Required Documents

Horses are required to have health documents and vaccinations as required by the host competition, their state of origin and the state in which the Championship is held.

XVII. Zone Eligibility

- A. Each USHJA Zone, which in the previous competition year had at least 60 horses competing and earning zone points in the Children’s Hunter section and at least 60 horses competing and earning zone points in the Adult Amateur Hunter section respectively, is eligible to host a CH/AA Hunter Championship in that zone in the current year.
- B. Zones that are unable to meet the above eligibility requirement may apply in writing to the USHJA to either combine with another contiguous zone or to ask for an exemption to the specifications in accordance with the requirements listed in Section XVIII.

XVIII. Combining Zones

- A. Zones that do not meet the eligibility criteria delineated in Section XVII may apply to the USHJA on or before August 1 of the current competition year to obtain permission to have the zone combine with a contiguous zone (or in the case of Zones 11 or 12 combine with either Zone 9 or 10) to conduct a USHJA CH/AA Hunter Combined Zone Championship.
- B. Zones that meet the minimum eligibility criteria may choose to combine with a contiguous zone(s) to conduct a USHJA CH/AA Hunter Combined Zone Championship, if agreed upon by the participating zones.
- C. A zone that does not wish to combine with another contiguous zone or experiences challenges due to extraordinary circumstances, may apply in writing to the USHJA on or before August 1 of the current competition year for an exemption to the specifications. Circumstances which may qualify as extraordinary circumstances include, but are not limited to: travel/distance challenges for athletes and horses, density of available athletes, ability to offer, promote and conduct an event and lack of suitable host venues. Any such request for an exemption under this section will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Committee and their decision shall be final and cannot be appealed.
- D. The USHJA zone committee liaison will work with the committee so a decision can be made prior to the application period opening as to exactly what type of CH/AA Hunter Championship (as outlined above) the zone will host in the following year. In the case of a zone indicating interest in combining one of several other contiguous zones, the zone wishing to combine can determine which zone to combine with once the applicable zones select their host venue.

XIX. Dates and Show Venues

- A. The locations and dates of the Zone Championships recommended by the USHJA Hunter Working Group are subject to approval by the USHJA Executive Committee. Zone Championships must be held at competitions with a start date between June 1 and November 30.
- B. Zone Championships may only be held in conjunction with a Federation licensed National-rated competition or above. Zone Championships shall be awarded to a host through an application process established by the USHJA.
- C. No venue may be selected to host the Zone Championships for more than two consecutive years unless USHJA deems it necessary or in the best interest of the sport.

The USHJA Children's and Adult Amateur Championships 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 Children's/Adult Amateur Hunter Championships as necessary in extenuating or unforeseen circumstances, or for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Additionally USHJA reserves the right to alter specifications for this program on an annual basis.

