



## **2020 USHJA PONY HUNTER DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIFICATIONS**

*Changes to 2019 in bold, italics and underlined.*

### **I. Qualifying Criteria**

- A. All ponies that have competed in at least one (1) USHJA Pony Hunter Derby at a licensed USEF competition within the qualifying period will be invited to compete in the USHJA Pony Hunter Derby Championship.
- B. The qualifying period begins at the conclusion of each coast's 2019 qualifying period and will include competitions with a start date of no less than 60 days prior to the start of the coast's 2020 championship.***
- C. If an East Coast and West Coast Championship are offered qualified riders may only select one Championship to compete in.

### **II. Defining Eligibility**

- A. Riders, owners, and trainers must be current Active members of the Federation and USHJA to participate in this class.
- B. Ponies must be registered with USHJA and have an active horse recording with the Federation to participate in this class.
- C. Ponies must have a valid measurement card or form issued by the Federation
- D. Rider age and pony size: See HU101.8 for current Federation policy. Any rider under the age of 18 years may compete on any pony that is eligible for the Green Pony Hunter section provided that pony has been declared to earn HOTY points in the Green Pony Hunter section.
- E. Riders may compete on a total of four ponies but no more than two of any one size.
- F. Rider substitutions will not be allowed.
- G. A Green pony that competes in a USHJA Pony Hunter Derby Championship is no longer eligible for green reinstatement.
- H. Entries may be limited on a first-come, first-served basis as needed for scheduling constraints.***

### **III. Competition Format**

- A. The USHJA Pony Hunter Derby Championship will be composed two (2) rounds: Classic Hunter Style Round and Handy Hunter Round. If required, a Jump-off Round will be held.
  - a. The PHD Championship Classic Hunter Style Round consists of the qualified and entered ponies present for this event. These ponies will compete over a Classic Hunter Course.
  - b. The PHD Championship Handy Hunter Round consists of a minimum of the top 12 ponies, including ponies tied for 12th, from the Classic Hunter Style Round. At the sole discretion of the USHJA, more than the top 12 ponies may be invited to return. These ponies will compete over a Handy Hunter Course.
  - c. Jump-off Rounds, if required, consist of the ponies tied for first place. These ponies will compete over a Handy Hunter Course. All other ties will be broken according to the tie-breaking procedures in Section IX.
- B. If needed, Competition Management is permitted to schedule the USHJA Pony Hunter Derby Championship over two (2) days.

#### **IV. Course Requirements**

- A. 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 second round must be posted a minimum of one hour prior. Copies of the courses must also be available for distribution.
- B. Jumps in ALL Rounds
  - a. Obstacles must simulate those reminiscent of the hunt field and the 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.
  - b. Natural obstacles such as banks and ditches are not allowed.
  - c. A minimum of 2" difference is required for the back element of all oxers.
  - d. Ground lines are not to exceed 16" in depth from the vertical plane of the jump. For appropriate jumps, no ground line is necessary.
  - e. The jumpable portion of any fence must be a minimum of eight feet on its front face.
  - f. Flat cups may only be used for log fences and in accordance with Federation rules.
  - g. Fence heights: Small Pony - 2'3"; Medium Pony – 2'6"; Large Pony 2'9"- 3'0". One hundred percent of fences must be set at the appropriate height per pony size.
- C. Classic Hunter Style Course (First Round)
  - a. A minimum of ten obstacles must be offered in the Classic Hunter Round.
  - b. At least one in and out.
  - c. At least one bending line.
  - d. At least one line with an unrelated distance.
  - e. At least one long approach.
- D. Handy Hunter Course (Second Round)
  - a. A minimum of eight obstacles must be offered in the Handy Hunter Round.
  - b. The course should simulate riding over hunt country and must include a minimum of two handy options, such as: tight turn options, different tracks, clever options for jump approaches, pen type obstacles, hand gallop a jump, trot a lowered obstacle not to exceed 2'0" in height, halt and/or back. Leading over an obstacle and opening and/or closing a gate(s) while mounted or not mounted is not permitted. Gimmicky options are not appropriate.
- E. Jump-Off Round
  - a. A minimum of eight obstacles must be offered in the jump-off round.
  - b. The course should simulate riding over hunt country and must include a minimum of two handy options.

#### **V. Official Jog Format**

- A. The top 14 ponies must jog for soundness between rounds.

#### **VI. Order of Go**

- A. The Classic Hunter Style Round order of go will be determined using a random draw.
- B. The Handy Hunter Round order of go will be determined by the scores from the Classic Hunter Style Round, with the lowest score returning first and the highest score returning last within each height.
- C. In the case of multiple ponies being ridden by the same rider, every effort will be made so that there will be a minimum of eight pony (if available), separating multiple rides. All ponies must be ridden in the sequence that appears on the jumping order for each round of the competition.

#### **VII. Judges**

- A. There will be a total of four judges. Judges will be seated separately in two panels consisting of two judges per panel.
- B. One judge on each panel must be an R-licensed hunter judge while the other may be an R-licensed or r-licensed judge.
- C. All judges must be Federation licensed and in good standing with the Federation and USHJA.
- D. No guest cards will be granted for this competition.
- E. The judges will be hired by the host competition manager.

### **VIII. Judging System**

- A. The Classic Hunter Style Round shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going. Pace and brilliance are to be rewarded. The two panels' scores will be announced separately and then averaged for a final average numerical score.
- B. The Handy Hunter Round shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going. Pace and brilliance are to be rewarded. Jumping decorations to utilize a shorter track is **NOT** permissible. The two panels' scores will be announced separately and then averaged for a final average numerical score.
- C. The final average score of each pony-and-rider combination from the Classic Hunter Style and Handy Hunter Round will be added together to determine their final overall Pony Hunter Derby Championship score. This score will determine the final overall standings for the Pony Hunter Derby Championship.
- D. The Jump-off Round(s), if required, shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going. Pace and brilliance are to be rewarded. Jumping decorations to utilize a shorter track is **NOT** permissible. The two panels' scores will be announced separately and then averaged for a final average numerical score.

### **IX. Tie Breaking Procedures**

- A. Prior to the start of the PHD Championship, one judging panel in each round must be designated as the tie breaking panel. In addition, one of these panels will be designated as the overall tie breaking panel.
- B. To determine awards and order of go, if applicable, all ties in the Classic Hunter Style Round and Handy Hunter Round will be broken by the designated tie breaking judging panel score for each round.  
*\*In the Classic Hunter Round, only horses tied for 12<sup>th</sup> place will remain tied and advance to the Handy Hunter Round. Should more than 12 horses be invited to return, only those tied for the last position will remain tied and advance.*
- C. All ties for Overall Championship Champion (first place) will compete in a Jump-off Round. If a tie occurs after the Jump-off Round, the exhibitors will be named co-winners, will evenly split the prize money, but tied entrants must determine the distribution of awards amongst themselves.
- D. All ties for other than first place in the Overall PHD Championship standings will be broken using the score of the designated overall tie breaking judging panel.
- E. No judging panel may award the same score to any two competitors in any one round unless a competitor's score is below the cut-off score for awards.

### **X. Prize Money, Awards and Bonus Points**

- A. Recognition will be given to the following for the Overall Champion of the Championship:
  - a. Owner
  - b. Rider
  - c. Trainer
- B. The Overall Champion will be presented with a bridle ribbon, neck sash, pony cooler, commemorative picture frame, keeper trophy and a sponsor award, if available.
- C. The Reserve Overall Champions will be presented with a bridle ribbon, neck sash and commemorative picture frame.
- D. Ribbons will be awarded to the top 12 placings for each phase and for overall placings.
- E. A minimum of the top 12 overall places shall be awarded \$5,000 in prize money.
- F. Prize Money will be distributed as follows:

|                       |     |                        |    |
|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 30% | 7 <sup>th</sup> place  | 4% |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | 22% | 8 <sup>th</sup> place  | 3% |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | 15% | 9 <sup>th</sup> place  | 2% |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> place | 10% | 10 <sup>th</sup> place | 1% |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> place | 6%  | 11 <sup>th</sup> place | 1% |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> place | 5%  | 12 <sup>th</sup> place | 1% |

In order for PHD Championship points/money to be awarded, riders must complete the USHJA Exhibitor Declaration Form. If the Exhibitor Declaration Form is not completed and submitted to the show office either at the time of entry or at least one hour prior to the start of the class, horses will not receive bonus points/money for the PHD Championship.

G. HOTY Point Chart

- a. National and Zone HOTY points will be awarded for placing in a USHJA Pony Hunter Derby Championship.
- b. Riders may only declare one pony hunter section, per competition, in which to earn HOTY points. Children’s Pony may not be declared for HOTY points.
- c. A pony eligible to be shown in the Green Pony Hunter section may be declared to earn HOTY points in the applicable Green Pony Hunter section.
- d. Base National HOTY points will be awarded for the overall placings as follows:

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1st – 75 | 7th – 23 |
| 2nd – 60 | 8th – 15 |
| 3rd – 54 | 9th – 10 |
| 4th – 45 | 10th – 7 |
| 5th – 38 | 11th – 5 |
| 6th – 30 | 12th – 3 |

One additional point per pony entered will be added to the base National HOTY points earned

- e. Zone Championship points will be awarded for the overall placings as follows:

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1st – 50 | 7th – 15 |
| 2nd – 40 | 8th – 10 |
| 3rd – 35 | 9th – 7  |
| 4th – 30 | 10th – 5 |
| 5th – 25 | 11th – 3 |
| 6th – 20 | 12th – 1 |

One additional point per pony entered will be added to the base Zone HOTY points earned

**XII. Other**

- A. The following meetings must be held prior to the start of the class:
  - a. Officials Meeting must be attended by the judges, Course Designer, Steward, Championship Competition Liaison and Competition Manager to review the specifications, judging system and to walk the course.
  - b. Riders Meeting will be held to answer any questions regarding the course, judging system and class specifications.

**XIII. USHJA Contact Information**

Please contact one of the following USHJA representatives, if questions arise pertaining to the USHJA Pony Hunter Derby Championship that cannot be answered by the Show Steward or Management based on the class specifications provided.

Eva Van Heeke – USHJA Sport Programs Coordinator (859) 225-6735

*The USHJA Pony Hunter Derby 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 Pony Hunter Derby Championship as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity.*

