



2026 USHJA Zone HOTY Championship Specifications

Changes from the previous year are in bold, italics and underlined.

I. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. Horse owner, rider and trainer must be Active/Competing members of USHJA and USEF. Membership must be active on or before the first day of competition as outlined in the USEF rulebook.
- B. Horses must be registered with a USHJA **Horse Lifetime membership** and be recorded with USEF.
- C. The competition year is December 1 through November 30.

II. POINTS

- A. The points will be based on the current increment system for Channel I Premier (AA) or National (A), and Channel II Regional rated competitions established by USEF.
- B. Year end standings lists will be offered as separate Channel I and Channel II lists for each category in zones where Channel II shows are offered, with the exception of age group equitation and hunter breeding.
- C. Points accumulated in a state or country contiguous to an owner's home zone may be counted toward Horse of the Year points at both the zone and national level. If a contiguous state or country offers a section that is not offered by the owner's home zone, points will not count at the zone level, but they will be counted towards USEF national HOTY awards.
- D. USHJA zone points can only be accrued if the competition follows the zone specifications.
- E. The performance, green, young hunter, amateur owner, conformation hunter, junior hunter, pony hunter and classics are awarded USHJA zone points as well as national USEF points. USHJA zone points are only awarded in contiguous states if horse and rider are competing in a section offered by their home zone. The USHJA zone points for the high performance hunter, green, amateur owner, conformation hunter, junior hunter and pony hunter divisions are based on the rated points chart for the rating of the competition.

USHJA Zone HOTY Championship

I. ZONE HOTY CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. Competitor Qualifying Criteria
 - 1. HOTY Championship classes are open to all competitors who meet the Section I Minimum Eligibility Requirements.
- B. In order to earn Zone Championship Points, the owner or recorded leasee of the horse must reside within the Zone.
 - 1. In Hunter and Jumper sections the owner or recorded leasee of the horse must reside within the Zone in order to participate in the Zone Championship and receive Championship Points.
 - 2. In Equitation sections the rider must reside within the Zone in order to participate in the Zone Championship and receive Championship Points.
- C. Each USHJA Zone HOTY Championship must offer a minimum of six Zone HOTY sections. Complementary sections may be combined if there are not at least three entries in each section. Please note the age groups offered may vary for each zone. All sections must be run in accordance with the Zone Specifications.
- D. Eligible riders may participate in two Championships within the same zone.

HUNTERS

- ☐ Green Hunter 3', 3'3", 3'6", 3'9"
- ☐ Young Hunter 2'9", 3'0", 3'3"
- ☐ High Performance Hunter
- ☐ Performance Hunter 3'6"
- ☐ Performance Hunter 3'3"
- ☐ High Performance Conformation Hunter
- ☐ Green Conformation Hunter 3'6"
- ☐ Small Hunter
- ☐ Amateur Owner 3'6" 18-35
- ☐ Amateur Owner 3'6" 36+
- ☐ Amateur Owner 3'3"- 18-35
- ☐ Amateur Owner 3'3"-36+
- ☐ Small Junior 3'6" 15 & Under
- ☐ Large Junior 3'6" 15 & Under
- ☐ Small Junior 3'6" 16-17
- ☐ Large Junior 3'6" 16-17
- ☐ Junior Hunter 3'3"
- ☐ Small Pony
- ☐ Medium Pony
- ☐ Large Pony
- ☐ Green Pony- Sm/Med
- ☐ Green Pony-Large
- ☐ Children's Pony Hunter
- ☐ Children's Hunter 13 & Under
- ☐ Children's Hunter 14-17
- ☐ Low Children's Hunter 2'6"
- ☐ Low Children's Hunter Pony
- ☐ Adult Amateur 18-35
- ☐ Adult Amateur 36-49
- ☐ Adult Amateur 50+
- ☐ Low Adult Amateur 2'6"
- ☐ Thoroughbred Hunter
- ☐ USHJA Hunter 2', 2'3", 2'6", 2'9", 3'

EQUITATION

- ☐ Equitation 14 & Under
- ☐ Equitation 15-17
- ☐ Adult Equitation 18-35
- ☐ Adult Equitation 36+

JUMPERS

- ☐ 1.20/1.25m Junior Jumper
- ☐ 1.20/1.25m Amateur Jumper
- ☐ 1.30/1.35m Junior Jumper
- ☐ 1.30/1.35m Amateur Jumper
- ☐ 1.40/1.45m Junior Jumper

- ☐ 1.40/1.45m Amateur Jumper
- ☐ 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper
- ☐ 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper
- ☐ 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper
- ☐ 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper
- ☐ 5 Year Old Young Jumpers
- ☐ 6 Year Old Young Jumpers
- ☐ 7 Year Old Young Jumpers
- ☐ Pony Jumpers
- ☐ Thoroughbred Jumper

HUNTER BREEDING

- ☐ Yearling
- ☐ 2 Year Old
- ☐ 3 Year Old
- ☐ Pony Yearling
- ☐ Pony 2 Year Old
- ☐ Pony 3 Year Old
- ☐ Best Young Horse/Best Young Pony

SIDE SADDLE

- ☐ Ladies Hunter Under Saddle
- ☐ Ladies Hunter Hack
- ☐ Ladies Over Fences

II. ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION FORMAT

- A. A Zone HOTY Championship host must apply for a three-year competition agreement.
- B. The Zone HOTY Championship must be offered under the Section or Classic Format.

1. Hunter:

A. Section Format:

- 1. Must be offered with a minimum of two over fences classes and one under saddle as defined in HU154.
- 2. Management may designate classes of an existing section that will count for the USHJA Zone Championship Points. Additional classes are not required to be held for the USHJA Zone HOTY Championship.
- 3. Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th in each class will receive Zone HOTY Championship Points. Zone HOTY Championship Points will be awarded for Champion and Reserve Champion.

B. Classic Format:

- 1. Must be offered with two over fences classes as part of the Classic.
- 2. Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th in the second round of the Hunter Classic will receive Zone HOTY Championship Points.

2. Jumper

A. Section Format:

- 1. May be offered as two or three individual classes.
- 2. Management may designate classes of an existing section that will count for the USHJA Zone Championship Points. Additional classes are not required to be held for the USHJA Zone HOTY Championship.

3. Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th in each class will receive Zone HOTY Championship Points.
- B. Classic Format:
 1. May be offered in a two round/one jump-off Jumper Classic.
 2. Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th for the Championship overall placings in the Classic.

3. **Equitation**

- A. Section Format
 1. Must be offered at two over fences classes and one under saddle.
 2. Management may designate classes of an existing section that will count for the USHJA Zone Championship Points. Additional classes are not required to be held for the USHJA Zone HOTY Championship.
 3. Eligible exhibitors that place 1st-8th in each class will receive Zone HOTY Championship Points. Zone HOTY Championship Points will be awarded for Champion and Reserve Champion.
- C. If the competition charges exhibitors an additional fee (“Armband Fees”) to compete in the Zone HOTY Championship, a minimum of 3 Zone Championship exhibitors must pay the additional fee and compete in order for the Zone HOTY Championship Points to be awarded.

III. **HOTY CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS**

- A. Classic format is defined as one zone Championship class, per section, running as a two-round class. The eligible exhibitors that place 1st – 8th in the second round will receive the Zone HOTY Championship Points listed under the Classic Format. In order to receive points in hunter sections a minimum of three exhibitors are needed to compete for Championship Points to be awarded. If held as a stand-alone class, the Zone Championship class format does not follow the HU154 rules.
- B. If a competition uses a Classic Format and runs the class concurrently, the Classic will need to follow HU174, including the minimum of six entries for hunter sections. Competition management will pull the eligible Zone Championship exhibitors from the classic and re-pin. This Zone Championship class will then follow the minimum of three entries to obtain points. These exhibitors will receive the regular points for the classic and the additional points from the Zone Championship class.
- C. A minimum of three exhibitors must compete in HOTY hunter sections in order for Hunter Zone HOTY Championship Points to be awarded to follow HU154. If three do not complete, half points will be awarded per GR1113.2b
- D. The definition of compete for Hunters and Age Group Equitation is in accordance with HU119 and the definition of compete for Jumpers is in accordance with JP135.13.
- E. Hunter Zone HOTY Championship Point Chart

Champion and Reserve Championship Points will be given to the Zone HOTY Championship sections that follow HU154. The following chart will also be applicable to Zone HOTY Championship Side Saddle classes.

Placing	Championship Points for Each Class (Section Format)	Championship Points for Each Class (Classic Format)
1	40	80
2	30	60
3	20	40
4	12	24
5	10	20
6	8	16
7	6	12
8	4	8
Champion	80	
Reserve	48	

F. Jumper Zone HOTY Championship Point Chart

1.00/1.05m Junior/Amateur Jumpers, 1.10/1.15m Junior/Amateur Jumpers and Thoroughbred Jumper will receive points from the Zone HOTY Championship Point Chart excluding Champion and Reserve points. 1.20/1.25m Junior Jumpers, 1.20/1.25m Amateur Jumpers, 1.30/1.35m Junior Jumpers, 1.30/1.35m Amateur Jumpers, 1.40/1.45m Junior Jumpers, 1.40/1.45m Amateur Jumpers, Pony Jumpers and Young Jumpers will be based on one point for every dollar won unless no money is awarded and then these classes will receive the points from the Zone HOTY Championship Point Chart excluding Champion and Reserve points.

Placing	Championship Points for Each Class (Section Format)	Championship Points for Each Class (Classic Format)
1	40	80
2	30	60
3	20	40
4	12	24
5	10	20
6	8	16
7	6	12
8	4	8
Champion	N/A	
Reserve	N/A	

G. Equitation Zone HOTY Championship Point Chart

Champion and Reserve Championship Points will be given to the Zone HOTY Championship sections that offer two over fences classes and one under saddle class.

Placing	Championship Points for Each Class	Placing	Championship Points for Each Class
1	40	6	8
2	30	7	6
3	20	8	4
4	12	Champion	80
5	10	Reserve	48

H. Hunter Breeding Zone HOTY Championship Point Chart

1. Hunter Breeding points will count with less than three entries, see GR1113.2

Placing	Championship Points for Each Class
1	<u>23</u>
2	<u>18</u>
3	<u>15</u>
4	<u>11</u>
5	<u>10</u>
6	<u>9</u>
7	<u>8</u>
8	<u>7</u>
Best Young Horse/Best Young Pony -Champion	<u>23</u>
Best Young Horse/Best Young Pony - Reserve	<u>18</u>

VI. JUDGING

- A. See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions
- B. In all sport or education related matters, where there are either discrepancies or deficiencies in the specifications, procedures or any unforeseen circumstances related to a USHJA property, the President and Executive Director will consult with the Task Force/Committee Chair (if applicable), the Officers of the USHJA and USHJA legal counsel (if applicable) before making any final decisions.

VII. ADDITIONAL FEES (“Armband Fees”) FOR ZONE HOTY CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRIES

- A. Host Competitions may only charge additional fees (“Armband Fees”) to participate in the USHJA Zone HOTY Championship under the following conditions:
 - 1. The fees are included in the qualifying criteria developed by each Zone and approved by the USHJA.
 - 2. The fees in the qualifying criteria are being assessed to benefit the Zone.
 - 3. The fees are remitted to the USHJA within 10 days of the conclusion of the competition
- B. If qualifying criteria is not developed by the Zone, no additional fees may be charged.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact USHJA if questions arise pertaining to the USHJA HOTY Championship cannot be answered by the show steward, management or the zone committee representative based on the class specifications provided (USHJA Phone: 859-225-6713).

Any deviations from the class specifications are not permitted without the express written permission from USHJA prior to the printing of the prize list.

In all sport or education related matters, where there are either discrepancies or deficiencies in the specifications, procedures or any unforeseen circumstances related to a USHJA property, the President and Executive Director will consult with the Task Force/Committee Chair (if applicable), the Officers of the USHJA and USHJA legal counsel (if applicable) before making any final decisions.

The USHJA Zone HOTY 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 Zone HOTY Championship as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any USHJA Zone HOTY Championship which is not conducted in accordance with the USEF Rules and Zone Specifications will not count for Championship Points. Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA Zone HOTY Championship 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.

