

USHJA ZONE 5 2026 HUNTER, JUMPER, AND EQUITATION SPECIFICATIONS

Table of Contents

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER	2
LOW ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER	3
AMATEUR JUMPER	4
ADULT AGE GROUP EQUITATION SECTIONS	5
CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE	6
LOW CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE	7
CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY	8
JUNIOR JUMPER	9
CHILDREN'S AGE GROUPS: HUNTER EQUITATION SECTIONS	10

2026 ZONE 5 HUNTER, JUMPER, AND EQUITATION SPECIFICATIONS (IL, IN, KY, MI, OH)

In accordance with GR1111.4: Canada, IA, WI, MO, TN, VA, WV, PA, NJ are contiguous states.

JUDGING FOR ALL HUNTER SECTIONS:

- To be judged on performance and soundness, suitability to count.
- Horses and Ponies are required to jog for soundness.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADULT AMATEURS: HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION:

- To be ridden by exhibitors who have reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year and who hold a current USEF Amateur certification. Open to horses and ponies.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN'S SECTIONS: HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION:

- To be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER

Sections offered and requirements:

- Adult Amateurs – may be split into three (3) sections

Cross Entry:

Riders:

Riders entered in Adult Amateur Hunter sections may not compete in any other class in which obstacles exceed 3'5" at the same competition (exception: Equitation, Jumper classes 1.20m and lower, Amateur Owner Hunter classes, and the USHJA International Hunter Derby). Riders competing in the Amateur Owner Hunter sections may compete on one different horse in the Adult Amateur Hunter section.

Horses:

Horses cannot cross enter into 3'3" or 3'6" Amateur Owner Hunter sections at the same competition. Horses may only compete in one age group per competition.

Horse and Rider Combination:

No cross entry restrictions

Fence Height:

- 3'0" with spreads not to exceed the fence height.
- Courses will not be adjusted for ponies.
- In and outs will be permitted.

Combining/Dividing Sections:

May be split into three sections when offered by age:

- Adult Amateurs 18– 35
- Adult Amateurs 36– 49
- Adult Amateurs 50 & over

Adult Amateur Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than four (4) entries in a section. Adult Amateur Hunter and Children's Hunter may be combined if there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section.

Under Saddle Classes: If an under saddle class is divided by age and a rider has two (2) or more horses entered, all riders must be amateurs but need not be eligible by age.

Handy Hunter Classes: Handy Hunter Classes are optional and can be added at the competition management's discretion.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- Adult Amateur Hunter 18- 35
- Adult Amateur 36- 49
- Adult Amateur 50 & over

LOW ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER

Eligibility:

Open to exhibitors who have reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.

Cross Entry:

Riders:

Riders may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where the fences exceed 3' (Exception: All Age Group Equitation Classes) Riders who compete in the 3' Adult Amateur Hunter section may show one horse in the Low Adult Amateur Hunter Section.

Horse and Rider Combination:

Low Adult Amateur Hunter Horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into any classes or section where the fences exceed 2'9" at the same competition.

Fence Height:

- 2'6"

Combining/Dividing Sections:

The Low Adult Amateur Hunter and Low Children's Hunter **Horse** sections may be combined if there are fewer than four (4) entries in either section.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following section:

- Low Adult Amateur Hunter

AMATEUR JUMPER

Sections offered and requirements:

- 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper
- 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper

Cross Entry:

Rider:

1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper riders may not cross enter into any classes held above 1.15m at the same competition.

Amateur Jumper riders may not cross enter into High Amateur Owner classes or any other jumper class exceeding 1.30m at the same competition with the exception of classes which do not offer prize money (including add back money) see GR141 and JP119 for cross entry restrictions.

Horse/Pony:

No cross-entry restrictions

Horse and Rider Combination:

1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper horse/rider combinations may cross enter into the 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumpers at the same competition.

1.10/1.15m Amateur horse/rider combinations may cross enter into the 1.00m/1.05m Amateur Jumpers at the same competition.

Fence Height:

- 1.00m to 1.05m
- 1.10m to 1.15m

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Sections may be divided by age of rider and may also be combined (Juniors with Amateur sections) if so stated in the prize list.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper
- 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper

- **ADULT AGE GROUP EQUITATION SECTIONS**

Refer to GR1132

CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE

Sections offered and requirements:

- Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under
- Children's Hunter Horse 15- 17

Cross Entry:

Rider:

A Children's Hunter Horse rider may only compete one different horse in the Junior Hunter Sections.

Riders entered in Children's Hunter Horse sections may not compete in any other class in which obstacles exceed 3'5" at the same competition (exception: Junior Hunter sections and USHJA International Hunter Derby).

A Junior Hunter rider may only compete one different horse in the Children's Hunter Horse section.

Riders entered in the Children's Hunter Horse section may only compete on one Children's Hunter Pony at the same competition.

Horses/Ponies:

Horses entered in Children's Hunter classes may not cross enter into Junior Hunter sections at the same competition. Horses may only compete in one age group per competition.

Horse and rider combination:

No cross entry restrictions.

Fence Height:

- 3'0" with spreads not to exceed fence height
- Distances will not be adjusted for ponies.
- In and outs will be permitted

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Children's Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than four (4) entries in a section. If there are four (4) or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. Adult Amateur Hunter and Children's Hunter may be combined if there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section.

Handy Hunter Classes: Handy Classes are optional and can be added at the Competition Management's discretion.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under
- Children's Hunter Horse 15- 17

LOW CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE

Eligibility:

Open to exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.

Cross Entry:

Riders:

Riders may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where the fences exceed 3' (Exception: All Age Group Equitation Classes)
Riders who compete in the 3' Children's Hunter Horse Section may show one horse in the Low Children's Hunter Horse Section.

Horse and Rider Combination:

Low Children's Hunter Horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into any classes or section where the fences exceed 2'9" at the same competition.
(Exception: All Age Group Equitation)

Fence Height:

- 2'6"

Combining/Dividing Sections:

The Low Children's Hunter section and the Low Adult Amateur Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than four (4) entries in either section.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following section:

- Low Children's Hunter Horse

CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY

Sections offered and requirements:

- Small/Medium Children's Pony
- Large Children's Pony
- Prize Money: No minimum prize money is required.

Cross Entry:

Rider:

Age restrictions in the regular pony sections do not apply. Riders may only show one children's pony when showing multiple ponies in the Regular or Green Pony Sections. Or if a rider is showing multiple ponies in the children's pony section then they can only show one pony in the Regular or Green Pony Section.

Horse and Rider Combination:

The same pony/rider combination may not show in the green or Regular pony Section at the same show.

Fence Height:

- Small/Medium Ponies: 2'0" with spreads not to exceed height of fence.
- Large Ponies: 2'6" with spreads not to exceed height of fence.
- In and outs will not be permitted
- Distances for this section should be set on the 12-foot stride.

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Children's Hunter Pony sections may be combined with Children's Hunter Horse sections if there are fewer than four (4) entries in a section. If there are four (4) or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. The Children's Hunter Pony may be divided by height (small/medium and large). If there are four (4) or more entries in each height section, the sections must be held separately.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- Children's Hunter Pony-Small/Medium
- Children's Hunter Pony-Large

JUNIOR JUMPER

Sections offered and Requirements:

- 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper
- 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper

Cross Entry:

Rider:

1.00/1.05m Junior Jumpers riders may not cross enter into any classes held above 1.15m at the same competition.

1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper riders may not cross enter into High Junior classes or any other jumper class exceeding 1.30m at the same competition with the exception of classes which do not offer prize money (including add back money) see HU141 and HU137 for cross entry restrictions.

Horse/Pony

No cross entry restrictions

Horse and Rider Combination:

1.00/1.05m Junior horse/rider combinations may cross enter into the 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumpers at the same competition.

1.10/1.15m Junior horse/rider combinations may cross enter into the 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumpers at the same competition.

Fence Height:

- 1.00m to 1.05m
- 1.10m to 1.15m

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Sections may be divided by age of rider and may also be combined (Junior with Amateur sections) if so stated in the prize list.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following section:

- 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper section
- 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper section

- **CHILDREN’S AGE GROUPS: HUNTER EQUITATION SECTIONS**

Refer to GR1132.13