

2026 USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals Specifications

I. Competition requirements

- A. A USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal class may be offered at USEF Licensed competitions. Competitions wishing to hold a USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal class at their competition must list the class in their prize list and notify USEF. Competitions interested in hosting a USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals event may apply through the host application process which is available on the USHJA website. The host fee for a USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Final is \$1,000.00. Once approved, competition shall remit host fee with completed host agreement.
- B. Competition management will collect and remit to USHJA \$50 per competing entrant fee for riders in all USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals. The competing entrant fee may be added to the entry fee and payment must be submitted to USHJA within ten days of the conclusion of the competition.
- C. Competition management must remit the complete results to USHJA and USEF within ten days of the conclusion of the competition.

II. Eligibility requirements

- A. The USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal is open to Junior Active Members of the USEF and USHJA. Foreign residents who are also members of USEF and USHJA will be eligible to compete. Eligible riders may not compete in any of the following within the same competition year:
 1. ASPCA Maclay Finals
 2. USEF Hunter Seat Medal Finals
 3. USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals (East or West)
 4. USHJA Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic
 5. WIHS Equitation Classic Finals
 6. Jump Canada Medal Finals
 7. North American Equitation Championship
- B. Riders who have competed at 1.30m or higher will not be eligible to compete in USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals.
- C. Riders accumulating a minimum of ten points (10) in any USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal classes between August 2 of the previous competition year and September 1 of the current competition year will be eligible to compete in the USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals.
- D. The USHJA, at its discretion, can open up qualifying procedures to allow for additional entries to fill this championship, should insufficient entries be received by the deadline. Additional riders will be invited based on their points earned.
- E. Once a rider has competed in any of the aforementioned finals they remain ineligible to compete in the 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal classes or Final.
- F. Past winners of the USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Final are no longer eligible to compete in the class or finals.

III. Courses requirements

- A. To be shown over a course of no less than eight obstacles with fence heights of 3'3" and spreads to 3'6" (exception: triple bar obstacles may have a maximum spread of 4').
- B. For the Finals, all obstacles must be numbered.
- C. One third of the obstacles must be oxers.
- D. Courses must include at least two changes of direction after the first obstacle.
- E. All courses must include at least three of the following:
 1. Bending Line

2. Narrow Jump (5'6"- 8')
 3. Roll back turn
 4. Fence at the end of the ring
 5. Long approach to a single jump
- F. Liverpools, water jumps or water used as decoration are prohibited.

IV. **Judging procedures**

- A. See GR1304 for Judging restrictions.
- B. To be judged on the seat, hands, guidance and control of the horse.
- C. Two cumulative refusals will result in elimination from the Finals.
- D. If there are 30 or fewer riders competing in Round I, judges must bring back a minimum of the top 15 riders (if available) for Round II. If there are 31 – 50 riders competing in Round I, judges must bring back a minimum of 20 riders for Round II. If there are more than 51 riders competing in Round I, judges must bring back a minimum of 25 riders for Round II. More riders may be asked to return at the judge's discretion.
 1. Open numeric scoring will be used for Rounds I and II.
 2. Round I scores may be duplicated with the exception of the riders called back for Round II.
 3. Each Round shall be weighted equally.
 4. Riders who qualify for Round II will return in reverse order of scores from Round I.
 5. **All ties will be broken using the scores from Round I.**
- E. Testing: two or more tests of a minimum of the top four competitors are required using USEF tests 1- 22.
 - a. **Scores from the Testing round will be cumulative based on the combined scores from Rounds I and II.** Testing scores will not be announced.
- F. Only one rider per horse may compete in the USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Final.

V. **Tack**

- A. Refer to EQ106.5a in the USEF Rulebook.

VI. **Awards**

- A. For USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals, ribbons will be awarded first through twelfth place for overall placings. The presentation of awards is to be given in reverse order.

VII. **Schooling requirements for the USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals**

- A. Horses are required to be stabled on the competition grounds a minimum of twelve hours before the start of the competition.
- B. Trainers/Coaches are permitted to ride and school competitors horses.
- C. Trainers/Coaches are permitted to walk Rounds I and II with the competitors.

VIII. Competition Schedule

A. Schedule

1. Jog (prior to start of final)
2. Round I
3. Round II
4. Work off

B. Jog Format:

1. All horses entered in the USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Final must jog for soundness during the Official Jog prior to the start of the first round in order to compete. The Official Jog must be held within 24 hours of the start of the first round. This jog will be run in a manner similar to an FEI jog.
2. A horse must be officially entered in the class before it will be allowed to jog. **All horse entries, including substitutes, must be entered in the class before the show office closes, the day prior to the Official Jog.**
3. Proper attire is required. In addition, Juniors are required to wear protective headgear.
4. All horses must be presented at the Official Jog with their competition number and wearing a bridle, including noseband.
5. The judging panel for the Official Jog shall consist of the competition veterinarian and a minimum of one competition judge.

6. The jog surface must be level. Similar to an FEI Veterinary Inspection, horses shall be evaluated going directly away and back from the veterinarian and judge, after which, upon the recommendation of the veterinarian, the participating judge will decide if the horse passes.
7. If a horse does not pass the jog; the exhibitor may request to re-present the horse. The judge(s) may decide to allow the horse to re-present at any time up to one hour prior to the start of the class. The veterinarian and one of the judges from the original panel must be present. In this case, the decision of the participating judge is final and not subject to appeal.

IX. Judging requirements for USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals

The USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals will be judged by a panel of two judges with "R" Registered status in the Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Division. One of the "R" registered judges must be approved by the USHJA Equitation Task Force prior to the final.

X. Contacts

If questions arise pertaining to the USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal that cannot be answered by the Show Steward, Technical Delegate or Competition Management based on the Finals specifications provided, please contact one of the following USHJA representatives:

USHJA Equitation- (859) 225-6700 Press 4 for Competitive Programs

Sissy Wickes, Chair of the USHJA Joint Equitation Task Force - (610) 308-9940

The USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal 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 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal 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.

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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.

