



2026 USHJA Affiliate National Championships Specifications

I. Qualifying Information

- A. Qualifying: Affiliate entrants must be nominated by their USHJA Affiliate Organization and accepted by USHJA prior to entering. Each accepted Affiliate horse-and-rider combination must remit the non-refundable \$100 nomination fee at time of entry.
- B. Entry: Affiliate competitors may only enter the USHJA Affiliate National Championship sections that they have been nominated and accepted for.
 1. Late entries (after closing date) will be accepted. However, all late entries will be placed at the bottom of the wait list.
 2. Entries will not be accepted after **November 9, 2026, at 5 pm PT.**
 3. Nominated horse-and-rider combinations must submit an entry via the host's online entry portal.

II. Qualifying for the USHJA Affiliate National Championships

- A. Affiliate Competitors: Each USHJA Affiliate Organization will choose their own procedure to nominate the entrants they deem most qualified to compete and represent their organization at the National Championships. Organizations must be an official USHJA Affiliate Organization no later than June 1, 2026, to be eligible to submit nominations. [Click here](#) to view current USHJA Affiliate Member Organizations.
 1. Horses must be registered with USHJA and recorded with USEF.
 2. Riders must be Active Competing members of USHJA and USEF.
 3. Any Affiliate rider 18 years of age and older and any person signing the entry blank as trainer or coach must have completed SafeSport.
 4. Riders must be Juniors or Amateurs as defined under USEF rules.
 5. **Riders may not have competed in more than two USEF-recognized competitions in classes with fence heights 10cm or 6" higher than their nominated Affiliate Championship section, during the current qualifying period up until the start date of the Championships.**
 6. Horses may compete in different sections (Affiliate or Rated) with a different rider.
 7. Affiliate Riders may not cross enter into any "Rated" section.
 8. Horse-and-rider combinations may cross enter non-championship classes held at comparable heights in which they are nominated for.
 9. A horse-and-rider combination may be nominated for and compete in a maximum of two (2) divisions (Hunter, Equitation, Jumper).
 10. Each Affiliate Organization must submit a nomination form that indicates the name of the horse-and-rider combination, which section they are nominated

for, and their order of preference (first-, second-, or third-ranked).

11. The deadline for Affiliate Organization nominations is August 1 **of the current competition year**. No late nominations will be accepted.
12. Nominated horse-and-rider combinations must submit an entry and provide proof of nomination from their Affiliate Organization.

B. **Outreach Backstage Pass Competitors: *The Outreach Backstage Pass will be awarded to the highest cumulative pointed Junior or Amateur Outreach rider in each Zone.***

1. Riders may only compete in the Affiliate Championship sections of comparable height for which they **earned their Backstage Pass**.
2. Horses may compete in different sections (Affiliate or Rated) with a different rider.
3. All other Hunter, Equitation and Jumper sections conditions apply to the Outreach Backstage Pass competitors.
4. Outreach Backstage Pass competitors will be in addition to the 30 accepted Affiliate horse-and-rider combinations.
5. The deadline for Outreach Backstage Pass competitors to accept their invitation to compete in the USHJA Affiliate National Championships is August 28, 2026.

III. Affiliate Hunter Sections

- A. Each Affiliate may nominate up to three horse-and-rider combinations per section in order of preference. The highest-ranked horse-and-rider combination will be guaranteed acceptance. If space allows, the second- and third-ranked horse-and-rider combination may also be accepted.
 1. **Riders may not have competed in more than two USEF-recognized competitions in classes with fence heights 10cm or 6" higher than their nominated Affiliate Championship section, during the current qualifying period up until the start date of the Championships.**
 2. Horse-and-rider combinations may not compete in both the 2' and 2'6" Hunter Sections.
 3. The USHJA Affiliate 2' & 2'6" Hunter sections will take the top 30 nominated horse-and-rider combinations.
 4. To be judged on performance, soundness and way of going.
 5. For safety, the 2' Hunter Under Saddle classes with 20 or more competitors will be split and pinned as a single class.

IV. Affiliate Equitation Sections

- A. Each Affiliate may nominate up to three horse-and-rider combinations per section in order of preference. The highest-ranked horse-and-rider combination per section will be guaranteed acceptance. If space allows, the second- and third-ranked horse-and-rider combination may also be accepted.
 1. **Riders may not have competed in more than two USEF-recognized competitions in classes with fence heights 10cm or 6" higher than their nominated Affiliate Championship section, during the current qualifying period up until the start date**

of the Championships.

2. The USHJA Affiliate 2' and 2'6" Equitation sections will take the top 30 nominated horse-and-rider combinations.
3. To be judged based on USEF Equitation Rules.
4. For safety, the 2' Equitation Flat classes with 20 or more competitors will be split and pinned as a single class.

V. Affiliate Jumper Sections

- A. Each Affiliate may nominate up to three horse-and-rider combinations per section in order of preference. The highest-ranked horse-and-rider combination per section will be guaranteed acceptance. If space allows, the second- and third-ranked horse-and-rider combination may also be accepted.
 1. **Riders may not have competed in more than two USEF-recognized competitions in classes with fence heights 10cm or 6" higher than their nominated Affiliate Championship section, during the current qualifying period up until the start date of the Championships.**
 2. Horse-and-rider combinations may be nominated for a maximum of two (2) consecutive Jumper height sections.
 3. The USHJA Affiliate .70m, .80m, and .90m Jumper sections will take the top 30 nominated horse-and-rider combinations.
 4. To be scored under USEF Jumper Rules.

VI. Division Awards

A. HUNTER:

1. The Champion and Reserve Champion titles are awarded to the top two of the four horses that acquired the most points Over Fences. Only these four horses receive full points for ribbons won in the Under Saddle class.
2. All Hunter sections will consist of three Over Fences and one Under Saddle.
3. Points to determine Champion and Reserve are as follows: 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
 - i. Ties for champion and reserve will be decided by the highest cumulative points from all three Over Fences classes.

B. EQUITATION:

1. Champion and Reserve Champion titles are awarded to the top two of the four riders that acquired the most points Over Fences. Only these four riders receive full points for ribbons won in the Flat class.
2. Points **to determine Champion and Reserve are** as follows: 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
 - i. Ties for champion and reserve will be decided by the highest cumulative points from all three Over Fences classes.

C. JUMPER:

1. Champion and Reserve Champion titles are awarded to the two horse-and-rider combinations that acquired the most points across all classes in their respective section.
2. All Jumper sections will consist of a Welcome, Speed or Two Phase, and Grand Prix. All classes will count for championship.

3. Points to determine Champion and Reserve are as follows: 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
 - i. Ties for champion and reserve will be decided by highest placing in the Grand Prix of each section.

D. **BLING AWARD:** all Jumper riders identified during Friday and Saturday classes who show off the most bling and sparkles in the spirit of Las Vegas. Separate Bling Awards will be given to one Junior and one Amateur both days.

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.

