

2026 USHJA GLADSTONE CUP EQUITATION CLASSIC SPECIFICATIONS

I. Qualifying

The Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic may be held at either (or both) the East and West Coast USEF Junior Hunter National Championships. It is open to any Junior rider that has won either a USEF Hunter Seat Medal, ASPCA Maclay, USEF Show Jumping Talent Search, either phase of WIHS Equitation Classic at a National or Premier show, or an Overall WIHS Equitation Classic at a competition with a start date between June 1 and May 31 of the qualifying year. The USHJA, at its discretion, can open qualifying procedures to allow for additional entries to fill this championship, should insufficient entries be received by the deadline. Riders must be an active USHJA Junior members at the time of competition to compete. Past winners of the East Coast or West Coast USHJA Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic or former East Coast or West Coast USHJA Hunterdon Cup Equitation Classic are no longer eligible to compete in either finals.

II. Competition Format

A. Jog –

1. All horses entered in the USHJA Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic 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.

B. Round 1 – Classic Hunter Style Round. Riders to show over a classic hunter style course of at least ten (10) jumps. Open numeric scoring system will be used, scores will be announced

C. Round 2 – Handy Hunter Round. The top twenty-five (25) riders will return for the Handy Hunter Round in reverse order of scores from Round 1. ***If there are 30 or fewer riders competing in Round 1, judges must bring back a minimum of the top 15 riders (if available) for the Handy Hunter Round. Riders must have completed Round 1 to be eligible to compete in Round 2.*** Riders will show over a handy hunter course of at least ten (10) jumps.

Handiness and brilliance to be rewarded. Open numeric scoring system will be used, scores to be announced.

D. Round 3 – Final Round – Based on the combined scores from Rounds 1 and 2, the score from Round 3 will be cumulative based on scores from Rounds 1 and 2. A minimum of the top six (6) riders will be asked to switch horses and jump a third course.

1. The course will consist of fences 1-8 from Round 2, with no tests included.
2. The fences may not be changed in any way from Round 2 and must be jumped in the original direction.
3. The riders may not be asked to execute anything that they have not already executed on their own horse

- previously in this competition.
4. Riders will switch as follows: riders one and two, riders three and four, riders five and six, et cetera. The riders will be asked to switch horses in a secured schooling area. Trainer assistance will be allowed.
 5. Any tack (including boots) used in Round 2 must be used in Final Round (in the same manner as used in Round 2). No changes to tack (including boots) will be allowed other than switching saddles.
 6. Riders will be given 180 seconds to do a brief flat and jump no more than two (2) schooling jumps. A steward will set the two schooling jumps ***(one 3'3" vertical and one 3'6" ramped oxer)***, trainers are not allowed to adjust jumps in any manner.
 7. A schooling supervisor will oversee the switching of horses and subsequent schooling.
 8. Riders will return in reverse order of the combined scores from Rounds 1 and 2 (lower to higher). and Scores will not be announced.

III. Course Requirements

- A. Fences to be set at 3'6".
- B. Fences shall be numbered in all rounds.
- C. Obstacles must simulate those reminiscent of the hunt field and 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.
- D. A variety of jumps that will nicely challenge the riders are encouraged.
- E. Hunter Seat Equitation Championship Course (First Round)
 1. Course must consist of a minimum of at least ten (10) obstacles, with at least one of each of the following:
 - a. A minimum of 2 obstacles must not have ground lines
 - b. In and out
 - c. Bending line
 - d. Line with an unrelated distance
 - e. Long approach to a single jump
 - f. Narrow jump (5'6" -8')
 - g. Option jumps are not allowed in the First Round
- F. Handy Hunter Course (Second Round)
 1. The course should simulate riding over hunt country and must contain the following elements:
 - a. Tight turns
 - b. Different tracks
 - c. Clever options for jump approaches
 - d. Hand gallop to a jump
 - e. Trot a lowered obstacle (not to exceed 3'0" in height). Trot jump must be after Fence 8.

IV. Tack

Refer to EQ106.5a in the USEF Rule Book for current specifications.

V. Schooling

- A. Horses are required to be stabled on the competition grounds for a minimum of twelve (12) hours before the start of the competition.
- B. Commencing twelve (12) hours before the start of the USHJA Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic competition and continuing until finished competing in the USHJA Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic, only the competition rider may ride his entry. Riders may change horses for the Gladstone Cup only in the case of illness or injury to the declared horse, with verification from the horse show veterinarian and approval from the horse show committee.
- C. Competition Management must provide a ticketed warm up for Gladstone entries only, the day prior to the final. The warmup format must be timed, with a set course, with one rider on course at a time.
- D. Competition Management must provide a specific time for Gladstone entries only to hack in the competition ring.
- E. Competition Management must provide a dedicated schooling area for Gladstone entries only.

VI. Judges and Judging Procedures

- A. See GR1304 for Judging restrictions.
- B. One panel of two (2) “R” or Registered status judges licensed in Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation are - required for each of the USHJA Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic- East and West Coast events. One of the “R” registered judges must be approved by the USHJA Equitation Task Force prior to the final.
- C. Judges will sit together for the duration of the class and provide one (1) numerical score for each competitor in each phase.
- D. Riders to be judged on style and smoothness with an emphasis on hunter style of riding.
- E. The scores from each round will be combined for a final total score for each rider.
- F. The final combined scores from each rider will be used to determine placings.
- G. All ties will be broken using the scores from Round 1.
- H. Two cumulative refusals will incur elimination.
- I. **Duplication of scores below the cut off in Round 1 is allowed.**

VII. Awards

- A. The previous year’s winner, if available, will be asked to assist in the presentation of the top twelve (12) ribbons.
- B. Ribbons will be awarded 1st– 12thplace with the presentation of awards to be given in reverse order.
- C. The Overall Champion will be presented with a keeper trophy.
- D. Recognition will be given to the Trainer of the Overall Champion.
- E. Recognition will be given for the Best Equitation Horse. To be awarded to the horse deemed by the judges to be the best and most suitable equitation horse competing in the Gladstone Cup.

VIII. USHJA Contact Information

Please contact one of the following USHJA representatives if questions arise pertaining to the USHJA Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic that cannot be answered by the Show Steward or Management based on the class specifications provided:

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 Gladstone Cup 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 Gladstone Cup as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA Gladstone Cup 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.

