

USHJA ZONE 4
2026 HUNTER, JUMPER, AND EQUITATION SPECIFICATIONS

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2026 ZONE 4 HUNTER, JUMPER, AND EQUITATION SPECIFICATIONS

(AL, FL, GA, MS, SC, TN)

In accordance with GR 1111.4: **Contiguous states are: AR, KY, LA, MO, NC, VA**

JUDGING FOR ALL HUNTER SECTIONS:

- To be judged on performance and soundness, suitability to count.
- Horses and Ponies are not 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:

Rider:

Riders in this section may enter any Equitation class.

Riders who compete in the Amateur Owner Hunter classes may only show other horses that they own in the Adult Amateur Hunters. **Exception:** Riders competing in the Amateur Owner 3'3" section (but not competing in the Amateur Owner 3'6" section) may ride one horse that they do not own in the Adult Amateur Hunter section.

Adult Amateur Hunter Riders may cross enter into any Jumper Class 1.20m or below. Adult Amateur Hunter Riders may not cross enter into any Jumper class above 1.20m that offers prize money at the same show.

Horse:

Horses and ponies exhibiting in this section may cross enter multiple sections of Adult Amateur Hunter and any classes where eligible.

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:

- Adult Amateurs 18– 35
- Adult Amateurs 36-54
- Adult Amateurs 55 & over

The Adult Amateur Hunter section may be divided by age of rider and/or height of fences. If there are fewer than three (3) entries in a section, that section must be combined with another Adult Amateur section. The Adult Amateur Hunter section may be combined with the Children's Hunter section when there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section. When sections are combined and there are more than 24 total entries, the sections must be divided utilizing a Floating split, or a California split to create an even division of entries.

Classics: Adult Amateur Hunter Classics

Four (4) entries are required to conduct an Adult Amateur Hunter Classic. If there are fewer than Four (4) entries in any one Adult Amateur Hunter Classic, it may combine with other sections of Adult Amateur Hunters or Children's Hunter Horse. If Adult Amateur Hunter Classics are combined and a horse is shown in more than one section qualifying for the Adult Amateur Hunter Classic, the exhibitor must declare their point section to the Competition Secretary on a declaration form at the time of entry into the Classic. Adult Amateur Hunter Classics cannot be divided in any manner and held by section if there are fewer than six (6) entries in each divided section.

Awards:

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

- Adult Amateur Hunter 18- 35
- Adult Amateur Hunter 36-54
- Adult Amateur Hunter 55 & 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:

Rider:

Riders may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where fences exceed 3'3" (Exception: **Riders may cross enter** all Equitation classes and Jumper Classes 1.15m and below). Riders who compete in the 3' Adult Hunters and/or the 3'3" Amateur Owner Hunter classes may show horses that they own in the Low Adult Hunters and one that they do not own in the Low Adult Hunters.

Horse and Rider Combination:

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

Fence height:

- 2'6"

Combining/Dividing Sections:

The Low Adult Amateur Hunter section may be combined with the Low Children's Hunter section when there are fewer than four (4) entries in either section. If sections are combined and there are more than 24 total entries, the sections must be divided utilizing a Floating split, or a California split to create an even division of entries.

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:

Competition Management may restrict cross entries between 1.10/1.15m and 1.00/1.05m sections at the same competition if stated in the prize list.

Rider:

Any competitor that competes in any class set at over 1.25m is ineligible to compete in an Amateur Jumper class set below 1.20m at that competition.

Competitors competing in a 1.00/ 1.05m Amateur Jumper Classic or a 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper Classic may not compete in any other Jumper Classic above 1.15m at the same competition.

Horse and Rider Combination:

1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into any classes held above 1.15m at the same show. 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper horse/rider combinations may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m and 1.10/1.15m are offered.

1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper horse/rider combinations are not permitted to cross enter into Amateur Owner Jumper classes or any class at 1.20m and above, **These horse/ rider combinations are also not permitted to cross enter any jumper classes at 1.20m and above that offers prize money at the same competition.** 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper horse/rider combinations may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m and 1.10/1.15m are offered.

Fence Height:

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

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Junior Jumper sections may be divided by or combined with Amateur Jumper sections, at management's discretion, 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

ADULT AGE GROUP EQUITATION SECTIONS

Sections Offered:

- Adult Equitation 18- 35
- Adult Equitation 36 & Over

Cross Entry:

No cross-entry restrictions.

Fence Height:

- Minimum 2'9", maximum 3'3" - management must state height at which class will be offered.
- Management may offer multiple height options if stated in the prize list, but each course must be set at the same height throughout.
- Course design must comply with EQ108.11 except combination is optional.
- Spreads not to exceed fence height

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Age-Group Equitation Sections may be combined as necessary, jumping at their respective heights, to meet the three (3) entry minimum requirement for points to be awarded. Stallions are prohibited when adult equitation sections are combined with children's/junior equitation sections. EQ101.3.

Awards:

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

- Adult Equitation 18- 35
- Adult Equitation 36 & Over

CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE

Sections offered and requirements:

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

Cross Entry:

Rider:

Riders in this section may enter any Equitation class and may compete with one different horse in the Junior 3'3" Hunter section. **Riders** may not cross-enter into any Junior 3'6" Hunter or any Jumper class above 1.20m that offers prize money at the same show.

Horses/Ponies:

Horses and ponies exhibited in this section may cross enter multiple sections of Children's Hunter and any classes where eligible.

Fence Height:

- 3'0" with spreads not to exceed fence height
- In and outs will be permitted

Combining/Dividing Sections:

The Children's Hunter Horse section may be divided by age of rider. When the Children's Hunter Horse section is divided by age it will be divided: Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under and Children's Hunter Horse 15- 17. If there are fewer than three (3) entries in either age section, the two sections must be combined. The Children's Hunter Horse section may be combined with the Children's Hunter Pony when there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section. Alternatively, the Children's Hunter Horse section may be combined with the Adult Amateur section when there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section. The Children's Hunter (horse & pony) section may be combined with the Adult Amateur section when there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section. When sections are combined and there are more than 24 total entries, the sections must be divided utilizing a Floating split, or a California split to create an even division of entries.

Classics: Children's Hunter Horse Classics:

Four (4) entries are required to conduct a Children's Hunter Horse Classic. If there are fewer than Four (4) entries in any one Children's Hunter Horse Classic, it may combine with other sections of Children's Hunter Horse or Adult Amateur Hunters. If Children's Hunter Horse Classics are combined and a horse is shown in more than one section qualifying for the Children's Hunter Horse Classic, the exhibitor must declare their point section to the Competition Secretary on a declaration form at the time of entry into the Classic.

Children's Hunter Horse Classics cannot be divided in any manner and held by section if there are fewer than six (6) entries in each divided section.

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:

Rider:

Riders may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where fences exceed 3'3" (Exception: *Riders may cross enter any* Equitation classes and Jumper Classes at 1.15m and below). Riders who compete in the 3' Children's Hunter Horse, Regular A Rated Pony Sections, and/or Junior Hunter 3'3" classes may show one horse in the Low Children's Hunter.

Horse and Rider Combination:

Low Children's Hunter horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into any classes or section where fences exceed 2'9".

Fence height:

- 2'6"

Combining/Dividing Sections:

The Low Children's Hunter section may be combined with the Low Adult Amateur Hunter section when there are fewer than four (4) entries in either section. When sections are combined and there are more than 24 total entries, the sections must be divided utilizing a Floating split, or a California split to create an even division of entries.

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

Cross Entry:

Rider:

Rider age restrictions as found in Regular Pony sections do not apply. Riders may show only one pony in either the 2'0" or the 2'6" height of the Children's Hunter Pony section when also competing in the Regular Small, Medium or Large Pony and/or Green Pony Hunter sections. Riders cannot cross enter into any class where fences exceed 3'3" (exception: Riders may show in Pony Jumpers).

Horse/Pony:

Ponies exhibited in Children's Hunter Pony may cross enter into any class where otherwise eligible.

Horse /Rider Combination:

The rider may not show the same pony in the Regular Pony or the Green Pony Divisions.

Note: The pony may only be shown by one rider in the Children's Hunter Pony Classic and that rider must be declared prior to the first round of the Classic.

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

Combining/Dividing Sections:

The Children's Hunter Pony section may be divided by size. If the Children's Hunter Pony is divided by size it will be divided: Children's Hunter Pony Small/Medium and Children's Hunter Pony Large. **The Children's Hunter Pony section may be combined with Low Children's Hunter Pony when there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section, or the Children's Hunter Pony may be combined with the Children's Hunter Horse section when there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section. The Children's Hunter (horse & pony) section may be combined with the Adult Amateur section when there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section.** When sections are combined **and** there are more than 24 total entries, the sections must be divided utilizing a Floating split, or a California split to create an even division of entries.

Award:

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

Low Children's Hunter Pony

Eligibility:

Open to exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. Stallions are prohibited from all Low Children's Pony Hunter classes. Individual classes may be entered. (Exception: Under Saddle classes. See HU129.2).

Low Children's Hunter Ponies are not required to jog for soundness.

Cross Entry:

Riders:

Low Children's Hunter Pony Riders may not cross enter into any class with fence heights that exceed 2'9" or into the Children's Hunter Pony, Pony Hunter, or Green Pony Hunter Section at the same competition.

Pony:

Ponies exhibiting in Low Children's Hunter Pony may cross enter into any class where otherwise eligible.

Horse/Rider Combination:

The Rider may not show the same Low Children's Hunter Pony in the Regular Small, Medium, or Large Pony, Green Pony Hunter, and/or Children's Hunter Pony sections. A pony may only be shown by one rider in the Low Children's Hunter Pony Classic. In the Low Children's Hunter Pony Classic, the Classic rider must be declared prior to the first round of the Classic.

Fence Height:

- 2'0"

Combining/Dividing:

Combining:

If there are fewer than three (3) ponies in the Low Children's Hunter Pony section, they may combine with the Children's Hunter Pony Section.

Dividing:

Low Children's Hunter Pony may be divided if there are more than 20 entries in the Division.

Awards:

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

- Low Children's Hunter Pony

JUNIOR JUMPER

Sections offered and Requirements:

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

Cross Entry:

Competition Management may restrict cross entries between 1.10/1.15m and 1.00/1.05m sections at the same competition if stated in the prize list.

Rider:

Any competitor that competes in any class set at over 1.25m is ineligible to compete in a Junior Jumper class set below 1.20m at that competition.

Competitors competing in a 1.00/ 1.05m Amateur Jumper Classic or a 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper Classic may not compete in any other Jumper Classic above 1.15m at the same competition.

Horse and Rider Combination:

1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into any classes held above 1.15m at the same show. 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper horse/rider combinations may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m and 1.10/1.15m are offered.

1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper horse/rider combinations are not permitted to cross enter into Junior Jumper classes at 1.20m and above. These horse/ rider combinations are also not permitted to cross enter any jumper classes at 1.20m and above that offers prize money at the same competition. 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper horse/rider combinations may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m and 1.10/1.15m are offered.

Fence Height:

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

Combining/Dividing Sections:

1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper and 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper sections may be divided or combined with 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper and 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper sections, at management's discretion, 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

Sections Offered:

- Hunter Equitation 11 & Under
- Hunter Equitation 12- 14
- Hunter Equitation 15- 17

Cross Entry:

No cross entry restrictions.

Fence Height:

- Hunter Equitation 11 & Under
 - Minimum 2'0", maximum 2'6" - management must state height at which class will be offered.
 - Management may offer multiple height options if stated in the prize list, but each course must be set at the same height throughout.
 - Course design must comply with EQ108 and 109, combinations not permitted.
- Hunter Equitation 12- 14
 - Minimum 2'9", maximum 3'3" - management must state height at which class will be offered.
 - Management may offer multiple height options if stated in the prize list, but each course must be set at the same height throughout.
 - Course design must comply with EQ108 and EQ109 except combination is optional.
- Hunter Equitation 15- 17
 - Minimum 3'0", maximum 3'6" - management must state height at which class will be offered.
 - Management may offer multiple height options if stated in the prize list, but each course must be set at the same height throughout.
 - Course design must comply with EQ108 and EQ109 except combination is required.
- Spreads not to exceed fence height

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Age-Group Equitation Sections may be combined as necessary, jumping at their respective heights, to meet the three (3) entry minimum requirement for points to be awarded.

Stallions are prohibited when adult equitation sections are combined with children's/junior equitation sections. EQ101.3.

Awards:

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

- Hunter Equitation 11 & Under
- Hunter Equitation 12-14
- Hunter Equitation 15-17