



2026 USHJA National Championships Specifications

I. Qualifying

- A. Qualifying for the Championships differs based on the division which you wish to compete in. **All entrants, for all sections, must apply to compete with a nonrefundable \$100 application fee by August 28, 2026.**

II. USHJA National Hunter Championships

- A. Thirty (30) horses will be accepted per section as follows:
1. The top two applied horses from each Zone HOTY standings during the qualifying period from December 1, 2025, to August 28, 2026, will be accepted.
 2. If either of the top two applied horses from the Zone HOTY standings decline, entries will be accepted by working down the Zone HOTY standings. Ties will be broken by entry postmark/time stamp date.
 3. If 30 entries have not been achieved through the Zone HOTY standings, horses will be accepted by the National HOTY standings.
 4. If 30 entries have not been achieved through the Zone and National HOTY standings, entries will be accepted off the waiting list on a first come first serve basis.
 5. Maximum 3 horses per rider allowed per section.
 6. For all sections at the Championships: if any section fails to fill the total number of accepted entries, then management reserves the right to accept more entries in any given section, subject to the limitations of the schedule.
- B. Open and Junior/Amateur National Hunter Derby
1. The top five applied horses from the National Hunter Derby Program's Money Won Standings by Zone, regardless of the rider, during the qualifying period from December 1, 2025, to August 28, 2026, will be accepted.
 2. If there are not enough entries through the NHD Money Won Standings by Zone qualifying process, entered horses will be accepted by total highest NHD National Horse Money Won Standings, regardless of the rider, during the qualifying period.
 3. There will be two National Hunter Derbies: one Open National Hunter Derby and one Junior/Amateur National Hunter Derby.
 4. Requests to change sections will be accepted prior to the closing date. After the closing date, such requests will be treated as late entries and placed on the waiting list.
 5. A maximum of 3 horses per rider per section allowed.
 6. A maximum of 50 entries will be accepted in each the Open and the Junior/Amateur National Hunter Derbies.

C. USHJA 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Dery

1. Any horse-and-rider combination who is accepted and competes in the 2'6" Low Children's and 2'6" Low Adult Amateur Hunter sections at the National Championships is eligible to compete in the 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby.

D. USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Stake 3'3'3" & 3'6"/3'9"

1. Any horse who is accepted and compete in the Green sections at the Championship is eligible to compete in the Incentive, if enrolled.

III. USEF/USHJA National Jumper Championships

A. Eligibility Requirements

1. A horse-and-rider combination is eligible to compete in only one height at the USHJA National Championship.
2. Athletes may compete in multiple height sections for which they are accepted.
3. Foreign athletes may compete in the USEF/USHJA Jumper National Championships provided they are domiciled in the United States.
4. The qualifying period for all Jumper sections is December 1, 2025, to August 28, 2026
5. Thirty (30) horses will be accepted per section.
6. Maximum 2 horses per athlete per section allowed.
7. Horse-and-rider combinations competing in the 1.00m section may not have competed in a class with fence heights over 1.15m within the current qualifying period through the conclusion of the USHJA National Championships.
8. Horse-and-rider combinations competing in the 1.10/1.15m section may not have competed in a class with fence heights over 1.25m within the current qualifying period through the conclusion of the USHJA National Championships.

B. Junior and Amateur Jumper Sections

1. The top three applied horses from each Zone HOTY Standings Lists of each height section during the qualifying period will be accepted.
2. If any of the top three applied horses from the Zone HOTY standings decline, entries will be accepted by working down the Zone HOTY standings of applied horses. Ties will be broken by entry postmark/time stamp date.
3. If 30 entries have not been achieved through the Zone HOTY standings, horses will be accepted by the National point standings during the qualifying period.
4. If 30 entries have not been achieved through the Zone and National HOTY standings, entries will be accepted off the waiting list on a first come first serve basis.
5. Individual Medalists (gold, silver, bronze) from the USHJA 1.00/1.05m Junior/Amateur Zone Jumper Championships will automatically be qualified for their respective section in the same competition year. Individual medalists will be accepted in addition to the 30 accepted horse-and-rider combinations.
6. The Individual Medalists (gold, silver, bronze) from each section of the USHJA Zone Jumper Team Championships (1.10/1.5m and 1.20/1.25m) and the USHJA Platinum Jumper Championships (1.40/1.45m and 1.30/1.35m) will automatically be qualified for the section in which they are a medalist. Individual medalists will be accepted in addition to the 30 accepted horse-and-rider combinations.

- i. Individual Medalists may only compete on one (1) horse per height section as qualified through the Zone Jumper Team or Platinum Jumper Championships but may ride an additional horse qualified under Section 2.i.
- ii. For any Zone Jumper Team or Platinum Jumper Championships held after the date of the USHJA National Championships, Individual Medalists will automatically be qualified for the following year's Championship in the section in which they are a medalist.

C. Open Jumper Sections

1. The top three applied horses from each Zone (HOTY) Standings Lists of each height section during the qualifying period will be accepted.
2. If any of the top three applied horses from the Zone HOTY standings decline, entries will be accepted by working down the Zone HOTY standings of applied horses. Ties will be broken by entry postmark/time stamp date.
3. If 30 entries have not been achieved through the Zone HOTY standings, horses will be accepted by the National point standings during the qualifying period.
4. If 30 entries have not been achieved through the Zone and National HOTY standings, entries will be accepted off the waiting list on a first come first serve basis.
5. The Individual Medalists (gold, silver, and bronze) from the Markel/USHJA Platinum Jumper Championships (**1.40/1.45m and** 1.30/1.35m) will automatically be qualified for the Open 1.30m **or Open 1.40m** section. Individual medalists will be accepted in addition to the 30 accepted horse-and-rider combinations.
6. Money won by horses in **Young Jumper classes will count towards the Open Jumper Standings at the respective heights (1.20m or 1.30m).**

D. Substitutions for Jumper sections

1. Athlete substitutions are not permitted in the Jumper sections restricted to Juniors and Amateurs (1.00m, 1.10/1.15m, 1.20/1.25m, or 1.30/1.35m).
2. Athlete substitutions are permitted in the Open 1.20m, Open 1.30m, and Open 1.40m Jumper Championships.
3. Horse substitutions are not permitted in any of the USEF/USHJA Jumper Championships.

IV. **USHJA National Equitation Championships**

- A. Fifty (50) riders will be accepted in **each** Age Group Equitation Championships.
- B. USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals – West: open to riders who have qualified based on the eligibility requirements (www.ushja.org/hunterseatmedal).
- C. The top five applied riders from each Zone HOTY standings during the qualifying period will be accepted.
- D. If any of the top five applied riders from the Zone HOTY standings decline, entries will be accepted by working down the Zone HOTY standings of applied riders. Ties will be broken by entry postmark/time stamp date.
- E. If 50 entries have not been achieved through the Zone HOTY standings, entries will be accepted by total highest Standings from other Zones based on entry postmark date.

- F. *If space allows, late entries may be accepted off the wait list on a first come first serve basis.*

V. Division Awards

A. HUNTER:

1. 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 classes.
2. All Hunter sections will consist of a Welcome, Handy, Stakes and Under Saddle. Only these four classes will count toward the championship. The second round of the Classic will not count toward championship.
3. Points will be awarded as follows: 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
4. Ties for champion and reserve will be decided by the most points accumulated over fences. If a tie remains, the highest placed horse in the Stakes class will break the tie.
5. All horses and riders are eligible for Zone HOTY points regardless of whether the owner or rider resides within the Zone where the USHJA National Championship is held.

B. HUNTER CLASSIC:

1. Hunter Classics will be awarded Hunter Classic bonus HOTY points. Hunter Classics are standalone classes and not part of Championship calculations. The stake class will count as the first round of the classic.

C. EQUITATION:

1. Leading Equitation Rider Trophy is awarded to the Champion of each section. 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 will be awarded as follows in all classes: 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
3. Ties for champion and reserve will be decided by the most points accumulated over fences.
4. All horses and riders are eligible for Zone HOTY points regardless of whether the owner or rider resides within the Zone where the USHJA National Championship is held.

D. 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 and Grand Prix.
3. Points to determine Champion and Reserve are awarded as follows:
 - i. Points will be awarded as follows in all classes: 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
 - ii. Ties for champion and reserve will be decided by highest placing in the Grand Prix of each section.
4. All horses and riders are eligible for Zone HOTY points regardless of whether the owner or rider resides within the Zone where the USHJA National Championship is held.

VI. Prize Money

- A. Hunter prize money will be paid through 8th place as follows: 30%, 22%, 15%, 10%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 5%.
- B. Jumper prize money will be paid through 10th place as follows: 25%, 20%, 15%, 10%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 4%, 4%.
- C. National Hunter Derby prize money will be paid through 12th place as follows: 30%, 22%, 15%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 3%, 2%, 2%, 1%.

VII. Special Awards

- A. GRAND HUNTER: awarded to the horse which has accumulated the greatest number of points in one of the following sections: Green Hunter, Junior Hunter, Amateur Owner Hunter, Adult Amateur Hunter, Low Adult Hunter, Children's Hunter, Low Children's Hunter, and Pony Hunter.
 - 1. Points to determine Grand Hunter awards are as follows: 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
 - 2. Points from the second round of the Classic do not count for Grand Hunter awards.
 - 3. Ties will be broken by the horse with the most points over fences. If a tie remains, the tie will be broken by the highest numerical score in the Handy.
- B. HUNTER HIGH SCORE: awarded to the horse with the highest scoring round in each of the following divisions: Green Hunter, Junior Hunter, Amateur Owner Hunter, Adult Amateur Hunter, Low Adult Hunter, Children's Hunter, Low Children's Hunter, and Pony Hunter.
 - 1. Points from the second round of the Classic do not count for High Score awards.
- C. LEADING NATIONAL HUNTER DERBY RIDER:
 - 1. JUNIOR and AMATEUR: awarded to the highest placed Junior and the highest placed Amateur rider in the USHJA Junior/Amateur National Hunter Derby.
 - 2. PROFESSIONAL: awarded to the highest placed Professional in the USHJA Open National Hunter Derby.
- D. LEADING EQUITATION RIDER: awarded to the rider who accumulates the greatest number of points in each equitation section: 14 & Under, 15-17, and 18 & Over. All over fences and flat classes will count equally.
 - 1. Points will be awarded as follows in all classes: 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
 - 2. Ties for champion and reserve will be decided by the most points accumulated over fences.
- E. OVERALL LEADING EQUITATION RIDER: awarded to the rider who earns the most points across all Equitation divisions.
 - 1. Points will be awarded as follows: 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
 - 2. Ties will be broken by the rider with the most points over fences. If a tie remains, the tie will be broken by the rider with the highest numerical score in any over fences round.
- F. LEADING OPEN JUMPER RIDER: awarded to the rider who accumulates the most points from all classes in the three Open Jumper sections: 1.20m, 1.30m, and 1.40m. If a rider has more than one horse in a class, then only the highest placed horse will count.
 - 1. All classes pointed 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
 - 2. Ties will be broken by the highest points across all Open Jumper sections Grands Prix, only the highest placed horse per rider will count.

- G. LEADING LADY OPEN JUMPER RIDER: awarded to the rider who accumulates the most points from all classes in the three Open Jumper sections: 1.20m, 1.30m, and 1.40m. If a rider has more than one horse in a class, then only the highest placed horse will count.
1. All classes pointed 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, 0.5
 2. Ties will be broken by the highest points across all Open Jumper sections Grands Prix, only the highest placed horse per rider will count.
- H. LEADING JUMPER TRAINER: awarded to the Trainer of the following Jumper division champions.
- 1.00m Junior
 - 1.00m Amateur
 - 1.10/1.15m Junior
 - 1.10/1.15m Amateur
 - 1.20/1.25m Junior
 - 1.20/1.25m Amateur
 - 1.30/1.35m Junior/Amateur
- I. LEADING JUMPER OWNER: awarded to the Owner of the following Jumper division champions.
- 1.20m Open
 - 1.30m Open
 - 1.40m Open
- J. LEADING HUNTER OWNER: awarded to the Owner of the following Hunter division champions.
- 3'3" Green Hunter
 - 3'6"/3'9" Green Hunter
- K. 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.