



2026 USHJA ZONE 6 HANDY HUNTER CHALLENGE

The USHJA Zone 6 Committee has created this program to provide our membership with an opportunity to experience the excitement of Hunter Derbies and Hunter Classics. The USHJA Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge judging will place emphasis on a horse or pony that is maneuverable, obedient, and looks like they would be a pleasant ride in the show ring or hunt field. Most of all, while they may carry pace and show brilliance, they should look like they are a suitable mount for the non-professional rider. Additional judging specifications are provided in Section IV below.

Different elements that may be part of a handy course include, but are not limited to, fences ridden at a hand gallop, a roll back and a trot fence. Elements may also include objects found in a hunt field such as, opening and closing a gate, walking through a set pattern, halt and back or turn. No bridges or water elements to be included. This class may not be appropriate for a green horse or novice rider.

The USHJA Zone 6 Committee shall provide \$1,500 (\$500 each section) of prize money to the Handy Hunter Challenges which will be held at a limited number of competitions within the Zone. Each of the Challenges will consist of one at 2'6" (The Low Children's/Adult Amateur), one at 2'9" (The Children's/Adult Amateur), and one at 3'0" (The Children's/Adult Amateur). Participants in this class will accrue double points for the USHJA Zone Horse of the Year and USEF National Horse of the Year standings.

I. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS - LOW CHILDREN'S/ADULT AMATEUR

- A. All challenges will be held as a one round Handy Hunter class.
- B. A minimum of ten (10) fences shall be set at 2'6" in height with spreads not to exceed the fence height.
- C. There will be three (3) high option fences set at 2'9" in height with spreads not to exceed the fence height.
- D. Formal attire is requested, but not required.
- E. The class must be run in accordance with HU112.6 and include a bending line, and a trot fence. The use of natural obstacles is encouraged, but not mandatory. Elements may also include objects found in a hunt field such as, opening and closing a gate, walking through a set pattern, halt and back or turn, an in and out. No bridges or water elements to be included.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Open to children's and adult amateur riders (certification required) whose home Zone of record is Zone 6, and who are Active members of USEF and USHJA before the start of the Handy Hunter Challenge.
- B. Horses must be registered with USHJA in order to participate.
- C. Host shows may request permission from the Zone 6 Committee to allow eligible members from contiguous zones to participate in the Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge. If permission is granted, it must be stated in the prize list. Members of contiguous zones will be charged a \$50 minimum entry fee. This fee is to be remitted to the USHJA Zone 6 Committee.

III. RESTRICTIONS

- A. Riders may only compete on one horse or pony per Handy Hunter Challenge.
- B. Riders entered in the Handy Hunter Challenge may not cross enter into any other class held at the same competition where the height of fences exceeds 2'9".
- C. Professionals are not eligible to compete in the Handy Hunter Challenge.
- D. Horses ridden in the Handy Hunter Challenge may compete with a different rider in other classes that exceed 2'9" in height at the same competition.
- E. Riders entered in any height of the Handy Hunter Challenge may not cross enter, at the same show, into a USHJA National Hunter Derby.
- F. Riders may not cross enter, at the same show, between the Low Children's/Adult Amateur Handy Hunter Challenge, the Children's/Adult Amateur Handy Hunter Challenge, and the 3' Children's/Adult Amateur Handy Hunter Challenge.
- G. If there are fewer than 3 entries in the Low Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge, it may be combined with the Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge. If there are fewer than 3 entries in the Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge it may be combined with the 3' Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge.

IV. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS- CHILDREN'S/ADULT AMATEUR

- A. All Challenges will be held as a one round Handy Hunter class.
- B. A minimum of ten (10) fences shall be set at 2'9" in height with spreads not to exceed the fence height.
- C. There will be three (3) high option fences set at 3'0" in height with spreads not to exceed the fence height.
- D. Formal attire is requested, but not required.
- E. The class must be run in accordance with HU112.6 and include a bending line, and a trot fence. The use of natural obstacles is encouraged, but not mandatory. Elements may also include objects found in a hunt field such as, opening and closing a gate, walking through a set pattern, halt and back or turn, an in and out. No bridges or water elements to be included.

V. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Open to junior and amateur riders (certification required) whose home Zone of record is Zone 6, and who are Active members of USEF and USHJA before the start of the Handy Hunter Challenge.
- B. Horses must be registered with USHJA in order to participate.
- C. Host shows may request permission from the Zone 6 Committee to allow eligible members from contiguous zones to participate in the Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge. If permission is granted, it must be stated in the prize list. Members of contiguous zones will be charged a \$50 minimum entry fee. This fee is to be remitted to the USHJA Zone 6 Committee.

VI. RESTRICTIONS

- A. Riders may only compete on one horse or pony per Handy Hunter Challenge.
- B. Riders entered in the Handy Hunter Challenge may not cross enter into any other class held at the same competition where the height of fences exceeds 3', EXCEPT Low Children's Adult jumper where the fences may not exceed 1.05m.
- C. Professionals are not eligible to compete in the Handy Hunter Challenge.
- D. Horses ridden in the Handy Hunter Challenge may compete with a different rider in other

classes that exceed 3'0" in height at the same competition.

- E. Riders entered in any height of the Handy Hunter Challenge may not cross enter, at the same show, into a USHJA National Hunter Derby.
- F. Riders may not cross enter, at the same show, between the Low Children's/Adult Amateur Handy Hunter Challenge, the Children's/Adult Amateur Handy Hunter Challenge, and the 3' Children's/Adult Amateur Handy Hunter Challenge.
- G. If there are fewer than 3 entries in the Low Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge, it may be combined with the Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge. If there are fewer than 3 entries in the Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge it may be combined with the 3' Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge.

VII. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS - CHILDREN'S/ADULT AMATEUR

- A. All challenges will be held as a one round Handy Hunter class.
- B. A minimum of ten (10) fences shall be set at 3'0" in height with spreads not to exceed the fence height.
- C. There will be three (3) high option fences set at 3'3" in height with spreads not to exceed the fence height.
- D. Formal attire is requested, but not required.
- E. The class must be run in accordance with HU112.6 and include a bending line, and a trot fence. The use of natural obstacles is encouraged, but not mandatory. Elements may also include objects found in a hunt field such as, opening and closing a gate, walking through a set pattern, halt and back or turn, an in and out. No bridges or water elements to be included.

VIII. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Open to junior and amateur riders (certification required) whose home Zone of record is Zone 6, and who are Active members of USEF and USHJA before the start of the Handy Hunter Challenge.
- B. Horses must be registered with USHJA in order to participate.
- C. Host shows may request permission from the Zone 6 Committee to allow eligible members from contiguous zones to participate in the Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge. If permission is granted, it must be stated in the prize list. Members of contiguous zones will be charged a \$50 minimum entry fee. This fee is to be remitted to the USHJA Zone 6 Committee.

IX. RESTRICTIONS

- A. Riders may only compete on one horse or pony per Handy Hunter Challenge.
- B. Riders entered in the Handy Hunter Challenge may not cross enter into any other class held at the same competition where the height of fences exceeds 3'6", EXCEPT High Children's/Adult Jumper where the height of fences may not exceed 1.15m.
- C. Professionals are not eligible to compete in the Handy Hunter Challenge.
- D. Horses ridden in the Handy Hunter Challenge may compete with a different rider in other classes that exceed 3'0" in height at the same competition.
- E. Riders entered in any height of the Handy Hunter Challenge may not cross enter, at the same show, into a USHJA National Hunter Derby.
- F. Riders may not cross enter, at the same show, between the Low Children's/Adult Amateur Handy Hunter Challenge, the Children's/Adult Amateur Handy Hunter Challenge, and the 3' Children's/Adult Amateur Handy Hunter Challenge.
- G. If there are fewer than 3 entries in the Low Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge, it may be combined with the Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge. If there are fewer than 3

entries in the Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge it may be combined with the 3' Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge.

X. JUDGING (FOR EACH SECTION)

- A. The Handy Hunter Challenge may be officiated by one (1) or two (2) USEF "R" Hunter licensed judge(s). The judge must be in good standing with the USEF and USHJA.
- B. The Handy Hunter Challenges shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, jumping style, handiness, manners and way of going. Pace and brilliance are to be rewarded, but judges should remember these horses should also exhibit suitability for the level of their rider. Each horse-and-rider combination will receive a numerical base score. In addition, they will receive one point for every high option jumped without a knock down; and a Handy Bonus Score consisting of zero (0) to ten (10) points for the handiness of the round. The three scores and the total score must be announced separately.
- C. The judging panel may not award the same base score to any two competitors in the class unless a competitor's score is below the cut-off score.
- D. All ties will be broken by the base score of the judging panel, before adding height and/or handy bonus points.
- E. See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions
- F. 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.

XI. ENTRY FEES/ PRIZE MONEY/AWARDS (FOR EACH SECTION)

- A. There is no entry fee to compete in the Handy Hunter Challenge.
- B. Host shows may request permission from the Zone 6 Committee to allow eligible members from contiguous zones to participate in the Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge. If permission is granted, it must be stated in the prize list. Members of contiguous zones will be charged a \$50 minimum entry fee. This fee is to be remitted to the USHJA Zone 6 Committee.
- C. The Zone 6 Committee will provide each host competition approved by USHJA to conduct the classes, \$200 in addition to the \$1,500 prize money (\$500 each section) as recompense for holding the challenges.

The minimum prize money for each section shall be \$500. If the host competition wishes to add to the prize money, it may increase the prize money at their expense, not to exceed a total of \$1,500 in prize money for each section of the Handy Hunter Challenge. USHJA is not responsible for reimbursing a host competition for additional prize money.
- D. The Prize Money shall be distributed as follows: \$150, \$110, \$75, \$50, \$35, \$30, \$25, \$25 (30%, 22%, 15%, 10%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 5%).
- E. The USHJA Zone 6 Committee shall provide a first place prize and ribbons for places 1-10. The requirements of the final awards ceremony and victory gallop are at the discretion of host show management.
- F. Upon receipt of the complete results, including the prize money payouts, USHJA will reimburse the host competition for the amount of prize money actually paid in each section of the Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge, up to a maximum of \$500.00 and the \$200.00 host allocation.
- G. If there are fewer than 3 entries in the Low Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge, it may be combined with the Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge. If there are fewer than 3 entries in the Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge it may be combined with the 3' Children's/Adult Amateur Challenge. The prize money for a single combined section will be \$800.00 plus the

\$200 host allocation.

XII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact USHJA, if questions arise pertaining to the USHJA Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge that cannot be answered by the Competition Steward or Management based on the class specifications provided.

USHJA Zone Liaison Email: zone@ushja.org Phone: (859) 225-6713

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.

The USHJA Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge 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 Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity.

Additionally USHJA reserves the right to alter specifications for this program on an annual basis. Any deviations from the rules for the Zone 6 Handy Hunter Challenge are not permitted without the prior written consent from the USHJA.

