

2026 WCHR Hunter Spectacular Specifications

(East, Central, and West Coast Spectacular)

(Changes from 2025 marked in bold italic and underlined.)

USHJA WCHR Hunter Spectacular

I. Membership and Participation Requirements

- A. Riders, owners, and trainers must be current Active members of USEF and USHJA to participate in the USHJA WCHR Hunter Spectacular (Spectacular). (see GR202).
- B. Riders and trainers must be enrolled in the USHJA WCHR Program (WCHR Program) to participate in the Spectacular.
- C. Horses must be recorded with the USEF and registered with USHJA to participate in the Spectacular.
- D. Formal attire is requested but not required.

II. Entry Format Options

- A. Management may choose from the following two entry format options. The entry format chosen **MUST** be specified in the prize list and on the USJHA host application.
- B. Open Entry Format
 1. The Spectacular is open to all riders that are enrolled in the WCHR Program.
 2. The Spectacular is open to Juniors, Amateurs and Professionals.
 3. Riders may ride up to three (3) horses in the Spectacular.
 4. Riders may ride the horse(s) of their choice in the Spectacular.
 5. Horses are not required to have shown in any other class during the WCHR Spectacular Week horse show to be eligible to show in the Spectacular.
 6. Entries must declare their section of choice.
 - a. Entries declaring 3'6" must list one of the following eligible sections: Performance 3'6", Green 3'6", Green Conformation, Amateur Owner 3'6" or Junior 3'6".
 - b. Entries declaring 3'9" must list one of the following eligible sections: High Performance Conformation or Green 3'9"
 - c. Entries declaring 4' must list High Performance.
 7. Entries need to declare in the horse show office before closing on the day prior to the Spectacular.
- C. Qualifying Entry Format
 1. Horse and rider combinations that are Champion and Reserve Champion of the WCHR Hunter sections 3'6" or higher during the 2026 WCHR Spectacular Week at the host horse show will qualify for the Spectacular.
 - a. If the horse-and-rider combination that are Champion or Reserve Champion from any section declines to participate, then the 3rd and/or 4th place horse-and-rider combinations of that same section may, at management's sole discretion, be invited to compete.
 - b. To be eligible to compete, a horse must have finished the section as one of the top four point earning horses over fences.
 - c. In the event of any California Splits, the Champion and Reserve Champion of each split section (section A, section B, section C, etc.) are qualified. No further invitations will be extended even if any of the section's Champions or Reserve Champions decline.
 - d. Qualifying to compete in the Spectacular is based on the horse-and-rider combination; no horse or rider substitutions allowed.
 - e. Riders may not qualify more than two (2) horses for the Spectacular.
 - f. If a rider qualifies more than two horses for the Spectacular they may choose to compete on any two of their qualified horses.

- g. A horse must be ridden by the same rider throughout the entire hunter section to be eligible to compete in the Spectacular (Exception: under saddle classes).
 - h. In the Green Conformation and High Performance Conformation, the model class points will not count towards qualifying.
 - i. Horse-and-rider combinations qualifying for the Spectacular will compete at the respective height of the section from which they qualified.
 - j. When utilizing the qualifying entry format, show management is solely responsible for tracking and inviting eligible riders.
 - k. Entries must declare the section and fence height from which they qualified.
 - l. Entries need to declare within one hour of completion of the last qualifying section.
 - m. Once the competitor declares or declines their intent to compete in writing with USHJA, that decision is final.
- D. Regardless of format, competition management is responsible for procuring all rider declarations prior to the start of the Spectacular.

III. Class Format

- A. The Spectacular will be conducted under USEF General Rules and drug testing procedures.
- B. This is a two round class.
 - 1. The first round is the Classic Hunter Round.
 - 2. The second round is the Handy Hunter Round
 - a. Riders in the second round will jump in reverse order of their scores at each height.
 - b. Other than the leader, riders with several horses in the second may be moved up in the order.
 - c. The height section with the highest-scoring rider will jump last.
 - 3. The top twelve (12) horses from the first round are eligible to return for the second round. Any horse(s) tied for the last qualifying position from the first round are also eligible to return for the second round.
 - 4. If show management wishes to have the option to bring back more than the top twelve (12) for the second round, they must specify this in their prize list.
 - 5. In the event the Spectacular receives fifty (50) or more entries, management may choose to bring back more than the top twelve (12) for the second round, regardless of what is specified in their prize list.
 - a. Up to 30% of the total entries.
 - b. A maximum of 25 horses.
- C. All horses entered in the class must jog for soundness before the start of the class to be eligible to compete.
 - 1. The designated jog area, time and order will be determined by management and conducted prior to the course walk.
 - 2. Once the jog order is posted, no further substitutions are permitted.
 - 3. All horses must be presented at the Official Jog with their actual competition number and wearing a conventional hunter bridle and noseband.
 - 4. Proper attire is required (riding clothes or proper attire that an exhibitor would wear to compete in a model class.)
 - 5. The jog will be officiated by a minimum of one large R licensed judge, one large R licensed steward and the official veterinarian.
- D. Once the jog has commenced, horses may only be ridden in designated schooling areas.
- E. Horses must be accompanied by their competition number for the duration of the competition after they have been presented for the jog.
- F. There will be one course walk for both rounds before the start of the first round. (Exception: The course designer may request a second course walk for the Handy Round if the course or conditions warrant.)
- G. An Officials Meeting will be held prior to the Riders Meeting to review the specifications and judging system. The meeting will be conducted by Competition Management, a "R" Steward, one officiating Judge and the Course Designer.

- H. A Riders Meeting will be held prior to the start of the class to answer any questions regarding the course and class specifications. The meeting will be conducted by Competition Management, a “R” Steward, one officiating Judge and the Course Designer.

IV. Judging Requirements and Judging System

See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions

- A. A minimum of two judging panels are required.
- B. Each panel of judges will consist of two judges each.
 - 1. A minimum of one “R” rated Judge is required per panel.
 - 2. All judges must be USEF licensed and in good standing with the USEF and USHJA.
- C. A judging assistant must be present during all phases of the competition
 - 1. The judging assistant should be positioned to provide an overview of the entire course.
 - 2. The judging assistant is not required to be a licensed official and is not responsible for the scoring of the judging panels.
 - 3. A competition staff member may fill this role.
- D. This is a two round class.
 - 1. The Classic Hunter Round shall be judged on quality, movement, jumping style, manners, and way of going with pace and brilliance to be rewarded.
 - 2. The Handy Hunter Round shall be judged on quality, movement, jumping style and way of going with pace, brilliance and handiness to be rewarded. Handiness is defined as ground saving movement without adversely affecting performance or style. Brilliance of pace is defined as a faster pace than ordinary, without sacrificing performance or style.
- E. The open numerical scoring system will be utilized.
- F. Each panel will provide one score for each round. The scores from each panel will be announced and then averaged for the final score of that round.
- G. Each entry’s AVERAGE score from the first round will be added to the AVERAGE score from their second round. The AVERAGE from the sum of these two round AVERAGES will be their Overall Score for the class.
- H. **Overall Score ties will remain tied. Prize money will be added together and divided equally.**

V. Course Requirements

- A. The Classic Hunter Round requires:
 - 1. A minimum of 10 obstacles of at least six different types.
 - 2. At least one in and out.
 - 3. At least one bending line.
 - 4. Approaches to jumps and/or bending lines off both leads.
 - 5. At least one line with an unrelated distance.
 - 6. At least one fence with a long approach.
- B. The Handy Hunter Round requires:
 - 1. A minimum of 10 obstacles of at least six different types.
 - 2. At least one in and out.
 - 3. At least one bending line.
 - 4. Approaches to jumps and/or bending lines off both leads.
 - 5. At least one line with an unrelated distance.
 - 6. At least one fence with a long approach.
 - 7. The course may also include a hand gallop between markers, halt, pen/circle of jumps, snake jump or a V jump that can be jumped as a bounce, one stride, or two stride. In the second round the course designer may designate up to two optional tracks on the course plan. The designated track will be marked on the course plan with a dashed line.
 - 8. Gimmicky options are not appropriate.
 - 9. **No trot fences will be permitted.**
- C. Jumps in all Rounds:
 - 1. Obstacles must simulate those reminiscent of the hunt field and the course must offer a variety of jumps with different appearances such as natural post and rail, split rail, stone wall, white board

- fence, riviera gate, coop, aiken, hedge, oxer, brush, logs, natural foliage, a jump with no standards.
- 2. Natural obstacles such as banks are permitted.
- 3. A minimum 2" difference is required for the back element of an obstacle.
- 4. For appropriate jumps no ground line is necessary.
- 5. The jumpable portion of any obstacle must be a minimum width of eight feet wide on its front face.
- 6. Flat cups may only be used for obstacles involving logs and/or in accordance with USEF rules.
- D. Fence heights to be set at 3'6", 3'9" or 4'0".
- E. The course diagrams for each round must be posted a minimum of one hour before the start of the first round. Copies of the course(s) must also be available for distribution at the Riders Meeting.

VI. HOTY Points/ Money Won

- A. Each horse-and-rider combination must declare the height at which they will show when they enter the class.
- B. In order for HOTY points to be awarded, riders must complete a USHJA/WCHR Declaration Form prior to the class.
- C. Points accrued by horses shown by Professionals may be awarded to: Green 3'6", Performance 3'6", Green Conformation 3'6", Green 3'9", High Performance Conformation, High Performance Hunter.
- D. Points accrued by horses shown by Juniors or Amateurs may be awarded to: Amateur Owner 3'6" 18-35, 36 and Over, Junior 3'6" Large Younger, Large Older, Small Younger, Small Older.
- E. The Spectacular will count for HOTY points and money won (where applicable) in the section declared at the time of entry, for which the horse must be eligible and that corresponds to the height jumped in the Spectacular. The two-round stand- alone Hunter Classic point scale will be utilized when awarding National HOTY bonus points. See HU173.9(b).
- F. HOTY points and money won will only be awarded towards a declared Hunter section for HOTY points if the horse competes in the declared section a minimum of five (5) times during the competition year.
- G. The Spectacular class does not count towards WCHR Points.

V. Awards and Prize Money

- A. Spectacular
 - 1. All riders in the top 12 overall (or their designated representative if they are not available) must ride for ribbons in order to receive prize money.
 - 2. Winner receives: Cooler, Keeper Frame, Jacket Certificate.
 - 3. Bridle ribbons and Neck Sashes: 1st-12th.
 - 4. With prior permission from USHJA, competition management may offer additional awards (e.g., highest placing junior owner, highest placing amateur, highest placing thoroughbred, highest placing rider competing on only one entry in the class).
 - 5. Prize Money Break down:
1st – 12th - 30%, 22%, 13%, 8%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 3%, 2%, 2%, 2%
 - 6. Champion and Reserve Champion will receive automatic invitations into the Palm Beach Spectacular for the next competition year.
- B. WCHR Category High Score Awards
 - 1. Awarded to the riders who achieve the highest single numerical score in any one class in each of the eleven WCHR categories: Professional, Developing Professional, Amateur Owner 3'6", Amateur Owner 3'3", Adult Amateur, Low Adult, Junior 3'6", Junior 3'3", Children's, Low Children's and Ponies.
 - 2. Riders will receive a WCHR Jacket and \$500
 - 3. Each riders designated groom will receive \$500
 - 4. *Riders must be enrolled in the WCHR Program to receive these awards*
- C. Should a tie occur between two or more riders for the WCHR Category High Score Awards, the rider with the highest cumulative over fences score in that section will receive the award.
- D. After the tie breaker, *should a tie still occur between two or more riders*, duplicate awards will be mailed.

VIII. USHJA Contact Information

If questions arise that cannot be answered from the class specifications provided, one of the following USHJA representatives must be contacted to resolve any questions regarding the judging procedures or class specifications:

Kara Knott -USHJA Sport Programs Coordinator- (859) 217-6740

Britt McCormick – USHJA President - (972) 467-6008

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Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA World Championship Hunter Rider Program 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.

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.

