



**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTER RIDER**

**2026 PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS**

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

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## **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTER RIDER 2026 PROGRAM** **SPECIFICATIONS\***

\*Effective for competitions starting December 1, 2025-  
November 30, 2026

### **I. Membership and Enrollment Requirements**

- A. Riders and Owners must be current Active members of the USEF and the USHJA by midnight Eastern Standard Time of the final day of competition of any WCHR Event to be eligible for WCHR National and Regional Rider and Owner Awards.
- B. Riders and Owners must be enrolled in the WCHR Program by midnight Eastern Standard Time of the final day of competition of any WCHR Event to be eligible for WCHR National and Regional Rider and Owner Awards.
- C. Owners who show their horses under the Ownership of a Farm or Business name must enroll the Farm/Business in the WCHR Program by midnight Eastern Standard Time of the final day of competition of any WCHR Event to be eligible for WCHR National and Regional Owner Awards.
- D. WCHR considers the owner(s) of record to be the owner(s) of record with USEF.
- E. All WCHR Enrollment applications must be completed online at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org).
- F. WCHR Enrollment Applications given to a competition show secretary for submission will **NOT** be accepted.
- G. ***Riders and Owners are responsible for maintaining their eligibility.***

### **II. Categories**

- A. Riders must declare their Category when enrolling in the Program.
- B. Riders may declare for only one Category when enrolling in the Program.
- C. A Rider may change their Category one time during the competition year.
  1. All points in the original Category are non-transferable and will be forfeited.
  2. Points in the new Category will be retroactive for the competition year.
  3. Riders have until **July 1** to notify the USHJA in writing of the change in Category. (Exception: If the final WCHR Event in a Region begins *prior* to **July 1** no Category changes will be accepted for that Region once that Event has commenced).
  4. No changes of Category will be accepted after **July 1** of the current competition year.
  5. When declaring a change of Category the use of a delivery system that provides delivery confirmation is recommended.
  6. The USHJA is not responsible for Category change requests that have not been received.
- D. The Program offers the following Categories for declaration:

1. Adult Amateur
  - a. Riders earn points from any A-rated 3'0" Adult Amateur Hunter sections at WCHR Events.
  - b. In order to be eligible riders may not have competed in the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" section or any other hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" on any horse after June 1 of the current competition year.
  - c. If a rider competes in any over fences class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1 of the current competition year they will no longer be eligible to accrue *additional* points in the Adult category.
  - d. If a rider competes in any over fences class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1 of the current competition year they will no longer be eligible to compete in the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge at the CCHS.
  - e. Riders will keep any points accrued in the Adult category prior to showing in any over fences classes in a hunter section with fences exceeding 3'5" and remain eligible for Regional and National WCHR Points in the Adult category based on those points.
  - f. *Riders may show in the under saddle class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" without affecting their eligibility for the Adult category.*
  - g. Riders may compete in Amateur Jumper classes up to 1.10m, Amateur Jumper Classics up to 1.15m and/or any other jumper classes at that competition in which the fence height does not exceed 1.10m.
  - h. Riders may compete in any Equitation class in which the fence height does not exceed 3'6".
  - i. Riders declared in the Adult category do not jeopardize their eligibility for the Adult Amateur Awards by competing in the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" hunter section.
2. **Low Adult Amateur Hunter**
  - a. **Riders earn points from any A-rated 2'6" Low Adult Amateur Hunter sections held at WCHR Events.**
  - b. **In order to be eligible riders may not have competed in any other hunter section where the fences exceed 3'0" in height on any horse after June 1 of the current competition year.**
  - c. **If a rider competes in any over fences class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'0" after June 1 of the current competition year they will no longer be eligible to accrue additional points in the Low Adult Amateur category.**
  - d. **Riders will keep any points accrued in the Low Adult Amateur category prior to showing in any over fences classes in a hunter section with fences exceeding 3'0" and remain eligible for Regional and National WCHR Points in the Low Adult Amateur category based on those points.**
  - e. **Riders may show in the under saddle class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'0" without affecting their eligibility for the Adult category.**
  - f. **Riders may compete in Amateur Jumper classes up to 1.00m, Amateur Jumper Classics up to 1.05m and/or any other jumper classes at that competition in which the fence height does not exceed 1.00m.**
  - g. **Riders may compete in any Equitation class in which the fence height does not exceed 3'0".**
  - h. **Riders declared in the Low Adult category do not jeopardize their eligibility for the Low Adult Amateur Awards by competing in the Low Adult Amateur Hunter 2'9" or Adult Amateur Hunter 3'0" sections.**
3. Amateur Owner 3'3"
  - a. Riders earn points from any A-rated Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" sections held at

## WCHR Events.

4. Amateur Owner 3'6"
  - a. Riders earn points from any A-rated Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" sections held at WCHR Events.
5. Children's
  - a. Riders earn points from any A-rated 3'0" Children's Hunter Horse and/or Children's Hunter Pony Hunter Sections held at WCHR Events.
  - b. In order to be eligible riders may not have competed in any other hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" on any horse after June 1 of the current competition year.
  - c. If a rider competes in any over fences class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1 of the current competition year they will no longer be eligible to accrue additional points in the Children's category.
  - d. If a rider competes in any over fences class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1 of the current competition year they will no longer be eligible to compete in the WCHR Children's Challenge at the CCHS.
  - e. Riders will keep any points accrued in the Children's category prior to showing in any over fences classes in a hunter section with fences exceeding 3'5" and remain eligible for Regional and National WCHR Points in the Children's category based on those points.
  - f. Riders may show in the under saddle class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" without affecting their eligibility for the Children's category.
  - g. Riders may compete in Junior Jumper classes up to 1.10m, Junior Jumper Classics up to 1.15m and/or any other jumper classes at that competition in which the fence height does not exceed 1.10m.
  - h. Riders may compete in any Equitation class in which the fence height does not exceed 3'6".
  - i. Riders declared in the Children's category do not jeopardize their eligibility for the Children's Awards by competing in the Junior Hunter 3'3" hunter section.
6. Low Children's
  - a. Riders earn points from any A-rated, 2'6" Low Children's Hunter sections held at WCHR Events.
  - b. In order to be eligible riders may not have competed in any other hunter section where the fences exceed 3'0" on any horse after June 1 of the current competition year.
  - c. If a rider competes in any over fences class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'0" after June 1 of the current competition year they will no longer be eligible to accrue additional points in the Low Children's category.
  - d. Riders will keep any points accrued in the Low Children's category prior to showing in any over fences classes in a hunter section with fences exceeding 3'0" and remain eligible for Regional and National WCHR Points in the Low Children's category based on those points.
  - e. Riders may show in the under saddle class in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'0" without affecting their eligibility for the Children's category.
  - f. Riders may compete in Junior Jumper classes up to 1.00m, Junior Jumper Classics up to 1.05m and/or any other jumper classes at that competition in which the fence height does not exceed 1.00m.
  - g. Riders may compete in any Equitation class in which the fence height does not exceed 3'0".

**h. Riders declared in the Low Children's category do not jeopardize their eligibility for the Low Children's Awards by competing in the Low Children's Hunter 2'9" or the Children's Hunter Horse 3'0" section.**

**7. Junior 3'3"**

- a. Riders earn points from any A-rated Junior Hunter 3'3" sections held at WCHR Events.

**8. Junior 3'6"**

- a. Riders earn points from any A-rated Junior Hunter 3'6" sections held at WCHR Events.

**9. Pony**

- a. Riders earn points from any A-rated Small Pony Hunter, Medium Pony Hunter, Large Pony Hunter and/or Green Pony Hunter sections at WCHR Events.

**10. Developing Professional**

- a. Definition of a Developing Professional
- i. Riders in their first competition year as a declared professional with the USEF are eligible to compete as a Developing Professional for the duration of the competition year, regardless of previous results as a Junior or Amateur.
  - ii. Riders who meet the following criteria as of December 1 of the current competition year are eligible to compete as a Developing Professional for the duration of the competition year, regardless of results obtained within the same competition year:
    - Riders who have never placed in the top ten (10) of the WCHR Professional National Standings
    - Riders who have never been a WCHR Professional Regional Champion.
    - Riders who have never won the Developing Professional Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.
    - Riders who have never won the Developing Professional National Title.
    - Riders who have never placed 1st-12th in the Professional Challenge during the WCHR Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.
    - **Riders who have never placed 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in a WCHR Spectacular.**
    - Riders who have never been Champion or Reserve Champion in a Professional Hunter section at 3'6" or higher at the following competitions: Devon, Capital Challenge, Pennsylvania National Horse Show, Washington International Horse Show and/or The National Horse Show.
- b. Riders earn Developing Professional points from any A-rated Young Hunter 6 & Under 3', Young Hunter 7 & Under 3'3", Green Hunter 3', 3'3", 3'6", 3'9", Performance Working Hunter 3'3", 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'6", High Performance Conformation Hunter, and/or High Performance Hunter sections held at WCHR Events.
- c. Riders may also earn Professional points, automatically and simultaneously, in any A-rated **Green Hunter 3', 3'3", 3'6", 3'9"**, Performance Working Hunter, 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'6", High Performance Conformation Hunter, and/or High Performance Hunter sections at the same WCHR Event.
- d. This may result in a rider's Developing Professional points differing from their Professional points earned at any one WCHR Event.
- e. A Developing Professional Rider's standings in the Developing Professional *and* Professional Categories will be determined by the total points earned by their highest placed horse from one of the eligible hunter sections in both Categories.

- f. Riders must declare themselves as a Developing Professional at the time of their WCHR Application.
- g. All Developing Professional declarations are subject to review by the WCHR Task Force to ensure the integrity and spirit of the Category are maintained.

#### **11. Professional**

- a. Professional Riders earn points in any A-rated Green Hunter 3', 3'3", 3'6", 3'9", Performance Working Hunter 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'6", High Performance Conformation Hunter, and/or High Performance Hunter sections at WCHR Events.
- b. A Professional Rider's standings will be determined by the total points earned by their highest placed horse in one eligible hunter section.

#### **12. Owner**

- a. Regional and National Owner Awards are presented to the Owners of the horses accumulating the most points in the Professional and Developing Professional categories.
- b. WCHR considers the owner of record to be the owner of record with the USEF.

#### **13. Farm or Business Owner**

- a. If the owner of record of horses accumulating points in the WCHR Program is a Farm or Business that Farm or Business must be enrolled in the WCHR Program in order to be eligible for Owner Awards.
- b. The Farm or Business must be enrolled in the WCHR Program by midnight Eastern Standard Time of the final day of competition of any WCHR Event in order for points for any horses accumulated at that competition to be valid for Owner Awards.
- c. WCHR considers the owner of record to be the owner of record with the USEF.

#### **14. Trainer**

- a. Regional and National Trainer Awards are presented to the trainers of the riders accumulating the most points in the Amateur Owner 3'3" and 3'6", Junior 3'3" and 3'6", Adult, Low Adult, Children's, Low Children's and Pony categories.
- b. Riders whose trainers may be eligible for Trainer Awards are responsible for providing WCHR with the name of their trainers once National Standings are finalized.

### **III. Regions**

- A. Riders must declare their Region when they enroll in the Program.
- B. The country is divided geographically into nine regions, these regions include:
  1. Central Mountain – Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah
  2. Mid Atlantic – Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
  3. Midwest – Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin
  4. Northeast – Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
  5. Northwest – Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming
  6. South-Florida
  7. South Central – Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas
  8. Southeast – Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina
  9. Southwest – California, Hawaii, Nevada
- C. Riders may declare for only one Region when enrolling in the Program.
  1. Exception: In the Central Mountain Region Riders may choose either the Southwest or

the South Central Region to pair with in order to accumulate Regional points.

2. The paired Region must be declared at the time of enrollment.

D. Riders may change their declared Region once during a competition year.

1. WCHR points in the new Region will not be retroactive.

2. Riders may change their Region *only* if they have not competed in a WCHR Event in a Region they originally declared.

3. Riders have until **July 1** of the competition year to notify the USHJA in writing of any change of Region.

4. No changes of Region will be accepted after **July 1** of the competition year.

5. When declaring a change of Region the use of a delivery system that provides delivery confirmation is recommended.

6. USHJA is not responsible for Region change requests not received.

#### IV. **Judging Requirements**

##### A. **See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions**

1. All judges must be USEF licensed.

2. All judges must be in good standing with the USEF and the USHJA.

3. No guest cards may be granted for WCHR Events.

#### V. **Judging System**

A. The open numerical scoring system must be used for all over fences rounds in every WCHR section.

B. Judges will give a numerical score for every over fences round.

C. No entry may receive the same score as another entry in the same class.

#### VI. **WCHR Points**

A. Any Rider's points from a WCHR Event will be determined by the total points earned by their highest point earning horse in one eligible hunter section from their declared WCHR Category.

1. In the event that a Developing Professional's highest placing horse at a WCHR Event earns their points in Young Hunter 6 & Under 3', Young Hunter 7 & Under 3'3", or Performance Working Hunter 3'3" their points will count towards their Developing Professional Standings *only*. In this case, if the same Developing Professional has an additional horse or horses competing at the same WCHR Event in **Green Hunter 3', 3'3"**, 3'6", 3'9", Performance Working Hunter, 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'6", High Performance Conformation Hunter, or High Performance Hunter sections the points from their highest placing horse in these sections will count towards their Professional Standings.

2. In the event that a Developing Professional's highest placing horse at a WCHR Event earns their points in **Green Hunter 3', 3'3"**, 3'6", 3'9", Performance Working Hunter, 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'6", High Performance Conformation Hunter, or High Performance Hunter sections those points will count towards their Developing Professional *and* Professional Standings.

3. *Developing Professionals earn points in both the Developing Professional and Professional Categories. As the eligible sections differ for each of these Categories, a Developing Professional may earn different point totals for each Category at the same WCHR Event.*

B. Any points received in a rider's declared Category in any Region will count towards National Standings.

- C. Only points received in a riders declared Category at WCHR Events in the Rider's declared Region will count towards Regional Standings.
- D. Riders that have declared the Central Mountain Region as their Region have the option to pair with either the Southwest, or South Central Region. In addition to any points earned from the Central Mountain Region, these Riders may use points from the Region they choose to pair with towards Regional Standings.
- E. A horse must be ridden by the same rider in all classes throughout its section at each WCHR Event in order for points to count (Exception: Under Saddle classes).
- F. Points from Model classes and Hunter Classics do not count.
- G. Points from a Rider's top four (4) WCHR Events will be used to determine the National standings.
- H. Points from a Rider's top four (4) WCHR Events in their declared Region will be used to determine the Regional Standings.
- I. In all hunter sections, the tier from the increment chart below will be utilized to calculate points. The increment chart is based on the number of entries in the first over fences class. (Exception: In the High Performance Hunter and Performance Hunter 3'6" and 3'3" the points will be calculated based on the number of entries in each individual class).
- J. Points will be calculated based on the following increments:

WCHR Increment Chart - Number of Exhibitors( updated)				
Ribbon	3 to 8	9 to 15	16 to 25	26 +
1	50	60	70	80
2	40	48	56	64
3	30	36	42	48
4	25	30	35	40
5	20	24	28	32
6	15	18	21	24
7		12	14	16
8		6	7	8

1. Champion will be awarded 2.0 times the total 1st place point value of each section and Reserve Champion will be awarded 1.2 times the total 1st place point value of each section.
2. If a WCHR Hunter section only offers a total of three to four classes versus the traditional five classes, the classes over fences will receive points based on a multiplier.
  - a. When a WCHR section is offered with two over fences and one under saddle class, points earned in each over fences class will be multiplied by two.
  - b. When a WCHR section is offered with three over fences classes and one under saddle class, points earned in each over fences class will be multiplied by 1.33.
  - c. When the total number of points earned in a section is not a whole number, the point total will be rounded up or down, according to accepted principles of rounding (i.e. 124.49 would be rounded down to 124 and 124.50 would be rounded up to 125).

## VII. Special Events

The WCHR Program offers special events, each of which has their own specifications.

Information about the special events is available at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org).

### **VIII. Competition Requirements**

- A. WCHR Events may only be offered at USEF licensed Channel I (Premier or National) rated competitions.
- B. Competition Management will remit complete results for all WCHR Event Classes to the USHJA, the USEF and Ryegate Show Services within 10 days of the conclusion of the competition.
- C. WCHR Events are prestigious competitions and must be presented as such with regard to arena sizes and locations, stabling, jump quality, decorations, footing and ring preparation, etc. The rings must have spectator seating, and a quality sound system. An electronic scoreboard is recommended.
- D. Competition management will provide information on the WCHR program to exhibitors and spectators.
- E. Competitions will be required to hang signage promoting the WCHR Events during the competition.
- F. The following WCHR hunter sections must be offered:
  1. Young Hunter 6 & Under 3'
  2. Young Hunter 7 & Under 3'3"
  3. Green Hunter 3'
  4. Green Hunter 3'3"
  5. Green Hunter 3'6"
  6. Green Hunter 3'9"
  7. Green Conformation Hunter 3'6"
  8. High Performance Conformation Hunter
  9. Performance Working Hunter 3'3"
  10. Performance Working Hunter 3'6"
  11. High Performance Hunter
  12. Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3"
  13. Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6"
  14. Adult Amateur Hunter
  15. Low Adult Hunter
  16. Junior Hunter 3'3"
  17. Junior Hunter 3'6"
  18. Children's Hunter Horse
  19. Low Children's Hunter
  20. Children's Hunter Pony
  21. Green Pony Hunter
  22. Small Pony
  23. Medium Pony
  24. Large Pony

**Note: Host competitions that are unable to offer the above WCHR Sections due to time or space limitations must request to the WCHR in writing with their WCHR Host Competition Application to be allowed an exception. The host competition should understand that not being able to offer all the WCHR Sections may impact the decision of WCHR to select them as a WCHR Event.**

- G. **Any request by Host Competition to change the date of the WCHR Event from the**

agreed upon date must be submitted in writing and received by USHJA at least thirty (30) days prior to the previously agreed upon date of the WCHR Event. Requests for date changes not received at least thirty (30) days prior to the previously agreed upon date will not be considered.

- H. Upon approval of a date change by the USHJA, management must notify exhibitors of the date change via website, email and signage as soon as practical in accordance with USEF GR 904.
- I. If a Host Competition wishes to change the management and/or location of its competition, it must submit a written request to USHJA for permission to change the management and/or location of the WCHR Event when it submits its request for change of management and/or location to USEF (See USEF GR 304). Any request to change the WCHR Event management and/or location must be received by the USHJA at least sixty (60) days prior to the agreed upon date of the WCHR Event. Host Competition acknowledges and agrees that the USHJA is not required to approve the WCHR Event Competition under new management and/or at a new location if that management and/or location does not provide a suitable manager and/or venue for the WCHR Event and that said decision remains solely at the discretion of USHJA.

### **USHJA Contact Information**

If questions arise pertaining to the World Championship Hunter Rider program 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  
 Louise Serio- WCHR Task Force Chair – (610) 636-0768  
 Britt McCormick – USHJA President - (972) 467-6008

*The USHJA World Championship Hunter Rider Program 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 World Championship Hunter Rider Program as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. 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.**

