

**USHJA ZONE 3  
2026 HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION SPECIFICATIONS**

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## **2026 ZONE 3 HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION SPECIFICATIONS**

**(DE, Washington DC, MD, NC, VA, WV)**

In accordance with GR1111.4: Contiguous states are: GA, KY, NJ, OH, PA, SC, TN

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> 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:**

- Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under – to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.
- Children's Hunter Horse 15– 17 – to be ridden by exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.
- Children's Pony – Small/Medium - to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.
- Children's Pony – Large - to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by 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:**

#### **Riders:**

A rider in the Adult Amateur section is not eligible to compete in any class where fence heights exceed 3'3" with the exception of the Junior/Amateur Jumpers and the USHJA National Hunter Derby. Riders may cross enter on a different horse between the Adult Amateur Hunter and the 3'3" Amateur Owner section if the rider owns the horses (not withstanding GR1108, a leased horse is not permitted) he or she is showing in both sections.

#### **Horses:**

Horses entered in Adult Amateur Hunter sections may not compete in the Amateur Owner Hunter sections at the same competition.

#### **Horse and Rider Combination:**

The horse-and-rider combination is restricted from showing in both Amateur Owner and Adult Amateur Hunter sections at the same show.

#### **Fence Height:**

- 3'0" with spreads not to exceed the fence height.
- Course shall consist of no fewer than eight (8) fences
- 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– 49
- Adult Amateurs 50 & over

The Adult Amateur 18- 35 section, the Adult Amateur 36- 49 section and Adult Amateur 50 & Over section must be combined if there are fewer than four (4) in any age section.

The Adult Amateur and Children's Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than four (4) in either section. The Adult Amateur and Children's Hunter Pony sections may not be combined.

**Awards:**

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

- Adult Amateur Hunter 18- 35
- Adult Amateur 36- 49
- Adult Amateur 50 & 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:**

#### **Riders:**

Riders may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where fences exceed 2'9" (Exception: 3'0" Equitation).

### **Fence Height:**

- 2'6"

### **Combining/Dividing Sections:**

The Low Adult Amateur Hunter and Low Children's Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section.

### **Awards:**

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

- Low Adult Amateur Hunter

## AMATEUR JUMPER

Classes to be scored under Table II, Section 1, Sections 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d) or 3; or Table IV (Optimum Time)

### Sections offered and requirements:

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

### Cross Entry:

#### Rider:

**Riders that compete in any class over 1.25m are ineligible to compete in an Amateur Jumper class set at 1.20m or below at that competition.**

#### Horse/Pony:

n/a

#### Horse and Rider Combination:

1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper horse/rider combinations may cross enter into the 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumpers 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 may cross enter into the 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumpers at the same show. 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:

1.00/1.05m Junior and 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper sections must combine if there are fewer than three (3) in either section and may combine if there are fewer than six (6) in either section. If after combining the 1.00/1.05m sections there are fewer than three (3) entries then competition management must further combine the 1.00/1.05m sections with the 1.10/1.15m sections, allowing each section to compete at their respective height.

1.10/1.15m Juniors and 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper sections must combine if there are fewer than three (3) in either section and may combine if there are fewer than six (6) in

either section. If after combining the 1.10/1.15m sections there are fewer than three (3) entries then competition management must further combine the 1.10/1.15m sections with the 1.00/1.05m sections, allowing each section to compete at their respective height.

**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 Jumper

## **AGE GROUP EQUITATION: ADULT SECTION**

- Refer to GR1132



## **CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE**

- Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under – to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.
- Children's Hunter Horse 15– 17 – to be ridden by exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.

### **Sections offered and requirements:**

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

### **Cross Entry:**

#### **Rider:**

A rider in the Children's Hunter section is not eligible to compete in classes where fences exceed 3'3" (exception: age group Equitation, Medal classes, Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper, Pony Jumper and the USHJA National Hunter Derby).

#### **Horses/Ponies:**

Horses may not cross enter into any Junior Hunter Class at the same competition.

#### **Horse and rider combination:**

n/a

### **Fence Height:**

- 3'0" with spreads not to exceed fence height
- Course shall consist of no fewer than eight (8) fences
- In and outs will be permitted

### **Combining/Dividing Sections:**

The Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under section and Children's Hunter Horse 15- 17 section must be combined if there are fewer than four (4) in either age section. The Adult Amateur and Children's Hunter Horse sections may be combined if there are fewer than four (4) in either section.

The Children's Hunter Horse 15- 17 section and Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under section must be combined if there are fewer than four (4) in either age section. The Adult Amateur and Children's Hunter Horse sections may be combined if there are fewer than four (4) in either 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**

- Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under – to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.
- Children's Hunter Horse 15– 17 – to be ridden by exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.

### **Eligibility:**

Open to exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.

### **Cross Entry:**

#### **Riders:**

Riders may not cross enter at the same competition into the Children's Hunter, Pony Hunter or any class/section where fences exceed 2'9" (Exception: 3'0" Equitation)

### **Fence Height:**

- 2'6"

### **Combining/Dividing Sections:**

The Low Children's Hunter and Low Adult Amateur Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section.

### **Awards:**

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

- Low Children's Hunter Horse

## **CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY**

- Children's Pony – Small/Medium - to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 15th birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.
- Children's Pony – Large - to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.

### **Sections offered and requirements:**

- Small/Medium Children's Pony
- Large Children's Pony

### **Cross Entry:**

#### **Rider:**

Rider must not show over 3'0" at the same show.

#### **Horse/Pony:**

Ponies may not show in any Regular or Green Pony Hunter rated section.

#### **Horse and Rider Combination**

n/a

### **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 sections may be combined if there are fewer than four (4) in either height section.

### **Awards:**

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**

- Children's Pony – Small/Medium - to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 15th birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.
- Children's Pony – Large - to be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by December 1, of the current competition year.

### **Eligibility:**

Open to exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.

### **Cross Entry:**

#### **Riders:**

Riders may not cross enter in any other division where the fences exceed 2' at the same show except age group Equitation and Medal Classes. Riders may not cross enter into Children's Pony Hunter and Low Children's Horse and at the same show.

### **Fence Height:**

- 2' (spreads not to exceed height of fence, no in and outs allowed)

### **Combining/Dividing Sections:**

The Low Children's Hunter and Low Adult Amateur Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section.

### **Awards:**

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

- Low Children's Hunter Pony

## JUNIOR JUMPER

Classes to be scored under Table II, Section 1, Sections 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d) or 3; or Table IV (Optimum Time)

### Sections offered and Requirements:

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

### Cross Entry:

#### Rider:

**Riders that compete in any class over 1.25m are ineligible to compete in a Junior Jumper class set at 1.20m or below at that competition.**

#### Horse/Pony:

n/a

#### Horse and Rider Combination:

1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper horse/rider combinations may cross enter into the 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumpers at the same show. 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper horse/rider combinations may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m Junior and 1.10/1.15m Junior are offered.

1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper horse/rider combinations may cross enter into the 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumpers at the same show. 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper horse/rider combinations may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m Junior and 1.10/1.15m Junior are offered.

### Fence Height:

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

### Combining/Dividing Sections:

1.00/1.05m Junior and 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper sections must combine if there are fewer than three (3) in either section and may combine if there are fewer than six (6) in either section. If after combining the 1.00/1.05m sections there are fewer than three (3) entries then competition management must further combine the 1.00/1.05m sections with the 1.10/1.15m sections, allowing each section to compete at their respective height.

1.10/1.15m Junior and 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper sections must combine if there are fewer than three (3) in either section and may combine if there are fewer than six (6) in either section. If after combining the 1.10/1.15m sections, there are fewer than three (3) entries then competitions management must further combine the 1.10/1.15m sections with the 1.00/1.05m sections, allowing each section to compete at their respective height.

### Awards:

## **JUNIOR JUMPER**

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

## **AGE GROUP EQUITATION: CHILDREN’S/JUNIOR SECTION**

- Refer to GR1132

## **USHJA COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS**

For more information regarding the following programs please click on the links below:

### **Green Hunter Incentive**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **Hunter Team Challenge**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **International Hunter Derby**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **National Hunter Derby**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **Outreach**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **Pony Hunter Derby**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **World Championship Hunter Rider**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **Zone Horse of the Year Championships**

Please check individual [zone pages](#)

### **Zone Jumper Team Championships**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **1.0/1.05m Junior/Amateur Zone Jumper Championship**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

## **SPECIAL CLASSES**

### **3'3" Jumping Seat Medal**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **3'3" Hunter Seat Medal**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **Green Hunter Challenge**

Click [here](#) for full specifications

### **Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic**

Click [here](#) for full specifications