



USHJA 2026 Young Jumper Championships Specifications

Changes from 2025 are marked in bold, italic, and underlined.

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Changes from 2025 are marked in bold, italic, and underlined.

I. Eligibility

- A. All horses must be registered with the USHJA and recorded with the USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102, in good standing under USEF rules.
- B. All athletes must be a current active USEF and USHJA member in good standing from the time of application until conclusion of the event.
- C. All horses must be age verified as required in accordance with the Federation Policies and Procedures (JP117).
- D. Exception: Foreign residents and horses in good standing with their National Federation are eligible to compete in the Championship but must be age verified with USEF in accordance with the Federation Policies and Procedures (JP117).
- E. National and Zone Horse of the Year (HOTY) bonus points will only be awarded if the owner is a current active USEF and USHJA member and the horse is recorded with USEF and registered with USHJA.
- F. The burden of proof of eligibility to compete will be the sole responsibility of the owner or the athlete, and not of the USHJA.
- G. Horses must be enrolled to be eligible for the USHJA Young Jumper Championships.
- H. All horses must be microchipped.
- I. Horses who have qualified in their age category for a Young Jumper Championship outside the United States, e.g., the World Breeding Championship for Young Jumping Horses, the German Young Horse Championships, upon verification by USEF, will also be eligible to compete.
- J. **Horses that are enrolled and qualified are eligible to compete at either USHJA Young Jumper Championships.**

II. Jumping Sections

All horses must be enrolled to compete in the Championships. Enrollment fees are non-refundable.

5-, 6-, 7-, and 8-Year-Old Horses

Early Enrollment: <u>February</u> 1 – June 30 of the current competition year	\$150.00
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Middle Enrollment: July 1– <u>seven (7) days prior to the mandatory horse inspection at their respective Championship.</u>	\$300.00
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Late Enrollments for \$750 per horse will be accepted starting seven (7) days prior to the mandatory horse inspection for their respective Championship and closing 24 hours before the mandatory horse inspection at their respective championship after confirmation that the horse meets all of the qualification requirements. Late enrollments must be emailed to youngjumper@ushja.org.

4-Year-Old - Style and Jumping Championship \$100.00
(See Style and Jumping Section for rules)

III. Breeder and Owner Enrollment Incentive

The Breeder and Owner Enrollment Incentive is for breeders and owners enrolling more than three (3) horses.

- A. Enrollment fees shall belong to the declared horse and transferred with the horse should it be sold before the start of the Championship.
- B. Should an owner/breeder sell a declared horse before the start of the Championship they will be entitled to replace that horse at the price that the horse was enrolled for. Example: If enrolled for \$75.00 the cost will be \$75.00. If enrolled as part of the first 3 horses the cost will be \$150.00
- C. Enrollment fees are cumulative, and the breeder or owner of multiple horses regardless of which age category they are eligible for, will be included in the incentive rate schedule.
- D. All fees are non-refundable.
- E. Breeders and owners enrolling the same horse in a consecutive year will get a \$50 discount for the horse's enrollment.

Early Enrollment:

First three horses (required for participation in Enrollment Incentive)	\$450.00
Additional one to three horses	\$75.00/horse
Each additional horse after six enrolled	\$50.00/horse

Middle Enrollment:

First three horses (required for participation in Enrollment Incentive)	\$900.00
Additional one to three horses	\$150.00/horse
Each additional horse after six enrolled	\$100.00/horse

Late Enrollment:

All horses	\$750.00
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IV. General Information for the Championship Competition

- A. Separate championships will be held for 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, and 8-Year-Old Horses. Each Championship will take place over four to five days (with a rest day between the Second Qualifier and the Final).

- B. All classes are conducted under USEF rules for Young Jumpers Sections/Classes Restricted by Age of Horse (JP117).
 - 1. 4-Year-Old horses, see section X.
 - 2. 5-7-Year-Old sections are conducted under the corresponding Young Jumper height course restrictions (JP117.8).
 - 3. 8-Year-Old horses are required to comply with the boot specifications listed under USEF rules for Sections/Classes Restricted by Age of Horse (JP117.2).
- C. Tack and Equipment for 5-8-Year-Olds:
 - 1. 5-8-year-olds are required to follow USEF rule JP111.
- D. Course designers are allowed a 5cm discrepancy in jump height for any course set for the Championships.
- E. All horses must be on the grounds 24 hours before the start of the competition. Championship horses must remain on the horse show grounds through the completion of the Championship.
- F. All horses must present at the horse inspection before the First Qualifier.
- G. Horses competing in the Championship may not compete in any other classes at the host competition once they have passed the horse inspection until they have finished or withdrawn from the Championship.
- H. No horse that was eliminated in the First or Second Qualifier is eligible for the Final.
- I. Horses are allowed to return for the Second Qualifier if they are eliminated in the First Qualifier. Those horses are not allowed to compete in the Final Round and are not eligible for overall standings. If a horse wants to return for the Second Qualifier, it is the rider's responsibility to alert the Championship Liaison, so they can be included in the order of go.
- J. In the event of horses being ridden by the same rider, the order of go for all rounds will be adjusted to separate those rides to the best of our ability.
- K. Rider Change Policy – if a rider is unable to continue to compete on a horse in any round of the competition due to extraordinary reasons, the rider and/or trainer must request permission from the Technical Delegate to change riders.

V. Qualification

- A. 5-, 6-, and 7-Year-Old Horses will qualify for their respective Championship by competing in one class at their age qualifying height USEF Young Jumper section at USEF licensed competitions that are between January 1 and 24 hours prior to the horse inspection at each Championship.
 - 1. 5-Year-Old horses qualify if they have competed in one USEF Young Jumper 1.10m or 1.20m class.
 - 2. 6-Year-Old horses qualify if they have competed in one USEF Young Jumper 1.20m or 1.30m class.
 - 3. 7-Year-Old horses qualify if they have competed in one USEF Young Jumper 1.30m class.

- B. 8-Year-Old horses will qualify for the Championship with one (1) clear round in classes at 1.30m or above held at USEF licensed competitions that are between January 1 and 24 hours prior to the first horse inspection at the Championship.
- C. Exception: foreign horses may qualify at competitions licensed by their national federation as long as those classes meet the requirements listed above. Foreign exhibitors must provide proof of results from their qualifying classes.
- D. 4-Year-Old horses are not required to qualify, but all horses are required to meet the eligibility requirement.

VI. Scoring for 5-, 6-, 7-, and 8-Year-Old Horses and Tie Breakers

- A. Faults will be carried from each round (First Qualifier, Second Qualifier, and first round of the Final) to determine Overall Standings.
- B. Cumulative faults from the First and Second Qualifier determine the Overall Standings going into the Final.
- C. The Top 15 horses, including ties, with the least number of cumulative faults will return for the first round of the Final (Modified Table II 2a).
- D. Faults from the first round of the Final will be combined with cumulative faults for overall placings. All horses tied for first based on cumulative faults will jump off.
- E. 5-Year-Old ties below first will be broken by their time taken in the first round of the Final.
- F. 6-, 7-, and 8-Year-Old ties below first will be broken by their time taken in the Second Qualifier.
- G. Overall Standings after the Final will determine the overall winner and placings of each age category.

VII. Awards and Prize Money

For the 5-, 6-, 7-, and 8-Year-Old Horses. 4-Year-Olds, see section X.

- A. Qualifiers conducted under Table II:
 - 1. Blue ribbons to all clear rounds
 - 2. Prize money will be evenly distributed between all clear rounds. If there are no clear rounds, then no prize money will be given.
- B. Qualifiers conducted under Table II, Section 1:
 - 1. Ribbons 1st – 10th
 - 2. Prize money will be paid 1st – 10th as follows: 30%, 20%, 12%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 4%, 4%
- C. Final:
 - 1. Cooler to Champion
 - 2. Trophy to Champion and Reserve
 - 3. Ribbons Champion – 10th

4. Prize money will be paid 1st – 10th as follows: 30%, 20%, 12%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 4% 4%

VIII. Overall Championship Awards

A. Leading Young Jumper Awards

1. Best U.S. Bred Horse –given to the highest placed U.S. bred horse in each age category.
2. Young Jumper Grooms Award – given to the groom of the overall champion for each age category.
3. Leading Owner – given to the owner with the highest placed horses across all age categories. If an owner has more than one horse in an age category, only their highest placed horse in the section will be considered. Ties will be broken by the number of overall champion horses for each owner, if a tie remains it will be broken by the number of overall reserve champion horses.
4. Leading U.S. Breeder – given to the U.S. breeder with the highest placed horses across all age categories. If a breeder has more than one horse in an age category, only their highest placed horse in the section will be considered. Ties will be broken by the number of overall champion horses for each breeder, if a tie remains it will be broken by the number of overall reserve champion horses.
5. Leading Young Jumper Rider – given to the rider with the highest placed horses across all age categories. If a rider has more than one horse in an age category, only their highest placed horse in the section will be considered. Ties will be broken by the number of overall champion horses for each rider, if a tie remains it will be broken by the number of overall reserve champion horses.
6. Leading Young Jumper Trainer – given to the trainer with the highest placed horses across all age categories. If a trainer has more than one horse in an age category, only their highest placed horse in the section will be considered. Ties will be broken by the number of overall champion horses for each trainer, if a tie remains it will be broken by the number of overall reserve champion horses.

B. Breeder's Cup Perpetual Trophy

1. Given to the leading overall breeder, regardless of registry or nationality.
 - a. Eligibility: a breeder must have one horse in the top four Overall Standings in any age category for their horse(s) to count.
 - b. If a breeder has one horse in the top four, then all other horses will also count.
 - c. Points will be based on each horse's Overall Standings in their age category. Points will be scaled according to the number of horses who start in the First Round of each age category. Point scale to be as follows:

# of Horses	3-8	9-15	16-25	26+
Champion	15	20	25	30
Reserve	10	15	20	25
3rd	8	12	16	20
4th	6	9	12	15
5th	5	8	11	14
6th	4	7	10	13
7th	3	6	9	12
8th	2	5	8	11

IX. National and Zone HOTY Bonus Points

National and Zone HOTY bonus points will be awarded regardless of home zone in each phase of the Championship for the 5-, 6-, and 7-Year-Old sections. 5-Year-Old sections will receive National and Zone HOTY bonus points in the USEF 1.20m Young Jumper Section. 6-Year-Old sections will receive National and Zone HOTY bonus points in the USEF 1.30m Young Jumper Section. 7-Year-Old sections will receive National and Zone HOTY bonus points in the USEF 1.30m Young Jumper Section.

- A. All Horse of the Year points and money won will go to Channel I.
- B. For the First and Second Qualifiers conducted under Table II (Clear Round), all clear rounds will be tied for 1st and will receive 30 points.
- C. Second Qualifiers conducted under Table II, Section 1 will be placed 1st – 10th and points will be awarded as follows:

1st	30 points	4th	15 points
2nd	25 points	5th	10 points
3rd	20 points	6th	5 points

- D. For the Final, points will be awarded as follows:

1st	60 points	4th	30 points
2nd	50 points	5th	20 points
3rd	40 points	6th	10 points

X. 4-Year-Old Section – Style and Jumping Championship

Horses must be enrolled for the Style and Jumping Section at a fee of \$100. (See enrollment section). Each horse will be given three (3) minutes to flat (walk, trot, and canter) in the show ring before the start of the First Qualifier. For the Final Round, horses will have a one-minute unjudged flat prior to their round and they may not begin their course until the scores for the previous horse are announced. Horses will be scored in the First Qualifier and the Final on jumping penalties and style according to the scale below.

Jumping and style points weighted equally, i.e., 50% jumping points, 50% style points. They are judged for style points by designated style judge(s).

A. Tack & Equipment

1. 4-Year-Old Horses are permitted to compete in standing or running martingales.
2. The use of Draw Reins, German Martingales, Chambons, or any other unconventional equipment are not permitted when jumping on competition grounds after the horse inspection until the completion of the 4-Year-Old Final.
3. 4-Year-Old Horses must adhere to the boot specifications listed in the USEF Rulebook for Sections/Classes Restricted by Age of Horse (JP117.2)

B. Warm-Up class is not scored.

C. Orders of Go: the First Qualifier order will be a random draw. The Final order will be the reverse order of scores from the First Qualifier. In the event of horses being ridden by the same rider, the order will be adjusted to separate those rides to the best of our ability.

D. A horse must complete one of the rounds in order to be eligible for overall standings.

E. First Qualifier and Final (All horses who competed in the First Qualifier are eligible for the Final)

1. Simple courses with one double combination.

- a. First Qualifier height: 0.90m
- b. Final height: 0.90-1.00m
- c. Speed 300 m/m
- d. Rounds conducted under Table II (Clear Round)
- e. Dry Liverpool will be used as an option.
- f. Rounds will be scored on both jumping faults and style points
- g. Simple changes are not penalized

2. The point structure is as follows:

a. Jumping Points for the First Qualifier and Final:

- i. Clear rounds – 100 points
- ii. Faults incurred over the course will be deducted from the total possible jumping points (100). Example: a horse completes the course with 4 faults, their total jumping points will be 96.

b. Style Points for the First Qualifier and Final: points will be awarded for overall impression of the horse's style. Points will be awarded out of 100 and will be awarded based on the horse's use of the following:

- i. Front legs
- ii. Hind legs
- iii. Bascule
- iv. Rideability
- v. Instincts
- vi. Scope
- vii. Movement
- viii. Future Potential as a Show Jumper

- c. If a horse is eliminated in any round of competition, they will receive a score of zero in both the Style and Jumping categories.
 - i. 4-Year-Olds are allowed three (3) refusals before elimination (JP145.5).
 - 3. Champion and Reserve will be named according to total scores (Jumping and Style).
 - 4. Ties in the First Qualifier will be broken by the highest jumping score. If a tie remains, then the highest style score from the First Qualifier will be used to break the tie. Should a tie remain, the horses will remain tied.
 - 5. Ties in the Final for overall results will be broken by the highest cumulative jumping score (least cumulative faults) from the First Qualifier and the Final Round. If a tie remains, then the highest Style score from the Final Round will determine the Champion and Reserve. Should a tie remain, the horses will remain tied.
- F. Awards:
- 1. First Qualifier:
 - a. Ribbons 1st – 10th
 - b. Prize money will be paid 1st–10th as follows; 30%, 20%, 12%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 4%, 4%
 - 2. Final:
 - a. Cooler to Champion
 - b. Trophy to Champion and Reserve
 - c. Ribbons Champion – 10th
 - d. Prize money will be paid 1st -10th as follows; 30%, 20%, 12%, 8%, 7%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 4%, 4%
 - 3. Blue Ribbons given to all clear rounds in the First Qualifier and Final.
 - 4. The horse with the highest cumulative style scores from the First Qualifier and the Final will receive the 4-Year-Old Overall Style High Score Award.

XI. Championship Schedule

- A. 5-Year-Old Section
 - 1. All courses to include a Liverpool with water.
 - 2. First Qualifier:
 - a. Start Order: random draw
 - b. Format: Table II (Clear Round)
 - c. Height: 1.15-1.20m
 - d. Speed: 350 m/min
 - e. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.
 - 3. Second Qualifier:
 - a. Start Order: reverse order of go from the First Qualifier.
 - b. Format: Table II (Clear Round)

- c. Height: 1.20m
 - d. Speed: 350 m/min
 - e. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.
4. Final:
- a. Top 15 horses, including ties, based on overall standings. Cumulative faults will be added to faults incurred over the first round of the Final. Ties for first place based on lowest overall faults (First Qualifier, Second Qualifier, and first round of the Final) will jump off. Ties below first will be broken by the time taken in the first round of the Final.
 - b. Start Order: reverse order of overall standings. Horses with the lowest cumulative faults jump last. Horses with equal faults will be ordered by random draw.
 - c. Format: Modified Table II 2.a
 - d. Height: 1.20m
 - e. Speed: 350 m/min
 - f. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.
- B. 6-Year-Old Section
1. First Qualifier:
- a. Start Order: random draw
 - b. Format: Table II (Clear Round)
 - c. Height: 1.25-1.30m
 - d. Speed: 350 m/min
 - e. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.
2. Second Qualifier:
- a. Start Order: reverse order of go from the First Qualifier.
 - b. Optional Water Jump: water may not exceed 3.35m (11') and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing.
 - c. Format: Table II, Section 1
 - d. Height: 1.30m
 - e. Speed: 350 m/min
 - f. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.
3. Final:
- a. Top 15 horses, including ties, based on overall standings. Cumulative faults will be added to faults incurred over the first round of the Final. Ties for first place based on lowest overall faults (First Qualifier, Second Qualifier, and first round of the Final) will jump off. Ties below first will be broken by the time taken in the Second Qualifier.
 - b. Start Order: reverse order of overall standings. Horses with the lowest cumulative faults jump last. Ties will start in the order based on their time taken from the Second Qualifier.

- c. Optional Water Jump: water may not exceed 3.35m (11') and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing.
- d. Format: Modified Table II 2.a
- e. Height: 1.30m
- f. Speed: 350 m/min
- g. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.

C. 7-Year-Old Section

1. First Qualifier:

- a. Start Order: random draw
- b. Format: Table II (Clear Round)
- c. Height: 1.30-1.35m
- d. Speed: 350 m/min
- e. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.

2. Second Qualifier:

- a. Start Order: reverse order of go from the First Qualifier.
- b. Optional Water Jump: water may not exceed 3.35m (11') and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing.
- c. Format: Table II, Section 1
- d. Height: 1.35m
- e. Speed: 350 m/min
- f. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.

3. Final:

- a. Top 15 horses, including ties, based on overall standings. Cumulative faults will be added to faults incurred over the first round of the Final. Ties for first place based on lowest overall faults (First Qualifier, Second Qualifier, and first round of the Final) will jump off. Ties below first will be broken by the time taken in the Second Qualifier.
- b. Start Order: reverse order of overall standings. Horses with the lowest cumulative faults jump last. Ties will start in the order based on their time taken from the Second Qualifier.
- c. Required Water Jump: water may not exceed 3.35m (11') and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing.
- d. Format: Modified Table II 2.a
- e. Height: 1.35m
- f. Speed: 350 m/min
- g. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.

D. 8-Year-Old Section

1. First Qualifier:

- a. Start Order: random draw
- b. Format: Table II (Clear Round)

- c. Height: 1.35-1.40m
 - d. Speed: 350 m/min
 - e. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.
2. Second Qualifier:
- a. Start Order: reverse order of go from the First Qualifier.
 - b. Optional Water Jump: water may not exceed 3.35m (11') with a lath on the landing (JP129.2).
 - c. Format: Table II, Section 1
 - d. Height: 1.40m
 - e. Speed: 350 m/min
 - f. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.
3. Final:
- a. Top 15 horses, including ties, based on overall standings. Cumulative faults will be added to faults incurred over the first round of the Final. Ties for first place based on lowest overall faults (First Qualifier, Second Qualifier, and first round of the Final) will jump off. Ties below first will be broken by the time taken in the Second Qualifier.
 - b. Start Order: reverse order of overall standings. Horses with the lowest cumulative faults jump last. Ties will start in the order based on their time taken from the Second Qualifier.
 - c. Required Water Jump: water may not exceed 3.35m (11') with a lath on the landing (JP129.2).
 - d. Format: Modified Table II 2.a
 - e. Height: 1.40-1.45m
 - f. Speed: 350 m/min
 - g. Prize Money: see section VII Awards and Prize Money.

XII. USHJA Young Jumper Championships – Organizer Requirements

- A. Organizer must hire one large 'R' Jumper licensed Jumper judge and one style judge with jumper experience.
- B. There will be a rest day between the Second Qualifier and the Final.
- C. Every Championship must have a non-judged Warm-Up Class. The course of nine efforts will include a water jump with a rail, and the width of the water is not to exceed 3.35m (11'). Fence height will be at or below the height of each age category's First Qualifier.
- D. Warm-Up Classes must be held in the same ring as the First Qualifier for each age category.
- E. Horses may jump at a lower height than their entered height section during the Warm-Up Class.

- F. 4-Year-Olds are permitted to have one (1) re-ride in the Warm-Up Class at management's discretion.
- G. Course designers are allowed a 5cm discrepancy in jump height for any course set for the Championships.
- H. An optional water jump must be included in the Second Qualifier for the 6- and 7-Year-Old sections, the water may not exceed 3.35m (11') and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing. For the 6-Year-Old Final Round, the water jump will be an optional jump, and the water may not exceed 3.35m (11') and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing. For the Final Round in the 7-Year-Old section, the water jump will be a required jump, and the water may not exceed 3.35m (11') and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing. For the 8-Year-Old section, the water will be used as open water with a lath on the landing (JP129.2). The water must be set as an option fence going toward the in gate in the Second Qualifier, and as a required fence in the Final.
- I. Speed for all classes will be set at 350m per minute, except the 4-Year-Old section will be set at 300m per minute.
- J. All classes conducted under USEF rules for Young Jumpers.

XIII. USHJA Contact Information

- A. *Any deviations from the class specifications are not permitted without the express written permission from USHJA prior to the printing of the prize list.*
- B. 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.
- C. Please contact one of the following USHJA representatives, if questions arise pertaining to the USHJA Young Jumper Championships that cannot be answered by the Show Steward or Management based on the class specifications provided.

Sara Murray-Smith- USHJA Sport Program Coordinator	(859) 225-6735
Jason McArdle- Young Jumper Task Force Chair	(949) 547-4390
Britt McCormick- USHJA President	(972) 467-6008

The USHJA Young Jumper Championships 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 Young Jumper Championships as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA Young Jumper Championships 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.

