



USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY WELCOME STAKE

2023 CLASS SPECIFICATIONS*

*Effective for competitions starting December 1, 2022-November 30, 2023

Changes from 2022 marked in bold italic and underlined.

I. Membership and Participation Requirements

- A. Riders, Owners and Trainers must be current Active members of USEF and USHJA before the start of the class.
- B. Horses must be recorded with the Federation and registered with USHJA.
- C. **Exception:** Foreign residents and horses in good standing with their National Federation are eligible to compete in this class. However the points and/or money won will not count for any USEF or USHJA standings or awards unless they are also members of USEF and USHJA, and the horse is recorded with USEF and registered with USHJA.
- D. The same horse may compete in the USHJA International Hunter Derby at the same competition; however, these same horses may not compete in the National Hunter Derby at the same competition.
- E. The rider of a horse in the Welcome Stake may be different than the rider of the same horse in the USHJA International Hunter Derby at the same competition.
- F. Horses entered in this class are not required to show in any other hunter or jumper classes at the horse show.
- G. There is no limit to the number of horses a rider can ride in each class; however, a competition may choose to limit the number of horses a rider can compete to no less than three horses, as long as the competition notifies the USHJA 60 days in advance of the date of the class and such limitation is printed in the prize list.
- H. Attire: Refer to HU107 in the USEF Rule Book for current specifications.

II. Enrollment Policy-International Hunter Derby Program

Horses must be enrolled for the 2023 series to participate in a USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake. Exception: Exhibitors may show in a maximum of one class in the series year without enrollment. Only enrolled horses are eligible for Regional Awards, to be included on the USHJA IHD Money Won list and to compete in any Derby Championship. Horses do need to be enrolled for money won in the Welcome Stake to count toward National and Regional Awards. See ushja.org for full details.

III. Prize Money and Entry Fee

- A. A minimum of \$2,500 prize money must be offered per class; however, the total prize money, including add-back money, may not exceed 25% of the total prize money offered in the USHJA International Hunter Derby at the same competition.
- B. Prize money must be paid to a minimum of 12 places as follows:

1st– 30%	7th– 4%
2nd– 22%	8th– 3%
3rd– 13%	9th– 3%
4th– 8%	10th– 2%
5th– 6%	11th– 2%
6th– 5%	12th– 2%

1. Competitions wishing to offer additional prize money above the minimum required (including any add-back money if applicable) and pay additional placing's must print the information in the prize list and notify the USHJA of the final prize money distribution. If a change in prize money and placing's occurs after the prize list is printed, the competition must follow all Federation rules regarding changes to the prize list (See GR904). The prize money awarded to each placing below 12th place must not exceed the amount awarded to 12th place.
- C. If there are less than 12 entries in the class, prize money must be paid according to the breakdown in Section III.B, through the last placing entry. Any remaining prize money not awarded due to less than 12 entries may be split and awarded equally to all entrants that place in the class.
- D. A competition may choose to offer add-back prize money in addition to the prize money offered, however, the minimum required prize money must be guaranteed. If add-back prize money will be offered, this must be stated in the prize list.
- E. The entry fee, including the \$35 per horse fee, cannot exceed 10% of the prize money offered.

IV. Bonus Points and Awards

- A. In order for International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake National HOTY bonus points/money to be awarded:
 1. Horse must be recorded with the Federation and registered with USHJA.
 2. Recorded owner of horse must be a current Active member of the Federation and USHJA.
 3. Riders must complete the USHJA Exhibitor Declaration Form prior to the conclusion of the competition.
 4. The section declared for bonus points/money may be different than the section declared for bonus points/money in the International Hunter Derby at the same competition.
 5. Horses must be enrolled in the International Hunter Derby program.
- B. National HOTY bonus points/money are awarded to each horse's respective section as declared at the time of entry. Riders may only declare one hunter section for National HOTY points/money. Only Juniors or Amateurs may declare for the applicable Junior or Amateur Owner section. Horses declared in open sections will be awarded both bonus points and the value of their money won for their declared hunter section, toward the appropriate HOTY standings.
- C. National HOTY bonus points will be awarded as follows:

1st– 50	7th– 15
2nd– 40	8th– 10
3rd– 35	9th– 7
4th– 30	10th– 5
5th– 25	11th– 3
6th– 20	12th– 2
- D. Money won in the USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake is included in the National, Regional and Lifetime money won standings, provided the horse is enrolled in the International Hunter Derby Program.
- E. Money won in the USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake is not included in the USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship Qualifying List and participating in the Welcome Stake does not qualify a horse for the Championship.
- F. 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).

V. Jog Format

- A. After the over fences phase is complete, all horses in contention for an award, plus two reserve placings, must jog for soundness. This jog will be held in a format similar to a regular hunter section class jog.

VI. Order of Go

- A. The order of go must be posted a minimum of one hour prior to the start of the class.

- B. In the case of multiple horses being ridden by the same rider, every effort will be made so that there will be a minimum of eight horses (if available) separating multiple rides. All horses must be ridden in the sequence that appears on the jumping order. Due to multiple rides or rider conflicts, any rider may elect to move up in the order.
- C. The draw may be performed by hand or competition management may host a computer draw.

VII. Judging System

The Welcome Stake shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going. Pace and brilliance are to be rewarded. Handiness is taken into account in the judges' score. Jumping decorations to utilize a shorter track is not permissible. The two judges will provide one score for each horse- and-rider combination and these scores will determine the final standings for the class.

VIII. Course Requirements

- A. The course diagram must be posted a minimum of one hour before the start of class. Copies of the course must also be available for distribution.
- B. A minimum of 10 obstacles must be offered.
- C. Fences must be set at 3'6" to 4'0" in height.
- D. No more than 40% of the fences may be set at the maximum height (4'0"). Example: Of the 10 fences in the course, only 4 of them may be set at 4'0". The remaining six fences must be set at 3'6" or 3'9".
- E. Course must be a classic derby style course and must include:
 - 1. At least one in and out.
 - 2. At least one bending line.
 - 3. At least one line with an unrelated distance.
 - 4. At least one long approach to a single fence.
- F. The course may also include any of the following handy options:
 - 1. Tight turn options.
 - 2. Clever options for jump approaches.
 - 3. Pen type obstacles.
 - 4. Hand gallop a jump.
 - 5. Trot a lowered obstacle no to exceed 3'0" in height.
 - 6. Any other handy option seen in a USHJA International Hunter Derby
- G. Obstacles must simulate those reminiscent of the hunt field and the course must offer a variety of Derby jumps with different appearances such as: natural post and rail, stone wall, white board fence or gate, coop, aiken, hedge, oxer, brush, logs, natural foliage.
- H. Natural obstacles such as banks and ditches are allowed.
- I. A minimum 2" difference is required for the back element of an obstacle.
- J. Ground lines are not to exceed 18" in depth from the vertical plane of the jump. For appropriate jumps, no ground line is necessary.
- K. The jumpable portion of any obstacle must be a minimum of eight feet on its front face.
- L. Flat cups may only be used for obstacles involving logs and/or in accordance with Federation rules.
- M. The top rail of all obstacles must rest in a cup, except where walls with movable bricks are used.

IX. Competition Requirements

- A. USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake classes may be offered at USEF licensed competitions approved for standalone status that have also been approved to host a USHJA International Hunter Derby.
- B. The welcome stake may be held at any time during the competition prior to the International Hunter Derby, at management's discretion.
- C. Competition management will collect and remit to USHJA the per horse entrant fee of \$35.
- D. Competition Management will remit complete results including prize money awarded, to USHJA and USEF within 10 days of the conclusion of the competition.
- E. For all classes, competition management is required to provide copies of the course to riders prior to the start of the course walk and is encouraged to have them available for spectators.
- F. The USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake is a featured class of the horse show, and must be presented as such with regard to arena size and location, jump quality, decorations, footing and ring preparation, lighting, et cetera.

X. Judging Requirements

- A. There will be a total of two judges for this class. Judges will sit together and provide one score.
- B. The judges may not award the same score to any two competitors unless a competitor's score is below the cut-off score.
- C. One judge must be an R-licensed hunter judge, the other may be either an R-licensed or r-licensed hunter judge.
- D. All judges must be Federation licensed and in good standing with the Federation and USHJA.
- E. No guest cards will be granted for this competition.

XI. Other

- A. The USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake is a one round class, 3'6" to 4'0" in height.
- B. Any request to change the location, date, licensee and/or management team applied for and approved must be made in writing to the USHJA a minimum of 60 days before the date of the class and all exhibitors must be notified of the change.
- C. USHJA reserves the right to accept/approve the hosting of an International Hunter Derby and/or Welcome Stake at any time after the application deadline has passed, including during the current series. Applications to host a Derby and/or Welcome Stake after the application deadline has passed will be considered on a case by case basis.
- D. For an exception to International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake Class Specifications, competitions must apply in writing to the USHJA a minimum of 90 days in advance of the date of the class and allowing enough time that any exception will be in the prize list. USHJA, in its sole discretion, may waive the above time requirements in situations of extenuating circumstances. Requests for exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.

XII. USHJA Contact Information

If questions arise pertaining to the International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake 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:

Britt McCormick Chair of the International Hunter Derby Task & Incentive Force (972) 467-6008

Jennifer Osterman, Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs (859) 225-6703

The USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake 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 International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity.

Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake 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 Federation Rule Book.

