



2026 USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Championship Specifications

Effective for the 2026 GHI Championship – 3'3" and 3'6"/3'9"

Changes from 2025 in bold, italics, and underlined.

I. Enrollment Requirements

- A. Horses must be enrolled in the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Program (Program) and appear on the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Enrolled List (Enrolled List) located at www.ushja.org prior to participating in the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Championship (Championship).
- B. **It is the exhibitor's responsibility to enroll their horse in a timely manner to be eligible to participate.**
- C. Horses may only be enrolled online at www.ushja.org
- D. Enrollment Fees
 - 1. December 1-February 1 of any competition year-\$350
 - 2. February 2-June 1 of any competition year-\$550
 - 3. June 2-November 30 of any competition year-\$750
 - 4. Enrollment Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable
- E. Horses may be enrolled in either the 3'3" Program or the 3'6"/3'9" Program during the current competition year.
 - 1. The Enrollment Fee for all Programs is non-refundable.
- F. Enrolled horses are not required to have competed in a Green Hunter section at any USEF Licensed Competition to compete in the Championship.
- G. Competing in the Championship will affect a horse's Green status.
- H. Reserved Slots: Owners may purchase a Reserved Slot in the Program at the current rate and name a horse to that Reserved Slot at a later date.
 - 1. Only results achieved by the horse after it is assigned to the Reserved Slot will count in Program standings.
 - 2. Reserved Slots expire at the end of the current competition year.
 - 3. Reserved Slots are non-transferrable.
 - a. Reserved Slots may not be sold to another owner.
 - b. A new horse may not be substituted for a horse already assigned to a Reserved Slot.
 - 4. Any Reserved Slots that are unused will stay dedicated to the current year's prize money and will not roll over.

II. Membership and Participation Requirements

- A. Open to horses of any age that are eligible to compete as a Green Hunter 3', 3'3", 3'6" or 3'9" under Federation rules. **It is the exhibitor's responsibility to verify the USEF Green eligibility of the horse before competing.**
- B. Horses must be registered with USHJA and recorded with USEF to participate.
- C. Riders, owners, and trainers must be current Active members of USEF and USHJA to participate.
- D. Horses may be ridden by a Professional, Junior or Amateur.
- E. There is no limit to the number of horses a rider may compete.



III. Entry Requirements and Entry Fees

- A. All horses that are enrolled in the Program will be invited to compete in the Championship. ***It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure the horse is enrolled correctly according to their USEF Green eligibility.***
- B. Green eligibility must be confirmed before competing in the Championship. **It is the exhibitor's responsibility to verify the USEF Green eligibility of the horse before competing.**
- C. Entry Fee for horses entered before the closing date of entries is \$950.
 - 1. \$700 of the entry fee is refundable if an entry scratches prior to the close of entries.
 - 2. \$250 of the entry fee is non-refundable regardless of when an entry scratches.
- D. Post Entry Fee for horses entered after the closing date of entries is \$2,650 total. Post Entry Fees are 100% non-refundable.
- E. Upon entering, each entry must declare the height they will jump in the Championship: 3', 3'3", 3'6", or 3'9".
- F. The height declaration may not be changed after the order of go has been drawn, and the horse must compete at the declared height throughout the entirety of the competition.

II. Championship Policies

- A. Starting on the day prior to the start of the Championship, horses must wear their actual competition number whenever out of the stall.
- B. Starting on the day prior to the start of the Championship riders must wear the horse's actual competition number while mounted.
- C. Formal attire is required for the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Championship Round (Championship Round) and the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Championship Tier II Championship Round (Tier II Championship Round) (see HU107).
- D. Formal attire is optional in all other rounds.
- E. Rider Change Policy – if a rider is unable to continue to compete on a horse in any round of the competition, the rider and/or trainer may request permission from the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Championship Ground Jury (Ground Jury) to change riders. **The substitute rider must be the same Tier or lower as the original rider.** The decision of the Ground Jury is final and binding and not subject to further appeal of any kind.
- F. Championship Round
 - 1. If a horse and rider combination qualified for the Championship Round is unable to compete, or chooses not to compete, the next highest scoring horse and rider combination will move up in the order.
- G. Tier II Championship Round
 - 1. If a horse and rider combination qualified for the Tier II Championship Round is unable to compete, or chooses not to compete, the next highest scoring horse and rider combination will move up in the order.

III. USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Rider Ranking System – Tier I, Tier II and Tier III

- A. Tier I, Tier II and Tier III Riders
 - 1. A Tier I Rider is any rider standing 45th or higher on the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Money Won List (Money Won List) from the current competition year
 - 2. A Tier II Rider is any rider standing 46th-100th on the Money Won List from the current competition year



3. All remaining riders entered and competing in Championship will be considered Tier III riders.
- B. Eligibility and Awards
 1. Tier I riders are eligible to qualify for the Championship Round only.
 2. Tier II and Tier III riders are eligible to qualify for either the Championship Round or the Tier II Championship Round.
 3. The overall Championship awards are determined solely by the scores of all horse and rider combinations, regardless of rider's Tier, from the Championship Round.
 4. The overall Tier II Championship awards are determined by the scores of all horse and rider combinations ridden by Tier II and Tier III riders from either the Championship Round or the Tier II Championship Round.
 5. The overall Tier III Championship 3'3" awards are determined by the total cumulative scores of all horse and rider combinations ridden by Tier III Riders from the two Preliminary Rounds.
 6. The overall Tier III Championship 3'6"/3'9" awards are determined by the scores of all horse and rider combinations ridden by Tier III riders from the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive 3'6"/3'9" Preliminary Round (Preliminary Round).
- C. Refer to the USHJA website for USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Tier Eligibility Lists (Eligibility Lists).

IV. Competition Format-Championship 3'3"3"

- A. The Championship 3'3"3" is held over two USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Preliminary Rounds (Preliminary Round), the Championship Round, the Tier II Championship Round, and if required, a USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Jump Off Round (Jump Off Round).
- B. The first Preliminary Round is open to all eligible horses that have been entered in the Championship. The Top Ten horse and rider combinations from the first Preliminary Round will receive an automatic invitation to compete in the Championship Round. The Top Ten horse and rider combinations from the first Preliminary Round are eligible to compete in the second Preliminary Round, but are not required to.
- C. The Second Preliminary Round is open to all eligible horses that have been entered in the Championship. The Top Ten horse and rider combinations from the Second Preliminary Round that did not place in the Top Ten horse and rider combinations of the First Preliminary Round will receive an automatic invitation to compete in the Championship Round.
- D. The Championship Round will consist of a minimum of thirty (30) horses.
 1. The Top Ten horse and rider combinations from the First Preliminary Round, the Top Ten horse and rider combinations from the Second Preliminary Round that were not in the Top Ten horse and rider combinations from the First Preliminary Round, and the Top Ten horse and rider combinations with the highest cumulative scores from the First and Second Preliminary Rounds that were not in the Top Ten horse and rider combinations from either the First or Second Preliminary Rounds will receive invitations to compete in the Championship Round.
 2. Any horse and rider combinations that are tied for the last qualifying position with their cumulative scores from the First and Second Preliminary Rounds will remain tied and be qualified to compete in the Championship Round.
- E. The Tier II Championship Round will consist of a minimum of ten (10) horses.



1. A minimum of ten (10) of the Tier II or Tier III horse and rider combinations with the highest cumulative scores from the First and Second Preliminary rounds who are not competing in the Championship Round will receive an invitation to compete in the Tier II Championship Round.
 2. Any horse and rider combinations that are tied for the last qualifying position with their cumulative scores from the First and Second Preliminary Rounds will remain tied and be qualified to compete in the Tier II Championship Round.
 3. The horse and rider combinations competing in the Tier II Championship Round will compete over the same course as the Championship Round.
- F. **Championship Awards 3'3"3"**
1. After each Preliminary Round of the Championship, ribbons will be presented to a minimum of at least the top 12 horse and rider combinations placed at their individual heights (3', 3'3") in that round.
 2. The overall Championship awards are awarded based on the scores from the Championship Rounds only.
 3. The overall Tier II Championship awards are awarded based on the scores of all Tier II and Tier III riders from either the Championship Round or the Tier II Championship Round.
 4. The overall Tier III Championship awards are awarded based on the scores of all Tier III riders from the First and Second Preliminary Rounds.
 5. All Championship Rounds start with a clean slate.
 6. Scores from any Preliminary Rounds do not carry over.
- G. **Jump Off Round**
1. If required, upon completion of the Championship round a Jump Off Round will be offered to any horse and rider combinations tied for first place for the overall Championship awards or the overall Tier II Championship awards.
 2. All other ties will remain tied.
- H. Show Management and the USHJA reserve the right to amend the schedule and/or format based on the individual host event.

V. Competition Format-Championship 3'6"/3'9"

- A. The Championship 3'6"/3'9" is held over one Preliminary Round, the Championship Round, the Tier II Championship Round, and if required, a Jump Off Round.
- B. The Preliminary Round is open to all eligible horses that are entered in the Championship.
- C. The Championship Round will consist of a minimum of thirty (30) horses.
 1. Any horse and rider combinations that are tied for the last qualifying position after the Preliminary Round will remain tied and will be qualified to compete in the Championship Round.
- D. The Tier II Championship Round consists of a minimum of ten (10) horses ridden by Tier II or Tier III riders who are not competing in the Championship Round.
 1. Any horse and rider combinations that are tied for the last qualifying position with their scores from the Preliminary Round will remain tied and be qualified to compete in the Tier II Championship Round.
 2. Horse and rider combinations will compete over the same course as the Championship Round for the Tier II Championship Round.
- E. **Championship Awards (3'6"/3'9")**



1. After the Preliminary Round of the Championship, ribbons will be presented to a minimum of at least the top twelve (12) horses placed at their individual heights (3'6", 3'9").
 2. The overall Championship awards are awarded based on the scores from the Championship Round only.
 3. The overall Tier II Championship awards are awarded based on the scores of all Tier II or Tier III riders from either the Championship Round or the Tier II Championship Round.
 4. The overall Tier III Championship awards are awarded based on the scores of all Tier III riders from the Preliminary Round.
 5. All Championship Rounds start with a clean slate.
 6. Scores from any Preliminary Rounds do not carry over.
- F. Jump Off Round
1. If required, upon completion of the Championship round a Jump Off Round will be offered to any horse and rider combinations tied for first place for the overall Championship awards or the overall Tier II Championship awards.
 2. All other ties will remain tied.
- G. Show Management and the USHJA reserve the right to amend the schedule and/or format based on the individual host event.

VI. Tie Breaking Procedures

- A. All ties in the Preliminary Rounds will remain tied.
1. Prize money will be split evenly.
 2. Duplicate ribbons and coolers (if applicable) will be ordered and distributed.
 3. Entries that remain tied will determine amongst themselves how the awards that are available at the time of presentations will be distributed.
- B. Any horse and rider combinations tied for first place in the overall Championship, or the overall Tier II Championship, will be offered the opportunity to compete in a Jump Off Round to break the tie.
1. If all of the exhibitors involved in the tie agree not to jump off, they will be named Co-Champions. Prize money will be split evenly and tied exhibitors will determine amongst themselves how to distribute awards that are available at the time of presentation.
 2. If any of the tied exhibitors declines to jump off, they will be placed accordingly, dependent on the number of exhibitors involved in the tie. A forfeiture agreement will be presented for signatures at that time.
- C. All ties other than first place in the Championship Round 3'3'3" and Championship Round 3'6"/3'9" will remain tied.
1. Prize money will be split evenly.
 2. Duplicate ribbons and coolers (if applicable) will be ordered and distributed.
 3. Entries that remain tied will determine amongst themselves how the awards that are available at the time of presentations will be distributed.
- D. All ties in the overall Tier III Championship will remain tied.
1. Prize money will be split evenly.
 2. Duplicate ribbons and coolers (if applicable) will be ordered and distributed.
 3. Entries that remain tied will determine amongst themselves how the awards that are available at the time of presentations will be distributed.



VII. Orders of Go

- A. The order of go for all Preliminary Rounds will be determined using a random draw within each height section.
- B. The order of go for the Championship Round will be determined using a random draw within each height section.
- C. 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 between horses (if available).

VIII. Judging System

- A. The Championship will be judged by six USEF Licensed “R” judges. Judges are required to be in good standing with the USEF and USHJA.
- B. See GR1304 for Judging restrictions.
- C. The Championship will be judged on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going.
- D. The Championship will use the open numerical scoring system. Duplicate scores are allowed.
- E. Number scores will be announced after each round.
- F. In all rounds, each panel of judges will award the score they feel is appropriate for each horse based on the quality of the horse and the merits of the round.
 1. Each judging panel may use only half and full point increments to determine the score.
 2. Each judging panel may give duplicate scores within the same round.
- G. Soundness
 1. Judges have the authority to disqualify a horse due to unsoundness at any time during the over fences performance.
 2. Horses are required to trot a circle on a loose rein at the end of the over fences performance.
 3. Horses may be asked to return to the ring and trot another circle at the judge’s discretion.

IX. Course Requirements for All Rounds

- A. A minimum of eight obstacles must be offered in each round of the Championship.
- B. The course must be suitable and encouraging for Green Hunters.
- C. Fence heights offered will be 3’, 3’3”, 3’6”, and 3’9”

X. Prize Money

- A. There will be guaranteed minimum prize money of \$25,000.
- B. Prize money will consist of 80% from all entry fees, 60% of all annual enrollment fees received between December 1, 2025 and August 1, 2026, and 100% of the Post Entry Fees.
- C. 70% of the total prize money will be awarded to the respective 3’/3’3” and 3’6”/3’9” Championships top 30 as follows:
 1. 3’/3’3” First Preliminary Round – 20% of total prize money
 2. 3’/3’3” Second Preliminary Round – 20 % of total prize money
 3. 3’/3’3” Championship Round – 30% of total prize money
 4. 3’6”/3’9” First Round – 30% of total prize money
 5. 3’6”/3’9” Championship Round – 40% of total prize money
- D. 20% of the prize money will be awarded 1st through 10th place in the Tier II Championship Results.



- E. 10% of the prize money will be awarded 1st through 10th place in the Tier III Championship Results.
- F. Prize money percentages will be calculated on the gross amount and will be distributed through 30th as follows:

1 st place	25.00%	16 th place	1.30%
2 nd place	17.70%	17 th place	1.23%
3 rd place	10.35%	18 th place	1.15%
4 th place	6.50%	19 th place	1.05%
5 th place	4.80%	20 th place	0.90%
6 th place	4.10%	21 st place	0.85%
7 th place	3.60%	22 nd place	0.80%
8 th place	3.00%	23 rd place	0.75%
9 th place	2.65%	24 th place	0.70%
10 th place	2.45%	25 th place	0.65%
11 th place	1.82%	26 th place	0.55%
12 th place	1.70%	27 th place	0.55%
13 th place	1.55%	28 th place	0.55%
14 th place	1.40%	29 th place	0.55%
15 th place	1.35%	30 th place	0.55%

- G. Any ties for 30th place will receive 0.55% of the gross amount as their prize money.
- H. All prize money will be paid within 30 days of the competition.

XI. HOTY Points

- A. The Championship will count towards National and Zone HOTY points, or money won awards.
1. National Horse of the Year points/money are awarded to each horse's respective Green Hunter height section.
 2. Horses will be awarded both HOTY points, and the value of their money won for their Green Hunter section, toward the appropriate HOTY and money won standings.
 3. Money won from the overall Tier II and Tier III awards will also count toward the rider's money won standings.
 4. *Points may not be credited toward the HOTY awards for the Green Conformation 3'6" of the High Performance Conformation Hunters.

First and Second Rounds		Championship Tier I Round	
Place	Points	Place	Points
1 st	150	1 st	400
2 nd	140	2 nd	370
3 rd	130	3 rd	340
4 th	120	4 th	310
5 th	110	5 th	280
6 th	100	6 th	250
7 th	90	7 th	220
8 th	80	8 th	200
9 th	70	9 th	180
10 th	60	10 th	160
11 th	55	11 th	140



12 th	50	12 th	120
13 th	45	13 th	100
14 th	40	14 th	90
15 th	35	15 th	80
16 th	30	16 th	70
17 th	25	17 th	60
18 th	20	18 th	50
19 th	15	19 th	40
20 th	10	20 th	30

XII. USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Championship Ground Jury (Ground Jury)

- A. The Ground Jury will consist of the Competition Manager or Licensee, the Championship Liaison, at least two representatives from the USHJA IHD and Incentive Task Force, one Steward, and one Judge. All individuals must be present at the Championship and be Senior Active or Life members in good standing of USHJA and USEF. Ground Jury members may not have a horse or rider competing in the Championship. The Ground Jury will hear any questions raised during the Championship regarding the conduct of the competition. The decision of the Ground Jury is final and binding and is not subject to further appeal of any kind.

XIII. USHJA Contact Information

- A. If questions arise pertaining to the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive 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:

Jennifer Osterman, Sport Department Managing Director, USHJA	(859) 225-6703
Rachel Kennedy, Co-Chair, International Hunter Derby & Incentive Task Force	(443) 878-8146
Colleen McQuay, Co-Chair, International Hunter Derby & Incentive Task Force	(940) 367-3030

Any deviations from the class specifications are not permitted without the express written permission from USHJA prior to the printing of the prize list.

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.

