



2027-2028 USHJA YOUNG PONY CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIFICATIONS

(Effective 12/1/2026 to 11/30/2027)

I. Competition Requirements

- A. The USHJA Young Pony Championships may be offered at Federation Licensed Channel I or Channel II competitions once approved by USHJA.
- B. Competition management will remit complete overall results, including prize money awarded, to USHJA and the Federation within 10 days of the conclusion of the competition.
- C. The Young Pony Championships are a featured event of the competition, and must be presented as such with regard to arena size and location, jump quality, decorations, footing and ring preparation, lighting, etc. The ring used must have spectator seating, a quality sound system, and a dedicated announcer.
- D. Entry fee shall be determined by competition management.
- E. Pre-entries may be made in an individual class or full section. However, management will determine the policy for fees, scratches, and refunds.
- F. **A nomination fee of \$50 per pony competing in the hunter classes and \$50 per pony competing in the jumper classes will be collected and remitted to USHJA.**

II. Membership and Participation Requirements

- A. Riders, owners, and trainers must be current Active/Competing members of USEF and USHJA on or before the first day of the competition.
- B. Ponies must be recorded with the USEF and registered with USHJA on or before the first day of the competition.
- C. Classes are open to ponies not exceeding 14.2 hands. Owners must possess a current measurement card or valid measurement form issued by the Federation.
 - a. **Small ponies must not exceed 12.2 hands**
 - b. **Medium ponies must not exceed 13.2 hands**
- D. **Age of pony must be verified in accordance with Federation policies and procedures prior to competing see HU133.5 and JP117.1.**
- E. Ponies must be handled by junior exhibitors in all phases of a class, except in the Adults on Hunter Ponies 7 & Under Section.

YOUNG HUNTER PONY

III. Division of Classes

- A. 5 Year Olds & Under: For ponies not competing in the 4 & 5 Year Olds over fences classes.

1. This division will consist of one model class, one under saddle class, and an under saddle class to be made up of 30% conformation.
 2. All classes in this section will receive full points when calculating division champion and reserve.
 3. Ponies who compete in the 5 Year Olds and Under section may compete in the Adults On Ponies in the Model and Under Saddle classes ONLY.
- B. The following divisions will consist of one model, two over fences classes, and one under saddle class.
1. Hunter Pony 4 & 5 Year Olds 2'
 2. Hunter Pony 4 & 5 Year Olds 2' or 2'3"
 - i. 2' height is restricted to small ponies for this section.
 3. Hunter Pony 6 & 7 Year Olds 2'
 4. Hunter Pony 6 & 7 Year Olds 2', 2'3" or 2'6" (exhibitor's choice)
 - i. Fence height to jump must be declared prior to the start of the division.
 - ii. Ponies may not compete at both 2'3" and 2'6" within this section.
 - iii. 2' height is restricted to small ponies for this section.
- C. Adults on Ponies 7 & Under
1. Fences to be set at 2', 2'3", or 2'6" (exhibitor's choice). Fence heights will be combined. Fence height to be declared prior to the start of competition.
 2. Division will consist of one under saddle, two over fences, and one model class. Points not to count toward Overall YHPC Grand Champion.
 3. Open to Adult Amateur or Professional riders 18 & over. USHJA reserves the right to divide the section into Professional and Non-Pro if sufficient entries.
 4. Adults may compete on more than one pony; however, each pony may only compete at one height.
 5. The Adults on Ponies section is open to stallions, mares, or geldings.
 6. In the Model class the same handler must present the pony in all phases of the class, including the jog and the lineup.
- D. Ponies are restricted to competing in 2 divisions with a Junior rider but may additionally compete in the Adults on Ponies with an Adult rider. Ponies competing over fences may compete in both divisions within their age group.
- E. In the sections for 4 & 5 Year Olds over fences (2' and 2'3"), simple lead changes are allowed.

IV. Prize Money and Awards

- A. Prize money must meet the minimum requirement of \$500 per class, except the model which will award \$250.

Prize money must be paid to the sixth place as follows:

1st \$165	4th \$55
2nd \$110	5th \$50
3rd \$75	6th \$45

Model prize money must be paid to the sixth place as follows:

1st \$82.50	4th \$27.50
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2nd \$55 5th \$25
 3rd \$37.50 6th \$22.50

- B. If there are less than six entries in the class, any remaining prize money not awarded may be split and awarded equally to all entrants that place in the class.
- C. Awards will be presented at the discretion of the USHJA and include 1st through the 8th place.
- D. A Champion and Reserve Champion for each section and also an Overall High Point Champion will be awarded according to the following point system:

5 & Under Section- All 3 classes	
1st	10
2nd	6
3rd	4
4th	3
5th	2
6th	1.5
7th	1
8th	0.5

All Over Fences Sections		
Placing	Model	O/F & U/S
1st	5	10
2nd	3	6
3rd	2	4
4th	1.5	3
5th	1	2
6th	0.75	1.5
7th	0.5	1
8th	0.25	0.5

- E. Any section with half as many or fewer entries than the largest Over Fences section will receive half points toward Overall Grand Champion.
- F. Only those ponies that placed in the top four in either of the over fences classes shall be considered for Division Champion and Division Reserve Champion. Any ties for Champion or Reserve Champion shall be broken by the Senior Judge
- G. Points from no more than two Junior rider sections shall count toward Overall Grand Champion.

H. Special Awards:

1. Leading Owner – to be determined by total points in the sections with Juniors to ride.
2. Leading Breeder – to be determined by total points in the sections with Juniors to ride.
3. Leading Trainer – to be determined by total points in the sections with Juniors to ride.
4. Get of Sire – entries must nominate their stallions by the nomination closing date indicated on the USHJA website (www.ushja.org/yhpc). Nomination fees is \$20 per stallion. Award to be determined by the total number of points accumulated by a stallion's offspring in sections with Juniors to ride.
5. Produce of Dam – entries must nominate their mare(s) by the nomination closing date indicated on the USHJA website (www.ushja.org/yhpc). Nomination fees is \$20 per mare. Award to be determined by the total number of points accumulated by a mare's offspring in sections with Juniors to ride.
6. Style Award – Awarded to the best turned out pony and Junior rider combination as determined by the judges.
7. Best Child Rider – those wishing to be considered for the Best Child Rider award must enter and pay the nominating fee of \$20 on or prior to the start of the championship. Eligible riders shall wear an armband to indicate participation. Winner shall be selected by the judges.

V. **Judging Requirements**

- A. See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions.
- B. To be judged on performance, soundness and conformation, suitability and manners.
- C. Conformation to count for 30% in the second under saddle class in the 5 Year Olds & Under division.
- D. Conformation to count for 30% in the second over fences class.
- E. An open numerical judging system must be used.
- F. Ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Ponies will be jogged for soundness at the conclusion of the over fences rounds. At the discretion of management, ponies may be jogged for soundness in hand or complete a trot circle on a loose rein under tack.
- G. The announcer or ringmaster will line up entries before awarding the ribbons.
- H. In the divisions for 4 & 5 Year Olds over fences, simple lead changes are allowed.

YOUNG JUMPER PONY

VI. **4-Year-Old Section– Style and Jumping Championship**

- A. **Each pony 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, ponies will have a one-minute unjudged flat prior to their round and they may not begin their course**

until the scores for the previous pony are announced. Ponies 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.

B. Tack and Equipment

1. 4-Year-Old ponies 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 until the completion of the 4-Year-Old Final.
3. 4-Year-Old ponies must adhere to the boot specifications listed in the USEF Rulebook for Sections/Classes Restricted by Age of Horse (JP117.2)

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 ponies being ridden by the same rider, the order will be adjusted to separate those rides to the best of our ability.

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

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

1. Simple courses.

- a. First Qualifier height: 0.60-0.65m, not to exceed 0.70m
- b. Final height: 0.65m, not to exceed 0.70m
- c. Rounds conducted under Table II (Clear Round)
- d. Rounds will be scored on both jumping faults and style points
- e. 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. The horse with the highest cumulative style scores from the First Qualifier and the Final will receive the 4-Year-Old Style High Score Award.

VII. 5-Year-Old Section– Style and Jumping Championship

- A. 5-Year-Old ponies that compete in the 5-Year-Old Style and Jumping Championship are not eligible for the 5-Year-Old Championship.
- B. Each pony 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, ponies may not begin their course until the scores for the previous horse are announced. Ponies 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).
- 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 ponies being ridden by the same rider, the order will be adjusted to separate those rides to the best of our ability.
- D. A pony must complete one of the rounds in order to be eligible for overall standings.
- E. First Qualifier and Final (All ponies who competed in the First Qualifier are eligible for the Final)
 - 1. Simple courses.
 - a. First Qualifier height: 0.60-0.65m, not to exceed 0.70m
 - b. Final height: 0.65m, not to exceed 0.70m
 - c. Rounds conducted under Table II (Clear Round)

- d. Rounds will be scored on both jumping faults and style points
- e. 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
- 3. If a horse is eliminated in any round of competition, they will receive a score of zero in both the Style and Jumping categories.
- 4. Champion and Reserve will be named according to total scores (Jumping and Style).
- 5. 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. 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. The horse with the highest cumulative style scores from the First Qualifier and the Final will receive the 5-Year-Old Style High Score Award.

VIII. Championship Schedule

- A. 5-, 6-, and 7-Year-Old Sections will run as follows:
 - 1. First Qualifier
 - a. Start Order: random draw, grouped by jump height.
 - b. Format: Table II (Clear Round). The first round is decided by adding

together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. Horses with clear rounds or equal faults remain equal.

2. Final

- a. Faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. Any competitor that has no faults after the first round will, without leaving the ring, upon an audible signal, commence the designated jump-off course.
- b. If there are no competitors without cumulative faults and a tie exists for first place, the results will be determined by the cumulative scores and time from the Final round.
- c. Format: Table II Sec 2. b.

B. 5-Year-Old Section

1. 5-Year-Old ponies that compete in the 5-Year-Old Style and Jumping Championship are not eligible for the 5-Year-Old Championship.
2. Fence Height: 0.60-0.65m, not to exceed 0.70m (Small, Medium and Large)

C. 6-Year-Old Section

1. Fence Height: 0.70-0.75m, not to exceed 0.80m (Medium and Large)
 - a. Small ponies must compete Fence Heights: .60m-.65m, not to exceed 0.70m

D. 7-Year-Old Section

1. Fence Height: 0.80-0.85m, not to exceed 0.90m (Large)
 - a. Small ponies must compete Fence Heights: .60m-.65m, not to exceed 0.70m
 - b. Medium Ponies must compete Fence Heights: .70m-.75m, not to exceed 0.80m

IX. General Championship Information

- A. No pony that was eliminated in the First Qualifier is eligible for the Final.
- B. Ponies that are not allowed to compete in the Final Round and are not eligible for overall standings.
- C. In the event of ponies 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.
- D. 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 competition management to change riders.
- E. Tack and Equipment for 5-7-Year-Olds jumper class entries:
 1. 5-7-year-olds are required to follow USEF rule JP111.

X. Scoring for 5-, 6-, and 7-Year-Old Championship

- A. Table II (Clear Round) Qualifier class standings will be decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. Horses with clear rounds or equal faults remain equal.
- B. The Top 15 horses, including ties, with the least number of cumulative faults will return for the first round of the Final Table II Sec 2. b.
- C. Class placings will determine Section Champion and Reserve. Points will be awarded according to the table below.

1. JP 110.2

<u>Placing</u>	<u>Qualifier Round Points</u>	<u>Final Round Points</u>
<u>1st</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>2nd</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>3rd</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>4th</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>5th</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>6th</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>1</u>

- D. Standings after the Final will determine the Section Champion and Reserve Champion of each age category. In the event of a tie, the fastest jump-off time will decide the winner.
- E. Grand Champion of all ages will be determined by class standings utilizing the Table above. In the event of a tie, the fastest jump-off time will decide the winner.

XI. Prize Money and Awards

- A. Prize money must meet the minimum requirement of \$500 per Class.
- B. Prize money must be paid to the sixth place as follows: (unless otherwise specified, see X.C.1.b.)
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>1st 33%</u> | <u>4th 11%</u> |
| <u>2nd 22%</u> | <u>5th 10%</u> |
| <u>3rd 15%</u> | <u>6th 9%</u> |
- C. For the 5-, 6-, and 7-Year Olds. Style and Jumping Championships, see Section IV and V.
1. Qualifiers conducted under Table II:
- Blue Ribbons to all clear rounds.
 - Prize money will be evenly distributed between all clear rounds. If there are no clear rounds, then no prize money will be given.
2. Final
- Ribbons Champion to 8th
3. Section Champion and Reserve
- Neck ribbon to Champion and Reserve
 - Cooler and Trophy to Champion

- D. *If there are less than six entries in the class, any remaining prize money not awarded will be split and awarded equally to all entrants that place in the class.*

XII. Judging Requirements

- A. *See GR 1304 for Judging restrictions.*
B. *Stallions are prohibited from competition.*
C. *An open numerical judging system must be used for style classes.*
D. *Ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Soundness: see JP 102.5.*

XIII. USHJA Contact Information

Please contact the following USHJA representatives if questions arise pertaining to the USHJA Young Hunter Pony Championships that cannot be answered by the Show Steward or Management based on the class specifications provided.

Jennifer Day – USHJA Sport Programs Senior Coordinator (859) 217-6722

Oliver Brown – Chair of Young Hunter Pony Task Force (540) 229-7752

The USHJA Young Hunter Pony Championship 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 Hunter Pony Championships as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity.

Any deviations from the specifications for the USHJA Young Hunter Pony Championship 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.

