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### Rule Change Intent

This rule change proposal modifies the Opportunity Class model for hunter/jumper competitions to ensure that these same entry-level and affordable opportunities can be offered at Regular licensed hunter/jumper competitions thereby increasing access to the sport.

### Proponent Details

**Competitions Task Force**

### Contact Information

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### Linked Rules

GR 310 (044-22)

### Committee Actions

- Competition Management
- Jumper
- National Hunter Committee
GR821 Opportunity Classes

1. Opportunity Classes:
   a. may be held at breed restricted or Hunter and/or Hunter Jumper competitions with no FEI recognized classes, Western Dressage competitions, Western Regular or Local Competitions. Classes must be open to all breeds unless it is a breed restricted competition. In a breed restricted competition it must be stated in the prize list if the classes will be restricted or open. Exception: At any Federation Licensed Competition, opportunity classes may not be restricted to Friesians.
   b. are limited to 10% of the total number of the competition’s classes, with a maximum of 20 Opportunity Classes per competition, whichever is less (Exception: Dressage).
   c. Dressage Competitions and Regular/Local Competitions with “Open” Dressage classes are limited to 20 Dressage Opportunity Classes per day. The 10% requirement does not apply to Dressage.
   d. may be held in addition to Exhibition Classes.

2. Opportunity Classes:
   a. do not count towards Horse of the Year Awards and the results from Opportunity Classes may not be used by any entity for a national awards program. Only with permission of the respective recognized affiliate organization may results from Opportunity Classes be used for regional awards.
   b. cannot be used as a qualifying class for any championship class held at the competition except an Opportunity Class championship at the competition.
   c. cannot be considered in reckoning Competition Championships awarded on points except an Opportunity Class championship at the competition.
   d. do not count towards the minimum number of classes nor amount of prize money offered when determining the rating of the competition.
   e. Dressage classes may be offered as Opportunity classes at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with “Open” Dressage classes as described below:
      […]
   f. Breed restricted Dressage classes can be offered as opportunity classes at Regular/Local breed restricted competitions.
   g. Opportunity Classes for Hunter/Jumper/Equitation Divisions
      1. Opportunity Classes are for entry level riders.
      2. May be held at Federation regular or local rated competitions.
      3. All Opportunity classes and divisions sections must have fences 2'6” or below.
      4. Any rider that has shown in a Zone pointed division, such as a children’s hunter division is not eligible.

45. Any rider that has, in the last ten (10) years, competed in any rated hunter section or an Equitation class with a National year-end final is not eligible to compete in any Opportunity classes or sections. shown in a regular division (such as regular ponies) is not eligible.
56. All rules and regulations in section GR821 should be followed, except GR821.7 (no crossing over into rated divisions) riders are not permitted to cross-enter into any non-Opportunity classes.
6. Horses may cross-enter into non-Opportunity classes if the competition prize list allows. If cross-entry is permitted, all applicable fees and membership requirements apply.
7. A maximum of five hundred dollars ($500.00) in prize money (including the value of any in-kind awards) may be paid across all Opportunity classes at the competition.