

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	9/21/2022	

## 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)

## Comments

## 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.***