

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	

## Rule Change Intent

The USHJA Young Jumper Task Force recommends this rule change because it would allow young jumpers to jump the height they need and allow for them to develop at an individual pace with courses designed for young horses. This change would also allow for horses to move up and down heights during the week.

## Proponent Details

USHJA

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## JP109 Nominating Fees

Nominating Fees. A nominating fee may be charged for either the Jumper Division or for each Jumper Section, but not both. Exceptions:

1. An additional nominating fee may be charged for the highest prize money class at the show. If this fee is for a class offering \$25,000 or more in prize money, the total amount of Entry and Nominating fees assessed must not exceed 2% of prize money per JP151.6.
2. ***Nominating Fees may not be charged for Young Jumper classes or sections.***

## JP117 Young Jumpers Sections/Classes Restricted by Age of Horse

1. Eligibility. Age restricted classes are open only to horses recorded with the Federation and age verified in accordance with Federation Policies and Procedures. Age can be verified only through the following identification documents:
  - a. Registration papers, Certificate of Pedigree or passport issued by a breed or sport horse registry approved by the Federation.
  - b. Horse Identification Document issued by a breed or sport horse registry approved by the Federation that states the registered name of the horse, the registration number of the horse and age of the horse.
2. Boots: The total maximum weight of equipment allowed to be added to a horse's leg, front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings etc.), is 350g (shoe excluded).
  - a. Hind Boots: Non-weighted non-performance enhancing (any boot that does anything but protect the horse's leg/ankle will be considered performance enhancing) hind ankle boots are permitted for horses entered in classes restricted to ~~4-, Five 5-, Six 6-, or Seven 7-~~ 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-olds while in age restricted competition or preparing for the age restricted class. No other hind boots are permitted for horses entered in age restricted classes during those times. All hind leg protections must have a maximum interior length of 16 cm; the width of the fastener must be at least five cm. The following criteria must be respected in relation to hind boots worn in classes restricted by age of horse:
    1. The inside of the protection must be smooth, that is, the surface must be even and there may not be any pressure points on the inside of the boot; sheepskin linings are allowed.
    2. Only non-elastic Velcro-type fasteners are permitted; no hooks, buckles, clips or other methods of attaching the fasteners may be used;
    3. The rounded rigid part of the protection must be placed on the inside of the fetlock;
    4. No additional elements may be added to or inserted in the boot itself, other than a protective flap, providing it is soft and clearly intended for protection only.
3. ***0.90m Young Jumper:***
  - a. ***Open to horses that meet 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses cannot have shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.10m or higher.***
  - b. ***Classes will be scored under Table II (all clear rounds stay equal).***
  - c. ***Fences to be set at 0.90-0.95m. Speed of 300 m/m.***
  - d. ***Classes can be run concurrently, but the course must follow the .90m Young Jumper course requirements.***
4. ***1.00m Young Jumper:***
  - a. ***Open to horses that meet 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses cannot have shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.20m or higher.***
  - b. ***Classes will be scored under Table II (all clear rounds stay equal).***
  - c. ***Fences to be set at 1.00-1.05m. Speed of 300 m/m.***
  - d. ***Classes can be run concurrently, but the course must follow the 1.00m Young Jumper***

**course requirements.**

5. ~~Five Year-Old~~ **1.10m Young Jumper:**
  - a. Open to horses that meet ~~4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age~~ **eligibility** requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses ~~competing in classes restricted to Five Year-Olds~~ cannot have ~~ever~~ shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.25m or higher.
  - b. Classes will be scored under Table II. (all clears stay equal). ~~After July 1, classes may be scored under Table II, Sec 2 a, b, or d.~~
  - c. ~~Before July 1, Courses to be set at 1.10- m to 1.15m. After July 1 courses must be set at 1.15-1.20 m. Speed of 325 m/m.~~
6. ~~Six Year-Old~~ **1.20m Young Jumper:**
  - a. Open to horses that meet ~~5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age~~ **eligibility** requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses ~~competing in classes restricted to Six Year-Olds~~ cannot have ~~ever~~ shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.35m or higher.
  - b. Classes may be scored under Table II, (all clears staying equal); or Table II Section 1 or 2a, b, or d.
  - c. ~~Before July 1, Courses to be set at 1.20- m to 1.25m. After July 1, courses must be set at 1.25-1.30 m. Speed of 350 m/m.~~
7. ~~Seven Year-Old~~ **1.30m Young Jumper:**
  - a. Open to horses that meet ~~6-, or 7-year-old age~~ **eligibility** requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses ~~competing in classes restricted to Seven Year-Olds~~ cannot have ~~ever~~ shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money held at the National or High Performance Standard.
  - b. Classes may be scored under Table II, Section 1 or 2 a, b, or d.
  - c. ~~All year, Courses to be set at 1.30- m to 1.35m. Speed 350 m/m.~~
8. Course Requirements
  - a. General for all ages:
    1. Before July 1, all courses must be set in ascending height and the first jump of the course and the first element of any combination must be set 5cm lower than the lowest height permissible under the rule for the age category.
    2. There should be at least two changes of direction, preferably more.
    3. The first obstacle should be inviting, not difficult (i.e. no blind corners).
  - b. ~~Five Year-Old~~ **0.90m, 1.00m, 1.10m Young Jumpers**
    1. All courses must be basic and straight forward.
    2. Obstacles must be inviting.
    3. Before July 1, all courses must be set in ascending height and the maximum height cannot be used in the first 30% of the course.
    4. The first fence and the first element of any combination must be set 5cm lower than the height specified for the class.
    5. Combinations cannot be used before fence number four.
    6. Triple combinations cannot be included before July 1. **Triple combinations are not permitted in any 0.90m or 1.00m Young Jumper courses.**
    7. Only one spread obstacle may be included in ~~any per~~ combination. ~~before July 1.~~
    8. A Liverpool cannot be used as part of a combination.
    9. If a Liverpool is used, it must be used as an option. When using a Liverpool at a vertical, the rails must be in the center. When using a Liverpool at an oxer, the front edge of the Liverpool must be in line with the front element of the oxer.
    10. Three (3) stride lines cannot be used before July 1.
    11. Flower boxes or ground rails ~~can~~ **should** be used in front of ~~verticals~~ **obstacles** to encourage a visual aid.



12. Normal distances should be used in related lines, whether straight or bending.
  13. The fill must be consistent in each element **A, B, and C** of the combination and must not be a solid or visual distraction.
  14. Indoor arenas: Whenever possible, obstacles should not be placed directly on the wall.
- c. Six Year Old 1.20m Young Jumpers**
1. Before July 1, all courses must be set in ascending height and the maximum fence height cannot be used in the first 30% of the course.
  2. Triple combinations may only include one spread obstacle before July 1.
  3. Water jumps cannot exceed 11' (3.30m) and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing side. Water jumps should be in the second half of the course, and another obstacle must be offered as an option. The rail must be judged and if the lath is also judged, it must be marked on the course.
  4. A Liverpool cannot be used as part of a combination.
- d. Seven Year Old 1.30m Young Jumpers**
1. If a Liverpool is used in a combination, it may only be used as the first element, and may not be used before July 1.
  2. Water jumps cannot exceed 12' (3.60 m) and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing side, and another obstacle must be offered as an option.
9. Restrictions. See also specific restrictions in each age category above.
- ~~Horses competing in Five, Six, or Seven Year Old jumper classes are restricted from cross entering into any class at the same competition that is more than 10 centimeters higher than their respective age group's maximum height. For example, if a horse is jumping in a Five Year Old Jumper class at 1.20m (after July 1st), they may enter classes up to 1.30m, but not higher.~~
- a. **Horses may only compete in one Young Jumper height section each competition day.**
  - b. **4-year-olds may only compete in Young Jumper classes up to and including 1.10m.**
  - c. **5-year-olds may only compete in Young Jumper classes up to and including 1.20m.**
10. ~~Classes for age groups may be combined and run as one class when there are less than 4 in a given age height category. When classes are combined (see JP123.1.c), each age category must jump the height specified for that age category. Course guidelines, class specifications, and scoring must conform to those specified for the youngest age lowest height section jumping in the combined class.~~
11. ~~Classes for age groups may be combined with an open jumper class held at the same height. Course requirements, class specifications, and scoring must conform to those specified for the youngest age lowest height section jumping in the combined class.~~
- 12. National and Zone Horse of the Year points**
- a. Horses may compete in age restricted classes in the month of December but they will not be eligible for HOTY points (GR 1134.2).
  - b. **Horses will receive National and Zone HOTY points in the height section they competed in.**
13. Special Competitions. Exceptions to any of the above listed conditions may be made only with the permission of the Federation Jumping Sport Committee prior to the printing of the prize list. ~~For complete specifications for the USHJA Young Jumper Championship program please refer to [www.ushja.org/youngjumper](http://www.ushja.org/youngjumper).~~
14. For scheduled ~~Five, Six or Seven Year Old~~ **Young Jumper** classes, any schooling jump 1.00m or over must have a minimum of two rails, in cups, on the take-off side of the jump, regardless of whether a ground line is used. The lower rail must always be below 1.00m. See JP103.2.c.

#### JP145 Table of Jumping Faults

4. Second cumulative disobedience anywhere on course (Exception: **Young Jumper** classes **held at 1.20m or below** designated for horses five years of age and under where penalty is 4 faults)  
..... Elimination
5. Third cumulative disobedience anywhere on course in **Young Jumper** classes **held at 1.20m or below** designated for horses five years of age and under ..... Elimination

#### APPENDIX A

##### USEF JUMPER SCHOOLING RULES

5. When schooling for a **Young Jumper** ~~Five, Six, or Seven Year Old~~ class in progress, jumps in the schooling area may not exceed the height or width by more than 10cm of the jumps in the class.
20. For scheduled **Young Jumper** ~~Five, Six, and/or Seven Year Old~~ classes, any schooling jump 1m (3'3") or over must have a minimum of two rails, in cups, on the take-off side of the jump, regardless of whether a ground line is used. The lower rail must always be below 1 m (3'3").

#### GR1134 Jumpers

2. Point Tabulation. See GR1113-GR1119. 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper, 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper, 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper, 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Awards and Pony, ~~5-Year Old, 6-Year Old, and 7/8-Year Old Jumper~~ **0.90m Young Jumper, 1.00m Young Jumper, 1.10m Young Jumper, 1.20m Young Jumper, 1.30m Young Jumper** National and USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be based on the following:
5. Award Categories. Federation National awards will be given in the following categories: 1.00/1.05m Junior, 1.10/1.15m Junior, 1.20/1.25m Junior, 1.30/1.35m Junior, 1.40/1.45m Junior, 1.00/1.05m Amateur, 1.10/1.15m Amateur, 1.20/1.25m Amateur, 1.30/1.35m Amateur, 1.40/1.45m Amateur, Open, Pony, **0.90m Young Jumper, 1.00m Young Jumper, 1.10m Young Jumper, 1.20m Young Jumper, 1.30m Young Jumper**, Thoroughbred Jumper, Young Rider and U25. Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be given by USHJA in the following categories (see JP119 for Zone specifications): 1.00/1.05m Junior, 1.10/1.15m Junior, 1.20/1.25m Junior, 1.30/1.34m, Junior, 1.40/1.45m Junior, 1.00/1.05m Amateur, 1.10/1.15m Amateur, 1.20/1.25m Amateur, 1.30/1.35m Amateur, 1.40/1.45m Amateur, Pony, Young Riders, U25 and Thoroughbred Jumper. National awards will be offered in two awards channels as follows: