

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	12/1/2022	9/21/2021	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

In early 2021, USEF President, Tom O'Mara, appointed the Competition Task Force to analyze all aspects of competition calendar management and address any existing issues identified through that process as expeditiously as possible to ensure that members have a calendar of events that meet their needs and those of their horses. Throughout the process, it became evident that there was a need for some proposals to be deemed as Extraordinary to meet the responsibility assigned to the task force. This proposal supports the rule changes approved by the USEF Board on August 30, 2021. These latest proposals are necessary to properly support the competition structure changes which address the need to increase access to USEF competitions and value for members. The expeditious application of these modifications will permit the Federation to fulfill its duty to responsibly manage the competition calendar and address members' requests to increase accessibility and enhance the value propositions offered by USEF competitions. This will alleviate the current hardship identified by members regarding their ability to participate in USEF competitions and benefit from the USEF framework of organized sport with protections for horses and humans.

## Rule Change Intent

To clarify how hunter sections may be combined and/or divided and how prize money offering and distribution is affected accordingly under the USEF Board-approved Hunter/Jumper competition and award channel restructure initiated by the approved rule change to GR307 (Tracking #209-20). These proposed changes seek to offer competition organizers added flexibility to better meet the needs of exhibitors and support the competition structure changes were that created to address the needs and priorities identified by members and competitors:

- Safety, fairness, and enjoyment
- Accessibility based on location, cost, and offerings
- The opportunity to attend well-organized, appropriate quality competitions at all levels that comply with standards
- Meaningful recognition for horses and athletes at all levels
- Simplification of the sport

These changes are intended to take effect with the 2023 competition year.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
Competition Management

Council - Member Services
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National Hunter Committee
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## **SUBCHAPTER HU-1 DEFINITIONS**

### **HU100 Horse Welfare**

1. The following acts are prohibited:
  - a. Riding an exhausted horse.
  - b. Excessive pressuring of a tired horse.
  - c. Riding or lunging an obviously lame horse.
  - d. Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, aisle, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds. The use of a whip must be for a good reason, done at the appropriate time, in the proper place and with appropriate restraint. Excessive whipping will not be tolerated.
  - e. Any striking of the horse's head (on the poll or forward of the poll) shall be deemed excessive.
  - f. Repeated jerking on the reins and sawing on the bit unless applied to an unruly horse that is jeopardizing his own safety or the safety of his rider.
  - g. Improper use of the bit resulting in bleeding, broken skin or broken mucous membrane.
  - h. Excessive use of the spurs or spurring resulting in broken and bleeding skin.
  - i. Rapping the legs of a horse with the butt end of a riding crop or other implement.
  - j. Use of any substance to induce temporary heat causing hyper-sensitization.
  - k. Poling.
  - l. Use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jumps.
  - m. Use of electronic shock devices in schooling or showing.
  - n. Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices, with the exception of kicking chains while the horse is in the stall or in transport. This does not prohibit the use of rubber or plastic exercising devices.
  - o. Showing a horse with hypersensitive, raw or bleeding sores around the corneas, pasterns, legs or body.
  - p. Use of laser beam devices anywhere on the competition grounds, except in an exhibition or if required in class specifications. (Exception: Lasers used in a therapeutic manner).
  - q. Withholding of feed or water for prolonged periods.
  - r. Letting blood from a horse for other than diagnostic purposes.
  - s. Inhumane treatment of a horse in a stall, aisle, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, by any person.
  - t. Use of any device capable of emitting a flame or spark in and around the schooling/warm-up and competition rings during scheduled competition sessions.
  - u. Use of any attention getting device that emits a spray, mist, or fog while competing in the ring, such as an aerosol can or spray bottle.
2. ~~Regular and local competitions.~~ Competitors found to be in violation of these rules by the Competition Steward or other Federation Official shall be eliminated/disqualified from competing within the upcoming 24-hour period and shall forfeit all entry fees for such competition. In addition, after consultation between Competition Management, the Steward, or other official involved, and a Senior Judge in the division, additional penalties including disqualification from the balance of the competition may be imposed. All such violations must be recorded in the Steward's Report and, if cruelty or abusive behavior is evident, it will be reviewed by the Federation for such action as may be deemed appropriate to the particular circumstances.

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### **HU111 Height of Obstacles**

When a range of fence heights is allowed in a class or section, the minimum height must be used unless a higher

height is specified in the prize list. In all cases, the spread of jump may not exceed height and must be measured including flowers, brush and ground lines.

1. Green Hunter Sections:
  - a. Green Hunter 3'0"
  - b. Green Hunter 3'3"
  - c. Green Hunter 3'6"
  - d. Green Hunter 3'9"(Exception: Fences may be a maximum of 3" lower in Zones 11 and 12)
2. Young Hunter Sections:
  - a. Young Hunter 5 and under – 2'9"
  - b. Young Hunter 6 and under – 3'0"
  - c. Young Hunter 7 and under – 3'3"
3. High Performance Hunter: 4' minimum in **Premier** rated sections at Premier rated competitions; 3'9" minimum in **National** rated sections at National rated competitions, and in **Regional rated** sections at **Regional rated competitions**. Obstacles may not exceed 4'6". (Exception: Fences may be a maximum of 3" lower in Zones 11 and 12) **BOD 8/30/21 Effective 12/1/22**
4. Performance Hunter 3'3"
5. Performance Hunter 3'6"
6. Green Conformation Hunter 3'6"
7. High Performance Conformation Hunter: 3'9"
8. Amateur Owner Hunter Sections:
  - a. Obstacles at National and Premier rated competitions must be 3'6"
  - b. Obstacles at competitions in Zones 11 and 12 may be 3'3" or 3'6"
  - c. If a 3'3" Amateur Owner Hunter Section is offered, obstacles are to be 3'3"
  - d. If a competition offers both 3'3" and 3'6" Amateur Owner Hunter sections, regardless of the competition's rating, the obstacles must be set at 3'3" and 3'6" respectively
9. Adult Amateur Hunter Sections: See individual USHJA Zone specifications. For those USHJA Zones that do not provide specifications, obstacles will be 2'9" to 3'3". ~~No minimum height required at Local Competitions.~~
10. ~~Local Competitions: No minimum in any section.~~
11. Non-rated sections: Heights determined by competition management unless otherwise specified
12. Ladies Side Saddle Sections: 3'
13. Junior Hunter Sections:
  - a. Obstacles must be 3'6" in all classes. (Exception: Fences may be 3" lower in Zones 11 and 12 and in the Junior Hunter 3'3" section.)
  - b. No minimum height required at Local Competitions
14. Children's Hunter Sections: Obstacles will be 2' for small ponies and medium ponies; 2'6" for large ponies and 2'9" to 3'3" for horses. No minimum height required at Local Competitions.
15. Green Pony Hunter: 2'3" for small, 2'6" for medium and 2'9" for large
16. Regular Pony Hunter: 2'3" for small, 2'6" for medium and 2'9" - 3'0" for large
17. Three-Year-Old Hunter: Not to exceed 2'9"
18. Small Hunter Sections: 3'
19. Thoroughbred Hunter: 3'0"

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## **HU143 Junior Hunter 3'3" and 3'6"**

1. Riders must not have reached their 18th birthday (See GR128).
2. All horses showing in the Junior Hunter Section at Regular Competitions must have a Federation measurement card.
  - a. A large Junior Hunter is over 16 hands.
  - b. A small Junior Hunter is 16.0 hands and under.
3. Junior Hunter. In all classes manners will be emphasized and extreme speed will be penalized.
4. Conformation is not to exceed 25% in any class except a Model class. In Junior Working Hunter sections no more than 50% of the classes may be judged on conformation.

5. Show championships:
  - a. Separate Championships must be offered when all classes are divided but cannot be offered unless they are divided.
  - b. The Champion and Reserve titles are awarded to the top two of the four horses which have acquired the most points performing over a regulation course in the Junior Hunter section. In addition to these points only these horses will receive half points for ribbons won in Model classes and full points for ribbons won in Under Saddle classes if otherwise qualified. The prize list must specify which classes will count.
6. Restrictions for all Junior Hunter sections:
  - a. Stallions are prohibited from all Junior Hunter classes.
  - b. Ponies may not be entered in Junior Hunter classes if Pony Hunter classes are offered at the same competition.
  - c. Horses cannot be entered in more than one age section of the same class.
  - d. If two or more sections are offered, horses cannot be entered in more than one section.
  - e. Number of horses ridden
    1. In **Premier or National** rated Junior Hunter sections divided by age of rider only, no exhibitor may ride more than two (2) large and two (2) small Junior Hunters in any section.
    2. In **Premier or National** rated Junior Hunter sections offered by the height of horse, an exhibitor may not ride more than two (2) horses in any section. If sections offered by height of horse are combined, an exhibitor may not ride more than two (2) large and two (2) Small Junior Hunters in the combined section.
    3. In **Premier or National** rated Junior Hunter sections divided by height of horse and age of rider an exhibitor may not ride more than two (2) horses in each section.
    4. In **Regional** rated and ~~Local~~ Junior Hunter sections, no exhibitor may ride more than three (3) horses in a class.
7. Junior Hunter 3'3" restrictions:
  - a. Riders may not cross-enter into any class at 3'6" or higher in the Hunter division, higher than 3'9" in the Equitation division or higher than 1.25m in the Jumper division at the same competition.
  - b. Horses entered in the Junior Hunter 3'3" section may not cross-enter into the Junior Hunter 3'6" section at the same competition.
8. If the Junior Hunter section is split by height of animal, the horse may be shown over fences by different riders as long as they are from the same age group.
9. Any junior rider may show a Junior Hunter under saddle.
10. Junior Hunters are required to jog for soundness. **BOD 8/30/21 Effective 12/1/22**

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## **SUBCHAPTER HU-12 COMBINING AND DIVIDING OF SECTIONS OR CLASSES**

### **HU157 General**

1. ***Unless stated otherwise in Federation rules, a competition may offer sections as combined or divided. However, if originally offered as combined, but later divided, each subsequent divided section must offer the minimum amount of prize money offered in the original combined section (see HU158).***
2. Sections must be divided or combined based on the number of entries in the first over fences class and may not be combined or divided after the first class. Exception: Performance/High Performance Working Hunter, see HU162.1b.
3. No section may be divided if there are less than 30 entries with the exception of those sections required to split sections based on the number of entries for a particular fence height, horse size, or rider age section i.e.:
  - a. Exception:
    1. Green Hunter (HU162.2)
    2. Young Hunter (HU162.3)
    3. Junior Hunter (HU162.5)
    4. Amateur Owner Hunter (HU162.6)
    5. **Regional** rated Pony Hunter sections (HU162.8) **BOD 8/30/21 Effective 12/01/22**
    6. Children's and Adult Amateur Hunter sections refer to HU162.9; HU162.10 and sections governed by USHJA Zone Specifications.

- Any section with 50 or more entries at the beginning of the first class must be divided. If there are 50 or more entries remaining in a section after it has been divided, the section must be redivided by every other number. Once a section has been redivided it may not be divided further.

## HU158 Prize money

~~Prize money must be doubled—~~Whenever a section is divided, ***the prize money offered in each divided section must be the same as offered in the original section. Additionally, the prize money offered per class and per placing in each of the divided sections must be no less than the amounts offered in the original undivided section.***

## HU159 Methods of Dividing

- California Split (see HU158 below for definition)
- Random Split (see HU159 below for definition)
- Floating Split (see HU160 below for definition)
- Junior/Amateur (see HU161 below for definition)
- Size of Horse
- Age of Rider

## HU160 Definition of a California Split:

- The California Split is used to divide large classes. The judge keeps track of twice the number of placings required for either ribbons or the jog order. At the completion of the jog, the judge creates two separate orders using alternating numbers in the following manner: the highest score is first in Section A, the second highest score is first in Section B, the third highest score is second in Section A, the fourth highest score is second in Section B and so on until all placings are awarded or the jog order is complete. The result is two sections of the same class being pinned separately. Competition Management may choose to split classes using the California Split after the class has started.

Example:

Horse's Placing	Prize Awarded
1st	1st
2nd	1st
3rd	2nd
4th	2nd
5th	3rd
6th	3rd
7th	4th
8th	4th
9th	5th
10th	5th
11th	6th
12th	6th
13th	7th
14th	7th
15th	8th
16th	8th

- Jog. The judge will call one jog order of up to twenty (20) horses. Once the horses have jogged for soundness and the jog has been made official, the A and B sections will be pinned using the California Split.
- Under Saddle. A Section with twelve (12) or less must be judged as one class using the California Split. Sections that are judged under the California Split must have results for Section A and B. A random split will be used for under saddle classes of more than twelve (12).
- In reckoning Championship points, the top eight horses that receive the most points in the Over Fences classes are

awarded points for the Under Saddle and/or Model class(es). The Championship is awarded as follows: Horse with most points—Champion Number 1. Horse with second highest points— Champion Number 2. Horse with third highest points—Reserve Champion Number 1. Horse with fourth highest points—Reserve Champion Number 2.

## **HU161 Definition of a Random Split**

A random split allows management to draw horses for a section either by hand or a computer-generated draw. The number of horses in each section must be equal with a variable of one.

## **HU162 Definition of Floating Split**

A Floating Split allows management to adjust sections offered split by age in the prize list either up or down in one year increments until the minimum number of entries required for each new section has been reached. As long as the minimum requirements for splitting sections are met, management may split the sections using the age split they deem most appropriate for their competition. Rider age must be given on the entry blank.

## **HU163 Definition of Split by Junior Amateur**

If there are 30 or more entries in a section that is open to all competitors, Competition Management may choose to divide the section and offer one of the divided sections as restricted to Juniors and Amateurs (See GR128 and GR1306-GR1307 for definition of Junior and Amateur).

## **HU164 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections**

1. Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter and any sections where individual classes may be entered.
  - a. Combining
    1. At all licensed competitions, if there are fewer than six entries in either the Performance Hunter 3'3" or Performance Hunter 3'6" they must be combined, but they cannot be combined with any other Hunter sections, except High Performance Hunter. If there are six or more entries in each Performance Hunter section, they must be held separately. If the Performance Hunter 3' 6" and the Performance Hunter 3'3" sections have fewer than three entries after they have been combined they may be further combined with the High Performance Hunter section.
    2. If there are fewer than three entries in the High Performance Hunter section it must first be combined with the Performance Hunter 3'6" section or the Green Hunter 3'9" section (or with Green Hunter 3'6"/3'9" if offered combined). If the High Performance Hunter section is combined with the Performance Hunter 3'6" section it may then further be combined with the Performance Hunter 3'3" section, but may not be combined with the Green Hunter section(s).
    3. When the High Performance Hunter section is combined with the Performance Hunter section the following applies:
      - a. When combining High Performance Hunter with Performance Hunters, the combined sections must offer the same number of classes offered by the Performance Hunter section(s) with which it is combined.
      - b. When combining High Performance Hunter with another section, if different amounts of prize money or entry fees were offered in the original sections, the combined sections will use the lower amount for both prize money and entry fees.
    4. When the High Performance Hunter section is combined with the Green Hunter section the following applies:
      - a. If, after combining, there are still fewer than three entries in the combined section, it must be further combined with the Green Hunter 3'6" section
      - b. If combined Green Hunter sections have fewer than three entries, they must be combined with High Performance Working Hunter.
      - c. A horse that is eligible for more than one section must be declared and compete in only one. Horses will jump the respective height for the entered section.
      - d. When combining High Performance Working Hunter with another section, if different amounts of prize money or entry fees were offered in the original sections, the combined sections will use the lower

- amount for both prize money and entry fees.
- e. When combining a section of High Performance Hunter with either a section of Green Hunter 3'6", Green Hunter 3'9", or both, the combined sections must offer the same number of classes offered by the Green Hunter section(s) with which it is combined. In addition, a section entry fee will be required and individual classes may no longer be entered for the combined section.
  - f. The High Performance Hunter section may be combined with a combined Green Hunter 3'6"/3'9" section but may not be combined with any Green Hunter 3'3" or 3'0 sections.
- b. Dividing:
1. In Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter and any other sections where individual classes may be entered, the sections may only be divided after thirty (30) horses have competed in the first over fences class. Subsequent classes may be divided once twelve (12) horses have competed in each class. For Championships, see HU150.
2. Green Hunter
- a. Combining:
1. Green Hunter section(s) may not be combined with any other hunter section(s). (Exception; The High Performance Hunter section may be combined with the Green Hunter 3'6" and 3'9" sections, see HU162.1)
  2. Regardless of competition rating, each Green Hunter section that is offered separately must be held separately when there is a minimum of three entries.
  3. If there are fewer than three entries in a Green Hunter section, that section must be combined with a contiguous fence height section of the Green Hunter.
  4. If, after combining, there are still fewer than three (3) entries in the combined section, it must be further combined with the next contiguous fence height section of the Green Hunter.
  5. In the case where there are no entries in the fence height section that bridges the gap between the two non-contiguous fence height sections those two non-contiguous fence height sections may be combined.
  6. If **Premier or National** rated Green Hunter 3'0" and/or 3'3" sections are combined with **Premier or National** rated Green Hunter 3'6" and/or Green Hunter 3'9" sections a Handy Hunter class is not required. The combined sections must meet class number requirements for **Premier or National** rated Green Hunter 3'6" and Green Hunter 3'9" and use the lower amount for both prize money and entry fees.
  7. When the High Performance Hunter section is combined with the Green Hunter section the following applies:
    - a. If, after combining, there are still fewer than three entries in the combined section, it must be further combined with the Green Hunter 3'6" section
    - b. If combined Green Hunter sections have fewer than three entries, they must be combined with High Performance Working Hunter.
    - c. A horse that is eligible for more than one section must be declared and compete in only one. Horses will jump the respective height for the entered section.
    - d. When combining High Performance Working Hunter with another section, if different amounts of prize money or entry fees were offered in the original sections, the combined sections will use the lower amount for both prize money and entry fees.
    - e. When combining a section of High Performance Hunter with either a section of Green Hunter 3'6", Green Hunter 3'9", or both, the combined sections must offer the same number of classes offered by the Green Hunter section(s) with which it is combined. In addition, a section entry fee will be required and individual classes may no longer be entered for the combined section.
    - f. The High Performance Hunter section may be combined with a combined Green Hunter 3'6"/3'9" section but may not be combined with any Green Hunter 3'3" or 3'0 sections.
- b. Dividing:
1. Regardless of competition rating, any Green Hunter section that is offered combined must be split by fence height, and sections held separately when there is a minimum of three entries in any one fence height section provided at least three (3) entries remain in each of the other two sections, which would also be held separately, or as one other combined section. Contiguous fence height sections should be combined before combining non-contiguous fence height sections.
3. Young Hunter
- a. Combining:
1. Young Hunter section(s) may not be combined with any other Hunter section.
  2. At Competition Management's discretion, and with at least three (3) Young Hunters entered in any section,

the Young Hunter Section(s) may run concurrently with the corresponding Green Hunter height section or Combined Green Hunter Section. Horses that are entered in both the Young Hunter and Green Hunter section(s) will be eligible for awards in both sections. Horses that are not entered in both sections will only be eligible for awards in the section in which they are entered. If there are fewer than three (3) entries in any of the Young Hunter section(s) they must be combined for awards per HU162.3. A separate entry fee for the Young Hunter Section will apply. The Green Hunter section requirements by rating listed in HU162.2 will still apply.

3. Regardless of competition rating, each Young Hunter section that is offered separately must be held separately when there is a minimum of three entries. If there are fewer than three (3) entries in a Young Hunter section that section must be combined with a contiguous fence height section of the Young Hunter. If, after combining, there are still fewer than three (3) entries in the combined section, it must be further combined with the next contiguous fence height section of the Young Hunter. In the case where there are no entries in the fence height section that bridges the gap between the two non-contiguous fence height sections those two non-contiguous fence height sections may be combined.

b. Dividing:

1. Regardless of competition rating, any Young Hunter section that is offered as a combined section must be split by fence height, and sections held separately when there is a minimum of three entries in any one fence height section provided at least three (3) entries remain in each of the other two sections, which would also be held separately, or one other combined section. Contiguous fence height sections should be combined before combining non-contiguous fence height sections.

4. Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" and High Performance Conformation Hunter

a. Combining:

1. The Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" may only be combined with the High Performance Conformation Hunter. The High Performance Conformation Hunter may only be combined with the Green Conformation Hunter 3'6".
2. When offered as two sections, if there are fewer than four (4) horses in either the Green Conformation 3'6" or the High Performance Conformation section they must be combined.
3. When combining Green Conformation Hunter with High Performance Conformation Hunter, if different amounts of prize money or entry fees were offered in the original sections, the combined section will use the lower amount for both prize money and entry fees.

b. Dividing: If there are four (4) or more horses in each Conformation section they must be held separately.

5. Junior Hunter

a. Combining:

1. The Junior Hunter 3'6", Junior Hunter 3'3", Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6", and Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" sections may only be combined with other Junior Hunter or Amateur Owner Hunter sections. See below for conditions.
2. At Premier, National, **or** Regional rated competitions if there are fewer than three (3) entries in the Amateur Owner 3'3", the Amateur Owner 3'6", the Junior Hunter 3'3" or the Junior Hunter 3'6" sections, Competition Management may choose to combine the sections. The Competition Management may choose to combine the sections as necessary, based on the sections with the lightest entries. If sections are combined, the horses must jump the respective height of the original section entered. In addition, while the sections can be combined if entries warrant, in order for Horse of the Year points to count they must be offered separately in the prize list.
3. It is recommended that when competitions anticipate 50 horses or more this section be divided by age of rider or height of horse when prize list is prepared.

b. Dividing:

1. When divided, sections must be split using one of the methods from HU157 Methods of Dividing.
2. If there are 50 or more entries in the section at the beginning of the first class it must be divided and the prize money must be doubled. A section with less than 30 entries cannot be divided.
3. If there are 50 or more entries remaining in a section after it has been divided, the section must be redivided and the prize money must be doubled. Once a section has been redivided it may be divided further if management so desires.
4. If the Junior Hunter sections are divided by height of animal, they must be divided into Large and Small. **Premier** rated Junior Hunter 3'6" sections at Premier rated competitions must be offered as four sections (large/younger, large/older, small/ younger, small/older).



5. If there are six (6) or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than six (6) entries in any sections divided by age and/or height of animal, those sections must be combined with other sections. If there is a minimum of twelve (12) entries once any sections have been combined, the newly combined section must be redivided. Management may determine a cut off time for entering before redividing any section(s).
6. Amateur Owner Hunter
  - a. Combining:
    1. The Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6", Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3", Junior Hunter 3'6", and Junior Hunter 3'3" sections may only be combined with other Amateur Owner Hunter or Junior Hunter sections. See below for conditions.
    2. At Premier, National, **or** Regional rated competitions if there are fewer than three (3) entries in the Amateur Owner 3'3", the Amateur Owner 3'6", the Junior Hunter 3'3" or the Junior Hunter 3'6" sections, competition management may choose to combine the sections. The competition management may choose to combine the sections as necessary, based on the sections with the lightest entries. If sections are combined, the horses must jump the respective height of the original section entered. In addition, while the sections can be combined if entries warrant, in order for Horse of the Year points to count they must be offered separately in the prize list.
    3. At Premier, National, **or** Regional rated competitions if there are fewer than three (3) entries in the Amateur Owner 3'3", the Amateur Owner 3'6", the Junior Hunter 3'3" or the Junior Hunter 3'6" sections, these sections may be combined. The competition management may choose to combine the classes as necessary, based on the sections with the lightest entries. If sections are combined, the horses must jump the respective height of the original section entered.
  - b. Dividing:
    1. Amateur Owner 3'6" When a section is divided, one section must be offered for amateurs 18-35 and one section for amateurs over 35 years of age. If there are six or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than six entries in either divided section, they must be combined. If there are a minimum of 12 entries once the sections are combined, the newly combined section must be redivided using either a Floating or California Split. (See HU160 & HU158 for definition of a Floating and California Split.) Management may determine a cutoff time for entering before redividing any section(s). When using a floating split the age groups must be posted at the competition office. Rider age must be given on the entry blank. When divided as to age of rider no horse may compete in more than one section. These sections may be further divided by age of rider or by every other number.
    2. Amateur Owner 3'3" When a section is divided, one section must be offered for amateurs 18-35 and one section for amateurs over 35 years of age. If there are six or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than six entries in either divided section, they must be combined. If there are a minimum of 12 entries once the sections are combined, the newly combined section must be re-divided using either a Floating or California Split. (See HU160 & HU158 for definition of a Floating and California Split.) When using a floating split the age groups must be posted at the competition office. Rider age must be given on entry blank. When divided as to age of rider no horse may compete in more than one section. These sections may be further divided by age of rider or by every other number.
7. Pony Hunter
  - a. Combining:
    1. The Regular Pony Hunter Section may not be combined with any other sections.
    2. Height sections may be combined if there are three (3) or fewer entries in any height section. Combined height sections should be either small/medium or medium/large but if possible not small/large.
  - b. Dividing:
    1. Classes for Pony Hunters may be divided by height of pony as outlined in HU140.
    2. If there are 50 or more entries in the division at the beginning of the first class, it must be divided by height of pony and prize money must be doubled.
    3. If there are 50 entries remaining in a section after the section has been divided by height of pony, the section must be re-divided by every other number and the prize money must be doubled.
    4. Once a section has been re-divided it may not be divided further.
    5. If a pony under saddle class has over 30 entries, the class must be split and held in at least two sections with one set of awards.

6. If there are four (4) or more entries in each height section of an **Premier or National** rated Regular Pony Hunter section, the height sections must be held separately.
  7. If there are a minimum of 10 small/medium ponies combined and 10 large ponies in any **Regional** rated Regular or Green height Section, the height section must be divided (small/medium and large); ~~prize money need not be doubled~~. If there is a total of thirty (30) ponies, prize money must be doubled.
8. Green Pony Hunter
- a. Combining:
    1. The Green Pony Hunter Section may not be combined with any other sections.
    2. Green Pony Hunter Sections at National and Premier rated competitions may be combined if there are less than four (4) entries in any height section.
  - b. Dividing:
    1. National and Premier rated competitions must split (small, medium and large) if there are four (4) or more entries in any height section.
    2. If there are a minimum of 10 small/medium ponies combined and 10 large ponies in any **Regional** rated Regular or Green height section, the height section must be divided (small/medium and large); ~~prize money need not be doubled~~. If there is a total of thirty (30) ponies, prize money must be doubled.
9. Adult Amateur Hunter
- a. Competitions must offer Adult Amateur Hunter sections in accordance with the specifications of each USHJA Zone.
  - b. Notice of the use of a floating split and the age groups must be posted at the competition office. When divided as to age of rider no horse may compete in more than one section. Age must be given on entry blank. These sections may be further divided by age of rider or by every other number. If there are fewer than six entries in any divided section, the sections must be combined. If there are six or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately.
  - c. If there are fewer than six (6) entries in any divided section, the sections must be combined. If there are six (6) or more entries in each divided section the divided sections must be held separately.
10. Children's Hunter
- a. Children's Hunter sections must be split in accordance with applicable Zone Specifications
  - b. If there are fewer than six entries in any divided section, the sections must be combined. If there are six or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately.

[...]

## HU172 Hunter Classics

1. Any Premier, National, **or** Regional rated competition may offer a Hunter Classic.
2. Hunter Classics may be offered for any rated sections offered and held at the same competition. An Open Hunter Classic is a classic that is open to entries from multiple Hunter sections of the same rating. It is permitted for Open Hunter Classics to encompass several fence heights to correspond with the respective Hunter sections being offered. It is not permitted for an Open Hunter Classic to encompass multiple ratings. The prize list must state the specific Hunter sections that are invited to compete in the Open Hunter Classic. If a horse competes in more than one Hunter section qualifying for the Open Hunter Classic, the exhibitor must declare their point section to the Competition Secretary on a declaration form at the time of entry into the Classic. All other provisions of HU170 apply to Open Hunter Classics.
  - a. Six (6) entries are required to conduct a Hunter Classic.
  - b. If there are fewer than six (6) entries in any one Hunter Classic, it may combine with other sections of the same rating, regardless of the combining or dividing rules of the section. Exception: The Adult Amateur Hunter Classic, Low Adult Amateur Hunter Classic, Children's Pony Hunter Classic and Children's Hunter Classic and Low Children's Hunter Horse Classic may be held with the number of entries indicated in the Zone specifications. If Hunter Classics are combined and a horse is shown in more than one section qualifying for the Hunter Classic, the exhibitor must declare their point section to the Competition Secretary on a declaration form at the time of entry into the Classic.
  - c. Hunter Classics cannot be divided in any manner and held by section if there are fewer than six (6) entries in each divided section. Exception: **Premier or National** rated sections must have twelve (12) entries to divide.
3. All Hunter Classics must be conducted as a two round class. A handy hunter round may not be used as part of a Hunter Classic. A Hunter Classic may be conducted as a separate two round class or a designated Hunter class of

- the specified Hunter section may be counted as the first round of the Hunter Classic. However, the second round may not be another designated class in the Hunter section, but must be held as a separate round. If a designated class is used as a first round, each round shall count 50%.
4. At National and Premier competitions, in sections with a **National or Premier** rating, Hunter Classics conducted using either a designated Hunter class as the first round or a separate two round class must offer at least \$1000 in prize money, **except Pony Hunter Classics, Children's Hunter Classic, Adult Amateur Hunter Classic, and Low Adult Amateur Hunter Classic must offer a minimum of \$500 in prize money.** and sections with a **Regional** rating must offer at least \$500 in prize money. (Exception: Pony Hunter Classics in sections with a **Premier, National or Regional** rating must offer at least \$500 in prize money; Children's Hunter Pony **and Low Children's Hunter Horse** are not required to offer prize money). At Regional competitions, in sections with a **Regional** rating, Hunter Classics conducted using either a designated Hunter class as the first round or a separate two round class must offer at least \$250 in prize money (Exception: Children's Hunter Pony and Low Children's Hunter Horse are not required to offer prize money and if a Children's Hunter Horse and Children's Hunter Pony Classics are combined, the competition is not required to offer prize money in the combined Classic). At Premier, National, or Regional competitions, when a Hunter Classic is conducted as a separate two round class, the minimum prize money offered **is** as stated above.
  5. The entry fee may not exceed 10% of the prize money offered in the Hunter Classic.
  6. To be eligible, horses must have entered, shown and completed the course in at least two classes in the Hunter section. All horses being considered for an award must be serviceably sound and may be jogged if so stated in the prize list.
  7. A minimum of the top 12 entries, if available, or 50% of the entries in the first round, whichever is greater, will return for the second round. If a horse or pony is eliminated in the first round of competition, they may not return for the second round. If a horse/rider combination does not return for the second round or is eliminated during the second round of a classic, a score of zero will be combined with the first round score and the horse/rider combination will be placed accordingly. If possible, twelve places are to be awarded.
  8. The Hunter Classic does not count toward the minimum number of classes required for the section's rating.
  9. Bonus points will be awarded toward Horse of the Year Awards in the horse's respective section and are based on the number of horses that compete in the classic. In a Hunter Classic using a designated class of the Hunter section as the first round, the number of horses that compete in the classic is determined by the number of horses who have entered and competed in the first round of the classic, not the designated class used as the first round. In a Hunter Classic held as a separate two round class, the number of horses that compete in the classic is determined by the number of horses who compete in the first round of the classic. The bonus points are as follows:
    - a. In a Hunter Classic using a designated class as the first round, the bonus points for Zone HOTY are determined by adding one point for each entry that competes in the first round of a classic to the applicable increment in GR1131.5 and multiplying the result by 1.25.
    - b. In a Hunter Classic held as a separate two round class, the bonus points for Zone HOTY are determined by adding one point for each entry that competes in the first round of a classic to the applicable increment in GR1131.5 and multiplying the result by 1.5.
    - c. In a Hunter Classic using a designated class as the first round, the bonus points for National HOTY are determined by adding one point for each entry that competes in the classic to the applicable increment in GR1131.5 and multiplying the result by 1.75.
    - d. In a Hunter Classic held as a separate two round class, the bonus points for National HOTY are determined by adding one point for each entry that competes in the classic to the applicable increment in GR1131.5 and multiplying the result by 2.
  10. The first round of all Hunter Classics must consist of eight (8) to ten (10) obstacles in accordance with HU109. In the second round of all Hunter Classics the course must consist of a minimum of ten (10) obstacles of at least six different types.
  11. An open numerical judging system must be used. If there are multiple judging panels, one judging panel must be appointed as the tie breaker.
  12. Attire: riders are required to comply with HU107.
  13. There is no limit to the number of horses a rider may compete on in a Hunter Classic. Exception: Competitors in a Regular or Green Hunter Pony Classic may only ride two ponies per height section.
  14. The same horse/rider combination must compete in both rounds of a Hunter Classic.
  15. A horse may not compete in more than one classic per section but may compete in an open classic, a USHJA National Hunter Derby, a USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake or a USHJA International Hunter

Derby at the same competition. A horse is limited to competing in a maximum of two classics or derbies or combination of classics and derbies per competition. The USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake is considered a "Derby" for the purposes of this rule. (Exception: Leagues approved by the Federation in accordance with HJ124).

16. The same pony may not compete in the USHJA Pony Hunter Derby and the USHJA National Hunter Derby at the same competition.
17. If more than 30 horses are entered in a Junior Hunter Classic, the classic must be split in accordance with HU161.5b. *BOD 08/30/21 Effective 12/1/22*

[...]

## **SUBCHAPTER HJ-5 SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC SECTIONS**

[...]

### **HJ118 Green Hunter Sections**

1. Premier ~~and National~~ competitions offering Green Hunter must offer 3'6" and 3'9" sections separately. They may also offer Green Hunter 3'0" and Green Hunter 3'3". If all four sections are offered, they must be offered separately:
2. **Regional and National competitions may offer any or all of the Green Hunter sections either separately or combined** ~~competitions offering Green Hunter must offer all four sections separately.~~
  - a. ~~Green Hunter 3'0"~~
  - b. ~~Green Hunter 3'3"~~
  - c. ~~Green Hunter 3'6"~~
  - d. ~~Green Hunter 3'9"~~

### **HJ119 Young Hunter Sections**

1. Management may offer any or all of the Young Hunter sections either separately or combined.
2. Management may choose to offer any Young Hunter section concurrently with the Green Hunter section. See HU162.3 for conditions. *BOD 6/22/20 Effective 12/1/20*

### **HJ120 Conformation Hunter Sections**

At Premier competitions, the Conformation sections must be offered separately. At National **or** Regional competitions, the Conformation sections may be offered as combined.

### **HJ121 Amateur Owner Hunter Sections**

1. Sections of Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" held at ~~National or Premier~~ rated competitions must offer at least two (2) divided sections and may be divided as stipulated in HU162.6.b.1. **Regional and National competitions may offer any or all of the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" sections either separately or combined.**
2. Sections of Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" held at ~~National or Premier~~ rated competitions must offer at least two divided sections and may be divided as stipulated in HU162.6.b.2. **Regional and National competitions may offer any or all of the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" sections either separately or combined.**
3. In addition while the sections can be combined if entries warrant, in order for Horse of the Year points to count they must be offered separately in the prize list.

### **HJ122 Junior Hunter Sections**

1. ~~Premier or National~~ Rated 3'6" Junior Hunter Sections. At least two sections must be offered in the prize list (large/small or older/younger). **Regional and National competitions may offer any or all of the Junior Hunter 3'6" sections either separately or combined.** See GR312.6 for number of required classes and prize money. At Premier rated competitions, four 3'6" Junior Hunter sections must be offered in the prize list (large younger, large older, small younger, small older).

2. **Premier or National** Rated 3'3" Junior Hunter Sections. Junior Hunter 3'3" may not be offered unless Junior Hunter 3'6" is also offered. (Exception: USHJA Zone Championship competitions) See GR312.6 for number of required classes and prize money. If offered at a **Premier competition**, at least two sections are required to be listed in the prize list. **Regional and National competitions may offer any or all of the Junior Hunter 3'3" sections either separately or combined.**
3. Management may elect to offer four (4) classes in **Premier or National** rated sections. If four (4) classes are offered at a multiple day competition, no more than two (2) classes may be held on one day and no more than 50% of the prize money may be offered on one day.
4. **Regional** rated Sections. See GR312.6. No prize money is required.
5. Except for Medal classes, Junior Hunter over fences classes and Equitation classes over fences may be combined and held concurrently if separate judges officiate. Flat classes cannot be combined.
6. If a Model class is offered, it must be in addition to the minimum number of classes required for a section rating.  
*BOD 8/30/21 Effective 12/1/22*

## HJ123 Pony Hunter Sections

1. At a ~~National~~ or Premier rated competition, the Regular Pony Hunter section must be offered as three height sections (small, medium, and large) and the prize money must be tripled. **Regional and National competitions may offer any or all of the Regular Pony Hunter height sections either separately or combined.**
2. Competitions may offer the Green Pony Hunter Section as three separate sections (small, medium and large) **or combined**; however **Premier or National** rated Green Pony Hunter Section must be offered as a minimum of two sections (small/medium and large).
3. Competitions cannot offer more than the required amount of classes for a National or Regional † section rating. If a Model class is offered it must be in addition to the minimum number of classes required for a section rating and must be held as the first class in any section.
4. **Premier or National** Rated Sections.
  - a. **Premier or National** rated Regular and Green Pony Hunter sections may be held on one or more days. **Rated** Regular and Green pony Hunter sections at Premier rated competitions must be held over two or more days. If held in one day, four (4) performance classes must be offered. If held over two or more days, four (4) or five (5) performance classes must be offered.
  - b. A minimum of \$400 prize money must be offered in any Regular Pony Hunter section. A minimum of \$250 prize money must be offered in any Green Pony Hunter section.
  - c. **Premier or National** rated Green Pony Hunter section may only be offered in conjunction with an "A" **Premier or National** rated Regular Pony Hunter section.
  - d. National and Premier rated competitions must and all other rated competitions may, run an over fence class as a Handy Hunter. Exception: Green Hunter Pony sections may not offer Handy Hunter classes. Obstacles in this round should simulate those found in hunt country. The course must have two changes of direction and at least one combination. Ponies may be required to trot over one lowered fence on the course. Emphasis should be placed on turns and promptness. This class may not be used as a conformation class or offered as the first class of the section. Exception Green Hunter Pony Section may not have a Handy Hunter class.
5. **Regional** Rated Sections.
  - a. Three (3) or four (4) classes must be offered in any **Regional** rated Regular or Green Pony Hunter section.  
**b.—No prize money is required for Regional rated sections.**
6. Pony Conformation Classes.  
In **Premier or National** rated sections, one over fence class must be judged 25% conformation; in **Regional** rated sections, one over fence class may include conformation at management's discretion. The conformation class must be clearly stipulated in the prize list. A Model class may be offered in addition to the conformation class. If a model class is held, it is recommended that all conformation classes offered in the section will be held on the same day as the model class. *BOD 8/30/21 Effective 12/1/22*