

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	2/16/2023	

Rule Change Intent

The system of combining and dividing hunters lacks clarity. The proposed changes are intended to clarify and streamline how sections are either combined or divided.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

1. No credit will be given for classes where judging specifications are not in accordance with the Federation rules. Points will not count towards Horse of the Year Award competitions and classes will not be counted for division or section ratings.

2. No credit will be given in classes if less than three entries have shown and placed. Exceptions:

a. Hunter Breeding, Pony Hunter Breeding, and Conformation Model Classes.

b. Hunter Classes, a minimum of three entries must have completed (per HU120) to receive full points and money won. ~~If a minimum of 3 entries compete (per HU119), but only two entries complete (per HU120), half points will be awarded for Zone and National Horse of the Year Awards. If a minimum of 3 entries compete (per HU119), but only two entries complete (per HU120), money won will count half for sections where classes may be entered individually. (Exception GR1113.2c)~~

c. At a National or Premier rated hunter/jumper competition where it is required that the division be held over two days, if there are **less fewer** than three exhibitors the second day, Zone and National Horse of the Year points will still apply.

HU166 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections

1. Performance Hunter, ~~and~~ High Performance Hunter. ~~and any sections where individual classes may be entered.~~

a. Number to hold separate sections: Performance: four (4) and High Performance three (3). If four (4) compete and only three (3) complete (i.e. one is eliminated or retires) points will be awarded as per GR 1113. (Renumber successive)

a. Combining

1. At all licensed competitions, if there are fewer than six **four** 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 **four** 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 HU154.

2. Green Hunter

a. Number to hold separate sections: three (3). (Renumber successive)

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 HU164.1)
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. BOD 8/30/21 Effective 12/1/22
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. Number to hold separate sections: three (3). (Renumber successive)

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 HU166.3. A separate entry fee for the Young Hunter Section will apply. The Green Hunter section requirements by rating listed in HU166.2 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 (3) 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. Number to hold separate sections: three (3). (Renumber successive)

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)~~ **three (3)** 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)~~ **three (3)** or more horses in each Conformation section they must be held separately.

5. Junior Hunter

a. Number to hold separate sections: four (4) in each section. If four (4) compete and only three (3) complete (i.e. one is eliminated or retires) points will be awarded as per GR 1113. (Renumber successive)

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 for Premier rated competitions (see HJ122). BOD 11/22/21 Effective 12/1/22. **When sections are combined as per above, three (3) must complete for points to count.**

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 HU161 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). BOD 8/30/21 Effective 12/1/22. If there are four (4) or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than four (4) 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).~~ BOD 6/20/22 Effective 12/1/22

6. Amateur Owner Hunter

a. Number to hold separate sections: four (4) in each section. If four (4) compete and only three (3) complete (i.e. one is eliminated or retires) points will be awarded as per GR 1113. (Renumber successive)

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 for Premier rated competitions (see HJ121). BOD 11/22/21 Effective 12/1/22
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. **When sections are combined as per above, three (3) must complete for points to count.**

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~~ **four (4)** or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than ~~six~~ **four (4)** 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 HU162 & HU160 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~~ **four (4)** or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than ~~six~~ **four (4)** 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 HU164 & HU162 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. Number to hold separate sections: three (3). (Renumber successive)

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 **fewer than** 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 HU141.
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 a 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); If there is a total of thirty (30) ponies, prize money must be doubled. BOD 11/22/21 Effective 12/1/22

8. Green Pony Hunter

a. Number to hold separate sections: three (3) per section. (renumber successive)

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~~ fewer than ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** 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. BOD 8/30/21 Effective 12/1/22

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 **combined or divided** 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.~~

11. Low Adult Hunter

a. Low Adult Hunter sections must be combined or divided in accordance with applicable Zone Specifications.

12. Low Children's Hunter

a. Low Children's Hunter sections must be combined or divided in accordance with applicable Zone Specifications.