

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	12/1/2023	4/5/2023	

Extraordinary Change Reason

The USEF Competition Management Committee is submitting two proposed rule changes for consideration as Extraordinary. The two proposals are related and the request for Extraordinary status will allow them to be considered for implementation for the 2024 competition year beginning on December 1, 2023. As background, last year the USEF Board of Directors approved a structural change to the Hunter and Jumper competition format recommended by the USEF Competition Task Force. This new structure was approved with the knowledge that there may be a need for amendments to the new rules based on how the new structure functions in its first year of existence. A guiding principle of the new structure was to ensure clarity of what was being offered by organizers and what participants could expect at the different hunter ratings and jumper levels. An intended outcome was the reduction in the number of Premier hunter-rated competitions due to an increased commitment of \$75,000 (formerly \$24,000) in hunter prize money paid in the rated hunter sections and classes. At the same time, the USEF HOTY point chart for hunter competitions was changed from a tiered system based on competition hunter rating and number of entries to a system based on offering the same level of points at each competition with an increase based on the number of entries, regardless of competition hunter rating. Premier hunter-rated competitions are envisioned to provide participants with the combination of a highly competitive environment and an exemplary participant experience. Due to the increased costs of the hunter prize money and the significant financial investment needed to provide the exemplary participant experience, the incentive to operate Premier events and sustainability of these events is being questioned by organizers and participants. Therefore, to provide an incentive for organizers to make the necessary investments to operate these events and for participants to compete at these events, and to ensure USEF is providing a calendar with sufficient highly competitive events to assist in horse and human development, we recommend an alteration to the point system for the Premier hunter rated events. Without this amendment to the rule, it is very likely that the intended reduction will result in an unintended consequence of an over-reduction in the number of Premier Hunter rated competitions. As competition license renewals are underway for 2024, it is imperative that this proposal is deemed to have Extraordinary Status so that if approved, the rule will be in effect for the 2024 competition year.

Rule Change Intent

The Federation has made significant adjustments to the hunter and jumper competition structure over the past two years. A major component of these adjustments was to ensure that the competition calendar contains enough highly competitive hunter-rated competitions to support the athlete and equine development. The required amount of prize money in rated sections and classes at Premier hunter competitions was increased from \$24,000 to \$75,000.

To meet the USEF's responsibility of ensuring top-level competitive opportunities for athlete and equine development, we recognize the need to provide incentives for organizers to continue operating these events and competitors to continue participating in these events. Therefore, we propose a modest adjustment to the hunter point chart for Premier hunter-rated competitions. We believe this adjustment incentivizes organizers to make the necessary investments to operate these events and will incentivize competitors to participate in these events, resulting in a competition calendar with sufficient highly competitive events to assist in horse and human development, mitigating any unintended consequence of an over-reduction in the number of Premier hunter-rated competitions.

Proponent Details

Competition Management

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

GR1132.5 Hunter and Equitation Divisions, Hunter Division Point Chart**Effective Date:** December 1, 2023**Intent:**

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5. Hunter Division Point Chart:***Regional and National Hunter Rated Competitions***

Exhibitors	3-8	9-15	16-25	26+
1st	15	20	25	30
2nd	10	15	20	25
3rd	8	12	16	20
4th	6	9	12	15
5th	5	8	11	14
6th	4	7	10	13
7th	3	6	9	12
8th	2	5	8	11

Premier Hunter Rated Competitions

Exhibitors	3-8	9-15	16-25	26+
1st	18	23	28	33
2nd	13	18	23	28

3rd	11	15	19	23
4th	8	11	14	17
5th	7	10	13	16
6th	6	9	12	15
7th	5	8	11	14
8th	4	7	10	13