2021 GUIDELINES FOR COMBINING AND DIVIDING HUNTER SECTIONS
*Updated effective 12/1/2020

General Information about Combining and Dividing (HU161)

- Numbers for combining/dividing are based on the first Over Fences class in the section
- A section **may not** be divided unless there are 30 or more entries, unless the section rules require the section to be split at a certain number
  - If a section is offered in the prize list as combined and the rules for that specific section do not require that section be split at a certain number, it may **not** be split with fewer than 30 entries
- A section **must** be divided if there are 50 or more entries
- When a section is split, the prize money must be doubled
- If a section is split, the number of championships awarded is based on the number of sections created from the first Over Fences class (provided at least three entries complete in two over fences and one under saddle class per Championship)

High Performance Hunter

- The High Performance Hunter section **may** be divided once 30 or more horses have competed in the first over fences class and subsequent classes **may** be divided once 12 horses have competed in each class
- If there are 50 or more entries in a section, it **must** be divided.
- If there are fewer than 3 entries, the High Performance section **may** be combined with either the Performance Hunter 3’6” section or Green Hunter 3’9” (or Green Hunter 3’6”/3’9” if offered combined), but it may not be combined with both.
- If the High Performance Hunter is combined with Green Hunter 3’9” and there are still fewer than 3 entries, it must be further combined with the Green Hunter 3’6”.
  - When combining the High Performance with the Performance Hunter 3’6” or the Green Hunter 3’9”, the new combined section will use the lower amount for entry fees and prize money originally offered for each section.
- If the High Performance Hunter section is combined with the Performance Hunter 3’6” section and there are still fewer than 3 entries, it must be further combined with the Performance 3’3”
- When High Performance Hunter is combined with Performance Hunter 3’6” or Green Hunter 3’9”, the combined sections must offer the same number of classes.
- If there are fewer than 30 entries in the under saddle class in a section using the California split, it is not required to be split in order to award multiple section championships.
- When a random split is used, multiple Championships may only be awarded if a minimum of two (2) over fences and one (1) under saddle class are held per section.

Performance Hunter 3’6”

- Height sections (3’3”/3’6”) **must** be held separately if there are six or more entries in each section
- If there are fewer than six entries, the section **must** be combined with the Performance Hunter 3’3”
- The Performance Hunter section **may** be divided after 30 or more horses have competed in the first over fences class and subsequent classes **may** be divided once 12 horses have competed in each class.
- If there are fewer than three entries in either the 3’6” or the combined 3’6”/3’3” section, it **may** be combined with the High Performance Hunter section unless the High Performance section has already been combined with the Green Hunter sections.
- If there are 50 or more entries in a section, it **must** be divided.
- There is no requirement for the method of dividing the Performance Working Hunter section; classes may be split using the California split or a random split.
- If there are fewer than 30 entries in the under saddle class in a section using the California split, it is not required to be split in order to award multiple section championships.
Performance Hunter 3’3”
- Height sections (3’3”/3’6”) must be held separately if there are six or more entries in each section
- If there are fewer than six entries, the section must be combined with the Performance Hunter 3’6”
- The Performance Hunter section may be divided after 30 or more horses have competed in the first over fences class and subsequent classes may be divided once 12 horses have competed in each class
- If there are 50 or more entries in a section, it must be divided
- There is no requirement for the method of dividing the Performance Hunter section; classes may be split using the California split or a random split
- If there are fewer than 30 entries in the under saddle class in a section using the California split, it is not required to be split in order to award multiple section championships

Regular Conformation Hunter / Green Conformation Hunter
- Sections may not be divided if there are less than 30 entries
- The Green and Regular Conformation sections must be offered separately at Premier competitions
- Sections must be combined when there are three or fewer horses in either section
- Sections must be divided if there are four or more horses in each Conformation section
- When combining the Green Conformation Hunter with the High Performance Conformation Hunter the new combined section will use the lower amount for entry fees and prize money originally offered for each section

Green Hunter Sections (3’, 3’3”, 3’6”, 3’9”)
- The Green Hunter 3’ and 3’3” section may not be combined with any other hunter section
- The Green Hunter 3’6” and 3’9” section may only be combined with other Green Hunter sections or the High Performance Hunter section if entries warrant
  - If the Green Hunter 3’6” and 3’9” sections are combined with the Green Hunter 3’ and 3’3” they may not be combined with the High Performance Hunter section
- The Green Hunter 3’6” and 3’9” section may not be combined with the Performance Hunter 3’3” or 3’6”
- 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 3’3”, but all sections must be offered separately
- Regional I & II competitions offering Green Hunter must offer all four sections separately
- Sections offered separately must be divided if there are more than 50 entries
- Regardless of how sections are offered, a minimum of 3 entries are required in the section or it must be combined with another section
- Contiguous fence height sections should be combined before combining non-contiguous fence height sections.
- The Green Hunter sections must be held separately if there are a minimum of three entries in each fence height section.
- If sections are offered separately, they may not be divided if there are less than 30 entries
- Green Hunter sections may not be combined with any other Hunter section
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Young Hunter Sections (2’9”-5 & under, 3’0”-6 & under, 3’3”-7 & under)

- May not be combined with any other Hunter section but management may choose to run concurrently with the corresponding Green Hunter height section
- May be offered separately or combined
- Sections may not be divided if there are less than 30 entries
- Sections must be divided if there are more than 50 entries
- Regardless of how sections are offered, a minimum of 3 entries are required
- If there are a minimum of 3 entries in sections offered separately, the section(s) must be held separately
- When the Young Hunter section is offered combined, it must be split by fence height and held separately if there are minimum of three entries in each height section
- Contiguous fence height sections should be combined before combining non-contiguous fence height sections.
- Young Hunter sections may not be combined with any other Hunter section

Junior Hunter 3’6”

- Sections offered combined may not be divided if there are less than 30 entries
- Must offer four sections at Premier competitions (large/younger, large/older, small/younger, small/older)
- Must offer two sections at National competitions (large and small)
- If there are fewer than six entries in any sections divided by height and/or age then those sections must be combined
  - Example: if there are fewer than six in one Junior Hunter section, but there are six or more in all the other Junior Hunter sections, then the one section with fewer than six would be combined with one of the other Junior Hunter sections
  - If there are a minimum of 12 entries when sections are combined, the newly combined section must be re-divided using one of the following options:
    - By age of rider (age must be given on entry blank, 15 and under & 16-17);
    - By height of horse;
    - Floating Split
    - California Split
- If there are at least six in each section offered divided by age or horse height, the sections must be held separately
- If all the Junior Hunter 3’6” sections have been combined and there are 3 or more entries, it may run as-is
- If all the Junior Hunter 3’6” sections have been combined into one section and there are fewer than three (3) total:
  - (1) the combined Junior Hunter section may be canceled at Management’s discretion; or
  - (2) the combined Junior Hunter section may be further combined with the Junior Hunter 3’3”, Amateur Owner 3’6”, or Amateur Owner 3’3” section, at Management’s discretion
- Junior Hunter 3’6” sections must have all height/age groups combined into one section before combining with Junior Hunter 3’3”, Amateur Owner 3’6” or Amateur Owner 3’3”
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*Updated effective 12/1/2020*

**Junior Hunter 3’3”**
- Sections offered combined may not be divided if there are less than 30 entries
- **Must** offer two sections at Premier and National rated competitions (“A” rated sections)
- If there are fewer than six entries in any sections offered divided by height and/or age then those sections **must** be combined
  - If there are a minimum of 12 entries when sections are combined, the newly combined section must be split using one of the following options so that there are at least six in the resulting sections:
    a. By age of rider (age must be given on entry blank, 15 and under & 16-17)
    b. By height of horse
    c. Floating Split
    d. California Split
- If all the Junior Hunter 3’3” sections have been combined and there are 3 or more entries, it may run as-is
- If all the Junior Hunter 3’3” sections have been combined into one section and there are fewer than three (3) total:
  1. the combined Junior Hunter section **may** be canceled at Management’s discretion; or
  2. the combined Junior Hunter section **may** be further combined with the Junior Hunter 3’6”, Amateur Owner 3’6”, or Amateur Owner 3’3” section, at Management’s discretion
- Junior Hunter 3’3” sections must have all height/age groups combined into one section before combining with Junior Hunter 3’6”, Amateur Owner 3’6” or Amateur Owner 3’3”

**Amateur Owner 3’6”**
- National and Premier competitions **must** offer two sections: A/O 18-35 (or floating split) and A/O 36+ (or floating split)
- If there are fewer than six entries in either age section, then they **must** be combined
- If there are at least six in each age section, then both age sections **must** be held separately
- If there are a minimum of 12 entries when sections are combined, the newly combined section must be re-divided using a floating or California Split
- If all the Amateur Owner 3’6” sections have been combined and there are 3 or more entries, it may run as-is
- If both age sections are combined and there are fewer than three (3) total:
  1. the combined A/O 3’6” section **may** be canceled at Management’s discretion; or
  2. the combined A/O 3’6” section **may** be further combined with Amateur Owner 3’3” and/or a completely combined Junior Hunter section, at Management’s discretion
- Amateur Owner 3’6” must have both age groups combined in one section before combining with the Amateur Owner 3’3” or Junior Hunter sections.
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Amateur Owner 3'3"
- National and Premier competitions **must** offer two sections: A/O 18-35 (or floating split) and A/O 36+ (or floating split)
- If there are fewer than six entries in either age section, then they **must** be combined
- If there are at least six in each section, then they **must** be held separately
- If there are a minimum of 12 entries when sections are combined, the newly combined section must be re-divided using a floating or California Split
- If all the Amateur Owner 3’3” sections have been combined and there are 3 or more entries, it may run as-is
- If both age sections are combined and there are fewer than three (3) total:
  1. the combined A/O 3’3” section may be canceled at Management’s discretion; or
  2. the combined A/O 3’3” section may be further combined with Amateur Owner 3’6” and/or a completely combined Junior Hunter section, at Management’s discretion
- Amateur Owner 3’3” must have both age groups combined in one section before combining with the Junior Hunter or Amateur Owner 3’6” sections.

Regular Pony Hunter
- National and Premier competitions **must** offer three height sections (small, medium, large)
- Sections may be combined if there are three (3) or fewer entries in any height section
- Sections **must** be held separately if there are four (4) or more entries in each height section
- “B” and “C” rated sections must be divided into Small/Medium and Large if there are 10 or more ponies in both sections
  - Prize money does not need to be doubled unless there are 30 or more total ponies

Green Hunter Pony
- National and Premier competitions **must** offer a minimum of two sections (small/medium and large) but may offer three sections
- Sections may be combined if there are three or fewer entries in any height section
- Sections **must** be split into small, medium and large if there are four or more entries in any height section
- “B” and “C” rated sections must be divided into Small/Medium and Large if there are 10 or more ponies in both sections
  - Prize money does not need to be doubled unless there are 30 or more total ponies

Adult Amateur *See also USHJA Zone specifications
- Adult Amateur Hunter sections may be combined in accordance with 2019 Zone Specifications.
- If rules for combining sections are not included in Zone Specifications then the following applies:
  - 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.

Children’s Hunter *See also USHJA Zone specifications
- Children’s Hunter sections may be combined in accordance with 2019 Zone Specifications.
- If rules for combining sections are not included in Zone Specifications then the following applies:
  - 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.