Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
GR 311.2	012-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)

GR311.2 Tracking #012-25 Draft #2 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/13/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The intent of this proposed rule chagne is to expand and incentivize utilizing and emphasizing conformation in the Green Hunter, Young Hunter, and Amateur Owner hunter sections.

Proponent Details

USHJA

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/27/2026

National Hunter Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/18/2025
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 03/16/2026

Draft 1: The chair noted that a new version of this rule change proposal has been drafted by the USHJA, therefore, the current language presented to the committee was disapproved.
Draft 2: The committee would like the 3'3" green conformation section to have a requirement of being offered as a standalone section at all competitions.

USHJA

Member Comments

Anneliese Kannow — Draft #1

As an amateur rider, owner of open horses and American breeder, I vehemently oppose a role that will only add to the elitism of the hunters (which is already suffering in numbers from this very problem). A splint from banging a leg during turnout, cosmetic scar tissue from previous injuries, or even pidgeon toes or uneven front feet on horses that have been sound for years. Conformation does not belong anywhere but in the conformation divisions for those who want to participate.

GR312 Determining Entries

[....]

6. Rated Hunter Section & Classes

HUNTER SECTION RATINGS AND CLASSES	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min-Max Required Classes	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min Money	Regional ("B") Multi-Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") One Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") Min
Open Hunter Sections					
Green Conformation Hunter 3'3"	***4-6****	***500***	***3-5*****	***3-4*****	***0***
Green Conformation Hunter 3'6"	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
High Performance Conformation Hunter	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
High Performance Hunter	3-5	750	3-5***	3-4***	0
Performance Hunter 3'3"	3-5	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Performance Hunter 3'6"	3-5	500	3-5***	3-4***	0

[....]

GR311 Awards Rating Classifications

[....]

2. In the Hunter division, points for ribbons won in any rated section will be awarded in two awards channels using the applicable point chart. Channel I includes Premier and National rated hunter competitions and Channel II includes Regional rated hunter competitions. Points earned in a channel are exclusive to that award channel.

a. In the Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunter 3'3" and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter ***3'3" and*** 3'6" and High Performance Conformation Hunter, standings for the National HOTY Awards based on money won will be determined by dollars won in the horses respective sections. See GR1132.

[....]

GR1132 Hunter and Equitation Divisions

[....]

3. In the Hunter division, points are calculated according to the Hunter Division Point Chart. Exception: National awards for Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, High Performance and Performance Hunter 3'3" and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter ***3'3" and*** 3'6", and High Performance Conformation Hunter will be calculated using two systems towards two separate sets of national awards. The national Money Won Awards will be based on the money won by each horse in their respective section. The national Points Awards will be calculated according to the Hunter Division Point Chart. Both money won and points won in hunter classics, the USHJA International Hunter Derby, the USHJA National Hunter Derby, and the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Stake will be included. The money won and points won in the USHJA International Hunter Derby will only be awarded towards a declared GR11 - 22 © USEF 2025 © USEF 2025 GR11 - 23 Hunter section for HOTY points if a horse competes in the declared section a minimum of five (5) times during the competition year. The money won and points won in the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Stake will only be awarded

toward a declared Hunter section for HOTY points if a horse competes in the declared section a minimum of three (3) times during the competition year.

[....]

9. Hunter Division Section champions will be awarded 2.0 times the total 1st place point value of the first class in that section toward any National Horse of the Year point award based on points earned. Section reserve champions will be awarded 1.2 times the total 1st place value of the first class in that section towards any National Horse of the Year award based on points earned. Exception: For National Horse of the Year awards that are based on money won, Section Champions in the Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6", and 3'9", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunters 3'3" ***and 3'6"***, Green Conformation Hunter ***3'3" and*** 3'6",and High Performance Conformation Hunter will be awarded dollars equal to 10% of the total prize money offered for each respective section towards National Horse of the Year awards. Reserve Champions will be awarded dollars equal to the amount of 5% of the total prize money for each respective section.

10. Hunter Division Section Awards In the Hunter division, points for ribbons won or money won, if applicable, in any rated section will be awarded in two awards channels. Channel I includes Premier("AA") and National ("A") rated hunter competitions and Channel II includes Regional ("B") rated hunter competitions. Points earned or money won, if applicable, in a channel are exclusive to that award channel.

a. Hunter Division Section awards are offered for the following at the National level from the Federation and at the Zone level from USHJA: Green Conformation Hunter ***3'3" and*** 3'6", Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9", High Performance Conformation Hunter, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunters 3'3", Performance Hunters 3'6", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, Small Green Pony Hunter, Medium Green Pony Hunter, Large Green Pony Hunter, Small Pony Hunter, Medium Pony Hunter, Large Pony Hunter, Small Junior Hunter 15 yrs. & under, Small Junior Hunter 16-17 yrs., Large Junior Hunter 15 yrs. & under, Large Junior Hunter 16-17 yrs., Amateur Owner Hunter - 18-35 Years Old and Over 35 Years Old, Ladies Side Saddle, Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 18-35 Years Old and Over 35 Years Old, Small Hunter, Small Junior Hunter 3'3", 15 yrs. & under, Small Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17 yrs., Large Junior Hunter 3'3" 15 yrs. and under and Large Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17 yrs, Children's Hunter Ponies, Children's Hunter Horses, Low Children's Hunter Horse, Low Children's Hunter Pony, Adult Amateur Hunter 18-35 Years Old, Adult Amateur Hunter Over 35 Years Old, Low Adult Amateur Hunter, Small Hunter, USHJA Hunter 2'0", 2'3", 2'6", 2'9" and 3'0", and Thoroughbred Hunter.

b. The USHJA shall determine the Zone HOTY points to be awarded for its USHJA Hunter Championships, Finals and Classes. The USHJA shall notify the Federation and publish the point scale to be utilized on the USHJA website a minimum of 60 days prior to the start of each event.

11. Hunter Competitions Utilizing Federation HOTY Points/money won for Qualification for their Events.

a. Premier and National hunter rated competitions (including those held in conjunction with Jumper Level 16 competitions) must utilize the applicable Channel I HOTY points for qualification purposes.

b. Regional hunter rated competitions (including those held in conjunction with Jumper Level 1-3 Jumper competitions) must utilize the applicable Channel II HOTY points for qualification purposes.

12. Grand Champion Horse of the Year Awards are based on National points and are offered for the following Hunter sections:

a. Amateur Owner Hunter: awarded to the horse with the most points from the rider age sections of Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6"

b. Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3": awarded to the horse with the most points from the rider age sections of Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3"

c. Junior Hunter 15 Years & Younger: awarded to the horse with the most points in the 15 & Under rider age section of the 3'6" Junior Hunters

d. Junior Hunter 16-17 Years: awarded to the horse with the most points in the 16-17 rider age section of the 3'6" Junior Hunters

e. Pony Hunter: awarded to the pony with the most points from the small, medium and large Regular Hunter Pony sections

f. Green Hunter Pony: awarded to the pony with the most points from the small, medium and large Green Hunter Pony sections

g. Conformation Hunter: awarded to the horse with the most points from the High Performance Conformation

Hunter, ***Green Conformation Hunter 3'3"*** and Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" sections
h. Green Hunter: awarded to the horse with the most points from the Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9" sections.

[....]

HU111 Height of Obstacles

[....]
6. Green Conformation Hunter 3'3"
7. Green Conformation Hunter 3'6"
[....]

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.

HJ126 Limiting Entries in the Hunter Division
Hunter sections restricting entries based on winnings must use the Federation National Horse of the Year points or prize money won, whichever is applicable, as a means of qualification for the specified time period or, alternatively, must use the greatest number of Federation National Horse of the Year points won at a specified number of competitions within a specified time period. (Exception: Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6", and 3'9", Young Hunter 3'0", 3'3", and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter ***3'3" and*** 3'6", High Performance Conformation Hunter, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunter 3'6" and Performance Hunter 3'3" sections restricting entries based on winnings must accept 50% of the entries from the Federation National Horse of the Year points list and 50% of the entries from the Federation National Horse of the Year prize money won list. If an odd number of entries will be accepted, the Federation National Horse of the Year prize money won list will take precedence. The procedure for determining horses that qualify and their ranking will begin with the top placed horse on the Money Won standings list, then go to the top placed horse on the Points standings list, back to the second placed horse on the Money Won standings list, then on to the second placed horse on the Money Won standings list, continuing down both lists in that order until all available slots have been filled. If during this process a horse appears on either list that has already qualified, skip that horse and go instead to the next horse on the same list. Continue using this process until all slots are filled). Only points awarded in the particular section to count except in Amateur Owner, Adult Amateur, Children's Hunter, and Junior Hunter sections where points from both the younger and older sections shall be counted. If the Horse of the Year list has been exhausted and positions are still available, an alternate system may be used provided it has been published in the prize list or otherwise prior to the end of any specified time period. Whichever method is used, no other restrictive criteria can be imposed. The method chosen may be clearly stated. Management can allow the previous year's Champion and Reserve Champion or Champion to enter the section they were Champion or Reserve Champion in the previous year without qualifying. Management may allow the horse or pony that is leading for the respective Federation Zone Award in its Zone to enter that section.

HU131 Hunter Eligibility and Green Eligibility Status for
[....]
3. Once a horse begins its Hunter eligibility by competing in Hunter or Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes or sections at 3'0" or higher held at a Federation or Equine Canada licensed competition the following statements apply:
a. Green Hunter 3'/3'3": A horse in its first competition year of showing in classes with fence heights of 3'0' - 3'5" is eligible for Green Hunter 3'0" and 3'3" for a total of two competition years (not necessarily consecutive). During a horse's Green Hunter 3'0" and 3'3" years:
1. Horses competing in classes at 3'6": Once a horse competes in any Hunter, Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation, or Jumper class at a Federation or Equine Canada licensed recognized competition with fence heights of 3'6" (or 1.10m), it will be deemed is no longer eligible to compete in the Green Hunter 3'0"section but remains eligible to compete in the Green Hunter 3'3" section.
[....]

HU136 Conformation Hunter Sections

1. Model Classes for Green Conformation Hunter ***3'3" and*** 3'6" and High Performance Conformation Hunter:

a. To be shown at a walk and trot. To be judged on conformation, way of moving and soundness.

b. All horses being considered for an award must be serviceably sound.

c. Model classes to count 1/2 points. Points will be awarded even if less than three entries compete.

2. In a combined section, if a horse is eligible for more than one section; the exhibitor must declare to the Competition Secretary which height section the points are to count toward.

3. No horse may compete in more than one height section of a combined division.

4. No credit will be given in combined sections unless three entries have competed.

5. A horse must be eligible for the Green Hunter ***3'3" or*** 3'6" ***according to HU131*** in order to be eligible for ***Green Conformation 3'3" or*** Green Conformation Hunter 3'6".

[....]

HU166 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections

[....]

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

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

b. Combining:

1. ***The Green Conformation 3'3" may be initially combined with the Green Conformation 3'6" if required. The Green Conformation 3'3" and the Green Conformation 3'6" may be further combined with the High Performance Conformation if necessary.***

2. ***If there are fewer than three horses in a section,*** the Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" ***must be combined with the Green Conformation Hunter 3'3" first, and then if still necessary, it*** may be combined with the High Performance Conformation Hunter. ~~The High Performance Conformation Hunter may only be combined with the Green Conformation Hunter 3'6".~~ ***High Performance Conformation may not be combined with any sections other than those listed here.***

~~2.~~ ***3.*** When offered as ***three*** sections, if there are fewer than three (3) horses in either the ***Green Conformation 3'3",*** Green Conformation 3'6" or the High Performance Conformation section they must be combined. HU - 34 © USEF 2025

~~3.~~ ***4.*** When combining ***any*** Conformation Hunter ***sections***, 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.

c. Dividing: If there are three (3) or more horses in each Conformation section they must be held separately.

[....]

HU173 National Horse of the Year Point Values

2. International Hunter Derby Points to be credited to each horse's respective section as declared at the time of entry. Only Juniors and Amateurs may declare for the applicable Junior or Amateur Owner section. Points may not be credited toward the HOTY awards for the ***Green Conformation Hunter 3'3",*** Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" or the High Performance Conformation Hunter. The money won and points won in the USHJA International Hunter Derby will only be awarded towards a declared Hunter section for HOTY points if a horse competes in the declared section a minimum of five (5) times during the competition year.