



# 2026 GUIDELINES FOR COMBINING AND DIVIDING HUNTER SECTIONS

Effective 12/1/2025

## General Information about Combining and Dividing (HU159)

- 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 3'3", Performance 3'6", and High Performance Hunter).
- 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 divided, the prize money offered in each divided section must be the same as offered in the original section.

## High Performance Hunter

- Number to hold separate section: three (3).
- If there are fewer than three entries, the High Performance section must 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.
- **In the High Performance Hunter section, any class may split at 30 and must split at 50. Subsequent classes may be divided once 12 horses have competed in each class.**
- 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"

- Number to hold separate sections: four (4). If four compete and only three complete, points will be awarded as per GR 1113.
- Height sections (3'3"/3'6") must be held separately if there are four or more entries in each section.
- If there are fewer than four entries, the section must be combined with the Performance Hunter 3'3".
- 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.
- **In the Performance Hunter 3'6" section, any class may split at 30 and must split at 50. 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 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.



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### Performance Hunter 3'3"

- Number to hold separate sections: four (4). If four compete and only three complete, points will be awarded as per GR 1113.
- Height sections (3'3"/3'6") must be held separately if there are four or more entries in each section.
- If there are fewer than four entries, the section must be combined with the Performance Hunter 3'6".
- 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.
- **In the Performance Hunter 3'3" section, any class may split at 30 and must split at 50. Subsequent classes may be divided once 12 horses have competed in each class.**
- 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.

### High Performance Conformation Hunter / Green Conformation Hunter 3'6"

- Number to hold separate sections: three (3).
- Sections may not be divided if there are fewer 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")

- Number to hold separate sections: three (3).
- 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 (HU166.1)\*.
  - 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.
- Regardless of competition rating, each Green Hunter sections must be held separately if there are a minimum of three entries in each fence height section.
  - 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.
  - 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. Contiguous fence height sections should be combined before combining non-contiguous fence height sections.
- \*When the High Performance Hunter section is combined with the Green Hunter 3'6" and 3'9" section, the following applies:
  - If, after combining, there are still fewer than 3 entries in the combined section, it must be further combined with the Green Hunter 3'6" section.
  - If combined Green Hunter sections have fewer than three entries, they must be combined with High Performance Working Hunter.
  - A horse that is eligible for more than one section must declare and compete in only one.
- Green Hunter sections must always be split by fence height.



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## Young Hunter Sections (2'9"-5 & under, 3'0"-6 & under, 3'3"-7 & under)

- Number to hold separate sections: three (3).
- May not be combined with any other Hunter section but management may choose to run concurrently with the corresponding Green Hunter height section (including combined sections).
- Regardless of how sections are offered, a minimum of 3 entries is required. If the Young Hunter sections were offered separately and there are at least 3 entries, the sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than three 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 not three entries it can be further combined with next contiguous fence height of Young Hunters.
- Sections may not be divided if there are fewer than 30 entries.
- Sections must be divided if there are more than 50 entries.

## Junior Hunter 3'6"

- Number to hold separate sections: four (4) in each section. If four compete and only three complete, points will be awarded as per GR 1113.
- Sections offered combined may not be divided if there are fewer than 30 entries.
- Must offer four sections at Premier competitions (large/younger, large/older, small/younger, small/older).
- If there are fewer than four entries in any section divided by height and/or age, then those sections must be combined.
  - Example: if there are fewer than four in one Junior Hunter section, but there are four or more in all the other Junior Hunter sections, then the one section with fewer than four 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:
    - 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, or
    - d. California Split.
- If there are at least four 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".



## 2026 GUIDELINES FOR COMBINING AND DIVIDING HUNTER SECTIONS

Effective 12/1/2025

### Junior Hunter 3'3"

- Number to hold separate sections: four (4) in each section. If four compete and only three complete, points will be awarded as per GR 1113.
- Sections offered combined may not be divided if there are fewer than 30 entries.
- Must offer two sections at Premier rated competitions.
- If there are fewer than four 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 four 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, or
    - 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"

- Number to hold separate sections: four (4) in each section. If four compete and only three complete, points will be awarded as per GR 1113.
- 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 four entries in either age section, then they must be combined.
- If there are four or more entries 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 Junior Hunter section with the lightest entries, 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.



# 2026 GUIDELINES FOR COMBINING AND DIVIDING HUNTER SECTIONS

Effective 12/1/2025

## Amateur Owner 3'3"

- Number to hold separate sections: four (4) in each section. If four compete and only three complete, points will be awarded as per GR 1113.
- 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 four entries in either age section, then they must be combined.
- If there are four or more entries 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

- Number to hold separate sections: three (3).
- Premier must offer three height sections (small, medium, large) and sections must be held separately if there are three (3) or more entries in each height section.
- The Regular Pony Hunter Section may not be combined with any other sections.
- Regular Pony Hunter Sections may be combined if there are three (3) or fewer entries in any height section.
- 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.
- At Regional competitions, if there are a minimum of ten (10) small/medium ponies combined and ten (10) large ponies, the height must be divided (small/medium and large).
  - Prize money does not need to be doubled unless there are 30 or more total ponies.

## Green Hunter Pony

- Number to hold separate sections: three (3) per section.
- Premier competitions must offer a minimum of two sections (small/medium and large) but may offer three sections.
- The Green Pony Hunter Section may not be combined with any other sections.
- At Premier or National competitions, Green Pony Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than three (3) entries in any height section.
- Premier or National competitions must split (small, medium, and large) if there are four (4) or more entries in any height section.
- At Regional competitions, if there are a minimum of 10 small/medium ponies combined and ten (10) large ponies in any rated Regular or Green height section, the height section must be divided (small/medium and large).
  - Prize money does not need to be doubled unless there are 30 or more total ponies.



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## Adult Amateur \*See also USHJA Zone specifications

- Adult Amateur Hunter sections may be combined in accordance with 2026 USHJA Zone Specifications.

## Children's Hunter \*See also USHJA Zone specifications

- Children's Hunter sections may be combined or divided in accordance with 2026 USHJA Zone Specifications.

## Low Adult Hunter \*See also USHJA Zone specifications

- Low Adult Hunter sections may be combined or divided in accordance with 2026 USHJA Zone Specifications.

## Low Children's Hunter \*See also USHJA Zone specifications

- Low Children's Hunter sections may be combined or divided in accordance with 2026 USHJA Zone Specifications.