



MEMORANDUM

To: Potential Competitors – USEF Pony Finals Presented by Marshall + Sterling

Date: July 2, 2025

From: Jennifer Day, Hunter Program Manager

Copy: Karen Homer Brown, Emily McSweeney, Ashley Hudson

Re: Beginning of the 2026 Qualifying Period for the USEF Pony Finals Presented by Marshall + Sterling

This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning and may be subject to change. Please remember that this information is based upon the recommendations of the National Hunter Committee and is subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

****Full specifications for the 2026 USEF Pony Finals Presented by Marshall + Sterling are forthcoming and will be available upon approval [here](#).***

Dates and Locations: The 2026 USEF Pony Finals Presented by Marshall + Sterling (“Pony Finals”) will be held August 4-9, 2026, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. Any changes to the dates or locations will be communicated to USEF membership.

Eligibility Requirements: Trainers, riders, and owners must be USEF and USHJA Active Members in good standing to earn qualifying scores and at the time of the Pony Finals. Horses must have an active USEF and USHJA recording to earn qualifying scores and at the time of the Pony Finals. Ponies must have a valid microchip and current USEF measurement card from the time of qualification through the Pony Finals.

Qualifying Period: The qualifying periods (“Qualifying Period”) for Pony Finals are as follows:

- Regular hunter ponies: July 2, 2025-July 1, 2026
- Green hunter ponies: December 1, 2025-July 1, 2026
- Pony medal: July 2, 2025-July 1, 2026

Qualifying:

1. **Regular Ponies**
 - a. A Regular Pony Hunter qualifies by being Champion (once) or Reserve Champion (once) in a Premier (“AA”) or National (“A”) rated Regular Pony Hunter section during the Qualifying Period. The competition at which they qualify must have a start date on or before the final day of the Qualifying Period.
 - b. Regular ponies that are Champions in their respective sections at the previous year’s Pony Finals may return without qualifying.
2. **Green Ponies**
 - a. A Green Pony Hunter qualifies by being Champion (once) or Reserve Champion (twice) in a Premier (“AA”) or National (“A”) rated Green Pony Hunter section at a competition during the Qualifying Period. A Green Pony may also qualify by being Champion (once) or Reserve Champion (twice) in a Premier (“AA”) or National (“A”) rated Regular Hunter Pony section at a competition with a start date on or after December 1, 2025. The competition at which they qualify must have a start date on or before the final day of the Qualifying Period.

3. **USEF Pony Medal**

- a. To qualify, a rider must earn a total of 30 points during the Qualifying Period. In all cases, points are earned based on the start date of the competition.
- b. Points may be earned at Premier, National, and Regional rated Hunter competitions.
- c. For classes with six or more entries 1st place = 30 pts.; 2nd place = 15 pts.; 3rd place = 10 pts.
- d. For classes with three to five entries 1st place = 15 pts.; 2nd place = 8 pts.; 3rd place = 5 pts.
- e. A rider that has qualified for Pony Finals can continue to compete in qualifying classes. The winner of the USEF Pony Medal at Pony Finals may no longer ride in Pony Medal Finals or in qualifying classes.
- f. Riders cannot enter both the USEF Hunter Seat Medal Finals and the USEF Pony Medal Finals in the same year.

The above Qualifying Requirements are subject to change following review from the USEF National Hunter Committee and USEF Board or Directors or USEF Executive Committee. These Qualifying Requirements are based on the USEF rules as presently known and understood. Any change in the Qualifying Requirements caused by a change in USEF rules will be distributed to the effected athletes immediately. The Qualifying Requirements are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the Qualifying Requirements are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. Changes in Qualifying Requirements are subject to approval by USEF.

Questions: If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the USEF Hunter Department at hunterdept@usef.org.