Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
HU 148.1	172-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)

HU148.1 Tracking #172-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/3/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To streamline and make consistent the processes and procedures for hunter breeding with those for pony breeding as much as possible, making it easier for judges, officials and competitors to know what is expected.

Proponent Details

USHJA

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/27/2026

National Hunter Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/13/2026

Welsh

Draft 1: Recommends Approval

Member Comments

HU148 ***Hunter & Pony Hunter Breeding*** ~~**General**~~

1. ***Hunter Breeding*** classes will only accumulate Federation Horse of the Year Points from January 1 to November 30 of the current showyear (see GR1115). (Exception: Pony Hunter Breeding will accumulate Zone Horse of the Year points.)

2. The following specifications will apply for the Hunter Breeding and Pony Hunter Breeding Division unless addressed by specific USHJA Zone specifications (available at www.ushja.org).

[renumber accordingly]

2. Classes must be offered as printed in the prize list. Classes may not be combined however they may be split if the number of entries warrant.
3. Ribbons in all classes must be presented to the winners while in the ring.
4. At Premier and National rated competitions a handler may not exhibit more than one horse ***or pony*** in any ~~Hunter~~ Breeding classes listed ~~in HU149 or HU150~~. At these competitions the same handler must ~~present~~ ***lead*** the horse ***or pony*** in all phases of the class, ***(i.e. including conformation,*** the jog, and lineup***)***. ~~Entries must be presented for conformation, walked, and/or trotted under the review of the judge.~~ Horses ***or ponies*** must be ~~judged~~ ***presented*** for conformation before being walked and/~~or~~ trotted. After completing a review of each horse ***or pony*** in the class, the judge(s) must line up the entries in order of preference ~~(exception see HU148 for ponies)~~. Judge(s) ~~then have one last opportunity to~~ review the horses ***or ponies*** collectively, and may move horses ***or ponies*** in the lineup as preferred based on the ~~Hunter~~ Breeding judging standards.
5. At Regional rated competitions a handler may exhibit multiple horses ***or ponies*** in any ~~Hunter~~ Breeding classes listed in ~~HU149~~ HU 148 ~~and HU150~~. ~~At these competitions the same handler must present the horse in all phases of the class, including the jog (exception, lineup). Entries must be presented for conformation, walked, and/or trotted under the review of the judge.~~ Horses ***or ponies*** must ~~be judged~~ ***led by the same handler*** for conformation ~~before being walked~~ ~~and/or trotted~~ ***and then walk and trot***. After completing a review of each horse ***or pony*** in the class, the judge(s) may line up the entries in order of preference ~~(exception see HU150 for ponies)~~. ***Handlers exhibiting multiple horses or ponies are allowed to have assistant handlers to hold horses/ponies.*** Judge(s) then ~~have one last opportunity to~~ review the horses ***or ponies*** collectively, and may move horses ***or ponies*** in the lineup as preferred based on the ~~Hunter~~ Breeding judging standards.
6. A competition may not offer more than one Hunter Breeding division to count for National ~~or~~ ***and*** Zone HOTY Awards and one Pony Hunter Breeding division to count for Zone HOTY awards.
7. Additional classes and championships may be offered but will not count towards National or Zone ~~Horse of the Year~~ ***HOTY*** Awards***, with the exception of annual USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Championships and USEF/USHJA Hunter Breeding Championships.*** The prize list must clearly state which classes count for ~~Horse of the Year~~ ***HOTY*** Awards.

8. Class Specifications.

a. Pony Hunter Breeding classes are open to ponies. Ponies in the Pony Hunter Breeding Division are not required to have a measurement card. However, a pony shall be subject to measurement by the competition steward to verify a height that does not exceed 14.2 hands.

b. Hunter Breeding classes are open to horses.

c. Breeding classes are judged on conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, soundness and suitability to become ~~or in the case of sires and dams apparent ability to produce or beget~~ Hunters. Possible inheritable conformational defects are not to be considered. Horses/ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Horses/ponies are to be judged for conformation before being walked and trotted. Horses/ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award.

d. Ponies may wear leather halters. All horses of yearling status and older must be shown in a bridle. Only a snaffle or straight bar bit may be used. A properly fitted in-hand leather lead and chain, such as a new market or "V" shank type may be substituted for reins. A properly fitted in-hand leather lead may also be substituted for reins. A properly fitted chain should be short enough to prevent the horse/pony from getting it in its mouth and should never be placed over the nose or tightly under the chin.

e. Four classes must be offered for horses and four for ponies: Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds, Three-Year-Olds and Best Young Horse or Best Young Pony. Classes may not be combined. Pony and Horse classes may be divided by sex. Hunter Breeding classes may also be divided by breeding, for example Thoroughbred and Other than Thoroughbred. Competition management is encouraged to divide classes where entries warrant. Only these Hunter Breeding classes will count for Federation and USHJA Horse of the Year Awards, and only these Pony Breeding classes will count for USHJA Zone Pony of the Year Awards.

f. Pony Breeding Division of Classes

> ***1. Yearlings (colts/geldings or fillies); Two-Year-Olds (colts/geldings or fillies); Three-Year-Olds (colts/geldings or fillies).***

g. Hunter Breeding Division of Classes

> ***1. Division of Classes. Yearlings, Two-year-olds, and Three-year-olds classes may be divided by gender (colts/geldings or fillies).***

2. Yearlings, Two-year-olds and Three-year-olds classes may be divided. Breeding classes may be divided as to breed such as a) Thoroughbred, and b) other than Thoroughbred.
3. Horses shown as a Thoroughbred must have been either registered with The Jockey Club or meet one of the criteria below. All competitions must require verification of registration on the day of the competition through one of the following methods:

a) The Jockey Club Certificate of Foal registration or a copy thereof
b) Jockey Club recognized microchip
c) If neither of the above is available, a letter from The Jockey Club verifying the horse's identity.

h. A Best Young Horse/ Pony class must be offered and judged as a separate class. Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds and Three-Year-Olds are to walk and trot. Winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Horse/Pony class. Second place winners may return. Federation and USHJA Zone Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Horse class regardless of the number of entries. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Pony class regardless of the number of entries.

9. Non Pointed Classes. These classes do not count toward HOTY Awards and winners are not eligible for the Best Young Horse or Best Young Pony classes.
a. Other breeding classes may be offered for Horses: Foals (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Mares (three-years- old or over, with or without foal); Mares (three-years-old or over, without foal but having been bred); Broodmares (with foal at foot; 50% mare and 50% foal or 75% mare and 25% foal); Stallions (three-years-old and over); Stallion (with 1, 2 or 3 of get; 50% stallion and 50% get or 75% stallion and 25% get). See also HU149.1 and GR906.2 for breed registry requirements.
b. Other breeding classes may be offered for Ponies: 1. Foals (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Broodmares (with foal at foot and/or bred with a breeding certificate); Stallions (Three-Year-Olds and over); Produce of Dam (two ponies produced by the same mare); Get of Sire (two ponies sired by the same stallion). Ponies shown in the Produce or Get classes must be three years of age or younger.
c. Breeding classes are judged on conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, soundness and suitability and in the case of sires and dams apparent ability to produce or beget Hunters. Possible inheritable conformational defects are only to be considered in the case of sires and dams or prospective sires and dams. Horses/ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award.
d. For class procedure, see numbers 4 and 5. Exception: Broodmares and weanlings are to walk only.
e. For tack, see number 8d. Exception: Weanlings may wear leather halters.
f. Amateur/Junior Handler. Open to Amateur and/or Junior exhibitors. Class may be split if entries warrant. Adult handlers must possess a current USEF amateur certification. A handler may not exhibit more than one horse/pony. A horse/pony of any age or breed are eligible (exception: intact colts and stallions are prohibited). This class is judged 100% on the presentation of the horse and handler: conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, and suitability to become a hunter are not to count. Horses/ ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Tack shall be as in section 8.d. Entries must be presented in a line, walked, and then trotted under the review of the judge. After completing a review of each horse/pony in the class, the judge(s) will line up the entries in order of preference. Judge(s) then review the horses or ponies collectively, and may move horses or ponies in the lineup as preferred.

10. Individual classes may be entered.

~~**HU149 Hunter Breeding**~~
~~1. The Hunter Breeding Section is open to horses only.~~
~~a. Horses shown as a Thoroughbred must have been either registered with The Jockey Club or meet one of the criteria below All competitions must require verification of registration on the day of the competition through one of the following methods:~~
~~1. The Jockey Club Certificate of Foal registration or a copy thereof~~
~~2. The horse's lip tattoo, the horse's 5-cross pedigree and the successful tattoo lookup result from The Jockey Club's Tattoo Identification Services, (located at www.registry.jockeyclub.com)~~
~~3. If neither of the above is available, a letter from The Jockey Club verifying the horse's identity.~~
~~2. Division of Classes. Breeding classes may be divided as to a) thoroughbred, and b) other than thoroughbred and include: Foals (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Yearlings (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Two-Year-Olds (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Three-Year-Olds; Mares (3 years old or over, with or without foal); Mares (3 years old or over, without foal but having been bred); Broodmares (with foal at foot; 50% mare and 50% foal or 75% mare and 25% foal); Stallions (3 years old and over); Stallion (with 1, 2 or 3 of get; 50% stallion and 50% get or 75% stallion and 25% get). See also HU149.1 and GR907.2 for breed registry requirements.~~
~~3. Class Specifications.~~
~~a. Breeding classes are judged on conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, soundness~~

and suitability to become or in the case of sires and dams apparent ability to produce or beget Hunters. Possible inheritable conformational defects are only to be considered in the case of sires and dams or prospective sires and dams. Horses are to be judged for conformation before being walked and/or trotted. Broodmares and weanlings are to walk. Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds and Three-Year-Olds are to walk and trot. Horses that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Entries should be lined up in the order of preference before the ribbons are pinned.
b. Foals in Breeding classes may wear leather halters. All animals of yearling statue and older must be shown in a bridle. Only a snaffle or straight bar bit may be used. A properly fitted in hand leather lead and chain, such as a newmarket or "V" shank type may be subetituted for reins. A properly fitted in hand leather lead may also be subetituted for reins. A properly fitted chain should be short enough to prevent the horse from getting it in its mouth and should never be placed over the nose or tightly under the chin.
c. Four classes must be offered consisting of Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds, Three-Year-Olds and Best Young Horse. Classes may not be combined. Classes may be divided by sex and/or breeding and competition management is encouraged to divide classes where entries warrant. Only these classes will count for Federation Horse of the Year Awards. A Best Young Horse class must be offered and judged as a separate class. Winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Horse class. Second place winners may return. Federation Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Horse class regardless of the number of entries.
4. Individual classes may be entered.

HU150 Pony Hunter Breeding
1. Pony Hunter Breeding classes are open to ponies.
2. The following specifications will apply for the Pony Hunter Breeding Division unless addressed by specific USHJA Zone specifications (available at wwwushja.org):
a. Ponies in the Pony Hunter Breeding Division are not required to have a measurement card. However, a pony shall be subject to measurement by the competition steward to verify a height that does not exceed 14.2 hands.
b. Division of Classes. Foals (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Yearlings (colts, geldings and/or fillies); TwoYear-Olds (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Three-Year-Olds (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Broodmares (with foal at foot and/or bred with a breeding certificate); Stallions (Three-Year-Olds and over); Produce of Dam (two ponies produced by the same mare); Get of Sire (two ponies sired by the same stallion). Animals shown in the Produce or Get classes must be three years of age or younger.
3. Class Specifications.
a. Breeding classes are judged on conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, soundness and suitability to become Pony Hunters. Transmissible unsoundness is only to be considered in the case of sires and dam or prospective sires and dams. Ponies are to be judged for conformation before being walked and/or trotted. Broodmares and weanlings are to walk. Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds and Three-YearOlds are to walk and trot. Ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Entries should be lined up in order of preference before the ribbons are pinned.
b. All entries may either be shown in a bridle or a leather halter.
c. Four classes must be offered consisting of Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds, Three-Year-Olds and Best Young Pony. Classes may not be combined. Classes may be divided by sex. Management is encouraged to divide classes where entries warrant. Only these classes will count for USHJA Zone Horse of the Year awards.
d. A Best Young Pony class must be offered and judged as a separate class. Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds and Three-Year-Olds are to walk and trot. Winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Pony Class. Second place winners may return. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Pony class regardless of the number of entries.
4. Individual classes may be entered.