2026 USEF Pony Medal Final Specifications

The 2026 USEF Pony Medal Final ("Final") Specifications ("Specifications") published herein are effective September 30, 2025, unless stated otherwise.

I. Membership Requirements **for Participation**

a. The rider of the pony must be a **Competing** member in good standing of the Federation and USHJA at the time of qualification and on or before the first day of the **Final**.

b. **The rider of the pony must be a junior rider as defined in GR128 and in compliance with the age requirements outlined in EQ111.4a in order to earn qualifying results and compete at the Final. The junior rider may qualify on a different pony than one which they compete on in the Final.**

c. The pony must **have a USEF HID and be** registered with USHJA at the time of qualification and on or before the first day of the Final **through the conclusion of the Final**.

d. The individual owner(s) of record of the pony must be a Competing member in good standing of USEF and USHJA from the time of qualification and on or before the first day of Final through the conclusion of the Final.

e. **Ownership of the pony may change during the qualifying period and up to the close of entries for the Final, the new owner(s) must meet all the above criteria.**

f. The pony must have a valid microchip and current measurement card **in accordance with HU104** on file with USEF at the time of qualification and on or before the first day of the **Final through the conclusion of the Final**.

II. Qualifying

a. To qualify, a rider must earn a total of 30 points during the qualifying period of July 2, 202**5**– July 1, 202**6**. 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 the Finals can continue to compete in qualifying classes. The winner of the Finals may no longer ride in the 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.

III. Rounds

Competition will be conducted in two separate rounds with further testing at the judges' discretion. Coaching from the rail is not permitted in any phase and may result in a zero.

a. First Round Over Fences
    i. In this round all exhibitors will compete for the judges. **Testing is not permitted in this round.**
b. Second Round Over Fences
    i. In this round no more than 30 of the top competitors will return to compete before the judges using two or more tests from USEF tests 1-22.
c. Further Testing.
    i. At the judges' discretion
    ii. Riders that are called back for further testing may be tested on any USEF Tests 1-22.
d. The junior exhibitor is required to show the same pony in all rounds of the competition, but it need not be the same mount the rider exhibited during the qualifying event(s).
e. No junior over 12 years of age may compete on a small pony. No junior over 14 years of age may compete on a medium pony. If a pony is unable to continue to compete, the rider and/or trainer must request permission for a change of pony from the Show Committee prior to the start of the competition. The decision of the Show Committee is final, binding and not subject to further appeal of any kind.

IV. Judging

a. A total of two judges will officiate. Suitability of a pony to rider to be emphasized. Two cumulative refusals will result in elimination.
b. Riders to be judged on their overall position as outlined in EQ105, ridden track, effective control over the pony, and the rider's overall performance. Please refer to EQ108 for examples of faults.

V. **Final Information**

a. **The 2026 USEF Pony Finals will take place from August 4-9, 2026, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. The Medal Final is currently scheduled to take place on Sunday, August 9th. Any changes to the competition schedule will be communicated to participants.**

These Specifications are based on the USEF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Specifications caused by a change in USEF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected participants immediately. The Specifications are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the Specifications are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. Changes in Specifications are subject to approval by USEF. For questions concerning these Specifications, please contact the USEF Hunter Department at hunterdept@usef.org. Qualifying for this Final will be conducted under USEF Rules except where outlined otherwise herein.