Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
HU 118.3	177-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	National Hunter Committee	Approved (6/16/2026)

HU118.3 Tracking #177-25 Draft #1 Approved

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

Rule Change Intent

This change will align with standard welfare practices, ensuring all horses and ponies are sound at the conclusion of their hunter over fences rounds.

Proponent Details

National Hunter Committee

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/27/2026

USHJA

Draft 1: No Action 03/30/2026

Member Comments

HU118 General (Judging)

3. In all classes over obstacles, all horses being considered for an award must jog for soundness using either Option A or Option B below. ~~**(Exception: sections or classes with specifications that do not require horses to jog, and unrated classes).**~~ Management must state in the competition prize list which method of jogging will be used. Horses/ponies that are unsound will be eliminated and ineligible for an award in that class. The judge's decision regarding soundness is final.

HU130 Non-rated Classes

1. The following classes have no point value for Championships or for Horse of the Year Awards. Judging percentages are left to the discretion of competition management. (Exception: Hunter Hack for Ladies Side Saddle.) ~~**Unrated classes are not required to jog for soundness**~~.
    a. MAIDEN, NOVICE, LIMIT HUNTERS. Open to horses which have not won a blue ribbon, three blue ribbons, six blue ribbons in Hunter over fences classes at Regular Competitions.
    b. HUNTER HACK. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. At least eight horses, if available, are required to jump two obstacles and gallop one way of the ring. Horses are not to gallop in Green Hunter classes.
    c. BRIDLE PATH HACK (Hunter type). To be shown at a walk, trot and canter and hand gallop. To back easily and stand quietly. Emphasis is placed on actual suitability to purpose.
    d. THREE-YEAR-OLD HUNTER. Section must include two or three Over Fences classes and one Under Saddle class with a Championship and Reserve Championship awarded. If possible, this section should be held immediately after the Three-Year-Old Hunter Breeding class. Courses are to be simple. One Over Fences class must be judged on at least 25% conformation.
    e. Walk-Trot.
        1. Classes that the exhibitor is asked to walk and trot only. These classes are exempted from nonmember fees per GR901.9(5).
        2. The horse must give the appearance of being a safe and suitable mount for the class. The safety of all exhibitors is of primary concern in walk-trot Hunter, walk-trot pleasure and walk-trot equitation classes.

HU134 Young Hunter Sections

1. A horse may compete in only one Young Hunter fence height section at any one competition.
~~**2. Young Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.**~~
3. A Handy Hunter class may be offered in the Young Hunter sections but is not required.

HU135 High Performance, Performance, Small Hunter and Thoroughbred Hunter – Definition and Classifications

5. Small Hunter
    a. Fences set at 3'.
    b. Championships must be offered in accordance with HU154.
    c. Individual classes may be entered.
    d. A small Hunter is a horse over 14.2 hands and not to exceed 16 hands.
    e. A measurement card is required for all horses entered as per HJ127.
    ~~**f. Small Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.**~~
6. Thoroughbred Hunter
    a. Thoroughbred restricted classes are open only to horses that are registered with USHJA and are in possession of Breed Registry papers. Horses must have been either registered with The Jockey Club or meet one of the criteria below. All horse shows must require riders to verify registration on the day of the horse show 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.
    b. Cross entry into other sections is allowed unless otherwise stated in the prize list.
    c. Championships must be offered in accordance with HU154.
    d. This section will be rated for Zone Horse of the Year Awards as per GR312.6.
    ~~**e. Thoroughbred Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.**~~
    f. Individual classes may be entered. (Exception: Under Saddle classes. See HU129.2).

HU151 Ladies Side Saddle Classes

1. To be ridden by ladies who are no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors.
2. Stallions not permitted.
3. To be judged on performance and soundness with emphasis on manners 75%; formal hunting attire, appointments and general overall appearance of horse and rider 25%. Judges should give particular consideration to quality, condition and cleanliness of tack. Mane and tail must be braided, (Exception: roached manes or pulled tails). Judges must line up exhibitors in order of preference before checking appointments.
4. All horses being considered for an award must be serviceably sound~~**, but are not required to jog for soundness**~~.
5. Over Fences: To be shown over a course of at least eight fences 3' in height. No in and out to be used.
6. Under Saddle: To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring in formal hunting attire with appointments. See HU151-HU153. If the Under Saddle class is not scheduled as the first class of the section, the schedule must allow at least two hours to prepare before the start.
7. Hunter Hack: To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Judges may ask for a hand gallop but no more than eight to hand gallop at one time. To jump two fences at 2'6". To be judged on performance and soundness with an emphasis on manners. Under Saddle performance to count 50%, Over Fences performance to count 50%.

8. Three classes must be offered: Over Fences, Under Saddle and Hunter Hack.
    a. All three classes will count equally for the Championship.
    b. In cases of ties, horses are to hack off for Champion and Reserve.
    c. HOTY points will be awarded in the Over Fences classes to entries that place, provided that there are at least three horses entered and shown in the Over Fences class.
9. At least three entries must compete in the Under Saddle class and the Hunter Hack class for HOTY points to count. Individual classes may be entered. (Exception: Under Saddle classes. See HU129.2).