



2026 USEF PONY
JUMPER CHAMPIONSHIP
Athlete's Guide

Welcome



Thank you for your interest in the USEF Pony Jumper National Championships. For many this will be the first time you have had the opportunity to compete on a team or represent your Zone in a National Championship. Pony Jumper Championships is your introduction to a multi-day championship format. Many Pony Jumper athletes have continued to represent their zones in other team championships including the North American Youth Championships and Junior Jumper National Championships. Several have continued forward on the path to represent the U.S. in international Competitions. Whatever your goals may be for the future, it is very important to fully understand and be prepared to compete at the Pony Jumper Championships.

2026 USEF Pony Jumper Championships August 4-8 | Lexington, KY

Kentucky Horse Park | 4089 Iron Works Parkway | Lexington, KY 40511

Show Office (859) 300-9899

Veterinarian: Rood & Riddle (859) 233-0371

Stabling Office (503) 510-8797

Dever Feed, Bedding, & Golf Carts (859) 233-9702
or www.deverinc.com

[2026 Pony Finals Official Hotel Discounts](#)

[2026 Pony Finals Delta Airlines Special Discounts](#)

Please read all the information available to you on the USEF Pony Jumper National Championships page found [here](#). This page will give a general overview of the format, as well as selection procedures and FAQs. If you have any further questions or concerns please email us at ponyjumpers@usef.org.

Please note this guide is not a replacement of the [official prize list](#).

Be sure to read the prize list and schedule! It includes important information such as rules and the format that will be followed throughout the week. The format of the championship is different than a regular horse show with a jog for soundness, restricted schooling areas, and specific times for schooling.

We encourage each rider to fill out the Rider Biography form [here](#) for our announcers throughout the week.

Entries are due via Show Management System or mail no later than Tuesday, July 14.

Schedule

Important notes:

- Ponies that are not on the grounds for the Kentucky Summer Classic on Sunday, August, 2 are not allowed to arrive before 8am EST on Monday, August 3, no exceptions.
- ALL jumper ponies must be stabled on the competition grounds by 7am EST on Tuesday, August 4, no exceptions.
- Beginning at noon on Monday, August 3, ponies that have arrived on competition grounds are required to remain on the grounds until they have finished competing in all sections in which they are entered. Violation of this rule will result in elimination, no exceptions.

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Monday, August 3rd

Covered

8am-1pm: Exercise Ring

1pm-2pm: Jumper Jog Clinic- Smalls

2:30pm-3:30pm: Jumper Jog Clinic-
Mediums

3:30pm-not listed: Exercise Ring

Claiborne

8am-7pm: Exercise Ring for Jumper Ponies

Other Stuff

11am-4pm: Bag Handout @ USEF

4pm: Rider and Trainer Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, August 4th

Covered

1pm-5pm: Exercise Ring

Claiborne

8am: Jumper Jog- Smalls then Mediums

Followed by Small & Medium Training
Session

Followed by Phase 1 Small

Other Stuff

5pm-7pm: USEF Open House

Wednesday, August 5th

Covered

8:30am-5:30pm: Exercise Ring

9:30am-11am: Sports Psychology Clinic

1pm-2:30pm: Sports Psychology Clinic

Claiborne

7am: Jumper Jog- Larges then 1.05m

Followed by Large & 1.05m Training
Session

Followed by Phase 1 Medium

Followed by Small Teams (2 rounds)

Other Stuff

5pm: Pizza Party in Rolex Breezeway

Thursday, August 6th

Rolex

At conclusion of awards: Golf Cart Parade

Covered

9am-5:30pm: Exercise Ring

Claiborne

7am: Medium Teams (2 rounds)

Followed by Phase 1 Large

Followed by Phase 1 1.05m

Followed by Small Farewell

Followed by Small Individual Final

Friday, August 7th

Covered

9am-10am: Course Walk Clinic

10:15am-12:15pm: Judge's Perspective
Clinic

12:15pm-5pm: Exercise Ring

Claiborne

7am: Large Teams (2 rounds)

Followed by 1.05m Teams (2 rounds)

Followed by Medium Farewell

Followed by Medium Individual Final

Saturday, August 8th

Covered

4am-8am: Lunging

8:15am-5:30pm: Exercise Ring

Claiborne

9am: Large Farewell

Followed by Large Individual Final

Followed by 1.05m Farewell

Gollowed by 1.05m Individual Final

Social Schedule

Special Treats & Activities Tuesday-Saturday

PONY FINALS KIDS CLUB: 8:30AM-5PM
ICE CREAM CART PROVIDED BY MARS: 1PM-3PM
FIND THE GOLDEN PONY: 11AM UNTIL FOUND
PHOTO BOOTH @ KIDS CLUB: ALL DAY
DREAM FARM COLORING CONTEST BY CHRISTIE'S REAL ESTATE: ALL DAY
CONCIERGE IS OPEN 7AM END OF COMPETITION EACH DAY

Timeline

subject to change

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 - 11AM-2PM

PONY FINALS KIDS CLUB
WITH SHOP USEF

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 - 11AM

KID GRAND PRIX
BY DALMAN JUMP CO.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 - 6PM

GOLF CART PARADE
& DECORATING CONTEST
@ROLEX ARENA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 - 11AM-1PM

PONY MEDAL LUNCH
@ ALLTECH ARENA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4 - 5PM-7PM

USEF OPEN HOUSE
@ USEF BUILDING
FIRST TIMER PHOTO @ 6PM!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 - 5PM

PIZZA PARTY
@ ROLEX BREEZEWAY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 - 11AM-2PM

PONY FINALS KIDS CLUB
WITH SHOP USEF

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 - 11AM-2PM

PONY FINALS KIDS CLUB
WITH SHOP USEF

Veterinary Inspection: Each pony competing in the Championships must pass the inspection otherwise known as the “jog” for soundness prior to the start of training sessions and competing. Small ponies will jog at 8am on Tuesday, August 4, with Mediums following. Large ponies will jog at 7am on Wednesday, August 5, followed by the 1.05m.

Training Session: A course of jumps will be set at the respective height for each division. Each athlete/pony combination will be allowed 70 seconds in the arena. There will be a course posted but it does not need to be followed, athletes may jump any jump they wish as long as it is in the correct direction according to the flags.

Individual Championship - Phase I: USEF Table II (clear round), jumping faults and any time penalties will be carried forward for Individual Classification.
Clear round blue ribbons only.

Team Championship & Individual - Phase II: Team orders will be drawn in the office prior to the start. Two rounds. Individuals will start first in both rounds, followed by teams. Each team's first round score will be determined by adding the faults incurred by the best three scores per team.

Second round course and starting order will remain the same, order of athletes within a team may not change. Team Classification is determined by adding the faults incurred by the three best competitors of each team in both rounds. To place in the Team Championship, three athletes must complete the course in the second round. Ties will be separated by total time of the best three athletes in round two.

Each competitor will jump two rounds. The first and second rounds of the Team Competition will serve as Phase II of the Individual Championship. Faults from Phase I and II will be totaled and carried forward for Phase III and Individual Classification.

Team placings only (1st-6th), no clear round ribbons.

Farewell Class: USEF Table II (clear round), open to athletes not qualified to compete in the Individual Final (see below). Results will be decided by adding faults incurred and any penalties for exceeding the time allowed.
No ribbons awarded.

Individual Championship - Phase III: Top 60% of athletes from Phase I and II are qualified to participate, including those tied for the last qualifying place. Athletes must have completed all rounds prior without elimination or retiring. If a qualified athlete is unable to start for any reason, they will not be replaced. In the event of a tie for the Gold, Silver, and/or Bronze Medal, a jump-off will be held.
Ribbons will be awarded to the overall placings 1st-10th place, no clear round ribbons.

Veterinary Inspection (jog).

Ponies must be presented in a bridle and **without** boots or a bonnet.

Please have back number with you. Athletes should be neatly dressed in boots, breeches/jods, show or polo shirt, helmets are recommended.

Training Sessions

Standard Jumper Attire; coats are not required. Shirts must have collars and sleeves (long or short) and must be tucked into breeches. Similar attire to jog.

Competition

Formal or Proper Jumper Attire; coats are required. White or fawn breeches/jods, shirts must be tucked into breeches and fastened at the top.

Grocery Stores

Aldi, 5 miles: 135 American Path, Georgetown, KY 40324

Kroger, 5 miles: 106 Marketplace Circle, Georgetown, KY 40324

Publix, 5.1 miles: 1952 Stockton Way, Lexington, KY 40511

Kroger, 6.8 miles: 760 Newtown Springs Drive, Lexington, KY 40511

Hotels

Quality Inn, 5.4 miles: 1938 Stanton Way Building A, Lexington, KY 40511

Fairfield Lexington North, 5.5 miles: 2100 Hackney Place, Lexington, KY 40511

**Marriott Griffin Gate, 6.3 miles: 1800 Newtown Pike, Lexington, Ky 40511

**Clarion Lexington North: 6.7 miles: 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511

Home2 Suites Georgetown, 7.7 miles: 270 Tiger Way, Georgetown, KY 40324

Hampton Inn Georgetown, 7.9 miles: 128 Darby Drive, Georgetown, KY 40324

**= discounts available [here](#)

Things to Do

USHJA Wheeler Museum @ KHP: Wednesday-Friday 9am-4pm | [more info](#)

International Museum of the Horse @ KHP: Monday-Sunday 9am-5pm | [more info](#)

Keeneland: Open to the public 7 days a week, tours available | [more info](#)

Horse Country Tours: Various farms & availability | [more info](#)

More [here](#).

Additional Info

Nominations for the Pony Finals First Timer Grant in Honor of Taylor Madison Orłowski are due by July 6. Visit [here](#) for more information and nomination instructions.

Special award nominations are due Wednesday, July 29. Visit [here](#) for more information and nomination instructions.

Take the Emerson Burr Horsemanship Test! The Written Test (no more than 20 multiple choice questions) will be available from 11am-3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the USEF Concierge Area. Emerson Burr Test takers do not have to compete in Pony Finals to be eligible to take the test but must have an active USEF account and know their USEF ID and password to be able to take the test. Each Emerson Burr winner during Pony Finals will receive a \$500 grant to be used towards education expenses but, only Pony Final participants will be eligible for the grant.

Participants are divided into four age groups: 8 and under, 9-11, 12-14, and 15-17. Each participant will take the written test. The four highest scoring individuals in each age group move on to the hands-on phase. The hands-on phase asks each finalist to demonstrate various skills and knowledge ranging from basic to advanced levels. Following the completion of the hands-on test, a winner from each age group will be selected based on his/her horsemanship skills and knowledge.