Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
GR 1133.1	017-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)

GR1133.1 Tracking #017-25 Draft #2 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	3/10/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

In an effort to strengthen and grow the Hunter Breeding division and encourage and reward competitors participating at larger shows against a greater number of horses, the Hunter Breeding Task Force feels strongly that the point tabulations toward Zone and National Horse of the Year awards should be tiered to provide greater recognition to those competing in larger events. The proposed rule will provide more points and prestige based on not only number of horses competing in the division but also the rating of the competition. Horses and ponies that win against a large pool of competitors at Channel 1 events will receive more points than those competing against fewer horses/ponies at Channel 2 competitions.

Calculating points based on the first 12 shows will create a fairer and more welfare-friendly system for determining year-end awards for young horses.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie M Patrick kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

National Hunter Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/18/2025
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 03/16/2026

USDF

USHJA

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/11/2025

Welsh

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/18/2025
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 04/09/2026

Draft 1: The committee feels this rule change would be detrimental to smaller shows.
Draft 2: The committee agrees with the intent of the rule, but would prefer to see points accumulated from the first 15 competitions instead of the first 12 competitions. The committee would also like to see a decrease in the regional points multiplier for points to 2 and 3 more points instead of 4 and 6 more.

Member Comments

Sheila Murphy — Draft #1

Totally agree- The Hunter Breeding Division was not put into the Channel system as the other Hunter Divisions were. That was done to protect the Tier 1 Premiere and National that are considered iconic in light of the lighter numbers or entries. The unintended consequence resulted in the Regional 1 day shows awarding the same number of points as a Premiere show. The higher rated shows should award more points than the Regionals.

Michaela May — Draft #2

Strongly agree with this rule proposal. The horse welfare of young horses has been significantly over looked in the past several years and excessive showing and abuse of yearlings, 2 and 3 years olds has been allowed to occur. These horses need appropriate exposure to showing environments, not chasing points for human satisfaction. The current rule allows the owner with the most money to win at the expense of horse welfare. The only better rule change for horse welfare of these young horses would be to completely abolish all national HOTY awards and restrict awards to Zone awards only, such as what pony hunter breeding currently is restricted to.

Jay Raach Draft #2

I am behind anything that promotes hunter breeding but the assumption that the larger shows always get more entries is incorrect. Just today 4/16 at a Hits Show (National) in Culpeper VA, there was only one entry. While on 4/12 at a Regional Show in PA, there were 12 entries. The other thing to take into consideration is that there has been a been a big push to increase the number of judges with the Hunter Breeding designation. This rule proposal will decrease the number of shows offering HB and limits opportunities for the judges. This might anger people who recently got HB classification.

Michaela May Draft #2

Highly support limiting shows for these young horses or ponies. This is for betterment of horse welfare and encourages participation at shows with higher ratings and standards.

Brenda May Draft #2

The simplest way to impact this division is to remove the national HOTY titles. The current environment in HB is largely due to a pay for play model amongst a dozen individuals that do not put horse welfare first, and chase points at Channel 2 "pop up" farm shows. The "National Champion" title should solely belong to the horse that wins Sallie B. Wheeler National Hunter Breeding Championship. Limiting # of shows is important for horse welfare for these young equines and should be done regardless of any points or awards.

Amanda Tourtellot Draft #2

I agree with the 12 show new rule change. This will help encourage an even playing field rather then those that has unlimited amounts of money to bring their horses to a ridiculous amount of shows to chase points. I think it’s a great idea.

Also would like to add I wish the pony hunter breeding had national points. I think this rule would help justify adding national points for pony hunter breeding.

017-25 (GR1133.1) - Proposed Draft #2

GR1133 Pony Hunter Breeding and Hunter Breeding

1. Eligibility- Points toward any Horse of the Year Award will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's recording, exhibitor's registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owner(s) and owner's Senior Active, Junior Active or Life membership are received online by the Federation. Furthermore, points toward any Horse of the Year Awards will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's USHJA Horse Registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owners(s) and the owner's USHJA Active or USHJA Life membership are received by the USHJA offices. Exception: Applications for USHJA Individual Membership and Horse Recordings submitted at Licensed Competitions.

[...]

3. Federation National and USHJA Zone HOTY awards for Hunter Breeding are based on points accumulated at the first twelve (12) Federation Licensed Regional, National, or Premier hunter rated competitions in which the horse participates during the competition year. Points earned at the Devon Horse Show and at the USEF/USHJA Sallie B. Wheeler Hunter Breeding Championship will count in addition to the first twelve (12) competitions.

a. The horse accumulating the most National points ***in accordance with GR1133.3*** out of the Yearling, Two-Year-Old and Three-Year-Old Hunter Breeding (horse) sections will be awarded the Grand Champion Hunter Breeding Award.

5. Point Tabulation

a. Classes with combined age groups do not count toward the Horse or Zone Horse of the Year Awards. Exception: Best Young Horse and Best Young Pony classes. See also GR1113.

b. Points will be based on the number of horses/ponies in the class ***and rating of competition*** as follows:

Channel 2 - Regional

Number in Class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th`
1	1(*)			
2	2(*)	1 (*)		
3-10	5	3	2	1
11+	10	6	4	2

Channel 1 – National competitions will offer Regional points with a multiplier x4.

Channel 1 – Premier competitions will offer Regional points with a multiplier x6.

c. (*) If a horse or pony that competes in a qualifying class with less than three entries becomes Best Young Horse/Pony or Reserve Best Young Horse/Pony at that competition, they will receive full points for the qualifying class (i.e. 5 pts. for 1st, 3 pts. for 2nd).

d. Points awarded in the Best Young Horse Class for the Championship and Reserve Championship are based on the total number of horses ***and rating of competition*** entered in all rated classes of the Hunter Breeding section.

Channel 2 - Regional

Total Number	Champion	Reserve
1-2	2 points	1 point
3-14	5 points	3 points
15 or more	10 points	6 points

Channel 1 – National competitions will offer Regional points with a multiplier x4.

Channel 1 – Premier competitions will offer Regional points with a multiplier x6.

e. Pony Hunter Breeding Championship points are based on the total number of ponies ***and rating of competition*** in the rated classes of the Pony Hunter Breeding Division (Yearling, Two year-olds, and Three year-olds) ~~1 to 14 total entries: Champion 5 points, Reserve 3 points 15 or more entries: Champion 10 points, Reserve 6 points~~. ***based on the point charts outlined above in this rule.***