Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
HU 149.1	164-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)

HU149.1 Tracking #164-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/30/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The Best Young Horse/Pony class is intended to be a championship class of the division, providing an opportunity for the top horses/ponies from each age class to compete head to head where they can be evaluated by the judge(s). This rule change provides clarification as to the guidelines and conduct of that class to ensure that all horses/ponies are evaluated simultaneously and the best in the division can be selected as Best Young Horse/Pony. Link HU149.3.c with HU150.3.d.

Proponent Details

USHJA

Contact Information

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

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

HU149 Hunter Breeding

1. The Hunter Breeding Section is open to horses only.

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3. Class Specifications.

[…]

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.~~

d. Best Young Horse: A Best Young Horse class must be offered and judged as a separate class.

1. ***The Best Young Horse class may not be held as an open card.***
2. ***First place winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Horse class.***
3. ***Second place winners may return.***
4. ***All entries in Best Young Horse must be walked and trotted. Entries should then be lined up in the order of preference before the ribbons are pinned***
5. ***Any eligible horse that does not return for the Best Young Horse class is not eligible for the Best Young Horse or Reserve Best Young Horse awards***
6. ***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.

[..]

3. Class Specifications.

[…]

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.~~

Best Young Pony: A Best Young Pony class must be offered and judged as a separate class.

1. ***The Best Young Pony class may not be held as an open card.***
2. ***First place winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Pony class.***
3. ***Second place winners may return.***
4. ***All entries in Best Young Pony must be walked and trotted. Entries should then be lined up in the order of preference before the ribbons are pinned***
5. ***Any eligible horse that does not return for the Best Young Pony class is not eligible for the Best Young Pony or Reserve Best Young Pony awards***
6. ***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.