



USEF Junior Hunter National Championship FAQ

1. How does a horse qualify for the USEF Junior Hunter National Championship?

Junior Hunter 3'3" Qualification:

- Winning one Champion or one Reserve Champion in a Premier, National, or Regional rated Junior Hunter 3'3" section at a competition with a start date from May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.
- A horse will also qualify if it is ranked in the top 10 on the USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Channel I or Channel II ranking list for any of the Junior Hunter 3'3" sections based on results from competitions with a start date from December 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.
- **New for 2026!** A horse will also qualify if it competes in and completes all offered classes (over fences and under saddle) in 3'3" junior hunter sections at five USEF licensed competitions during the Qualifying Period of May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.

Junior Hunter 3'6" Qualification:

- Winning one Champion or one Reserve Champion in a Premier, National, or Regional rated Junior Hunter 3'6" section at a competition with a start date from May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.
- A horse will also qualify if it is ranked in the top 10 on the USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Channel I or Channel II ranking list for any of the Junior Hunter 3'6" sections based on results from competitions with a start date from December 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.
- **New for 2026!** A horse will also qualify if it competes in and completes all offered classes (over fences and under saddle) in 3'6" junior hunter sections at five USEF licensed competitions during the Qualifying Period of May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.

2. My horse remeasured after qualifying. Is my horse still eligible to compete at the championships at the height it qualified in?

- No, per HU143.2c, any Junior Hunter measuring from one section to another will not maintain points from its prior section.
- Horses that receive a re-measurement may re-qualify in their newly assigned height section.

3. Can my horse compete in both 3'3" and 3'6" at the Junior Hunter National Championship?

- No, per HU143.7b, "*Horses entered in the Junior Hunter 3'3" section may not cross-enter into the Junior Hunter 3'6" section at the same competition.*"
- If a horse qualifies in both the 3'3" and 3'6", the horse's owner or their agent will need to declare the fence height on the entry blank.

4. My horse qualified in the 3'6", but not the 3'3". Can my horse compete in the 3'3"?

- No, horses must compete in the height category in which they qualified for. Height qualifications are not transferable.





5. Can I compete in both 3'3" and 3'6" at one Junior Hunter National Championship?

- No, riders may not compete in both 3'3" and 3'6" at the same championship, however, a junior rider may compete in the 3'6" at the east coast championships, and 3'3" at the west coast championships.

6. How many horses can I compete in the championship?

- 3'3 riders: one large and one small entry per championship
- 3'6 riders: one large and one small entry per championship

7. When does my horse need to arrive at the facility?

- Arrival and check-in requirements will be available in the competition prize list.

8. Who is allowed to ride the horse at the championship?

- 12 hours prior to the start time of the competition day in which the horse is entered to compete, and continuing until their respective fence height section is completed in its entirety, only the competition rider on the entry may ride the horse.

9. Are there any entry restrictions for the 3'3" riders?

- Yes, beginning with the 2026 championships, riders competing in the 3'3" sections at the championships must not have competed at 1.30m or above during the qualifying period and through the conclusion of the championship.

10. How are the phases scored?

- Classic over fences phase will count for 40% of the total score
- Under saddle phase will count for 20% of the total score
- Handy phase will count for 40% of the total score

11. Will there be a rider meeting and bag handout?

- Yes! The rider meeting and bag handout times and locations will be available in the prize lists.

12. Additional questions? Please contact hunterdept@usef.org