

New Hunter & Hunter Seat Equitation Rules

Effective Dec 1st for the 2026 Competition Year

HU Hunter Division

HU106 Equipment

6. Spurs must be made of smooth metal or plastic. Rowel spurs with serrated edges are not permitted. Hammer spurs are allowed. Metal or plastic “impulse” spurs with round hard plastic or metal knobs, and “Dummy” spurs are allowed. The contact surface with the horse and all edges must be smooth and rounded. Athletes, when mounted, may wear only one spur on each boot.

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HU116 Judges

4. In the Hunter sections and classes, an exhibitor, trainer, and/or rider may meet with the judge(s), if agreed to by the judge(s), and must be accompanied by the Steward. The exhibitor, trainer, and/or rider may ask questions about their performance only, and only after completion of competition in that arena for the day. All meetings must be documented in the Steward's report, including the requester's full name and Federation ID number.

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HU136 Conformation Hunter Sections

8. When Option A jog is used, eight entries (if there are sufficient entries) must be called back to the ring at the end of the class to be judged for conformation. If competitors do not return for conformation, they will be eliminated for failing to complete the requirements of the class.
9. When Option B jog is used, two (2) additional entries in addition to the number of ribbons (if entries allow)

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HU142.2 Pony Hunter and Green Pony Hunter

e. In Conformation classes, when **Option B jog is used**, two (2) additional entries in addition to the number of ribbons (if entries allow) must be called back to the ring at the end of the class to be judged for conformation. **When Option A jog is used, eight entries (if there are sufficient entries) must be called back to the ring at the end of the class to be judged for conformation. If competitors do not return for conformation, they will be eliminated for failing to complete the requirements of the class.**

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SUBCHAPTER HU-9 HUNTER & PONY HUNTER BREEDING

HU148.8 General

8. Stallions are prohibited from Junior/Amateur Handler classes.

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SUBCHAPTER HU-11 SHOW CHAMPIONSHIPS

HU154.3 General

3. The number of Championship and Reserve Championships that are awarded will be determined by the number of sections created from dividing the first over fences class.
Exception: Performance Hunter 3'3", Performance Hunter 3'6", and High Performance...

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HU166.1 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections

c. Dividing:

1. In Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter and any other sections where individual classes may be entered, **any class may split at 30 and must split at 50. See HU159.4.** Subsequent classes may be divided once twelve (12) horses have competed in each class.
2. For Championships, see HU154. **If more than one class is California Split, championships must be awarded in accordance with the number of splits.**

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SUBCHAPTER HU-14 USHJA CHAMPIONSHIPS, PROGRAMS, AND SPECIAL CLASSES.

HU170 Amateur Hunter Championship

1. The USHJA, at its discretion, may choose to hold a National or East and West Championship for Amateur Hunters. This competition is designed to encourage and promote the basic training and development of Amateur Hunters. The Championship must be offered for the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6 and the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" section and may also be offered for the Adult Amateur Hunter and the Low Adult Amateur Hunter. The championship(s) must be run in accordance with USHJA specifications found at www.ushja.org.

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HU171 Membership Requirements

1. USHJA Amateur Hunter Championships (exhibitors must be active Amateur members.
18. USHJA 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby (exhibitors must be active Junior or Amateur members);
20. USHJA Zone Handy Hunter Challenge (exhibitors must be active members in home zone); and
21. USHJA Zone Horsemanship Class/Championship

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HU172 Competition Requirements

1. Amateur Hunter Championship – National, Premier, or Regional;
9. 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby – National, Premier, or Regional;

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HU173 National Horse of the Year Point Values

6. 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby

- a. Points accrued may be awarded to the declared Low Children's-Horse and the Low Adult Amateur sections.
- b. The money won and points won in the USHJA 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby will only be awarded towards the Hunter section for National and Zone HOTY points if a horse competes in the declared section a minimum of one (1) time during the competition year.

7. Zone Handy Hunter Challenge

Participation in these classes accrues double points for the USHJA Zone Horse of the Year standings and double points for the USEF National Horse of the Year standings.

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Appendix A. USEF Hunter Schooling Rules

23. The use of materials that proves dangerous is forbidden, this includes but is not limited to lattices.
27. The use of draw reins, chambons, de gogues, or similar tack when schooling over fences must be done in a safe manner. If draw reins, chambons, de gogues, or other similar tack attach to the girth between the legs, they must be run through a yoke or neck strap, and if attached on the side, they must be attached to the saddle or billets.

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EQ Equitation Division

EQ102 Judging

1. **SOUNDNESS.** All horses/ponies must be serviceably sound. Horses/ponies that are unsound will be eliminated and ineligible for an award in that class. The judge's decision regarding soundness is final. The following options may be used to determine soundness in hunter/jumping seat equitation.
 - a. Option A: Trot a circle on a loose rein following any equitation round over fences. Exception: Jogging will not be required in testing phases.

- b. Option B: In hand jog preceding a championship/finals class.

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EQ106 Appointments

3. Spurs, crops or bats are optional but if used must be a conservative color. Spurs must be made of smooth metal or plastic. Rowel spurs with serrated edges are not permitted. Hammer spurs are allowed. Metal or plastic "impulse" spurs with round hard plastic or metal knobs and "Dummy" spurs are allowed. The contact surface with the horse and all edges must be smooth and rounded. Athletes when mounted may wear only one spur on each boot.

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EQ107 Conduct

- 9. In Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes, an exhibitor, trainer, and/or rider may meet with the judge(s), if agreed to by the judge(s) and must be accompanied by the Steward. The exhibitor, trainer, and/or rider may ask questions about their performance only, and only after completion of competition in that arena for the day. All meetings must be documented in the steward's report, including the requestor's full name and Federation ID number.

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EQ109 Course Requirements

- 9. For all Equitation classes restricted to ponies, the first obstacle of all courses must be a vertical
- 12. Cavalettis, trot poles, or step poles are not permitted for use in competition.
Exception: classes restricted to poles.

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EQ111 Requirements for Specific Classes

- 7. h. Talent Search Finals
Information about the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals qualifying procedures and requirements for officials can be found on the Federation's website. Qualifying procedures cannot be changed without the approval of the Federation's Jumping Sport Committee following notification of USHJA of such changes.

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EQ113 Tests From Which Judges Must Choose

1. Work collectively or individually at a walk, rising/posting trot, sitting trot, and/or canter, and/or demonstrate a two-point or half seat position at the walk or trot.

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HJ-Hunter/Jumper Competitions Standards

HJ130 Completing the Measurement Form

1. c. For sections or divisions requiring measurement (Hunter Ponies, Jumper Ponies, Junior Hunters, Welsh Ponies, and Equitation), a microchip must be scanned and identified by the competition steward or official veterinarian prior to measurement. This includes measurements for show purposes only. If multiple microchips are found, or the microchip scanned does not match the one on record with the Federation, this information must be included on the Measurement Form prior to submission. Competition management will be responsible for providing a working microchip scanner.
d. The owner, rider, trainer, or coach who has signed the entry blank at the competition must furnish the above information immediately before the pony is measured, this individual is certifying that all information is complete and correct. This individual must be a Federation Senior Active Member. The form must be signed by the measurement official appointed to measure.

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