

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/21/2023	

Rule Change Intent

The USEF will no longer classify riders as amateurs based on how they generate income. A rider will be classified as based on a new system created by a USEF task force which will be posted on the usef.org. The new system will take effect in the 2025-26 year. The aim of the new system is to base qualification for classes and divisions based on horse and rider ability and show record, not how a person's income is generated.

We've lost sight of the very basics of our sport- starting to re-write this rule and searching for the term "amateur" in the rulebook (which brings up 1,019) mentions according to the finder function, brings us to the very first page of the general rules. The Sportsman's Charter. Let us remember the Sportsman's Charter- that this is pure sport, done for the love of the animal and the challenge, and not something to be bogged down by nitpicking, it should make sense, be enforceable, and be understandable to a casual participant or viewer.

For the purposes of this rule change, General Rules were mostly left untouched, except where pertaining specifically to Equitation, Hunters, and Jumpers. Most changes take place in Equitation, Hunters, and Jumper chapters. It is our hope that other affiliates may follow suit in reclassifying their amateur riders but it is not our intention to make sweeping generalizations for other disciplines.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions

## GR 105 Amateur

See GR1306 and GR1307

### GR106 Amateur Classes

1. Every contestant must hold amateur status. See GR1306 and GR1307.
2. Amateur classes may be restricted to riders, drivers, or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. In the Dressage division, individuals are only eligible to compete as amateurs from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach age 22. See DR119.3.

### GR142 Owner's Classes

1. Every competitor must be an ~~amateur~~ and the owner, or an ~~amateur~~ member of the owner's family, unless the prize list states otherwise. Exception: Paso Fino Division.
2. Owners' classes may be restricted to riders, drivers, or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor.
3. Combined ownership is not permitted in Owner's or ~~Amateur Owner's~~ classes unless all owners are members of the same family. Exception: Paso Fino.
4. In the Arabian Division, combined ownership is permitted in Owner's or Amateur Owner's classes, per AR110.
5. Leased horses are not eligible.

### GR313 Special Conditions

2. The following classes do not count toward the minimum number of classes nor toward the minimum prize money required for any division or section rating; these following classes do not count toward HOTY awards unless included in the specific division award rules:
  - d. Owners, except in ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner sections and Paso Fino Division;

## SUBCHAPTER 8-C COMPETITION AND CLASS CONDITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

### GR814 Amateur

Amateur classes may be offered in any division using the specifications set forth in the respective division rules. If Amateur classes are offered leading to a Championship, judging specifications will be those of amateur classes or amateur Championships unless the prize list specifically states that open judging specifications will be used.

## SUBCHAPTER 11-F AWARD SECTIONS

### GR1132 Hunter and Equitation Divisions

#### 10. Hunter Division Section Awards

a. Hunter Division Section awards are offered at the National level from the Federation and at the Zone level from USHJA: Green Conformation Hunter 3'6", Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9", High Performance Conformation Hunter, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunters 3'3", Performance Hunters 3'6", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, Small Green Pony Hunter, Large Green Pony Hunter, Small Pony Hunter, Medium Pony Hunter, Large Pony Hunter, Small Junior Hunter 15 yrs. & under, Small Junior Hunter 16-17 yrs., Large Junior Hunter 15 yrs & under, Large Junior Hunter 16-17 yrs., **Adult Amateur** Owner Hunter - 18-35 Years Old and Over 35 Years Old, Ladies Side Saddle, **Adult Amateur** Owner Hunter 3'3" 18-35 years old and Over 35 Years Old, Small Hunter, Small

Junior Hunter 3'3", 15 yrs. and under, Small Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17 yrs., Large Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17 yrs, Children's Hunter Ponies, Children's Hunter Horses, Low Children's Hunter Horse, Low Children's Hunter Pony, Adult ~~Amateur~~-Hunter 18-35 Years Old, Adult ~~Amateur~~-Hunter Over 35 Years Old, Low Adult ~~Amateur~~-Hunter, Small Hunter, USHJA Hunter 2'0", 2'3", 2'6", 2'9", and 3'0", and Thoroughbred Hunter.

12. Grand Champion Horse of the Year Awards are based on National points and are offered for the following Hunter sections:

- a. ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter: awarded to the horse with the most points from the rider age sections of **Adult** ~~Amateur~~-Owner Hunter 3'6"
- b. ~~Amateur~~ **Adult**-Owner Hunter 3'3": awarded to the horse with the most points from the rider age sections of ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter 3'3"
- f. Age Group Equitation classes for adults ~~amateurs~~ to be shown over a course of not less than eight fences and the fence height cannot exceed 3'3" (or 1.0m when class specifications list fence height in metric).

### **GR1134 Jumpers**

2. Point Tabulation. See GR1113-GR1119 Children's and Adult ~~Amateur~~ Jumper USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Awards and Pony, 5-Year Old, 6-Year Old, and 7/8 Year Old Jumper National and USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be based on the following:

3. The Junior Jumper, Amateur Jumper, U25, and Young Rider Jumper Rider Jumper Horse of the Year Awards will be based on one point for every dollar won in their classification at Regular Competitions.

5. Award Categories. Federation National awards will be given in the following categories: Low Junior, Medium Junior, High Junior, Low ~~Adult Amateur~~, Medium ~~Amateur~~, High ~~Adult Amateur~~, Open, Pony, Children's, Adult ~~Amateur~~, Thoroughbred Jumper, Young Rider, and U25. Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be given by USHJA in the following categories (see JP119 for Zone specifications): Low Junior, Medium Junior, High Junior, Low ~~Adult Amateur~~, **Medium Adult Amateur**, Children's Adult ~~Amateur~~, Pony, Young Riders, U25, and Thoroughbred jumper.

## **SUBCHAPTER 13-B AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS**

For purposes of this Subchapter the following definitions apply:

**Family:** Family includes a cohabitant, a member of a couple who live together and have an intimate relationship without being married.

**Remuneration:** Remuneration is compensation or payment in any form such as cash, goods, sponsorships, discounts, or services: reimbursement of any expenses; trade or in-kind exchange of goods or services such as board or training.

**Social Media Brand Ambassador:** A Social Media Brand Ambassador is a social media user who spreads the word about a company/ brand or its products by posting about them on social media and promoting them to their unique social audience.

**Social Media Influencer:** A Social Media Influencer is an individual who has built a reputation for their knowledge, content creation, and expertise on a specific topic. They make regular posts about that topic on their preferred social media channels and generate large followings of enthusiastic, engaged people who pay close attention to their content.

**Sponsored Rider:** A Sponsored Rider is an individual who is paid by companies, sponsors, and/ or owner/s to compete and perform, leveraging their exposure and performance in competition.

### **GR1306 Professional/ Amateur Status**

1. Amateur. Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/ or accomplishments, a person is an amateur if after their 18th birthday, as defined in GR101 and GR103, they have not engaged in any of the activities identified in Section 4 below. **Exception: Riders competing in USHJA recognized sport are not subject to**

**Amateur Status.**

- a. For Amateurs in the Dressage Division, see DR119.3
- b. ~~For Amateurs in Jumper Sections, see JP118~~
- c. ~~For Amateurs in Hunter Sections, see HU137-HU138~~
- d. For Amateurs in Eventing, see EV Appendix 3-Participation in Horse Trials
- e. For Amateurs in the Arabian Division, see AR110.6 and AR110.7

## **SUBCHAPTER EQ-1 REGULATIONS FOR ALL SEATS**

### **EQ101 Eligibility**

1. Riders in classes for junior exhibitors cannot have reached their 18th birthday in accordance with GR128, however competitions are encouraged to offer Adult Equitation classes for amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday.

### **EQ111 Requirements for Specific Classes**

1. The following age limit classes are suggested but may vary according to local conditions:

- a. For juniors: 14 and under, and 15-17; and
- b. For **adults** amateurs: 18 to 35, 36 and over

2. Maiden, Novice, Limit, Intermediate

Open to riders that have not won one/ three/ six/ twelve first places ribbons respectively competing in equitation classes at Regular and Local competitions of USEF or Equine Canada.

- a. Maiden. For junior and amateur riders who have not won 1 blue ribbon over obstacles. Test 1-3.
- b. Novice. For juniors and amateur riders who have not won 3 blue ribbons over obstacles. Tests 1-5.
- c. Limit. For juniors and amateurs who have not won 6 blue ribbons over obstacles. Tests 1-7.
- d. Intermediate. For juniors and amateur riders who have not won 12 blue ribbons over obstacles 3'3" or higher. Tests 1-14.
- e. Open. For junior and amateur riders. Tests 1-23.

5. USEF ADULT EQUITATION CLASS. Open to ~~Amateur~~ Senior Members of the Federation and USHJA. Application for membership and ~~amateur certification~~ can be made directly to the Federation, or the exhibitor can join prior to the class through the Federation Steward. Only one rider per horse. To be shown over a course of not less than eight obstacles at 3'3". The course must include one combination which includes an oxer and two changes of direction after the first obstacle. Two or more tests of the top four competitors are required (See EQ113 for approved tests). To fill a class three competitors must complete the course. The winner will receive an embossed certificate from the Federation. Points will count as follows toward the annual USEF High Point Adult Equitation Rider Award. Classes where six (6) or more entries complete the course: 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Classes where three (3) to five (5) entries complete the course: 3,2,1. If there are 50 or more entries at the beginning of this class, it must be divided by every other number and run as two separate classes.

### **EQ119 Requirements for Specific Classes**

The following four age restricted classes are suggested but may vary according to local conditions: a) junior riders who have not reached their 11th birthday; b) junior riders who have reached their 11th but not their 14th birthday; c) junior riders who have reached their 14th but not their 18th birthday; d) ~~adults-amateurs~~ who have reached their 18th birthday. A competition committee can also offer classes for riders on a specific

type of horse.

## **EQ130 Requirements for Specific Classes**

The following four age restricted classes are suggested but may vary according to local conditions: a) junior riders who have not reached their 11th birthday; b) junior riders who have reached their 11th but not their 14th birthday; c) junior riders who have reached their 14th but not their 18th birthday; d) ~~adults amateurs~~ who have reached their 18th birthday.

5. ~~Adults Amateur~~, Tests 1-15.

### **SUBCHAPTER HJ-4 COMPETITION SCHEDULING and prize money**

HJ111 National Rated Junior/~~Amateur~~ Adult Restricted Competitions

### **SUBCHAPTER HJ-5 SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC SECTIONS**

HJ121 ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter Sections

### **HJ104 HJS Competition Standards Horse Entry & Renewal**

4. Two day National Junior/ ~~Adult Amateur~~ restricted competitions will have a Horse Entry Number requirement of fifty (50). Competitions which utilize only one (1) competition ring or which offer only hunter and equitation classes (no jumper classes) will have a Horse Entry Number requirement as follows: Premier-seventy-five (75), National- fifty (50). There is no Horse Entry Number requirement for a Regional competition.

### **HJ111 National Rated Junior/ ~~Adult Amateur~~ Restricted Competitions**

2. Two day National Junior/ ~~Adult Amateur~~ restricted competitions will have a Horse Entry Number requirement of fifty (50).

6. At Federation licensed Junior/ ~~Adult Amateur~~ competitions, the only rated Hunter sections that may be held are those which are restricted by definition to the participation of juniors and **adults amateurs** (example, Junior, **Adult Amateur**, Children's, Adult, and Pony). Exception: Pony Hunter Breeding and Hunter Breeding classes.

7. Prize Money

- a. Minimum Prize Money paid- At National competitions restricted to Juniors and/ or **Adults Amateurs**, a minimum of \$3,000 and a maximum of \$74,999 in prize money, must be offered in the rated Hunter sections and classes. If more than the minimum required is guaranteed, the guaranteed amount becomes the minimum required prize money paid out.

### **HJ114 Stand-alone International Hunter Derby Competitions**

2. A stand-alone International Hunter Derby Competition must offer an International Hunter Derby. In addition, these competitions may only offer the following classes and one unrated warm-up class per derby offered: USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake, USHJA National Hunter Derby, USHJA Pony Hunter Derby. If a USHJA National Hunter Derby is offered, a second National Hunter Derby restricted to Junior and **Adults Amateurs** may also be offered (see class specifications at USHJA.org). Any warm-up class must be open to the same group of horses eligible for the Derby for which it is a warm-up class. No unrecognized, exhibition, or demonstration classes may be held.

## **SUBCHAPTER HJ-5 SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC SECTIONS**

8. All ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner classes should be scheduled in as short a period of time as possible.

### **HJ121 ~~Amateur~~ Adult Owner Hunter Sections**

1. Sections of ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter 3'6" held at Premier rated competitions must offer at least two (2) divided sections and may be divided as stipulated in HU162.6.b.1. Regional and National competitions may offer any or all of the ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter 3'6" sections either separately or combined.
2. Sections of ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter 3'3" held at Premier rated competitions must offer at least two divided sections and may be divided as stipulated in HU162.6.b.2. Regional and National competitions may offer any or all of the ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter 3'3" sections either separately or combined.

### **HJ124 USHJA Hunter Sections**

1. Management may offer up to four sections per fence height per competition:

c. ~~Amateur~~ **Adult**

2. If only one section is offered for a particular fence height, this section must be either open to all exhibitors or restricted to juniors and ~~amateurs~~ **adults**.

### **HJ126 Limiting Entries in the Hunter Division**

Hunter sections restricting entries based on winnings must use the Federation National Horse of the Year points or prize money won, whichever is applicable, as a means of qualification for the specified time period or, alternatively, must use the greatest number of Federation National Horse of the Year points won at a specified number of competitions within a specified time period. (Exception: Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6", and 3'9", Young Hunter 3'0", 3'3", and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'6", High Performance Conformation Hunter, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunter 3'6", and Performance Hunter 3'3" sections restricting entries based on winnings must accept 50% of the entries from the Federation National Horse of the Year points list and 50% of the entries from the Federation National Horse of the Year prize money won list. If an odd number of entries will be accepted, the Federation National Horse of the Year prize money won list will take precedence. The procedure for determining horses that qualify and their ranking will begin with the top placed horse on the Money Won standings list, then go to the top placed horse on the Points standings list, back to the second placed horse on the Money Won standings list, then on to the second placed horse on the points list, continuing down both lists in that order until all available slots have been filled. If during this process a horse appears on either list that has already qualified, skip that horse and go instead to the next horse on the same list. Continue using this process until all slots are filled.). Only points awarded in the particular section to count except in ~~Amateur~~ Adult Owner, **Adults Amateur**, and Junior Hunter sections where points from both the younger and older sections shall be counted.

## **SUBCHAPTER HU-8 HUNTER SECTIONS**

HU137 ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter

HU138 Adult ~~Amateur~~

HU139 Low Adult ~~Amateur~~

## **SUBCHAPTER HU-12 COMBINING AND DIVIDING OF SECTIONS OR CLASSES**

HU165 Definition of Split by Junior **Adult** ~~Amateur~~

## **SUBCHAPTER HU-14 USHJA CHAMPIONSHIPS, Programs, AND SPECIAL CLASSES**

## HU111 Height of Obstacles

### 8. Amateur ~~Adult~~ Owner Hunter Sections

c. If a 3'3" Amateur ~~Adult~~ Owner Hunter section is offered, obstacles are to be 3'3"

d. If a competition offers both 3'3" and 3'6" Amateur ~~Adult~~ Owner Hunter sections, regardless of the competition's rating, the obstacles must be set at 3'3" and 3'6" respectively

9. Adult Amateur Hunter Sections: See individual USHJA Zone specifications. For those USHJA Zones that do not provide specifications, obstacles will be 2'9" to 3'3"

## HU116 Judges

1. In National rated sections, a minimum of one Registered judge must officiate. Exception: Judges of either Registered or Recorded status may officiate the following sections alone or independently: Children's Hunter, Children's Pony Hunter, Adult Amateur Hunter, Low Children's Hunter Horse or Pony, Low Adult Amateur Hunter, Small Hunter, Thoroughbred Hunter, Ladies Side Saddle, Hunter and Pony Hunter Breeding, and any USHJA Hunter Section.

2. In Premier rated sections, the following applies:

b. Judges of either Registered or Recorded status may officiate the following sections alone or independently: Children's Hunter, Children's Pony Hunter, Adult Amateur Hunter, Low Children's Hunter Horse or Pony, Low Adult Amateur Hunter, Small Hunter, Thoroughbred Hunter, Ladies Side Saddle, Hunter and Pony Hunter Breeding, and any USHJA Hunter Section.

## HU123 Performance

1. An even hunting pace, manners, jumping style together with faults and way of moving over the course. Manners to be emphasized in Ladies and Amateur ~~Adult~~ classes; brilliance in Corinthian and Formal Hunting Attire classes.

## HU137 Amateur ~~Adult~~ Owner Hunter

1. To be ridden by Amateur ~~Adult~~ Owners or an **adult** amateur member of the owner's family.

~~2. An amateur who competes for a person outside of their family may not compete in a class restricted to Amateur Owners at the same competition. Exceptions:~~

~~a. Equitation classes~~

~~b. Under Saddle classes~~

~~c. A maximum of one (1) horse not owned by the rider, or their family, in the jumper sections and a maximum of one (1) horse not owned by the rider or their family in Hunter sections, in classes not restricted to amateur owners. (For Amateur rules please see GR1306)~~

3. To be judged on performance and soundness. If conformation is to be judged, it may not count more than 25%. All horses being considered for an award must be serviceably sound.

4. If an Under Saddle class is divided by age and a rider has two or more horses entered, provided at least one horse is ridden by the Amateur ~~Adult~~ Owner or an adult amateur member of the owner's family, the additional horse(s) entered may be ridden by another **adult** amateur regardless of rider's age.

5. Cross entry. Riders may cross enter between the Amateur ~~Adult~~ Owner 3'3" and/ or the Amateur ~~Adult~~ Owner 3'6" sections. Horses may not cross enter between the sections.

6. Amateur ~~Adult~~ Owner Hunters are required to jog for soundness.

## HU138 Adult Amateur Hunter

1. Competitions must offer Adult Amateur Hunter sections in accordance with the specifications of the applicable USHJA zone. The following specifications will apply for the Adult Amateur Hunter section unless addressed by specific USHJA Zone specifications (available at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org)):

- a. To be ridden by exhibitors who have reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year ~~and who hold a current Federation Amateur Status.~~
  - b. Horses and riders entered in the Adult ~~Amateur~~ Hunter sections may not compete in the ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner section at the same competition. Riders entered in the Adult ~~Amateur~~ sections may not compete in any other class in which obstacles are required to exceed 3'9" (1.15m) at the same competition.
  - c. Horses may be entered in Junior Hunter sections at the same competition if ridden by a member of the same family
  - d. Cross entry into other sections is allowed unless otherwise stated in the prize list.
2. To be judged on performance and soundness, suitability to count. All horses being considered for an award must be serviceably sound.
  3. If an under saddle class is divided by age and a rider has two or more horses entered, all riders must be adults ~~Amateurs~~ but need not be eligible by age.
  4. When a section is divided by age of rider no horse may compete in more than one section.
  5. Adult ~~Amateur~~ Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.
  6. Individual classes may be entered. (Exception: Under Saddle classes. See HU129.2).

### **HU139 Low Adult ~~Amateur~~ Hunter**

1. Competitions must offer Low Adult ~~Amateur~~ Hunter sections in accordance with the specifications of the applicable USHJA zone. The specifications as shown below will apply unless addressed by specific zone specifications (available at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org)):
  - a. To be ridden by exhibitors who have reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year ~~and who hold a current Federation Amateur Status.~~
  - b. Riders may not cross enter into any class or section where fences exceed 2'9" at the same competition (Exception 3'0" Equitation).
2. Low Adult ~~Amateur~~ Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.
3. Individual classes may be entered. (Exception: Under Saddle classes. See HU129.2).

### **HU144 Children's Hunter Sections**

2. Children's Hunter
  - b. Restrictions:
    4. Horses entered in Children's Hunter classes may be shown in the ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter section at the same competition if ridden by a member of the child's family.

### **HU157 Combination Hunter Championship**

All competitions with a limited number of Hunter classes, including events in more than one section (i.e. High Performance Conformation or Green Conformation Hunter 3'6", Green, High Performance or Performance Hunter), may count points won in such classes toward a Combination Hunter Championship. A Combination Hunter Championship and Reserve are awarded to two of the four horses which have acquired the most points performing over a regulation Hunter course with fences the height required in the section in which shown. In addition to these points, only these horses receive half points for ribbons won in Model, Maiden, Novice, Limit, and Green classes and full point for ribbons won in one Under Saddle class or, if not held, in one Hunter Hack class, if otherwise qualified. The prize list must specify which classes count. This Championship does not count toward a Federation Horse of the Year Award except for ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunters.

## **SUBCHAPTER HU-12 COMBINING AND DIVIDING SECTIONS OR CLASSES**



## HU159 General

- 3.
- a.
4. Amateur **Adult** Owner Hunter (HU166.6)
6. Children's and Amateur **Adult** Hunter sections refer to HU 166.9; HU166.10 and sections governed by USHJA Zone Specifications.

## HU161 Methods of Dividing

4. Junior/~~Amateur~~ **Adult** (see HU165 below for definition)

### HU165 Definition of Split by Junior Amateur **Adult**

If there are 30 or more entries in a section that is open to all competitors, Competition Management may choose to divide the section and offer one of the divided sections as restricted to Juniors and Amateurs **Adults** (See GR128 and GR1306-1307 for definition of Junior and Amateur **Adult**).

### HU166 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections

5. Junior Hunter
  - a. Combining:
    1. The Junior Hunter 3'6", Junior Hunter 3'3", ~~Amateur~~ **Adult Owner** Hunter 3'6", and Amateur **Adult** Owner Hunter 3'3" sections may only be combined with other Junior Hunter or Amateur **Adult** Owner Hunter sections. See below for conditions.
    2. At Premier, National or Regional rated competitions if there are fewer than three (3) entries in the Amateur **Adult** Owner 3'3", the Amateur **Adult** Owner 3'6", the Junior Hunter 3'3" or the Junior Hunter 3'6" sections, Competition Management may choose to combine the sections...
6. ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner Hunter
  - a. Combining
    1. The Amateur **Adult** Owner 3'6", ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner 3'3", Junior Hunter 3'6", and Junior Hunter 3'3" sections may only be combined with other Amateur **Adult** Owner Hunter or Junior Hunter sections. See below for conditions.
    2. At Premier, National or Regional rated competitions if there are fewer than three (3) entries in the Amateur **Adult** Owner 3'3", the Amateur **Adult** Owner 3'6", the Junior Hunter 3'3" or the Junior Hunter 3'6" sections, Competition Management may choose to combine the sections. The competition management may choose to combine the sections as necessary, based on the sections with the lightest entries. If sections are combined, the horses must jump the respective height of the original section entered. In addition, while the sections can be combined if entries warrant, in order for Horse of the Year points to count they must be offered separately in the prize list for Premier rated competitions (see HJ121).
    3. At Premier, National or Regional rated competitions if there are fewer than three (3) entries in the Amateur **Adult** Owner 3'3", the Amateur **Adult** Owner 3'6", the Junior Hunter 3'3" or the Junior Hunter 3'6" sections, these sections may be combined. The competition management may choose to combine the classes as necessary, based on the sections with the lightest entries. If sections are combined, the horses must jump the respective height of the original section entered.
  - b. Dividing:
    1. ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner 3'6" When a section is divided, one section must be offered for Amateurs **Adults** 18-35 and one section for Amateurs **Adults** over 35 years of age. If there are six or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than six entries in either divided section, they must be combined. If there are a minimum of 12 entries once the sections are combined, the newly combined section must be redivided using either a Floating or California Split...
    2. ~~Amateur~~ **Adult** Owner 3'3" When a section is divided, one section must be offered for Amateurs

**Adults** 18-35 and one section for ~~Amateurs~~ **Adults** over 35 years of age. If there are six or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than six entries in either divided section, they must be combined. If there are a minimum of 12 entries once the sections are combined, the newly combined section must be redivided using either a Floating or California Split...

#### 9. Adult Amateur Hunter

- a. Competitions must offer Adult Amateur Hunter sections in accordance with the specifications of each USHJA Zone.

### **SUBCHAPTER HU-14 USHJA CHAMPIONSHIPS, PROGRAMS, AND SPECIAL CLASSES**

#### **HU170 Adult Amateur Owner Hunter Championship**

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

#### 4. Zone or Regional Championships.

- a. The Chairman of each Zone may request permission of the USHJA to hold a Zone or Regional Championship section for the riders of each Zone who have won a Champion or Reserve at a National or Premier rated **Adult Amateur** Owner division within the previous competition year.
- e. The Championships are conducted under the same regulations as the USHJA **Adult Amateur** Owner Championship. (Exception: All points awarded are based on Premier point values as per GR 1132.5).

#### **HU171 Membership Requirements**

1. USHJA Hunter Team Challenge (exhibitors must be active Junior or **Adult Amateur** members);

#### **HU173 National Horse of the Year Point Values**

#### 2. International Hunter Derby

Points to be credited to each horse's respective section as declared at the time of entry. Only Juniors and **Adults Amateurs** may declare for the applicable Junior or **Adult Amateur** Owner section.

#### **HU174 Hunter Classics**

2.
  - b. If there are fewer than six (6) entries in any one Hunter Classic, it may combine with other sections of the same rating, regardless of the combining or dividing rules of the section. Exception: the Adult Amateur Hunter Classic, Low Adult Amateur Hunter Classic, Children's Pony Hunter Classic, Children's Hunter Classic, Low Children's Hunter Horse Classic, and Low Children's Hunter Pony Classic may be held with the number of entries indicated in the Zone specifications.
4. At National and Premier competitions, in sections with a National or Premier rating, Hunter Classics conducted using either a designated Hunter class as the first round or a separate two round class must offer at least \$1000 in prize money, except Pony Hunter Classics, Children's Hunter Classic, adult Adult Amateur Hunter Classic, and Low Adult Amateur Hunter Classic must offer a minimum of \$500 in prize money.

#### **JP108 Prize Money**

#### 3. Prize Money by Section.

- b. If a competition offers Children's or Adult Amateur and Junior, **Adult Amateur** Owner, or **Adult Amateur** classes, sections, no more than 40% of the prize money in these classes/ sections should go to the lowest

height classes/ sections.

c. If Children's or **Adult Amateur** sections are divided low and high, no more than 40% of the section's prize money should go to low.

d. If Junior, **Adult Amateur** Owner, or **Adult Amateur** sections are divided low and high, no more than 40% of the section's prize money should go to low.

4. The maximum amount of prize money (including bonus money, cash, or in-kind gifts and exhibition class prize money) allowed to be offered in a Children's and/ or **Adult Amateur**-Jumper class is \$10,000. This must be included and reported to the Federation in the Prize List and the competition results for purposes of determining total Jumper prize money. Competitions must apply to the Jumping Sport Committee, a minimum of 90 days prior to the start of the competition, for permission to offer more than \$10,000 in prize money, including bonus money, cash or in-kind gifts, and exhibition class prize money.

### **JP111 Tack and Attire**

6. Tied Stirrups. Any rider competing with their stirrup, stirrup leather or foot tied and/ or secured in any manner will automatically be eliminated from that class. Riding anywhere on the competition grounds with stirrup, stirrup leather, or foot tied or otherwise secured is cause for disqualification, by the steward, of that rider from the subsequent class in which the rider is entered. In the case of junior or **Adult Amateur**-riders, the steward will note the trainer name(s) on the Steward's Report and further disciplinary actions may be taken by the Federation. Exception: Devices approved by the FEI are allowed.

## **SUBCHAPTER JP-2 ELIGIBILITY, QUALIFICATION, AND RESTRICTION OF ENTRIES**

### **JP114 Eligibility**

3. Sections. Sections or Classes may be offered for **Adult Amateur**-Owner, Junior, Young Rider, Children, **Adult Amateur** or **Amateur** Riders; and/ or for Pony, Young Horse, Open Jumpers, or Thoroughbred Jumper. Competitions may offer any or all sections, as well as specific Sections or Classes differentiated by specific height. (See Subchapter JP-3 for definitions and specifications for each of the sections mentioned above.) If Jumper sections are offered which are not covered within the definitions contained in Chapter JP, full specifications (including eligibility requirements) must be printed in the prize list or referred in the Prize List to a conspicuous place on the competition's website.

### **JP115 Limiting Entries and/ or Qualifying**

4. Restrictions on Entry.

- a. Jumper sections restricting entries based on winnings must use prize money won in the horse's respective section (i.e., **Adult Amateur** Owner, Junior, **Adult Amateur** Owner/ Junior, and Open Jumper) during the specified time period; however for Jumper sections/ or classes for which a Federation endorsed Computer Ranking List has been established, this list (as of a date indicated in the prize list) may be utilized instead of prize money won. Management may also allow the winner of the previous year's class to enter without further qualifying.

### **JP118 Sections/ Classes Restricted to Junior, **Adult Amateur**, or Young Riders**

1. **Adult Amateur** Jumper: A horse that is ridden by an Amateur. Classes are restricted to riders who are no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors. See GR 1306 for **Adult Amateur**-Rules.
  - a. **Adults** Amateurs may compete up to two horses they do not own per height section of **Adult Amateur** Jumpers per competition. There is no limit on the number of horses that may be ridden by the owner or an **adult** amateur-member of the owner's family.
- c. Level of Difficulty:
  1. High **Adult Amateur** classes will have courses set at 1.40m (4'7") to 1.45m (4'9"). The maximum

height for the first class of this section and for any classes in which time is the deciding factor in the initial round, is 1.40m (4'7"). Note: Only **Adult Amateur** classes set at 1.40m to 1.45m will be pointed toward HOTY awards in the High **Adult Amateur** category.

2. Medium **Adult Amateur** classes will have courses set at 1.30m (4'3") to 1.35m (4'5"). All **Adult Amateur** classes set at 1.30m to 1.35m will be pointed towards HOTY awards in the Medium **Adult Amateur** category.
  3. Low **Adult Amateur** classes will have courses set at 1.20m (3'11") to 1.25 (4'1"). All **Adult Amateur** classes at 1.20m to 1.25m will be pointed toward the Low **Adult Amateur** category for the purposes of HOTY awards.
3. If a competition divides Junior or **Adult Amateur** classes into three sections (1.20/1.25m, 1.30/1.35m, and 1.40/1.45m), the basic height specifications of each class will determine which HOTY category the class will be pointed towards.
5. Combined Sections. A section or sections combining **Adult Amateur**, Juniors, and/ or Young Riders may be offered.
- a. Dividing of Combined Sections/ Classes. After the prize list is published, if entries so warrant this section may be split into separate sections. Any class with fifteen or more Junior Jumper entries and fifteen or more **Adult Amateur** Jumper entries must be divided, and the prize money must be doubled. Exception: Special Classes i.e. Combined Classics or the highest prize money class of the section.
  - b. Combining of Sections. If Junior and/ or **Adult Amateur** sections are offered separately in the prize list, the sections may be combined if there are eight or less entries in either section.
6. Restrictions
- a. Any competitor that competes in an FEI Championship for Seniors (i.e. World Equestrian Games, Olympic Games, Pan-American Games, World Cup Finals) is ineligible to compete in any Junior, and/or **Adult Amateur** Jumper class with the same horse for a period of one year.
  - b. Any competitor that competes in a CSI5\*, CSI4\*, as CSI-W, or CSIO is ineligible to compete in a Junior, and/ or **Adult Amateur** Jumper class held below 1.40m at that same competition.
  - c. Riders competing in open jumper classes held at the USEF High Performance Standard or CSI3\*, CSI4\*, or CSI5\* FEI Grand Prix classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money are not eligible to compete in the highest money class, in the lowest height section of Junior, and/ or **Adult Amateur** Jumpers offered at the same competition where more than one height section is offered for Junior and/ or **Adult Amateur** Jumpers.

### **JP119 Sections/ Classes Restricted to Children, Adult Amateur Riders, or Ponies**

1. Children's and Adult Amateur Jumper: Sections are open to Junior and **Adult Amateur** exhibitors. The specifications as shown below will apply unless addressed by specific USHJA Zone specifications (available at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org)).
  - b. Dividing and Combining of Sections. Sections may be divided by age of rider or by horse/ pony and may also be combined (Children's with Adult Amateur sections) if so stated in the prize list.
2. Adult Amateur Jumper: To be ridden by exhibitors who are no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors. All exhibitors must be **adults amateur** in accordance with General Rules, GR1306 and must show USEF amateur certification.
5. Graduated Difficulty. Competitions are encouraged to offer sections for Pony, Children, and **Adult Amateur** Jumpers in which successive classes within the section are at increasing fence heights (for example: first class at 1.00m (3'3"), second class at 1.05m (3'5"), third class at 1.10m (3'7")).

### **JP153 Championship Qualification**

- 2.
- c. NAYRC- qualifying criteria will automatically be based on Junior, **Adult Amateur** Owner, and **Adult Amateur** Jumper classes held at 1.35m (4'5") and above as well as Open Jumper classes offering \$25,000 or

more in prize money between November 1 and June 15. Points will be awarded per GR1133.3.