

USHJA National Hunter Classics

General Specifications

The USHJA National Hunter Classics are opened to all horses and ponies; however distances will not be adjusted for ponies. For complete specifications see USEF Rule Book HU189 and the USHJA Programs Department. (Available on the USHJA web site.) To consist of a two round format, scored by 2 judges who sit together. The numerical scores from each round will be added together to get the overall point total for each horse. Round One will be a Hunter Classic Course – to consist of a minimum of ten obstacles, fence heights 3', with four option fences set at 3'3" to 3'5". There must be at least one each of the following: in and out; bending line; line with an unrelated distance; and long approach. Jumps must be reminiscent of those found in the hunt field. Banks and ditches allowed. Round One to be scored on performance, hunter pace and style, quality and substance, and movement and brilliance. After the judges' score is given, one point will be added for each high option fence jumped without a major fault (maximum of four bonus points). The Second Round is the Handy Hunter Round – a minimum of eight obstacles, fence height 3' with four option fences set at 3'3" to 3'5". The course should simulate riding over trappy hunt country and must have a minimum of two handy options such as: tight turns, different tracks, clever options for jump approaches, pen type obstacles, hand gallop a jump, trot a lowered obstacle not to exceed 2'6" in height, walk over an obstacle not to exceed 18" in height, lead over an obstacle, halt and/or back, open a gate while mounted. Gimmicky options are not appropriate. Round Two to be judged on performance, hunter pace and style, quality and substance, and movement and brilliance. After the judges' score is given one point will be added for each high option fence jumped without a major fault (maximum of four bonus points). In addition a maximum of ten bonus points may be awarded by the judges to each horse/rider combination for handiness of round and brilliance of pace. This score is to be announced separately and added to each horse/rider's score.

A minimum of twelve entries, including horses tied for twelfth place, must return for round two, if available. Final placings will be decided by adding together the scores from the two rounds. All riders from the top eight placing horses (or their designated representative) must ride for ribbons in order to receive prize money. Riders, owners and trainers must be members of the USHJA prior to the start of the class. Horses must be registered with USHJA prior to the start of the class. In order to be eligible for Horse of the Year points, a horse/pony must have an active Federation recording number. Horse/ponies are not required to jog for soundness. Any unsoundness during the competition will be reflected in the judges' scores. Formal attire is required per HU 126, in addition hunt colors coat or official sponsor or team coat is permitted.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CLASS:

- In order for National Hunter Classic points to be awarded, a USHJA Exhibitor Declaration form must be completed and submitted to the Horse Show Office at least one hour prior to the start of the class. If the Declaration Form is not received, riders/horses will receive no points for the class.
- During the two phases of the class, all horses entered must be ridden only in the designated National Hunter Classic warm up area(s) wearing their competition number. This includes horses simultaneously entered in another class, if any. Entered horses ridden or schooled elsewhere on the competition grounds or NOT wearing their competition number will be eliminated from competing in the classic and the entry fee will be forfeited.

\$5,000 USHJA National Hunter Classic sponsored by USHJA Zone 6. Summer Show. Horses are required to be presented for a Groom's Award prior to the first round.

\$2500 USHJA National Hunter Classic sponsored by Midstates Horse Shows LLC. Spring, Summerfest and Fall shows.

These classes also count toward the MHJA Hunter Challenge Series.