



CHILDREN'S AND ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016 SPECIFICATIONS

I. REGIONS

There will be 4 Regions, composed of the USHJA Zones.

- A. North – Zones 1, 2, and 5
- B. South – Zones 3 and 4
- C. Central – Zones 6 and 7
- D. West – Zones 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

II. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. Riders wishing to participate in the USHJA Children's and Adult Amateur Hunter Championships must be a U.S. resident and must complete an application. The rider must be a current Active USEF and USHJA Junior or Amateur member in good standing (see GR202.1 & HU 100). **Each rider's region is determined by the rider's point state as recorded with USEF at the time of his application or the start date of the earliest qualifying period, whichever occurs first.**
- B. The horse must be registered with USHJA (see HU 101.1) and recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR 1102, in good standing under USEF rules, and shown under the owner of record who must be an Active member of USHJA and the USEF (see GR 1110.3).
- C. As part of the application process, the rider, parent (if rider is under 18 years of age), and horse owner(s) certify that they have read and understand the USEF Code of Conduct, and agree to be bound by it.

III. APPLICATION

- A. Each rider will submit an application and application fee to USHJA in order to be considered for a team. Applications must be received in the USHJA office no later than 60 days prior to the start of any Regional Championships.
- B. The qualifying standings will be based on the hunter increment point chart used to calculate Zone HOTY standings (per GR1131.5) and will display current point totals. A

box will be added for the Children's/Adult Amateur Regional Hunter Championships to indicate if a rider has applied to the program. Horse-and-rider combinations can acquire points in any state and Canada.

See below for an example.

Zone 5 Children's Hunter Standings

Rank	Rider	Points	Applied
1	KNOX, GRACE / RAPIDASH - IL	386	X
2	ROHRBACH, ADELINE / CLOUD 9- IL	157	X
3	OLIVA, JACQUELINE / LET'S GO- IL	143	
4	DARBOR, SARAH / REMARKABLE- IL	87	
5	BRACKETT, LOUISA / LADY B LUCKY- IL	86	X
6	DENNIS, NICOLE / DREAM BOY- IL	60	
7	SEIKEL, MICHAELA / WINSTONE- IL	57	
8	PAULI, KAT / T. REX- IL	54	
8	NOLAND, NICOLE / JUST FOR FUN- IL	54	X
10	SCARNECHIA, SARAH / COLONIUS- IL	47	X

IV. DATES AND SHOW VENUES

The locations and dates of the Regional Championships recommended by the USHJA Hunter Working Group are subject to approval by the USHJA Executive Committee. Regional Championships must be held at competitions with a start date between June 1- November 30.

- A. Regional Championships may only be held in conjunction with a Federation licensed National-rated competition or above. Regional Championships shall be awarded to a host through a bid process established by the USHJA.
- B. No venue may be selected to host the Regional Championships for more than two consecutive years unless USHJA deems it necessary or in the best interest of the sport.
- C. Each Regional Championship must be held within the zones that comprise its region.

V. QUALIFYING PROCEDURES

The qualifying period for the 2016 Regional Championships begins with competitions having a start date of one year before the start date of the Championships. Each qualifying period will include any competition with a start date of no less than 60 days prior to the start date of the Regional Championships.

The qualifying period for each future Regional Championships will begin the first day following the conclusion of the current Regional Championships and will include any competition with a start date of no less than 60 days prior to its start date.

A. Children’s Hunter:

1. Riders cannot compete in a class that exceeds 3’3” during the qualifying period (Exception: riders may compete in the USHJA National Hunter Derby, Junior Hunter 3’3” section and the Children’s Jumper section during the qualifying period).

B. Adult Hunter

1. Riders cannot compete in a class that exceeds 3’3” during the qualifying period. (Exception: riders may compete in the USHJA National Hunter Derby, Amateur Owner 3’3” section and the Adult Amateur Jumper section during the qualifying period).

VI. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL COMPETITORS

A. Each zone will be eligible to send a minimum of two teams of Children’s competitors and two teams of Adult Amateur competitors to the Championships.

B. The three year average number of Children’s Hunter riders and Adult Amateur riders residing in a zone determines the maximum number of teams that the zone may send to the Championships.

- Less than 200 Children’s Hunter riders.....2 teams
 - 201 - 300 Children’s Hunter riders.....3 teams
 - 301 - 400 Children’s Hunter riders.....4 teams
 - 401 - 500 Children’s Hunter riders5 teams
 - 501 – 600 Children’s Hunter riders.....6 teams
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- Less than 200 Adult Hunter riders.....2 teams
 - 201 – 300 Adult Hunter riders.....3 teams
 - 301- 400 Adult Hunter riders.....4 teams
 - 401 - 500 Adult Hunter riders5 teams
 - 501 – 600 Adult Hunter riders.....6 teams

C. A maximum of 6 teams per zone for the Children’s Championships and a maximum of 6 teams per zone for the Adult Amateur Championships will be eligible.

D. A team will consist of a minimum of three horse-and-rider combinations but not more than four. These riders will participate in the Team Competition and are also eligible to qualify for the Individual Competition.

E. A fifth horse-and-rider combination will be assigned to each team and serve as the team’s Traveling Replacement horse-and-rider combination should a member of the team be unable to participate.

- F. The fifth horse-and-rider combination will compete only in the Individual Championship unless competing as a substitute on a team.
- G. Each team will be fielded by the order of the standings.
 - Example: Zone 7 is eligible to field 3 teams. The riders will be assigned to the teams based on ranking. Riders 1-4 will comprise Team 1, riders 5-8 will comprise Team 2, riders 9-12 will comprise Team 3. Rider in 13th place on the standings will serve as the 5th place alternate on Team 1. The rider in 14th place on the standings will serve as the 5th place alternate on Team 2. The rider in 15th place on the standings will serve as the 5th place alternate on Team 3.
- H. If a zone is unable to field a team, that zone may send up to two eligible horse-and-rider combinations to participate in each of the Individual Championships (Children's and Adult). The horse-and-rider combinations will be fielded by the order of the standings.
- I. If a zone is unable to field a team of at least three horse-and-rider combinations, the zone may apply to the USHJA to combine with another zone. Once all of the entries are submitted, the USHJA will make the final decision to combine the horse-and-rider combinations no later than the first Chef d'Equipe meeting at the Regional Championships.
- J. A rider may not compete on more than one team.

VII. TEAM SELECTION

- A. Horse-and-rider combinations from each zone will be ranked according to points won at USEF Licensed competitions in the Children's and Adult Amateur hunter sections offered with fence heights of 2'9"-3'3".
 - 1. Horse-and-rider combinations can acquire points in any state and Canada.
- B. Riders from all Children's Hunter Horse sections will be combined to create one ranking list in each zone in order of total points earned for the Children's Hunter Horse section.
- C. Riders from all Adult Amateur Hunter sections will be combined to create one ranking list in each zone in order of total points earned for the Adult Amateur Hunter section.
- D. In the event of a tie in the standings, the tie will be broken by the number of first places won by the horse-and-rider combination, followed by the number of second places, and so on until the tie is broken.
- E. If a rider has more than one horse in the top positions of his zone's standings, the rider may choose which horse he will compete and the next highest ranked horse-and-rider combination will move into the vacancy.
- F. Once the teams are formed, in the event a qualified horse-and-rider combination is unable to compete due to illness or injury to a rider or horse, or other unforeseen circumstances, the team's alternate will compete. If the alternate is unable to compete,

the next highest ranked horse-and-rider combination in the zone will move into the vacancy.

VIII. CHEF D' EQUIPE AND REGIONAL COORDINATOR

- A. Individuals will be asked to apply to USHJA to serve as the Chef d'Equipe. The applicants must meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Current Active member in good standing with USHJA and USEF.
 - 2. Declared professional with USEF
 - 3. Reside within the zone for which they are applying to serve as the Chef d'Equipe.
 - 4. Confirm they will be attending the designated Children's/Adult Amateur Hunter Regional Championships.
- B. The zone committee will select individuals to serve as team Chefs d'Equipe.
- C. USHJA may appoint a Regional Coordinator.

IX. SCORING

- A. There will be a total of four judges. Judges will be seated separately in two panels consisting of two judges per panel.
- B. Each judging panel will provide one score.
- C. One judge on each panel must be an R-licensed hunter judge while the other may be an R-licensed or r-licensed judge.
- D. All judges must be Federation licensed and in good standing with the Federation and USHJA.
- E. No guest cards will be granted for this competition.
- F. The judges will be hired by the host competition manager.
- G. One scribe will be assigned for each judging panel for all phases of the Championship.
- H. The judging panels will remain the same throughout the Championship.
- I. Prior to the start of the Regional Championships, one judging panel in each phase of the Individual Competition must be designated as the tie breaking panel. In addition one judging panel must be designated as the overall tie breaking panel for the Team Competition and the other judging panel must be designated as the overall tie breaking panel for the Individual Competition.

X. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION FORMAT

Regional Championships must be held over two days. Children's riders have a Team Competition and an Individual Competition separate from the Adult Team and Individual

Competitions. Each Team and Individual Championship must be held under the following format:

A. Team Competition – Day One

1. All teams approved by USHJA are eligible to compete in the Team Competition.
2. Phases:
 - a. Under Saddle
 - b. Classic Hunter Style Course
 - c. Classic Hunter Style Course
3. The phases must be held in the order listed above.
4. Each course must consist of a minimum of 10 fences.
5. Fence heights of 3'0".
6. Overall team awards to be presented at the conclusion of Day One.
7. The winning team will be the team with the highest overall score. (*See Section XI.A for definition of overall score.*)

B. Individual Competition - Day Two

1. The top 40 placed horse-and-rider combinations, including combinations tied for 40th, from the Team Competition are eligible to compete. If, for any reason, one or more of the qualified horse-and-rider combinations are unable to start, they will not be replaced.
2. The total score of each horse-and-rider combination in each phase of the Team Competition will be added together to determine each horse-and-rider combination's overall score in order to determine the Top 40 competitors for the individual championships.
3. Scores earned during the Team Competition do not carry over to the Individual Championship.
4. The Traveling Alternate from each team will automatically be qualified to participate if they do not participate in the Team Competition.
5. The total number of individual exhibitors competing in the Individual Championship will include the Top 40 individual horse-and-rider combinations from the Team Competition, all of the eligible Traveling Alternates and individual horse-and-rider combinations qualifying from zones unable to field a full team or form a full team with another zone. (*See VI.H*)
6. Phases:
 - a. Under Saddle
 - b. Classic Hunter Derby Style Course
 - c. Handy Hunter Course
7. The phases must be held in the order listed above.
8. Each course must consist of a minimum of 10 fences, with three option fences set at 3'3."
9. Fence heights of 3'0."

10. The Under Saddle, Classic Hunter and Handy Hunter phases will be placed and awarded individually.
11. The Overall Individual awards will be presented at the conclusion of the Day Two.
12. The Individual Champion is the horse-and-rider combination with the highest overall score from the Individual Championship. (*See Section XI.B for definition of overall score.*)

XI. JUDGING SYSTEM

A. Team Competition

1. The Under Saddle phase of the Team Competition shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, manners and way of going. Riders will be placed in groups of 10 for the under saddle phase. Groups determined by random draw.
2. The Over Fences phases of the Team Competition shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going.
3. No judging panel may award the same base score to any two competitors in any one phase.
4. The scores of both judging panels will be added together to determine the total score of each horse-and-rider combination for each phase.
5. In all three phases of the competition, each team of four will discard its lowest horse-and-rider combination's total score. The remaining three horse-and-rider combinations' total scores will be added together to determine the team's score. A team with three riders will not discard a score in any phase.
6. Each team's overall score is determined by adding together the team's scores from all three phases.
7. If a horse-and-rider combination is eliminated in any phase, they are still eligible to compete in any additional phases.

B. Individual Championship

1. The Under Saddle phase of the Individual Championship shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, manners and way of going. Riders will be placed in groups of 10 for the under saddle phase. Groups determined by random draw.
2. The Classic Hunter Derby phase of the Individual Championship shall be judged and numerically scored on quality, movement, jumping style, manners and way of going. After the judging panel's base score is given, one point will be added for each high option fence jumped.
3. The Handy Hunter phase of the Individual Championship shall be judged on performance, hunter pace, jumping style, quality and substance, movement, handiness and brilliance of pace. Handiness is defined as ground saving movement without adversely affecting performance or style. Brilliance of pace is defined as a faster pace than ordinary, without sacrificing performance or style. **Handiness is taken**

- into account in the judges' base score.** After the judging panel's base score is given, one point will be added for each high option fence jumped.
4. The Option Bonus Score of one additional point must be awarded even if there is a refusal, rail down or loss of good jumping style at that higher height option fence, providing that the horse-and-rider combination does jump the higher height option fence. (Maximum of three points per judging panel).
 5. No judging panel may award the same base score to any two competitors in any one phase.
 6. The scores of both judging panels will be added together to determine the total score of each horse-and-rider combination for each phase.
 7. The total score of each horse-and-rider combination in each phase will be added together to determine each horse-and-rider combination's overall score.
 8. If a horse-and-rider combination is eliminated in any phase, they are still eligible to compete in any additional phases.

XII. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

A. Team Championship

1. No judging panel may award the same base score to any two competitors in any one phase.
2. All ties in the overall results will be broken by the single highest base score given to any one team member by the designated tie breaking judging panel in the second over fences phase.
3. There will NOT be a jump off for tied teams.

B. Individual Championship

1. No judging panel may award the same base score to any two competitors in any one phase.
2. All ties in all phases will be broken by the base score, before adding height bonus points, of the designated tie breaking judging panel.
3. All ties in the overall results will be broken by the second phase base score, before adding height bonus points, of the designated tie breaking judging panel.
4. There will NOT be a jump off for tied horses.

XIII. STARTING ORDER FOR THE TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS :

- A. Team Competition - The order in which the teams will compete in the Team Competition will be determined by a random draw and the order will be followed for both over fences phases. The order of go for the team will be determined by the Chef d'Equipe and will be followed for both over fences phases.
- B. Individual Competition - The starting order for the Classic Hunter Derby phase will be determined by a random draw. The starting order for the Handy Hunter phase will be

according to the reverse order of scores earned in the Classic Hunter Derby phase, with the lowest score returning first.

- C. Under Saddle Phases – Riders will be placed in groups of 10 for the under saddle phase in both the Team and Individual Competitions. Groups determined by random draw.

XIV. TACK, EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

Refer to HU125, HU126 and HU127 in the USEF Rule Book for current specifications.

XV. SOUNDNESS

- A. All horses entered in the Children's and Adult Amateur Hunter Regional Championships must jog for soundness during the Official Jog prior to the start of the first phase of the Team Competition in order to compete. The Official Jog must be held within 24 hours of the start of the first phase of the Team Competition. This jog will be run in a manner similar to an FEI jog. All horses entered in the Children's Hunter Regional Championships must be jogged for soundness by a junior. (HU133)
- B. A horse must be officially entered in the Championship before it will be allowed to jog.
- C. All horses are subject to drug testing during the jog and must be compliant with USEF Drugs and Medications rules.
- D. Proper attire is required (i.e., riding clothes or proper attire which an exhibitor would wear to compete in a model class).
- E. All horses must be presented at the Official Jog with their actual competition number and wearing a conventional hunter bridle, including noseband.
- F. The judging panel for the Official Jog shall consist of the competition veterinarian and one judge from each of the judging panels.
- G. The jog surface must be level. Horses shall be evaluated from the side.
- H. If a horse does not pass the jog; the exhibitor may request to re-present the horse to the panel of officials present during the original jog. The officials may decide to allow the horse to re-present at any time up to one hour prior to the start of the first phase of the Team Competition. Following consultation with the veterinarian, the decision of the participating judge(s) is final and binding and not subject to further appeal of any kind.

XVI. HORSE RESTRICTION

- A. Horses competing in the Championships may not compete in any other class at the same competition. Horses must wear their competition numbers while on the competition grounds. Different color back numbers will be provided to the horses entered in the Championship if held in conjunction with another competition.

- B. Following the jog, only the qualified rider may be mounted on his competition horse, until that horse-and-rider combination has finished in all phases of the Championship for which they are qualified. Any violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of any scores received and elimination of the horse-and-rider combination for the remainder of the competition.

XVII. BONUS POINTS

- A. Participants competing in the USHJA Children's/Adult Amateur Hunter Regional Championships will accrue Zone HOTY bonus points for their respective placing according to the point scale outlined below regardless of whether the event is held within their home zone.

B. Team Competition

1. The following Zone HOTY bonus points will be awarded to each team member in the top eight teams in the Team Competition Overall Standings. Bonus points to be awarded to each horse-and-rider combination's applicable Children's or Adult Amateur Hunter Section for the current competition year.

- 1st - 120 points
- 2nd – 105 points
- 3rd – 90 points
- 4th – 75 points
- 5th – 60 points
- 6th – 45 points
- 7th – 30 points
- 8th – 15 points

C. Individual Competition

1. The following Zone HOTY bonus points will be awarded in each of the three phases comprising the Individual Championship. Bonus points to be awarded to each horse-and-rider combination's applicable Children's or Adult Amateur Hunter Section for the current competition year. There will be no additional bonus points for the overall individual winner.

- 1st - 40 points
- 2nd – 35 points
- 3rd – 30 points
- 4th – 25 points
- 5th – 20 points
- 6th – 15 points

7th – 10 points

8th – 5 points

XVIII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Horses are required to have health documents and vaccinations as required by the host competition, their state of origin and the state in which the Championship is held.

The USHJA Children's and Adult Amateur Regional Championships and the related format and specifications are the sole properties of the USHJA and may only be held, conducted or used upon the terms and conditions specified by the USHJA. USHJA reserves the right to change language in documents related to the conduct of the Children's/Adult Amateur Hunter Regional Championships as necessary in extenuating or unforeseen circumstances, or for the purposes of consistency and clarity. Additionally USHJA reserves the right to alter specifications for this program on an annual basis.

