

**2026 USHJA GLADSTONE EQUITATION CLASSIC FOR AMATEURS**  
**SPECIFICATIONS**

**I. QUALIFYING**

The Gladstone Equitation Classic for Amateurs will be offered on the East and West Coast. It is open to any Amateur rider that has placed first, second or third in adult equitation classes in the age group equitation at 2'9" or higher or 3'3" Adult Jumping Seat Medal class, Taylor Harris Insurance Adult Medal class, and Ariat National Adult Medal class at a competition with a start date of June 1 and an end date 45 days prior to the Championship date. Riders must be an active USHJA Amateur member at the time of competition in order to compete.

**II. COMPETITION FORMAT**

A. Jog –

1. All horses entered in the USHJA Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic for Amateurs must jog for soundness during the Official Jog prior to the start of the first round in order to compete. The Official Jog must be held within 24 hours of the start of the first round. This jog will be run in a manner similar to an FEI jog.
2. A horse must be officially entered in the class before it will be allowed to jog.
3. Proper attire is required. In addition, Juniors are required to wear protective headgear.
4. All horses must be presented at the Official Jog with their competition number and wearing a bridle, including noseband.
5. The judging panel for the Official Jog shall consist of the competition veterinarian and a minimum of one competition judge.
6. The jog surface must be level. Similar to an FEI Veterinary Inspection, horses shall be evaluated going directly away and back from the veterinarian and judge, after which, upon the recommendation of the veterinarian, the participating judge will decide if the horse passes.
7. If a horse does not pass the jog; the exhibitor may request to re-present the horse. The judge(s) may decide to allow the horse to re-present at any time up to one hour prior to the start of the class. The veterinarian and one of the judges from the original panel must be present. In this case, the decision of the participating judge is final and not subject to appeal.

B. If there are 50 or more entries, the final must be split into two sections (18 – 29, 30+). If the final is not split, additional awards will be given to those top riders in the 30+ age group.

C. Round 1 – Hunter Style Equitation Round. Riders to show over a classic hunter style course of at least ten (10) jumps. Open numeric scoring system will be used, scores to be announced.

D. Round 2 – Handy Hunter Round. Riders to show over a handy hunter course of at least ten (10) jumps. Handiness and brilliance to be rewarded. The top twenty (20) riders will return for the Handy Hunter Round in reverse order of scores from Round 1. Open numeric scoring system will be used, scores to be announced.

E. Round 3 – Final Round. Based on the combined scores from Rounds 1 and 2. A minimum of the top four (4) and a maximum of the top six (6) riders will be asked to return for further testing. Judges must select 2 or more tests from EQ 113 (tests 1 – 17) Scores will not be announced.

**III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

A. Jumps to be set at 3'.

B. Fences shall be numbered in all rounds.

C. Obstacles must simulate those reminiscent of the hunt field and course must offer a variety of Classic jumps with different appearances such as: natural post and rail, stone wall, white board fence or gate, coop, aiken, hedge, oxer, brush, logs, natural foliage.

D. A variety of jumps that will nicely challenge the riders are encouraged.

E. Hunter Seat Equitation Championship Course (First Round)

1. Course must consist of a minimum of at least ten (10) obstacles, with at least one of each of the following:
  - a. A minimum of 2 obstacles must not have ground lines
  - b. In and out
  - c. Bending line
  - d. Line with an unrelated distance
  - e. Long approach to a single jump
  - f. Narrow jump (5'6" -8')
- F. Handy Hunter Course (Second Round)
  1. The course should simulate riding over hunt country and must contain the following elements:
    - a. Tight turns
    - b. Different tracks
    - c. Clever options for jump approaches
    - d. Hand gallop to a jump
    - e. Trot a lowered obstacle (not to exceed 2'6" in height)

#### IV. **TACK**

Refer to EQ106.5a in the USEF Rule Book for current specifications.

#### V. **SCHOOLING**

- A. Horses are required to be stabled on the competition grounds for a minimum of twelve (12) hours before the start of the competition.
- B. Commencing twelve (12) hours before the start and continuing until finished competing in the USHJA Gladstone Equitation Classic for Amateurs, only the competition rider may ride his entry. These riders must wear their competition number whenever mounted. Riders may change horses for the Classic only in the case of illness or injury to the declared horse, with verification from the horse show veterinarian and approval from the horse show committee.
- C. Competition Management must provide a ticketed warm up for Gladstone entries only, the day prior to the final. The warmup format must be timed, with a set course, with one rider on course at a time.
- D. Competition Management must provide a specific time for Gladstone entries only to hack in the competition ring.
- E. Competition Management must provide a dedicated schooling area for Gladstone entries only.

#### VI. **JUDGES AND JUDGING PROCEDURES**

- A. ***Two*** panels of two (2) "R" or Registered status judges licensed in Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation judges will be approved by the USHJA for each of the East and West Coast events. One of the "R" registered judges must be approved by the USHJA Equitation Task Force prior to the final.
- B. ***Two*** judges will sit together for the duration of the class and provide one (1) numerical score for each competitor in each phase.
- C. Riders to be judged on style and smoothness with an emphasis on hunter style of riding.
- D. The scores from each round will be combined for a final total score for each rider.
- E. The final combined scores from each rider will be used to determine placings.
- F. All ties will be broken using the scores from Round 1.

#### VII. **AWARDS**

- A. Ribbons will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup>– 12<sup>th</sup> place overall to each age group if the final is split. The presentation of awards is to be given in reverse order.
- B. In event of one section, 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> place will be awarded for overall placings, with the addition of 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons awarded to those top riders in the 30+ age group.
- C. The Champion rider will receive a keeper trophy.
- D. Recognition will be given to the Trainer of the Champion.
- E. Recognition will be given for the Best Equitation Horse. To be awarded to the horse deemed by the judges to

be the best and most suitable equitation horse.

**VIII. USHJA CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please contact one of the following USHJA representatives if questions arise pertaining to the USHJA Gladstone Equitation Classic for Amateurs that cannot be answered by the Show Steward or Management based on the class specifications provided:

USHJA Equitation Department - (859) 225-6700

Sissy Wickes, Chair of the USHJA Joint Equitation Task Force - (610) 308-9940

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