

**USHJA ZONE 8
2026 HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION
SPECIFICATIONS**

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 2026 ZONE 8 HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION SPECIFICATIONS..... | 2 |
| ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER | 3 |
| LOW ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER | 5 |
| AMATEUR JUMPER..... | 6 |
| AGE GROUP EQUITATION: ADULT SECTION | 8 |
| CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE | 9 |
| LOW CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE | 10 |
| CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY..... | 11 |
| JUNIOR JUMPER..... | 12 |
| AGE GROUP EQUITATION: CHILDREN’S/JUNIOR SECTION | 14 |
| USHJA COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL CLASSES..... | 15 |

2026 ZONE 8 HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION SPECIFICATIONS

(AZ, CO, NM, UT)

In accordance with GR 1111.4: **CA, NV, ID, WY, NE, KS, OK, TX** are contiguous states.

JUDGING FOR ALL HUNTER SECTIONS:

- To be judged on performance and soundness, suitability to count.
- Horses and Ponies are not required to jog for soundness.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADULT AMATEURS: HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION:

- 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 USEF Amateur certification. Open to horses and ponies. State rules may prohibit entry of ponies.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN'S SECTIONS: HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION:

- To be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. State rules may prohibit entry of ponies.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER

Sections offered and requirements:

- Adult Amateurs – may be split into three (3) sections

Cross Entry:

Riders:

Adult Amateur Hunter riders may not cross enter into any hunter class with fences exceeding 3'6" nor any jumper class with fences exceeding 1.20m (3'11") at the same show.

In the under saddle class the cross entry restrictions do not apply, but an Adult Amateur must ride in the Adult Amateur Hunter under saddle.

Horses:

Horses may cross enter into any other classes or sections where eligible.

Horse and Rider Combination:

The horse-and-rider combination is restricted from showing in both Amateur Owner and Adult Amateur Hunter sections at the same show.

The same horse and rider combination competing in the Adult Amateur Hunter may not cross enter into a USHJA International Hunter Derby.

Fence Height:

- 3'0" with spreads not to exceed the fence height.
- Courses will not be adjusted for ponies.
- In and outs will be permitted.

Combining/Dividing Sections:

May be split into three sections:

- Adult Amateurs 18 – 35
- Adult Amateurs 36 – 49
- Adult Amateurs 50 & over

At Premier rated competitions, the Adult Amateur Hunter section must be offered divided by age as follows: Adult Amateur 18- 35, Adult Amateur 36- 49 Adult Amateur 50 & over.

If there are fewer than four (4) entries in any age group, that group must be combined with another. In the event that after combining all three age groups, there are still fewer than three (3) entries; management must combine the Adult Amateur Hunter section with the Children's Hunter Horse section.

National and Regional rated competitions are not required to offer the section divided, but may do so at management's discretion.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- Adult Amateur Hunter 18- 35
- Adult Amateur 36- 49
- Adult Amateur 50 & over

LOW ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER

Eligibility:

Open to exhibitors who have reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.

Cross Entry:

Riders:

Riders may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where fences exceed 1.10m or 3'6".

Horses:

No cross entry restrictions.

Horse and Rider Combination:

Horse and Rider combinations may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where fences exceed 2'9" (Exception: 3'0" Equitation).

Fence Height:

- 2'6"

Combining/Dividing Sections:

The Low Adult Amateur Hunter and Low Children's Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following section:

- Low Adult Amateur Hunter

AMATEUR JUMPER

Sections offered and requirements:

- 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper
- 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper

Cross Entry:

Rider:

The 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper rider may cross enter into any class at the same competition for which they are eligible on different horse. A 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper rider may not cross enter in classes above **1.25m** at the same competition.

The 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper rider may cross enter into any class at the same competition for which they are eligible on different horse. If a 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper classic is offered in the Junior or Amateur Jumpers and the rider has jumped above **1.25m** at that show then they are not eligible for any Classic in the Junior's/Amateur Jumper sections.

Horse/Pony:

No cross entry restrictions

Horse and Rider Combination:

The same 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper horse/rider combination may not cross enter into any class held above 1.15m at the same competition. Horse/Rider combination may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m and 1.10/1.15m classics are offered.

The same 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper horse/rider combination may not cross enter into any class held above 1.25m at the same competition. Horse/Rider combination may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m and 1.10/1.15m classics are offered.

Fence Height:

- Amateur Jumper 1.00m to 1.05m
- Amateur Jumper 1.10m to 1.15m

Combining/Dividing Sections:

1.00/1.05m Junior and 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper sections must combine if there are fewer than three (3) in either section and may combine if there are fewer than six (6) in either section.

If after combining the 1.00/1.05m sections there are fewer than three (3) entries then competition management must further combine the 1.00/1.05m sections with the 1.10/1.15m sections, allowing each section to compete at their respective height.

1.10/1.15m Junior and 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper sections must combine if there are fewer than three (3) in either section and may combine if there are fewer than six (6) in either section. If after combining the 1.10/1.15m sections there are fewer than three (3)

entries then competition management must further combine the 1.10/1.15m sections with the 1.00/1.05m sections, allowing each section to compete at their respective height.

If sections are combined a horse can only compete at one height.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper
- 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper

AGE GROUP EQUITATION: ADULT SECTION

Sections Offered:

- Adult Equitation 18-35
- Adult Equitation 36 +

Cross Entry:

No cross entry restrictions

Fence Height:

- 3' with spreads not to exceed fence height
 - Combinations will be permitted

Combining/Dividing Sections:

If there are fewer than three (3) entries in either age group, the two age groups must be combined. If, after combining, there are still fewer than three (3) entries, the Adult Equitation section may be combined with any other equitation age group. If combined with the 12-14 or 15-17, combinations are optional. If combined with any age group that includes Equitation 11 & Under, then combinations are prohibited. When combined, Adult Equitation entries must jump their proper height of 3'0".

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- Adult Equitation 18-35
- Adult Equitation 36 +

CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE

Sections offered and requirements:

- Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under
- Children's Hunter Horse 15-17

Cross Entry:

Rider:

Children's Hunter Horse riders may not cross enter into any hunter class with fences exceeding 3'6" nor any jumper class with fences exceeding 1.20m (3'11") at the same show.

Horses/Ponies:

Horses may cross enter into any other classes or sections where eligible.

Horse and rider combination:

The horse-and-rider combination is restricted from showing in both Junior Hunter and Children's Hunter Horse sections at the same show. The same horse and rider combination competing in the Children's Hunter Horse may not cross enter into a USHJA International Hunter Derby.

Fence Height:

- Horses 3'0" with spreads not to exceed fence height
- In and outs will be permitted

Combining/Dividing Sections:

At Premier rated competitions, the Children's Hunter Horse section must be offered divided by age as follows: Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under, Children's Hunter Horse 15-17.

If there are fewer than four (4) entries in either age group, the two groups must be combined. In the event that, after combining the two age groups, there are still fewer than three (3) entries; management must combine the Children's Hunter Horse section with the Adult Amateur Hunter section.

National and Regional rated competitions are not required to offer the section divided, but may do so at management's discretion.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- Children's Hunter Horse 14 & Under
- Children's Hunter Horse 15-17

LOW CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE

Eligibility:

Open to exhibitors who have not yet reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.

Cross Entry:

Riders:

Riders may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where fences exceed 1.10m or 3'6".

Horses:

No cross entry restrictions

Horse and Rider Combination:

Horse and Rider combinations may not cross enter into any class or section at the same competition where fences exceed 2'9" (Exception: 3'0" Equitation).

Fence Height:

- 2'6"

Combining/Dividing Sections:

The Low Children's Hunter and Low Adult Amateur Hunter sections may be combined if there are fewer than three (3) entries in either section.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following section:

- Low Children's Hunter Horse

CHILDREN'S HUNTER PONY

Sections offered and requirements:

- Small/Medium Children's Pony
- Large Children's Pony

Cross Entry:

Rider:

No cross entry restrictions

Horse/Pony:

The pony is restricted from cross entering between the Regular Pony Hunter, Green Pony Hunter and Children's Hunter Pony sections at the same horse show.

Horse and Rider Combination

The pony-and-rider combination is restricted from showing in both Regular Pony Hunter, Green Pony Hunter and Children's Hunter Pony at the same horse show.

Fence Height:

- Small/Medium Ponies: 2'0" with spreads not to exceed height of fence.
- Large Ponies: 2'6" with spreads not to exceed height of fence.
- In and outs will not be permitted.
- The spread of any oxer must be measured including flowers, brush and ground lines.

Combining/Dividing Sections:

The Children's Hunter Pony section must be offered and run by itself and may not be combined with the Children's Hunter Horse or any other section at Premier and National rated competitions.

If there are fewer than three (3) entries in the Children's Hunter Pony section at any Regional rated competition, it may be combined with the Children's Hunter Horse section. In this case, in-and-outs are prohibited.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- Children's Hunter Pony-Small/Medium
- Children's Hunter Pony-Large

JUNIOR JUMPER

Sections offered and Requirements:

- 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper
- 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper

Cross Entry:

Rider:

The 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper rider may cross enter into any class at the same competition for which they are eligible on different horse. A 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper rider may not cross enter in classes above 1.25m at the same competition.

The 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper rider may cross enter into any class at the same competition for which they are eligible on different horse. If a 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper classic is offered in the Junior's or Amateur Jumpers and the rider has jumped above 1.25m at that show then they are not eligible for any Classic in the Junior's/Amateur Jumper sections.

Horse/Pony:

No cross entry restrictions

Horse and Rider Combination:

The same 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper horse/rider combination may not cross enter into any class held above 1.15m at the same competition. Horse/Rider combination may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m and 1.10/1.15m classics are offered.

The same 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper horse/rider combination may not cross enter into any class held above 1.25m at the same competition. Horse/Rider combination may enter only one classic, if both 1.00/1.05m and 1.10/1.15m classics are offered.

Fence Height:

- Junior Jumper 1.00m to 1.05m
- Junior Jumper 1.10m to 1.15m

Combining/Dividing Sections:

1.00/1.05m Junior and 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper sections must combine if there are fewer than 3 in either section and may combine if there are fewer than 6 in either section.

If after combining the 1.00/1.05m sections there are fewer than 3 entries then competition management must further combine the 1.00/1.05m sections with the 1.10/1.15m sections, allowing each section to compete at their respective height.

If sections are combined a horse can only compete at one height.

1.10/1.15m Junior and 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper sections must combine if there are fewer than 3 in either section and may combine if there are fewer than 6 in either section. If after combining the 1.10/1.15m sections there are fewer than 3 entries then competition management must further combine the 1.10/1.15m sections with the 1.00/1.05m sections, allowing each section to compete at their respective height. If sections are combined a horse can only compete at one height.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper
- 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper

AGE GROUP EQUITATION: CHILDREN'S/JUNIOR SECTION

Sections Offered:

- Equitation 11 & Under
- Equitation 12-14
- Equitation 15-17

Cross Entry:

No cross entry restrictions

Fence Height:

- Equitation 11 & Under - 2'3"- 2'6" with spreads not to exceed fence height
 - Combinations are prohibited.
- Equitation 12-14 - 3'0"- 3'3" with spreads not to exceed fence height
 - Combinations are optional
- Equitation 15-17 - 3'0"- 3'3" with spreads not to exceed fence height
 - Combinations are optional

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Equitation 11 & Under:

Age group sections may be combined to meet the three (3) entry minimum requirement for points to be awarded. If 11 & Under and 12-14, or all three age groups combined, each age group section must jump their respective height; combinations are prohibited.

Equitation 12- 14:

Age group section may be combined to meet the three (3) entry minimum requirement for points to be awarded. If the 12-14 and 15-17 are combined each age group section must jump their respective height; combinations are optional.

Equitation 15- 17:

Age group section may be combined to meet the three (3) entry minimum requirement for points to be awarded. If the 12-14 and 15-17 are combined each age group section must jump their respective height; combinations are optional.

Awards:

Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be presented annually to the following sections:

- Equitation 11 & Under
- Equitation 12- 14
- Equitation 15- 17

USHJA COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS

For more information regarding the following programs please click on the links below:

Green Hunter Incentive

Click [here](#) for full specifications

Hunter Team Challenge

Click [here](#) for full specifications

International Hunter Derby

Click [here](#) for full specifications

National Hunter Derby

Click [here](#) for full specifications

Outreach

Click [here](#) for full specifications

Pony Hunter Derby

Click [here](#) for full specifications

World Championship Hunter Rider

Click [here](#) for full specifications

Zone Horse of the Year Championships

Please check individual [zone pages](#)

Zone Jumper Team Championships

Click [here](#) for full specifications

1.00/1.05m Junior/Amateur Zone Jumper Championship

Click [here](#) for full specifications

SPECIAL CLASSES

3'3" Jumping Seat Medal

Click [here](#) for full specifications

3'3" Hunter Seat Medal

Click [here](#) for full specifications

Green Hunter Challenge

Click [here](#) for full specifications

Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic

Click [here](#) for full specifications