

2025 WCHR Hunter Spectacular Specifications

(Central and West Coast Spectacular)

(Changes from 2024 marked in bold italic and underlined.)

Overall High Score Award: A plaque will be awarded to the rider who achieves the single highest numerical score in any one class within any WCHR hunter section during WCHR Spectacular week. *

High Score Awards: A jacket will be awarded to the riders who achieve the single highest numerical score in any one class, within their respective hunter section, in each of the nine WCHR categories: Professional, Developing Professional, Amateur Owner 3'6", Amateur Owner 3'3", Adult Amateur, Junior 3'6", Junior 3'3", Children's and Pony. *

* Should a tie occur between two (2) or more riders for high score within a category or for the Leading Hunter Rider, the rider with the highest cumulative over fences in that category will be awarded the WCHR high score award and WCHR Leading Hunter Rider award. Riders must be enrolled in the 2025 WCHR program to be eligible for a high score award.

WCHR Hunter Spectacular

I. Entry Format Options (Management may choose one of the following formats. The entry format chosen by management MUST be specified in the prize list and on the host application form.)

A. Open Entry Format:

1. Entries for the Spectacular class will be open to ALL enrolled WCHR riders competing at 3'6" or above. (Professionals, Amateurs and Juniors).
2. Riders may ride no more than three (3) horses in the class.
3. Horses are not required to have shown in any other class at the WCHR event to be eligible.
4. In the event the Spectacular receives fifty (50) or more entries, management may choose to bring back more than the top twelve (12) for the second round. Up to 30% of the total entries (Maximum of 25 horses).
 - a. If show management wishes to have the option to bring back more than the top twelve (12) for the second round, they must specify this in their prize list.

B. Qualifying Entry Format:

1. The Champion and Reserve Champion horse-and-rider combinations of the WCHR hunter sections 3'6" or higher during the WCHR Spectacular week will be invited to compete in the class. If the Champion or Reserve Champion horse-and-rider combination from any section declines to participate, then Management may choose to invite the 3rd and 4th place horse-and-rider combinations of that same section to compete. In the Green Conformation and High Performance Conformation, the model class points will not count towards qualifying.
2. Horse-and-rider combinations will compete at the respective height of the section from which they qualified.
3. Riders must be enrolled in the WCHR program to be eligible for the class.
4. A horse must be ridden by the same rider throughout the entire hunter section (exception: under saddle classes) to be eligible to compete in the WCHR Hunter Spectacular. Qualifying to compete in the WCHR Hunter Spectacular is based on the horse-and-rider combination; no horse or rider substitutions allowed.
5. Riders may qualify no more than two (2) horses for the class.
6. When qualifying from more than one section, the qualifying horse-and-rider combination will compete in the Spectacular from the section from which they have the highest number of points on the championship chart. In the case of an equal amount of points in more than one (1) section, the horse-and-rider combination will compete in the Spectacular from the section from which they first qualified.

C. When utilizing the qualifying entry format, show management is solely responsible for tracking and inviting

eligible riders.

- D. Show management is responsible for procuring all rider declarations prior to the start of the class regardless of the entry format used.

II. Enrollment and Participation Requirements

- A. Riders, owners, and trainers must be current Active members of USEF and USHJA to participate in this class. (see GR202).
- B. Riders and Trainers must have a current WCHR enrollment to participate in this class.
- C. Horses must be registered with USHJA to participate in this class.
- D. When utilizing an open format, the spectacular is open to Professionals, Amateurs and Juniors. Riders may ride a maximum of three (3) horses for this class.
- E. A horse is not required to have shown in any other class at the WCHR Event to be eligible to compete.*
- F. *When utilizing qualifying for the Spectacular, riders must be Champion or Reserve in any 3'6" or higher sections during the week to receive an invite to the class. Riders may ride a maximum of two (2) horses.
- G. The Spectacular will count for HOTY points and money won (where applicable) in the section declared at the time of entry, for which the horse must be eligible and that corresponds to the height jumped in the Spectacular. The two-round stand- alone Hunter Classic point scale will be utilized when awarding National HOTY bonus points. See HU173.9(b).
- H. HOTY points and money won will only be awarded towards a declared Hunter section for HOTY points if the horse competes in the declared section a minimum of five (5) times during the competition year.
- I. Each horse-and-rider combination must declare the height at which they will show when they enter the class.
- J. This class will be conducted under USEF General Rules and drug testing procedures.
- K. All horses entered in the class must jog for soundness before the start of the class to be eligible to compete.
- L. Formal attire is requested.

M. Declarations:

1. Open Entry Format – entries must declare their section of choice. Entries need to declare in the show office before closing one day prior to the class.
 - a. Entries declaring 3'6" must list one of the following eligible sections: Performance-3'6", Green – 3'6", Green Conformation, Amateur Owner- 3'6", Junior Hunter-3'6".
 - b. Entries declaring 3'9" must list in one of the following eligible sections: High Performance Conformation, Green-3'9".
 - c. Entries declaring 4'0" must declare as High Performance Hunter.
2. Qualifying Format – entries must declare the section and fence height in which they qualified from. Entries need to declare within one hour past the completion of the last qualifying section.

III. HOTY Points/ Money Won

- A. In order for HOTY points to be awarded, riders must complete a USHJA/WCHR Declaration Form prior to the class.
- B. Points accrued by horses shown by Professionals may be awarded to: Green 3'6", Performance 3'6", Green Conformation 3'6", Green 3'9", High Performance Conformation, High Performance Hunter.
- C. Points accrued by horses shown by Juniors or Amateurs may be awarded to: Amateur Owner 3'6" 18-35, 36 and Over, Junior 3'6" Large Younger, Large Older, Small Younger, Small Older.
- D. The Spectacular will count for HOTY points and money won (where applicable) in the section declared at the time of entry, for which the horse must be eligible and that corresponds to the height jumped in the Spectacular. The two-round stand- alone Hunter Classic point scale will be utilized when awarding National HOTY bonus points. See HU173.9(b).
- E. HOTY points and money won will only be awarded towards a declared Hunter section for HOTY points if the horse competes in the declared section a minimum of five (5) times during the competition year.
- F. The Spectacular class does not count towards WCHR Points.

IV. Judging Requirements and System

- A. All judges must be Federation licensed and in good standing with the Federation and USHJA.
- B. Both rounds are to be judged by a minimum of two (2) judging panels consisting of two (2) judges each. A

minimum of one R rated judge is required per panel.

- C. Each panel will provide one (1) score for each round, which will be averaged.
- D. Overall Score. An entry's Overall Score is the AVERAGE of round one and the AVERAGE of round two scores. The Sum of round one and round two will then be averaged. Example: if an entry receives a 90 in round one and a 92 in round two, then their average Overall Score will be 91.
- E. In case of a tie in either the first or second round: Panel One's score is the tiebreak. **Overall Score ties will remain tied. Prize money will be added together and divided equally.**
- F. A judging assistant must be present during all phases of the competition. The duties of the judging assistant include notifying the Judges if a rail comes down. The judging assistant is not required to be a licensed official and is not responsible for the scoring of the judging panels. A competition staff member may fill this role.
- G. This is a two (2) round class utilizing the open numerical scoring system. Each panels' score will be announced and then averaged to determine a final average numerical score for each horse.
- H. The first round shall be judged on performance, hunter pace, jumping style, quality, substance, and movement.
- I. The second round shall be judged on performance, hunter pace, jumping style, quality, 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. No trot fences will be permitted.

V. Course Requirements

- A. The course will consist of a minimum of ten (10) obstacles of at least six (6) different types. Fence heights of 3'6", 3'9" or 4'0".
- B. The course diagrams for each round must be posted a minimum of one hour before the start of the first round. Copies of the course(s) must also be available for distribution at the Riders Meeting.
- C. Jumps in all Rounds:
 - 1. Obstacles must simulate those reminiscent of the hunt field and the course must offer a variety of jumps with different appearances such as: natural post and rail, split rail, stone wall, white board fence, riviera gate, coop, aiken, hedge, oxer, brush, logs, natural foliage, a jump with no standards.
 - 2. Natural obstacles such as banks are permitted.
 - 3. A minimum 2" difference is required for the back element of an obstacle.
 - 4. For appropriate jumps, no ground line is necessary.
 - 5. The jumpable portion of any obstacle must be a minimum of eight feet on its front face.
 - 6. Flat cups may only be used for obstacles involving logs and/or in accordance with Federation rules.
- D. Classic Hunter Style Round (First Round)
 - 1. A minimum of 10 obstacles must be offered in the Classic Hunter Style Round.
 - 2. At least one in and out.
 - 3. At least one bending line. Approaches to jumps and/or bending lines off both leads.
 - 4. At least one line with an unrelated distance.
 - 5. At least one fence with a long approach.
- E. Playoff Handy Round (Second Round)
 - 1. A minimum of 10 obstacles must be offered in the Second/ Spectacular Round.
 - 2. The course should simulate riding over hunt country. Gimmicky options are not appropriate.
 - 3. At least one in and out.
 - 4. At least one bending line. Approaches to jumps and/or bending lines off both leads.
 - 5. At least one line with an unrelated distance.
 - 6. At least one fence with a long approach.
 - 7. The course may also include hand gallop between markers, halt, pen/circle of jumps, snake jump or a V jump that can be jumped as a bounce, one stride or two stride. The course designer in the second round can designate up to two optional tracks on the course plan that if taken allow a maximum of 2 points per option at each judging panel's discretion. The designated route/track or approach will be marked on the course plan with a dashed line.
 - 8. The top twelve (12) horses from the first round, after all ties are broken, are eligible to return for

the second round.

9. In the event management runs the class with open entries, and receives fifty (50) or more entries, they may choose to bring back more than the top twelve (12) for the second round. Up to 30% of the total entries (Maximum of 25 horses).

1. If show management wishes to have the option to bring back more than the top twelve (12) for the second round, they must specify as such in their prize list.

10. No trot fences will be permitted.

VI. Competition Requirements

- A. An Officials Meeting will be held prior to the Riders Meeting. Judges, Course Designer, Steward, and Competition Manager are required to meet prior to the start of the class to review the specifications and judging system.
- B. A Riders Meeting will be held prior to the start of the class to answer any questions regarding the course and class specifications. The meeting will be conducted by a USHJA/WCHR Representative assisted by management, a large R licensed Steward, one officiating Judge and the Course Designer.
- C. All horses entered in the class must jog for soundness before the start of the class to be eligible to compete. The designated jog area, time and order will be determined by management and conducted prior to the course walk. Once the Jog order is posted, no further substitutions may made. All horses must be presented at the Official Jog with their actual competition number and wearing a conventional hunter bridle and noseband. Proper attire is required (riding clothes or proper attire that an exhibitor would wear to compete in a model class.) The jog will be officiated by a minimum of one (1) large R licensed judge, one (1) large R licensed steward and the official veterinarian.
- D. Once the jog has commenced, horses may only be ridden in designated schooling areas. Horses must be accompanied by their competition number for the duration of the competition day after they have been presented for the jog.
- E. There will be one (1) course walk, **before the first** round, **and a course walk before the handy round if needed.**

VII. Awards and Prize Money

- A. All riders in the top 12 overall (or their designated representative if they are not available) must ride for ribbons in order to receive prize money.
- B. Winner receives: Cooler, Keeper Frame, Jacket Certificate.
- C. Bridle ribbons and Neck Sashes: 1st-12th.
- D. With prior permission from USHJA competition management may offer additional awards (e.g., highest placing junior owner, highest placing amateur, highest placing thoroughbred, highest placing rider competing on only one entry in the class).
- E. Prize Money Break down:
1st – 12th - 30%, 22%, 13%, 8%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 3%, 2%, 2%, 2%
- F. Champion and Reserve Champion will receive byes into the Palm Beach Spectacular for the next competition year.

VIII. USHJA Contact Information

If questions arise that cannot be answered from the class specifications provided, one of the following USHJA representatives must be contacted to resolve any questions regarding the judging procedures or class specifications:

David Warner -USHJA Sport Programs Coordinator- (859) 217-6740

Louise Serio- WCHR Task Force Chair- (610) 636-0678

Britt McCormick – USHJA President - (972) 467-6008

The USHJA World Championship Hunter Rider Program 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 USHJA World Championship Hunter Rider Program as necessary for the purposes of consistency and clarity.

Any deviations from the class specifications for the USHJA World Championship Hunter Rider Program are not permitted without the express written permission from USHJA prior to the printing of the prize list. For any rules not specified above, please refer to the current USEF Rule Book.

