

World Championship Hunter Rider
2025 Capital Challenge Specifications

Changes from 2024 marked in bold, italics and underlined.

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II. WCHR Challenge Classes

- A. All competitors **MUST** be enrolled in the 2025 World Championship Hunter Rider Program prior to the start of their respective Challenge class. If a rider qualifies from the competition and is not currently enrolled in the WCHR Program, they may show after paying the 2025 and 2026 enrollment fees.
- B. HOTY Points and Awards
1. National and Zone HOTY points and money won (where applicable) will be awarded for placing in a WCHR Challenge Class. Horses and ponies must be eligible for the section declared at the time of entry.
 2. In order for National and Zone HOTY points and money won (where applicable) to be awarded:
 - i. Riders must complete the USHJA Exhibitor Declaration Form prior to the conclusion of the competition for applicable Challenge Classes only (Professional and Developing Professional).
 - ii. Declarations for the Professional Challenge class may be any one WCHR recognized 3’6” professional section.
 - iii. Declarations for the Developing Professional Challenge Class may be any one WCHR recognized 3’3” or 3’ professional section.
 - iv. Riders may only declare one section in which to earn HOTY points or money won (where applicable).
 - v. The two-round stand-alone Hunter Classic point scale will be utilized when awarding National HOTY bonus points. See HU174.9(b).
 - vi. 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 current competition year.
 3. Bonus points toward 2025 WCHR National Awards will be given in the WCHR Professional, Developing Professional, Amateur Owner 3’6”, Amateur Owner 3’3”, Adult Amateur, Junior 3’6”, Junior 3’3”, Children’s and Pony Challenge Classes as follows: 1st, 140 pts; 2nd, 130 pts; 3rd, 120 pts; 4th, 110 pts; 5th, 108 pts; 6th, 106 pts; 7th, 104 pts; 8th, 102 pts.
 4. All WCHR points accumulated during the 2024 Capital Challenge Horse Show will be calculated and applied toward 2024 WCHR National Awards according to the official WCHR Program Specifications

(pages 4,5, Section IV. I.)

5. Should any Hunter section offer less than four over fences classes, the points will be weighted as if the section offered four over fences classes, per official WCHR Program Specifications. Developing Professionals may accumulate points in all of the Future Hunter sections.
- C. The WCHR Amateur Owner 3'6" and 3'3", Adult Amateur, Junior 3'6" and 3'3", Children's and Pony Challenges will consist of one round over an open hunting type course with 10-12 fences with a minimum of one in & out and at least three oxers. The WCHR Professional Challenge and WCHR Developing Professional Challenge will consist of two rounds over an open hunting type course with 10-12 fences with a minimum of one in and out and at least three oxers. The top 12 highest scoring horse-and rider combinations from the first round will be invited back to compete over a different course. **Riders can compete on only one horse. Riders can compete on the horse of their choice; the horse does not need to be entered in any other classes at Capital Challenge.**
*Amateur riders competing in an Amateur Owner Challenge must compete on a horse that either they or a member of their family owns per HU137.
- D. All WCHR Challenge classes will be judged numerically by multiple teams of two judges. Each team will present one score and the scores will be averaged for a single round total. In the case of a two-round class, the first and second round average will be added together for a two-round total. The entry with the highest total will be the class winner. Before the start of each class one judging panel will be designated the first tie breaking team and another judging panel will be designated the second tie breaking team. In the case of a tie at the conclusion of the one round Challenge classes, the score of the first tie breaking team of judges will determine the winner. Should there still be a tie, the score of the second tie breaking team of judges will determine the winner. In the case of a tie at the conclusion of the two round Challenge classes, the second round score of the first tie breaking team of judges will determine the winner. Should there still be a tie, the second round score of the second tie breaking team of judges will determine the winner.
- E. To be ridden in formal attire. To be judged on performance and soundness, suitability to count.
- F. Riders not already qualified for the WCHR Challenges prior to the start of the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show will have points from their eligible hunter sections at CCHS applied toward qualifying for the Challenges in the following manner:
1st - 20, 2nd - 12, 3rd - 8, 4th - 4, 5th - 2, 6th - 1, 7th - 1/2, 8th - 1/4. Under saddle classes not to count.
- G. Riders who qualify for a WCHR Challenge from the Capital Challenge Horse Show may compete in that Challenge regardless of their WCHR category, provided they are otherwise eligible. Riders may compete in all Challenges that they qualify for, provided they are otherwise eligible.
- H. Riders will be invited to compete in their respective Challenge class based on their standings in the WCHR National and Regional Standings. The top six riders (top eight for the Amateur Owner 3'3" and 3'6") in each of the Regional Standings will be invited to compete in their respective Challenge class. The top ten riders in the National Standings will be invited to compete in their respective Challenge class.
- I. Riders qualifying from the WCHR National and Regional Standings must notify the competition of their intent to show upon receipt of the invitation to compete. Should a rider who qualified for a Challenge from the WCHR **National Standings** elect not to compete, the next rider on the **National** standings list **WILL** become eligible to compete. **In this case, invitations to compete may be extended through 14th place in the National Standings.** Should a rider who qualified for a Challenge from the WCHR **Regional Standings** elect not to compete, the next rider on the **Regional** standings list **WILL** become eligible to compete. In this case, invitations to compete may be extended through 10th place (12th place for the Amateur Owner 3'3" and 3'6") in the Regional Standings.
- J. Should a rider qualify for a Challenge class both from Regional Standings and a Hunter section during the Capital Challenge Horse Show, the qualification from the Regional Standings takes precedence and will be considered the official means of qualification.

- K. Riders qualifying for Challenge classes from the competition must enter that class 30 minutes after the completion of their last over fences class. After close of entries additional invitations may be extended to the next qualifiers in line. The desired number of entries in each Challenge class is 25. (Exception: Developing Pro where the desired number of entries is 30.) In case of ties, entries will remain tied and additional invitations will be extended.
- L. In order to be eligible for the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show, riders may not have participated in any Amateur Owner 3'6" hunter section or any other hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" (on any horse) after June 1 of the current competition year.
Note: Amateur Owner 3'3" riders are eligible for the WCHR Adult Challenge at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show as long as they have not shown in a hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1, 2025. However, a horse-and-rider combination may not cross enter between the Amateur Owner 3'3" section, and the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge or between the Amateur Owner 3'6" section and the WCHR Amateur Owner 3'3" Challenge at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show.
- M. WCHR Children's Challenge: Eligible riders may not have participated in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" (on any horse) after June 1, 2025.
Note: Junior 3'3" riders are eligible for the WCHR Children's Challenge at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show as long as they have not shown in a hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1, 2025. However, a horse-and-rider combination may not cross enter between the Junior 3'3" section, and the WCHR Children's Challenge.
- N. WCHR Junior 3'3" Challenge: *A horse-and-rider combination may not cross enter between the WCHR Junior 3'3" Challenge and the Junior 3'6" section or between the Junior 3'3" section, and the WCHR Children's Challenge at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show.*
- O. Entries in the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show who are in the race for the nine (9) World Championship Hunter Rider National Awards (Professional, Developing Professional, Amateur Owner 3'6" and 3'3", Adult Amateur, Junior 3'6" and 3'3", Children's, ***and*** Pony.) **will be accepted via the current approved USEF rule for Limited Entries (GR914). Refer to the Capital Challenge Horse Show Prize List for the current approved Limited Entry procedure. All riders in contention from the national and regional standings must submit an entry by the closing date listed in the official prize list in order to be accepted.**
In accordance with the WCHR program rules, a rider must ride the same horse throughout the entire hunter section, with the exception of the under saddle class, to receive WCHR points.
- P. World Championship Hunter Rider Leading Rider Armbands
1. To be distributed to the riders standing first and second in nine of the 10 WCHR National Standings at the start of the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. (Exception: Handy Hunter) The leading riders are REQUIRED to wear this armband throughout their sections. Upon the completion of each day of the competition, an armband will be awarded to the new leading riders who will be REQUIRED to wear the armband during the competition the following day. The riders leading each WCHR category at the conclusion of all classes in each category are REQUIRED to wear the armband throughout their WCHR Challenge Class(es). No Entry Fee.

\$25,000 WCHR Professional Challenge

Entry Fee \$350

\$25,000 includes prize money through twelve AND Grooms Awards.

Ribbons awarded first through twelve.

Prize money distributed as follows: \$7,500; \$5,250; \$3,000; \$1,800; \$1,350; \$1,100; \$900; \$700; \$700; \$450; \$450; \$450.

Grooms Awards awarded as follows: \$425; \$300; \$150; \$100; \$75; \$50; \$50; \$40; \$40; \$40, \$40, \$40.

Invitations will be extended to professional riders who finish in the top four from each of the six WCHR recognized 3'6" or higher Open Sections at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Additionally, invitations will be extended to the top 10 nationally ranked WCHR Professionals prior to the start of the show, the top six regionally ranked WCHR Professionals from each of the eight WCHR Regions, the winner of the 2024 WCHR Professional Challenge and the 2024 WCHR Professional National Champion.

Developing Professionals are eligible to compete, however, points earned in this class only count toward the Professional National Standings. **All riders must be currently enrolled in WCHR.** Riders may compete on only one horse. This Challenge is a two-round class in which the 12 highest scoring horse-and rider combinations from the first round will be invited back for the second round. Fence heights of 3'6".

\$5,000 WCHR Developing Pro Challenge

Entry Fee \$200

Twelve Ribbons and prize money awarded as follows: \$1,500; \$1100; \$650; \$400; \$300; \$250; \$200; \$150; \$150; \$100; \$100; \$100.

Invitations will be extended to the top 10 nationally ranked WCHR Developing Professionals prior to the start of the show and the top six regionally ranked WCHR Developing Professionals from each of the eight WCHR regions. The desired number of entries in the class will be 30. If necessary, additional spots will be filled by those Developing Pros who are not already qualified prior to the start of the class, based on their highest scoring round in any WCHR recognized Open Hunter Section at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Riders may compete on only one horse. This Challenge is a two-round class in which the 12 highest scoring horse-and-rider combinations from the first round will be invited back for the second round. Fence heights of 3'3"

Developing Professional

The Developing Professional Program was created to provide opportunities to professional riders. Developing Professional riders are also eligible for all WCHR Professional sections and awards and will automatically earn points in the Professional Category. In addition, Developing Professional riders will earn points from the Green Hunters (3'0" and/or 3'3") and the Performance Working Hunter 3'3", sections at WCHR Events. The WCHR has defined the following criteria for a 2025 Developing Pro. **Riders in their first competition year as a declared professional with USEF and USHJA, regardless of previous results as a Junior or Amateur. and riders who meet the criteria listed below as of December 1 of the current competition year, regardless of results obtained within the same competition year.**

- Rider has never placed in the top 10 of the WCHR Professional National Standings.
- Rider has never been a WCHR Professional Regional Champion.
- Rider has never won the Developing Professional Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.
- Rider has never won the Developing Professional National Title.
- Rider has never placed 1st-12th in the Professional Challenge during the WCHR Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.
- Rider has never been Champion or Reserve Champion in a Professional Hunter section at 3'6" or higher at the following competitions: Devon, Capital Challenge, Pennsylvania National Horse Show, Washington International Horse Show and/or The National Horse Show.
- Riders have never competed and placed in an FEI Grand Prix Competition (excluding Young Riders).
- Riders must declare Developing Professional at the time of WCHR Application. All Developing Professional declarations are subject to review by the WCHR Task Force to ensure the integrity and spirit of the program are maintained

Professional World Championship Hunter Rider Finals

The Final Four

No Entry Fee

Awards: a minimum Prize Money of - \$7,500, distributed as follows: \$3,000; \$1,500; \$1000; \$1000. Four ribbons, cooler, and \$1,000 to the owner of the horse with the highest four round cumulative total score

The top three from the current WCHR Professional National Standings and the current Professional Challenge winner will be invited to the Final Four. If the Professional Challenge winner is in the top three National standings or if a rider declines, then the next rider on the National standings list will be selected up to 10th place. If the four slots are not filled through the National standings, then the next highest placed rider from the Professional Challenge will be invited to fill the empty slot(s).

*In fairness to all potential competitors, the eligible riders in the WCHR Professional World Championships Hunter Rider Finals must declare their intent to compete by remitting the official form to USHJA staff or a designated WCHR Task Force member, no later than 10:00 a.m. Eastern time on the Thursday of WCHR Finals. After that date and time additional invitations may be extended to the next eligible rider(s).

The Final Four Riders will show four horses provided by the show over four different courses of 8-10 fences with fence heights set at 3'5".

The order of go for the riders first round of the Final Four will be reverse order of the final standings of the the National Standings. The order of go for the horses will be determined prior to the class by random draw. For the next three rounds the horses will stay in the same order and the riders will rotate. Each rider will ride all four horses.

The class will be scored on the presentation of the horse and style of the rider using the Open Numerical Scoring system by three teams of two judges. Each team will present one score for each round, the three teams scores will be averaged for a single round total. The rider with the highest four round cumulative score will be the 2025 World Champion Hunter Rider.

In the event of a tie after four rounds for first place only there will be a ride off to determine the winner. For all other ties judging team number one will be the tie breaking score.

\$2,500 WCHR Amateur Owner 3'3" Challenge

Entry Fee \$150

Twelve Ribbons and prize money awarded as follows: \$750; \$550; \$325; \$200; \$150; \$125; \$100; \$75; \$75; \$50; \$50; \$50.

Invitations will be extended to the top eight riders from the Amateur Owner 3'3" section(s) at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Should any rider finish in two or more of the top eight placings in a section, invitations will be extended to the next highest finisher(s) to ensure that eight individual riders receive invitations to compete.

Additionally, invitations will be extended to the top 10 nationally ranked WCHR Amateur Owner 3'3" riders prior to the start of the show, the top eight regionally ranked WCHR Amateur Owner 3'3" riders from each of the eight WCHR regions and the winner of the 2024 WCHR Amateur Owner 3'3" Challenge. **All riders must be currently enrolled in WCHR.** Riders may compete on only one horse. This Challenge is a one-round class.

Fence heights of 3'3". ***Amateur Owner riders must compete on a horse that either they or a member of their family owns per HU137.**

Note: Amateur Owner 3'3" riders are eligible for the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge at Capital Challenge as long as they have not shown in a hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1, 2025. However, a horse-and-rider combination may not cross enter between the Amateur Owner 3'3" section, and the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge or between the Amateur Owner 3'6" section and the WCHR Amateur Owner 3'3" Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.

\$2,500 WCHR Amateur Owner 3'6" Challenge

Entry Fee \$150

Twelve Ribbons and prize money awarded as follows: \$750; \$550; \$325; \$200; \$150; \$125; \$100; \$75; \$75; \$50; \$50; \$50.

Invitations will be extended to the top eight riders from each of the Amateur Owner 3'6" sections at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Should any rider finish in two or more of the top eight placings in a section, invitations will be extended to the next highest finisher(s) to ensure that eight individual riders receive invitations to compete.

Additionally, invitations will be extended to the top 10 nationally ranked WCHR Amateur Owner 3'6" riders prior to the start of the show, the top eight regionally ranked WCHR Amateur Owner 3'6" riders from each of the eight WCHR regions and the winner of the 2024 Amateur Owner 3'6" Challenge. **All riders must be currently enrolled in WCHR.** Riders may compete on only one horse. This Challenge is a one-round class. Fence heights of 3'6". ***Amateur Owner riders must compete on a horse that either they or a member of their family owns per HU137.**

\$2,500 WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge

Entry Fee \$150

Twelve Ribbons and prize money awarded as follows: \$750; \$550; \$325; \$200; \$150; \$125; \$100; \$75; \$75; \$50; \$50; \$50.

Invitations will be extended to the top six riders from each of the three age groups of the Adult Amateur Hunters at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Should any rider finish in two or more of the top six placings in a section, invitations will be extended to the next highest finisher(s) to ensure that six individual riders receive invitations to compete.

Additionally, invitations will be extended to the top 10 nationally ranked WCHR Adult Amateur riders prior to the start of the show, the top six regionally ranked WCHR Adult Amateur riders from each of the eight WCHR regions and the winner of the 2024 WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge. **All riders must be currently enrolled in WCHR.** Riders may compete on only one horse.

In order to be eligible for the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge at Capital Challenge, riders may not have participated in the AO 3'6" Hunter section or any other Hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" (on any horse) after June 1 of the current competition year. This Challenge is a one-round class. Fence heights of 3'0".

Note: Amateur Owner 3'3" riders are eligible to qualify for the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge at Capital Challenge as long as they have not shown in a hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1, 2025. However, a horse-and-rider combination may not cross enter the Amateur Owner 3'3" section and the WCHR Adult Amateur Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.

\$2,500 WCHR Pony Challenge

Entry Fee \$150

Twelve Ribbons and prize money awarded as follows: \$750; \$550; \$325; \$200; \$150; \$125; \$100; \$75; \$75; \$50; \$50; \$50.

Invitations will be extended to the top four riders from each of the Pony Hunter sections at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Should any rider finish in two or more of the top four placings in a section, invitations will be extended to the next highest finisher(s) to ensure that four individual riders receive invitations to compete.

Additionally, invitations will be extended to the top 10 nationally ranked WCHR Pony riders prior to the start of the show, the top six regionally ranked WCHR Pony riders from each of the eight WCHR regions and the winner of the 2024 Pony Challenge. **All riders must be currently enrolled in WCHR.** Riders may compete on only one pony. This Challenge is a one-round class.

Fence heights of Small - 2'3", Medium - 2'6", Large - 2'9"-3'0"

\$2,500 WCHR Junior 3'6" Challenge

Entry Fee \$150

Twelve Ribbons and prize money awarded as follows: \$750; \$550; \$325; \$200; \$150; \$125; \$100; \$75; \$75; \$50; \$50; \$50.

Invitations will be extended to the top six riders from each of the Junior Hunter 3'6" sections at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Should any rider finish in two or more of the top six placings in a section, invitations will be extended to the next highest finisher(s) to ensure that six individual riders receive invitations to compete.

Additionally, invitations will be extended to the top 10 nationally ranked WCHR Junior 3'6" riders prior to the start of the show, the top six regionally ranked WCHR Junior 3'6" riders from each of the eight WCHR regions and the winner of the 2024 WCHR Junior 3'6" Challenge. **All riders must be currently enrolled in WCHR.** Riders may compete on only one horse. This Challenge is a one-round class. Fence heights of 3'6".

\$2,500 WCHR Junior 3'3" Challenge

Entry Fee \$150

Twelve Ribbons and prize money awarded as follows: \$750; \$550; \$325; \$200; \$150; \$125; \$100; \$75; \$75; \$50; \$50; \$50.

Invitations will be extended to the top six riders from each of the Junior Hunter 3'3" sections at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Should any rider finish in two or more of the top six placings in a section, invitations will be extended to the next highest finisher(s) to ensure that six individual riders receive invitations to compete.

Additionally, invitations will be extended to the top 10 nationally ranked WCHR Junior 3'3" riders prior to the start of the show and the top six regionally ranked WCHR Junior 3'3" riders from each of the eight WCHR regions and the winner of the 2024 WCHR Junior 3'3" Challenge. **All riders must be currently enrolled in WCHR.** Riders may compete on only one horse. This Challenge is a one-round class. Fence heights of 3'3".

Note: Junior 3'3" riders are eligible for the WCHR Children's Challenge at Capital Challenge as long as they have not shown in a hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1, 2025. However, a horse-and-rider combination may not cross enter between the Junior 3'3" section, and the WCHR Children's Challenge or between the Junior 3'6" section and the WCHR Junior 3'3" Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show.

\$1,500 WCHR Children's Challenge

Entry Fee \$100

Twelve Ribbons and prize money awarded as follows: \$450; \$330; \$195; \$120; \$90; \$75; \$60; \$45; \$45; \$30; \$30; \$30.

Invitations will be extended to the top six riders from each of the Children's Hunter sections at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Should any rider finish in two or more of the top six placings in a section, invitations will be extended to the next highestfinisher(s) to ensure that six individual riders receive invitations to compete.

Additionally, invitations will be extended to the top 10 nationally ranked WCHR Children's riders prior to the start of the show, the top six regionally ranked WCHR Children's riders from each of the eight WCHR regions and the winner of the 2024 WCHR Children's Challenge. **All riders must be currently enrolled in WCHR.** Riders may compete on only one pony/horse. To be eligible, riders may not have participated in any hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" (on any horse) after June 1, 2025. This Challenge is a one-round class. Fence heights of Horses - 3'0", Large ponies - 2'6", Small/Medium ponies - 2'0".

Note: Junior 3'3" riders are eligible for the WCHR Children's Challenge at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show as long as they have not shown in a hunter section where the fences exceed 3'5" after June 1, 2025. However, a horse-and-rider combination may not cross enter between the Junior 3'3" section, and the WCHR Children's Challenge or between the Junior 3'6" section and the WCHR Junior 3'3" Challenge at the 2025 Capital Challenge Horse Show.

III. USHJA Contact Information

If questions arise pertaining to the World Championship Hunter Rider program 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.

