

**USHJA ZONE 9
2026 HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION
SPECIFICATIONS**

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2026 ZONE 9 HUNTER, JUMPER AND EQUITATION SPECIFICATIONS

(MT, WY, ID, OR, WA)

In accordance with GR1111.4: CA, NV, UT, CO, ND, SD, NE, and Canada are considered contiguous states.

JUDGING FOR ALL HUNTER AND EQUITATION SECTIONS:

- To be judged on performance and soundness, suitability to count.
- Horses and Ponies are not required to jog for soundness.
- In Equitation: to be judged on performance, style, form and suitability of horse and rider to count

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.

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.

ADULT AMATEUR HUNTER

Sections offered and requirements:

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

Cross Entry:

Riders:

Amateur Owner Hunter riders may compete on a maximum of one (1) Adult Amateur Hunter horse that they own at the same competition. Riders may not show in any classes in which the fences are 3'9" and over at the same competition.

Horses:

Horses entered in Adult Amateur Hunter sections may not compete in the Amateur Owner Hunter sections at the same competition.

Horse and Rider Combination:

Horse and rider combinations may not cross enter into the Amateur Owner Hunter sections.

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:

- Refer to HU161

Awards:

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

- Adult Amateur Hunter 18- 39
- Adult Amateur 40- 55
- Adult Amateur 56 & 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 2'9".

Fence Height:

- 2'6"
- In and outs will not be permitted.

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:

Riders may not show in any classes where the jumps exceed 1.20m.

Horse/Pony:

No cross entry restrictions.

Horse and Rider Combination:

1.00/1.05m Amateur horse and rider combinations may not cross enter into the 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper section at the same competition.

1.10/1.15m Amateur horse and rider combinations may not cross enter into the 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper section at the same competition.

Fence Height:

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

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Amateur Jumper sections may be divided by or combined with Junior Jumper sections, at competition management's discretion, if so stated in the prize list.

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

EQUITATION

AGE GROUP EQUITATION: ADULT SECTION

Sections Offered:

- Adult Equitation 18- 39
- Adult Equitation 40- 55
- Adult Equitation 56 & Over

Cross Entry:

- No cross entry restrictions into another section for horse and rider unless stated in the prize list.

Fence Height:

- 2'9"- 3'6" with spreads not to exceed fence height
- Combinations will be permitted
- Management must state in the prize list, the height at which sections are being held.

Combining/Dividing Sections:

- Refer to HU161.

Awards:

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

- Adult Equitation 18- 39
- Adult Equitation 40- 55
- Adult Equitation 56 & Over

CHILDREN'S HUNTER HORSE

Sections offered and requirements:

- Children's Hunter Horse 13 & Under
- Children's Hunter Horse 14- 17

Cross Entry:

Rider:

Riders entered in the Children's Hunter section may not compete in the Junior Hunter section at the same competition.

Riders may not show in any classes in which the fences are 3'9" and over at the same competition.

Horses/Ponies:

Horses entered in the Children's Hunter section may not compete in the Junior Hunter section at the same competition.

Horse and rider combination:

No cross entry restrictions

Fence Height:

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

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Refer to HU161

Awards:

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

- Children's Hunter Horse 13 & Under
- Children's Hunter Horse 14- 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 at the same competition into any class/ section where fences exceed 2'9"

Fence Height:

- 2'6"
- In and outs will not be permitted.

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:

Children's Hunter Pony riders may compete on a maximum of one (1) Children's Hunter horse section at the same competition and in any class not to exceed 3'0" (Exception: Pony Jumpers). Green and Regular Hunter Pony riders may compete on a maximum of two (2) additional pony in the Children's Hunter Pony section at the same competition.

Horse/Pony:

Ponies may not cross enter into any other rated section at the same competition.

Horse and Rider Combination:

The same pony and rider may not cross enter into any other rated section at the same competition.

Fence Height:

- In and outs will not be permitted
- Classes may run as one or split Small/Medium and Large to run at 2'0" and 2'6" respectively.

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Refer to HU161.

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

Required distances for the Children's Hunter Pony sections:

a. 2'0" Small/~~Medium~~ Children's Hunter Pony should be (based on 9'9" stride): 4 strides at 48'9"; 5 strides at 58'6"; 6 strides at 68'3"; 7 strides at 78'8"; 8 strides at 87'9".

b. 2'6" Large Children's Hunter Pony should be (based on an 11" stride): 4 strides at 55"; 5 strides at 66"; 6 strides at 77"; 7 strides at 88"; 8 strides at 99".

JUNIOR JUMPER

Sections offered and Requirements:

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

Entry:

Rider:

Riders may not show in any classes where the jumps exceed 1.20m, except Junior riders competing in FEI Children's classes and USEF Talent Search Class.

Horse/Pony

No cross entry restrictions

Horse and Rider Combination:

1.00/1.05m Junior horse and rider combinations may not cross enter into the 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumpers at the same competition.

1.10/1.15m Junior horse and rider combinations may not cross enter into the 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumpers at the same competition.

Fence Height:

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

Combining/Dividing Sections:

Junior Jumper sections may be divided or combined with Amateur Jumper sections, at competition management's discretion, if so stated in the prize list.

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 into another section for horse and rider unless stated in the prize list.

Fence Height:

- Equitation 11 & Under:
 - Minimum 2'6", maximum 3' - management must state height at which class will be offered.
 - Management may offer multiple height options if stated in the prize list, but each course must be set at the same height throughout.
 - Combinations not permitted
- Equitation 12- 14:
 - Minimum 2'9", maximum 3'3" - management must state height at which class will be offered.
 - Management may offer multiple height options if stated in the prize list, but each course must be set at the same height throughout.
 - Combinations are optional
- Equitation 15- 17:
 - Minimum 3'0", maximum 3'6" - management must state height at which class will be offered.
 - Management may offer multiple height options if stated in the prize list, but each course must be set at the same height throughout.
 - Combinations are optional

Combining/Dividing Sections:

- Refer to HU161

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