

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/19/2024	

Rule Change Intent

The USHJA Young Jumper Task Force recommends this rule change because it would allow young jumpers to jump the height they need and allow for them to develop at an individual pace with courses designed for young horses. This change would also allow for horses to move up and down heights during the week.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Text:

JP117 Sections/Classes Restricted by Age of Horse

- 1. Eligibility.** Age restricted classes are open only to horses recorded with the Federation and age verified in accordance with Federation Policies and Procedures. Age can be verified only through the following identification documents:
 - a.** Registration papers, Certificate of Pedigree or passport *with the horse's microchip number* issued by a breed or sport horse registry approved by the Federation.
 - b.** Horse Identification Document issued by a breed or sport horse registry approved by the Federation that states the registered name of the horse, the registration number of the horse, and age of the horse, *and the horse's microchip number*.

- 2. Boots:** The total maximum weight of equipment allowed to be added to a horse's leg, front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings etc.), is 350g (shoe excluded).
 - a.** Hind Boots: Non-weighted non-performance enhancing (any boot that does anything but protect the horse's leg/ankle will be considered performance enhancing) hind ankle boots are permitted for horses entered in classes restricted to **4-, Five 5-, Six 6-, or Seven 7-**year-olds while in age restricted competition or preparing for the age restricted class. No other hind boots are permitted for horses entered in age restricted classes during those times. All hind leg protections must have a maximum interior length of 16 cm; the width of the fastener must be at least five cm. The following criteria must be respected in relation to hind boots worn in classes restricted by age of horse:
 1. The inside of the protection must be smooth, that is, the surface must be even and there may not be any pressure points on the inside of the boot; sheepskin linings are allowed.
 2. Only non-elastic Velcro-type fasteners are permitted; no hooks, buckles, clips or other methods of attaching the fasteners may be used;
 3. The rounded rigid part of the protection must be placed on the inside of the fetlock;
 4. No additional elements may be added to or inserted in the boot itself, other than a protective flap, providing it is soft and clearly intended for protection only.

- 3. 0.90m Young Jumper:**
 - a.** *Open to horses that meet 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses cannot have shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.10m or higher.*
 - b.** *Classes will be scored under Table II (all clear rounds stay equal).*
 - c.** *Fences to be set at 0.90-0.95m. Speed of 300 m/m.*
 - d.** *Classes can be run as an overlay, but the course must follow the .90m Young Jumper course requirements.*

- 4. 1.00m Young Jumper:**

- a. Open to horses that meet 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses cannot have shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.20m or higher.*
- b. Classes will be scored under Table II (all clear rounds stay equal).*
- c. Fences to be set at 1.00-1.05m. Speed of 300 m/m.*
- d. Classes can be run as an overlay, but the course must follow the 1.00m Young Jumper course requirements.*

5. ~~Five-Year-Old 1.10m Young Jumper:~~

- a. Open to horses that meet ~~4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age~~ eligibility requirements listed in JP 117.1. Horses ~~competing in classes restricted to Five-Year-Olds~~ cannot have ~~ever~~ shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.25m or higher.*
- b. Classes will be scored under Table II. ~~(all clears stay equal).~~ After July 1, classes may be scored under Table II, Sec 2-a, b, or d.*
- c. ~~Before July 1, Courses to be set at 1.10- m to 1.15m. After July 1 courses must be set at 1.15- 1.20 m.~~ Speed of 325 m/m.*

6. ~~Six-Year-Old 1.20m Young Jumper:~~

- a. Open to horses that meet ~~5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age~~ eligibility requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses ~~competing in classes restricted to Six-Year-Olds~~ cannot have ~~ever~~ shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.35m or higher.*
- b. Classes may be scored under Table II, (all clears staying equal); or Table II Section 1 or 2a, b, or d.*
- c. ~~Before July 1, Courses to be set at 1.20- m to 1.25m. After July 1, courses must be set at 1.25- 1.30 m.~~ Speed of 350 m/m.*

7. ~~Seven-Year-Old 1.30m Young Jumper:~~

- a. Open to horses that meet ~~6-, or 7-year-old age~~ eligibility requirements listed in JP 117.1. Horses ~~competing in classes restricted to Seven-Year-Olds~~ cannot have ~~ever~~ shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money held at the National or High Performance Standard.*
- b. Classes may be scored under Table II, Section 1 or 2 a, b, or d.*
- c. ~~All-year,~~ Courses to be set at 1.30- ~~m to~~ 1.35m. Speed 350 m/m.*

8. Course Requirements

- a. General for all ages:

 1. Before July 1, all courses must be set in ascending height and the first jump of the course and the first element of any combination must be set 5cm lower than the lowest height permissible under the rule for the age category.
 2. There should be at least two changes of direction, preferably more.
 3. The first obstacle should be inviting, not difficult (i.e. no blind corners).*

b. ~~Five-Year-Old~~ 0.90m, 1.00m, 1.10m Young Jumpers

1. All courses must be basic and straight forward.
2. Obstacles must be inviting.
3. Before July 1, all courses must be set in ascending height and the maximum height cannot be used in the first 30% of the course.
4. The first fence and the first element of any combination must be set 5cm lower than the height specified for the class.
5. Combinations cannot be used before fence number four.
6. Triple combinations cannot be included before July 1. **Triple combinations are not permitted in any 0.90m or 1.00m Young Jumper courses.**
7. Only one spread obstacle may be included ~~in any per combination. before July 1.~~
8. A Liverpool cannot be used as part of a combination.
9. If a Liverpool is used, it must be used as an option. When using a Liverpool at a vertical, the rails must be in the center. When using a Liverpool at an oxer, the front edge of the Liverpool must be in line with the front element of the oxer.
10. Three (3) stride lines cannot be used before July 1.
11. Flower boxes or ground rails ~~can~~ **should** be used in front of ~~verticals~~ **obstacles** to encourage a visual aid.
12. Normal distances should be used in related lines, whether straight or bending.
13. The fill must be consistent in each element ~~A, B, and C~~ of the combination and must not be a solid or visual distraction.
14. Indoor arenas: Whenever possible, obstacles should not be placed directly on the wall.

c. ~~Six-Year-Old~~ 1.20m Young Jumpers

1. Before July 1, all courses must be set in ascending height and the maximum fence height cannot be used in the first 30% of the course.
2. Triple combinations may only include one spread obstacle before July 1.
3. Water jumps cannot exceed 11' (3.30m) and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing side. Water jumps should be in the second half of the course, and another obstacle must be offered as an option. The rail must be judged and if the lath is also judged, it must be marked on the course.
4. A Liverpool cannot be used as part of a combination.

d. ~~Seven-Year-Old~~ 1.30m Young Jumpers

1. If a Liverpool is used in a combination, it may only be used as the first element, and may not be used before July 1.
2. Water jumps cannot exceed 12' (3.60 m) and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing side, and another obstacle must be offered as an option.

9. Restrictions. See also specific restrictions in each age category above.

~~Horses competing in Five, Six, or Seven-Year-Old jumper classes are restricted from cross entering into any class at the same competition that is more than 10 centimeters higher than~~

their respective age group's maximum height. For example, if a horse is jumping in a Five Year Old Jumper class at 1.20m (after July 1st), they may enter classes up to 1.30m, but not higher.

- a. *4-year-olds may only compete in Young Jumper classes up to and including 1.10m.*
- b. *5-year-olds may only compete in Young Jumper classes up to and including 1.20m.*

10. ~~Classes for age groups~~ may be combined and run as one class when there are less than 4 in a given ~~age~~ **height** category. When classes are combined (see JP123.1.c), each ~~age~~ category must jump **their specified height**. ~~the height specified for that age category~~. Course guidelines, class specifications, and scoring must conform to those specified for the ~~youngest age lowest height section~~ **jumping in the combined class.**
11. ~~Classes for age groups~~ may be combined with an open jumper class held at the same height. Course requirements, class specifications, and scoring must conform to those specified for the ~~youngest age lowest height section~~ **jumping in the combined class.**
12. Horses may compete in age restricted classes in the month of December but they will not be eligible for HOTY points (GR 1134.2).
13. Special Competitions. Exceptions to any of the above listed conditions may be made only with the permission of the Federation Jumping Sport Committee prior to the printing of the prize list. ~~For complete specifications for the USHJA Young Jumper Championship program please refer to www.ushja.org/youngjumper.~~
14. *Competitions offering Young Jumper classes will remit a \$10 per entry per class fee to USHJA and competitors may not be charged a nominating fee when competing in the Young Jumper sections. USHJA will use all proceeds towards Young Jumper development programs.*
15. For scheduled ~~Five, Six or Seven Year Old~~ **Young Jumper** classes, any schooling jump 1.00m or over must have a minimum of two rails, in cups, on the take-off side of the jump, regardless of whether a ground line is used. The lower rail must always be below 1.00m. See JP 103.2.c.