



2025 USEF Pony Hunter National Championship Specifications

The Federation may provide the applicable Recognized Affiliate, Council, and discipline or breed committee with the Qualifying Criteria and Official Specifications for review and recommendation.

1. Membership Requirements to Qualify
 - a. The pony must be actively recorded with the **United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”)** and registered with USHJA from the time of qualification through the Championship.
 - b. Any rider competing with the pony for Championship qualification and/or at the Championship must be an Active member in good standing of USEF.**
 - c. The owner of record of the pony must be an Active member in good standing of USEF and USHJA from the time of qualification through the Championship.
 - d. Ponies must have a valid microchip and current USEF measurement card from the time of qualification through the Championship.
2. Qualifying
 - a. The qualifying period for the USEF Pony Hunter National Championship is July 2, 2024 - July 1, 2025, for Regular Pony Hunters and December 1, 2024 – July 1, 2025, for Green Pony Hunters.
 - b. A Regular Pony Hunter qualifies by winning a Championship or Reserve Championship in a Premier (“AA”) or National (“A”) rated Regular Pony Hunter section during the qualifying period. The show in which they qualify must have a start date on or before the final day of the qualifying period.
 - c. A Green Pony Hunter qualifies by winning a Championship or **two** Reserve Championships in a Premier (“AA”) or National (“A”) rated Green Pony Hunter section at a competition during the qualifying period. A Green Pony may also qualify by winning a Championship or **two** Reserve Championships in a Premier (“AA”) or National (“A”) rated Regular Hunter Pony section at a competition with a start date on or after December 1st, **2024**. The show in which they qualify must have a start date on or before the final day of the qualifying period.
 - d. A pony that has qualified in the Green section and the Regular section may not compete in both. The owner of Green ponies must declare the section in which they will compete when completing their entry blank.
 - e. Regular ponies that are Champions in their respective sections at the previous year’s Pony Finals may return without qualifying.



3. Phases

The competition will be conducted in three separate phases: Model, Under Saddle, and Over Fences. In determining each pony's total score, the Model will count 25%, Under Saddle 25%, and Over Fences 50%. The competition will consist of six pony hunter sections: small green pony, medium green pony, large green pony, small pony, medium pony, and large pony. Coaching from the rail is not permitted in any phase and may result in a score of zero.

- a. Model. Judged on conformation, way of moving and soundness.
 - i. In the Model, the ponies in each division will be split into groups of 12 or less. Each pony will be judged and given a score based on its performance in its group.
- b. Under Saddle. To be shown at the walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Riders may be asked for an extended trot. Ponies to stop easily and stand quietly. Light contact with pony's mouth is required. Judged on performance and soundness. Manners and suitability of a pony to rider will be emphasized. Extreme speed will be penalized.
 - i. In the Under Saddle, the ponies in each division will be split into groups of 12 or less. Each pony will be judged and given a score based on its performance in its group.
- c. Over Fences. To be shown over a minimum of eight fences at the required height (Note- Large Green ponies to jump at 2'9" and Large Regular ponies to jump 2'9"-3'0" in the competition). Judged on performance and soundness. Manners and suitability of a pony to rider will be emphasized. Extreme speed is penalized.
 - i. Elimination will occur after 2 refusals
 - ii. In the Over Fences phase, ponies will return to the ring in reverse order of the combined scores from the Model and Under Saddle Phases.
 - iii. Soundness. All ponies are required to trot a circle on a loose rein at the end of each over fences performance. Ponies may be asked to return to the ring and trot another circle at the judge's discretion.
- d. The same junior rider is required to show an entry in all phases of the competition but need not be the same one that handled the pony in any phases of a qualifying event. The same junior rider may ride a small, medium, and large pony in the competition but not more than one pony in any one section. If a rider is unable to continue to compete, the rider and/or trainer must request permission for a change of rider from the Show Committee prior to the start of the next phase of competition. The decision of the Show Committee is final, binding and not subject to further appeal of any kind.

4. Judging

- a. A total of six judges will officiate. Three judges will judge the model phase simultaneously but independently of each other and each of the three judges will give each pony a Model score. Three additional judges will judge the Under Saddle phase simultaneously but independently of each other, and each of the three judges will give every pony an Under Saddle score. Prior to the over fences phase, each pony's scores for

the Model and Under Saddle phases are totaled and announced. All six judges will judge the Over Fences phase in three panels of two judges each. Each panel will submit a separate score for each pony. During the Over Fences phase, the Open Numerical Scoring System is used: after a pony completes the course, each panel's score for the round is immediately shown. The total overall score for each pony is then calculated as soon as it has completed the last phase.

- i. **Ties will be broken based on the score of the judge that is designated as judge number one for each phase of the Championship. If a tie still exists for the overall standings, the score from the Over Fences round will break such a tie.**
- b. If a pony/rider combination does not complete a phase or is eliminated from a phase, it will receive a score of "0" for the phase. The pony/rider combination may continue to compete in the remaining phases of the competition. A pony with an ending score of "0" for a phase is not eligible for an award in that phase, but it is eligible for an overall award should scores warrant. A pony that does not compete in all phases is not eligible for an overall award but may continue to compete in any remaining phases.

5. HOTY Points:

Model and Under Saddle Phase		Over Fences Phase (all height sections)		Overall Top Twenty (all height sections)	
1st	100	1st	250	Champion	500
2nd	90	2nd	225	Reserve	300
3rd	80	3rd	200	3rd	200
4th	70	4th	175	4th	190
5th	60	5th	150	5th	180
6th	50	6th	125	6th	170
7th	40	7th	100	7th	160
8th	30	8th	75	8th	150
9th	20	9th	50	9th	140
10th	10	10th	25	10th	130
				11th	115
				12th	100
				13th	85
				14th	80
				15th	75
				16th	70
				17th	65
				18th	60
				19th	55

