



2025 USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal Final

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

1. Eligibility to Compete-Riders

- a. Rider Membership. Open to Junior Active Members of the Federation. Rider must be an active competing member in good standing with the Federation and an active USHJA member at time of qualification and championship.
- b. Riders are not required to complete a USEF/NCEA Medal Program application in order to compete in the qualifying classes but must complete a USEF/NCEA Medal Program application **by no later than the conclusion of the qualifying competition** in order for points to count.
 1. Riders must indicate on their USEF/NCEA Medal Program Application which ranking list they wish to accumulate points for (East and West).
- c. Any rider in their final junior year is **not eligible** to compete in any qualifying classes held at a competition with a start date after August 20th of that competition year.
- d. The winner of any of the USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal Finals is no longer eligible to compete in USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal classes.

2. Eligibility to Compete-Horses

- a. All horses competing in USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal qualifying classes must comply with USEF identification rules in place at the time and be properly identifiable. All horses must obtain a Registration Number from USHJA in order for the rider to accumulate qualifying points.
- b. All horses competing in USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal qualifying classes and Final must provide a microchip number that verifies the animal's identity in order for the rider to accumulate points. The microchip must be compliant with EQ103.
- c. At least one owner of record of all horses competing in **USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal qualifying classes and Final** must be an active competing member in good standing of the Federation or have paid the show pass fee.
- d. The trainer listed for all horses competing in **USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal qualifying classes and Final** must be an active competing member in good standing.

3. Qualifying Criteria

- a. The qualifying period for the 2025 USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal Finals is August 21, 2024-August 20, 2025. Points from qualifying classes will count based on the start date of the competition.





- b. The top 75 riders from each ranking list (East and West) will be invited to compete in the Finals.
- c. Points will be awarded using the following chart as base points and multiplying each placing by the number of riders that completed the course:

Placings	Base Points
1 st	10
2 nd	6
3 rd	4
4 th	2
5 th	1
6 th	1/2

Classes that are split using the “California Split” method will determine the number of riders by taking the total number that completed the course and dividing by the number of resulting sections (rounding up if the result is not a whole number).

4. **Class Conditions**

- a. The USEF/NCEA Junior Hunter Seat Medal Final will be a three-phase competition (Over Fences, Flat, and Bracket).
- b. Conventional Hunter Seat Equitation style tack is required per EQ106.5a.
- c. Over Fences Phase: To be shown over a course of at least ten (10) hunter or jumper style fences at 3’3” in height, spread not to exceed fence height. The course will be limited to a maximum of two combinations, with one combination being an oxer to a vertical. Triple combinations are not permitted. At least two changes of direction are required. Water obstacles and liverpools are not permitted. An open numerical system of scoring must be used for the fences phase.
- d. Flat Phase: The top 20% or top ten scoring riders, whichever is greater, will return for the flat phase. An open numerical system of scoring must be used for the flat phase. The riders will be asked to perform 2 out of 3 of the following movements: shoulder in, haunches in, or leg yield both directions of the ring. Lateral movements must be performed at the sitting trot.
- e. Bracket Phase: The top four riders, as determined by the combination of the fences and flat phase (each counting equally), will return for the bracket phase. These four riders will enter the bracket phase on a clean slate and will not carry forward their scores from the previous rounds. The fourth and first place rider will compete over a shortened course on the same horse. The second and third place rider will compete over a shortened course on the same horse. The shortened courses will consist of fences 1-8 from the initial over fences phase, with a maximum of one double combination. If more than one combination





is included in the first 8 fences of the over fences phase, at least one of the combinations must be removed. Fences for the bracket phase will be set at 2'9"-3'0" in height, with height not to exceed spread. All distances will be adjusted accordingly. The winners of each head-to-head will compete for the championship and reserve. Third and fourth place will be determined based on the scores from the first round of the bracket phase.

- f. The balance of the placings not determined by the bracket phase will be awarded based on the total combined score from the over fences and flat phase (each counting equally).

