

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2021	12/8/2020	

Rule Change Intent

The age split currently in use for the Amateur Owner Hunter Divisions, 18-35 and 36 and over, has remained unchanged for many years. Data from 2019 presents the total number of riders competing in the Amateur Owner Hunters at each age, there are distinct inequities in both the number of competitors and the ages of the competitors. The age spread between the youngest and oldest riders has widened and the number of the youngest riders 18-25 far exceeds the rest of the participants. To address this problem, the Amateur Task Force would like to propose a rule change based on the successful three-way split of the 3' Adult Amateur Hunter division.

We propose a three way split as the following: 18- to 25-years-old, 26- to 41-years-old, and 42-years-old and over.

The 2019 data displayed the largest represented ages of Amateur competitors were between 18- and 25-years-old. The largest age group represented is 18-years-old with 115 unique riders, then the second largest age groups represented are 19- and 20-years-old with 90 and 68 unique riders, respectively. The middle range of ages from 26- to 41-years-old represents between 13 and 35 unique riders. The upper range of ages from 42-years-old up to 75-years-old represents between 0 and 23 unique riders. The three proposed age brackets creates a more even distribution of exhibitors with the following total riders in each group:

- 18- to 25-years-old: 455 unique riders
- 26- to 41-years-old: 355 unique riders
- 42-years-old and over: 351 unique riders

In the event that the division runs as two sections, the management can use a floating split to determine the age breakdown or a new age formula of 18- to 41-years-old and 42-years-old and over.

Regardless if shows are able to fill all three, two, or one section of the Amateur Owner Hunters, Horse of the Year (HOTY) Awards will be awarded in the three new categories: 18- to 25-years-old, 26- to 41-years old, and 42-years-old and over.

This rule change proposal of a three way split in the Amateur Owner Hunter division proposes a solution to both the exhibitor numbers and current age disparities.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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USHJA

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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

[...]

1. Hunter Division Section awards are offered for the following at the Zone level from USHJA and National levels from the Federation: a. Green Conformation Hunter 3’6”, Green Hunter 3’0”, 3’3”, 3’6” and 3’9”, High Performance Conformation Hunter, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunters 3’3”, Performance Hunters 3’6”, Young Hunter 3’0”, 3’3” and 3’6”, Small Pony Hunter, Medium Green Pony Hunter, Large Green Pony Hunter, Small Pony Hunter, Medium Pony Hunter, Large Pony Hunter, Small Junior Hunter 15 yrs. & under, Small Junior Hunter 16-17 yrs., Large Junior Hunter 15 yrs. & under, Large Hunter 16-17 yrs., Amateur Owner Hunter - ~~18-35~~ 25 Years Old **and Under**, 26-44 **44** Years Old, and ~~42~~ **45** Years Old and over ~~35 Years~~ Ladies Side Saddle, Amateur Owner Hunter 3’3” ~~18-35~~ 25 Years Old **and Under**, 26-44 **44** Years Old, and ~~42~~ **45** Years Old and over ~~35 Years~~, Small Hunter, Small Junior Hunter 3’3”, 15 yrs. & under, Small Junior Hunter 3’3” 16-17 yrs., Large Junior Hunter 15 yrs. and under and Large Junior Hunter 3’3” 16-17 yrs.

[...]

GR312 Determining Ratings

[...]

HUNTER SECTIONS	A”	“A”	“B” and “C”	“B”
	Required	Min	Required	Min.
	Classes	Money	Classes	Money

[...]

Amateur Owner Hunter Sections

Amateur Owner Hunter 3’6” <del>18-35</del> 25 4-6*		500	3-4	100
<b>And Under</b>				
<b>Amateur Owner Hunter 3’6” 26-44 44 4-6*</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>100</b>
<del>Amateur</del> <b>Amateur</b> Owner Hunter 3’6” 4-6*		500	3-4	100
<del>36-42</del> <b>45</b> & over				
Amateur Owner Hunter 3’3” 18-35 25 4-6*		500	3-4	100
<b>Amateur Owner Hunter 3’3” 26-44 44 4-6*</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Amateur</b> <del>Amateur</del> Owner Hunter 3’3” 4-6*		500	3-4	100
<del>36-42</del> <b>45</b> & over				

HJ121 Amateur Owner Hunter Sections

1. Sections of Amateur Owner Hunter 3’6” held at National or Premier rated competitions must offer at least ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** divided sections and may be divided as stipulated in HU162.6.b.1
2. Sections of Amateur Owner Hunter 3’3” held at National or Premier rated competitions must offer at least ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** divided sections and may be divided as stipulated in HU162.6.b.2 3. In addition while the sections can be combined if entries warrant, in order for Horse of the Year points to count they must be offered separately in the prize

list.

## HU162 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections

[...]

### 6. Amateur Owner Hunter

[...]

#### b. Dividing:

1. Amateur Owner 3'6" When a section is divided, one section must be offered for amateurs ~~18-35~~ **25 and Under**, one section for amateurs 26 – ~~41-44~~, and one section for amateurs ~~42~~ **45** years of age and over ~~35~~ **years of age**. If there are six or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than six entries in either divided section, they must be combined. If there are a minimum of 12 entries once the sections are combined, the newly combined section must be re-divided using either a Floating or California Split. (See HU160 & HU158 for definition of a Floating and California Split.) Management may determine a cutoff time for entering before re-dividing any section(s). When using a floating split the age groups must be posted at the competition office. Rider age must be given on the entry blank. When divided as to age of rider no horse may compete in more than one section. These sections may be further divided by age of rider or by every other number.

2. Amateur Owner 3'3" When a section is divided, one section must be offered for amateurs ~~18-35~~ **25 and Under**, one section for amateurs 26 – ~~41-44~~, and one section for amateurs ~~42~~ **45** years of age and over ~~35~~ **years of age**. If there are six or more entries in each divided section, the divided sections must be held separately. If there are fewer than six entries in either divided section, they must be combined. If there are a minimum of 12 entries once the sections are combined, the newly combined section must be re-divided using either a Floating or California Split. (See HU159 & HU157 for definition of a Floating and California Split.) When using a floating split the age groups must be posted at the competition office. Rider age must be given on entry blank. When divided as to age of rider no horse may compete in more than one section. These sections may be further divided by age of rider or by every other number.