

What Do I Enter??

Hunter Jumper shows can be confusing when determining what classes to enter. The first step is in determining what type of class you prefer. We've developed a short list to help you pick the classes available to you at your jump height level. *Read each class's specifications carefully for individual restrictions.*

Frequently confused terms:

Show Age: A junior rider's age is set as of December 1st of the previous year.

"Children's": "Children's" classes, such as Children's Hunter or Children's Jumper, originally refers to the 3' divisions offered to Junior riders.

"Pre-Children's": "Pre-Children's" classes were developed as a step down or before the Children's 3' divisions.

"Pre-Adult": "Pre-Adult" classes were developed as a step down or before the Adult 3' divisions.

Hunters: The origin of the show ring hunter can be found in the sport of fox-hunting where horse and rider galloped over miles of countryside with varying terrain negotiating natural obstacles (fences, hedges, stone walls) encountered along the way while in the pursuit of the game. Modern hunter classes were designed to test the qualities and attributes of a successful hunt horse. These classes are subjectively judged based on the horse's performance over fences as well as its quality of movement under saddle on the flat. Show hunters should possess good style over the jumps, consistent pace throughout the course, as well as quiet manners. Hunter rounds should appear smooth and effortless to the spectator with the horse and rider working together to make the course flow from one jump to the next. Hunter courses typically consist of eight to 10 jumps that are more organic in form and generally lower in height than fences used in jumper classes.

Jumpers: Jumper classes are scored objectively based solely on the horse's athletic ability over fences as measured by time. A jumper's only job is to clear all the fences in the course as quickly as possible without incurring any faults. A horse incurs faults for each mistake made: four faults for each rail knocked down, four faults for every refusal, and 1 fault for every second over the maximum time allowed to negotiate the course. The horse with the least amount of faults and the fastest time wins. Jumper courses, which are technical in nature and typically consist of 12-16 jumps, require strategic riding in addition to a swift pace.

Equitation (Eq.): Equitation classes are judged on the rider's ability, form, and skill to allow the horse to perform at its best, but the horse itself is not judged at all. The types of jumps and elements that make up an equitation course can resemble those used in either hunter or jumper classes, but the judging is subjectively based on the rider's position, style, proficiency, accuracy, use of the aids (hands, seat and legs), as well as an overall impression of complete and quiet control. (Hunter, Jumper & Equitation description credit to USHJA, <https://www.ushja.org/about-us-and-news/hunterjumper-101>)

See page 65 of our Omnibus for our Division Cheat Sheet to help you identify appropriate classes in your classification, division preference and jump height.

What Do I Enter?

We've developed a short list to help you pick the classes available to you for your classification, division preference, and at your jump height. *Read each class' specifications carefully for individual restrictions.* *Denotes a division type with multiple divisions (Hunter, Eq, Medals) offered. A division is a group of jump classes and a flat class. Typically a Champion/Reserve is offered.

	Classes/Divisions	Junior (Age Under 18)	Amateur Adult (Ages 18+)	Young Horses: Geared towards young horses.	Open Divisions: Juniors, Amateurs & Professionals
Non-Jumping	Beginner Walk-Trot Division	x	x		
	VHJA Young Hunter Futurity	x	x	x	x
	Hunter Pleasure	x	x		x
	Hunter Hack (One line of 2'3" jumps)	x	x		x
Under 2'	Advanced Beginner Division 12" Crossrails (Jumping not required)	x			
	*Short Stirrup 18" Crossrails Equitation, Hunter Divisions & Medal Class	Ages 12 and under			
2'	*Long Stirrup 18" Equitation, Hunter Divisions & Medal Class	Ages 13 and Up	Ages 13 and Up		
	Children's 2' Medal	x			
	*Hopeful Hunter Equitation, Hunter Divisions & Medal 2'	x	x	x	x
	Children's Eq Divisions 2', 2'6", 3', 3'3"- Offered at all heights	x			
2'-2'3"	Puddle Jumpers Division 2'3"	x	x		x
	Pre-Children's Hunter Division 2'-2'3"	x			
	Pre-Adult Hunter Division 2'-2'3"		x		
2' OR 2'6"	Children's Hunter Pony (2' sm/med. , 2'6" lg) Division	x			
	VHJA Pony Medal (2' Sm/med, 2'6" large)	x			
	Young Working Hunter Division 2' or 2'6" Your choice.	x	x	x	x
2'6"	* Modified Adult 2'3"-2'6" Eq, Hunter Divisions & Medal Class		x		
	Special Working Hunter Division 2'6"	x	x		x
	VHJA Novice Medal 2'6"	x			
	VHJA Children's Medal 2'6"	x			
	Elementary Jumpers Division 2'7"	x	x		x
2'9"-3'	Low Working Hunter Division 2'9"	x	x		x
	Schooling Jumpers Division 2'9"-3'	x	x		x
	VHJA Junior Medal 3'	x			
	Children's Hunter Horse Division 3'	x			
	Adult Amateur Hunter Division 3'		x		
3'-3'3"	Low Jumpers Division 3'-3'3"	x	x		x
	John P. Corley Horsemanship Medal 3'3"	x	x		
3'6"	VHJA President's Medal 3'6"	x	x		
	Open Jumpers Division 3'6"	x	x		x

