

**2025 / 2026 Rules and Regulations
of the
Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Equitation Championship
and all
Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Medal Classes
and all
Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Area Championships**

**** PLEASE NOTE: Membership in the National Horse Show Association (NHSAA) is required for all riders competing in the Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Classes/Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Area Championship Classes/Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Equitation Championship and all trainers who have riders competing in the Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Classes/Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Area Championship Classes/Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Equitation Championship. The membership/ qualifying year is September 1 – August 31. ****

The National Horse Show Association of America, Limited ("NHSAA") is responsible for the organization, presentation, and administration of the Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Equitation Championship (Finals). To ensure the selection of appropriate judges and course designers for the Championship, the NHSAA communicates with the National Horse Show Association Equitation Committee. USEF rules govern this competition, the Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Area Championship classes (Area Championships) and the Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Medal qualifying classes (Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal). In case of any conflict between these Rules and USEF rules, USEF rules shall govern.

Courses for all Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Classes, Area Championships and Finals

- To be shown over a course of not less than eight obstacles.
- Course must include:
 - One combination (including an oxer)
 - At least two changes of direction after the first obstacle
 - At least three of the following
 - Bending Line
 - Narrow Jump (5'6"-8')
 - Roll back turn
 - Fence at the end of the ring
 - Long approach to a single jump
- 1/3 of the obstacles must be oxers
- Obstacle height to be set at 3'3"
- Maximum width of oxers 3'6"
- Maximum width of triple bars and hogs backs 4'
- Liverpools, water jumps or water used as decoration are prohibited
- Banks, ditches, grobs and other natural obstacles are prohibited

Specifications for all Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Classes, Area Championships and Finals

The Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Classes, Area Championships and Finals are open only to junior members of the USEF who have not reached their 18th birthday in accordance with GR127 and who have never competed in any of the following National Equitation Finals with fences at 3'6" or higher: ASPCA Maclay Finals, US Medal Finals, USEF Talent Search (East or West), WIHS Equitation Classic Finals, Jump Canada Medal Finals or the North American Equitation Championship. Riders who compete in a Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Class may show in the ASPCA Maclay and in any other classes for which they are eligible at the same horse show. Riders may not show in both the Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Equitation Championship and the ASPCA Maclay Finals in the same competition year. Previous winners of the Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Equitation Championship are ineligible to compete in any Hamel Foundation NHS Medal Class, Area Championship, or the Finals.

Riders must be current members of the National Horse Show Association (“NHS”) to compete in all Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Classes, Area Championships and Finals. Trainers (or coaches when applicable [see USEF GR108]) of riders competing in all Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Classes, Area Championships and Finals must also be members of the NHS. The NHS Membership year is September 1 through August 31. Junior rider annual contributions shall be \$35. Trainer (or coach) annual contributions shall be \$50. A rider may enter any Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Classes anywhere in the United States according to the conditions published in the current Rule book of the USEF. NHS 3’3” Medal points can be earned at any USEF licensed competition. Any rider in his or her final junior year may not compete in any Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Classes held at a competition with a start date after August 31 of that competition year.

Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Classes

Judging

To be judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control of the horse. After completion of the jumping phase a minimum of twelve (12) riders, if available, are required to show at a walk, trot, and canter. The flat performance of those riders selected to show in the flat phase shall count 50%. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible. Following a flat, all tack/equipment that was used in the preliminary over fences round prior to testing may be put back in place. Only riders who have completed the course and competed in the flat phase may receive ribbons or points.

Conditions for holding Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Classes:

- Only competitions recognized by the USEF are eligible to hold the Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Class.
- All competitions must apply to hold the Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Class 30 days in advance using the forms found on www.nhs.org.
- Only one rider per horse.
- To fill a Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Class three (3) competitors must complete the course.
- If there are 40 or more entries at the beginning of a Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Class, it **may** be divided by every other number and run as two separate sections.
- If there are 50 or more entries at the beginning of a Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal Class, it **must** be divided by every other number and run as two separate classes.
- A Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Medal class may not be run using a California split.

Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Area Championships

Membership

To compete in the 2026 Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Area Championship Classes riders must have been members of the National Horse Show Association (“NHS”) for the current year’s qualifying period (September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026).

Judging

To be judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control of the horse. After completion of the jumping phase a minimum of twelve (12) riders, if available, are required to show at a walk, trot, and canter. The flat performance of those riders selected to show in the flat phase shall count 50%. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible. Only riders who have completed the course and competed in the flat phase may receive ribbons. USEF Tests 1-23.

Conditions for Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Area Championship Classes:

- Only competitions recognized by the USEF are eligible to hold the Hamel Foundation NHS 3’3” Area Championship Classes.
- Only one rider per horse.
- The same horse must be used for all Rounds/Phases of the competition.
- Two refusals will eliminate a rider from competition.

- Conventional tack per USEF EQ 105.5a. Martingales not permitted for the flat phase.
- To fill a Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Area Championship Class three (3) competitors must complete the course.
- A Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Area Championship may not be run using a California split.

Qualifying for Hamel Finals at the Area Championship:

The Champion, Reserve Champion and Third place finisher from each Area Championship, if not otherwise qualified, will receive invitations to compete in the Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Equitation Finals provided they have points from competing in Hamel classes in the same competition year.

QUALIFYING

HAMEL FOUNDATION NATIONAL HORSE SHOW 3'3" EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIP

All qualifying is based on the increment chart below:

INCREMENT SYSTEM and NUMBER OF ENTRANTS

	Number of Exhibitors Who Complete the Course			
Placings	3-5 Exhibitors	6-15 Exhibitors	16-30 Exhibitors	31+ Exhibitors
1st	5	10	20	40
2nd	4	8	16	32
3rd	3	6	12	24
4th		4	8	16
5th			4	8
6th			2	4
7th				2
8th				1

All Qualifying is based on the state point requirement point chart below:

Point requirements are based on the criteria used by the USEF that utilizes membership numbers in proportion to competition opportunities.

2025 / 2026 Points Required to Qualify for the Hamel Foundation Equitation Championship by State Per Rider's Official State of Residence per USEF Records			
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
11	18	27	35
Alabama	Colorado	California	Connecticut
Alaska	Georgia	Delaware	Florida
Arkansas	Illinois	Maryland	Massachusetts
Arizona	Kentucky	North Carolina	New Jersey
Canada	Michigan	Ohio	New York
DC	Missouri	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island
Hawaii	New Hampshire	Virginia	
Idaho	Oregon		
Indiana	South Carolina		
Iowa	Tennessee		
Kansas	Texas		
Louisiana	Vermont		
Maine	Washington		
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada			
New Mexico			
North Dakota			
Oklahoma			
Outside US			
Puerto Rico			
South Dakota			
Utah			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

The National Horse Show reserves the right to accept additional riders to compete in the Finals if the desired number of entries is not achieved by the closing date of entries. Additional riders will be accepted based on points accumulated during the qualifying period of the current competition year and will be notified in writing by the National Horse Show.

The qualifying period for each year's Finals ends August 31. If a horse show starts on or before August 31, Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Class points acquired at that show will count towards the current year.

HAMEL FOUNDATION 3'3" EQUITATION FINALS

Judging

To be judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control of the horse.

First Round

To be shown over a special course of jumps set to the above stated specifications and posted one hour before the start of the class. The course for the Finals shall be designed by a USEF Course Designer who must be selected and/or approved by the NHSSA. The Judges for the Finals will have input and give approval on the course design.

Flat Phase

A minimum of twenty-four (24) riders, if available, are required to show at a walk, trot, and canter. At the sole discretion of the judges, additional flat work may be called for, but all groups must be asked to perform the same tests. No more than twenty (20) riders at a time may be asked to work together. The flat performance of those riders selected to show in the flat phase shall count 50%. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible. Following a flat, all tack/equipment that was used in the preliminary over fences round prior to testing may be put back in place.

Second Round

All riders who competed in the Flat Phase will be asked to return for a final round over a second course following the above listed specifications. The second-round course may include tests.

Testing

Testing of up to six riders is optional using USEF Tests 1-23.

Conditions for Hamel Foundation NHS 3'3" Medal Finals

The Finals is open only to junior members of the USEF who have not reached their 18th birthday in accordance with GR127 and who have never competed in any of the following National Equitation Finals with fences at 3'6" or higher: ASPCA Maclay Finals, US Medal Finals, USEF Talent Search (East or West), WIHS Equitation Classic Finals, Jump Canada Medal Finals, or the North American Equitation Championship. Previous winners of the Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Equitation Championship are ineligible to compete in any Hamel Foundation NHS Medal Class or the Finals.

Riders may not show in both the Hamel Foundation National Horse Show 3'3" Equitation Championship and the ASPCA Maclay Finals in the same competition year.

Horses that compete in the Hamel Foundation National Horse show 3'3" Equitation Championship or the THIS National Horse Show Adult Equitation Championship are eligible to compete in the Maclay National Championship Class.

Only one rider per horse.

The same horse must be used for all Rounds/Phases of the competition.

Two refusals will eliminate a rider from competition.

Conventional tack per USEF EQ 105.5a. Martingales not permitted for the flat phase.

Trainers/Coaches permitted to ride and school competitors' horses.

Trainers/Coaches permitted to walk any and all courses with competitors.

In the event a horse becomes incapacitated in any phase of competition, upon examination of the Horse show's veterinarian and a judge or steward, a the substitution of a horse previously entered and checked in may be permitted by the National Horse Show.

Awards

The Judges will select a Champion and a Reserve Champion.

Ribbons through twelfth place.

Trophy to the Trainer of the winning rider.

Entries and Entry Closing Dates

For the closing date of entries, please refer to the National Horse Show prize list. Entries must be on the Official Entry Form, signed and submitted with the class entry fee made payable to the NHSAA. The NHSAA reserves the right to reject any late or unsigned entries or entries not submitted with all entry fees.

Questions and Disputes

Any questions or disputes relating to the qualifying classes or the Finals, other than that specifically described above, shall be decided according to the rules of the USEF, if applicable, or according to the Prize List if such question is not covered by the rules of the USEF.