

Rules and Regulations for 2026 Qualifying Season (9/1/2025 – 8/31/2026)
of the
NHS ASPCA Maclay National Championship
and all
Maclay Horsemanship Classes

**** PLEASE NOTE: Membership in the National Horse Show Association (NHSA) is required for all riders and trainers who have riders competing in the ASPCA Maclay. 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 Maclay Trophy and the associated qualifying competitions, including the NHS ASPCA Maclay National Championship (“Finals”). To ensure the selection of appropriate sites, judges and course designers, the NHSAA communicates with the Joint Equitation Task Force of the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA), the National Horse Show Association Equitation Committee and on other matters with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (“ASPCA”). USEF rules govern these competitions and the NHS ASPCA Maclay National Championship Qualifying Classes (“Maclay”). In case of any conflict between these Rules and USEF rules, USEF rules shall govern.

Courses for all Maclay and Finals Classes

- 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 3’6”
- Maximum width of oxers 4’
- Maximum width of triple bars and hogs backs 5’
- Liverpools, water jumps or water used as decoration are prohibited
- Banks, ditches, grobs and other natural obstacles are prohibited.

Specifications for all Maclay and Finals Classes

The NHS ASPCA Maclay National Championship is open to junior members of USEF who have not reached their 18th birthday in accordance with GR128. Riders must be current members of the National Horse Show Association (“NHSA”) in order to compete in all Maclay and Finals Classes. Trainers (or coaches when applicable [see USEF GR108]) of riders competing in all Maclay and Finals Classes must also be members of the NHSA. The NHSA 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 Maclay anywhere in the United States according to the conditions published in the current Rule book of the USEF. Any rider in his or her final junior year may not compete in any qualifying classes held at a competition with a start date after August 31 of that competition year. Previous winners of the Finals are ineligible to compete in any Maclay Class or Finals.

MACLAY 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. USEF Tests 1-23.

Conditions for Maclay Classes:

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

QUALIFYING

All Qualifying is based on the increment point 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 ASPCA Maclay State Per Rider's Official State of Residence per USEF Records			
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
13	21	31	41
Alabama	Colorado	California	Connecticut
Alaska	Georgia	Delaware	Florida
Arizona	Illinois	Maryland	Massachusetts
Arkansas	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			

● Qualifying for Finals

Exhibitors qualify by the minimum number of points required by their home state. Riders may compete in a total of fourteen (14) Maclay qualifying classes in a single qualifying period. Any rider who continues to compete after they have competed in fourteen (14) qualifying classes will no longer be eligible to compete in the Maclay Final. (Exception: If a rider is not yet qualified for the Maclay Final after fourteen (14) classes, that rider may continue to compete until qualified. That rider must stop competing in Maclay qualifying classes as soon as they are qualified for the Maclay Final or they will no longer be eligible to compete in the Maclay Final.) **It is the rider's responsibility to calculate and know their points as well as the number of classes they have competed in.**

● Entry Closing Date for Finals

- Please refer to the competition prize list for entry closing date.

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 in a group at the same time. 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.

Final 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 stated specifications. The Final Round course may include tests.

Testing

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

Conditions Governing Finals

Finals are open to junior members of USEF who have not reached their 18th birthday in accordance with GR127. Winners of the Finals are ineligible to compete in the Finals.

Only one rider per horse.

Riders that show in the NHS 3'3" Equitation Championship Sponsored by the Hamel Foundation are ineligible to compete in the NHS ASPCA Maclay National Championship (ASPCA Maclay Finals) in the same competition year.

Horses that compete in the NHS 3'3" Equitation Championship Sponsored by the Hamel Foundation or the NHS Adult Equitation Championship Sponsored by THIS are eligible to compete in the NHS ASPCA Maclay National Championship.

Two refusals will eliminate a rider from Finals 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, the substitution of a horse that has been previously entered and checked in may be permitted by the NHSAA.

Awards

The Judges will select a Champion and a Reserve Champion.

Ribbons through twelfth place

Trophy to the Trainer of the winning rider.

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.