



2025 Princeton Equestrian League Division and Class Specifications/Rules

Contact Information

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Princeton Equestrian League reserves the right to make final decisions regarding interpretation of these Rules and Specifications.

Membership Information

The Rider must be a current member in order for points to count. Riders earn points in equitation classes. Horses shown by a PEL member will earn points in hunter and jumper classes. Horses may earn points in any division for which it is eligible and may earn points in multiple divisions, with multiple riders, provided the rider of record on the results is a current PEL member.

Each rider must select one of the following:

Junior: Rider has not reached his/her 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current USEF Show Year

Amateur: Rider is no longer eligible as a Junior Rider and is considered an Amateur according to the USEF definitions.

Professional: Any Rider who is not eligible to be a Junior or Amateur Rider.

The membership join date is determined once a completed membership form AND payment are received by the PEL office. A rider's membership MUST be received in the PEL office within 14 days after the completion of a PEL sanctioned show in order for points from that show to count.

NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR RIBBONS WON BEFORE THE RIDER'S JOIN DATE.

Membership Fees

Seasonal Membership fee: \$30 per rider. This must be paid per PEL SHOW SEASON.

Life Membership fee: \$200. This will make the rider a Life PEL Member who will not be required to renew each season. Life members are automatically eligible to earn points and receive all the benefits of being a PEL member.

You can submit a membership form and payment by mail, at a PEL sanctioned show or on the princetonequestrianleague.com website. Please make checks payable to the Princeton Equestrian League and mail to: PEL c/o Hunter Farms, 1315 Great Road, Princeton, NJ 08540.

PEL highly recommends submitting payments through the PEL website to ensure they are received on time. Forms/checks “lost in the mail” without a tracking number will not be accepted after the corresponding due date. It is the responsibility of the show or member to ensure all paperwork is received by the PEL office or sent in a trackable method.

Horse Registration

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE FOR HORSES. To receive PEL points, horses must be registered with the PEL. Horses may compete without being registered but will not accrue PEL points. Contact carey@princetonequestrianleague.com if you need to update a horse’s registration information. This is extremely important to ensure points are awarded to the correct horses/ponies in the correct divisions.

Earning Points Towards Year End Awards

The Year End Awards are determined by the most points earned at PEL sanctioned shows during the 2025 season. This includes shows from September 2, 2024, through August 31, 2025. The PEL Year End Awards Banquet will be held during the PEL National Finals in the Fall of 2025.

Multiple day shows that have started on or before August 31, 2025, will be counted towards the 2025 Year End Awards.

In order for a rider or horse to be eligible for a Year End Award, they must have shown and been awarded points in at least 3 PEL sanctioned shows during the season.

There must be a minimum of 4 riders who meet the requirements of showing in 3 PEL sanctioned shows for a division to stand alone. Divisions may be combined at management’s discretion in order to meet those requirements.

Year end awards will be pinned to 6th place. (Champion-Reserve 3rd – 6th)

Points for each PEL Division can only be awarded in ONE division per show. The horse show MUST designate which divisions will be offering PEL points.

Points in PEL sanctioned divisions and classes will be awarded as follows:

Placing	1-3 Entries	4-10 Entries	11-19 Entries	20-29 Entries	30+ Entries
1 st	3	7	14	21	28
2 nd	2	5	10	15	20
3 rd	1	4	8	12	16
4 th		3	6	9	12
5 th		2	4	6	8
6 th		1	2	3	4

In the event a class has 2 or more evenly split sets of results (ex: California split), the number of entries in the class will be divided by the number of result sets. **A minimum of 12 entries must complete a class in order for the class to be eligible for a California split.**

If a class is split unevenly (ex: Child and Adult), the horse show must specify the number of entries for each section if placings go beyond 6th place.

No points will be awarded for clear-round jumper classes.

PEL Sanctioned Shows

Any show that would like to offer PEL points must complete and submit the 2023 PEL Horse Show Application prior to the start of the show. Show information will be made available on the PEL website for members to view. **Results will only be accepted electronically from a horse show software and must be publicly available to access from the Internet.** ShowPro is highly recommended. Visit sportdatainc.com for information on the ShowPro show management software.

It is the responsibility of the horse show to provide complete and accurate results. Classes must be run under the PEL Specifications for that division.

Show Fees

\$35 per show PEL OrgPro Results from the ShowPro software or USEF electronic results

Show fees are not affected by the number of consecutive show days, number of PEL classes or number of PEL members who compete at the show.

Results

Results must be received at the PEL office within 14 days of the completion of the show. Class titles or specifications MUST include which PEL division points are to be awarded.

PEL highly recommends submitting payments through the PEL website to ensure they are received on time. Forms/checks “lost in the mail” without a tracking number will not be accepted after the corresponding due date. It is the responsibility of the show or member to ensure all paperwork is received by the PEL office or sent in a trackable method.

Results must be emailed to carey@princetonequestrianleague.com

Show Secretaries/Managers: Please mail all membership forms, horse registration forms and payments received at the show to:

PEL c/o Hunter Farms
1315 Great Rd
Princeton, NJ 08540

Results MUST include:

- “PEL” in the name of each class that is eligible for PEL points.
- Rider, Horse and Owner’s names must be included for each placing.
- Total number of entries in each class
- **Clarification of where points are to be distributed if classes are combined.**
- Payment of Show Fees
 - Checks can be mailed to: PEL, 1315 Great Rd, Princeton, NJ 08540
 - Pay Online with credit card at

<https://www.princetonequestrianleague.com/show-managers.html>

Results received without payment will NOT be processed.

National Finals General Information

The 2025 PEL National Finals will be held at Princeton Show Jumping in Skillman, New Jersey on a date to be determined in the Fall of 2025.

All 2025 PEL members and horses ridden by members are welcome to compete in the Finals. There is no minimum point amount needed, however PEL reserves the right to limit entries for certain divisions/classes.

PEL members who competed and earned points during the season will have priority over members who join at the Finals. If entries are restricted, outside entries will be accepted by post mark date. Each class will have a posted order that will be determined by the 2025 season year end results. Those with the highest point totals will go last.

Sanctioned Divisions/Classes:

Hunter

- * Mini Stirrup Hunter
- * Short Stirrup Hunter
- * Beginner Hunter
- * Low Children's Hunter (2' for ponies, 2'6" for horses)
- * Low Adult Hunter (2'6")
- * Children's Pony Hunter (2' small/medium ponies, 2'6" large)
- * Children's Hunter Horse (3')
- * Adult Amateur Hunter (3')
- * Pleasure Horse or Pony
- * PEL Hunter Derby (2'/2'3"/2'6"/2'9"/3')
- * Princeton Open Hunter 2'-2'3"
- * Princeton Open Hunter 2'6"
- * Princeton Open Hunter 2'9-3'

Equitation

- * Mini Stirrup Equitation
- * Short Stirrup Equitation
- * Beginner Rider
- * Modified Rider (2'3")
- * Low Children's Eq. (2' ponies, 2'6" horses)
- * Low Adult Eq. (2'6")
- * Children's Pony Medal (2' small/medium ponies, 2'6" large)
- * Low Child/Adult/Pony Medal 2', 2'6"
- * Child/Adult 3' Medal

Jumper

- * Leap Frog Jumper (2')
- * Itty Bitty Jumper (2'3")
- * Pre-Child/Adult Jumper (.80m)
- * Low Child/Adult Jumper (.90m-1.00m)
- * High Child/Adult Jumper (1.10-1.15m)
- * Open Jumper .80m
- * Open Jumper .90m
- * Open Jumper 1.00m

Class specifications:

JUMPER CLASSES

Leap Frog Jumper: Open to all horses and ponies who, as a horse & rider combination, have not won a total of \$1000 in jumper classes as of December 1st of the current USEF show year. Fences 2' in height, no oxers or combinations.

Itty Bitty Jumper: Open to all horses & ponies who, as a horse & rider combination, have not won a total of \$1000 in jumper classes as of December 1st of the current USEF show year. Fences .70m (2'3") in height, no combinations.

Pre-Children's/Adult Jumper .80m: Open to junior/amateur riders who have not won more than \$1000 in jumper classes as of December 1st of the current USEF show year. Fences .80m in height.

Open Jumper Divisions: Open to all horses and ponies. All classes to be run concurrent with USEF Tables. No points will be awarded from clear-round classes. A Year End Award will be awarded at each fence height. Divisions may be combined if there are fewer than 6 Year End Award competitors who have met the annual requirements.

.80m (2'7")

.90m (2'11")

1.00m (3'3")

Low Children's/Adult Jumper: Open to horses or ponies ridden by junior or adult amateur riders. To be shown over fences .90m-1.00m in height in accordance with USHJA Zone 2 Specifications. Rider may not compete in any classes at the same competition where fences exceed 1.15m (3'9"), except the USEF Talent Search Class 1* and 2*. If at least 6 Year End Award winners have not met the annual requirements, awards may be combined with the High Children's/Adult Jumper.

Children's/Adult Jumper: Open to horses or ponies ridden by junior or adult amateur riders. To be shown over fences 1.10m to 1.15m in height. Riders may not compete in any classes at the same competition where fences exceed 1.25m. If at least 6 Year End Award winners have not met the annual requirements, awards may be combined with the Low Children's/Adult Jumper.

No points will be awarded for clear-round jumper classes.

HUNTER CLASSES

All Hunter Divisions must offer 1 Under Saddle and 2-3 Over Fences classes at each show. A 4th Over Fences class may be offered if a division is divided over 2 consecutive days at the same competition.

Mini Stirrup Hunter: Open to horses & ponies ridden by junior exhibitors 10 years of age & under as of December 1st of the current USEF show year. Riders may have never competed in any division at any horse show where cantering is required. At that time, the rider is no longer eligible for the Mini Stirrup Hunter Division. Riders may not show in any other division at the same show except Mini Stirrup Eq, Walk/Trot Hunter, and Walk/Trot Eq. Regardless of when the classes are held during the competition, if this happens, all placings will be forfeited in any Mini Stirrup class for that rider. Fences are cross rails below 18" or rails on ground. Under Saddle may only be shown at the Walk and Trot.

Short Stirrup Hunter: Open to horses & ponies ridden by junior exhibitors 12 years of age & under as of December 1st of the current USEF show year. Riders may have never shown in any division, at any show, where the fence height specifications are 2' or higher. Doing so will make the rider ineligible for all Short Stirrup classes. To be shown over a course of at least 4 jumps at less than 2' in height and to be judged on manners, performance & suitability. This division may be combined with Beginner Hunter, if needed.

Beginner Hunter: Open to horses & ponies ridden by riders of ANY age. To be shown over a course of at least 4 jumps at LESS THAN 2' in height. TROTting ON COURSE NOT TO BE PENALIZED, ALTHOUGH AN UNINTENTIONAL BREAK OF GAIT WILL BE PENALIZED. A single Year End Award and Final Award will be awarded. Horse shows may offer or split this division into 2 stand-alone divisions according to the Sections below. This division may be combined with Short Stirrup Hunter, if needed.

- Section A: Rider may not have shown in a division, at any show, where the fence height specifications are 2' or higher. Riders in Section A may not cross enter in any division or class at any competition where the fences are 2' or higher. Doing so will make the rider ineligible for Beginner Hunter.
- Section B: Horse or pony not to have shown in a division, at any competition, where fence height specifications are 2' or higher. Horses may not cross enter into any division or class where fences are 2' or higher at the same competition.

Princeton Hunter 2'/2'3": Open to all riders on horses and ponies. To be shown over a course of fences set at 2'/2'9" with at least 2 changes of direction after the first jump.

Princeton Hunter 2'6": Open to all riders on horses and ponies. To be shown over a course of fences set at 2'6" with at least 2 changes of direction after the first jump.

Princeton Hunter 2'9"/3': Open to all riders on horses and ponies. To be shown over a course of at least 8 fences set at 2'9"/3' with at least 2 changes of direction after the first jump.

Low Children's Hunter: Open to horses and ponies ridden by junior riders as of December 1st of the current show year. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences, with at least one change of direction after the first jump. Fences 2'6" for horses and 2' for ponies. Riders may not cross enter into Children's Hunter, Pony Hunter, Children's Medal, or any class at the same competition where fences exceed 2'6" for horses and 2' for ponies. This division may be combined with Low Adult Hunter, if there are fewer than 3 exhibitors in either section.

Low Adult Hunter: Open to adult amateur exhibitors. Riders may not cross enter into any class or division with fences 3' or higher at the same competition. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences at 2'6", with at least one change of direction after the first jump. This division may be combined with Low Children's Hunter if there are fewer than 3 exhibitors in either section.

Children's Hunter Pony: To be shown by junior exhibitors and run according to current USHJA Zone 2 Specifications. Riders may not cross enter into the Regular Pony or Green Pony Division at the same competition. To be shown over a course of at least 8 fences with at least 2 changes of direction after the first jump. Fences to be set at 2'6" for Large ponies and 2' for Small/Medium ponies. Classes may be combined with Children's Hunter Horse/Adult Amateur Hunter if there are fewer than 3 in either section.

Children's Hunter Horse: To be shown by Junior exhibitors and run according to current USHJA Zone 2 Specifications. Riders may not cross enter into class at the same show where fences exceed 3' except Children's Jumper, Pony Jumper, USHJA National Derby and Equitation classes that do not exceed 3'6". To be shown over a course of at least 8 fences set at 2'9"-3' with at least 2 changes of direction after the first jump. Classes may be combined with Children's Hunter Pony / Adult Amateur Hunter if there are fewer than 3 in either section.

Adult Amateur Hunter: To be shown by exhibitors who are no longer eligible to compete as a Junior and possess a valid current USEF Amateur Card. Ponies may be shown by adults; suitability to count. To be shown over a course of at least 8 fences set at 3', spreads not to exceed fence heights, and include at least 2 changes of direction after the first jump. To be run in accordance with USEF/USHJA Zone 2 specifications. May be combined with Children's Hunter Horse/Children's Hunter Pony if there are fewer than 3 in each section.

Pleasure Horse or Pony: Open to all horses and ponies. To be shown in English tack at a walk, trot, canter both ways of the ring. To be judged on performance & soundness with emphasis on manners. No martingales permitted. The class may be split into two (2) separate Sections (horses & ponies) provided there are three (3) in each section. All points to count toward one Year End Award.

PEL Hunter Derby 2'/2'3"/2'6"/2'9"/3': Open to horses and ponies not cross entered into any class with fence heights set over 3' at the same competition. Course to be set at 2'/2'3"/2'6"/2'9"/3' with at least 2 changes of direction after the first jump. To be run as a two round hunter classic, the second being a handy round. The M&S Bit O' Straw Classic may count as points toward this class if no other eligible 2'6" class is offered and submitted for points at the same show. The USHJA National Hunter Derby may count as points towards this class if no other eligible 3' derby class is offered and submitted for points at the same show.

EQUITATION AND MEDAL CLASSES

Mini Stirrup Equitation: Open to riders 10 years of age & under as of December 1st of the current USEF show year. Riders may have never shown in any division at any competition where cantering is required, or they are no longer eligible for the Mini Stirrup division. Riders not to have shown over fences 2' or higher at a USEF recognized show. Riders may not show in any other division at the same show except Mini Stirrup Hunter, Walk/Trot Hunter, and Walk/Trot Eq. If this happens, regardless of when the classes are held during the competition, all placings will be forfeited in any Mini Stirrup class for that rider. Must offer at least 3 of the following classes:

Walk-Trot Equitation / Walk-Trot Pleasure / Walk-Trot Figure Eight / Ground Poles or Cross-Rails (4 cross-rails under 2'). It must be clear to all exhibitors and judges that cantering is NOT required)

Short Stirrup Equitation: Open to riders 12 years of age & under as of December 1st of the current USEF show year. To be shown over a course less than 2' in height (may be cross-rails). Riders may never have shown in any division, at any show, where the fence height specifications are 2' or higher. Riders may not cross enter into any other division or class where fence heights are 2' or higher. This division may be combined with Beginner Equitation if there are fewer than 3 exhibitors in either section. Division must offer at least 3 of the following:

Walk-Trot - To be shown both ways of the ring.

Walk-Trot-Canter - To be shown both ways of the ring (no more than 10 to canter at one time)

Over Fences - To be shown over a minimum of 4 fences under 2'.

Beginner Equitation: Open to exhibitors of any age who have not shown in a division, at any show, where the fence height specifications are 2' or higher. To be shown over a course less than 2' (may be cross-rails). Riders may not cross enter into any other division or class where fences are 2' or higher. This division may be combined with Short Stirrup Equitation if there are 3 or less exhibitors in either section. TROTting ON COURSE NOT TO BE PENALIZED, ALTHOUGH AN UNINTENTIONAL BREAK OF GAIT WILL BE PENALIZED.

Division must offer at least 3 of the following:

Walk-Trot - To be shown both ways of the ring.

Walk-Trot-Canter - To be shown both ways of the ring (no more than 10 to canter at one time)

Over Fences - To be shown over a minimum of 4 fences under 2'.

Modified Rider 2'3": Open to junior and amateur exhibitors on horses or ponies. Riders to show over a simple course with fences at 2'3". Only riders who have not shown in a class or division where fences are 2'6" or higher. Exhibitors cannot cross enter into any other class/division where fences are higher than 2'3" at the same competition. Riders who have competed in a rated division which includes Pre-Children's horses and Low Adult in the past show year are not eligible to compete in this class.

Low Children's Equitation: Open to horses and ponies ridden by junior riders as of December 1st of the current show year. Riders may not cross enter into Children's Hunter, Pony Hunter, Children's Medal, or any class at the same competition where fences exceed 2'6" for horses and 2' for ponies. If the division is split into horses and ponies, a rider may only compete in one section at that show. This division may be combined with Low Adult Equitation, if there are fewer than 3 exhibitors in either section. Division must offer:

1 Flat Class - To be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring.

2-3 Over Fences Classes - To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences, with at least one change of direction after the first jump. Fences 2'6" for horses and 2' for ponies.

(A 4th Over Fences Class may be offered if the division is split over 2 consecutive show days at the same competition)

Low Adult Equitation: Open to adult amateur exhibitors. Riders may not cross enter into any class or division with fences 3' or higher at the same competition. This division may be combined with Low Children's Equitation if there are fewer than 3 exhibitors in either section. Division must offer:

1 Flat Class - To be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring.

2-3 Over Fences Classes - To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences at 2'6", with at least one change of direction after the first jump.

(A 4th Over Fences Class may be offered if the division is split over 2 consecutive show days at the same competition)

Low Children's/Adult Medal: Open to junior and adult amateur riders that are not competing at the same show in any class with fences at 3' or higher. To be shown over a minimum of 8 fences at 2'6" with at least 2 changes of direction after the first fence. Two or more tests of the top 4 competitors is allowed, but not required. Only 1 rider per horse. May be offered as separate Children's and Adult classes at the same competition. May be run concurrently with the M&S 2'6" Child and/or Adult Medal, NJHSA Low Adult Medal or NJPHA Low Adult and/or Low Children's Medal.

Children's Pony Medal 2', 2'6": Open to junior riders on ponies that are not competing at the same show in any class with fences 3' or higher. To be shown over a minimum of eight (8) fences with at least 2 changes of direction after the first fence. Fences to be set at 2' for Small/Medium ponies and 2'6" for Large ponies. Two or more tests of the top 4 competitors is allowed, but not required. Only one rider per pony. May be run concurrently with the M&S Children's Pony Medal and/or NJPHA Pony Medal. May be combined with Children's/Adult Medal 3' if entries warrant.

Children's/Adult Medal 3': Open to all Junior and Adult Amateur Riders that are not competing at the same show in any Hunter or Equitation class where the fences exceed 3'3". To be shown over a minimum of eight (8) fences at 3' with at least 2 changes of direction after the first fence. Two or more tests of the top 4 competitors is allowed, but not required. Only one rider per horse. May be offered as separate Children's and Adult Medal classes at the same show. Classes may be run concurrently with the M&S Children's Horse Medal, NJPHA Mini Medal, M&S Dover Saddlery Adult Medal, NJHSA Adult Medal or Ariat Adult Medal. May be combined with PEL Children's Pony Medal if entries warrant.