

**UNITED STATES
HOBBY HORSE
CHAMPIONSHIPS
2025**



WELCOME

Greetings fellow Hobby Horser,

We are so excited to share the second annual United States Hobby Horse Championships with you. You are a huge part of making this happen and we are so grateful that you have chosen to share your skills and passion with us!

Within this packet you will find information on where and when the event is being held, details on becoming a vendor or volunteer, as well as specific information on each of the classes and what is involved in competing in them.

We recommend that you read over the entire packet and then fill in the official application form online. Once you have officially applied (Due by March 15th), we will keep you posted on the event and what classes you are officially entered in.

Be sure to look for the follow up invoice and submit your payment by April 30. We cannot wait to meet you (or see you again) this year!

Feel free to reach out to us at ushhcmal@gmail.com with any thoughts or questions.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Application and Registration

Because of increased excitement around the United States Hobby Horse Championships in 2025, there will be some changes to the registration process. For the 2025 USHHC, participants will be selected by lottery for their chosen classes, and by qualifying video entries for both dressage competitions (Junior Freestyle and Grand Prix Freestyle). Once you have submitted your application, be on the lookout for an email with the official information on classes you will participate in.

The **first step** is sending in your application for classes. Head to the USHHC website to apply online. Applications **must be submitted by March 15, 2025**.

The **second step** is to be on the lookout for a follow-up email. Once the lottery is completed and you have been selected, you will be invoiced for classes you are registered in, and will pay online. **Each class entered is \$15 USD.**

The **third step** is to pay for your classes and prepare for the Championships! Once invoiced, **your payment must be received no later than April 30, 2025.**

NOTE: You must submit payment for your invoice amount by the deadline to participate in all classes you were accepted into. **If payment is not made by the date, your class space(s) will be forfeited to the next rider on the waitlist.**

Also note: Every competitor who registers is allowed one "guest" free. All other attendees will need to pay a fee of \$5 USD at the check-in table.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

****PLEASE NOTE:** If you are intending to fly in for the USHHC, U.S. airlines require you to check your hobby horse in your luggage. Otherwise, the stick must be removed from your hh in order to be considered carry-on. Please check with your specific airline for the most up-to-date details.**

The **2025 United States Hobby Horse Championships** takes place on **August 2, 2025** in **Almont, Michigan** at the following address:

Almont Middle School
4624 Kidder Rd, Almont, MI 48003

The doors will open at 9:00 a.m. EST, no earlier (with the exception of vendors and volunteers). Please plan to arrive on time to confirm your registration and familiarize yourself with the venue. The event closes at 6 p.m.

Map of the school and where to enter the gym:

The map shows where to park and the doors to go in—once inside, look to your right and you will see the gym!



A few hotels near the USHHC gym:

- **Days Inn**

6692 Newark Rd Imlay City, MI 48444

Days Inn has blocked a group of rooms for the USHHC and will be discounting at a group rate. Use the following link:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham>

Please put in the ***dates and Imlay City as your location***. Then select "special rates" under the group code- enter **HobHorse** and the rate will populate.

- Holiday Inn Express Lapeer 927 Demille Road, Lapeer, Michigan 48446
- Hampton Inn Detroit-Shelby Township 51620 Shelby, Parkway, Shelby, MI
- Cambria Hotel Detroit-Shelby Township 50741 Corporate Drive, Shelby MI

Restaurants:

- Roza's Pizza 131 S Main St, Almont, MI
- Big Joes 1935 S Cedar St Imlay City, MI 48444
- Luckys Steakhouse 2000 S Cedar St Imlay City, MI 48444
- Roots BBQ 107 S Main St, Almont, MI 48003
- Brown Iron Brewery (offers gluten free options) 57695 Van Dyke Ave, Washington, MI 48094

Breakfast/brunch:

- Good Grounds 126 N main St., Almont, Michigan
- Brunch @ Joes 208 N Main St in Almont Michigan
- Bomb Burgers and Breakfast 1829 S. Cedar, Imlay City, Michigan 48444

Fun things to do near the USHHC gym:

(You can also look up activities on Apple/Google Maps!)

Indoor Activities:

Bowling! There are many bowling alleys nearby, but here are a few:

- Hideaway Lanes 4550 Howland Rd Almont, MI 48003
- Summit Entertainment Center 66600 Van Dyke Rd Washington, MI 48095
- IC Strikes 270 S. Cedar St, Imlay City, MI, United States, Michigan

Movies! Again, there are many movie theaters nearby, but here are a few:

- Romeo Theatre 66120 Van Dyke Rd Washington, MI 48095
- Emagine Theatre 15251 23 Mile Rd Macomb, MI 48042-4056

Outdoor Activities:

Farms!

- Crooked Creek Farm Dairy 75960 Brown Rd Romeo, MI 48065
- Blake's Cider Mill (Almont: 5600 Van Dyke Rd Almont, MI 48003
- Armada: 17985 Armada Center Rd, Armada, MI 48005)

Water Parks and Beaches!

- Zehnder's Splash Village (also has a hotel!) 1365 S Main St, Frankenmuth, MI 48734
- Lake Saint Clair (30 minutes away, has beaches)
- If you are willing to drive a bit, the Great Lakes have great beaches!
- General Squire Memorial Water Park 4725 South Mill Road, Dryden, Michigan.

Also, if you are more of a city person, Detroit has much to offer! If you are looking to shop, there are many stores in Macomb/Shelby Township area!

GENERAL INFORMATION

USHHC Timeline:

The 2025 United States Hobby Horse Championships will take place on August 2, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. An official timeline will be available once the date draws closer.

What to bring:

- Your hobby horse(s), tack for them, cool-out blankets if you would like.
- Cash, Card, Venmo or PayPal info. There will be a food truck, some sales, and vendors!!
- Make sure to bring water! Water is allowed in the gym, but all other drinks must be enjoyed outside the gym. Water will be available for purchase as well.
- A snack (if you do not enjoy the nacho truck)--eating is outdoors or in cafeteria only. No food in the gym.
- A positive attitude and fun spirit!

Clothing and shoe recommendations:

Shoe are required for this event. There are no other official clothing restrictions or requirements for attire.

- Running or sports shoes/no heels on the gym floor
- T-shirt or tank top
- Shorts or exercise pants

Vendor Information:

If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the USHHC, please fill out the application on our website on the vendors page once it is posted. The vendor application and web page will become available by March 15, 2025. Vendor applications will close on May 31, 2025. Vendor spaces will be curated again this year-- our application will require you to upload examples of your products for sale.

A vendor spot cost is \$35 USD. Please bring your own table.

NOTE: Due to space constraints, the vendor tables may be set up in an area away from some main events.

Volunteering:

We have a lot of jobs for you to do at USHHC, if you can lend a helping hand! You must be an adult to volunteer, however you're welcome to bring your child along and they could either just hang out or help too!

There are different volunteering options-- some more detailed, some less! **A link to the volunteer form will be included with the email containing your invoice/registration/class eligibility. We appreciate the consideration!**

GENERAL RULES

First of all, it is required to have fun!! Don't forget to be encouraging to other amazing hobbyhorsers, and just make sure to remember this is all for fun! =)

TACK REQUIREMENTS

**Please note: If a tack malfunction happens during your class, do not worry, just continue in your course. See the disqualification section below.

Your hh is required to wear at least a halter, so please make sure to use tack of some sort. Bridles are required for Dressage.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

The only disqualifications within the USHC occur if you do not follow the correct jump course, barrel racing pattern, or go off course in the Western trail class, if you do not keep the hh stick between your legs during puissance, or if you completely forget your entire dressage routine. If you miss a jump, take a jump in the wrong order, or run out of the arena you will be disqualified from that class.

THE CLASSES

Awards will happen after each class is completed. A victory lap is allowed!!

FLAT CLASS *NEW*

This class is designed for new hobbyhorsers and competitors who have never won a ribbon. It is split into 3 age groups. This class is judged on how well your horse behaves at the walk, trot, and canter. It will be done in a group, and you must listen to the judge's directions.

Recommended Tack:

An English or Western bridle is ideal. We understand there will be beginners, so halters and reins are allowed..

Reminder:

In the flat class, if you do not follow the judge's instructions or run out of the arena you will be disqualified from that class.

--FLAT CLASS: 10 AND UNDER--

--FLAT CLASS: 11 AND 12--

--FLAT CLASS: 13 AND UP--

HUNTER/JUMPER

There are 2 Hunter/Jumper classes. The course is different from the Showjumping courses.

Lead changes over jumps are encouraged, but not required. Please note, however, doing lead changes over jumps (at the appropriate time) will earn you a higher score. Also, remember your score is based on the judge's discretion-- please don't be upset if you get a lower score than expected.

Recommended Tack:

Usually, a simple English snaffle with a standing martingale is traditional for Hunter/Jumper, but you're welcome to use another bridle or halter. Running martingales are not allowed, and crops are permitted but not encouraged.

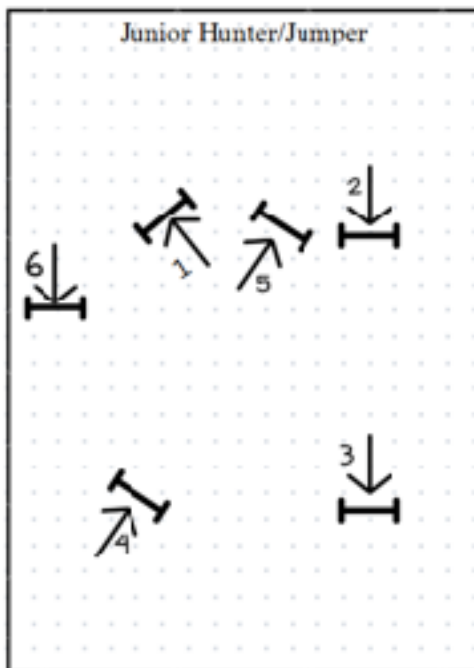
Reminder:

Disqualifications within the USHHC occur if you do not follow the correct jump course. If you miss a jump, take a jump in the wrong order, or run out of the arena you will be disqualified from that class.

--JUNIOR HUNTER--

Simple hunter course. No oxers. 11 and under only.

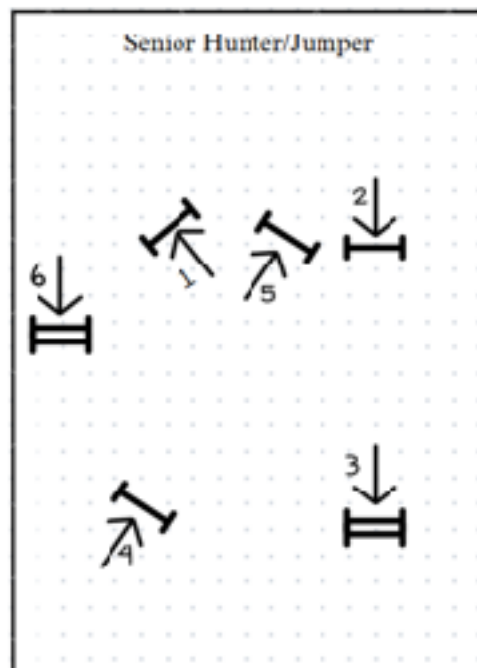
Height: 1'6" (1 and a half feet)



--SENIOR HUNTER--

Simple hunter course. May have oxers. Open to all ages.

Height: 2 feet



SHOW JUMPING

There are 3 classes here: 1 foot, 2 foot, and 3 foot.

Note: The Junior (1 foot) and the 2' are the same course, but different heights.

Recommended Tack:

Breastplates and martingales are allowed! Crops permitted. A jumping bridle would be ideal, but again, you're welcome to ride in just a halter and reins if you have no other options.

Reminder:

Disqualifications within the USHHC occur if you do not follow the correct jump course, if you miss a jump, take a jump in the wrong order, or run out of the arena you will be disqualified from that class.

--JUNIOR SHOWJUMPING--

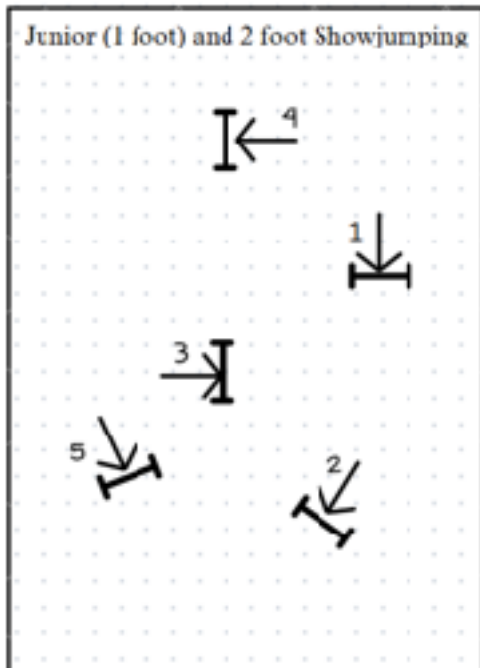
Simple, kid friendly course. No oxers.
11 and under ONLY.

Height: 1 foot

--2' SHOWJUMPING--

Same course as Junior. Simple, kid friendly course. No oxers. Open to all ages.

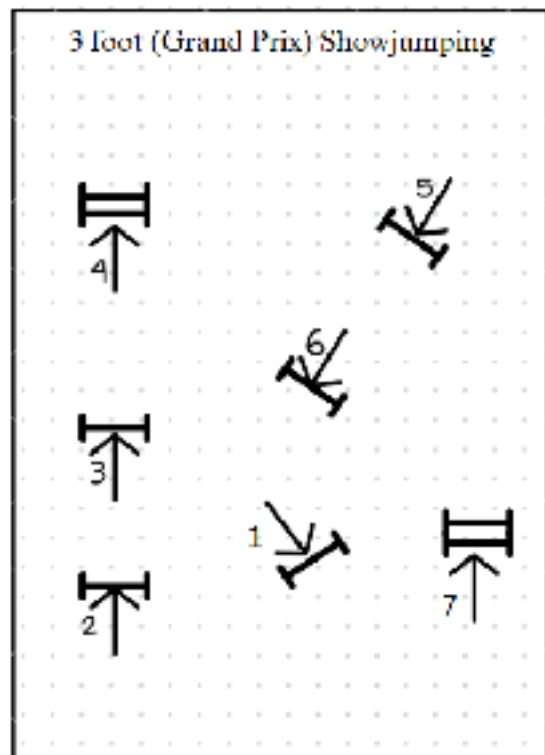
Height: 2 feet



--3' SHOWJUMPING (GRAND PRIX)*NEW*--

Complex course. May have oxers or special jumps. Open to all ages.

Height: 3 feet.



WESTERN TRAIL *NEW*

There will be one Western trail class, all ages. This class is all about precision and accuracy. Rider will navigate their hobby horse through the course using their best ability and style.

OPEN TO ALL AGES

Recommended Tack:

All horses must wear Western bridles ONLY. Any bridle with a nose band will not be allowed. Martingales and breastplates will also not be allowed.

Reminder:

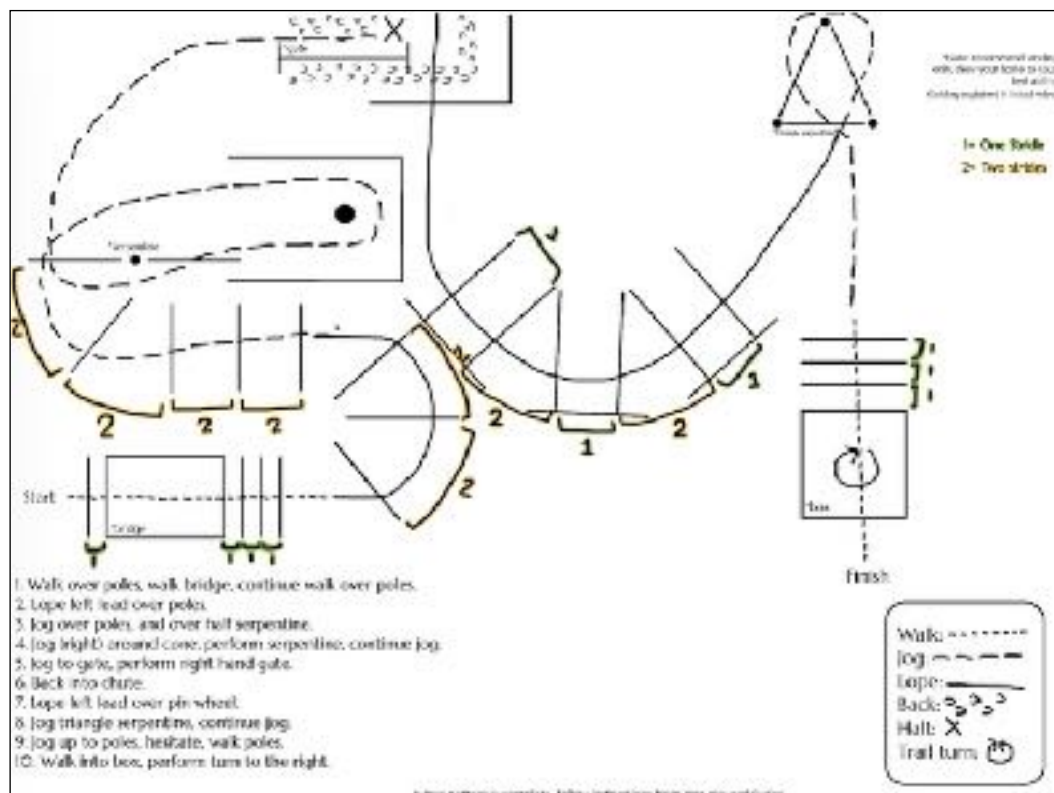
Western trail will be judged and based on the AQHA version of ground trail. Visit the Western Trail page of the USHHC website for a video with tips. We recommend you check out the video before entering this class.

Note: Penalties and Scoring: This is a style class and will be scored based on the ability to perform the pattern at the best of your ability while keeping controlled (consistent) and flowy gaits.

Clipping or hitting a pole/obstacle: 2 pts

Break of gait or failure to perform movement: 3 pts

Off course: Disqualification



BARREL RACING

All about speed, this Western event is the fastest of the day!

--BARREL RACING: 11 AND UNDER--

--BARREL RACING: 12 AND UP---

Recommended Tack:

Western tack is encouraged, but if you don't happen to have any, feel free to use what you need. Crops and breastplates are allowed, but not martingales.

This competition will be on the clover-leaf pattern (a common barrel pattern).

PUISSANCE

Puissance is all about height! The bar will raise and raise each time you clear the jump. Who can jump the highest today?

OPEN TO ALL AGES

Beginning Height: 2 feet

Recommended Tack:

You're welcome to use whatever tack you'd like for this one (though jumping tack is ideal)-- it's all about height! Crops allowed, as well as martingales and breastplates.

Rules:

Hobby horse stick must remain between the rider's legs to complete the jump successfully.

Reminder:

If you knock down once, you get a rerun. If on the second time you clear it, there's no change to your score. However, if you knock down the second time, your turn is over. This doesn't necessarily mean you won't place, depending on your final height compared to the other competitors.

DRESSAGE

There are two Dressage Freestyle classes, Junior Dressage and Grand Prix Dressage. Both will be performed in the same arena, ***an 8 meter by 16 meter arena***.

- ***Junior Dressage Freestyle*** focuses on more basic dressage moves-- perfect for people just getting into dressage or looking for an easier class.
- ***Grand Prix Dressage Freestyle*** is the hardest and highest level of dressage. Our GP class doesn't have all the dressage moves in the world required – but you're welcome to add more if you don't already feel overwhelmed.

Recommended Tack:

All horses must wear bridles; no martingales or breastplates allowed. Double bridles preferred. No halters allowed.

Reminder:

You're welcome to add moves other than those required to your dressage routine, but make sure to have all of the required moves in your routine and stay to the time limits. You may use music or compete without.

- *Junior Dressage*: 1-3 min
- *Grand Prix Dressage*: 2-4 min

If you fail to fit the time or forget a required move it will affect your score.

Music must be sent in by one month before the event (July 1st 2025). If you fail to do so, you will not have music for your freestyle. Please send a YouTube link to ushhcmail@gmail.com with your chosen music.

Required moves and time restrictions for the dressage classes:

JUNIOR DRESSAGE FREESTYLE

Time limit: 1-3 minutes long

Required moves:

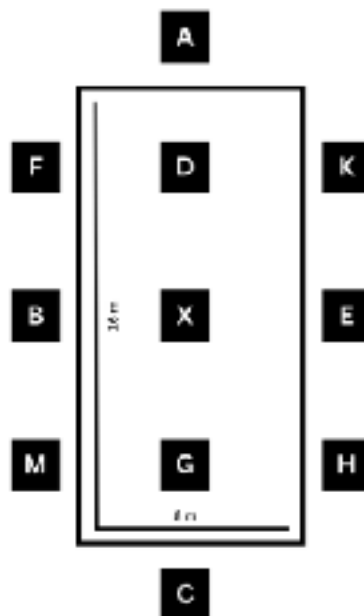
- Walk
- Trot
- Canter
- Collected walk
- Collected trot
- Flying lead changes (at least one)
- Walk pirouette

GRAND PRIX DRESSAGE FREESTYLE

Time limit: 2-4 minutes long

Required moves:

- Walk
- Trot
- Canter
- Collected walk
- Collected trot
- Collected canter
- Extended walk
- Extended trot
- Extended canter
- Piaffe
- Passage
- Canter pirouette
- Halfpass (any gait)
- 1 tempi flying lead changes (at least 10, in a row)



Thank you again for being part of the amazing event! We look forward to your applications and cannot wait to see you in August!

Penalties & Scoring

Show Jumping

Timed Class

Knocking down a fence ~ 4 penalties

Refusal ~ 4 penalties

Off course ~ disqualification

Hunter Jumper

Style Class

Scored according to pace, movement, style and elasticity

Penalties ~ knockdowns, refusals, run-out

Barrel Racing

Timed Class

Knocking down a barrel ~ +5 seconds to final time

Off cloverleaf pattern ~ Disqualification

Dressage

Style Class

Scored according to movement, style, elasticity, correctness

Stopping during freestyle ~ 2 penalties

Forgetting required movement ~ 2 penalties

Forgetting freestyle completely ~ disqualification

Puissance

High Jump Class

Scoring is based on how high you can jump (ie. whoever jumps the highest wins)

Second knockdown ~ end of turn