

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/30/2023	

Rule Change Intent

Current Rule:

HU101 Ponies Shown By Juniors

Ponies shown by a junior in any rated pony hunter sections (i.e. Children's Hunter Pony, Green Pony Hunter, Regular Pony Hunter), WIHS Pony Equitation, or USEF Pony Medal cannot be shown by an adult at the same competition. Exception: Breeding classes in-hand and breed restricted sections at a multi-breed/discipline competition. (See also EQ103.4)

Proposed Change:

HU101 Ponies shown by Junior riders in any division are allowed to be prepared in the same manner as horses shown by junior riders.

Justifications

- The current rule gives an unfair advantage to low childrens/low adult/childrens hunter/adult amateur hunter riders. There are no limitations on horses being prepared and shown in advance by professionals. Pony riders (who are generally younger and less experienced) are not allowed to have their ponies prepared with the same quality and amount of professional riding. At times, these divisions are combined and the youngest children whose ponies have had the least preparation are expected to compete against the older riders who have no such restrictions.
- HU101 promotes exclusivity of the sport. Junior riders who do not have the financial ability to purchase/lease a competitive schoolmaster are unable to compete in pony divisions. This exclusivity discourages students from getting started in the industry and inhibits them from participating in safe, accessible "stepping stone" divisions to progress their skills at competitions.
- The current rule as written does not allow our youngest and most vulnerable students to learn and compete safely and successfully at horse shows. They are expected to ride at a level not even expected of our 3'6" junior and adult amateur riders as they must ride ponies who have not had all the opportunities to be prepared professionally as the horses. The gap in ability that it currently takes to move a young child out of short stirrup into low ponies/children's ponies is too great to expect many students and ponies to successfully and safely navigate. This level of difficulty is frustrating, discouraging, and unsafe for both ponies and children.
- The current rule makes bringing along young ponies inaccessible and leads to many ponies learning unsafe habits that are dangerous to our riders and unhealthy for our ponies. The expectation that young ponies become happy, healthy schoolmasters being trained primarily, if not solely by children (who do not have the confidence, experience, and consistency of a professional rider) seems unreasonable and unsafe. As a community, we do not expect this of our young horses learning the ropes of competitions and we allow them many opportunities to be ridden first professionally before experienced junior and adult riders. Moreover this means that breeders/trainers of ponies can anticipate a much longer time before their ponies will be ready for resale and/or are able to start paying for their upkeep. This discourages professionals from bringing along young ponies as they either need vast funds and time or that rare junior rider that rides at a professional level.
- Overall, changing this rule will benefit many as it will allow more students and ponies to participate in horse shows in a safe and encouraging manner.
- It should be noted that being a junior rider does not exclude riders from being too large for ponies and there are many smaller adults and professionals of a size that is appropriate and safe for ponies to carry.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

HU101 Ponies Shown By Juniors

Ponies shown by a junior *riders* in any *division are allowed to be prepared in the same manner as horses shown by junior riders.* rated pony hunter sections (i.e. Children's Hunter Pony, Green Pony Hunter, Regular Pony Hunter), WIHS Pony Equitation, or USEF Pony Medal cannot be shown by an adult at the same competition. Exception: Breeding classes in-hand and breed restricted sections at a multi-breed/discipline competition. (See also EQ103.4)