



North American League News

Summer 2026

The North American League (NAL) offers year-long series in six divisions – Adult Hunter Presented by R & R Hunter Horses, Children's Hunter, 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper Presented by SmartEquine, 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper, 1.20/1.25m Junior/Amateur Jumper and 1.30/1.35m Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti. The series includes classes held at hundreds of horse shows across the United States and Canada, giving riders in these divisions a chance to ride in year-end finals at two major shows – the West Coast Finals at the Sunshine 1 Horse Show in Thermal, California, October 28-November 1, and the National Finals at the Capital Challenge Horse Show at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, September 23-October 4.

The NAL qualifying season runs from September 1 through August 31. NAL qualifying classes are open to all competitors, but only current members are awarded points. Annual memberships are only \$45 per rider. Further information on the NAL series is available by calling 717-867-5643, emailing NAL@Ryegate.com or online at www.ryegate.com. Follow the NAL on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NALFinals>.

Good luck to all competitors through the final weeks of the NAL qualifying period, and congratulations to the division leaders as follows:

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Adult Hunter Presented by R&R Hunter Horses

National Standings

Jamie Planck McRee and *Lioness*, 3,334 points

For more than 55 years, Jamie Planck McRee of Jackson, MS, rode under the guidance of Otis Brown. When she started to spend more time closer to Hunt Tosh and his Hunt Tosh, Inc., and Otis wanted to spend more time fishing, she moved to Hunt's, where she has been recovering from a full shoulder replacement with her 9-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare *Lioness*.

"I have been a little slow getting back to speed at this age, and *Lioness* has been the perfect partner for me," said Jamie, 67. "She is the sweetest and kindest horse I have ever had, as well as fabulously talented. I thank Hannah Isop every time I get to ride her, for selling her to us and for the great job she did bringing this mare along last year. I am taking a little time off from showing this summer, but I'll be back at it in the fall.

"I retired from a life of practicing law full-time, and my three children are raised and settled," Jamie continued. "My retirement plan for years has been to ride, ride, ride and show, show, show as much as I can! I am so thankful for this wonderful horse and my husband's support of this retirement plan; I think he is enjoying the peace and quiet at home by himself while I am off riding!"



© Winslow Photography

Children's Hunter

National Standings

Brinkleigh Rhodes and *Heartrate*, 3,405 points

When she first sat on a horse 12 years ago, Brinkleigh Rhodes fell in love not only with the sport but also the incredible animals who make it possible. She was always a true “barn rat,” visiting at every opportunity to ride, muck stalls, bathe horses, watch other lessons, and generally help around the farm. Since the beginning, she has trained with Cadie Estes Hammond at Steadfast Farm near her home in Virginia Beach, VA.

Brinkleigh and *Heartrate* have been partners for three years, with the 12-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding going from having very little mileage in the U.S. to competing at some of the nation's top venues, including Devon and the indoor circuit. “In the barn we call him Peter, and he is one of the saintliest horses we have,” Brinkleigh said. “He goes from doing the Children's Hunters in the morning to taking care of my mom in the Adult Cross-rails in the afternoon. He's an incredibly special horse who has shown me the ropes through all my current divisions; for the past year, I've been able to count on him to be my constant through a lot of changes.”

Following a recent injury that saw Peter make a full recovery, Brinkleigh and her team weren't going into this season chasing a goal. They simply wanted to give him confident rounds to get back into the swing of showing. “After a few shows, we had made so much progress that I made it my goal to get into finals,” Brinkleigh said. “I never thought we'd be leading the rankings for 2026. I would love to finish this season with a confident round at finals, but mostly, I want to see Peter teach my mom the ropes like he did for me. I have goals for starting in the 3'6" Equitation in 2027.”



© Andrew Ryback Photography

1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper

Presented by SmartEquine



National Standings

Holly Labry and *Coco Chanel JVH Z*, 3.760 points

Holly Labry started riding near her home in Memphis, TN, when she was 10 years old. For over 20 years, she trained with Phoebe Sheets; upon Phoebe's retirement, she became a student of Camille Maynard in Ocala, FL. "We always joke that I am a long-distance rider because I'm not able to practice much between shows!" said Holly, who works full time for J.P. Morgan in Dallas, TX. "I am very grateful to Camille and the M&M Sporthorses team for keeping Coco and my other horse, *H Jolly*, in top shape and care."

After taking almost a year off, Holly returned to riding during the WEC Ocala Winter Circuit 2023, where she leased *Coco Chanel JVH Z* from Brooke Kemper. The now-13-year-old Warmblood mare gave Holly so much confidence that she fell in love instantly. "She is such a beautiful mare and just the sweetest horse to be around at the barn," she said. "When you ride her, she knows it's game time and becomes a bit sassy, to say the least! She wants to be the winner as much as I do. She makes every single day and every round fun!"

"We have had great success in the 2026 show season, and I'm excited to see what the rest of the season has in store for us," she added. "With Coco, all the results and winning are just a bonus. I enjoy every single ride with her, and I'm so lucky to have her as a partner."



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1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper

National Standings

Olivia Johnson and *Jerimo*, 4,272 points

A resident of Andalusia, PA, Olivia Johnson is part of the Beacon Hill team, training with Stacia Klein Madden, Krista Freundlich, Heather Senia Williams and Abby Jorgensen. She was a competitive swimmer when she was younger, but she always searched for something else. About six years ago, she tried horseback riding and fell in love with the feeling of partnership and the ability to learn and grow every day.

Olivia was looking for a jumper horse in November 2025 when she first met *Jerimo*. The 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding was one of two horses she tried that day, and she and her trainers knew he was the one. “In the barn, *Jerimo* is the sweetest horse you will ever meet,” Olivia said. “He always whinnies when he sees me walking down the barn aisle. I love to call him my oversized mini horse because he can also be feisty and opinionated. But most of all, he is one of the most compassionate and caring horses I’ve ever met. He’s almost as competitive as I am!”

“I am incredibly excited about how this season is going, and I’m so grateful to be going into my first jumper finals season with the perfect partner. I think that he and I are very alike, and I really feel like every time we ride together, we just become one. I don’t think I could ask for anything else going into finals. Looking further ahead, my biggest goal in life is to one day compete all over the world and successfully represent my country, my sport, and the horses who help me get there at the highest level.”



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1.30/1.35m Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti

National Standings

Chloe Hazen and *Electra De Talma*, 2,704 points

Eleven years ago, a friend introduced Chloe Hazen to the sport, and her non-horsey parents researched lesson barns near their home in Tucson, AZ. Now, Chloe trains with Jacob Pope and Nick Pongracz at Hickory Ridge (Traverse City, MI), as well as Allison Kroff and Michelle Golden at Kroff Stables (Scottsdale, AZ) during the school year. “It’s really nice because my trainers communicate about what’s best for Electra and me to succeed,” Chloe said. “They’re also very accommodating when I have school commitments and always make sure Electra is happy and feeling her best.”

Chloe has ridden the 12-year-old Selle Français mare *Electra De Talma* for about a year; she feels so lucky and grateful to have a horse like her. “She’s the best,” Chloe said. “Every time we show, she gives her absolute most, and it always feels like we’re working together as a team. She always makes me smile, no matter how well we do, and I’ve never had as much showing as I do with her. She’s not only an incredible horse in the ring but also wonderful to be around in the barn, out on trails, or just spending time together. She’s always happy, and I just love being around her.

“Before I started riding her, I had only jumped the Lows a few times, so my goal was simply to become consistent at that level,” she added. “To now be doing so well in the Mediums is really special and something I never expected. Looking ahead, my biggest goal is to keep having as much fun as I do with Electra and, when we’re both ready, hopefully move up to the Highs!”



© Erin Gilmore Photorgaphy



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1.20/1.25m Junior/Amateur Jumper

National Standings

Kelsey Cruciotti and *Far West De Hus*, 6,651 points

With a mother who shares the horse bug, Kelsey Cruciotti and her sister got involved with horses at an early age. As a toddler, Kelsey even colored Jack Towell's tack room walls when her mom was riding. Today, the sport continues to be a family affair; she is married to Michael Cruciotti and trains with her mother-in-law, Cindy, in Wellington, FL.

Kelsey met the 11-year-old Selle Français gelding *Far West De Hus* through her sister-in-law, Kelli (Vanderveen), who imported him as a sales horse two years ago. "She competed him in the 1.40m FEI classes, then asked me to catch ride him to help sell him," Kelsey said. "He was such a quality horse I decided to buy him after that weekend. He's an easy keeper – no lunge, no prep, no spook. He is a quality amateur horse.

"I'm quite proud of our accomplishments so far," she continued. "It takes time to get to know a horse well enough to win consistently. I also had a child in 2025, so I had to get my riding legs back. We're at the point now where I can count on our partnership to go well 90% of the time, which is fun! My goals for the future are to continue to compete at a level that's sustainable while I teach third grade and raise my two young children."



Adult Hunter Presented by R&R Hunter Horses



West Coast Standings

Randi Pomrehn and *City Lights*, 2,947 points

After a family friend introduced her to horses at just 3 years old, Randi Pomrehn of Temecula, CA, immediately fell in love with the sport. She currently trains with Kate Considine of Willow Brook Stables in La Canada Flintridge, CA, and has been riding the 8-year-old Holsteiner gelding *City Lights* for almost three years.

“‘Charlie’ is one of the sweetest horses I’ve ever met,” Randi said. “He is a big puppy dog and loves to be a part of anything we have going on in the ring or barn. His signature look is his hanging lower lip when he is just hanging out or hacking around in his bitless bridle. He’s a big fan of dogs and people alike, including a special bromance with Kate’s dog, Brody.

“We know each other so well that showing is always enjoyable,” she added. “We’ve had a great season so far. I hope we can keep our top spots within NAL, PCHA, and WCHR this year. We recently started showing in the Junior/Amateur National Derbies, too, which is a new challenge for us both. Charlie has also competed in medals with great results. He’s becoming quite a well-rounded horse, and it has been an honor to be part of his development with Kate and the Willow Brook Stables team.”



© High Desert Sport Photo

Children's Hunter

West Coast Standings

Harlow Bottarini and *The Duchess*, 2,683 points

Harlow Bottarini, founder of Harlow's Heavenly Horse Treats, has been riding since she was 4 years old and showing since she was 5. Her mother, Michelle, is also a longtime equestrian, having ridden since she was 6 and competed in all the Big Equitation. A resident of Valley Village, CA, Harlow has become industry famous for the homemade equine snacks that help fund her aspirations in the show ring and for her hard work and horsemanship in bringing along greener horses.

Under the guidance of David Josiah and the team at Morning Mist Farm in Los Angeles, Harlow has made every day of her nine-month partnership with *The Duchess* count. "We imported 'Charlotte' from The Netherlands, where she was raised by a mother and daughter," Harlow said of the 7-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare. "She loves her people so much, and she's very vocal! When she hears our voices, she will whinny and call out to us until we're together. She can be an opinionated chestnut mare, but she is extremely smart and definitely an old soul.

"I have so much gratitude for this season; it's truly been a dream come true!" she added. "We just won our second \$10,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby together. We did six weeks at Thermal, and she was champion or reserve weekly. We're heading into the Green Hunter Incentive Championships in Kentucky and fall finals. She gives 150% to every jump; I can't wait to move to the Large 3'3" Junior Hunter division, then the 3'6"!"



© Captured Moment Photography



1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper

Presented by SmartEquine

West Coast Standings

Alexandra Elardi and *Lovely*, 3,429 points

Like many in the horse world, Alexandra Elardi grew up around horses and fell in love with them at an early age. Her mom showed in the hunters while her dad had racehorses. Now, the resident of Del Mar, CA, trains with Mike Endicott at Pegasus Show Stables and stands at the helm of Two Hearts Equine Boutique, a unique shopping destination with only the highest quality equestrian goods.

“I’ve ridden *Lovely* for about three years now,” Alex said. “She is the sweetest girl. She’s also a blast to ride and very competitive in the ring. I am feeling great so far this season, as are the horses, which is most important. My goals are always to be competitive, have fun, and keep the horses happy and healthy.”



© Andrew Ryback Photography

1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper

West Coast Standings

Darya Davoudi and *King Julien ES*, 2,121 points

After taking a few riding lessons when she was 10 years old, Darya Davoudi of Houston, TX, knew it was the sport for her. When she first started showing, she never imagined competing in the jumpers because she loved the hunters so much. “I was drawn to the style, precision, and partnership that define the hunter ring,” she said. “As I gained more experience and had the opportunity to ride different horses, I discovered how much I also enjoyed the speed, strategy, and excitement of the jumpers. Being able to compete in both disciplines has made me a more confident and well-rounded rider, and I still appreciate what each one has taught me.”

Darya trains at Epic Sporthorses with Hanley Morrison, who constantly challenges her to improve while also reminding her to enjoy the process and build strong partnerships with each of her horses. Among them is the 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding *King Julien ES*, whom Darya has ridden for about a year. “He’s been an amazing partner,” she said. “He’s incredibly talented and has such a fun personality. He’s very smart and always keeps me focused because he knows when I’m riding my best. Around the barn, he’s sweet, curious, and definitely has his own opinions, which makes him so fun to be around.

“I’m really happy with how this season has gone so far,” she added. “Every horse and every competition has taught me something new, and I feel like I’ve grown a lot as both a rider and a person. I will be starting college in the fall of 2027, so it will be a completely new chapter with new opportunities, experiences, and challenges. It’s bittersweet because it means my junior career will be coming to an end; it’s hard to imagine not competing in the same way. My goal is to make the most of the time I have left, enjoy every moment, and continue improving as a rider. I’m excited for what’s ahead, but I also want to appreciate everything that has brought me to this point.”



1.30/1.35m Junior/Amateur Jumper Presented by Parlanti

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West Coast Standings

Lauren Padilla and *Diadem De Revel VG*, 2,611 points

A familiar face on the NAL leaderboard, Lauren Padilla of Palos Verdes Estates, CA, has competed successfully in the hunter and jumper rings for several years. Most recently, she has made her mark on the Desert and Temecula Valley circuits with the 16-year-old Danish Warmblood gelding *Diadem De Revel VG*. The duo started their season with a top-five finish in the \$5,000 1.35m Junior Jumper Classic at Desert Holiday 2, and they continue to put in consistent performances every time they step into the ring. Additionally, Lauren and “Rev” often share the winner’s circle with several of Lauren’s other horses, as well as her sister, Kathryn.



© Emeth Photography

1.20/1.25m Junior/Amateur Jumper

West Coast Standings

Kiera Hennigan and *Cresta SA*. 3,024 points

Sixteen years ago, Kiera Hennigan started going on trail rides twice a month with a friend, and horses quickly became an obsession. A resident of Oakland, CA, Kiera currently trains with Tasha Visokay at Ingenium Farms and looks forward to getting back in the ring after taking most of the summer off due to her work schedule.

“I imported *Cresta SA* in 2022, and she is an absolute firecracker,” Kiera said of the 12-year-old Swedish Warmblood mare. “She is the sweetest and bravest mare but definitely has a personality of her own and is very set in her ways. If you know Cresta, you know that she hates flatwork, but the moment you put a jump in front of her, she is 100% game for anything! We only recently moved up to the 1.30m, and I want to gain more confidence at this level before eventually moving up to the 1.40m.”



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