

### **Do I have to place in a class to be qualified for a Regional Championship Show?**

No, you just need to participate.

### **What do you mean by “participate”?**

Participation definition:

- a. In a class where horses compete together, participated means a horse/rider/driver/handler must have been entered, shown, and judged (perform at all required gaits both ways of the ring and remain in the ring until the class is completed and excused).
- b. In a class where horses compete individually, participated means a horse/rider must have completed the individual requirements of the class and be eligible to receive a score.
- c. Horses which are excused/disqualified/eliminated/received a “no score” are not considered “adjudicated” and would not receive credit for participation. A “zero score” is considered a score and receives a participation.

### **What is the qualification period for this year’s Regionals and Nationals?**

The qualification period is composed of:

- The current year up to the close of entries.
- The previous 14 months (past year of 2022 plus November and December of 2021).

You will also be able to use Top Five placings earned at Regionals, East Coast and Pacific Slope and Top Six placings earned at Eastern and Western Canadian Breeders for Nationals.

### **Does the participation have to be within the regional boundaries for the Regional Championship I want to attend?**

No, you no longer need to qualify within that region. In the past this was true, if you wanted to attend the Region 14 Championship, you had to qualify at a Region 14 qualifying show. Now you can qualify within the Region 14 boundaries and go to any Regional Championship Show you want, it can be Region 14, or Region 13, or any other Regional you wish to attend.

### **Can I use a Regional Participation or a Regional Top Five to compete at another Regional Championship Show?**

No, a Regional Participation or Regional Top Five can ONLY be used toward a National level qualification.

### **I would like to attend more than one Regional Championship Show, how can I do that?**

This depends on the class you are competing in. If you are competing in a category I class, you would need a second participation to go to another Regional Championship Show. In fact, after obtaining a second participation, you are qualified to attend as many Regional Championships as possible that you wish to attend.

### **Where do I find the list of the categories?**

This can be found in chapter 14 of the 2023 AHA Handbook or click

[https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/aha-docs/AHA\\_Approved\\_Qualifications.pdf](https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/aha-docs/AHA_Approved_Qualifications.pdf)

### **How do I qualify my horse for an Equitation or Showmanship class?**

Remember, it is not the horse that needs to qualify, it is the rider or handler that needs to qualify through participation. See the link for the Equitation flow chart.

[https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/aha-docs/AHA\\_Equitation\\_Qual\\_Flow.pdf](https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/aha-docs/AHA_Equitation_Qual_Flow.pdf)

### **Is there a time in which it is important to place in a class?**

At the Regional level, a Top Five placing will automatically qualify you for Nationals in that section.

### **What do you mean by “section”?**

- A section is defined by the classes within that discipline and/or breed. An example is the Arabian Western Pleasure section. This section is made up of Open, AAO, AO, JO, AAT, AT, JT, Jr. Horse, Select, Choice, Elite, Primetime, Ladies/Gents, Maiden, Novice, Limit.
- For Dressage/Western Dressage classes, each level is considered its own section, i.e., Training is a section, First Level is a section, Second Level is a section, etc. You cannot use a participation in a First Level class to qualify for a class in Second Level.

### **How do I qualify for multiple classes at a Regional Championship Show?**

Participation in one recognized class in that section now qualifies you to compete in as many classes within that section at any one Regional Championship Show of your choice.

Example: Participate at a qualifying show in HA/AA Western Pleasure ATR qualifies for any and as many classes in HA/AA Western Pleasure if you meet the definition for an Amateur, Amateur Owner, Leveling, Jr. Horse, etc.

### **How do I qualify for the East Coast, Pacific Slope, Eastern and Western Canadian Breeders Championship Shows?**

These shows maintain their grandfather clause and continue to have their own requirements for their championship shows. Qualifications can be found in their respective prize lists. All four shows continue to maintain Regional status in that a Top Five earned at East Coast or Pacific Slope and a Top Six earned at Eastern or Western Canadian Breeders can be used to qualify for Nationals. If you do not place in either the Top Five or Top Six, the placing can be used as one of the participations needed for Nationals (refer to the category for number of participations needed).

### **Can I use qualifications earned in the Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Western Pleasure section for my Arabian Western Pleasure horse?**

No, as qualifications are earned by the horse. A Half-Arabian cannot earn qualifications for a purebred Arabian and vice-a-versa.

### **Where can I find a list of the sections?**

The list of sections can be found on the AHA website under Competition/Resources/Qualifications/Recognized Sections or click

[https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/aha-docs/AHA\\_Class\\_Code\\_List.pdf](https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/aha-docs/AHA_Class_Code_List.pdf)

### **Can my trainer qualify my horse for me for an Amateur class?**

A Professional cannot qualify the horse for an Amateur (via participation, Top Fives or Top Sixes, National Championships or National Reserve Championships), but an Amateur can qualify the horse for a Professional. If the Amateur obtains a participation in a Western Pleasure ATR, the trainer can use that qualification for the Open Western Pleasure.

### **I am unable to attend the qualifying shows, how can I get my horse qualified for an Owner class for Regionals and Nationals?**

In the past, an "Owner" would be required to qualify the horse for an "Owner" class at the Regional and National level. This has now changed, any "Amateur" can now qualify the horse and the "Owner" can use that qualification at the Regional and National level. For the definition of who can compete in an "Owner" class refer to USEF rules under AR110 (this reference defines owner, not how they qualify to compete).

### **We do not have competitions in my area that offer classes for me to qualify, what can I do?**

We are continuing with Open Show qualifications for most of the specialty classes. These require participation and the rules as found in Chapter 15 of the 2023 AHA Handbook.

If the class you need does not require specialized equipment, course, judges and/or cattle, consider purchasing a TBA slot for your class. An example might be a Park, Native Costume or Ladies Side Saddle class.

### **How do I qualify for Nationals?**

A Regional Top Five obtained in your section is the easiest way. A Top Five earned Arabian Hunter Pleasure ATR qualifies for any and as many classes in Arabian Hunter Pleasure if you meet the definition for an Amateur, Amateur Owner, Leveling, Jr. Horse, etc.

### **I did not receive a Top Five at a Regional Championship; can I still get qualified for Nationals?**

Yes, depending on the category, you will need either 2 or 3 participations. One of these participations can be from a Regional Championship, meaning, you did not place in the Top Five but can still use that "Regional" participation to go to Nationals.

### **Can I use the same participation qualifications or Regional Top Five (Top Five from East Coast, Pacific Slope or Top Six from Western and Eastern Canadian Breeders) for multiple National Shows?**

Yes, qualifications are **not used up** during the qualification period. If you go to Youth/Mid-Summer Nationals on a qualification for that section, you can use those same qualifications for Canadian, Sport Horse and U.S. Nationals as long as those classes are offered for the section you qualified in. The same rules apply in that you must be the owner to ride in an owner class (or meet the family or co-owner definition in the USEF rules), have a Junior horse to compete in the Junior Horse class, etc.

### **Can I use a National Participation or a National placing to compete at another Regional or National Championship Show?**

Beginning in the year 2020, AHA Recognized National Champions are qualified for two additional years and may re-enter **that National Championship class**. Reserve National Champions are qualified for an

additional year to re-enter **that National Championship class**. Previous 2019 and earlier AHA Recognized National Champions are qualified for life and may re-enter that National Championship class. Previous Lifetime qualifications earned may be used at any National Championship Show (if the class is offered). Currently a National qualification earned at any AHA National Championship can be used at any other AHA National Championship if **that class** is offered at that AHA National Championship show. A Top Ten placing (excludes Champion and Reserve) does not qualify the horse for future National Shows. See QUAL 113 for complete rules.

A National placing cannot be used as a qualification for any Regional Championship Shows.

**Do National Champions and Reserve National Champions from Mid-Summer Nationals fall into the above rule?**

Yes, Mid-Summer is a National Show and horses, and Equitation Riders can take advantage of the rule.

**Are there any classes which do not require qualifications?**

Yes, these are classes which are “specialized” and are not (or rarely) held either at Arabian and/or Open shows. They fall into category IV.

**Do I need to qualify for the 2-Year-Old Sport Horse In-Hand class at Regionals and Nationals?**

Yes, you will need to qualify under Category II which requires participation at a qualifying show to compete at any and as many Regional Championships. The National qualification needed is a Regional Top Five or better or participate in two qualifying AHA Approved shows (one can be a participation from a regional if you do not place in the Top Five).

**How do I qualify for Performance Halter?**

You must compete in a Performance class (Riding or Driving) at that show in order to compete in the Performance Halter class at that same show. This is the requirement for local qualifying, Regional and National Championships. See REQ 112.3 for complete rule.

**How do I qualify for Ranch Horse Conformation?**

This rule is similar to Performance Halter. The difference is that you must be entered, shown, and judged in at least one riding class in the Ranch division at the show. See USEF AR229.2 for complete rule.

**Can I use participation in prize money classes to qualify for Regionals or Nationals?**

Classes that are deemed program classes (pay to play) are not eligible to be used for qualifications. These would be classes such as restricted Sweepstakes classes (Sweepstakes only horses competing), Spotlight Futurity, Medallion, AEPA, AWPA, local Jackpot, etc. Sweepstakes designated classes can be used for participation as those classes are open to Sweepstakes and non-Sweepstakes horses.