

What is “Leveling”?

Leveling was created to allow exhibitors with like ability to compete against one another in the show ring.

What are the levels and how are they determined?

The levels for Amateur, Youth and Open classes within specific sections are Select, Choice and Elite. Those “levels” are determined from Achievement Points which are tabulated when AHA Recognized shows are entered at AHA. Reining also has levels which are labeled Open and Non-Pro and are further defined by Intermediate, Limited and Rookie. Primetime is also considered a level for those 50 years of age and above. An exhibitor can ride their level (Select, Choice or Elite) and in Primetime.

Why are only points from 2002 forward considered for placement in Achievement Leveling classes?

AHA started tracking all riders (previously it was only Equitation Riders who were tracked) in 2002 when the Amateur Achievement Award program was put into place.

Is there a date that determines your level for the show year?

Yes, your level is maintained throughout the entire show year. Similar to the USEF rule about riders ages, it is December 1st of the previous year. Your Achievement level on that date will be your level for that current show year. (Dec 1, 2021, for the 2022 show year). Wins after December 1 do not count toward Achievement Level Status until the end of the current show year of November 30th.

Are there instances that points are not counted toward my Achievement Leveling status?

Yes, Achievement Leveling points are not calculated in any one-horse class you participate in. Additionally, points are not counted in the case where you move from the Amateur to Open Achievement Levels.

What about Leveling up?

Leveling up is now allowed per USEF rules (AR 110.2.g), however it is entirely up to each show if it will be allowed. You will need to check with show management and/or the prize list for that show.

Can I be a different level for Local/Regional shows than I am for Nationals?

Yes, you can be Select for Nationals, but you may be Choice for Local and Regional shows. Points accumulated at the National level count toward your local and Regional level status, but only National earned points count toward your National status.

What happens if I change sections say from Western Pleasure to Hunter Pleasure?

If a rider switches sections (i.e., from Western Pleasure to Hunter Pleasure) your Achievement level starts over.

Is a show required to run all leveling classes within a section?

No, as an example, a show may choose to run a Select Western Pleasure AAO and a Choice Western Pleasure AAO. They are not required to run an Elite Western Pleasure AAO.

I have seen shows combine levels, is this class recognized by AHA?

Yes, a show may opt to combine levels such as Choice/Elite Western Pleasure AAO. The class will be coded with the class number for the "Choice" level as riders can compete up a level, not down. Combining levels helps shows as there may be less participants in the higher levels. The levels which may be combined are Select/Choice and Choice/Elite.

Can Dressage classes be leveled under the Achievement Leveling points?

No, Dressage classes are currently "leveled" by the class structure they are run under (Training, First, Second, etc.)

What about the Walk/Trot/Jog rider, does that count?

No, Achievement Leveling Points are not earned in Walk/Trot/Jog classes and will not count toward the Achievement Leveling Program.

If I am a Select rider for HA/AA Western Pleasure, will I be a Select rider on a Purebred?

Yes, since the leveling program is based on the ability of the rider, riding a Purebred Arabian or a Half-Arabian/Anglo Arabian does not change their level. If the exhibitor is a Select rider on a HA/AA, they will be Select rider on a Purebred.

Will I ever be eligible to move back to a lower level?

Yes, you can return to a lower level in a particular section if you have not earned any points (at National, Regional or Regular Competition) in the past 10 consecutive years, in that defined section.

Do Achievement points earned by a youth affect their status when they become an adult?

Yes, any Achievement leveling points earned as a youth exhibitor cross over to their status as an adult.

Can I cross enter my age division in that same section at a show?

This is entirely up to each show. You will need to check with show management and/or the prize list for that show.

Can I cross enter into a class in a section that counts towards leveling?

Yes, A rider may cross enter any class that counts toward Leveling **IF that class is not leveled**. i.e., SADDLE SEAT SECTION - A Rider in Arabian and/or HA/AA Country English Pleasure Select **MAY** enter Arabian and/or HA/AA Show Hack classes **IF** Show Hack classes are not leveled.