**GENERAL RULES**

1. The US National Open Sr. Champion Stallion and/or Open Sr. Champion Mare are no longer allowed to participate at US Nationals in their respective division after achieving said title.

2. A Top 10 at Nationals does not qualify for Nationals. A National Champion win prior to the 2020 show year is qualified for life in that National Class as long as it is offered. **Starting in 2020 a National Champion is qualified for four additional years to re-enter that National Championship class.** A Reserve National Champion is qualified for two additional years to re-enter that National class. The AHA Handbook for complete rules on qualification from National Shows.

3. Qualifications are not “used up” if you show at Regionals or Nationals, they **EXPRESS.**

4. Qualifications are earned during the current show year up to the time of the Regional or National show and the entire previous show year. (i.e. for the 2020 show year the previous year starts Jan 1, 2019)

5. **Professionals can use amateur and/or amateur owner earned points for any class.** Amateur/Amateurs owners can’t use any points earned by a professional for any JT/AT/AAT/OAT?AAOT Class.

6. National Champion, National Reserve Champion, National Top Ten or Regional Champion or Regional reserve Champion or Regional Top Five do not qualify a horse for any Regional Championship classes.

7. A Top 5 from one of the 18 AHA Regionals, East Coast and Pacific Slope or a Top 6 from Eastern or Western Canadian Breeders automatically qualify for Nationals.

8. If qualifications are waived for Nationals, they are waived for Regionals as well. **Exception to this is Canadian Nationals Working Hunter Division & Hunter Hack Division (bod 3/14).**

9. If the ownership changes, the new owner can use all the qualifications the horse has earned including any past owner qualifications.


11. For Regional Performance Halter – the horse must be entered and qualified in a performance class at that Regional show in order to enter a performance halter class. No other qualification is required for the performance halter Regional class.

12. All Junior exhibitors (18 & Under) are considered Amateurs for competition purposes. **The age limit of 18 for Junior Exhibitors is for Arabian and HA/AA shows/classes ONLY.** It does not pertain to any other USEF recognized show.

**QUALIFICATIONS FROM AHA APPROVED SHOWS**

1. A first or second place at an AHA Recognized Show qualifies for Regional classes ONLY.

2. **PARTICIPATION (For classes that require the use of a cow)**
   
   a. Cutting, Herd Work, Working Cow Horse and Reined Cow Horse Regional Championship classes require participation from one Recognized AHA Competition within their respective qualifying section. For National Championships, classes require participation from two Recognized AHA Competitions within their respective qualifying section (one of which may be a Regional Championship Show). Participation is defined as entered, shown and scored in that class. A zero score is considered a score. A no score (NS) is not considered a score.

3. Dressage (English or Western), Ranch Riding, Reining and Trail and Trail In Hand can also qualify with scores from an AHA show.

4. **POINT/SCORE SYSTEM** Points are awarded through 6th place. **See points chart**
   
   - The Point System was implemented for all Regional and National classes commencing with the 2005 show season.
   - Qualification Points are not earned in Regional or National classes.
   - The number of points a horse receives is based on the number of horses in the ring when the gate is closed. Horses will earn one point for every horse in the class that they beat PLUS one for themselves. Qualification points are awarded thru 6th place.
   - The points/scores listed on the Qualification chart must be obtained in the same AHA Section the Championship class is listed in. i.e. to qualify for Arabian Hunter Pleasure Open Championship - any Arabian Hunter Pleasure class will qualify – it does not matter what the Hunter Pleasure class is.
   - You can’t use both scores and points from the same qualifying class to enter different Regional or National classes. You must use one or the other.
   - For Working Western Classes that do NOT requiring the use of a cow (i.e. trail, reining, ranch riding) neither a “no score” nor a “zero score” penalty may receive an award and will NOT receive any qualification points in that class. A zero score MAY advance in a multiple-go event and if they get a positive score in the 2nd go round, they are eligible for an award and will receive qualification points.
5. **OWNER CLASSES**

  Non Related Co-Ownership - See USEF AR 110.4.

  For all owner classes (including non related co-owners) the rider/driver/handler in the qualifying class must be an owner of **any age** and must meet the USEF definition of an owner (USEF GR 141 & GR 123 & AR 110.4).

  - Sale of horse - Qualification earned by an amateur purchasing a horse, can be used for an Owner class at Regionals and Nationals, **if the date of the transfer is prior to the class the qualification was earned in and AHA or the Canadian Registry must be in receipt** of the pending transfer.

6. **AMATEURS Classes (AT, AAT, JT) - an Amateur (any age amateur) must have been the rider/driver/handler in the qualifying class.** See #11 in the General rules regarding Junior exhibitors.

7. **AGE OF RIDER for the Competition year** - Is determined by the age of the rider as of Dec 1 the year prior to the current show year. (Dec 1, 2019 for the 2020 show year)

   - If a horse is qualified for an Owner or Amateur class – ANY age Owner or Amateur can show the horse. If a rider/driver/handler was a youth when they qualified they are qualified as an Adult R/D/H

8. **WALK/TROT 10 & Under can only qualify in**

   - Walk/Trot 10 & Under designated classes
   - For dressage in USDF Into Test A or B (Test C requires a canter)
   - Qualifications in W/T **do not carry forward into** Youth classes

**QUALIFICATIONS FROM ALL BREED OPEN SHOWS**

- Qualifications can be earned in **OPEN Competitions**, provided the horse is enrolled in the AHA Open Qualifying Competition Program.
- Dressage can now use points as well as scores (OPEN 101.3).

**With Placings (points)**

1. Dressage (English or Western) (BOD11/15), Hunter, Hunter Hack, Jumper – show must be EC or USEF/USDF/WDAA approved.
2. Eventing, Carriage Driving, Combined Driving and Driven Dressage – must be USEF, EC or ADS recognized

**With Scores**

1. Dressage (English or Western) – show must be EC or USEF/USDF/WDAA approved
2. Cutting, Working Cow, Reined Cow, Reining – show must be NCHA, ACHA, NRCHA, NRHA, USCHA, WCHA recognized

**EQUITATION**

Equitation is a qualification of the **rider**, not the horse. They can use any horse, Arabian or HA/AA

**Medal classes**

Are held at the local shows. They are NOT held at Regional shows. Resolution 24-17 was passed allowing for an AHA Medal class (Medal points or Medal) to qualify an exhibitor for the Regional Championship.

**NATIONALS** All National Equitation classes (with the exception of W/T) require a pattern

1. Require either
   - A Medal from the local show (medals are awarded if there are 3 or more in the class)
   - Medal Points are earned in Medal classes ONLY. Points are awarded the same as in regular classes.
   - CH, RES CH or Top 5 at Regionals or CH, RES CH or Top 6 from East Coast, Pacific Slope, Western Canadian Breeders or Eastern Canadian Breeders

**REGIONALS** All Regional Equitation classes (with the exception of W/T) require a pattern

1. Qualifications are earned in the local Equitation classes that are **NOT** Medal with either:
   - 1st or 2nd Place.
   - Points

**NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FROM UPHA CHALLENGE CUP (Saddle Seat Only)**

1. UPHA qualifications run on a yearly basis. Riders can qualify up to 7 days prior to the first day of the show, thereafter qualifications will apply to next years Youth Nationals.
2. UPHA membership is required for the rider at the time of qualification.
3. UPHA qualifies all exhibitors in the National UPHA Challenge Cup Class from Local All Breed UPHA classes only.
4. AHA records and qualifies **ONLY** the UPHA Arabian Breeds Challenge Cup classes.
5. Riders can qualify in either a;
   - UPHA Arabian Breeds Challenge Cup (1st thru 4th qualify). Open (all Breed) UPHA Challenge Cup provided they qualified on the same breed of horse they will compete on at the National Level. (1st thru 4th qualify)
## Qualifications Made Easy

I want to show in...will my points / placings qualify me???

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Ridden In</th>
<th>Qualifying for...</th>
<th>AAO/AO/OJO</th>
<th>AAT/AT/JT</th>
<th>OPEN</th>
<th>AOTS</th>
<th>** LEVELED**</th>
<th>JR. HORSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AAO/AO/OJO</strong> (REGARDLESS OF AGE)</td>
<td>Yes, if trained and shown by an amateur owner</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, if a true Leveled Rider</td>
<td>Yes, if Horse is a Jr Horse</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AAT/AT/JT</strong> (REGARDLESS OF AGE)</td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur owner</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, if a true Leveled Rider</td>
<td>Yes, if Horse is a Jr Horse</td>
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<td>OPEN (includes mares, stallions, geldings, ladies and gents)</td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur owner</td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, if a true Leveled Rider</td>
<td>Yes, if Horse is a Jr Horse</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOVICE - LIMIT OR MAIDEN HORSE OR RIDER</strong></td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur owner</td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, if a true Leveled Rider</td>
<td>Yes, if Horse is a Jr Horse</td>
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<td>AOTS Amateur owner trained &amp; Shown</td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur owner</td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, if a true Leveled Rider</td>
<td>Yes, if Horse is a Jr Horse</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEVELING CLASSES</strong> (HORSE MUST QUALIFY - RIDER MUST MEET DEFINITION OF SELECT RIDER PER USEF RULE)</td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur owner</td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, if a true Leveled Rider</td>
<td>Yes, if Horse is a Jr Horse</td>
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<td><strong>JR. HORSE</strong></td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur owner</td>
<td>Yes, if ridden in the class by an amateur</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, if a true Leveled Rider</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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AAO/AAT = Amateur Owner or Amateur 19+  
AO/AT = Amateur Owner or Amateur Any Age  
JO/JT = Junior Owner or Junior Exhibitor 18 & Under

### Points are earned to 6th Place ONLY

<table>
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<tr>
<th># in class / placing</th>
<th>1st</th>
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12/16/19. Common/Competitions/Classes/Qualifications