

# UPHA Adult Challenge Cup

## Qualifying Classes

### 1. Who is Eligible to ride?

- a. UPHA Associate membership is required prior to competing in a UPHA Adult Challenge Cup class.
- b. Open to all amateur saddle seat equitation riders 18 years of age and over riding a mare or gelding of any breed.
- c. A win of a qualifying class does not eliminate that rider from further competition in qualifying classes that season.
- d. Winners of the UPHA Adult Challenge Cup National Final will be eliminated from further competition in UPHA Adult Challenge Cup classes after two (2) consecutive or non-consecutive wins of the UPHA Adult Challenge Cup National Final.

### 2. How are Classes Judged?

- a. Riders compete at the walk, show trot and canter both directions of the ring and lined up.
- b. Showmanship is paramount throughout the class.
- c. Judging is based 60% on rail work and 40% on the individual workout.
- d. The top four (4) riders must be worked individually; more may be worked at the judge's discretion.
- e. No minimum number of entries is required to fill a class.

### 3. Mandatory Workout

- a. The mandatory workout for all qualifying classes is: "Trot a serpentine consisting of four half circles to the opposite end of the ring. Return down either rail at a show trot."
- b. Judges are not permitted to alter the mandatory workout in any manner.

- c. It is recommended, at the discretion of the judge, to instruct the ringmaster to line riders up as to create a clear area for the serpentine.

## **National Championship**

### **1. History**

- UPHA Adult Challenge Cup was established in 1987 and originally held at the Lexington Junior League Horse Show.
- The UPHA Adult Challenge Cup was moved to the UPHA/American Royal National Championship in 2023.

### **2. Location**

- UPHA/American Royal National Championship in Kansas City, MO, November 16-21, 2026.
- Information about the show and how to enter is available on their website:  
<https://americanroyal.com/events/upa-american-royal-national-championship-horse-show/>

### **3. How Does a Rider Qualify to Compete?**

- a. All ribbon winners of a UPHA Adult Challenge Cup qualifying class will be eligible for the UPHA Adult Challenge Cup National Final.

### **4. Qualifying Period**

- a. The qualifying period for all UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals closes seven (7) days prior to the beginning of the competition at which the Championship will be held. At that time, the qualifying season for the following year will begin.

### **5. Conduct**

- a. A judge must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger the rider, handler, other exhibitors, or their entries.
- b. If the UPHA Adult Challenge Cup National Finals are divided because of its size, it is to be split by every other number.
- c. All riders must compete at the walk, show trot and canter both ways of the ring and line up. The divisions are to be dismissed on standby, with the individual workouts executed immediately following completion of the rail work. On completion of the individual workouts, the riders in that group shall

be excused and the next division shall begin the rail work and individual workout phase and so on for each section of riders.

- d. Since there is not a Phase I preliminary in the UPHA Adult Challenge Cup National Final, judging specifications shall be 60% on rail work and 40% on the individual workout.
- e. A champion and reserve champion will be chosen, with the next eight (8) riders placed in numerical order. Two unannounced reserves should be tied. The “Top Ten” will be announced first, followed by the reserve champion and the champion.
- f. All riders must be retired to a holding area outside of the ring and then brought back in individually and numerically for the “Top Ten” awards and the presentation of the reserve champion and champion.

## **6. Workout**

- a. The UPHA Saddle Seat Committee encourages judges to select individual patterns that highlight showmanship as opposed to intricacy.
- b. In the UPHA Adult Challenge Cup National Final, a minimum of four (4) riders must perform an individual workout. The judge(s) may use any of the recognized tests 1-13 (refer to USEF rules for Tests found in EQ120).
- c. Individual copies of the Judge’s workout must be available to each rider in the competition office no less two (2) hours prior to the performance in which the class is run.
- d. The workout pattern in all championship classes shall not be posted online or on social media prior to being posted in the horse show office.
- e. Individual workout instructions must be written down by the judge and delivered to the announcer at the beginning of the class.
- f. Competitors must be allowed ample access to the competition arena in order to walk on foot the posted workout. A minimum of ½ hour is recommended.

## **7. Judging Specifications**

- a. All UPHA Adult Challenge Cup National Championship contestants must be current UPHA Associate members and have qualified at least seven days before the show begins. Riders compete at the walk, show trot and canter both directions of the ring. Showmanship is paramount throughout the class. Judging is based 60% on rail work and 40% on the individual workout.

## **8. Judges**

- a. The judge(s) must be Saddle Seat Equitation Registered or Recorded in Saddle Seat Equitation with USEF.
  
- b. Judges for the UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals are recommended by the UPHA Equitation Committee and a list will be furnished to respective competition managements annually. In all UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals, judges shall be selected from nominations by the UPHA Challenge Cup/Equitation Committee.