

UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup Levels

Note to instructors - When Selecting the Level of a rider we find it is easiest to start at level 5 and check off the skills the rider can do. If the rider checks all the skills in the level we move to the next level. Once you reach a level where the rider may not check all the skills we look at what skills are missing and if they have the majority, put them in that level, if not we move back to the last level where they had all checks. Please feel free to contact a committee member at any time with questions in regards to levels or level selection. We would be happy to help!

Level 1 (Independent)

- can post the trot consecutively until asked to stop
- can steer left and right when needed without assistance
- can follow commands when asked
- can hold reins correctly
- has control of their horse without assistance
- able to stop and start their horse without assistance
- rides correct diagonal and changes when appropriate
- Has the appearance of a consistent good rhythm and controlled riding style

Level 2 (Independent)

- can post most of the time at the trot with minimal breaks in the posting rhythm
- stop and start their horse without assistance
- follow commands with minimal assistance
- can change diagonals, verbal assistance allowed
- Can steer when needed
- Able to stop & start their horse without assistance
- Has moments of good rhythm, but may occasionally have a break or unsteadiness

ONCE A RIDER HAS SHOWN AT ANY SHOW IN AN INDEPENDENT CLASS THEY CAN NOT RETURN TO SHOWING ON THE LEAD.

Level 3 (Assisted, on lead)

- can do minimum of 10 consecutive posts at the trot
- Diagonals not to count
- can hold reins and steer left and right when asked with or without verbal assistance
- most riders have ability at home to ride unassisted but for safety reasons show on lead at the show
- Rider has good rhythm on the lead, but may not be able to keep that rhythm without the assistance of the lead.

Level 4 (Assisted, on lead)

- Western or English saddle permitted
- can do either a sitting trot or posting trot
- Diagonals not to count
- can hold the reins
- can steer both directions with or without verbal assistance
- May be permitted to have side walkers if needed
- Rider's rhythm may need breaks or may have periods of inconsistency
- Rider may need to reorganize regularly

Level 5 (Assisted, on lead)

- Western or English saddle permitted
- can do a sitting Trot for a short time
- can hold the reins most of the time
- can walk and keep balance in the saddle
- May be able to demonstrate some steering
- May be permitted to have side walkers if needed
- Rider may need to stop to reorganize regularly
- Rider may not have a consistent rhythm when trotting