

UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup Program

Class Procedures and Judging Specifications

Eligibility

- Open to all English Equitation riders, with a mental or physical handicap, riding a mare or gelding of any breed.
- Open to Walk and Trot riders only. Riders must never have been judged in a class at a recognized or non-recognized show that required a canter. Riders must have never been judged in a class at a recognized or non-recognized show in any class besides academy, therapeutic, or UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup classes. Tournaments, Academy classes, and Schooling Shows are considered non-recognized shows.
- A first place win in a UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup or an UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup Walk and Trot with Assistance class does not eliminate that rider from further competition for the remainder of the qualifying season.
- ~~• In order to compete in the National Championship Finals, rider must have placed first through sixth in an UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup qualifying class.~~
- ~~• The qualifying period for the finals closes seven (7) days prior to the beginning of the UPHA American Royal National Championship. At that time, the qualifying season for the following year will begin. **Qualification requirement eliminated for 2023 Finals.**~~
- Winners of the UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup Finals and the UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup Walk and Trot with Assistance shall be eliminated from further competition in the UPHA Challenge Cup program after three (3) consecutive or nonconsecutive wins of the respective Finals Class.

Tack

- Horses must be shown in English style bridles with riders using both hands to steer. There will be no curb bits permitted.
- Western Tack will be allowed as adaptive equipment.
- They may also use protective and adaptive equipment necessary to them and to the division in which they show, please see FEI adaptive equipment rules.
- The UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup Class shall be conducted under the express ruling of the USEF dispensation rule, in conjunction with the United Professional Horsemen's Association, Inc. (UPHA).

Attire

- All riders are to wear Academy Attire appropriate for their seat. There are to be no coats permitted.
 - For the saddle seat rider they are to wear jodphurs, a collared shirt, vest (sweater vest are acceptable), and tie.
 - For the hunt seat rider they are to wear breeches, tall boots, hunt shirt, and may wear a sweater vest or vest.
- We have adapted the UPHA American Royal dress code for all trainers, handlers,

side walkers, and grooms. Overall, handlers side walkers, and grooms must present a clean, professional, and put together appearance.

- 1. Collared shirts are required; stable names and logos are acceptable;
- 2. Shirts must be tucked in while in the show ring;
- 3. Slack or khaki pants only (no denim or shorts);
- 4. Billed hats must be worn forward.

General

- Correct diagonals shall be taken into consideration on the rail and in the individual workout where appropriate.
- In the Walk and Trot with Assistance class, each entry must be on a lead line and can have two experienced side walkers, if necessary based on their level, to assist the rider.
- Riders will remain in the line-up inside the ring throughout the individual workout portion of the class, a header is allowed in the lineup.
- The individual mandatory workout is “Trot down the rail to the two thirds point of the rail. Trot a two loop serpentine across the end of the arena. Return to the lineup at the trot.”
- During the work out portion of the class the instructors may select who or what will help mark their riders points in the pattern and may talk to their rider.
- One (1) handler per entry shall be permitted in the ring to facilitate the safety of the rider. Handlers shall stand quietly as a group in a designated area of the ring as to not obstruct the judges view, unless their assistance is needed due to safety concerns. There is to be no coaching from center ring. Riders may be coached from outside the ring only. The center ring handler is to be present ONLY for safety concerns for the duration of the rail work. The handler may head their rider in the lineup and may assist their rider with the pattern.

Class Specifications

- UPHA EXCEPTIONAL CHALLENGE CUP QUALIFYING CLASSES AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. Riders compete collectively at a walk and trot both directions of the ring, lineup and complete the individual workout. The judging specification shall be based 60% on rail work and 40% on the individual workout.
- UPHA EXCEPTIONAL CHALLENGE CUP WALK/TROT WITH ASSISTANCE QUALIFYING CLASSES AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. Riders compete on the lead collectively at a walk and trot both directions of the ring, lineup and complete the individual workout. The judging specification shall be based 60% on rail work and 40% on the individual workout.

National Championship Finals

- At the UPHA American Royal, riders will be provided with two practice times to practice as a group. There will also be an instructors meeting held prior to the first practice. Instructors must be present at the instructors meeting.
- Due to safety concerns the Exceptional competitor **MAY NOT** ride outside of the scheduled practices. Horses may be excised outside of the practice times by a non-

exceptional competitor.

- A steward will be at all practices and has the authority to dismiss a horse from practice or competition due to safety concerns for the rider or other riders. If a horse is asked not to participate for safety reasons every effort will be made to help find a suitable replacement.
- Riders in the Finals will be broken into levels 1- 5 based on the rider's abilities as stated by the rider and instructor on the declaration form.
- Riders that have shown off the lead at any show may not show on the lead at the National Finals. Exceptions may be made for rider's whose disability or adaptive needs have changed.
- Adaptive equipment must be declared at the National Championship on the proper form prior to the practice at the instructors meeting.
- All paperwork (Levels, Medical Certification, and Adaptive equipment declaration) must be turned in with your entries. You must declare your level to receive your back number.
- Medical Certification form must be completed and signed by licensed medical practitioner prior to the practice and turned in at the instructors meeting.
- All leaders, side walkers, and handlers must remain consistent through all practices and competitions.
- In the UPHA Walk/Trot Exceptional Challenge Cup Finals, all exhibitors must compete collectively as a group (or in groups), unless show management and Exceptional Challenge Cup Chairs feel there is a safety issue.
- If a class is divided, it will be split by level. If divisions(s) of the class are necessary, each section will perform both rail work and the individual workout before calling the next section.
- Should the judges require a second rail work for the purpose of trying the class, the specifications shall be 1/3, 1/3, 1/3. One third on the Phase 1 rail work, one third on the workout, and one third on Phase 2 rail work. No predetermined number need be selected from each group.
- The "Top Ten" riders shall be chosen from each of the Levels for the awards presentation ceremony. From each level a Champion and Reserve Champion shall be awarded. The "Top Ten" shall be announced first and called in individually and numerically for the ribbon presentation and photograph with their instructors/handler, who will then remain in the ring with their riders. These ribbons will be presented without leaving the lineup. Immediately following will be the presentation to the Reserve Champion and then the National Champion. Each rider will then make a victory pass down the designated rail of the ring and exit. The numerical eight of the "Top Ten" shall be called first, followed by the Reserve Champion and finally the National Champion. A UPHA representative will be on hand to fully explain this procedure to the instructors prior to the class.