

# Qualifying for USAWE Championships

Only USA Working Equitation (USAWE) current members are eligible to compete in a championship show. A horse-rider combination must earn a combined average of 58% or higher in Dressage and EOH (L1-L7) and successfully complete the Speed trial (L2-L7) at a minimum of two licensed shows. Two qualifying scores are required. At least one of the scores must be earned during the current competition year.

For 2022 Zone Championships, the qualifying period is December 1 of the previous 2021 competition year through the show entry deadline for the zone championship show in the current year (2022). Horse-rider combinations may compete in any or all zone championships, regardless of where the qualifying scores are achieved.

Below are scenarios and the Competitions Committee response regarding qualifying for Championships. Should you have further questions, please email [Competitions@usawe.org](mailto:Competitions@usawe.org)

Qualifying for Championships Scenario	Resolution
A Youth rider (riders 7 to 17 years of age, as of January 1 of the calendar year) earning qualifying score(s) as a youth in the past year's show season, but now in the current show season, due to age 18+, is now ineligible to compete in the Youth Division.	A Youth horse-rider pair may retain their earned performance level qualifying score, however Horse-Rider pair must compete as an Amateur or Open in their qualifying performance level since the rider is no longer eligible to compete in the Youth Division ( <i>per U.S. Rules for WE 1.3.b Rider Divisions</i> ).
A Youth rider (riders 7 to 17 years of age, as of January 1 of the calendar year) being paid to train horse(s) or rider(s).	A Youth horse-rider pair may compete as a Youth until age 18 yrs., then must compete in Open Division ( <i>per USEF GR1306 Professional/Amateur Status and U.S. Rules for WE 1.3.b Rider Divisions</i> ).
An Amateur rider earning qualifying score(s) as an amateur, but no longer meets the USEF Rule GR1306 criteria defined for the Amateur Division.	An Amateur horse-rider pair may retain their earned performance level qualifying score(s); however, the rider is no longer eligible to compete in the Amateur Division. Horse-Rider pair must compete in the Open Division within their qualifying score performance level ( <i>per U.S. Rules for WE 1.3.b Rider Divisions</i> ).
An Open rider earning qualifying score(s) in the Open Division, but now meets the USEF Rule GR1306 criteria defined for the Amateur Division.	At the beginning of the next show season, an Open horse-rider pair may retain their earned performance level qualifying score(s) and is eligible to compete in the Amateur or Open Division ( <i>per U.S. Rules for WE 1.3.b Rider Divisions</i> ).
A Rider earned qualifying score(s) in a performance level. Rider attempts to self-advance to the next higher level however has not met the required advancement criteria of 62% Dressage/EOH score in three competitions under at least two different judges.	<p>A Horse-Rider pair may compete at the higher level in which they earned qualifying scores  <b>~OR~</b>                      A Horse-rider pair may retain their current performance level qualifying scores and compete at that performance level.</p> <p>A Horse-rider pair is not required to compete at the higher level until they meet the performance level advancement criteria. Once they have earned a combined Dressage/EOH score percentage of 62% at the higher level in three competitions under at least two different judges, they are established and registered at that performance level effective immediately upon earning the third qualifying percentage. Until earning the three qualifying advancement scores, the Horse-Rider pair may elect</p>

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	to move back to the previous. level ( <i>per U.S. Rules for WE 1.7.b Performance Level Selection and Advancement</i> ).
A Rider earned qualifying score(s) in a performance level; however, horse/rider pair has earned scores 57.499% or less at their registered level in either Dressage or EOH at three competitions.	A Horse-Rider pair may move down a performance level but must earn two qualifying score(s) at that reduced performance level within the championship qualifying score timeframe ( <i>per U.S. Rules for WE 1.7.b Performance Level Selection and Advancement</i> ).
A 'Young Horse' earned qualifying score(s) but no longer meets the 'young horse' criteria at time of the zone championship.	<p>A 'Young Horse' horse-rider pair may retain their earned performance level qualifying score(s); however, the horse is no longer eligible to compete in the 'Young Horse' division.</p> <p>A Horse that exceeds the 'Young Horse' age requirement or is in their second competition year is no longer eligible to compete as a 'Young Horse' (<i>per U.S. Rules for WE 1.4 Horse Divisions - Young Horse Division – For horses 4 or 5 years of age competing in their first year. The owner/rider must be able to validate that these criteria are met. Horses in this division may only be shown in either the Introductory (L1) or Novice A/B (L2/L3) levels. A horse may compete in this division for one competition year only.</i>).</p>