

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	8/28/2024	

Rule Change Intent

This rule change removes the United Professional Horsemen's Association contact information and Challenge Cup program details and specifications from EQ119. The requirements for the UPHA Challenge Cup classes can be found at www.uphaonline.com

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Jennifer Mellenkamp	Jennifer Mellenkamp jmellenkamp@uphaonline.com

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

SUBCHAPTER EQ-3 SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION SECTION

EQ119 Requirements for Specific Classes

15. UPHA CHALLENGE CUP. *For permission to offer this class and complete details please refer to the United Professional Horsemen's Association website at www.uphaonline.com.*

~~a. General~~

~~1. The United Professional Horsemen's Association instituted the Challenge Cup class in order to highlight the showmanship of saddle seat equitation riders. Judges should take note that in all qualifying classes (except walk and trot) sixty percent (60%) of the class is judged on the rail work and forty percent (40%) is judged on the individual pattern. In all UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals (except walk and trot) two thirds (2/3) of the entire class is judged on the two rail work portions of the class while only one third (1/3) is judged on the individual pattern. The UPHA Saddle Seat Committee encourages judges to select individual patterns that highlight showmanship as opposed to intricacy.~~

~~2. For permission to offer UPHA Challenge Cup classes and complete details, contact the United Professional Horsemen's Association, 4059 Iron Works Parkway, Suite #2, Lexington, KY 40511, (859) 231-5070, info@uphaonline.com, www.uphaonline.com.~~

~~3. Showmanship is a primary factor throughout the class.~~

~~4. No minimum number of entries is required to fill a class.~~

~~5. The term "open" refers to a UPHA Challenge Cup class that is not designated to a particular breed/division. They are referred to as "UPHA Challenge Cup" classes and may be divided into age divisions as outlined in the "ELIGIBILITY" section.~~

~~6. Judging Specifications and Qualifying Procedures for Individual Programs: All of the individual programs will adhere to the rules and guidelines which govern the UPHA Challenge Cup class unless otherwise specified under the following breed/divisional sections.~~

~~7. Specific qualifying procedures for the Open, Walk/Trot, Adult, Morgan, Arabian Breeds, National Show Horse, Pleasure Challenge Cup National Finals and Five Gaited Horsemanship Final are contained under their respective headings.~~

~~8. Specifications and Procedures for all UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals and Chapter Championships:~~

~~a. Judges—In all Chapter, National (including Breeds) and Junior National Finals, the judge(s) must be Saddle Seat Equitation Registered or Recorded in Saddle Seat Equitation with USEF. The UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, and National Show Horse Challenge Cup National Finals are required to have a least one Open Saddle Seat carded judge which may be recorded or registered on a three judge panel. A guest card will not fulfill this requirement. 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.~~

~~b. When entering Chapter, National or Junior Challenge Cup Finals, riders must indicate on the entry form the competition and location at which they qualified.~~

c. The qualifying season 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.

d. The same horse must be used in both Phases of the UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals, unless the animal is sick or lame, in which case a veterinarian's certificate is required.

e. If the UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals are divided because of its size, it is to be split by every other number. 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.

f. Individual copies of the Judge's Phase I 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.

g. The preliminary work is called Phase I, in which all contestants must work in a group (or in groups) of 20 or less on the rail and complete an individual workout. A minimum of twelve (12) riders and a maximum of fourteen (14) riders will be chosen for Phase II which is the championship class. If there are less than twelve (12) riders judges are required to bring all riders back for the championship class. No predetermined number need be selected from each group. Exceptions: See UPHA Walk/Trot National Finals specifications.

h. In all UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals (except the Walk/Trot National Finals), Phase I and Phase II must be judged as a continuous class and must be evaluated using a 1/3-1/3-1/3 analysis. In Phase I, the rail work portion and the individual workout shall each constitute 1/3 of the overall judging, or 2/3 of the total class. Phase II (the Championship), in which only rail work is performed, shall constitute the remaining 1/3 of the total class. Therefore, the rail work portions constitute two thirds (2/3) of the entire class and the individual pattern constitutes one third (1/3) of the class.

i. There will be no less than four (4) hours between the end of Phase I and the beginning of Phase II, and no more than two (2) consecutive days between the two Phases. When the riders return to the ring for Phase II, the announcer is to state that they have been previously judged on rail and figure work.

j. No individual workouts will be requested in Phase II, however, at the judges' discretion, selected riders may be requested to do additional rail work as a group for the purpose of breaking a tie. They may not be asked to exchange horses or to ride without irons in this phase.

k. In all UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals, 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. 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.

b. UPHA CHALLENGE CUP 17 & UNDER

1. Open to all saddle seat equitation riders, 17 years of age and under, riding a mare or gelding of any breed. Riders compete at the walk, 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. The top four (4) riders must be worked individually; more may be worked at the judge's discretion.

2. The mandatory workout in 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." Judges are not permitted to alter the mandatory workout in any manner. 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.

3. One open UPHA Challenge Cup win eliminates that rider from further competition in qualifying classes that season. Riders may show in their Chapter Championship.

4. Two UPHA Challenge Cup classes may be offered at the same competition, one for riders 14-17 (Senior) years of age and one for riders 13 years of age and under (Junior), with separate awards.

5. UPHA Challenge Cup National Final, UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final and UPHA Challenge Cup Chapter Championship Specifications:

a. Chapter Championships—Residency requirements pertain only to UPHA Challenge Cup Chapter Championships. Rider must compete within the UPHA Chapter in which they reside (residence to be determined by the legal voting residence of the rider's parent or guardian). The first four places in open UPHA Challenge Cup qualifying classes are eligible to compete in the UPHA Chapter Championships. Chapter Championships are optional. The top four (4) riders must be worked individually; more may be worked at the judge's discretion. The judge(s) may use any of the recognized tests 1-15 (refer to EQ120); exchange of horses cannot be requested.

b. UPHA Challenge Cup National Final or UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final—Riders qualify for the open UPHA Challenge Cup National Final by placing first through fourth in an open UPHA Challenge Cup qualifier or first through fourth in a UPHA Challenge Cup Chapter Championship.

c. In the UPHA Challenge Cup National Final, the judge(s) may use any of the recognized tests 1-14 (refer to EQ120). In all UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final (Riders 13 & Under), judges are cautioned not to ask for an inappropriate, or illegal, workout. Thirteen and under riders may be asked to perform USEF tests #1 through #12. They are not permitted to change leads on or off the rail. Simple serpentine and figure eights are acceptable; however, diagonal line changes (which include a canter or any line cantering off the rail) are not permitted in any manner. The basic figures, or combination of the basic figures, are the intent in all UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Finals. d. Any rider regardless of age, who is qualified has the option of showing in the UPHA Challenge Cup National Final but a 13 & under rider may not compete in both the UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final and the UPHA Challenge Cup National Final.

e. The UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final winner may compete for the UPHA Challenge Cup National Final in a succeeding year, but is ineligible for further competition in UPHA Junior Challenge Cup classes.

f. The open UPHA Challenge Cup National Final winner is ineligible to compete in any future open UPHA Challenge Cup qualifying classes or the open UPHA Challenge Cup National Final.

g. UPHA PLEASURE CHALLENGE CUP.

1. Open to all saddle seat equitation riders 17 years of age and under riding a mare or gelding of any breed and pleasure type. Riders compete at the walk, 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. The top four (4) riders must be worked individually; more may be worked at the judge's discretion.

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

3. Eligibility to compete in UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup classes is limited to those riders who show ONLY pleasure equitation horses with full manes and tails with natural carriage of the Saddle Seat breeds during a given competition year.

4. Riders to wear informal saddle seat attire per EQ116.1a; formal attire prohibited.

5. Two UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup classes may be offered at the same competition, one for riders 14-17 years of age and one for riders 13 years of age and under, with separate awards.

6. A win of a UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup eliminates a rider from further competition in that class for the remainder of the qualifying season. The rider may then elect to show in the UPHA Challenge Cup division they have not yet won if they need a second qualification for either National Final.

7. UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup National Final Specifications:

a. Pleasure equitation riders will qualify for the UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup National Final by placing first through fourth in a UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup qualifier or first through fourth in an open UPHA Challenge Cup qualifying class.

b. Pleasure equitation riders have the option of showing in the UPHA Challenge Cup National Final or the UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final as well as the UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup National Final; however, they must have separate qualifications for each Final.

c. A Pleasure equitation rider can qualify to compete in the open UPHA Challenge Cup National Final by placing first through fourth in an open UPHA Challenge Cup qualifying class.

d. In the UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup National Final, the judge(s) may use any of the recognized tests 1-14 (refer to EQ120).

e. The UPHA Pleasure Junior Challenge Cup National Final winner may compete for the UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup National Final in any subsequent year, but is ineligible for further competition in UPHA Pleasure Junior Challenge Cup classes.

f. The UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup National Final winner is ineligible to compete in any future UPHA Pleasure Cup qualifying classes or the UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup National Finals.

8. All other rules, judging specifications and procedures for the UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup and UPHA Pleasure Challenge Cup National Final will be governed by the same rules as in the UPHA Challenge Cup National Final and UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final.

d. UPHA MORGAN, ARABIAN BREEDS, AND NATIONAL SHOW HORSE CHALLENGE CUPS.

1. Open to riders 17 years of age and under, riding a Morgan, Arabian Breeds, or National Show Horse mare or gelding. Riders compete at the walk, trot and canter both directions of the ring. Judging is based 60% on rail work and 40% on the individual workout. The top four (4) riders must be worked individually; more may be worked at the judge's discretion.

2. The mandatory workout in 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." Judges are not permitted to alter the mandatory workout in any manner. 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.

3. In the UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, and National Show Horse Challenge Cup National Finals, a minimum of four (4) riders must perform an individual workout. The judge(s) may use any of the recognized tests 1-14 (refer to EQ120).

4. Riders in UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, or National Show Horse Challenge Cup qualifying classes, may qualify for their respective UPHA breed Challenge Cup National Finals by placing first through fourth in the respective breed qualifying classes or first through fourth in an open UPHA Challenge Cup qualifying class. In addition, riders competing in the National Show Horse Finals may qualify by placing first through fourth in the Arabian Breeds qualifying classes mounted on a National Show Horse.

5. Morgan, Arabian Breeds, and National Show Horse riders have the option of competing in the open UPHA Challenge Cup National Final or the UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final at the American Royal, Kansas City, MO, and in their respective UPHA Breed Challenge Cup National Final, however, they must have separate qualifications for both National Finals. Riders showing in breed restricted UPHA Challenge Cup qualifying classes do not qualify for the Open Finals.

6. A win of a UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, or National Show Horse Challenge Cup qualifier eliminates the rider from further competition in that class for the remainder of the qualifying season. The rider may then elect to compete in any other UPHA Challenge Cup classes for which they are eligible in order to comply with the "separate qualification" rule if the rider intends to compete in more than one UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals.

7. The winner of the respective UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, or National Show Horse Junior Challenge Cup National Final may compete for the respective UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, or National Show Horse Challenge Cup National Final in any subsequent year, but is ineligible for further competition in the respective UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, or National Show Horse Junior Challenge Cup classes or National Final.

8. The respective UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, or National Show Challenge Cup National Final winner is ineligible to compete in any future respective UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, or National Show Horse Challenge Cup qualifying classes or the respective UPHA Morgan, Arabian Breeds, or National Show Horse Challenge Cup National Final.

9. All other rules, judging specifications and procedures for the UPHA Breed Challenge Cup qualifying classes and National Finals will be governed by the same rules as the open UPHA Challenge Cup National Finals or UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Finals.

e. UPHA ADULT CHALLENGE CUP.

1. Open to all amateur riders 18 years of age and over riding a mare or gelding of any breed. Riders compete at the walk, 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. The top four (4) riders must be worked individually; more may be worked at the judge's discretion.

2. The mandatory workout in 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." Judges are not permitted to alter the mandatory workout in any manner. 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.

3. A win of a qualifying class does not eliminate that rider from further competition in qualifying classes that season.

4. UPHA Adult Challenge Cup National Finals Specifications:

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

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 EQ119).

c. 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.

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.

5. All other rules, judging specifications and procedures for the UPHA Adult Challenge Cup qualifying classes and National Final will be governed by the same rules as the UPHA Challenge Cup National Final or UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final.

f. UPHA 10 & UNDER WALK/TROT CHALLENGE CUP.

1. Open to riders 10 years of age and under riding a mare or gelding of any breed. To be judged on the rail at a walk and trot only. Rider may not have ever been judged in a class at a recognized or non-recognized competition that required a canter. This also includes Tournament and Academy classes.

2. Headers will be permitted in the lineup and will be called in by the announcer after the class has lined up and before they are judged. One attendant without whip is permitted to head each horse during the line up. The header may stand the entry on its feet and then must stand three paces back from the horse and is only allowed to touch the horse for safety purposes.

3. It is imperative that the horse stand quietly. A judge must order from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger the rider, other exhibitors, or their entries.

4. It is recommended that a class having more than twelve (12) entries be divided. If a division is necessary, the recommended split is to divide the entries into a class for riders 8 years of age and under and one for riders 9 to 10 years of age.

5. All ribbon winners will be eligible for the UPHA 10 & Under Walk/Trot Challenge Cup National Final. A win of a qualifying class does not eliminate that rider from further competition in qualifying classes that season.

6. UPHA 10 & Under Walk/Trot Challenge Cup National Final Specifications:

a. The winner of the UPHA 10 & Under Walk/Trot National Final will be ineligible for further competition in the UPHA 10 & Under Walk/Trot classes. They will be eligible to compete in the other UPHA Challenge Cup classes at that time.

b. Riders will work in groups of twelve (12) or less and will not be asked to perform an individual workout. Ten (10) riders shall be chosen to return for Phase II.

c. The UPHA 10 & Under Walk/Trot National Final shall be judged 50% on Phase I Preliminary and 50% on Phase II The Championship.

7. All other rules, judging specifications and procedures for the UPHA 10 & Under Walk/Trot Challenge Cup and National Final will be governed by the same rules as the UPHA Challenge Cup National Final or UPHA Junior Challenge Cup National Final.

g. UPHA FIVE GAITED HORSEMANSHIP

1. Open to amateur riders of any age showing a five-gaited horse. Stallions are prohibited. To be judged at the five gaits both ways of the ring and on an individual workout. To be judged 60% rail work, 40% workout.

2. The spirit of this class is to reward riders with exceptional horsemanship skills. Emphasis should be on a rider's awareness of the horse's performance. Breaking of gait, extreme speed, pacing and excessive bridle movement is to be penalized. Smooth transitions, a square trot, true slow gait and rack and a controlled canter are to be emphasized. Form should be appropriate for the enhancement of a five gaited horse, although equitation rules will be followed. Canter lead changes or canter departures off the rail cannot be requested as testing in qualifying classes or the Finals.

3. One of the following two designated workouts may be used for qualifying classes and the National Finals:

a. Execute a serpentine as follows: slow gait the first loop, trot the second and third loops, slow gait the fourth loop and return down the rail at a rack.

b. On the rail, to the right, trot first third, continue trot a circle, stop, slow gait the second third and continue to slow gait a circle, continue at a slow gait around the turn and rack down the opposite rail.

4. UPHA FIVE GAITED HORSEMANSHIP FINALS. To qualify, riders must compete and be judged in a minimum of one UPHA Five Gaited Horsemanship qualifying class or any one class within the Five Gaited sections (open or pleasure) during the qualifying season. A win in a qualifying class does not eliminate the rider from further competition in that qualifying season.