Leveling Made Easy

A simple guide to find your or your horse's level.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>F1</td>
<td>Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>G1</td>
<td>Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>H1</td>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>I1</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>J1</td>
<td>Journalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K1</td>
<td>Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Marketing</td>
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<td>N1</td>
<td>Medical</td>
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<td>O1</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<td>P1</td>
<td>Panama</td>
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<td>Philosophy</td>
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<td>Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U1</td>
<td>Social</td>
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<td>V1</td>
<td>Sports</td>
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<td>W1</td>
<td>Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>X1</td>
<td>Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y1</td>
<td>Veterinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z1</td>
<td>Zoology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Some classes may have additional requirements.
**BASIC LEVELING INFORMATION**

- All leveling is on a class by class basis.
- All Youth and Amateur classes plus Open division Halter and Cattle classes are based on the exhibitor’s level eligibility and not the horse.
- If you show in Youth or Amateur classes, your level eligibility is based solely on your points, awards and money earned.
- Level 1, 2 and 3 eligibility are based on the previous three years of points—see Timeline page for example.
- Points earned in lower level classes will not count against eligibility for higher levels, but points earned in higher levels will count towards lower level eligibility.
  - Example: Points earned in Rookie and Level 1 classes will not be counted towards eligibility for Level 2. Points earned in Level 2 and Level 3 will count towards Rookie and Level 1 eligibility.
- Lifetime points, awards and money earned does not mean beginning of show career to the date you are checking eligibility.
  - Lifetime for leveling means beginning of show career to October 31 prior to the year of eligibility—see Timeline page for example.
- Show management determines whether to level a class.
  - If your class is not leveled, please visit with the show management to request that change.
- You may show in any level you are eligible for.
  - Example, if you are Level 1 eligible in a class, you may show in Level 1 plus either Level 2 or Level 3 in the same class.
- If you wish to qualify for a world show, you must earn points in Level 2 or Level 3.
- Rookie and Level 1 points do not count towards world show qualifications.
- Level eligibility is for the full year; whatever levels you are eligible for on January 1st of the current show year is what you are eligible for that whole year.
- Points earned in Walk/Trot-jog classes do not count towards level eligibility.
- Ownership requirements are not applied in the Rookie or Level 1 classes; however, ownership requirements are in place for Level 1 at the Top 10 shows. See SHW245.8 of the AQHA rulebook for other ownership requirements.
- Other requirements besides leveling must be met before competing in Performance Halter, Amateur or Youth Boxing or Level 1 (Horse) Working Hunter classes.
ROOKIE LEVEL

- To show in a Rookie class, regardless of division, you and the horse you will be showing must both be Rookie eligible in that class.
- Rookie can be offered for all classes except for Halter/Performance Halter Stallions.
- Exhibitor Rookie eligibility is based on:
  - Lifetime points, awards and money earned.
  - Must have earned fewer than ten points.
    - All divisions count towards these ten points.
  - Must not have ever won more than $5,000.
- Horse Rookie eligibility is based on:
  - Lifetime points, awards and money earned.
  - Must have earned fewer than 50 points.
    - All divisions and all levels count towards these 50 points.
      - Level 1 (exhibitor) points do not count toward the horse’s eligibility.
      - The point and earning limit does not apply to horses shown in over fences classes.
- Points earned in a Rookie class will only go towards Rookie eligibility.
  - They do not affect eligibility for other levels or count towards any awards or world show qualifications.
- Once leveled out, you or your horse cannot return to the Rookie level.
**Rookie- Exhibitor**

Have you earned 10 or more points in all divisions/all levels in this class? 

No → Have you earned $5,000 or more in this class? 

No → Congrats! You are Rookie eligible in this class!

Yes → You are not eligible for Rookie in this class.

**Rookie- Horse**

Has the horse earned 50 or more points in all divisions/all levels in this class? 

No → Has the horse earned $1,000 or more in this class? 

No → Congrats! The horse is Rookie eligible in this class!

Yes → The horse is not eligible for Rookie in this class.
2020 LEVELING TIME FRAMES

3-year time frame is used for Level 1 (exhibitor), Level 2 and Level 3 eligibility. Points earned in this 3-year time frame are added together to get the total number of points.

November 1, 2016 - October 31, 2019

5-year time frame is used for Level 2 eligibility when a horse or exhibitor wins a World or Reserve World title.

2015 - 2019

10-year time frame is used for Superior awards- if a superior was earned during this time frame, the exhibitor is not eligible for Level 1 in the class the Superior was earned.

November 1, 2010 - October 31, 2019

10-year time frame is also used for exhibitors who have pointed out of Level 1. If you have received a Level 1 completion achievement, you must not earn any points in that class in any level in any division, for 10 consecutive years in order to become eligible for Level 1 again in that class.

Year achievement received - 10 consecutive years with no points earned in that class

Lifetime time frame- this is used for Rookie and Level 1 (horse) eligibility. It starts from the date the first half point was earned in any division and goes through October 31 of the current eligibility year.

1st half point earned - October 31, 2019
LEVEL 1 EXHIBITOR

- Level 1 exhibitor eligibility is based on points earned in Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 classes for the previous three years. (see Timeline page for example).
  - Exclude all Versatility Ranch Horse points
  - Exclude all Dressage points
  - Exclude all Cowboy Mounted Shooting points
  - Exclude all Equestrians with Disability points
  - Exclude all Rookie points
  - Exclude all Walk/Trot-Jog points

- To be eligible for Level 1 exhibitor classes, you must not have:
  - Earned a superior award within the past ten years (see Timeline page for example) with an equine organization or association with 7,500 members or more.
  - Placed in the top three at any AQHA world show.
  - Won a world, reserve world or national or reserve national championship title with an equine organization or association with 7,500 members or more.
  - Won an international or reserve international title at the European Championships or German Championships, regardless if the class was an AQHA approved class.
  - Won $5,000 or more in cash and prizes with any equine organization or association.
  - Competed on an NCEA equestrian team on a scholarship or ride as a starting exhibitor.
  - Ever been a professional horse trainer or an accredited judge - with any breed, any organization or association.

- A Level 1 application must be submitted each year regardless of the length of the exhibitor’s membership.

- Level 1 exhibitors may show in Level 1 exhibitor classes on a horse they do not own.
  - The top 10 AQHA shows do require ownership or a show lease in order to participate in Level 1 exhibitor classes.

- Winning a class at a Level 1 Championship does not make the exhibitor ineligible for Level 1 in that class, just ineligible to show in that class at any future Level 1 Championships.

- Exhibitors who have pointed out of Level 1 classes but have not reached any of the other achievements, would be able to return to Level 1 if they do not earn any points (any division/any level) for 10 consecutive years from the year they point out of Level 1 in that class.
  - The 10-year timeframe starts over if the exhibitor earns a \( \frac{1}{2} \) point of more in that class during that 10-year period.
Level 1 Exhibitor

Have you ever been a judge or professional horseman?

- Yes: You are not eligible for Level 1 in any class.
- No: Have you ever won a world championship or reserve world championship with AQHA or any other association, including European Championships?

- Yes: You are not eligible for Level 1 in this class.
- No: Have you won $5,000 or more with any association?

- Yes: You are not eligible for Level 1 in this class.
- No: Have you won a Superior award within the last ten years in this class?

- Yes: You are not eligible for Level 1 in this class.
- No: Have you previously pointed out of Level 1 in this class?

- Yes: You are not eligible for Level 1 in this class if you have earned any points in this class since you pointed out.
- No: How many points have you earned in this class in the past three years? Level 1, 2 & 3 count toward this total.

Congrats! You are Level 1 eligible in this class!

Is this number within the point level range in this class in the division you will be showing in?
LEVEL 1 HORSE

- Level 1 (Horse) classes are only available in the Open division halter/performance halter and any cattle class.
- Eligibility for Level 1 (Horse) classes is based on lifetime points the horse has earned in all divisions in Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3.
- Open Level 1 (Horse) eligibility is based on money and lifetime points by class except for:
  - Exclude all Versatility Ranch Horse points
  - Exclude all Dressage points
  - Exclude all Cowboy Mounted Shooting points
  - Exclude all Equestrians with Disability points
  - Exclude all Rookie points
  - Exclude all Walk/Trot-Jog points
- Horse may not have won $2,500 or more in any equine organization by class.
- Horses placing in the top 10 in a particular class at the Open World Show will not be eligible for Open Level 1 in that class beginning the following year (does not include top 10 placings in Level 1 or Level 2 World Show classes) and will no longer be eligible for Level 1 in that class.
- For Open Cattle & Halter Classes: Exhibitors placing top 3 at any AQHA World Show in a particular class will not be eligible for Open Level 1 in that class beginning the following year (does not include Level 1 or Level 2 World Show classes).
- Level 1 Working Hunter horses not eligible - SHW630.2.2 exhibited in the following classes with AQHA or any other equine organization: working hunter (other than AQHA Level 1 Working Hunter), equitation over fences or jumping.
- Level 1 Jumping horses not eligible - SHW655.2.1 won 25 combined points or more in the following AQHA-approved classes: working hunter, equitation over fences or jumping (horse points from all levels in any division will count and are cumulative in determining eligibility) or $2500 or more in any equine organization in working hunter, equitation over fences or jumping.
Level 1 Horse

Has the horse won $2,500 or more in this class with any association? No

Yes

The horse is not eligible for Level 1 in this class.

No

Has the horse ever placed in the top 10 in a Level 3 class at the World Show? Yes

No

The horse is not eligible for Level 1 in this class.

Yes

Has the horse earned 25 or more points? Lifetime across all divisions.

No

Yes

The horse is not eligible for Level 1 in this class.

No

Congrats! The horse is eligible for Level 1 in this class!
LEVEL 2 EXHIBITOR

- All amateur, youth and open halter/cattle classes are leveled based on the exhibitor performance.
- Consider points earned the past three years (see leveling time frame) when comparing those to the point caps for a particular class except for:
  - Exclude all Versatility Ranch Horse points
  - Exclude all Dressage points
  - Exclude all Cowboy Mounted Shooting points
  - Exclude all Equestrians with Disability points
  - Exclude all Rookie points
  - Exclude all Walk/Trot-Jog points
  - Exclude all Level 1 points
- Exhibitors placing in the top 2 in a particular class at any AQHA World Show are not eligible for Level 2 in that class for the subsequent 5 years.
- Points awarded to Level 2 entries are based on the number of Level 2 entries in the class— not a total of Level 2 and Level 3 entries.

*Level 2 Exhibitor*

Have you won first or second in a Level 3 class at the World Show?

- Yes
  - The horse is not eligible for Level 2 in this class for five consecutive years from the year of the award.
- No
  - How many points have you earned in the past three years? Points from all divisions in Level 2 and Level 3 count toward this total.
    - No
      - You are not eligible for Level 2 in this class.
    - Yes
      - Is this total within the point level range for Level 2?
        - No
          - You are not eligible for Level 2 in this class.
        - Yes
          - Congrats! You are eligible for Level 2 in this class!
**LEVEL 2 HORSE**

- Consider points earned the past three years (see leveling time frame) when comparing those to the point caps for a particular class except for:
  - Exclude all VRH points
  - Exclude all Dressage points
  - Exclude all Cowboy Mounted Shooting points
  - Exclude all Equestrians with Disability points
  - Exclude all Rookie points
  - Exclude all Walk/Trot-Jog points
  - Exclude all Level 1 points

- Horses in their first year of senior competition (6 years-old and older) are eligible for Level 2 unless:
  - The horse placed in the top 2 in a Level 3 class at the Open World Show which excludes the horse from Level 2 in that particular class for 5 years.
  - Does not include top 2 placings in Level 1 or Level 2 World Show classes.

- Horses placing in the top 2 in a Level 3 class at the Open World Show are not eligible for Level 2 in that particular class for the subsequent 5 years.
  - Does not include top 2 placings in Level 1 or Level 2 World Show classes.

- For Open Cattle & Halter Classes: Exhibitors placing in the top 2 in a Level 3 class at any AQHA World Show are not eligible for Level 2 in that class.

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**Level 2 Horse**

Flowchart illustrating the process for determining eligibility for Level 2 horse based on the criteria mentioned.
**BENEFITS OF LEVEL 2**

- Level 2 and Level 3 scored and pattern classes must be ran concurrently.
  - Placed classes have the option of being ran concurrently or separately.
- Regardless if the classes is ran concurrently or separately, the number of points available for Level 2 are based on the number of Level 2 entries.
- The number of points available for Level 3 are based on the total number of entries in the class (Level 2 and Level 3).
- Entering Level 2 means all points available are distributed among the Level 2 entries.
  - Even if the class is ran concurrently, you are only competing against the other Level 2 entries.
- Entering Level 3 means there are more entries equaling more points available.
- Points earned in Level 2 and Level 3 both count towards Level 3 world show qualifying.
- Below is an example of how entering Level 2 vs. Level 3 could potentially affect how many points can be earned in the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Level 2 Amateur Trail</th>
<th>Level 3 Amateur Trail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Entries</strong></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Placing/Back #</strong></td>
<td>AQHA Points</td>
<td><strong>Placing/Back #</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>8.0*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>331</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>414</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>630</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>355</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>263</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>No. entries in pts.</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pts. Awarded</strong></td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>45.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Pts. Awarded</strong></td>
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<td>82.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Bold points= actual points awarded

**L2= entered in Level 2 not Level 3**

No. 96 received 3 points because he was entered in Level 2. If No. 96 had entered Level 3, he would have only received 4 points.

Because No. 413 entered Level 2, he earned 3 points. If No. 413 entered Level 3, he would not have earned any points.