



Area 1 Championship Qualifications March 2, 2026

It is the responsibility of the competitor to know the qualifications and terms of these championship qualifications and enter in accordance with those specifications. Competitors who have improperly entered a championship division will forfeit their placing and awards.

**Amateur Placing is the system that bumps up in placing if an amateur places behind a professional in a division. For example: if you place 6th in a division with one or more professionals placing 1-5, you ARE qualified for the championships. Please check your USEA competition record for your qualification.*

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- All Area Championship competitors MUST be current USEA members both at the time of qualifying AND the championship competition.
- Horses at Starter, BN, N, and T must have at least a Limited Status registration and horses at Modified and higher must have a Full Status registration at the time qualifications are earned.
- All qualifying competitions must be USEA registered horse trials, two-day or three-day events.
- Divisions must have five (5) or more starts to count as qualifying competitions (except Modified and Preliminary).
- List all qualifying competitions on your entry form.
- Open to members of other Areas, but riders must qualify with at least one qualifying placement from a recognized Area I event (except Preliminary and Modified).
- To qualify, the rider and the horse must have placed 1st thru 5th at one event during the qualifying period at the level, including "Amateur Placings"* as determined by the USEA qualifications for the AEC. In addition, placing 1-5 at the previous year's championship constitutes a qualifying ride.
- The qualifying period for each championship will be from the closing date of the previous year's championship to the closing date of the current year's championship. (At the organizer's discretion the closing date may be extended.).
- Horse and rider must qualify together.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY LEVEL:

	Placing to Qualify	Rider Qualifications	Horse Qualifications
Preliminary	<p>1st - 5th at one (1) USEA recognized event in any area <i>*(including Amateur placings)*</i> Or Placing 1st - 5th at one (1) Area 1 Event (including Area 1 Championships the year prior) during the qualifying period noted above.</p> <p>Horse and rider must obtain an MER at three USEA recognized horse trials within an 18-month period from the closing date of the current year's Championship, with at least 2 MERs within the qualifying period.</p> <p>Once the placing qualifying requirement (QR) has been met, the MERs may be at the Preliminary level or any higher level</p>	None	None
Modified	<p>1st - 5th at one (1) USEA recognized event in any area <i>*(including Amateur placings)*</i> Or Placing 1st - 5th at one (1) Area 1 Event (including Area 1 Championships the year prior) during the qualifying period noted above.</p> <p>Horse and rider must obtain an MER at three USEA recognized horse trials within an 18-month period from the closing date of the current year's Championship with at least 2 MERs within the qualifying period.</p> <p>Once the placing QR has been met, the MERs may be at the Modified or any higher level.</p>	None	None

<p>Training</p>	<p>1st - 5th at one (1) USEA recognized event in Area 1 <i>*(including Amateur placings)*</i> during the qualifying period noted above. Or Placing 1st - 5th at Area 1 Championships the year prior</p> <p>Horse and rider must obtain an MER at three USEA recognized horse trials within an 18-month period from the closing date of the current year's Championship with at least 2 MERs within the qualifying period.</p> <p>Once the placing QR has been met, the MERs may be at Training level or any higher level.</p>	<p>Never have competed above Preliminary within the two (2) previous years, including the year of the championship</p>	<p><u>Open Championship:</u> None</p> <p><u>Rider Championship:</u> Horse may have higher level experience</p> <p><u>Horse Championship:</u> Horse must never have competed at Intermediate level or above</p>
<p>Novice</p>	<p>1st - 5th at one (1) USEA recognized event in Area 1 <i>*(including Amateur placings)*</i> during the qualifying period noted above. Or Placing 1st - 5th at Area 1 Championships the year prior</p> <p>Horse and rider must obtain an MER at three USEA recognized horse trials within a 18-month period from the closing date of the current year's Championship with at least 2 MERs within the qualifying period.</p> <p>For the rider, once the placing QR has been met, the MERs may be at the Novice or Training level. For the horse, once the placing QR has been met, the MERs may be at any higher level.</p>	<p>Never have competed above Training within the two (2) previous years, including the year of the championship</p>	<p><u>Open Championship:</u> None</p> <p><u>Rider Championship:</u> Horse may have higher level experience</p> <p><u>Horse Championship:</u> Horse must never have competed at Preliminary level or above</p>
<p>Beginner Novice</p>	<p>1st - 5th at one (1) USEA recognized event in Area 1 <i>*(including Amateur placings)*</i> Or Placing 1st - 5th at Area 1 Championships the year prior</p> <p>Horse and rider must obtain an MER at three USEA recognized horse trials within a 24-month period from the closing date of the current year's Championship with at least 2 MERs within the qualifying period.</p> <p>For the rider, once the placing QR has been met, the MERs may be at the Beginner Novice or Novice level. For the horse, once the placing QR has been met, the MERs may be at BN or any higher level.</p>	<p>Never have competed above Novice within the two (2) previous years, including the year of the championship</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Starter</p>	<p>1st - 5th at one (1) USEA recognized event in Area 1 <i>*(including Amateur placings)*</i> Or Placing 1st - 5th at Area 1 Championships the year prior</p> <p>Horse and rider must obtain an MER at three USEA recognized horse trials within a 24-month period from the closing date of the current year's Championship with at least 2 MERs within the qualifying period.</p> <p>For the rider, once the placing QR has been met, the MERs may be at the Starter or Beginner Novice level. For the horse, once the placing QR has been met, the MERs may be at Starter or any higher level.</p>	<p>Never have competed above Beginner Novice within the two (2) previous years, including the year of the championship</p>	<p>None</p>