

# A WORD ABOUT THE CHANGES TO THE ENGLISH & WESTERN DISCIPLINES

Upon the suggestion of several past and present exhibitors and members, we decided to try an experiment this year. Instead of offering age divisions, we decided to try offering Level divisions. We are willing to change or modify these divisions at the end of the year, but realizing that we needed to either cancel or change the way we run English and Western classes, we decided that a change was a better option! We encourage you to try out the new Level divisions and then give us input as to how we can improve or change them in the future.

**There will be four levels: Walk-Trot, Level I, Level II, and Level III/IV.** Please enter the level of your ability as a rider. Any age rider is allowed in any level. However, if you have, say, a green horse that you want to show in Walk-Trot, but you are a Level II rider, we ask that you either show in Level II and perform what movements your horse is capable of, or show in Walk-Trot as an exhibition to keep it fair for all riders at the Walk-Trot Level.

## Levels Divisions in English and Western

**Walk-Trot Level.** This level is for riders who do not canter or do not yet have confidence/experience to canter in a show. Examples of patterns that a judge may ask for include: pick up reins, back, walk and/or trot/jog circles, figure 8 at trot/jog showing change of diagonals (English only), halt/stop from walk or from trot/jog through the walk.

**Level I.** This level is for riders who have started to canter and feel comfortable trying the canter in a show. Examples of patterns a judge may ask for include: any of the Walk-Trot patterns, canter/lope circles, figure 8 at canter/lope with simple change of lead, canter/lope to a balanced halt/stop.

**Level II.** This level is for riders who feel comfortable cantering in a show and are ready for more of a challenge than Level I offers. Examples of patterns that a judge may ask for include: any Walk-Trot/Level I patterns, turn on the forehand or hindquarter 90 or 180 degrees, work at collected/extended gaits, work without stirrups (equitation).

**Level III/IV.** This combined levels class is for more advanced riders. Examples of pattern tests that a judge may ask for include: any Walk-Trot/Level I/II patterns, figure 8 at the canter/lope with simple or flying change of lead, leg yield/two-track either direction at walk or trot/jog, serpentines at trot/jog (with changes of diagonal in English) or canter/lope with simple or flying lead changes, side pass either direction, turn on forehand/hindquarter 360 degrees.

**NOTE:** Lead Line classes for English and Western will be offered upon request by any one or more exhibitor(s). Lead Line English and Western classes will not count for daily or year-end high point awards.