



# Juniors & Intermediates to Regionals

Recognizing that Florida has many excellent younger horse show exhibitors who have not previously been eligible to qualify for Regionals, beginning 2023 there will be an avenue for top Juniors to qualify for Regionals.

The following explanation is in the “Junior and Senior Divisions” section of the 2023 rulebook:

- *Juniors are 8-10 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year.*
- *Intermediates (11-13 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year) have the option of competing in either the Junior or Senior division. Intermediates may qualify for Regionals with the Seniors provided they compete and qualify in the Senior Division in both the Area and State shows.*
- *Seniors must be 14 years old on or before September 1 of the current 4-H year.*

*Age Divisions and eligibility for Regionals qualifying:*

- *Senior Division (including Intermediates showing as Seniors): Seniors will qualify for Regionals in point-earning order until all allotted spaces are filled, or until there are no more eligible Seniors.*
- *Junior Division (including Intermediates showing as Juniors): Top-10 Juniors will qualify for Regionals. In the event that there are still allotted spaces available after all eligible Seniors have been offered, remaining spaces may be offered to Junior division riders beyond the top-10 in points-earned order.*

## Further Explanation

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In order for Intermediates to qualify for the majority of Regionals qualifying spaces along with Seniors, it is only fair that Intermediates compete at the same level as Seniors through all levels of qualifications (Area and State). Therefore, Intermediates interested in competing for the larger number of Regionals qualifying spots should enter Senior division classes beginning with the Area show, qualify for the State show at the “Senior” level, then enter Senior division classes at the State show. After the State show, all Seniors and Intermediates who showed at the Senior level will be considered together when determining the highest 70 point earners to qualify for Regionals. This avenue will likely have stiffer competition, but a much higher percentage chance of qualifying.

Intermediates less interested in eventually qualifying for Regionals, or those not ready to move up to Senior level competition, should enter the Junior division at the Area shows. They will compete with the Juniors to earn points to qualify for the State show in the Junior division. **Intermediates who qualify for State in the Junior division will not be allowed to enter the Senior division at the State show.** At State, only the top-10 Juniors division riders will qualify for Regionals. So yes, Intermediates may feel they are more competitive in the Junior division, but they will have to finish in the top-10 overall of the Junior division to guarantee a Regionals qualifying spot.

## What to Do

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At the Area Shows, age division classes will be designated as “Junior” or “Senior.”

Intermediate age 4-Hers (11-13 as of 9/1 of the current 4-H year) will designate at Area registration if they will compete as a Junior or as a Senior. That division designation will carry through the Area and State shows. If they show as a Senior at Area and qualify for the State show, they will show in the Senior division at State with the potential to qualify for regionals in the Senior top-70. If they show as a Junior at Area and qualify for the State show, they will show in the Junior division at State and to potentially qualify for regionals in the Junior top-10.

Junior age entrants (8-10 as of 9/1) must enter the Junior division at Area and State and will be eligible for Regionals if they are in the top-10 of the Junior division at the State show.

Senior age entrants (14 & over as of 9/1) must enter the Senior division at Area and State and will be eligible for Regionals if they are in the top-70 of the Senior division at the State show.