

Regional vs Zone Championships

Membership Survey conducted June 1-30, 2023

782 survey recipients | 280 responses | 35.8% response rate



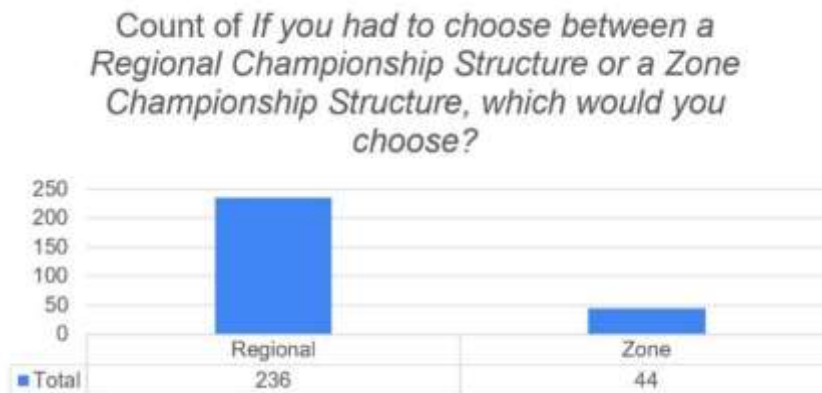
RESPONSES BY REGION

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7
63	59	25	31	31	45	26

RESPONSES BY ZONE



RESPONSES – REGIONAL VS ZONE



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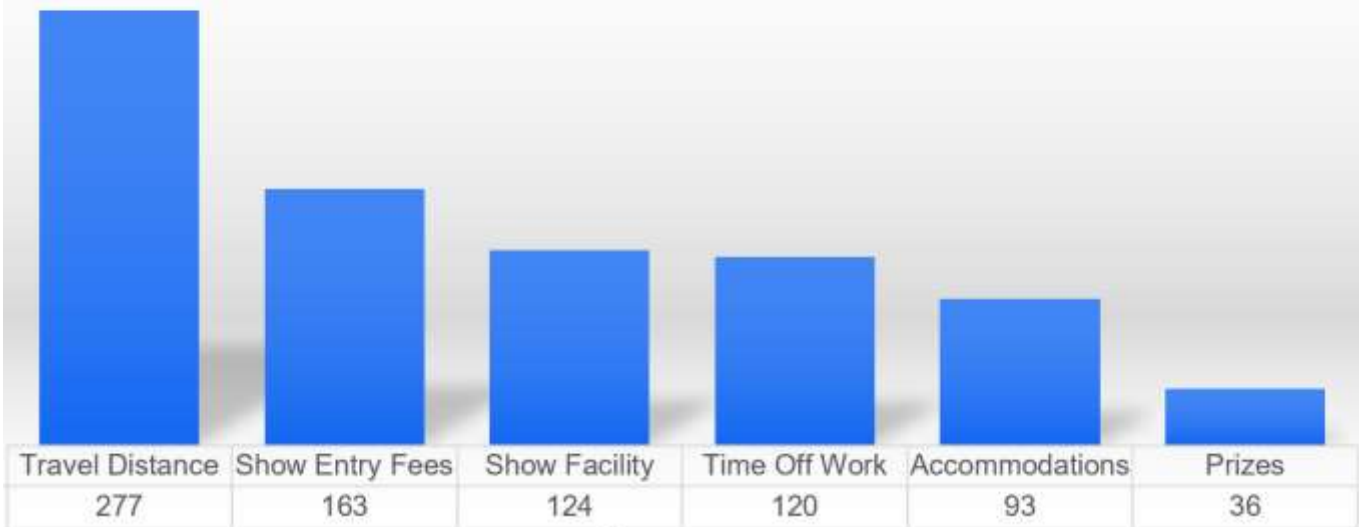
Count of In the prior REGIONAL structure, qualifying scores were required to be earned inside that region. Do you agree or disagree with that criteria?



Count of In the current ZONE championship structure, scores may be earned in ANY region. Do you agree or disagree with that criteria?



CHAMPIONSHIP CONSIDERATIONS



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Please explain your rationale for Regional vs. Zone

- I don't think the sport has enough participants to do a zone championship well
- Shorter distance to trail horse
- Closer
- I feel that zone championships are less accessible than regional championships and less "prestigious" than national championships, so I don't quite understand the logic behind them.
- Much easier to get to more shows in the region, smaller pool of riders to compete against.
- Regional championships are more practical and inclusive. Zone Championships tend to exclude many due to distance.
- I am more likely to attend a show closer to home. I live in Arizona. This year Zone Championships are scheduled for Montana. With a full-time job and other horses to care for, it's impossible to get away long enough to attend a show 1200 miles (20 hours of driving) away.
- Travel
- cost, distance
- You can't expect riders who can't ride throughout the winter months to compete with riders who can ride year-round. Not many can afford an indoor arena.
- smaller area- greater chance it would be a distance I would travel
- way more accessible in terms of area - the zone is so huge I would not be able to attend if, for example, zone champs were held in California or Arizona. Regional is much more doable.
- Distance and travel, and away from home time concerns
- Easier to attend each year
- For me the spirit of the sport and community is just as important, if not more so, as the outcome at shows. I am an amateur rider who works full time and has just one horse to show. I have loved WE for years but after increasing my participation to being a TD and volunteering on a committee my desire to participate has decreased. In past years I have shown every month and traveled outside my region for shows. I'm am not longer seeing the board support the amateur riders as much as the push for upper-level achievement and international competitors. This has led to myself taking a step back and only wanting to engage with my regional community. The future of this sport in the US will not be carried by the top-level riders but rather the less experienced enthusiasts. Regional shows will be more accessible to those riders and will be most likely to grow the sport.
- Having participated in a region and a zone championship - they both have their plus & minus. I think with USAWE being still pretty new - that they should have stayed with regionals for a few years instead of 1 year of regionals and straight to zones. It is a huge undertaking for an AO to put together a zone championship. Time, money, volunteers. You will always have people that do not want to travel far.
- I would be disinclined to travel any great distance from my state
- There would be many times I could not travel to get a Zone Show. It's already a stretch going to a Regional show.
- I am an enthusiastic amateur competitor but this year I will not attend my Zone Championship because it is too far away. Travel distance dilutes the Zone to those who live closer and does not reflect the true depth and quality of the riders who are assigned to that geographical space.
- Purely based on logistics of hauling longer distances. Zone would be desirable because you have the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow competitors/judges you may not otherwise see, but in the spirit of accessibility, regional events are certainly easier from a competitor stand point.

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- I believe that Regional Championships will serve our young organization better. The Regional Championships can easily be as nice as the Zones. I have been to both types (not as a competitor, but as a volunteer), and once there, the feel of a Championship was the same. Time to travel, cost of fuel, horses being in trailers for long periods of time & possibly requiring a layover, all are negatives for a Zone Championship. I don't see any benefit for having championships only in Zones. The Zones are too large.
- Mileage
- Not as much travel time
- Regional appears to provide for greater participation without as much travel for competitors.
- Those in Maine, Florida more likely to make it.
- Easier to travel to the show. Less disease risk.
- I am new to this sport (and love it!) and it is easier for me to travel within the region for shows verse the zone based on work and family obligations. I would try to attend no matter where it national at, but keeping it within the region would be easier for travel
- Regional is more economically feasible in both cost and time for pleasure riders.
- #1- stress on equine (long hauls), travel, and expense
- I prefer to have a Regionals and a Nationals. The Nationals status will aid our champions in their status in worldwide competition.
- People located at the far ends would not have to travel so far, which could increase attendance and make it easier on the horses. Could increase camaraderie as it's more localized. And, it could give folks a better chance to place since there are more regions.
- More shows, greater accessibility
- I would choose to attend a regional championship rather than a zone championship because the travel distance/cost is more manageable. The central zone is massive which makes it difficult to justify the cost of traveling more than 6 hours away to attend a championship. A regional championship is much easier financially and practically.
- The championships are very expensive to start with and having a zone championship could possibly require people, who wanted to attend, extra travel expenses that may not be required for a closer regional championship.
- The distance can be too far away resulting in multiple lay overs.
- A regional show makes it easier and more affordable to attend and compete. There are a lot of us who work full time jobs and if they're like me work 2 jobs just to afford their horses. Competing is expensive but it could be less so if we had closer competitions.
- Hopefully It would be a closer drive
- 1. Less travel and smaller show.
- I would choose Regional if it meant a National championship overall. Otherwise, I think Zone works better for the time being until there is enough participation for a National competition.
- The central zone is too large geographically for people to reasonably travel to championships.
- The last Zone Championship for the West had a date of after usual snowfall in MT, ID, parts of WA and OR. Making it hazardous for travel, hauling. This is likely an issue w/ other zone too. When I lived in MT, we always had snow on Halloween, and it stayed (!) until Easter. I'd be fine driving myself in a personal vehicle between those dates, but not hauling a horse in a trailer long distances. If possible, it would be really nice to have parameters set so this isn't an issue, by the Championship committee. Sites booked more than a year in advance (or however early is needed to secure an appropriate/quality facility) If Zone Championships are returned to, of scheduling no later than Thanksgiving, or maybe Veterans Day weekend. But early Dec is nuts for those coming from northern states heading to So Cal, Las Vegas or Phoenix.

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- I limit the distance I travel to any show, so I'm not the best person to offer feedback - but the likelihood of my traveling to the opposite end of my zone is non-existent. Depending on the location of a regional championship - the closer distance would make it much more attractive.
- I like the idea of regional shows. I think in regions with smaller numbers they could team up with another region and still keep the driving and hauling in check. Then every other year do a National championship. Riders in other disciplines have one national championship and the have lots of riders.
- Zone championship was held in Montana and I reside in Southern California. It's extremely cost prohibitive for me to travel that far.
- I believe travel is the greatest factor in a person's decision to enter a show. A regional show would limit travel to a smaller area that would allow more people would be able to attend.
- One day we will move to a national championship, but until we get the numbers that can truly support a large show, regionals seem to be more feasible.
- The regions are too large and the Zone Championships last year and this year have not been located centrally in the Zone allowing for maximal participants. I cannot travel 3 days in near winter to Montana for a horse show.
- I'm torn - zone would mean competitions against larger number of competitors/ regional = less travel and time away from my own business
- Zone championships can require people to drive 1500+ miles (for those who live in the zone) depending on the location of the Zone championship. I would have to use almost 2 weeks of vacation to drive there, compete and come back home. I am not likely to do that. Most regional championships can be traveled in one day. That said, smaller regions should be able to combine with another region, if practical, to allow people to compete.
- In the event that a championship show is cancelled, we would have another option within a reasonable distance. Last year our Central Zone Championship was canceled and we were left with no options that did not require multiple travel days in each direction. The championship was to be my second judge for the year and consequently my points for the entire year did not count for USA WE placings. For a working rider, this is simply not tolerable.
- More travel and expense are involved with the larger Zone shows.
- The travel distance involved in the Zone format is prohibitive, even more so in fall / winter.
- Very far to travel with horses
- less distance to travel to be able to attend.
- Combining regions 6 and 7 results in a span from Maine to the Florida Keys. Driving to a zone show can take several days and won't be attended by people who might participate in a regional show. If the goal is maximum participation, regional might be a better bet. A zone show would probably need to be longer (to make it worth the trip) and people coming from farther away would need to arrive early so their horses can recover from transport. The driving plus increased show days and possibly horse hotel mid-trip both ways make a zone show more expensive for competitors.
- Less possibility of being prohibitively far away
- Regional shows would involve less travel and potentially less money and could encourage greater participation
- This is a big country. A championship covering, for example, the entire eastern seaboard and a third of the US is going to be difficult for many competitors to reach and hard on their horses. I think it will also lack the cohesion and atmosphere of a more localized championship, where people may be more likely to enjoy a sense of community, having met or at least heard of each other.
- Zones require too much travel for many participants
- Potentially less distance to travel
- Travel could be greater in zone for everyone

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- Closer to attend Cost effective
Allows more riders to come
Better to assess the riders and work toward nationals
Regionals are accessible to more riders and can be more central to them. Less travel and feasible. Zone championships are not true assessment of the champions since it limits the fair numbers that can or will attend. With travel costs and high costs to leave one's farm the regionals fit more in a budget. The zones I've seen are really the size of a regional show.
Regionals to nationals is the future in my opinion.
- I bring a lot of inexperienced riders to the shows and if they qualify for a championship, most of them would not travel more than a day for that.
- As of right now, I feel that Regional is a better show structure. There isn't enough incentive for someone to travel far to another state in order to partake in the Zone Championship, and Regional is far easier and more accessible. I think that once the sport is larger, Zone Championships will be more worth it.
- Show would probably be close enough to travel to.
- I will state that I have never attended either as a COMPETITOR, however, I have asked many qualified competitors in our area why they did not pursue competing in zone championships. The greatest response is cost. Often, with the bid process for hosting zone championships, the venues chosen are not in a central, easy location to access for all and money is required for traveling 2+ days with horses. Cost is always the biggest complaint. If championship shows were placed more centrally to those competitors, and if competitors had at least some leeway in choosing which region/zone they could attend a championship show, I think we would have much more participation.
- A chance to compete against different horse and rider teams. We see the same people over and over at the zone shows.
- Zones are prohibitively large for travel for many competitors
- The zones are so big it's not conducive to travel thus defeats the purpose somewhat of getting regions together.
- I like the idea of having a greater number of competitions offering opportunities for folks to compete closer to their homes rather than very few competitions that would require some of the competitors to travel great distances. The need to travel great distances might deter some folks from competing at those shows altogether
- I am more likely to attend a regional event than zone due to travel distance, although for now while the sport is still growing and championship entries remain limited it makes sense for now to continue with the zone championship structure until the sport is popular enough to fill regional shows.
- Less travel time.
- Smaller area of having to plan and travel to. Also, more intimate especially for me because of being new to this.
- Expense of travel
- I would be highly unlikely to travel to a zone show because of the distance to travel
- More shows may make it easier for people to travel to
- More shows mean more opportunity for everyone.
- Last year, the zone championship was held in Arizona in December. Hauling horses during the month of December in Montana is questionable when hauling locally. Then we add the temperature difference, our horses would have to be clipped and then return to subzero temperatures. I do not know anyone who lives in Montana year-round who attended last year's championship. Regional championship show's take climate into consideration and lesson the length of travel. Both are better for our horse's welfare.
- I can't afford to travel all over the Central Zone.
- Reduces cost and travel.

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- Distance/clubs and show ground locations/
- Shorter travel distance makes attending more realistic and easier on the horses. Can use as qualifier for a national show (if for example champ and reserve qualify, you get 12 national spots).
- Travel time
- I would never be able travel to region 3 or 5 for the zone championship.
- Regional would be more realistic for me to attend.
It requires less money and time off work because it's closer to me.
- I don't have the desire to drive to the northern states just to show but I am ok with going to show in states around Texas. I don't like traveling with a horse trailer for more than a day.
- I'm ok with either but honestly, I'd only attend a show within 4 hours of my home. Since this year zones are 4 hours or less away, I will be there and it is fun it's the whole zone so I love that but next year for example I'd not drive to FL and zones were there so in general I like regionals but that being said I'd not ever drive to Vermont or super far
- Likely less distance to travel
- Seems more appropriate to make smaller divisions, the. Maybe have a zone championship or US Championship
- I think the Zone Championships limit the riders that can compete due to the travel distances. Not many are willing to travel including overnight stops, or have the time available to do so.
- I prefer a regional championship simply because the chances of the location being closer to me that's making it more affordable are greater. Although this does put more work onto the regions, where we could combine our resources and swap north to south for every other year regional championships.
- Regional championship is something most people can do travel wise
- We are in Central Zone which gets riders pulled from Western and Eastern. We weren't able to fill a Central Zone show in 2022 for this reason. If the membership wants Zone shows USAWE needs to require members to first ride in their own zone.

In R5 this year, they might as well be having a Regional show. They pretty much are ignoring R3 and R4 by putting the show in WI - sad that they wouldn't have looked at a more central location for all members in the zone.

I don't really care much either way Regional or Zone.

- More opportunities to compete
- It seems to me that Regional will give more opportunity for people to be able to come to the show. In the zone structure, depending on the location, the miles traveled may be so great that one could not be off work, or away from home, or afford the cost of going such a long distance.
- I don't want to travel long distances for championships.
- Regional would be more accessible to more members. A zone championship would cover too much area and be a further distance away and more difficult/expensive to travel to. Fewer facilities could host that big of a show.
- Closer proximity. I'm more likely to attend., Smaller venues needed.
- Smaller geographical region might be more accessible for travel for a number of riders.
- Travel distance
- Less travel distance
- Zones become too far to travel
- Regional offers more people the ability to attend. With most of us working full-time jobs, we can't always take off for a week to 10 days to drive to a distant local, show and then drive back. This year, western

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zone championships is a 2-day drive for many of us. While most of the folks showing in Open division, that IS their job, amateurs don't have as much leeway.

- Larger group of participants, more exposure to different riders, opportunity to travel
- I would not want to haul to the top of the Zone for a Championship but I would be willing to haul within my Region.
- Likely less distance to travel
- The travel time to potential shows is reduced by utilizing the regional structure.
- Cost of travel.
- The Zone shows are just too far away. I'm an amateur with a 40 hour a week job, I would have to take so many days off work to attend a Zone show. It's just unrealistic. I understand that zone shows are to give some more competition, but with someone like me not being able to go, the amateur competition isn't there anyway because of the amount of time to take off and expense. I loved the Region 5 show at Hoosier Horse Park a couple years ago. So fun, fairly local and a venue I hadn't been to.
- Needs to be closer to home in order for us to go. Don't want to travel far.
- Time and expense are more for Zone Championship due to distance
- I would choose regional so it is closer for competitors
- I think our membership is spread out in pockets within the regions. It is a struggle to find a zone location that will be central and well attended. It still. Is ending up being hosted in locations near the pockets.
- Less risk/cost traveling long distance having smaller groups.
- Likely to be less travel time to get there
- I feel the travel distance is the biggest issue. I also feel that all regions need to successfully be able to hold regional championships before we progress to bigger shows.
- Prefer less travel with horse
- I live in California and the farther the location, the less likely I will be able to attend. California, parts of NV, & AZ are the farthest I'm willing to attend on my own. I trailer and compete on my own, so for safety I don't travel too far.
- Closer to rider homes
- It makes travel with my horse more possible for me.
- Need to increase membership base to justify and support expense and distance for Zone Championships.
- Somewhat geographical. The zones are so large there is a much less chance that I would be able to travel the distance required to attend a zone event.
- I believe the smaller regional shows would attract more WE participants.
- traveling distance is the biggest factor governing my decision to compete at any given location. Regional championships reduce the potential travel area.
- Distance of travel to a venue holding a Championship especially if out of the Region the competitors are located.
- Simple--fuel. I economically cannot attend shows more than 2 hours away
- Travel distance is a big deterrent for many. Keeping shows closer to everyone in the region might keep participation up. I like the idea of keeping zones intact for potential alternative (and optional?) shows.
- It's what I'm used to with other various breed shows
- It's a long haul to even get to a Regional Championship for me and would assume even more distance to get to a Zone Championship. A Zone Championship would most likely be held up in TN, NC or VA area whereas a Regional Championship could be closer to me say in GA.
- Regions are more localized and accessible for traveling. Many of us know each other in the regional areas and that facilitates more participation. Realizing that holding 7 events vs 3 is a bit challenging, I feel there will be more involvement and participation!

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- Too expensive to travel a long distance
- Distance to travel
- Reduce travel to allow more qualified competitors to participate
- It just makes travel easier
- Travel distance, and cost would make regional almost impossible for me
- Zone championship is unappealing to me due to travel distances involved in travelling from Oregon to Southern California or Arizona for example. When I was involved in another organization, people didn't want to haul longer than an hour, while I currently have to haul 3 + for competitions. I would have to haul 5 days to compete in Nationals and this isn't ideal and certainly takes a huge toll on horses.
- Smaller regions = more opportunities for championships = more people willing to pursue championships.
- Don't want to travel that far with horse
- smaller field of competitors. More opportunities for success
- More affordable
- Not as many miles to travel
- Zones are large making travel to a zone competition cost prohibitive for most competitors. Many are showing at level 1 and will not travel far. Also increases difficulty of getting volunteers.
- Regionals would be easier for me to travel to. The central zone is so large I feel the travel would be prohibiting.
- Right now, cost of travel is high. I may feel differently in a different economic setting, but for now, travelling great distances with horses is very costly.
- Closer proximity
- I think the Regional Show is more available to a larger number of competitors. I am retired and am able to travel with my horse, but not everyone has that luxury. I have competed in both Regional and Zone championships. I can see advantages to both but I lean just a bit toward the regional show.
- I have participated in both types of championships, the 2022 Zonal I was on the planning committee. I find that since we are still a smaller sport, supporting a larger region is much more difficult. W Especially with how spread out the zones are, it is difficult and expensive for competitors and volunteers to get to the other end of the region for the competition. We had difficulty finding enough volunteers for the 2022 Zonal and I think we still could have used more. If we do regional championships, I think it will be easier to coordinate volunteers and for more riders to participate because the venue will be more accessible.
- Zones are too big and too far for most people to travel. Regional would give people the opportunity to travel a more reasonable distance to attend the championships.
- Shows are closer to travel to. Easier for a weekend show when you work full time.
- Hopefully show wouldn't be as far away.
- The shorter travel distance for regional competition works well for me. I would need less time away from my farm, and the travel would be much easier for my horse(s), and more affordable for me. I am very likely to attend a regional championship, but unlikely to undertake the time and expense of a zone championship.
- Travel to distant locations to compete is prohibiting this possibility. Even within our region the show locations are most likely going to be difficult for many of us to travel to.
- traveling too far
- Since I am in the very corner of the country, I would never be able to attend zone shows. Too far to travel.
- I really don't have a preference for either one. It's more of the distance/time/expense of them. I understand the added cost of these shows, but it can be prohibitive to the average exhibitor. I'd rather

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pay an extra \$10 a show that goes toward the championship show expenses. Even if I still wasn't able to attend, I'd be happy that the show fees were reduced to allow more to attend.

- I think regional championships would draw more people; I think it would draw more competitors if they didn't have to travel so far
- Potential Travel Distance
- Zone championships are too far to travel to.
- Travel distance
- I think a zone championship is the best way to cast a larger net to gain more local memberships investing in local shows to build towards something more easily attainable. I think it'll also set a great foundation to build a national show down the line when we stabilize regionally and locally
- Easier to access, closer to home.
- Travel expenses and time away from home
- Less Travel and more affordable
- My answer has to do with travel time. Traveling from Montana to the states in Zone 2 is lengthy and expensive. I'd rather compete locally in my region and go from there.
- More opportunities to show at closer location
- It would be more accessible to a greater number of participants
- My main reason for regional is travel distance
- In Montana, weather prevents us from competing year-round as easily as folks in California and Arizona. I think it would be a more level playing field to keep the northern states in their own zone championship.
- The zones are just too big.
- The country is too big and the sport is still too small to attract enough people willing to drive the distances needed for zones. Even USDF does regionals. There are many people that will never compete in the USDF national finals but are so happy to compete in regionals because it's almost always within their state or 1 state away. Having judged both regionals and zones I love regionals because the people had so much sense of pride and camaraderie within their region and really took the flavor of their area and made the regionals their own. I think it gives many more people the ability to compete and be recognized. The sport, like I said, it's still too small to really support successful zones. The economy, cost of fuel, cost of hay, cost of keeping horses, is exorbitantly high right now. Whatever we can do to help support our members and make it more affordable to them so that they can continue to compete I think we should.
- Least possible distance for travel. I do not have the prion to take 2 weeks off for a horse show 5 states away if that's where it may be hosted.
- For me, it is much easier to travel to a more local region show vs zone show
- I don't want to have to drive so far for the show
- A smaller championship geographical area would probably make it possible for more qualifying people to attend.
- Closer travel distance
- Zone shows mean a much greater distance for travel. I recognize some of the pros about having a Zone show - especially that I don't know if there are enough people that qualify for the Championship in Region 3, who would then register for a Zone Show. But it still seems to me that travel distance is important to keep Championship show accessible for more people.
- Possibly closer, less travel
- Ease of travel
- It seems regional could offer more accessible opportunities.
- The sport is growing and I think we can get enough entries at the regional shows and eliminate the long-distance driving. I think more riders would attend, myself included, if it wasn't so far to drive.

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- Decreased travel, easier on my horse and more affordable for me so I have a better chance to participate in championships
- For most people I'm in touch with, travel distance is the #1 inhibitor preventing them from participating in shows out of state, and that is true for me too. I would also support a program that allows people to attend any regional show or combination of regional shows they desire to give people more options about which competition is the right fit for them based on factors like location and dates.
- Traveling distance.
- The discipline is not yet large enough to hold a Zone Championship and have enough attendance to make it any different than a regular show.
- I think a regional structure is a better idea over all. Competitors are guaranteed a shorter travel, you will get to compete against all your regions competitors that you've seen at that years licensed shows. To get higher numbers run a licensed show alongside the Championship show so that anyone who didn't qualify or who is outside the region can attend the licensed show.
- Regional shows give riders with less time or money to spend on travel an opportunity to go to a championship. However, regional shows work best in conjunction with a national show.
- The Region covers a large area as it is, so having a Zone championship would mean shows even further away.
- Distance for traveling to championship
- Many clients would travel to regions but not to zones which may be much farther.
- Travel expenses.
- The travel costs and risks of traveling several days with horses is too much. The national point keeping system needs to continue to be tweaked to include multiple show venues and judges required so it truly reflects quality.
- Travel restrictions are much greater for a zone as compared to a region as defined.
- The central zone (and all zones) is huge which can make travel too difficult for many competitors (depending on location). At this point, I think growing the sport is most important and regional events provide more opportunities for participation. I think folks should still be able to participate in any region they want. Over time, it may make sense to add (rather than replace) zone or a national championship with more competitive qualifiers.
- Enables more competitors to participate due to less travel distance
- Last year I qualified for championships but given they were in Arizona (22.5-hour drive), I made the decision to not go. I could not afford to take the time off work and didn't want to put my horse through that length of hauling. This year, I definitely hope to qualify for championships as they are in Missoula (7-hour drive) and I will go if I qualify. So, my logic for regional vs zone is that regional will make it more likely that I personally would be able to attend each year vs only when they are close enough to drive (likely alternate years or potentially every third or fourth year). I think a downside of regionals over zones is that we ride with the same people and don't get the opportunity to ride with, learn from, celebrate with people in other parts of the country. Also, as a growing sport, regional championships may mean that there are very few riders in the L4-7 divisions in each championship.
- Closer to the show
- The travel distance for a zone championship is a hardship. Last year the western zone was significantly closer geographically than the show in my own central zone
- Cost to travel, travel time, travel stress on horse; I will travel to the closest venue, despite what region or zone I am officially in.
- Traveling distance is less.

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- A regional show assures that a championship show would be within reasonable distance, especially for Youth riders. It would be near impossible for a youth rider to pay for and/or convince their parents to haul from the UP of Michigan to Texas.
- We live on the edge of SD, bordering MT. Our Black Hills Working Equitation group would rather see smaller, but closer locations. We would prefer to be included in the MT Region as they have more activities offered, within our reach.
- The central zone is too big.
- I loved the idea of a bigger Zone championship. But when I tallied up the total cost to attend and realized it was extremely high, and combined it with the time I would need away from work and on a personal level the age of my horse and subjecting him to a much longer trip, I had to decide not to attend last year. But I would be excited to attend a show that is a little more affordable and a more reasonable driving distance for me.
- Zone would potentially be farther to travel. But I recognize the financial benefit! So kinda torn
- I'm not likely to travel a great distance.
- I think the Zone shows are more prestigious, they bring in riders from other states that don't usually compete in the same circuit. With that said, I do believe the geographical distances of the zones are the most difficult challenges for competitors. I think the Regional Championships are a better option for the size of our competitor pool nationally. People in my region (northeast of Region 6) complained that Zone Championships were too far away in 2022, but they are also complaining that PA is too far so I guess you just can't win. The bottom line is that many people are going to have to drive a distance regardless of zones or regionals.
- Proximity to the show
- Less travel
- For personal reasons I am not showing right now, however I feel distance is more likely to be a prohibitive factor for many in the Zone Structure
- Cost of travel
- Cost of traveling. I'm retired on a fixed income and the cost is overwhelming so I can't go.
- Due to the distance to haul along the east coast, I would be more likely to participate in championships if at a regional level.
- Long answer. I have done both regions yet my horse is the high point but not a champion or top 10.
- I am limited to how far I can travel to shows.
- I am more likely to be able to attend a regional show due to the smaller geography involved.
- Not so far to drive if I attended; regions are already established for year-end awards, familiar with venues and exhibitors in a smaller area. Less potential cost/less feel of risk to participate.
- I like the idea of a larger gathering for the Zone. The problem I experience is the event happens in the fall. Road conditions can be extreme going from north to south. Horse conditions are changing due to winter coats coming on in the North.
Regionals seem like we are all on the same playing field. We all experience the same road conditions and horse conditions.
- Travel distance to show
- Too much travel for zone.
- Travel to zone championships would not be viable for many competitors. This could limit championship opportunities for many if not most competitors.
- Travel time
- Travel distances are my main reason.

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- I am not sure how helpful my answer will be as I have not had the chance to compete or attend zone championships. I do think I like the idea of regional championships better as it seems to be less miles to travel, less stress on the horse and perhaps chances for more folks to be competitive, rather than just ONE big show for our huge zone. I could be wrong, and may want to change this thought after I see what zones are all about in Sept haha!!
- The show would probably involve less travel and less time away from home.
- travel expenses
- I would actually pick both if zone was held earlier in year while weather is still good for traveling. Don't care to drive and pull horse trailer on ice- and snow-covered roads.
- The cost and distance of travel might bring out more participants, while adding one more level of qualifications to thin down the final competitors. I think each region should qualify for nationals. Nationals should be held in a revolving spot throughout the nation. For instance: in the east for 1-year, mid-west for year 2 and the west for year 3. Then repeat or reverse. This way people can plan their travel, and it's not a surprise. United States Vaulting Association does this. I thought it was very practical. Nampa Idaho has a splendid equestrian facility and is centrally located in the NW. Denver, CO is known for championship or nationals because of its location, and the Kentucky horse-park might be good for the east. I've never been there, but it seems right as we promote, WE in America.
- Diesel fuel is over \$4.00 per gallon, the cost of going to these shows is expensive and Regional shows typically have less travel expense
- It will most likely be closer and a more logistical venue. Plus, greater chance I will have friends and colleagues there
- travel distance.
- Travel time and expenses.
- zone is larger than region. Doable logistically.
- Compete against best of multiple regions, more realistic "championship" format with multiple regions involved.
- It is difficult to fill shows in my area, a zone championship would likely attract more entrants. Once USAWE gets even more members competing, regional champs may make more sense.
- I miss having a national championship show. If we don't have a national championship, I think that a larger show is better, even if I can't make it every year.
- I would like to have a zone championship because I think it increases the number of competitors and horses available. The diversity of backgrounds is very exciting and with a larger zone championship rather than a region I think the possibility of experiencing those backgrounds and encountering more training opportunities increases greatly!
- I want more competition
- Zone would be a more evenly distributed system for those in their zone as the traveling distance is less, making the distance less for those who consider this as a leisure sport more likely to attend.
- Ideally a bigger, more challenging championship show.
- With our size and spread, a regional show may feel like not much more than a local licensed show since it will primarily attract local competitors that we have competed against the rest of the year. Besides special awards and some more bells and whistles, the competitor base would likely look similar. I also think being a Champion at a Zone versus Regional has more weight to it - I think it is reasonable to travel within a day or two to a larger Zone Championship for a show with the title and with the variance in location, this may mean some years it is more or less feasible. But again, this means the competitors will vary and represent a broader geography which is good so that the show does not become monopolized by any one set of host/venue/competitors.
- A regional championship feels like just another show. Smaller group.

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- I think the zone championship offers a larger show and a more competitive environment. It allows us to compete against and associate with people that we normally don't get to at our local shows.
- The cost and time to be away from my family and farm make it tough to travel far outside of our region. However, I see that there are not many youth competitors, so I understand that for my daughter there likely wouldn't be many other children to compete with because we both show together.
- Once WE grows, a regional experience would be great, but right now there isn't enough competitors to really fill each level and make it truly competitive.
- Larger attendance, more diverse competition, and more show management and staffing opportunities.
- I may live in region 6, however, I live closer to shows held in region 7. So, this year was planned around showing in region 7. It worked out because we can compete in zone finals and are not restricted to region 6. Where I'm located in VA, most shows are held near DC, and it's very unpleasant to drive to those locations. I can completely understand why someone who lives for example Maine, might want to stick to regional showing.
- This is a tough call. My main reason is that if an entire zone gets behind a zone show, it could be a bigger deal than a regional show, which is effectively just another licensed competition, especially in less active regions. I think regionals do a disservice to less active regions because they just might not have the competitors to put on a regional championship—especially if all the qualifying scores must be gained in that region, meaning people from outside the region would be less likely to attend the championship.
- We compete against R5 all year long. A zone show is special because it brings in new competitors.
- Travel Time and Cost
- though it is potentially harder for people to travel to, it is more likely to get the volunteer base needed
- Closer to home, more likely to attend
- At least in the East most riders in each region see each other at the licensed shows. I greatly enjoy to opportunity of meeting riders in region 7 as well at zones last year. I love to camaraderie and community that comes with the horseman/women attracted to WE. I think both options have great merit, but I think zones right now are easier to fill also to justify the cost of putting on the show. I look forward to when WE is big enough to have a national show again.
- I'm actually happy with either a Zone or Regional Championship structure, but for Regional Championships to work in regions with few members, I believe the organization should allow people to qualify in any region and compete in any regional championships. Otherwise, you really limit the ability of regions without a lot of shows/competitors to offer Regional Championships, and this also means that some members (those in R7 and R3, for instance) might not have the opportunity to compete in a championship show because they might not have the ability to qualify in the region where the championship show is offered.

The current Zone structure encourages people to compete in their local shows and -- provided the championship is within a day or two drive -- to compete in the Championship show at least every couple of years. It also supports local show efforts and recognizes those who consistently do well by honoring as Regional #1, #2, etc. and National #1, #2, etc. the horse/rider pairs who accumulate Leaderboard points through high-quality performance throughout the year.

Both structures have some positives and some negatives. The Zone Championships offer the opportunity to meet people from across a more diverse geographic area, while the Regional Championships -- sometimes -- might be closer for those in the region (depending, of course, on where they are located in a given year).

Having the national organization help support the Zone structure with the \$2000 grant to help underwrite the championships helps make it possible to organize and offer championship shows, particularly in areas with fewer competitors. I don't think the organization could reasonably be asked to support 7 different

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regions, though, with this amount of money, which means that those organizing Regional Championships are likely going to have to pass the additional expense on to members who might want to compete.

- There are some regions that don't have a large number of competitors, so it would be difficult for the people to have a regional show. The zone championship allows for people who would not normally see and/or compete together to do so.
- Less miles/time to travel
- Thank you for the opportunity to share our personal thoughts.

Unfortunately, if we changed to regional championships, it would be the same turnout as a regular show for us here in region 7. We have several states in our region with no shows or participation. Those who show in our region already travel 3-6 or more hours to show anyways and 6-8 or more hours for a zone show.

I continue to support a zone show (even though the travel is longer) so we can have a more spectacular event, a larger turnout and see more WE friends.

Stay the course (no pun intended 😊) and these are my personal thoughts as a competitor.

The number of shows is increasing every year. Let's keep the championship shows something special, elite, and worth the extra travel for! Otherwise, it's just another show to attend- OR MISS!!!!

- Have you thought about restructuring the Zones into 4 or 5 Zones. I realize that is what the Regions are but when it comes to Championship show I would like to show against different people than who is only in my Region. I would try to use the members that compete as a source of reference not the general membership when looking how to restructure the Zone map. Also, realize that Kansas WE riders (for an example) are only located in a specific location. Hutchinson, KS is a hub for most of our shows. We get riders from 4 hours away. Kansas City area, Topeka, Manhattan, Wichita, Salina and Hutchinson. We have a couple of riders from Oklahoma also. Anything west of Hutchinson to Denver, CO, there are no WE riders.
- doing Zone is better not as far
- I think at this time the membership is small enough that a Zone Championship structure makes more sense. However, I would like to see the venue as close to the "middle" of the Zone as possible in order to make it feasible for everyone who qualifies to attend.
- Bigger show, more competitive
- More competition makes it more championship like
- We need to have enough competition
- Region 7 would not be as well attended, hopefully that will change in the near future. My concern with going to regionals is the logistics. You now have potentially 7 championship shows all held around the same time of year, all requiring at least one S judge with only four currently available. Scheduling without conflicts would be tricky.
- IME, folks who are serious about competing want to win against the best. Being the Big Fish in the Big Pond is a more gratifying reward for all the hard work. A Zone championship is a bigger pond.
- Show sizes (too small in many regions)
Judging logistics (7 regions, 4 S judges)
Zone shows would allow for a bigger turnout
- To be able to show with more people/horses that I haven't seen throughout my region.
- A championship should be a special event where many compete against each other not just the same competitors seen all year.
- I like a bigger, fancier show that has more meaning when I win!

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- Not enough activities/ shows for people to qualify. Zone gives them the chance to compete in their zone, not just their region
- More competition
- more competitors, and more varied pool=more special!

- There was not a third choice for no preference.

From an amateur stand point-bigger competitions are more important for open riders. Therefore, if I'm competing in a regional championship or a zone championship it does not make any difference to me. As both are opened to riders out of my state. As an adult amateur my goal for the competitions is for an opportunity to have fun over the weekend with friends. Of course, the bigger the event, the more fun we have. I think the question the organization should be asking is which of the two generates better attendance and perhaps financial gain for the organization, if any. I'm sure most amateurs are happy to participate at any of the events as long as it is not financially prohibitive for them to do so. I am in AZ and I would not drive to WA for a Zone Championship. I might make a trip to CA if "all the stars" align.

Otherwise, I am happy to compete at our local shows as these still provide me with Regional and National rankings. If a Zone Championship or Regional Championship is to happen in my state, I will be there, but outside of the state has zero appeal to me- currently.

- Travel is too far for zones, competition levels too simple for Regional
- Zones offer a greater opportunity to both qualify and to compete in areas outside of my personal Region. As I live in a less populated area of the country (Montana), the opportunity to ride against more qualified riders is fabulous.

Would you have a suggestion for a structure other than a Regional or Zone championship? If so, please explain.

- no
- I prefer to see Regional Championships earlier in the year and then a National Championship show as the grand finale of the show season. Rotating Nationals between zones would give all members a chance to have the big show somewhat local to them every third year.
- Statewide championship shows before regional championships.
- I would also like to see more consistency between either Structure. Particularly the zone championship should consider having the same judges at each show in order to have equivalent scores across the board. Those would not be feasible with the regional structure.
- Not off the top of my head.
- I think regionals that lead into zone championships would be the way to go. I realize this requires much more planning and collaboration, but I feel it allows competitors more accessibility through regionals and helps build the competition rather than going straight to nationals.
- No
- State
- I liked the idea of regional championships - maybe have a zone championship every so many years.
- Not at this time
- I would also like to see a state championship for those states with sufficient numbers of competitors. Additionally, as the sport grows, I think that there could be a national event for those who qualify at Regionals. At the National event, a criterion is established to select our international teams.
- Could do every other year for each type - not sure if the rules can allow for that.
- no
- Regionals leads to east/west finals? Or leads to zones leads to nationals?
- No.

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- No
- I think the Zone shows have been a better option than 1 show for the whole country, again based on cost and time of the rider that is also tied to other obligations such as work.
- Offer both. If qualify for regional will qualify for zone also. Hopefully you will have a good indication from members who reply to make an informed decision. I do not compete. Volunteering is my involvement. WE is a wonderful sport for all levels. Board, thank you for your dedication.
- I prefer to have a Regionals and a Nationals. The Nationals status will aid our champions in their status in worldwide competition.
- Could we have a regional championship then an overall high point for zones?
- National every 2 years
- I feel like we are putting the cart before the horse. Need local opportunities to hone your skills before going to a championship.
- If the zones still make sense for the coasts, suggest breaking the central zone up into two regions.
- I think the are zones would be fine if they required each zone to ride in their own zone plus any others zone. The rider's own zone would need to be a must
- State-level may be a good option. Even thugh the state of California is quite large, as long as it's held in a venue with ample space and long-ish term amenities it would be helpful for people who can't take weeks off to travel with their horse(s).
- I think Regional shows make the most sense.
- No, you've set up a good structure
- No.
- I like the Regional with the idea that low membership regions may be combined. This would keep travel distances down but allow for the ability to have adequate showing opportunities.
- You could allow more than one regional show for regions that cover large geographic areas and there are many participants, if you used the same judge, you could possibly compare results to determine regional winners. If you decide to do zone championships, you could do some sort of sponsorship that mitigates costs for people who qualify and are coming from the fringes of a zone, like covering stabling and/or entry fees. You could offer a fun add-on to a large show so that people have something to do after being DQ'd, like a separate obstacle competition or ride-a-test.
- Possibly alternate years. One-year regional, next year Zone. Or offer both. Attend regionals to qualify for Zone.
- No regionals to bi-regionals to nationals.
- Really hard question and so glad you asked; however, we are a huge country and getting everyone everything they need or want is really hard. I don't see another structure that would work. Just making sure that every championship is located around the zones or regions so at least some years everyone has a chance to participate.

Oh, here is a thought that just popped into my head... National Championships are held around the country (regional perhaps) with the SAME JUDGE officiating, then even though the venue is different the judge is the same and then an overall champion could be declared.

- No
- I think other options could be explored. For example, choosing to do Regional Championships, but a qualified competitor could go to a different regional championship (than the region he/she resides/qualified in) as long as he/she didn't go to multiple regional championships. Or, conversely, competitors could be encouraged to go to several regional championships to help encourage greater entry numbers. The point being, I think many options could be explored, with the greatest focus being on how to get the most qualified competitors to the championship shows, and how to make those shows as

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profitable as possible for the hosts. I can think of many possibilities, though I am sure there are pros and cons to all championship show structures.

- It would be neat to have a national show every few years. I show breed specific and we have two national shows in Missouri every year.
- At this stage in the organization, I don't think there are many other choices, eventually state shows would be great but we don't have enough coverage in many states to accomplish this right now
- National
- I'd like to see a regional that then rolls to a national perhaps. As we grow it could go regional to National
- Yes- leveling up! In other words, step by step for those who are new to this (which I understand we are wanting this discipline in the US). So, more schooling locally then regions then zones.
- regional shows seem just fine
- No
- I'm for Regional championship that could expand to a next level and still hold a Zone championship.
- Regional winners qualify for a national championship
- Winners of each Regional championship receive a grant to travel to a national championship
- Would you ever consider offering both, or maybe having regional championships every year, but offering zone championships every 2 or 4 years (especially if you have the numbers/interest to do zone championships)
- No, I don't
- See above answer
- No
- If it made more sense for a zone championship, maybe, stating the fact that the location would switch from north to south, every other year might be inspiring for some.
- Hold regional every year ... Zones every other year
- Perhaps even a state championship
- No
- No.
- Have one National Championship at a nice venue which also includes some educational opportunities. Similar to US Pony Club Championships which are followed by Festival. I'm thinking if you draw more people to one event it reduces the facility cost. Perhaps you put this National Show on a schedule - such as every 3 years so that people plan for it. I wouldn't do a long haul every year but I would be more open to working toward it if it were on a schedule. I also think having affordable educational opportunities with renown trainers & judges afterward would draw people.
- See below
- No
- I don't.
- Regional but one can get qualifying scores no matter where they show at
- Go back to the regional & national structure. People from other disciplines are familiar with it.
- No
- Hold Regional Championships every year (if region is willing to host) and consider National (or Zone) Championships every 4 yrs. (similar to WAVE).
- No
- Just rotate the site venues on a yearly basis so that all state's involved get a chance to host.
- State Championships every year (residency required), Regional Championships every other year (participation allowed like we are doing now with Zone Championships) (scheduled so not falling on the

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same year as the National) and National Championships every 4 years (falling on the year before the WAVE Championship).

- In the past, I enjoyed a structure (within different associations) that requires a win or high placing at the regional level in order to qualify for either a zone or national championship. In the IHSA where I used to coach, team members had to qualify to get to regionals, then regionals determined attendance at Zones, which then determined who went to nationals. Rather cumbersome, yes. As a team effort it made sense. In the Morgan world, anyone was qualified to show at the regional level, but needed the regional "points" to qualify for the national championship. Almost too simple! But needing to qualify (by point system/percentage earned) for regionals makes much sense to me. And whether that feeds into a larger zone or national show for those able to compete at further distances will not affect many of us, but will support those who can.
- Not sure there is any other option. So many other equine groups conduct Regionals as well.
- No
- I will concentrate on adding more competition in each state
- It is exciting to have a "championship show" and it is a goal for horse and rider teams to work toward. I like the leaderboard that is currently being used to recognize teams. It is important to keep this sport accessible for all and this is why keeping things regional is more appealing to me.
- No
- Break the central zone into 2 zones.
- Statewide Championships, closer proximity. Also, hold them at a time when weather is not a deterrent to travel.
- I think we should do 2 years of regional shows, then the 3rd year do a Zonal to qualify for a national championship the 4th year. Or if we can slowly work into a model similar to USDF where you qualify for different levels of champs at different shows so that even amateur competitors have the opportunity to compete in the bigger championship shows.
- State championships
- I think that a 3 or 4 state group is much more likely to have the attendance to merit a show. If the smaller state groups existed then I could see maybe feeding into a zone grouping.
- I think doing a national show down the line when regional shows are more stable is a great door to open for many members to feel invested to attend and utilize it in conjunction with other opportunities like using a WAVE judge, etc.
- Na
- I like the way USDF does it where they have region championships and then finals which is ALL winners from regions with wildcard spots. That way, if you wanted to go to Finals, you could but if you didn't want to drive that far, you could still do a championship.
- I wish we could compete in Regionals of our choice and not based on our home state. As some host spots are closer to border states
- I'm afraid not.
- A singular, centralized national championship show held either in a central part of the country annually, or alternating coasts year to year or alternating host cities/states year to year.
- No
- Maybe by state or two to three states close to each other.
- No
- No
- No
- I personally think a national championship in a central location like Oklahoma has the most appeal, and that may be a result of growing up showing quarter horses which center their major competitions

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primarily in Oklahoma. That seems to draw participants from all of North America very reliably. Also, the facility enjoyment of showing at the venues in Tulsa or Oklahoma City is a big part of the experience, and these venues also tend to be surprisingly affordable to rent compared to smaller show venues in other states due to heavy state government subsidization.

- Regional shows in conjunction with a national show. The National show need not be every year. Perhaps every other year would suit.
- Each state takes turns hosting championships or pick state in the middle
- No
- No, I think the regional structure works
- Would it be possible to do Regionals, and then perhaps a National Championship of the top finishers from the 7 Regionals?
- I like to think about what is the goal of a championship. I think it is several folds and includes: for individuals, celebrate success & goal setting; for the sport, show case the highest level of riding at each level within the sport to enhance image, grow sport... Perhaps having zone championships (or a national championship) every other year and do some fundraising to help with travel expenses associated with longer hauls and times off work...
- Having national organization support (financial and administrative) would help bring shows to new areas
- National championship after regional champ
- You can keep the zone but divide it (north - south)
- Not really on the championship level. I do like the annual awards which makes a nice option for those that cannot travel to attend a big year and show.
- No.
- If going to Regionals, would need national championship as well... which I think is already in place
- not at this time.
- I like regional championships. My suggestion is to then award zonal champions by points followed by national champions in each level based on highest points of three zones. This would still allow for zonal recognition.
- Switch National Championships every year on the two coasts but it should at least be three-year qualification. Or qualifying needs to be different.
- State championships?
- No but you're doing a great job dealing with growing pain issues like this.
- I think scores earned in another region should go toward your total score in your zone. Example: You live at the very edge of your region. To go to a competition within your region might be a 6-hour drive. The region next to you is having a competition that is only an hour away. I am more likely to go to the closer competition and say never mind about my standings within my own region.
- Regional and national championships are the norm and give competitors opportunities to participate in at least one level
Of championship within the region. National championships could have alternating locations to reduce any geographic area from shouldering the ongoing expense of significant travel.
- Having regional shows plus a national championship that rotates through the regions could be an interesting idea.
- Could it be regional championships are held, and then winners from that go onto their specific zone show or is that asking too much of volunteers, staff, etc.? Again, just an idea, I am SO new to WE I am not sure my voice matters just yet!
- I don't really have input on this one.
- See answer above.

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- No
- Regional.... that would feed into one centrally located national show.
- So, Ca & Nor Ca would be helpful for Ca. Maybe a state specific structure?
- I really enjoyed the national championship. I would recommend considering regional AND national championships.
- No
- I think State finals would be fun and productive
- Ushja has zone championships where you must qualify to be apart if your zones team. As an example, zone 7 and 8 compete against each other, the zones are split into teams as well as individual. This format may be a fun way to add some depth and a goal to work towards.
- Not currently
- I think if regionals are offered in conjunction with zones or separate from zones, they need to be structured in a consistent way (what will be the vetting process, can regions combine etc.). Zones should be offered still - Again, to represent a greater number of competitors geographically. I also think we have only had two Zones so far and it is jumping the gun to call them a failure. Feedback from those committees were positive overall but it's clear more support is desired by the committees from the organization.
I think when it comes to consideration of National shows, points and awards, the qualifications should be assessed as it relates to zone and regional shows. With the minimal requirements, it is possible to be a national champion of a level without even leaving the county you reside in. I don't think the answer for this is easy but if we want to grow and have these titles hold more value to them, we have to consider how our regional, zone and national shows/awards connect.
- I'm very happy with the zone championships.
- It is hard to offer suggestions. I know cost and time are two issues I face going out of the area, and there isn't much that can be done about that.
- No
- I appreciate that both options offer more localized events than a national championship in one location would. Hopefully someday we'll have a well-attended national championship!
- Maybe instead of 3 shows make it two...eastern and western.
- Don't do it. The Regional Champion isn't determined by the Regional Championship show, which is actually better, but it begs the question as to the purpose of the Championship show. Make it a Regional Gathering. Maybe a chance to try something new - a chance to try moving up, for example - as a test of "next season." Maybe with non-riding seminars with the judge that competitors could attend. One year, Doreen was in the stands narrating rides from a judge's perspective, and taking questions - it was BRILLIANT. I probably learned more there than a year's worth of clinics. If USAWE wants to promote the sport, not just shows, a Regional/Zone show is a great opportunity. But don't call it a Championship.
- I think as we move towards nationals a next step of going from zones to having an East and west championship dividing the country in 2 for a couple years. Then go to nationals.
- No
- If we have more shows in the southeast- more regions- but we don't- stay the course- it's working! Show numbers are increasing. Board- keep supporting incentives to get people to show for now! Show fees are expensive. They will decrease as numbers of entries increase.
- I would have to have the statistics of current riders, shows and logistics to come up with a divided map for Zones.
- USAWE CHAMPIONSHIP to bring the top teams together to compete
- Well, in an ideal world, offer both: regionals and national champs but for distance reasons national champs could be 2 zones? If can't do both then the 3-zone idea. Just regionals don't seem national

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enough or competitive enough. Chances are good most shows in your region you are competing against the same competitors anyway.

- Zones for now and then move to regionals and one national championship as the sport grows. The national show needs to move from region to region or zone to zone.
- I like the idea of zone championships (all levels) with the potential for a national championship in the future that only has the upper levels.
- Divide in 1/2, not 3rds
- National roving championship or centrally located national championship
- Once the association grows, do regional championships and maybe the top 5 placings at each level from regionals get invited to compete at a national or zone champ show
- Multiple zones, i.e., northeast, southeast etc.
- With USEA, Eventing, we struggle to qualify because the east coast has so many more shows with the how close the states are than the west coast. Pretty sure the west coast has the most activity now but that will change.
- This is a tough one. Unfortunately, I do not know enough about the needs of the other competitors to be able to help here. Perhaps keep the Regional Championships and do 1 annual National Championships that travel through the country. Giving everyone an opportunity to show at least once or twice at a national level. But that becomes tricky too.
- Yes. I like the zones and see value in bringing a larger group together than the same regional folks. however, 3 is too few. I also feel you should be able to compete in any zone championship you want to. It may be that another zone is closer than your own.
- As we are only now embarking in our second year of trying the Zone concept, I believe we need to give this at least another season (2024) before deciding if this is a solid approach.

Please feel free to further explain any of your above answers

- Around \$600 per show is already a little bit pricey, so bigger prizes may help competitors feel that they're getting more out of traveling for competition. Of course, that's a more material aspect to why we do what we do, but it helps a little more than bragging rights;)
- I am in CA- I could not tell from the color key
- Many people camp at shows, so having camper hookups at a championship show is a plus.
- I have a farm, family, limited time off. Prefer to use it wisely!
- I like Regional and National titles, similar to USDF and other Olympic sports
- I would love to participate in shows, not necessarily championship and the travel is limiting with my job.
- Closer location has a lot of influence- less time
Away from running my business.
- A fair competition - if the judge is meeting or teaching people, everyone should be able to attend. I don't consider it safe (my opinion) to drive horses more than 8 hours in one day, so that is my showing distance. I need a hotel room within 10 miles of the show grounds. Because you don't give people ride times for obstacle rounds, I need someplace to wait with a horse for my turn that isn't in direct sunlight. A place to warm up that isn't also a parking lot without footing. Hot water for bathing. A way to hear announcements in the stabling area. Night checks of horses, especially where people can't stay on the showgrounds. A place to buy coffee and water on the showgrounds. Reasonable stabling and entry fees. Stabling without horses breathing dust and films of dust forming on water in buckets (one place had dusty sand aisles and stall floors - my horse coughed for days afterward). It would be nice if the same hospitality could be offered to competitors that is typically offered to show officials. Vet and farrier care should be available. WE is a sport and should be fun; help people comply with rules whenever possible rather than censoring them after they've made mistakes. Friendly, helpful officials.

Regional vs Zone Championships

Membership Survey conducted June 1-30, 2023

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- Travel, time and money are the biggest deterrents from riders I hear from; Really all of the above determines if it is worth my time talents or money to attend.
- I am self-employed so need to leave my business and take time off and need to get help for my other animals. Also, the actual showing / riding time is small compared to time spent traveling and down time at show. Possibly make show shorter.
- I think a regional championship qualifying for a national championship would be good.
- I would assume any venue big enough to hold a championship show would be great so really cost and travel distance come out on top for attending a champ show
- I would also add climate change.
- For me personally, it really comes down to travel. I am currently not in a position to travel far with my horse. I realize that lots of people have no issue traveling, and I am not sure if I am in the minority.
- Travel distance and time are most critical
- I was qualified to attend Zone championships in 2022, but couldn't take that much time off work.
- Cost is a big factor. Shows in my Region are affordable. I wouldn't want to pay a lot more in entry fees since I would be increasing my hauling fees & travel costs. In Regional vs Zone, I prefer not hauling more than 8 -10 hours which leads me to prefer Regional.
- Footing is important and safety for my horses plus overall travel distance and pricing
- Travel distance is the number one consideration because I have to allow for overnight lodging for both me and my animals plus adequate recovery time before competition to travel safely. Not only the cost of this additional lodging, plus the mileage, but the additional time required to travel longer distances is the key factor for me.
- Tough economic times for many of us.
- My biggest concern is traveling a long-distance driving by myself. I have gone to shows and barns much further outside my area (i.e., TX & VA), but it was always with someone else to assist with the driving and deal with truck or trailer issues if they should occur. The sport in my area is still so small hard to find anyone to haul with.
- deciding to attend a show includes all of the above. Having useful prizes vs ribbons is a better reward to me personally. All things need to come together in balance to make it workable for me to attend a show. Distance is always a large concern/consideration.
- It is extremely difficult to travel with horses' long distance. I know several friends who worked very hard to qualify, and earned their place, including myself, but were unable to make the trip due to distance and bad weather. Also, this year's Championship will be even farther away from myself and most of the people I competed with.
- The closest venue we have is about 2 hours away so distance is a big factor for me. If we were to have a Zonal Championship in Florida, it would take 12+ hours to get there and we're in MD, not to mention those further north. I don't mind some travel but it's difficult to travel more than 6 hours to go to a show at this point. Distance is the biggest factor for me.
- Fortunately, I am retired, but time off work would impact many riders.
- Na
- Judges are also a consideration
- Shows going over 2 days are difficult for everyone but for a regional show is appropriate especially if offering a cattle phase.
- Montana is a long drive for me. Especially for 1 show.
- All three of my answers relate to one another. The further away a show is, the more expensive it is for me to travel due to a combination of child/property care while I'm gone and lost time at work. So, I become much more sensitive to entry fee cost when a show is further away because my budget for travel cost is already so much higher.

Regional vs Zone Championships

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- Last year's championship was a 10-hour drive one way. Not going to happen.
- It's all about cost/distance as far as attending/participating.
- I will travel to the closest venue despite what region/zone I am officially in
- I always consider distance travel as to wear and tear on my horse, not a fan of distance travel
- I personally don't want to haul my horse 12 hrs. to compete when the stress of hauling could adversely affect him (and me)! It may sound crazy, but I am involved in USAWE for the challenge, fun and friendships. Long hauls are out of my comfort level. Thank you!
- I am considering going but even after my Qualifying scores from Western Zone, I not qualified. Shows are Getting harder to find close by. This is a huge deterrent. I want to go but can't take 2 weeks off to qualify and another 2 weeks to show Championships. I have until this year a ton of qualifying scores.
- All items but I'm retired. 😊
- Travel distances and show facility are the main drivers for my decisions to attend a show or not. After which fees and my work schedule come into play. Prizes are the least of my personal priorities.
- I feel keeping shows affordable is beneficial for everyone involved on both sides of a show. More competitors perhaps will participate and the WE will have more growth as a result.
- I am a retiree without a LQ. Accommodations would be key for me to travel. Travel distance comes in second place.
- Ease of getting in and out with a large rig and livestock accommodations.
- 800 miles or 2days of travel is the most I want to travel. It is important that the show grounds have good footing and stabling.
- The prizes are extremely lacking in both ribbons and rewards. If you win a class, you get the left overs of the big ribbons for other associations. And most associations have cups or little keepsakes for winning this makes it funner for the younger competitors.
- I think show entry fees are pretty consistent across the board. I genuinely don't mind paying more for a great location that affords comfortable accommodations. I don't have a living quarters trailer and I'm not great at camping anyway, so someplace that offers good hotels or offers the ability to rent a travel trailer that is delivered and hooked up for me is a big plus.
- I honestly don't really understand the POINT of having a Regional/Zone championship. OK, you have to qualify, but frankly the bar seems kinda low. And then ... what? If you are Champion at the Regional show, you're not the Region Champion in the standings. And Zone doesn't mean much because the Zones don't exist for any other purpose than this show. In reality, you're still competing against the same people, maybe a few extra in the Zone structure. Other than qualifying scores and a fancy name people can get excited about, what's the big deal?
- Incentives- discounts in stabling #1 as it often more than show fees
- For me traveling to a show that is more than 10 hours away is considered a two-day drive. That will incur motel, food, fuel and time.
Championship Show fees for a competitive horse isn't as hard to pay as is for a horse and/or rider who is in it for the fun and wanting to go to a bigger show.
Show facilities as long as they are clean, have enough arenas, good stalls and safe for the competitors is what I am looking for. We, as horse show people, have shown at fairgrounds, horse complexes and multimillion dollar farms.
- Judges
- Too many events are held in the middle of nowhere with inadequate or expensive stabling and VERY little availability of accommodations
- Prices and money mean a lot, we should do better in this department with sponsorship and donations

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- Distance is the biggest factor
- To me the cheapest part of a show are the entry fees. If I show locally and get to go home right after the show, great! But most of the time I am hauling the horse and have to stay at a hotel. There is gas, lodging, meals, and any other expense I must add to my entry fees. I actually think the entry fees for this sport are low. It boggles my mind when I see how the organizers manage to come up with the awards. I do not know how the organizers make any money with these competitions. Kudos to them!
- Travel time and time off work are the big problems. They equate to loss of income.

Please provide any further thoughts around Regional qualifying scores if you wish

- If you do away with qualifying scores you will remove the quality and incentive to grow the championship program.
- If you earn scores in one region and compete in another less dense region it could cause some issues.
- Any rated show should give a qualifying score toward your region qualification
- I think if you are showing in your region - you should not to have qualifying scores. What if a person is just moving up a level; they work hard, they do their best but may not have received a qualifying score by the date needed - that does not mean they are not qualified to show at that level. They work harder and are even more prepared by the show and do great!
- I believe you should be able to earn your qualifying score in any Region.
- It doesn't really make sense to earn qualifying scores from anywhere and then travel long distances to a regional championship.
- If we go to a Regional Championship format, I strongly believe that if a rider/horse pair received the qualifying scores, they could attend any Regional Championship. Please don't make qualifying in a region a prerequisite for attending that Region Championship. I think that we want to promote this sport and allow as many qualified riders to attend Championship shows as possible.
- A qualifying score is a qualifying score. Where you show at regionals is defined by where you live.
- Nationals should also have a qualifying score based on scores at Regional and local shows.
- O would want as many as possible to attend any championship
- Have to have opportunities to earn those scores first.
- I think qualifying scores in any region should be acceptable
- Just like the zones there need to be rider qualifying scores.
- As the sport grows, it's helpful to keep a regional option locked to just those that show in the area. That way people that aren't looking to attend zone or international competition have a level to compete in that's their 'top level' of the sport.
- A qualifying score should count for any region. At some point in life, I may've more time to travel and may want to use the flexibility in points / qualification to attend a championship in another region.
- If a rider has the time and inclination to compete in the region "next door" I think they should be able to. But, to have a qualifying score for that region, they should have competed in that region.
- A regional show should be for people who show in that region. People could live in one region and show/qualify in another region - in that event, they should go to the regional show in the region where they qualified.
- Regional shows should be open to all who wish to participate to increase participation at the show.
- At least one qualifier score to help promote attendance at local shows. 60% average dressage/EOH no Speed DQ; To support local shows the qualifying scores help.
- if it's a regional championship then you should have participated in the region.
- I understand the rationale behind this rule. However, if the regional show for the adjacent region was closer to where I reside than the regional show for my region, I think most prospective competitors in that

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situation would opt to go to the closer show. You might see greater turnout at better-run shows or shows that have a more central or desirable location, as well, and you could reward/encourage/market this show more.

- I think there could be some basis for at least the majority of qualifying scores to be in the region. For example, if 3 scores were required then at least 2 would have to come from the region holding the show.
- I'd like to see at least one set of scores required to be earned in that person's region.
- depending on where someone lives it might be hard to qualify within your region so no reason to limit the opportunity to compete in a regional championship.
- In our area there are not very many shows
- Scores should count no matter where they are earned - people may move, etc.
- No shows in our area this year due to cost of putting on a show
- I disagree with them having to be earned in that region, because the Regional Championships in an adjacent Region might be closer than the one for your own region, so allow people to pick the Regional Championship they want to compete in.
- The downside of this is as the sport is growing and doesn't have enough people, you might just wanna open it up to be sure there are enough entries to cover the cost. But I think, overall, having qualifying scores aligns with other disciplines, in order to attend championships.
- None
- I completely agree with having to make qualifying scores in order to show in championship shows. APHA went to a structure that didn't include this and it pulled the quality of riders way down.
- Since all judges are USAWE approved, I think any USAWE rated show should count - regardless of the Region. I think most people will probably get qualifying scores within their Region so I don't see this a big factor. Perhaps limit people to choosing attendance in one Region's Championship per year.
- I would like to be able to support different shows and venues so would like my scores to help qualify no matter where they are done as the judging should be the same across the board
- But a rider can travel to other regions to qualify for that location.
- Scores should be comparable no matter what region (or zone).
- Because a person might live close enough to a regional line that they are able to compete in shows at both sides of the line. Don't think it is helpful to the growth of the sport to discourage people from competing. We need to support our local shows if we are going to grow. It's just a fact that some people live close to state lines or region lines and they could compete on both sides. This is especially significant on the East Coast. I don't see why a person's scores should matter where they were earned as long as they were qualifying scores. They are competing in a competition against the other riders at that competition for the new placing, regardless of where they earn their former qualifying scores, so I don't see it as a relevant factor.
- Because the sport is still small maybe qualifying scores for a Regional show could be earned in a pre-show held a day or two before the Regional championship.
- having qualifying scores helps with goal setting and provides a benchmark for a team.
- I think to have 2 qualifying scores is fair. We don't have enough shows at this point to ask for more than that. Once more shows are offered then the discussion of requiring more could be had.
- Na
- I feel like the sport is too young to have those restrictions. I think you should be able to qualify anywhere and it counts.
- I firmly believe you should qualify in the region you compete in/live and ONLY are allowed to compete in one regional championship.
- I think if you qualify in any zone, you should be able to compete in the show closest home.

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- Unfortunately our region offers very few shows. I believe that all qualifying scores should count.
- I think qualifying scores make sense in an established sport that has a healthy number of participants who are all eager to do whatever they need to do in order to complete their year with a championship show. In the AQHA world for example, requiring that people qualify benefits state level show organizers because participants are determined to attend more events in order to ensure they get their qualifying points.

But I think at this time WE is still new enough that putting a barrier like this between a potential participant and the show doesn't serve the growth of the sport or the viability of the championship show and its bottom line.

- Qualifying scores should be apply to any regional show. There will be many cases where, for example, a region 1 championship might be closer for a region 2 member.
- I think participants should qualify but I think that can happen at any USAWE show since the standards are the same.
- I think that qualifying scores should be set at the national level (which they are) and then if you qualify for a championship, you should be able to select the one that works best for you. For example, if you live in North Dakota, it may be closer to go to Montana for championships than Kansas. Or you might move from New York to Washington in August and thus not be able to do the regional championship for NY but could for WA...
- See above. I am located in eastern Ohio (region 5/central zone) It is closer, easier, cheaper for me to travel to some region 6 and Eastern Zone venues.
- You should be able to use any of your scores.
- While this aspect doesn't really apply to me. I have seen it in other horse sports. A person may be located on the border of a region and they end up showing more in the other region because that is where the competitions are for them. However, they may then have qualified and be happy to go to their own regional competition even though it may be more of a drive. when we're looking to increase participation in a regional championship, putting something like this in place seems an artificial division. Let it just be on residence of the competitor and not where they earned their scores.
- strongly agree that qualifying scores are required. Otherwise, it just makes it a regular show.
- Scores within your region Will support the region itself.
- Should be more than 2
Years to get qualifying scores.
- A qualifying score from ANYWHERE should be required.
- I agree with the scoring aspect because I feel it is an incentive to push yourself and equine to perform at a higher level than you would normally just ride. The anticipation of seeing your scores is exciting and having the positive feedback from the judges is very rewarding.
- As long as the scores were obtained, it shouldn't matter where. People should be able to attend the closest championship, even if it's not their region.
- I think requiring qualifying scores is ok if the judging were more standard.
- I think qualifying scores, keep the competition at a higher level and give people a reason to attend their local shows. I think it's imperative that we keep this most of the championship shows offer an open show at the same time as well, so I don't think it necessarily excludes anyone.
- I feel that the judges have become more stringent since we became part of WAVE. Which is going to suck the fun out of the sport, for those of us that never plan to compete internationally.
- If we return to regionals, I think you should be able to qualify in any region. That way, if you live in a less active region that cannot put a regional championship, you could show locally to qualify and then travel to an adjacent region's championship show.

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- I suggest Region plus bordering regions. For those of us on the edge of a region, a different region's shows may be hours closer.
- I think for those living on the edge of a region would be penalized and force to travel farther for in region scores. At least for a time letting any qualifying score count would be good for these riders.
- Go to any region or zone- who cares
- For as small as the USAWE is, qualifying for a Championship show seems unnecessary. At the moment, I think anyone who would like to show and willing to spend the money should be able to show in a Championship show. Maybe in the future qualifying would be appropriate.
- Sometimes hard to find enough shows in region 7
- At least 2 different judges
- It can be hard to qualify when you span two regions
- If anyone can go it doesn't mean much to me, just another show
- Allowing Regions to cross over defeats the purpose of a Regional. This is why there is a national ranking. If regions are allowed to cross over-to what purpose?
Why not use the model USDF uses. You could declare for a different region. Our AZ riders can earn scores in CA for regionals, but if they want to ride in the Regionals in AZ, they must first declare it. The same for CA riders. Both states are in different regions.
- It limits the playing field and keeps the "pond" small.

Please provide any further thoughts around Zone qualifying scores criteria if you wish

- I think qualifying scores should apply to the championship area (zone or region) they are in.
- I feel like a qualifying score needs to be earned no matter what the region, however I also feel that at least one show show up be attended in the region for the championship to further support that region longer term.
- Qualifying cores should be earned inside that Zone
- So long as the scores are earned within the zone then I don't see an issue.
- I believe if you qualify in your zone - you should have to show in your zone/region championship show.
- Again, I feel you should be able to earn the qualifying score anywhere. It's unlikely to happen, but should be allowed.
- Zones should exist only until a National event can be supported. The route should be...qualify for Regionals where you qualify for Nationals where top riders in different divisions compete. And a separate International Team selection event occurs.
- Zones are so much broader than a region. It may be that a neighboring zone championship is closer than the championship of the zone in which you reside.
- Sometimes the Championship show in another region is closer to me than a championship show in my region. I think we want people to experience the Championship show and should be able to attend any Championship show(s). With the cost of competing going up, anything we can do to help riders attend should be considered.
- I think the qualifying scores should be earned in the regions that make up that zone
- The organization is too small to be putting up hard limiters on member trying to reach a zone show. The cost for shows is growing due to external costs increasing such as facility charges, fuel, accommodation, etc., to continue encouraging growth of new members and lower-level riders there needs to be flexibility on where scores are earned.
- none

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- Because the zones are grouped up regions, it's beneficial for everyone to have the option. Also, some zone shows may be closer to home base than others and helps keep costs down for competitors and maybe have greater turnout for shows.
- A zone championship should only include people who show/qualify in that zone.
- Zone scores should be earned from the zone competing to encourage rides at local shows
- Perhaps you live close to the zone boundary and the competition is close, but you actually are from a different zone why not
- This allows competitors the choice as to which zone championship works best for them. In theory, this would encourage greater turnout and numbers at those shows. But again, you still have the issue of a zone being so huge that, those competitors in the "recessed" corners of the zones are not likely to have easy access to any zone championship and the perpetual feeling that they are being forgotten, ostracized, etc. Allowing the choice of which zone championship, they attend is an excellent remedy, but you still have such large expanses of "zone" that there will be people that are too far away, regardless.
- The next zone over might be the closest travel option for a competitor. The judges are the same pool, so I don't see why not especially given the large distances per zone.
- same as above
- If you have to qualify you need to qualify in the zone or region hosting the championship
- I think this is helpful if somebody is relocating. But I think there should be some guidelines around it. I can't imagine it, but perhaps someone would travel all the way to another region if they thought they could be the winner in a different market place.
- Seems like the zone operates as a large region.
- Scores are scores. If a person has the ability to travel within multiple zones to accumulate scores, then they should all count.
- Same as my Regional answer. Any USAWE score regardless of Zone, but then people can only choose one Zone Championship that year.
- I think riders can travel to any region to qualify -
- Need to support Zone in which horse-rider pair resides
- Again, the sport is only benefited by participation, and I feel the more we can do to encourage participation regardless of where it is happening the better, we will be in the end.
- I can see that if you had a horse in training in a different zone and then brought your horse home to your own zone that you would want to have any score count towards qualification.
- I think you should have earned at least some scores in the zone you are competing in.
- I think we should have qualifying Regional scores, which could then be used to qualify for further broader area Zone Championships.
- For some, you may be located in 1 zone but the Championship show is in another zone that is closer to you. I think it would be a hindrance to require you to compete in your zone of you can go to another that is closer. If you want the fullest participation possible, we need to keep it easy for folks to participate.
- Na
- I live in Montana but the shows in Wyoming are closer for me to attend and it just makes more sense to me financially and logistically.
- You should qualify in the zone you'll be competing for a championship.
- I firmly believe you should qualify in the zone you compete in/live and ONLY are allowed to compete in one zone championship.
- I can think of no reason people should be arbitrarily restricted in any way by where zone boundaries are drawn.
- Qualified score is a qualified score

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- same logic as above but reversed :)
 - See above
 - Pretty much the same justification I gave for the region.
 - See previous answers
 - Much like regional qualifying scores, zone qualifying scores should be accrued within the zone. If the intent is to have a virtual free for all for any qualifying score, what is the point of having any geographically defined boundaries?
 - I agree any Region scoring should qualify you for Zone. If the rider and equine are putting forth the dedication, time, commitment, expenses involved to travel all over to get scores to be able to compete for a Zone championship, that's an additional incentive to reach that goal.
 - Yes, I think again to attract different competitors and keep the numbers up at the zone shows. We saw this a bunch between central and eastern. It provided greater flexibility to competitors when it came to show dates and location.
 - I think that scores should be earned in the region. I like this for a couple of different reasons. Number one is that it encourages people to support their local shows. I think this is incredibly important to keep the shows going. Number two, I think that People who live in regions that neighbor other regions may have an unfair advantage. I see this as a problem with the current US EF system as well. I would prefer that people qualify in their own region.
 - Logistics for competitors. IE travel, accommodations for people and horses.
 - People are more likely to make one big trip to another zone than two or three. If they have to qualify in another zone *and* travel there later for the championship, I think attendance would decrease.
 - There's only 3 regions, so why not? If you're Eastern, and want to take your horse to Western just to get a score, I think you're nuts but acknowledge the effort. And if you're near the border in Central, why get punished for geography?
 - Go to closest zone or region, who cares
 - Why would you be able to qualify at one show and not have to support your own region. Do away with qualifying at the moment.
 - 2 different judges
 - This lets exhibitors choose the best events for themselves and their horses
 - Some regions have short show seasons due to weather, so I think it's fine if people need to travel to get a q-score
 - I think for Zones it is fine as I view the Zones as a "National" championship. If you happen to be in the neighboring state and out of the Zone, but would like to compete as it is in close proximity, there is no reason why not to.
This is how I view the structure of competitions.
Club
State
Regionals
Nationals
International
All club competitions should stay within the clubs
State competition should include all the clubs in that state
Regionals should include all in their region
National should include all in the nation
International should include all in the world
- Thus, allowing riders from another Zone to compete is completely acceptable.
- score requirements should be reevaluated each year as the members continue to improve

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Are there any other aspects, questions or suggestions you'd like to make to the Board of Directors regarding our championship show structure?

- If you stick with zones, I would suggest that Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan should be in the Eastern zone, rather than central.
- I'd like to see more reasonable expectations, for those interested and capable of hosting a championship show.
- I'm so new to this I don't feel there is much else I can add.
- No other comments but thanks for considering our input!
- not at this time.
- Regionals -> zones or east/west USA -> national show.
- I've noticed some extraordinarily high scores in regions that don't have a lot of competitors, which allows them a higher standing on year-end awards, while in a region with many competitors and many shows the scores seem lower. That isn't fair. Please try to get that balanced out.
- We need to get judges trained and local shows up and running.
- If it is decided to keep the zone shows there needs to be some changes. *Riders must commit to ride in their own zone show to support their zone. * Riders may ride in more than one zone as long as their own zone is included. * If these are truly championship shows then USAWE needs to be more involved. USAWE must put on the show and hire a show manager, secretary etc.* all proceeds (after paying the workers) will go back to USAWE

Regional shows would not necessarily but may be smaller. USAWE should help money wise but the rest is up to the region putting on the show. * More than one region could put on a show together to help the etc. regions with lower numbers. *Every other year or every 2 years we should have a National Championship Show so we really do have a National Champion. Again, USAWE would fund that show and hire people to work the show.

Western dressage and other disciplines have one national championship show every year and they all get the riders. If people are committed and riding for points and championship, they will come

- If the BOD decided to go back to Regional Championship Shows (resulting in Regional Champions), I think it might be confusing to also have a Regional Year End High Point Champion as we have currently. Might be worth considering one or the other.
- Development/availability of WE shows is still really variable among regions so some competitors have more opportunities to qualify. You might have a region that can't sponsor a regional championship show. You probably can't do anything about that. This may change in the future.
- Whatever improves participation. It was very disappointing to have the 2022 Central Zone Championships canceled due to low entry numbers.
- Not now but I'm sure I will as the other ideas come in. Thank you for the survey
Regionals make more sense while we are still growing
- Understand that the suggestions I offer herein are based solely on listening to a lot of people bring forth their questions, concerns, and complaints whenever I TD a show. It will be a long time if/when I qualify, such that this questionnaire and my answers are fairly neutral to me. I just commend the board on reaching out to the membership to get feedback on these issues, no matter what decision you all come to. I hope you get lots of feedback that helps you all to be confident on whatever decision you make, and I hope the competitors, membership, show organizers, and the entire organization as a whole, benefits from this exercise. Best of luck! And thank you!

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- I would like to see a scholarship fund set up that people can apply for in order to pay for some National Competition or even regional competition fees or clinics. We need to figure out a way to assist or lowest level riders (Intro & Nov A) since that's the majority of our members. They, in turn will then more likely cheer on and support national team effort.
- thank you for supporting the competitors- even at an intro level, it is so much fun
- I believe in taking away as many barriers to entering as possible, so more riders can compete. It's a hollow victory if you win a Championship, but only 3 riders actually competed.
- I guess my only question is are you planning on these championships annually? I know in some sports when they were first getting started. The championships were every other year. Annually seems to make a lot of sense.
- I know it's hard to find a balance between overall time, costs and participation in this new sport. At this point, it seems that the priority might be placed on what would attract more attention and participation of talented horses and riders. What do the data show in terms of participation and sponsorships between the two structures?
- Regional, Zone, National would be my pick, all three. Maybe we aren't there YET, but we are growing.
- I would like to see Regional, Zone, and National championships in the future. I realized this is completely impractical now, but hope the sport and organization grow enough in the future to provide this sort of step-up system. For now, Regional is the next step.
- I feel strongly that we should be putting more of our time, attention and finances towards developing our sport in the United States rather than at the world level. We are not big enough or self-sustaining enough in the United States to be spending money competing at the world level. This is clearly evident based on how we are not even able to support zone championships in every zone yet (Central zone being canceled last season because of too few participants), and we have yet to be able to pull off a national championship. I feel the board is making big mistakes by putting money toward developing our international participation at this time. We should be helping to subsidize our own championship shows so that there are not show cancellations or difficulties in risking hosting a show until we are big enough and established enough within the United States, having a history of at least two or three national championships before we begin to branch out to international competition at an organizational level. The majority of our participants in the sport are at the lower levels, so doing everything we can to help these members grow will ultimately benefit the sport in the United States best.
- I am old. I remember when horse shows were run by people who were truly interested on a volunteer basis. As times have changed, everyone involved in the running of ordinary shows seem to feel they are owed something for their time. I understand that, but don't necessarily agree. The paid positions at many (rated) shows are mind boggling. This is not directed towards this organization, but at the horse "industry" as a whole. I have always felt that the paid positions should be limited to those shows that are special, so they can be promoted as special, run as special, and can give the competitors a special experience.
- Please make championships accessible!
- I think the zone structure would be much easier travel and would make it more doable for most people. I think it would bring more people in for sure.
- Please see above.
- I think it's important to keep all competitor types (amateur, professional and international team hopefuls) in mind. I know we're trying really hard to become a competitive country for WAVE but if we forget the amateur riders who have built this sport up, we will get the same reputation as other disciplines as being elitist and pricing out the average competitor from being able to show. One amazing thing about this sport is that we claim ANY rider, horse, discipline and age can compete and be successful. I think that really needs to be proven and showcased at the championship shows- let's show other disciplines and WAVE that we value all competitors and we truly believe anyone can be successful.
- I am still troubled by the DQ factor in the ease of handling. Why can't a score deduction be used with maybe a 3 DQ be stopped from riding the entire test. It is overwhelmingly disappointing to get started

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only to hear the whistle and stop your horse mid ride. It feels like a waste of money to stop a ride and get no other feedback from that effort to enter, travel to, and ride a partial test.

- Na
- I would prefer to see only R and S Judges judging regionals and zones.
- It would be nice to have more zone shows in different locations closer to home. So more to choose from not just one location.
- Thank you for all your hard work making WE and USAWE such a rewarding experience for all of us.
- I think we should consider a balance of encouraging participation, encouraging growth of the sport, along with the current (apparent) focus of raising the standards. All of these things are equally important.
- Thanks for asking!
- Please consider a national show after regional
- Thank you for all your dedication to WE
- If our organization is too small to viably function at the regional level at this time, perhaps a national championship with an annually alternating sight should be considered until we have enough growth in membership to support regional and national championships.
- Let's keep growing this amazing sport!
- Just that I appreciate them, the judges, the volunteers, the competitors on being so welcoming! And of course, my pony who FINALLY seems to have found what she likes to do :)
- Have it during the time of the year when people can still travel on good roads to get there. To work so hard during the Region shows and qualify for the championship show and not be able to attend is disappointing. Thank you for all your time, dedication and hard work to make WE such an amazing and fun event!
- I think that the different levels of shows need to have different point values. Coefficients for points. Licensed shows coefficient of 1, state championships and regional championships coefficient of 1.5, Zone Championships 1.75, national championships coefficient of 2. Online shows coefficient of .75
- I think it is great that the children's fees are waived. It would help us attend and make it more affordable.
- No
- Championship shows, whether regional or zone, should be a big deal. The qualifying score percentage is still very attainable, which is a good thing for getting people engaged at this stage in the development of the sport, but if these shows are not a big deal in other ways, they are no different from regular licensed competitions.
- It should be more than a show - especially as a Regional Championship Show doesn't determine the Regional Champion. Add an educational component. Make it the can't-miss WE event, even if you aren't showing!
- What do you define as a CHAMPIONSHIP show OVER a regular attended show? I think it should be broader entries, not the most entries.
- I attended the Haras Championship show a few years ago when it was the Confederation. What a great experience to learn more about Working Equitation, how a Championship show was run, saw 'wow' horses and riders and to be at an exquisite place. I helped with the show and got to see the interworking's. Met lots of very nice people who I am still friends with today.
Then a couple of years after that I also was involved in putting on another, WE Championship show. It was held in McCook, Nebraska, yes, McCook, Nebraska, in the middle of nowhere. It was very well attended, had very nice horses and riders, great prizes, the facilities were top notch but not fancy, great exhibitor parties and LOTS of FUN!!!!!!
Two totally different shows with good results.
I have put on many Working Equitation and Hunter/Jumper shows in the last 30 years. I know how much work it is to accomplish a successful show. I have burned out my family and friends who so generously

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helped me all those years. Show managers very rarely make any money. They/I do it for the love of the sport. If money is made it goes back into repair of obstacles, building new ones, upgrading. So, I do understand the cost of putting on shows but you have to keep the cost of the entry fees reasonable. Or rides won't come. Linda Frazier puts on awesome shows, goes the extra miles, has super help. The USAWE asked her to help them put on a Zone Championship show last year. She did everything they asked and it would have been an awesome show BUT not enough riders to come. Show cancelled. How sad! I don't know the interchallenges of what happened but my guess is the entry fees were too high, stalls, the prizes were too expensive, getting all the important people there too expensive, etc. Maybe having to qualify.... I don't know.

Bottom line, my thoughts are USAWE needs to slow down a bit, work up to the great shows and keep the competitive membership on the front burner. I don't know how the other Zone Championship shows came out on the East and West Coast. I hope fine and their numbers are growing well. I only know that the Central Zone is struggling because I feel we are so spread out, state wise. I believe Texas has a good attendance, Kansas moderate, Illinois I believe is doing well. But that is very spread out. I can't speak for the coasts.

More Zones for the Championship shows, no qualifying and less entry fees would be a good start. Yes, I do think some kind of Regional or Zone Championship is important.

In closing, I think USAWE is a good organization. You have growing pains. Trying to manage the United States is an enormous job. As you all know, YOU WILL NEVER PLEASE EVERYONE!! I will support the organization and help when I can.

Thank you for asking for comments and opinions from the membership.

- Love this sport, do not want to see it turn into who can afford the best outfit or fanciest horse.
- More support from USAWE for zone or regional shows would be really appreciated.
- Make them something really nice, get USAWE to help the show management with donations and sponsorship
- You will have to try things and evolve as the sport does. These polls are great.
- I think the Board is doing an amazing job!
- One day of driving time max
- Once again, I would like to see the Zone area concept have more time before coming under too much scrutiny. 2023 is scheduled and will generate more rider feedback. But by the end of 2024, I believe we should have sufficient and fair data to move forward with a decision.