



## **NaSHA Instructor Quick Guide: Rider Progression Levels**

Rider Progression Levels are designed to support lesson planning, communication, and thoughtful horse development. They are not rankings or requirements.

### **How to Use Levels in Lessons**

- Use levels to identify training priorities, not labels
- Observe patterns over multiple sessions
- Evaluate consistency, not perfection
- Consider the horse's mental and physical response first

### **What Levels Are (and Aren't)**

Levels **are**:

- A shared language
- A planning tool
- A way to make progress visible

Levels are **not**:

- Competition classifications
- Clinic evaluations
- Permanent labels

### **Best Practices**

- Riders may work across adjacent levels
- Movement between levels is fluid
- Regression is part of progress
- Readiness matters more than time

### **The Instructor's Role**

Your role is to:

- Protect the horse
- Provide clear feedback
- Adjust pressure thoughtfully
- Support long-term development

***When in doubt, slow down and return to clarity.***