

2005 Great American/USDF Championship Standards

In consideration of the designation by the United States Dressage Federation as manager of a Regional Dressage Championship, said manager hereby agrees to abide by the USDF Championship Standards as follows:

United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) rules for Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championships (failure to follow USEF rules may result in USEF and USDF penalties). Note: USEF rules GR205, GR706 and GR707 state that USEF Affiliated Associations must honor all Association penalties.

For the remainder of this document USEF/USDF Championship classes will be considered the same as Great American/USDF Championship classes.

- An unmodified, standard-sized arena must be used for USEF/USDF Championship classes.
- The gate must be closed for every USEF /USDF Championship ride.
- Centerlines must be marked and remarked as needed for USEF/USDF Championships competition. (USEF DR126.6.c).
- A grass arena is not permitted for USEF/USDF Championship classes.
- Whips may not be carried in Championship classes, except competitors riding sidesaddle may carry a whip no longer than 43.3 inches (110 cm), including lash, in USEF/USDF Championships.
- Tests must be ridden from memory.
- USEF/USDF Championships classes may not be split.

All requirements listed in the USEF Rule Book, GR1108, GR1509.2, DR127 and DR132. USEF/USDF Qualifying and Championship Classes, must be respected. In particular, the following conditions must be met:

- Competition Managers of USEF Dressage Competitions which hold USEF/USDF Qualifying and/or Championship classes are responsible to USEF for knowing and complying with all USEF rules and USDF guidelines regarding qualifying and/or championship classes.
- A Registered (R) Dressage Technical Delegate is required to officiate at USEF/USDF Championships. Technical Delegates for competitions offering qualifying and/or championship classes must investigate incidents of non-compliance and report violations to USEF.
- Competitions must make a complete report to USEF and USDF including results, membership and entry information, as detailed in USEF DR127.
- USEF and USDF membership and horse recording/registration requirements, as well as USEF Adult Amateur requirements, where applicable, must be provided by the competitor and checked by the Competition Secretary.
- If a rider intends to enter an Adult Amateur Championship, he/she must be an Adult Amateur by USEF definition and must provide proof to USDF and to competition management. (See USEF GR106 and GR808).
- Copies of documents submitted by competitors to verify USEF and USDF membership and horse recording must be available to the Technical Delegate in the show office.
- Having won a USEF/USDF Regional Dressage Championship in 1994 and all years thereafter, the horse/rider combination may no longer compete in USEF/USDF Regional Dressage Championship competition, in that division at that level or a lower

level (Grand Prix excepted). Championship records prior to 1994 will not be considered.

- At no time during a USEF/USDF Dressage Championship may any horse entered in that Championship be ridden by anyone other than the rider entered in the Championship competition on that horse (exception: grooms riding on loose rein). Further, any horse entered in a Championship competition, even entered at two levels, must be ridden by the same rider throughout competition. (NOTE: This means throughout the entire competition, even after a horse has completed its Championship classes).
- A horse may not be entered in more than one USDF Regional Dressage Championship at particular levels in the same calendar year (in other words, cross-entering of divisions across one level is not allowed).
- The rider/horse combination qualifies for the Championship competition. If a new rider wishes to compete with the horse at the Championships, he or she must re-qualify.
- Riders must be U.S. citizens.
- Entries in USEF/USDF Dressage Championship classes are limited to competitors who have met the qualifications, membership, horse recording and registration requirements, and deadlines outlined DR127 and published by USDF. Competitors who are properly qualified, whose completed entries are **received by the Closing Date** for a particular Regional Championship and who have complied with all Championship rules may not be denied entry into the Regional Championship class(es) for which they have qualified. Only one class per division and/or level may be held to determine USEF/USDF Regional Champions.
- In the event of a tie (equality of total points) for Champion and/or Reserve Champion in USEF/USDF Championships classes, the collective marks will determine first, second and/or third places; (i.e. when a tie for first place is broken by collective marks, tied competitors will receive first and second places, etc.) If collective marks are equal, the tie will remain unbroken (i.e. two first places will be awarded next third place, etc.). Ties after second place will be broken per DR123. (Note: Effective for the 2005 Championships, USDF requires that ties (equality of total points and collective marks) occurring in 3rd - 8th place will remain unbroken.
- USEF Junior Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals classes must be offered in all Great American/USDF Regional Championships. In 2005 all junior riders through age 18 **who have qualified at any level for the Regional Championships** (excluding free style) are automatically eligible to compete in the Semi Final Classes of the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Program. Contact the USEF Dressage Department for complete details of this program. One semi-final class will be offered for Juniors ages 13 and under and a second semi-final class for riders 14 through 18 in each Great American/USDF Regional Championship. Protective headgear as described in USEF GR318 will be required for participation in these classes. A Regional Champion and Reserve Champion for each age group will be named in each USDF Region. Classes must be conducted in accordance with (1) USEF DR132, (2) USEF Dressage Seat Medal Guidelines, and (3) conditions outlined in the USDF Regional Championship Manager's Contract. USEF Dressage Seat Medal score sheets **must** be used for these classes.
- Hors de Concours entries are not permitted in USEF/USDF Championship classes.
- In a USEF/USDF Championship class, the horse must obtain 50% or better to be named Champion or Reserve Champion.

- In USEF/USDF Championship classes, a steward must be appointed to check the saddlery and bits of each horse immediately after it has completed its test and has left the arena and any discrepancy to the saddlery rules will entail immediate elimination (USEF DR126.10.)
- All USEF/USDF Regional Championships must have a veterinarian present on the grounds throughout the competition regardless of the number of horses competing. In the year after a competition has hosted a USEF/USDF Regional Championships, a veterinarian will be required to be present only if 200 or more horses competed the year prior to hosting the championships.
- Date applications may not use the name or title of a championship that has not been assigned to that Recognized Competition for the competition year named in the application. A \$25 fee will be charged to any Recognized Competition which applies for a change in its name; however, this fee is waived when a competition changes its name to include the title of a regional or national championship or when the name reverts back to its original name. Using the name or title of a championship that has not been assigned to that Recognized Competition during the same competition year is a violation of USEF rules.
- **Horses must be entered in qualifying and championship classes under their official recorded names and ownership as specified in GR812.4 (USEF Rule Book), and transfers of ownership or lease registrations must be completed in compliance with USEF rules prior to the competition in order for the horse to compete under the name of the new owner or lessee. (USEF DR127.2 – effective 12/1/03)**
- **Affidavits will not be accepted for USEF or USDF membership or horse recording verification purposes for entry in Championship classes (USEF DR127.2 effective 3/1/04)**

USDF Membership/Registration Requirements for Qualifying and Championships

Rider:

- Must be a USDF Participating Member at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.
- Must be a USEF member (Junior, Senior, or Life) at the time the qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.

Horse:

- Must be USDF Lifetime Registered at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships. Horse registration must be in the name(s) of the current owner(s) or lessee(s) of record.
- Must be USEF recorded at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships. Horse recording must be in the name(s) of the current owner(s) or lessee(s) of record.
- Horse does not have to have breed registry papers.

Owner:

- Must be a USDF member (Participating or Business) at the time the qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.
- Must be a USEF member (Junior, Senior, or Life) at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.
- Participating Members are USDF members who join USDF directly

USDF Requirements (Failure to follow USDF requirements may result in USDF penalties).

- If entries warrant, provide a minimum of two arenas, with suitable footing, which are available for Championship classes.
- Proper footing must be provided and maintained in Championship warm-up and competition areas. Warm-up and Competition arenas should be dragged and watered as often as is necessary to maintain good footing (see USEF DR126.9). The schedule for grooming warm-up arenas should be posted.
- Contract a sufficient number of officials and pay all their expenses, as agreed upon in their contracts.
- Two judges (at least one of whom must be an “S” or FEI Dressage judge) **must** officiate in each Championship class. It is recommended that three judges officiate in FEI level Championship classes.
- Saddlery and bits **must** be inspected immediately after each ride, in the manner described in the USEF Rule Book. (DR126.10)
- Two people should be assigned to score each Championship test. It is recommended that the adding machine tape be attached to each test and results must be posted promptly.
- It is recommended that separate warm-up be provided for both Championship and open classes, with footing comparable to the competition arenas.
- Provide a sufficient number of stalls on the competition grounds to stable all of the horses entered in the event. Stabling must be safe and substantial, with adequate lighting (USEF GR1218).
- Provide an adequate source of water near the stable area.
- Provide a convenient source for the purchase of feed and hay.
- Provide sanitary toilet facilities on the grounds (USEF rule).
- Proper communication between secretary, announcer, rings, in-gate, and stabling (USEF rule).
- A suitable PA system must be provided for public announcements, awards ceremonies and freestyles.
- Awards ceremonies must be scheduled for each Championship Class.
- Provide a sufficient number of trained and experienced personnel to manage the event, and to substitute in case of emergency.
- It is recommended that arena fences be made of wood or plastic board (i.e. not chain) where available, especially for FEI Level Championships.
- The rider must enter the Great American/USDF Regional Championships in his/her own region or must declare a change of region to the USDF office by **July 1st** of the Championship year.
- If a rider intends to enter a championship as a Junior/Young Rider, the rider must be a Junior/Young Rider by the current USEF definition, and must submit their birth date to USDF by **July 1st** of the championship year.
- A rider may not compete in more than one Regional Championship in the same calendar year.
- Riders must declare on the championship entry form for each level, if the horse/rider combination is competing in the Open, Adult Amateur or Junior/Young Rider division, and must meet minimum percentage requirements for the championship division entered.

- Cross-entering Open/Adult Amateur divisions is NOT permitted at the same or at adjacent levels except at a level that does not offer an Adult Amateur division.
- Photocopies of the required USDF/USEF memberships and registration certificates MUST accompany Championship entries;
- Qualifying season will vary for each region. The season during which qualifying scores may be earned for a particular Regional Championship is from the closing date of that region's previous year's Championship, to the closing date of that region's current year's Championship. Closing date must be at least four weeks prior to the Championship event.
- All persons who have qualified and entered by the closing date must be allowed to compete in the Championship classes. Competitors obtaining qualifying scores after the official closing date must either enter the championship class(es) before the closing date OR submit a post entry, to compete in the Championship classes, if post entries are allowed in the prize list of the competition.
- Fifty percent of judges hired to officiate in Regional Championship classes must have permanent residence outside the region.
- "R" Dressage Technical Delegates hired to officiate Regional Championship classes **must be selected from outside the region**. This applies only to the primary* competition TD* (*The Primary TD is the person responsible for filing the Technical Delegate report for the competition with USEF).
- Management must offer USEF Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Final classes on Saturday or Sunday of the championships. Championship classes for juniors may only be held on weekends.
- Except for freestyles, championship classes at consecutive levels, for the same divisions, may not be held on the same day. When only an open division of offered, no division of a consecutive level may be offered on the same day. (approved 12/01; effective 1/1/03)
- Ties (equality of total points and collective marks) occurring in 3rd - 8th place will remain unbroken (approved 12/03; effective 1/1/05) (if scores are equal in total points and collective marks, competitors should remain tied for all placings in all Regional Championship classes)

USDF Requirements regarding organizer responsibility to USDF and Sponsor
(failure to follow these USDF requirements may result in USDF penalties).

- A host GMO officer, or CEO of Competition Management, and the show manager must sign an agreement with USDF which includes the Organizer's agreement to abide by USEF and USDF rules and regulations, and releases USDF from liability, financial and otherwise, during or in connection with the event.
- Specify in the program where and when Awards Presentations are scheduled. If the posted awards schedule is changed, all affected competitors must be notified. If possible, one or two Awards Presentations should take place each day. Every Great American/USDF Regional Championship class must have an awards presentation. These can be combined into one or more ceremonies. Riders placing in Great American/USDF Regional Championship classes must be present, mounted and in full riding attire for award ceremonies. (Competitors may decline to participate in the victory round) Failure, without prior permission of the competition manager, to be present and properly attired will eliminate the official score and placing and the next highest score will move up in placing.

- A Title Sponsor (Great American Insurance Group) representative, if available, should be invited to participate in each ceremony. A professional photographer should be retained, at the expense of the show management, to photograph the ceremony and the winners. The photos of the awards ceremony should include the sponsors (Great American agents or executives) presenting the awards to the winners with the Great American banner featured in the background.
- Organizer must publish USEF, USDF and Sponsor information in the Prize List and Official Show Program, as detailed in the USDF **Manager's** Contract.
- At Organizer's expense, provide at least two (2) awards photos to USDF and to the Sponsor.
- Display USDF and Sponsor banners in a prominent location, appropriate for photos.
- Display USDF and Sponsor provided materials.
- Return USDF and Sponsor awards, banners, etc., as detailed in the USDF Organizer Contract.
- Post the USEF statement of principle and USDF statement on animal welfare.
- Submit one copy of the preliminary prize list to USDF for review at least 10 days before the printing date. March 1, 2004 is the deadline for submission of the final corrected Official Prize List to the USDF office for inclusion in the master omnibus
- Obtain liability insurance with USDF named as additionally insured and provide a copy to the USDF office.
- Obtain a signed USDF hold harmless waiver for each entry.
- Send complete show results to USDF.
- An application to USEF for a change in date and/or location, organizer, manager or secretary without prior written approval of USDF and the Regional Director is prohibited.
- Both Manager and Competition Secretary must be USEF Senior Members and Primary Contact must be USDF Participating or Group Member at time of application and championships.

USDF Responsibilities to Competitors and Organizers:

- USDF will publicize each region's Championship with news releases and promotional articles, and will list each Championship in the USDF Directory, USDF *Connection* and USDF website.
- USDF will maintain a database of qualified horse/rider combinations. A list of qualified horse/rider combinations will be sent to each region's designated Championship contact person to verify eligibility. An unofficial list of qualified horse/rider combinations will be posted for each level and division on the USDF website.
- Invitations will automatically be issued by USDF to all horse/rider combinations that qualify for and compete in the USEF High Performance Grand Prix and Intermediate I Championships in the year of the Championships and all U.S. horse/rider combinations that place in the top twelve individual riders at the NAYRC in the year of the Championships.
- On behalf of Great American Insurance Group, USDF will provide Competition Management with:
 - a. \$1,500 to the organizer of each Championship
 - b. The first place prizes for all champions.
 - c. Championship ribbons for each level and each division to eighth place.

- USDF will publish complete results for each Championship in *USDF Connection* and on the website, and will issue a press release with a summary of the competition and the results.
- Prize Money for Great American/USDF Regional Championships will be paid (directly by the USDF office to the recorded horse owner) within 30 days of the last day of each Championship. The amount of prize money to be awarded to each Champion and Reserve Champion in all levels and divisions (Open, AA and Jr/YR) will be announced by February 1st of the championships year.
- Commemorative certificates will be mailed to each rider who qualifies for the Regional Championships and special pins will be provided for all riders who participate in a Regional Championships class.
- USDF will send a staff representative to each Championship. The USDF Representative can and should advise Management on Regional Championship requirements and report on infractions. However, enforcement of championship requirements is solely within the role and obligations of Competition Management. The USDF Representative will also be available to provide information about USDF and its' programs and policies and should be invited to participate in all championship awards ceremonies.

Possible Sanctions for failure to follow USDF Championship Standards

- Withholding all or part of grant money.
- Ineligibility of organizer to host future USDF Championships.
- USEF penalties for rule violations.