



# UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

**USDF**

## Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championships Required Rules for Prize List

### A. MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFYING AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Rider:

*All memberships and registrations/recordings must be correct and current at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.*

#### Rider:

- Must have a USDF Participating\* Membership (PM).
- Must have a USEF membership (Active or Life).

#### Horse:

- Must have a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR).
- Must have a USEF (Annual or Lifetime) Horse Recording.
- USDF horse registration and USEF horse recording must be in the name(s) of the current owner(s) or lessee(s).
- A horse is not required to have breed registry papers.
- Horses must be entered in qualifying and championship classes under their official recorded names and ownership as specified in USEF GR1102.3, and transfers of ownership or lease registrations must be completed in compliance with USEF rules GR1105 and GR1108 prior to the competition in order for the horse to compete under the name of the new owner or lessee. (USEF DR127.2)

#### Owner:

- Must have a USDF Participating or Business Membership and a USEF membership (Active or Life Membership or Annual or Life Recorded Farm/Business). If the horse has more than one owner, at least one owner must have both active USEF membership and active USDF Participating or Business Membership and must be the owner of record with USEF and USDF. For a business or farm to be the valid owner under this requirement, it must be listed as an owner of the horse with both USEF and USDF.

- \* PMs are USDF members who join USDF directly. USDF Group Members (GM) are ineligible.

### B. QUALIFYING CLASS AND CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY

1. Having won a USEF/USDF Regional Championships three times (in any region over their lifetime), a horse/rider combination may no longer compete in USEF/USDF Regional Championship competition at that or a lower level (Grand Prix excepted), if they received the minimum qualifying score or higher for that division and level in the championship test per USEF DR127.5.
2. A horse may not be entered in more than one USEF/USDF Regional Championship at a particular level in the same calendar year.
3. USDF will presume qualified horse/rider combinations will compete in the region in which the rider resides as determined by the address associated with the rider's membership information on file as of July 1. Riders are NOT required to be a resident of the region to compete in that region's championship. Riders who wish to compete at Regional Championships in a region other than their region of residence, must submit a Change of Region Form. This form must be submitted with a \$40 fee prior to July 1. Change of Region Forms may be accepted from July 2 up to August 1, with a

fee of \$100; from August 2, up to the closing date of the championship region the rider is declaring for, with a fee of \$300.

**No changes of region may be made after the closing date of the region in which a rider wishes to enter, for any reason.** In

addition, all persons living outside of the United States, who intend to compete in a Regional Championship, must submit a Change of Region form and applicable fee to USDF to declare a region.

4. A rider may not compete in more than one Regional Championship competition in the same calendar year.
5. In the event a competitor is unable to produce copies of the USDF membership or lifetime horse registration documents required to enter a qualifying class, a USDF competition affidavit with appropriate fee may be completed and filed with the competition secretary. The affidavit and appropriate fee must be submitted to USDF by the competition secretary. Copies of the required memberships and registrations MUST be included with the championship entry. Affidavits will not be accepted for USEF or USDF membership or horse recording verification purposes for entry in championship classes.
6. Horses must be entered in qualifying and championship classes under their official recorded names and ownership as specified in USEF GR1102.3, and transfers of ownership or lease registrations must be completed in compliance with USEF rules GR1105 and GR1108 prior to the competition in order for the horse to compete under the name of the new owner or lessee. (USEF DR127.2)

### E. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. All Regional Championship competitions are considered Level 4. Please refer to USEF Dressage Level Requirements for specifics.
2. Each entry must designate the division being entered (open, adult amateur or junior/young rider) and must meet minimum percentage requirements for the championship division entered.
3. Cross entering open and junior/young rider divisions or open and adult amateur divisions for a horse/rider combination is permitted at adjacent levels. It is not permitted at the same level. Exception: freestyle or equivalent FEI Junior or FEI Young Rider levels.
4. If a rider intends to enter a Regional Championship as an adult amateur, the rider must be an adult by the current USEF definition (DR 119.3) and a current amateur by the USEF definition. (USEF GR1306, 1307)
5. 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 her/his birth date must be on file with USDF by July 1 of the championship year.
6. Verification of USDF/USEF membership cards and horse recording and registration certificates must accompany championship entry (USDF PM for rider, USDF PM or BM for owner, etc.)
7. Under penalty of elimination, whips may not be carried in championship tests (Exception: Competitors riding sidesaddle may carry a whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, in USEF/USDF Championships.) An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider.
8. Under penalty of elimination, all championship tests must be ridden from memory. (USEF DR122.1)

9. The gate at "A" may be left open for every USEF/USDF championship ride. Decisions to either close the gate or leave it open must be consistent for all championship classes. Each Regional Championship competition management must publish in its official prize list if the gate will be closed in championship classes. (USEF DR126.2.f.5)
10. Under penalty of disqualification from all championship classes for the horse/rider combination, within 24 hours prior and at no time during a USEF/USDF Regional Championship competition may any horse entered in that Championship competition 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. (USEF DR127.6) (NOTE: This applies throughout the entire competition, even after a horse has completed its championship classes.)
11. In the event of a tie (equality of total points) for champion and/or reserve champion in USEF/USDF championship classes, the collective marks after coefficients have been applied will determine first, second, and/or third or all three 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.). For ties in freestyle classes refer to USEF DR129.5 which states the highest score shall be declared the winner of the class. In the case of a tie, the higher artistic score shall determine the winner. Should the artistic mark be the same, the higher mark for harmony will decide. If still tied the higher mark for choreography will decide. Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) after second place will be broken by collective marks. Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) occurring in third through eight places will remain unbroken. In the case of a tie (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) for champion, prize money designated for champion and reserve champion will be combined and divided equally between the two competitors.
12. Hors de Concours entries are not permitted in USEF/USDF championship classes. (USEF DR119.5)
13. In a USEF/USDF championship class, the horse/rider combination must obtain the necessary minimum percentage score to be named champion or reserve champion. (USEF DR123.7) If the highest placed horse/rider combination receives less than the minimum percentage, no championship awards or prize money will be issued, however an awards ceremony will be held for the entire class. In lieu of a champion and/or reserve neck sash, a first and/or second place ribbon will be awarded.
14. In USEF/USDF championship classes, a steward must be appointed to check the saddlery, bits and spurs, on both sides of each horse immediately after it has completed its test and has left the arena. Any discrepancy to the saddlery rules will result in immediate elimination. (USEF DR126.2.i.6)
15. A Registered (R) Dressage Technical Delegate (TD), who is a current Participating Member of USDF, is required to officiate at USEF/USDF championships. TDs for competitions offering qualifying and/or championship classes must investigate incidents of non-compliance and report violations to USEF. "R" Dressage TDs hired to officiate Regional Championship classes must be selected from outside the region. This applies only to the primary competition TD, who is the person responsible for filing the TD report for the competition with USEF. (See section H.3. c, and USEF GR1018.3 and DR127.3)
16. 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 in USEF 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 classes for which they have qualified. Only one class per division and/or level may be held to determine USEF/USDF regional champions. (USEF DR127.7)
17. USEF/USDF championships classes may not be split. (USEF DR126.2a.4)
18. Championship classes for juniors and young riders must only be held on Friday, Saturday, and/or Sunday. Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals classes must be held on Saturday or Sunday. Juniors and young riders' entries (horse/rider combinations) are limited to entry in only two championship classes, excluding freestyle.
19. Except for freestyles, the FEI Junior Team Test, and FEI Young Rider Team test, championship classes at consecutive levels, for the same division, may not be held on the same day.
20. Ribbons and prizes can be distributed prior to the arrival at the awards ceremony. Award ceremony attendance is not mandatory. Riders should let show management know if they plan not to attend.
21. All horses competing in Regional Championships classes must be stabled on the competition grounds and must remain on the grounds for the duration of their participation in the event, from the time of arrival until the horse has finished competing in all classes. If the horse has been found to have left the grounds, and returned, it would be eliminated from championship classes, but not in non-championship classes. (USEF DR127.8)
22. For USEF/USDF freestyle championship classes, the competitor must provide the show with music for the freestyle. Acceptable formats/methods must be specified in the prize list. Formats must include CDs and/or digital files (MP3 and/or WAV.). Only one freestyle music per CD or digital file. All music must be submitted in the time frame specified in the prize list. Video files (MP4 or .mov) will not be accepted. Digital files must be sent and received electronically or on a thumb drive. Music should not be played via a competitor's cell phone, iPad, or any other personal mobile device. The competitor is required to bring a back-up copy (thumb drive or CD) with them to the competition. See also H.7.
23. The test ridden for national level USEF/USDF championship classes will be the highest test of the level.
24. Great American/USDF Regional Championship competitions will be required to hold USEF/NAYC Junior/Young Rider Qualifying Classes in the non-championship portion of the show. These classes are listed below.
  - FEI Junior Team Test
  - FEI Junior Individual Test
  - FEI Junior Freestyle Test
  - FEI Young Rider Team Test
  - FEI Young Rider Individual Test
  - FEI Young Rider Freestyle Test