



USDF

UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

REVISED 2023 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championship Program Rules



The Regional Championship program rules published herein are effective for the 2023 Regional Championship year, unless otherwise stated. The program rules and qualifying criteria published herein are subject to additions or revisions.

While every effort has been taken to avoid mistakes in this publication, the United States Dressage Federation Inc. assumes no liability to anyone for errors or omissions. USEF rules supersede all other rules when qualifying for this championship program.

USEF rules are subject to change at any time. Changes and corrections subsequent to this publication are published in the USDF Connection and on the USDF website.

Refer to the United States Equestrian Federation's website for official rule changes and the most up-to-date version of their rulebook.

A single Regional Dressage Championship program organized by the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), and licensed by the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF), will be held in each of the nine USDF regions. In addition, Alaska and Hawaii may each hold state championships if an official request from a Group Member Organization (GMO) is received by April 1 of the prior year.

The 2023 Regional Championships will be sponsored by the Great American Insurance Group (Great American), as the title sponsor. The official title of the Regional Championships shall be:

GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE GROUP/ UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION
REGION (#) DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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A Regional Championship is a Level 4 Competition. In each region, USEF/USDF Regional Championship classes must be offered at each level through Grand Prix, in three divisions: open, adult amateur (AA), and junior/young rider (Jr/YR). FEI Junior Team Test and FEI Young Rider Team Test championship classes must also be offered. **Freestyle classes at First, Second, Third, Fourth, Intermediate I, and Grand Prix levels must also be offered in the open/junior/young rider division and adult amateur division.**

The official prize lists for all of the Championships will be available on the USDF website no later than May 1st.

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

A. MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFYING AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

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.

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 \$25 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)

C. QUALIFYING SYSTEM

1. There is currently one qualifying system with nationally-standardized minimum percentages (see Section D for qualifying percentages).
2. Prior to competing in a Great American/USDF qualifying class, a horse/rider combination must be eligible according to the USDF/USEF membership and registration requirements for qualifying.
3. To qualify for a Regional Championship, horse/rider combinations must earn a total of two qualifying scores (each score must be the average of all judges officiating in a designated Great American/USDF qualifying class), at two different USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized Dressage Competitions, from two different judges, or combination of judges. In addition, the same judge may not have officiated in classes from which qualifying scores are earned, unless the following conditions are met: A panel of judges will be considered as a different judging entity if 50 percent or more of that panel is changed (e.g. a panel of two judges must have one new person, a panel of three judges must have two new people and a panel of five judges must have three new people; exception, CDI panels exempt from this requirement. Scores earned where CDI panels officiate are eligible to be used for qualifying if there are no changes to the judging panel in two separate CDI competitions where both scores are earned).
4. To qualify, eligible riders must enter an official Great American/USDF qualifying class at a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized Dressage Competition. The Great American/USDF qualifying class will be the highest or single test of the level and the class must be designated as Great American/USDF qualifying in the prize list.
5. To qualify at freestyle, riders must earn a total of two freestyle qualifying scores at the level at which they wish to qualify, earned in designated Great American/USDF qualifying classes, at two different USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized Dressage Competitions from two different judges or combinations of judges as described in Section C.3. ***All FEI Pony Rider are equivalent to Second Level; all FEI Junior Rider Tests are equivalent to Third Level; all FEI Young Rider Tests are equivalent to Prix St. Georges; and the USEF Brentina Cup (Young Adult) Test and FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Test are equivalent to Intermediate II. For purposes of freestyle qualification, all are considered equivalent to the highest test of that level and may be used to enter a freestyle at that level or a level below. Young Horse and FEI Children Tests cannot be used for freestyle qualification at any level.***

6. Horse/rider combinations may enter more than one qualifying test, and qualifying freestyle, at each level per day as Great American/USDF qualifying. (USEF DR 127.4)
7. Eligible competitors must be given the option to enter the class as “USDF qualifying” for a maximum additional fee of \$15 which must be paid to the show secretary prior to riding in the class.
8. USEF/USDF qualifying and/or championship classes must be designated as such in the prize list and the results. (USEF DR127.4). The \$15 qualifying fee will be sent to USDF from the show secretary along with the Report of Fees. All qualifying rides must be marked as such in the results. Once qualifying fees are received by USDF they will not be refunded to competitors for any reason. All regional championship qualifying fees paid to show management must be submitted to the USDF, including fees from riders that scratched, were eliminated, excused or did not show up for the class. Exceptions: Competition Refund policy must clearly state that these fees will be refunded to the competitor; or fees are reapplied to cover indebtedness to the competition not paid by the competitor.
9. Separate ribbons or trophies are not awarded for Great American/USDF qualifying entries.
10. Any and all eligible horse/rider combinations who achieve the minimum qualifying score in a Great American/USDF qualifying class will receive one qualifying score toward their two score requirement to be eligible to enter a Regional Championship if all other conditions are met.
11. FEI classes at CDI/CDI-Y/CDI-J/CDI-P or USEF High Performance qualifying competitions must be designated as Great American/USDF qualifying in the prize list in order for classes to be counted as qualifying by USDF. Prior to riding in the class, riders must pay the qualifying class fee to the competition secretary.
12. 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 \$25 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.
13. There is no limit on the number of horses on which a rider may qualify.
14. Qualification is based on horse/rider combination. If a new rider wishes to compete with the horse at the championships, she/he must requalify. (USEF DR127.9)
15. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash may be carried in all qualifying classes (including **NAYC**) unless such use is otherwise prohibited by FEI or Federation rules or selection procedures for the classes. (USEF DR120.7) An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider.
16. Tests may be read in qualifying classes except in FEI level classes and freestyle classes.
17. Qualifying seasons vary for each region. The season during which scores may be earned to qualify for a particular Regional Championship starts the day after the closing date of that region’s 2022 championship and ends on the closing date of that region’s 2023 championship. Horse/rider combinations may earn qualifying scores in another region but only at shows within the current qualifying year of the region in which that show is held.
18. The closing date of each Regional Championship will be the fourth Monday prior to the start of the Regional Championship competition. Competitions will count for only one calendar year’s championship. The qualifying year of each competition is based upon the location of where that show is held, not the region the rider wishes to compete in.
19. USDF will maintain a database of qualified horse/rider combinations and will post a provisional list for each level and division on the USDF website. USDF will verify eligibility of championship class entries with the championship’s secretary prior to each championship’s competition. Post entries may be submitted by qualified horse/rider combinations in championship classes if post entries for championship classes are allowed in the prize list of the competition.

D. MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORES

One set of nationally-standardized qualifying scores has been established for all USEF/USDF Regional Championships, for levels through Grand Prix, in three divisions: open, adult amateur and junior/young rider. FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider classes have only one respective division.

The minimum percentages are as follows:

| | OPEN | AA | JR/YR |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|-------|
| Training Level (Test 3) | 68% | 63% | 63% |
| First Level (Test 3) | 66% | 62% | 62% |
| Second Level (Test 3) | 64% | 61% | 61% |
| Third Level (Test 3) | 62% | 60% | 60% |
| Fourth Level (Test 3) | 62% | 60% | 60% |
| FEI Junior (Team Test) | — | — | 60% |
| FEI Young Rider (Team Test) | — | — | 60% |
| Prix St. Georges | 62% | 60% | 60% |
| Intermediate I | 62% | 60% | 60% |
| Intermediate II | 62% | 60% | 60% |
| Grand Prix | 60% | 60% | 60% |

| FREESTYLE | OPEN/Jr/YR | AA |
|----------------|------------|-----|
| First Level | 65% | 65% |
| Second Level | 65% | 65% |
| Third Level | 65% | 65% |
| Fourth Level | 65% | 65% |
| Intermediate I | 65% | 65% |
| Grand Prix | 65% | 65% |

E. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. All Regional Championship competitions are considered Level 4. Please refer to USEF Dressage Level Requirements for specifics. (USEF DR126.4)
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 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. Ties (equality of total points) after second place will be broken by collective marks. Ties (equality of total points and collective marks or artistic scores) occurring in third through eighth places will remain unbroken. In the case of a tie (equality of total points and collective marks or artistic scores) 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 in two formats. One of the formats must be a CD which will play on a CD player (i.e. no rewriteable CDs). Only one freestyle music per CD. Other acceptable formats/methods must be specified in the prize list. All music must be submitted in the time frame specified in the prize list. Formats must include CDs and/or digital files (MP3 and/or WAV). See also H.7.
23. The test ridden for national level USEF/USDF championship classes will be the highest test of the level.