



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

USDF

Show Biz, Chapter 11, Dressage Sport Horse Breeding

Getting Started: The Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) competitions are designed to promote the breeding and development of quality sport horses suitable for dressage, and to provide opportunities to recognize successful breeding programs. In addition, these competitions serve as excellent opportunities for the young dressage horse from in-hand to under saddle divisions. DSHB participation is on the rise and this division can easily be incorporated with a dressage show. If you decide that you would like to host a DSHB competition, either as a stand alone competition or combined with a dressage performance show, the following information will aid you in planning and organizing your competition.

DSHB Competition Application: Similar to the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championship Program, there are USDF Series Finals held for the DSHB shows across the country and any DSHB show can apply to be a qualifier. Therefore, it is recommended that DSHB competitions be offered as USDF Breeders Championship (USDFBC) Series qualifiers. While it is possible to hold a DSHB competition without the series qualifier component, these types of shows are historically not as well-attended.

Each USDF Breeders Championship Series will consist of at least three qualifying events in designated geographical areas of the United States, which culminate with a final event in each series. Exhibitors compete at qualifying events for the Champion and Reserve Champion titles in the following in-hand divisions: current year foals, colts/geldings, fillies, mares, and stallions. The champion and reserve champion horses of each division automatically qualify to compete at any series final that year. Horses receiving a score of 75.000% or higher in their division class also qualify to compete at any series final that year. At each USDFBC Series Final, a Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion for each of the above divisions will be awarded.

Materiale (under saddle) classes are offered for three, four, & five-year old horses and can be offered at either USEF/USDF dressage competitions or USEF/USDF DSHB shows. Horses that earn a qualifying score of 72% or higher are then eligible to compete at a USDF Breeders Championship Series Finals.

If you intend for your DSHB competition to be recognized as a USDFBC Series qualifying event, you must submit the [USDF Breeders Championship Series Event Application](#), and fee, at least 6 months prior to the competition. Applications submitted less than six months prior to the competition will be considered on a case by case basis.

DSHB Class Types: Mandatory and additional suggested classes can be found in the [USDF Breeders Championship Series Rules](#).

DSHB classes may be either in-hand or under saddle. For in-hand classes, horses will be shown individually, by their handler, on a triangle.

It is important to note that geldings are not eligible for breeding stock classes at any time, even if they have been gelded during the current competition year and are breeding through frozen semen.

For the designated USDFBC qualifying classes, there will be a qualifier champion and a qualifier reserve champion. Each of the qualifying horses must be presented with a qualifier ribbon. Only the champion and reserve champion will receive the qualifier ribbons, even if they have previously qualified. If either the champion or reserve champion have previously qualified, the third place horse qualifies to compete at a series final. The third place horse in the qualifier championship class will **not** receive a qualifier ribbon. The qualifier ribbons for champion and reserve champion are identical. These ribbons will be supplied to competition management by USDF.

There are additional classes that can be offered at DSHB competitions, which include the following:

- Group Classes (*Please note that for these classes, each horse in the class is required to have an entry submitted and a separate bridle number for each horse. For Get of Sire or Produce of Dam classes, the sire or dam requires an entry number, even if they are not present at the competition.*)
 - Produce of Dam - 2 or 3 offspring w/wo dam
 - Get of Sire - without sire, 2 or 3 of get
 - Breeder's Group - Group of two or three horses of any age or sex, all bred by the same exhibitor.
- Amateur & Junior/Young Rider Handler Classes – In this class, horses are to be shown in-hand by an adult amateur, with a current USEF amateur certification, or junior/young rider. This class is open to fillies/mares and geldings in any age group. Stallions are permitted in these classes, unless prohibited in the prize list. This class can be offered separately to juniors/young riders and adult amateurs, or ~~to~~ both divisions jointly.
- Materiale Classes – Horses will be judged according to the criteria listed on the “[USDF Materiale Scoresheet](#)”. While different age groups may be combined if entries warrant, combining age groups may be problematic for trainers who have more than one horse to be shown in materiale classes. Regardless of entry distribution, horses of differing sexes cannot compete against one another, except in championship classes.
 - Fillies - 3 year-old
 - Colts/Geldings - 3 year-old
 - Mares - 4 & 5 year-old
 - Stallions/Geldings - 4 & 5 year-old
- Suitable to become a Dressage Horse: Entries must be at least 3, and no more than 7, years old and cannot have competed above first level. You need to verify the exact date of birth, not just that the horse is in its third year. No horse may be ridden that is under 36 months of age.
- Individual Breed Classes (IBCs): IBCs are special classes for single breeds and may be offered for horses of the same breed or breed registry. Eligibility requirements for these classes must be listed in the prize list.

USDF Breeders Championship Series: The USDF Breeders Championship (USDFBC) Series has shown to be a valuable addition to the DSHB competition program and has served to greatly increase participation. The USDFBC Series is scheduled on a calendar year (January 1-December 31), and a series must have a minimum of three qualifying events in order to hold a series final. Qualifying events must offer the required qualifying classes for both sport horse prospects and breeding stock.

Hosting a USDFBC Competition

If a venue is interested in hosting either a qualifying or series final event, the USDFBC event application, contract, and rules for the upcoming competition year will be available to show managers by August 1 of the year prior to each USDFBC competition year. The host site application and its corresponding contract must have been filled out and submitted to USDF by November 1 of the year prior to the series final request, in order to be considered for hosting a series final. All applications for hosting a series final will be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, it is strongly recommended that a series final be held in conjunction with a dressage performance competition.

Judges and Technical Delegates

DSHB classes at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions must be judged by a USEF licensed dressage sport horse (DSHB) judge. **If you are running the DSHB competition in conjunction with a dressage performance show, you may be able to hire a judge who can judge both components.** At the USEF/USDF Breeders' Championship Series Finals, at least two judges must officiate in each series final class, with at least one of the two required judges being a USEF "R" licensed DSHB judge. Each judge will evaluate and score the entries separately and placing will be determined by the average of all judges' scores. The technical delegate (TD) may be either an 'r' or 'R'. It is recommended to utilize a TD that has officiated at DSHB competitions previously, so they are familiar with these competitions and their regulations.

Show Secretary

There are several things that are unique to being secretary of a DSHB competition. Once a sport horse competition has been applied for and approved, whether in conjunction with a performance dressage competition or on its own, the show secretary should work closely with the competition manager to develop a prize list.

Ordering and Distributing Bridle Numbers and Wrist Bands

If holding a sport horse competition in conjunction with a dressage competition, it is a good idea to give horses in the sport horse division a different color bridle number, or a different number series. In all cases, every horse must have a number per USEF rules. Thus, if a foal is being shown with its dam accompanying it, the mare must have her own number and a separate entry form submitted, for her as well. While some DSHB shows do charge an office or non-compete fee for mares who are accompanying foals, the decision to do so is at the discretion of competition management. If the horse is being shown in-hand and under saddle by different individuals, two separate bridle numbers must be issued.

This same bridle number/entry form rule will also apply to the Get of Sire, Produce of Dam, and Breeders Group classes, even if the stallion or mare in question is not present on the showgrounds. For example, in a Get of Sire group class, there will be 2-3 offspring by the same stallion. That stallion will be represented by the shown offspring, and consequently does not need to be on the showgrounds. The secretary will assign a bridle number to the stallion that the offspring's handler will have, and then the stallion's progeny will have their own numbers. These same rules will apply to Produce of Dam classes. For both Get of Sire and Produce of Dam classes, if the parent horse is not on showgrounds their entry will not be charged drug or office fees. In all circumstances, all horses present on showgrounds must meet current USEF health requirements.

For Breeder's Group classes, the competition secretary should assign a bridle number to the breeder. Again, the handler will carry that number for the judge while each horse shown will have their own bridle numbers assigned.

The bridle numbers, in addition to wrist bands provided for handlers and assistant handlers, allow for simple identification. The wrist bands must be two different and easily distinguishable colors, with one assigned exclusively to handlers and the other to assistant handlers. See the handlers section below for additional information on handlers.

Processing Entries and Sending Confirmations

This process is very similar to a dressage competition, with a few exceptions. If your show offers group championship classes, such as Champion Mature Horse (mares and stallions) or Champion Young Horse (colts, geldings, fillies 3-years old or younger), the top two horses in each qualifying championship class will automatically move forward into these championship classes. If a Grand Champion class is offered, the top two horses from the Mature Horse Championship Class and the Young Horse Championship Class will participate. Competitors **should not** be charged additional fees for participating in these championship classes.

If you offer a USDFBC qualifying competition, during the same show as a USDFBC Series Final, you must allow horses that qualify in the qualifying competition to post-enter the USDFBC Series Final classes. In order to participate in the Series Final Classes, the horse must be entered in the class and pay all entries for that class prior to commencement of the class.

Scheduling the Show

There are several different ways to schedule a sport horse competition. In general, three to four minutes should be allowed for each horse to show on the triangle, where four minutes per horse should be allowed for USDFBC Series Finals classes. When scheduling, consider how many horses are entered in the initial classes (yearling, 2-year-old, 3-year-old) and allow enough time for the entries in the later USDFBC qualifying classes. Keep in mind when scheduling for USDFBC qualifying classes that a larger space of time will be required. As these classes are judged as a group, rather than the horses being shown individually, and often pinned in the ring, fifteen to twenty minutes will be required.

Depending on your constraints, you do not need to assign specific times to each presentation, and you can, instead, establish an approximate start time for each class and estimated breaks. It is important that you know your facility, judge, and competitors in order to determine what will work best for your competition.

Assigning Stabling and Preparing the Stabling Chart

If you are offering stabling for your DSHB competition, there will be additional considerations to keep in mind while planning the stabling layout. Remember, a weanling may come to the show with their dam, and you need to be cognizant of where stallions are placed. Also, remember that colts can sometimes show stallion behaviors at a young age and should be considered as stallions for stabling placement. If you have stalls closer to the sport horse arena, consider giving these stalls to the sport horse entries rather than dressage competitors, as it will allow them to rest more easily between classes.

Ring Set Up and Organization for In-Hand Classes

Organization of the ring and the flow of traffic are critical in managing DSHB classes. While setting up the triangle is very simple, there are some important factors that need to be considered. First, the footing in the triangle needs to be as good as performance footing. Also, the materials used to make the triangle must be safe. For example, while PVC poles are light and easy to move, a horse can hit them and they will bounce, thus creating a safety hazard. Flowers are often used to construct the corners of the triangle, and they too require consideration. The flowers should not have wires or fragile terracotta planters, and you will want to be careful not to use flowers that may attract bees or insects.

Lastly, when considering the logistics of your DSHB classes, traffic flow is critical. It is recommended that separate gates for entry and exit, as well as separate holding areas for fillies/mares and colts/stallions, are maintained. Management is responsible for having one or more safety officers or ring stewards at the competition gates to ensure that conditions remain as safe as possible for competitors, horses, and spectators ([USEF, Subchapter DR-2](#)).

Handlers

In DSHB classes, there are handlers and assistant handlers. Handlers must be USEF members or pay a USEF show pass fee. Many handlers like to have an assistant handler, who will carry a whip behind the horse or hold the mare while the foal is being shown or visa-versa (in this case there can be a third individual acting as the whip assistant). The assistant handler does not need to be a USEF member or pay the USEF show pass fee, but is subject to all rules regarding handlers ([USEF Subchapter DR-2](#)). It is required that everyone handling the horse, either as primary handler or assistant handler, sign a release. If they have not signed the entry, then they are required to sign the USEF DSHB Handler/Assistant Handler Entry & Release Form, which must then be kept with their entry. As a manager, you must also be able to differentiate between the handlers and the assistant handlers. This is usually done by different colored wristbands or other types of identification, which must be of a type not transferable to another person ([USEF Subchapter DR-2](#)).

Membership Requirements

	USEF Licensed/USDF Recognized DSHB Show		USDFBC Series Final Classes		Materiale Championships held at each USDFBC Series Final	
	USEF	USDF	USEF	USDF	USEF	USDF
Horse		USDF Lifetime Registration (LHR) or USDF Horse Identification Number (HID)		USDF LHR or USDF HID		USDF LHR or USDF HID
Handler	USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee		USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee			
Rider					USEF Membership of \$45 Show Pass Fee	USDF Participating Membership (PM) when qualifying score is earned and at the time of the Materiale Championship class

Owner	USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee	USDF PM, Business (BM) or Group Membership (GM) or \$35 USDF Non-Member (NM) Fee	USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee	USDF PM, BM or GM or \$35 USDF NM Fee	USEF Membership of \$45 Show Pass Fee	USDF PM, BM or GM or \$35 USDF NM Fee
Trainer*	USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee		USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee		USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee	
Coach	USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee		USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee		USEF Membership or \$45 Show Pass Fee	

* Just a reminder: The trainer is any adult or adults who have the responsibility for the care, training, custody, or performance of a horse. Said person must sign the entry blank of any licensed competition, whether they are an owner, rider, or agent, as well. In the case of a minor exhibitor who is without a trainer, a parent or guardian must sign and assume the responsibilities as trainer ([USEF Subchapter 1-A](#))

Sport Horse Scoresheets: It is the scorer's responsibility to fill out an individual scoresheet total, and to then transfer that information to the Master Scoresheet. It is recommended that the Master Scoresheet is filled out as the scorer moves along, in order to avoid errors from being rushed at the class's completion.

USDF Dressage Sport Horse Prospects (In-Hand) Individual Scoresheet (Yellow)

- Use one sheet per entry
- Must use for all horses in Individual Breed Classes (IBCs)

USDF Dressage Sport Horse Prospects (In-Hand) Master Class Scoresheet (Yellow)

- To be used by scorers and/or judge (for keeping track of individual scores, ties, etc.)

USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Stock (In-Hand) Individual Scoresheet (Pink)

- Use one sheet per entry

USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Stock (In-Hand) Master Class Scoresheet (Pink)

- To be used by scorers and/or judge (for keeping track of individual scores, ties, etc.)

USDF Dressage Sport Horse Group Individual Scoresheet (Blue)

- Use one sheet per entry (an entry is one group; the number of horses in each group may vary)

USDF Dressage Sport Horse Group Master Class Scoresheet (Blue)

- To be used by scorers and/or judge (for keeping track of individuals scores, ties, etc.)

USDF Dressage Sport Horse Prospects (Under Saddle) Individual Scoresheet (Green)

- Use one sheet per entry
- This sheet is to be used only in small under saddle classes where it is desirable and practical to return an individual scoresheet to each entry.

USDF Dressage Sport Horse Prospects (Under Saddle) Master Class Scoresheet (Green)

- To be used by scorers and/or judge (for keeping track of individual scores, ties, etc.)
- The Master Scoresheet is to be used in large under saddle classes where it is not practical to return an individual scoresheet to each entry, or in classes where horses will be placed without scores being awarded. It is not required to give movement and conformation scores in under saddle classes.

USDF Materiale Class Scoresheet (Ivory)

- Use one sheet per class
- Must be used for Materiale classes

USDF Dressage Sport Horse Championship Class Sheet (Tan)

- Must be used to list horses qualified to enter championship classes. A copy of this sheet, with pertinent information completed, must be provided to the judge(s) at the beginning of each championship class. Judges must mark champion, reserve champion, and third place using this scoresheet. The “Place” column on the right of the sheet is for the championship class, not for the class from which the horses qualified.
- Please note that although these sheets provide a space for entering the prior score (from the qualifying class) of each entry, shows are not required to transfer this information, and may choose to leave the space blank. If the previous score is listed, it is to be used by the judge(s) for reference only, not for placing the class. USEF rules require that all entries must be re-judged at the walk and trot in the same manner, in all championship classes. If all judges judging the class have not previously seen all horses present, conformation must also be judged.

USDF Amateur/Jr/YR Handler Scoresheet

- Use one sheet per entry
- To be used for Amateur and/or Junior/Young Rider handler classes
- This class is a judged on the handler’s performance. Horses of any age can be presented by the handler, including mature geldings. See USEF DR Chapter 2 rules for more details.

Scoring: In many respects, scoring at a DSHB competition is quite simple. There are four to five scores that require tabulation and, with the use of a calculator, can be completed within a minute. Depending on the competition’s preferences, the scores will either be recorded via computer system or on a master scoresheet, for the judge’s reference. It is best to seat the scorer near the judge so that they are able to get the score sheet, do calculations, and determine call backs for championship classes, as efficiently as possible. If a class requires call backs, the scorer will write the returning horses’ bridle number, name, and score on the championship master sheet. This sheet is then given to the judge so that the class can be judged. During these qualifier championship classes the judge will not award new scores, they will only place the class as follows: champion, reserve champion, and third. If the class is a USDFBC qualifier class, the judge must award third place if the champion and reserve champion horses have already qualified.

For materiale classes, scoring will require one sheet per class, with the scores needing to be tabulated at the end. The scoresheet will not be posted publicly. Rather than the scoresheet being posted, materiale classes will only post final scores and placings. Under no circumstances are others to see a horse's individual scores in a materiale class, other than the horse's owner. However, the show should provide each entry with the individual scores given for each category (walk, trot, canter, general impression), not just the final score.

In under saddle classes, the process of scoring is at the discretion of the judge. While some will use a master scoresheet, and will not record scores, some will prefer to utilize an individual under saddle score sheet and record scores. In the case of a master scoresheet being used, and the class being placed without scores, the class can be pinned in the ring and will be completed quickly. If individual under saddle scoresheets with scores are utilized, the sheets must be tabulated in order to determine placing. While individual scoresheets may be returned, with a judge's comments to an owner, master scoresheets must never be posted for under saddle classes.

Suggested Glossary of Abbreviated Terms: Although scribes are not required to know these terms, they must be able to record comments swiftly and accurately. Thus, some form of easy-to-decipher "shorthand" is necessary.

A	dressage letter "A"	hau	haunches	sm	small
@	at	h-in	haunches in	str	straight
ang	angle	hd tilt	head tilt	□	square
L	angle	h/leg	hindlegs	stead	steady
attn	attention	immob	immobile	stead	steadier
bal	balance	impul	impulsion	TO	tongue out
b/f, b/4	before	inattn	inattention	thru	through
b/h,beh	behind	inconsist	inconsistent	trans	transition
bend	bending	ins	inside	tr	trot
btr	better	irreg	irregular	tu ha	turn on haunches
↑ bit	above bit	lks	lacks	t/o hau	turn on haunches
betw	between	lack imp	lacks impulsion	tu for	turn on forehead
C	dressage letter "C"	lat	lateral	t/o fore	turn on forehead
cad	cadence	L	left	unstd hd	unsteady head
cant	canter	l	left	vert	vertical
cntr	canter	<	less	v	very
c-line	centerline	>	more	wv	weaving
CL	centerline	ltr	letter	w/	with
O	circle	LF	left front	wr	wrong
coll	collected	lg	large	tran ↑	up transition
coll	collection	LH	left hind	tran ↓	down transition
connect	connection	not □	not square	X	dressage letter "X"
crkd	crooked	outs	outside		
dpt	depart	pir	pirouette		
diag	diagonal	poll ↓	poll low		
disob	disobedience	poll ↑	poll high		
eng	engaged,	pos	position		
eng	engagement	reg	regular		
NRG	energy	res	resistance		
ext	extended	resist	resistance		
ext	extension	R	right		
flex	flexed	rhy	rhythm		
flex	flexion	RH	right hind		
f/hand	forehand	rush	rush, rushed		
4hd	forehand	satis	satisfactory		
forw	forward	serp	serpentine		
FW	forward	sh/in	shoulder in		
gd	good	sh-in	shoulder in		
1/2 pass	half pass	sl	slightly		
		slt	slightly		