



2023 USDF Regional Adult Amateur Equitation Program Presented by Big Dee's Tack and Vet Supply

The USDF Regional Adult Amateur Equitation Program presented by Big Dee's Tack and Vet Supply is designed to recognize adult amateurs competing in equitation and promote correct seat, position, and use of aids in dressage. The program culminates with an Adult Amateur Equitation Regional Final class which is held in conjunction with each of the nine USDF Regional Dressage Championship competitions, providing adult amateurs with additional opportunity for recognition.

A. Membership and Horse Registration Requirements:

1. Rider must have a USDF Participating Membership at the time the qualifying score is earned, and at the time of the Regional Final class.
2. Rider must be an adult amateur, in accordance with GR1306 & GR1307 of the USEF rules and be designated with USEF as an adult amateur when the score is earned, and at the time of the Regional Final class.
3. Owner must have a USDF Participating or Business Membership when the qualifying score is earned, and at the time of the Regional Final class.
4. Horse must have a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration when the qualifying score is earned, and at the time of the Regional Final class.

B. Eligibility:

1. To be eligible for the USDF Adult Amateur Equitation Regional Final class, rider must have
 - a. Earned a score of 70% or higher in any dressage seat equitation class within the qualifying period of the applicable regional championship.
 - or*
 - b. Qualified to compete in any regional dressage championship class (excluding freestyles).
2. Any dressage seat equitation class (except walk-trot), held at a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized Dressage competition during the qualifying period, may be used to qualify for that year's USDF Adult Amateur Equitation Regional Final class presented by Big Dee's Tack and Vet Supply.
3. Qualifying periods for this program vary for each region. The period during which an adult amateur may qualify for a particular Regional Final class 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.
4. A rider can elect to compete in any one of the nine USDF Adult Amateur Equitation Regional Final classes presented by Big Dee's Tack and Vet Supply but may only compete in one USDF Adult Amateur Equitation Regional Final class per calendar year.

C. Regional Final Class Requirements

1. Current USEF Dressage Seat Equitation scoresheets must be used and all rules in the USEF Dressage Division section, including USEF DR133.1 must be followed.
2. Two Federation Registered (R) or Senior (S) judges, one of who must have USEF Dressage Equitation certification must officiate in each regional finals class using the same scribes and same class scoresheet.
3. Tied scores will be broken by requiring riders to perform an additional independent test, which will be scored by both judges together. The higher score on the additional independent test will receive the higher placing.

4. Competitors must comply with all rules pertaining to horses entered in regional championship classes, including but not limited to the rule that only the rider entered in the championship class may ride the horse.
5. Riders do not need to qualify for and compete in the Adult Amateur Equitation Regional Final class on the same horse.
6. All USEF rules apply. See USEF DR 133.1 for complete specifications of Dressage Seat Equitation. Per rule DR 133.1.h. two numbers (min. 3"x5") must be provided to equitation riders and they must be positioned on each side of the saddle pad to be clearly visible at all times.
7. Dress, saddlery, and equipment rules apply as required for First Level, except that horses also showing in dressage classes at Third Level, and above, may warm up for the USDF Adult Amateur Equitation Regional Final class in a simple double bridle.
8. The rider's position, seat, use, and effect of the aids will be judged as described in USEF DR117.
9. Movements shall be performed simultaneously by all competitors; however judges may request for independent execution of certain exercises. All instructions must be publicly announced.
10. Riders must be judged at the medium walk, sitting and rising working trot, and working canter in both directions. When rising trot is requested, the rider should change the diagonal when changing directions, except during a lengthening. The correct diagonal is considered to be when the rider is sitting when the outside front foot and inside hind foot are on the ground.
11. In judging the position, seat, and use of aids, judges may include the following exercises to be ridden as a group, as required at Training and First Level: free walk, transitions from one gait to another, transitions from walk to halt and vice versa, change of direction via across the diagonal, down centerline, or half circle at the trot or walk.
12. Additional exercises from which judges may choose to request riders complete in small groups or independently include the following:
 - i. Transitions, leg yield, changes of lead through trot, serpentine at the trot, shallow loop serpentine with counter canter, and trot and/or canter lengthening.
13. The size of a group shall be limited to no more than 25 riders. Groups may be divided into smaller sections, at the discretion of the judges, for safety and convenience. Judges may limit the number of horses required to canter at the same time, at their discretion. (DR133.1.e)
14. Classes should be held in an enclosed ring that is larger than a standard dressage arena, if available. If such a space is not available, an open schooling area is permitted. If classes must be held in a dressage arena, it must be at least 20m x 60m, and no more than 6 horses shall be asked to canter at the same time. (DR133.1.1)

