

## 2012 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Breeders' Championship Series



The USEF Rulebook Chapter Dressage, Subchapter DR-2, contains the Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) class rules. The rulebook is available on line at <http://www.usef.org>. All recent rule changes in the on-line rulebook are noted in RED.

For your convenience selected new or changed USEF rules affecting DSHB classes/shows are noted in the appropriate section of this document. However, all DSHB exhibitors and management staff are responsible for knowing all USEF rules pertaining to USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competitions holding DSHB classes and USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions in general.

- Be aware the 2012 USDF Breeders' Championship (USDFBC) Series event requirements are in a separate document and include SPECIAL requirements in addition to the rules listed below. Any competition wishing to host a USDFBC qualifier or final must apply to hold one of these events and must sign an application stating that they have read and will uphold the event requirements and the rules in this document, (which requires knowledge of the pertinent USEF rules.)

### A. Applying For and Scheduling Qualifier and Final Events

1. The USDFBC series is scheduled on a calendar year basis (January 1-December 31).
2. A series must have a minimum of three qualifying events in order to hold a series final. All shows in the series, including qualifier classes held in conjunction with the series final, are qualifying events.
3. The final event of each series is often the last USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competition holding DSHB classes scheduled in a particular geographical area of the United States as of October 1 of the year prior to the series final year. However, a series final must also be held in conjunction with a USDFBC qualifying event. Host sites of series finals will be designated on or about November 1 of the year prior to the series final year.
4. The official USDFBC host site application form for qualifiers and series finals will be available from the USDF office by June 15, prior to the start of the next competition year. USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competitions interested in hosting a final for a series must submit a completed USDFBC event application form and contract to the USDF office by October 1 of the year prior to the series final to request consideration for hosting the series final.
5. The series final must meet the minimum requirements for a series final: 1) minimum USEF Level 2 competition 2) Show manager and secretary must both be members of USEF at the time of championships and Show manager must be a USDF Participating (PM) or Group (GP) member at the time of the championships 3) all other requirements as stated in the USDFBC Finals Host Site Application.
6. All applications for a series final will be considered on a 'case by case' basis.
7. A series final will be considered "definite" when at least three qualifying events have registered with USDF to participate in the series for the year. If it meets the minimum requirements, a series final will be considered "tentative" until at least three events have registered for the series.
8. In case two or more qualified events in the same series wish to host the series final, the regional director(s) of the region(s) with qualifying events in the series, along with a Working Group appointed

by the Sport Horse Committee, will select the host site of the series final, after consultation with the chair of the USDF Sport Horse Committee and the USDF Sport Horse Committee liaison. Priority for the final will be given to (1) the date of event, which must be after all qualifying events are normally scheduled, and ideally, between August 1 and October 1 of the series final year, (2) the most prestigious DSHB show, or USDF Regional Dressage Championships in the geographical area, (3) location and accessibility to competitors, (4) experience of the competition management with DSHB competitions and (5) history of rule compliance with USEF and USDF.

9. All USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competitions with DSHB classes scheduled prior to the series final in the same calendar year and geographical area are eligible to participate in their USDFBC series final. Dressage competitions with DSHB classes scheduled after the series final in their area are not eligible to participate in the USDFBC program, and will not be qualifying events or the next year's series final.
10. Only one USDFBC series, or part of a series, may be held in any particular geographical area in the same calendar year. The boundaries of a "geographical area" will be determined by USDF (in consultation with regional directors and the chair of the USDF Sport Horse Committee), will include cluster(s) of DSHB shows, and may combine regions or cross regional boundaries. However, a maximum of two USDFBC series will be scheduled in the same USDF region in the same calendar year.
11. If a USDFBC series does not have at least three qualifying events recognized by USDF by June 1 of the series final year, the final will not be held.

## **B. Advertising and Promotion**

1. In order to receive full promotional benefits from USDF, qualifying and final events must be approved at least six months prior to the competition.
2. Qualifiers and final events must be approved by USDF each year before advertising that they are participating as qualifying or final events in the USDFBC program.

## **C. Prizes**

1. Prizes will be awarded during the finals competition award ceremonies.
2. Prizes and/or other awards may be withheld by USDF to series winners if the following information is not provided to USDF or show management by required deadlines: name of owner; name, age and sex of horse; and if known, the breed of horse, sire, dam, dam sire, and breeder.

## **D. Rules Regarding Contracts and Recognition**

1. Qualifying and final events must be USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized Dressage competitions and all classes must be conducted under USEF rules.
2. USDFBC event application, contract and rules for the upcoming competition year will be available to show managers by July 1 of the year prior to each USDFBC competition year.
3. Rule changes and requirements will be fully approved and publicized by July 1 of the year prior to each USDFBC competition year.
4. Changes of rules, requirements, or contract obligations for competition management (and/or competitors, if applicable) are not permitted after August 1 of the year prior to the start of the USDFBC competition year, except when changed by the USEF and/or USDF Executive Board.

5. USDFBC rules and procedures must be listed in the official prize list for the event, and must be available sufficiently in advance to all potential competitors, or the event may be in violation of USEF rules.
6. For qualifying events whose dates fall after the closing date for their series final event, the results must be emailed or faxed to USDF within 24 hours of completion of the qualifying event. USDF will verify those horses who have qualified with the series final event secretary.

## **E. Horse Registration and Membership Requirements**

1. All horses entered in any USDF Breeders' Championship Series qualifying class must have either a USDF Life Registration (LHR) or USDF Horse Identification Number (HID), and submit identification information. A copy of breed registry papers (if available) must be submitted directly to USDF. Any horse participating in the series final classes must have a LHR with USDF. The HID fee will apply toward the LHR fee.
2. Owner is not required to be a USDF member for qualifying events; however, owner must have a current USDF Participating Membership (PM) or Business Membership (BM) to compete at the series final class.
3. No USDF membership is required for the Handler.
4. Horses participating in USDFBC qualifying or final events are not required to be registered with any studbook, but "if a horse is registered with any breed organization, the name of the breed, sire, dam, dam sire and breeder must be given on the entry blank. For unregistered horses competing in DSHB classes, the information is strongly recommended, if available." (GR 907.1)
5. It is strongly recommended that horses not registered with a breed registry be listed as "unregistered".
6. It is the responsibility of the horse owner to ensure that their USDF membership and USDF horse registration are correct and current

## **F. Requirements for USDFBC Series Qualifying Events**

1. Classes must be offered and judged according to USEF DR 209.
2. All divisions must offer Sport Horse Prospect In-Hand and Breeding Stock In-Hand classes.
3. A separate championship class must be held for all divisions even those that have only one class or one horse in the division. For example if there is only one class of mares, the top two mares from that class would then be shown in the championship class. If there is only one stallion in the one stallion class that stallion would then show again in the championship class.
4. Each qualifying event must offer a current year filly class, a separate current year colt/gelding class and a Current Year Foal Championship class. This Current Year Foal Championship class is a USDFBC series qualifying class. This class must be held and judged (i.e. re-evaluated at the walk and the trot) in accordance with USEF DR210.5.

The current year foal championship class, at qualifying events, must be open to first and second place winners of Sport Horse Prospect In Hand classes for all foals of current calendar year, as listed below. First and second place (and third if desired) fillies and colts/geldings of current year will compete against each other in the same class. (Organizers have the option of including third placed winners in championship classes) No scores are given. Ties are not allowed.

**Current Year Foal Championship:**

Fillies of current calendar year  
Colts/Geldings of current calendar year

The champion and reserve champion current year foals are eligible to compete in their respective USDFBC series final class. A third place foal in the championship class must be named as well.

5. Each qualifying event must offer a Filly Championship class and a Colt/Gelding Championship class. These classes are USDFBC series qualifying classes. These classes must be held and judged (i.e. re-evaluated at the walk and the trot) in accordance with USEF DR210.5.

The filly and colt/gelding championship classes must be open to first and second placed winners of Sport Horse Prospect In Hand classes for all horses, as listed below. (Organizers have the option of including third placed winners in championship classes.) No scores are given. Ties are not allowed.

**Filly Championship:**

Yearling Fillies  
Two-year old Fillies  
Three-year old Fillies

**Colt/gelding Championship:**

Yearling Colts/Geldings  
Two-year old Colts/Geldings  
Three-year old Colts/Geldings

The champion and reserve champion filly and the champion and reserve champion colt/gelding are eligible to compete in their respective USDFBC series final class. A third place horse in each championship class must be named as well.

6. Each qualifying event must offer a Mare Championship class and a Stallion Championship class. These championship classes are USDFBC series qualifying classes. These classes must be held and judged (i.e. re-evaluated at the walk and the trot) in accordance with USEF DR210.5.

Mare and Stallion Championship classes must be open to first and second placed winners of Breeding Stock In Hand classes for horses age four years old and over, as listed below. (Organizers have the option of including third placed Mare championship):

**Mare Championship:**

Mare classes may be divided by age, competition and/or breeding status, as in the following example:

- Four-year old and older maiden mares – never bred
- Four-year old and older yield mares- previously bred but not currently bred or nursing
- Four-year old and older broodmares – In foal or currently nursing (mare only to be judged).

For details on determining breeding status for competition purposes, please refer to USEF Rule 203.16.

**Stallion Championship:**

Stallion classes may be divided by age, competition and/or breeding status, as in the following example:

- Four-year old and older stallions showing only in hand
- Four-year old and older stallions showing also under saddle

The champion and reserve champion mare and the champion and reserve champion stallion are eligible to compete in their respective USDFBC series final class. A third place horse in each championship class must be named as well.

7. Age/sex eligibility is determined as follows:
  - a. Fillies, colts and geldings three years of age or under may show ONLY as sport horse prospects, not in breeding stock classes/categories.
  - b. Mares and stallions age four and over, may show ONLY in breeding stock classes/categories. Note: Two and three-year olds are ONLY eligible to compete in the filly or colt championships. They are NOT eligible for the mare or stallion championships.
  - c. Geldings of any age may NOT show in breeding stock classes/categories. Geldings age three and under may show ONLY in sport horse classes/categories.
8. Score sheets: Age group classes must be judged using the appropriate scoring categories and percentages. Sport horses MUST be evaluated on the (yellow) USDF Dressage Sport Horse Prospect In Hand score sheets and breeding stock MUST be evaluated on the (pink) USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Stock score sheets.
9. Horses in all USDFBC Series qualifying classes must be evaluated according to USEF DR210.5.7. Each horse competing at a USDF Breeder Series Qualifying Show will have only ONE opportunity to qualify for the championship class appropriate to their age/sex category.
10. During the same or separate awards ceremonies, the current year foal champion and reserve, the filly champion and reserve, the colt/gelding champion and reserve, the mare champion and reserve, and the stallion champion and reserve, must be named USDFBC series qualifying champions and reserve champions for the show. A third place horse in each championship class must be named as well. NO ties allowed. Announcements must identify sponsors and horses' breeding information.
11. Each of the ten qualifying horses must be presented with a qualifier ribbon. These ribbons will be supplied to the show by USDF. Only the champion and reserve champion will receive the qualifier ribbons, even if they have previously qualified. 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.
12. All champions and reserve champions will be eligible to compete in the finals. In the event that a champion and/or reserve have already qualified for the final, the third-placed horse from the pertinent qualifying class will be eligible to compete in the final. Competition management is required to have judges place qualifying classes to three places, with no ties. In addition, any other horse receiving a 77% or better in its age/sex class will be qualified and eligible to compete in the final.
13. A list of qualified horses is maintained, by series, on the USDF website.
14. Horses must qualify in the series in which they enter the final. Exception: Horses that have qualified for a series final which is either not scheduled or is cancelled may participate in the final of any other USDFBC series in the same calendar year, without having to re-qualify for that series final. Owners of horses that have qualified for a final which is not held, may enter another series final, but must indicate which series they qualified at on their entry form.
15. Horses may compete in qualifying events in any series, but if qualified for more than one series final, they may participate in only one final class.
16. If there is a change of ownership of the horse, the new owner(s) may choose to participate in the series final where they reside, regardless of where the horse qualified, provided that the new owner contacts the USDF office and initiates the change at least 30 days prior to the new Series Final date.

## **G. Conduct of Finals Classes at the Breeders Series Championship Final**

1. At least two judges (see USEF DR 202) must officiate in each series final class. Each judge will evaluate each entry independently, and scribes must be provided for each judge. Winners will be determined by the average of all judges' scores. The highest scoring horses will be declared champions and the second highest will be declared reserve champions.
2. Ties in USDFBC Finals classes must remain unbroken.
3. There are five championship classes in the USDFBC Series Finals. Current year foal champions and reserves from each qualifying event will compete together in the USDFBC current year foal final class. Filly champions and reserves from each qualifying event will compete together in the USDFBC filly final class. Colt/gelding champions and reserves from each qualifying event will compete together in the USDFBC colt/gelding final class. Mare champions and reserves from each qualifying event will compete together in the USDFBC mare final class. Stallion champions and reserves from each qualifying event will compete together in the USDFBC stallion final class.
4. A grand champion and reserve grand champion current year foal, a grand champion and reserve grand champion filly, a grand champion and reserve grand champion colt/gelding, a grand champion and reserve grand champion mare, and a grand champion and reserve grand champion stallion will be named at each series final event. Grand champions will receive awards and prizes provided by USDF. Third through sixth placed horses in final classes will receive ribbons provided by USDF. After the final event, special certificates will be available from USDF via the website to owners of all horses that competed in USDFBC series final classes.
5. USDF reserves the right to change, alter, or retract any placings and/or prizes for up to 60 days after the last day of the championship if an error or violation is discovered, after which no changes will be made.
6. Horses must be shown individually on the triangle at the walk and trot, and standing for conformation. Each horse must be evaluated in the same manner. Callbacks are permitted. If horses may be recalled, the prize list or program must state that this procedure will be used. (USEF DR 209.1.c)
7. Horses in the current year foal final class, filly final class and the colt/gelding final class MUST be evaluated using the (yellow) USDF Dressage Sport Horse Prospect In Hand score sheets. Horses in the mare final class and the stallion final class MUST be evaluated using the (pink) USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Stock score sheets.
8. When USDFBC series qualifying classes are held at the same event as series final classes, management must collect USDF Lifetime Horse Registration and/or Participating or Business Memberships applications and fees for eligible entries that wish to participate in the series final classes and submit these applications and fees to the USDF office within 24 hours of the series final classes with competition results.
9. Series final events must agree to allow late entries in the series final classes for horses that qualified for the Series final event after the official closing date.

## **H. Conduct and Competition Standards for Qualifying and Final Events**

Series Final events must meet the minimum requirements for a series final:

1. A minimum Level 2 competition and competition

2. Show manager and secretary must both be members of USEF at the time of championships and Show manager must be a USDF Participating (PM) or Group (GP) member at the time of the championships all other requirements as stated in the USDFBC Finals Host Site Application.
3. DSHB competitions are not permitted to exclude horses from competing in an event that have previously qualified for a USDFBC series final. Such exclusion is not permitted by USEF rules, and results from the event may not be counted for USDF DSHB HOY awards.
4. Neither foals nor horses of any other age may be shown loose.
5. Note the following clarification on “stallion”: No geldings may compete in the USDFBC classes for stallions even if they are gelded after qualifying for the finals and are breeding via frozen semen.

## **I. Licensed Officials**

1. According to USEF DR 202.1 a competition with a Federation Licensed Dressage Sport Horse Breeding division must have a Federation licensed Dressage Sport Horse breeding judge and a Federation licensed dressage technical delegate. Guest Cards to judge DSHB classes are granted only to currently licensed foreign FEI Dressage Judges and approved foreign breeding experts (See USEF GR1011).
2. Shows must apply to USEF for guest cards at least 21 days prior to the competition.
3. Hunter Breeding judges or USEF judges with other licenses or in other disciplines are NOT permitted to judge DSHB classes.
4. It is recommended that the USEF Technical Delegate officiating at a USDF DSHBC Series Final have significant experience officiating as a TD at DSHB shows.

## **J. United States Equestrian Federation Rules**

Please note that competition management, licensed officials and competitors must be aware of all USEF DSHB and applicable USEF General Rules. Be sure to check the on-line version of the rules for any clarifications or changes that may have occurred for the current competition year.