

USDF Membership Requirements for USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized Competitions

Owners or riders, including foreign riders and owners who are not residents of the US, wishing to participate in a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competition as a rider or owner/lessee, must have either a current USDF Group Membership (GM), a USDF Participating Membership (PM), or have a USDF Non-Member (NM) number and pay the NM fee. Horses competing at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions must have either a USDF Horse Identification (HID) number or a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR). Proper credentials or verification certificates must be presented to the competition secretary.

Exceptions to USDF Membership, Non-Member Fee, and Horse Registration Requirements

- Horses competing only in Individual Breed Classes (IBCs) at DSHB competitions, sires and dams of horses in DSHB group classes, where those sires or dams are not actually competing in the same competition, horses competing only in breed restricted dressage or DSHB classes at regular competitions (e.g. all Arabian, all Friesian, all Morgan classes, etc.), or in USDF Introductory Level tests, pas de deux, quadrille, FEI Para-Equestrian classes, are exempt from this requirement. Also exempt are horses ridden in leadline, exhibitions, games and races, classes for 4-H members, walk-trot, academy and opportunity classes. For foreign-owned horses competing in a CDI, USDF accepts copies of the horse identification pages from an FEI passport in lieu of a USDF HID or LHR number.
- Riders and owners/lessees competing only in classes which are exempt from the USDF HID requirements are also exempt from the USDF Non-Member (NM) identification number and NM fee requirements. Also exempt are handlers of horses competing in DSHB in-hand or Group classes.

Participating Membership (PM)/Business Membership (BM) Information

- The USDF PM and BM year begins December 1. All memberships (except Life PM) expire on November 30.
- Business members can own horses, but cannot compete as riders with their USDF BM. If riding, a business member will need a PM, GM, or NM identification number.
- Once your USDF application has been processed, you will be able to access your membership card on the USDF website. This online printout should be presented to the show secretary and the USDF number should be provided on every competition entry form.
- For information on USDF PM and BM benefits or rider/handler/owner/horse eligibility for specific programs, please visit the USDF website.

Applying for USDF PM or USDF BM at a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized Competition

- The effective date of membership is the date the form and correct fees are accepted by the competition secretary, provided the application is signed and dated by the competition secretary, and the member (or representative of member), on that same day.
- If the application is submitted with incomplete information, signatures, and/or fees, the membership will not become effective until the information, signatures, and/or fees are received in the USDF office.