



UNITED STATES *Dressage* FEDERATION

2012 Great American Insurance Group/ USDF Regional Championship Program Rules



The Regional Championship program rules published herein are effective October 1, 2011. 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 Web site at www.usdf.org. Refer to the United States Equestrian Federation's Web site at www.usef.org 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 recognized 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 2012 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**
recognized by United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.

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. Freestyles at First, Second, Third, Fourth, Intermediate I, and Grand Prix levels must also be offered in the open division. If freestyle classes are combined, each championship level must be awarded separately.

Dates and locations of the 2012 Regional Championships will be available from USDF after June 1, 2011.

The official prize lists for all of the Championships will be available on the USDF website on a page called Regional Championship prize lists by 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

Rider:

- Must be a USDF Participating* Member (PM) at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.
- Must be a USEF member (Junior Active, Senior Active, or Life) at the time the qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.

Horse:

- Must be USDF Lifetime Registered (LTR) at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.

- Must be USEF (Annual or Lifetime) recorded at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.
- USDF horse registration and USEF horse/recording must be in the name(s) of the current owner(s) or lessee(s) of record.
- A horse is not required to have breed registry papers.

Owner:

- Must be a USDF member (PM* or Business Member (BM)) at the time the qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.
- Must be a USEF member (Junior Active, Senior Active, or Life) at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.

* PMs are USDF members who join USDF directly. USDF Group Members (GM) are ineligible.

B. Qualifying Class and Championship Eligibility

1. Horse/rider combinations which have won a USEF/USDF Regional Championship may no longer compete in a USEF/USDF Regional Championship competition, in that division, at that or a lower level (Grand Prix Level 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. Riders are NOT required to be a resident of the region to compete in that region's championship. USDF will presume qualified horses will compete in the region in which the rider resides. Riders who wish to declare a region other than their region of residence must contact the USDF office by no later than July 1 of the championship year and submit a Change of Region form. In addition, all persons living outside of the United States must declare a region by the deadline of July 1 of the current competition year.
Change of Region forms may be accepted July 2 up to August 1, with a late fee of \$100; from August 2, up to the closing date of the championship region the rider is declaring for, with a late fee of \$300. No changes to region may be made after the closing date of the region in which a rider wishes to enter, for any reason.
4. Competitions that declare and are counted for the current calendar year's championships count ONLY for the current year. In other words, NO qualified rides from these shows will count for the next year's championships.
5. A rider may not compete in more than one Regional Championship competition in the same calendar year.
6. 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 membership/registration 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 with the competition results. Copies of the required memberships and registrations MUST be included with championship entry. Affidavits will not be accepted for USEF or USDF membership or horse recording verification purposes for entry in championship classes.
7. USDF Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals: All junior riders through age 18 who have qualified at any level for the Regional Championships (excluding freestyle) are automatically eligible to compete in the Semi-Final classes of the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Program. Additionally beginning August 1, 2011 any rider that earns a score of 70% or higher during the qualifying period from August 1 through July 30 will be qualified to participate in the USDF Dressage Seat Equitation Semi-Finals. One Semi-Final class will be offered for juniors, ages 13 and under, and a second Semi-Final class for riders 14 through 18 in each Great American/USDF Regional Championship. A regional champion and reserve champion for each age group will be named in each USDF region. Protective headgear as described in the USEF Rule Book GR801 will be required for participation in these classes. For more details of this program, see the USEF Rule Book, DR132, visit the dressage page of the USEF Web site at www.usef.org. For information on the Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals, please contact USDF.
8. Horses must be entered in qualifying and championship classes under their official recorded names and ownership as specified in USEF GR1102, and transfers of ownership or lease registrations must be

completed in compliance with USEF rules 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/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).
4. To qualify, eligible riders must enter an official Great American/USDF qualifying class at a USEF/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. Competitions lasting one or multiple days may offer one qualifying class per level per division per day. However, any test, if offered on a particular day as qualifying, may not be offered as qualifying in a Test of Choice (TOC) class on the same day.
6. Eligible competitors must be given the option to enter the class as “USDF qualifying” for a maximum additional fee of \$10 which must be paid to the show secretary prior to riding in the class and is not refundable.
7. Horse/rider combinations may enter only one qualifying test, and one qualifying Freestyle, at each level per day as Great American/USDF qualifying. (USEF DR 127.4)
8. USEF/USDF qualifying and/or championship classes must be designated as such in the prize list and the results. (USEF DR127.4). The \$10 qualifying fee, which is non-refundable, will be sent to the USDF from the show secretary along with the Report of Fees. All qualifying rides must be marked as such in the results. USDF does not refund USDF Regional Championships qualifying fees to competitors for any reason.
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. 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/USDF-recognized Dressage Competitions from two different judges or combinations of judges as described in Section C.3.
12. 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.
13. The rider must enter the Great American/USDF Regional Championships in his own region of residence. Riders who wish to declare a region other than their region of residence must contact the USDF office by no later than July 1 of the championship year and submit a Change of Region form. In addition, all persons living outside of the United States must declare a region by the deadline of July 1 of the current competition year.

Change of Region forms may be accepted July 2 up to August 1, with a late fee of \$100; from August 2, up to the closing date of the championship region the rider is declaring for, with a late fee of \$300. No changes to region may be made after the closing date of the region in which a rider wishes to enter, for any reason.
14. There is no limit on the number of horses on which a rider may qualify.

15. Qualification is based on horse/rider combination. If a new rider wishes to compete with the horse at the championships, he must requalify. (USEF DR127.8)
16. Automatic invitations shall be extended to the top twelve placed competitors who are U.S. citizens, in the NAYRC and NAJC final team and individual classes. Invitations shall also be extended to the top twelve horse/rider combinations invited to, in addition to those horse/rider combinations that competed at, the USEF High Performance National Championships at Grand Prix and Intermediaire I, and to the top twelve horse/rider combinations ranked from the USEF National Junior, Young Rider and Young Adult Ranking lists. However, these invitations exclude Regional Championship freestyle classes for invitees from the USEF National Junior, Young Rider and Young Adult Ranking lists. These invitations cannot be transferred or applied to other horse/rider combinations, classes, or divisions. Riders receiving an automatic invitation are responsible for entering the Regional Championships by the closing date, and may change their region designation, provided that they do so in writing to the USDF office so prior to the closing date of entries. (See C13)
17. Competitors obtaining qualifying scores after the official closing date (see Section C.20) must either enter the championship class(es) before the closing date OR submit a post entry to compete in the championship classes, if post entries are allowed in the prize list of the competition.
18. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash may be carried in all qualifying classes (including NAYRC and NAJC) unless such use is otherwise prohibited by FEI or Federation rules or selection procedures for the classes. (USEF DR120.5) An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider.
19. Tests may be read in qualifying classes except in FEI level classes and freestyle classes.
20. 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 2011 championship, and ends on the closing date of that region's 2012 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.
21. 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.
22. USDF will maintain a database of qualified horse/rider combinations and will post a provisional list for each level and division on the USDF Web site. USDF will verify eligibility of championship class entries with the championship's secretary prior to each championship's 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. Freestyles have only open divisions.

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	60%	60%	60%
Intermediate I	60%	60%	60%
Intermediate II	60%	60%	60%
Grand Prix	60%	60%	60%

<u>FREESTYLE</u>	<u>OPEN</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>JR/YR</u>
First Level	63%	—	—
Second Level	63%	—	—
Third Level	63%	—	—
Fourth Level	63%	—	—
Intermediate I	63%	—	—
Grand Prix	63%	—	—

E. Championship Rules

1. All Regional Championship competitions are considered Level 4. Please refer to USEF Dressage Level Requirements for specifics.
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/adult amateur divisions is NOT permitted at the same or at adjacent levels except at a level that does not offer an adult amateur division.
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 his birth date must be on file with USDF by July 1 of the championship year.
6. Photocopies 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. 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. All championship tests must be ridden from memory. (USEF DR122.1)
9. The gate at "A" must be closed for every USEF/USDF championship ride. (USEF DR126.f.5)
10. 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 championships 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.). Ties (equality of total points) after second place will be broken by collective marks. Ties (equality of total points and collective marks) occurring in third through eighth places will remain unbroken. In the case of a tie (equality of total points and collective marks) 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 DR123.4) 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.i.1)
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 GR 915.2)

17. USEF/USDF championships classes may not be split. (USEF DR126.1a.4)

18. Championship classes for juniors and young riders and Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals classes must only be held on weekends, including Friday. Juniors and young riders' entries (horse/rider combinations) are limited to entry in only two championship classes, excluding freestyle.

19. Except for freestyles, championship classes at consecutive levels, for the same division, may not be held on the same day.

F. Additional Rules and Requirements

1. Competition managers of USEF Dressage Competitions which hold USEF/USDF qualifying and/or championship classes are responsible to USEF for knowing and complying with all USEF rules and USDF guidelines regarding qualifying and/or championship classes. Please refer to USEF Dressage Level requirements. (USEF DR127.3)

2. A host GMO officer or CEO of competition licensee, and the competition manager must sign an agreement with USDF which includes the organizer's agreement to abide by USEF and USDF rules and regulations, and releases USDF from liability, financial or otherwise, during or in connection with the event.

3. Once an application to hold a USEF/USDF regional dressage championship has been submitted, no changes to facility, organizer, manager or secretary may be made without prior notification and written consent of both USDF and the regional director. In addition, USDF and regional director reserve the right to select an alternate host site and management if the facility, organizer, manager, or secretary named in the original host site application is changed without written permission from USDF and the regional director.

4. Awards ceremonies must be scheduled for each championship class.

5. A tentative schedule for the awards ceremonies must be printed in the "Show Program".

6. The confirmed schedule for the awards ceremonies must be posted in the show secretary's office by noon on the day prior to the beginning of the competition. If the posted awards schedule is changed, all affected competitors must be notified.

7. Riders placing in Great American/USDF Regional Championship classes must be present, mounted and in full riding attire for awards ceremonies. Failure, without prior permission of the competition manager (see C.9) to be present and properly attired, will eliminate the official score and placing and the next highest score will move up in placing. For safety reasons competitors may decline to participate in the victory round. Unmounted awards ceremonies may be held if weather or other calamity prevents mounted awards ceremonies. Riders must be in full riding attire.

8. Specific requirements and penalties for failure to participate in prize-giving ceremonies must be announced in the prize list. It is recommended that saddlery for ceremonies be the same as in the competition, but that black or white leg bandages are allowed. Rosettes should be placed on the horses' bridles prior to the ceremony. The judge at "C" should be invited to participate in the prize-giving. Competition management is responsible for the safe conduct of ceremonies and must excuse any horse that threatens the safety of participants. (USEF DR123.10)

9. Except in the case of an emergency requests to be excused from the awards ceremony must occur one hour before the scheduled ceremony. The requests must be made to the Awards Coordinator who must confer with the USDF Representative, the Competition Manager, and the Technical Delegate in the decision-making process.

10. Date applications may not use the name or title of a championship that has not been assigned to that licensed competition for the competition year named in the application. The fees are waived when a competition changes its name to include the title of a regional or national championship or when the name reverts back to its original name. Using the name or title of a championship that has not been assigned to that licensed competition during the same competition year is a violation of USEF rules. (USEF GR309.13)

and GR706.1.p)

11. Copies of documents submitted by competitors to verify USEF and USDF membership and horse recording must be available to the TD in the competition office. (USEF DR127.2)

12. Management must post the USDF Statement on Animal Welfare on the competition grounds.

G. Facilities

1. Please refer to USEF GR 1216 and USEF Dressage Level Requirements for facility requirements.

H. Personnel

1. Management must provide a sufficient number of trained and experienced personnel to manage the event.

2. Level 4 requires that a veterinarian and farrier be present on the grounds during competition. In the year after a competition has hosted a USEF/USDF Regional Championship, a veterinarian will be required to be present only if 200 or more horses competed the year prior to hosting the championships. (USEF GR1211.4) The official veterinarian shall be a licensed graduate of an accredited veterinary school in good standing in his/her state of practice, be familiar with the current USEF Equine Drugs and Medications Rules and have experience in equine veterinary practice. (USEF GR1204.1)

3. Management must contract a sufficient number of officials and pay all their expenses, as agreed upon in their contracts.

a. Two judges (at least one of whom must be an "S" or FEI dressage judge) must officiate in each championship class at Second Level and above. It is recommended that three judges officiate in FEI level championship classes. For Training and First level, two "R" judges may be used provided at least one of those judges resides outside the region.

b. Fifty percent of judges hired to officiate in Regional Championship classes must have permanent residence outside the region.

c. "R" Dressage TDs hired to officiate Regional Championship classes must be selected from outside the region and must be a USDF PM. This applies only to the primary competition TD, who is the person responsible for filing the TD report for the competition with USEF. A "r" TD can be hired to assist the Senior TD, preferably from within the Region.

4. Two people should be assigned to score each championship test, and results must be posted promptly.

5. A professional photographer must be retained, at the expense of competition management, to photograph the awards ceremonies and champions.

6. Both competition manager and competition secretary must be USEF Senior Active, or Life Members, and manager must be USDF PM, or GM at time of application and championship.

I. USDF Responsibilities

1. Produce the Official Prize List for all 2012 Regional Championships as part of a Regional Championship prize list page for the Great American/USDF Regional Championship Program. This will be published online at www.usdf.org by May 1. Printed copies are available upon request from USDF.

2. On behalf of Great American Insurance Group, USDF will provide:

a. Grant money to each championship. Grant money will be paid to the organizer of a Regional Championship, one-third before the competition and the remaining two-thirds post-competition, after all results have been submitted, banners and other materials have been returned, and all provisions of the contract have been met.

b. The first and second place prizes for all championship classes.

c. Championship ribbons for each level and each division to eighth place.

3. USDF will send a representative to each championship. The USDF representative can and should advise management on Regional Championship requirements and report on infractions. However, enforcement of championship requirements is solely within the role and obligations of competition management. The USDF representative will also be available to provide information about USDF and its programs and policies.

4. USDF will publish complete results for each championship in USDF Connection and on the Web site.

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.

J. Prize Money and Recognition

1. The qualifying fee will be \$10 per class entered. \$5 from each qualifying fee will be deposited into a prize money fund. Prize money is accumulated during the USEF competition year (December 1-November 30). All prize money allocated from qualifying fees will be divided equally among all USDF regions and all Regional Championships classes, with 60% of the amount per class to go to the champion; the remaining 40% will go to the reserve champion.
2. Prize Money for the nine Great American/USDF Regional Championships will be paid directly by the USDF office to the recorded horse owner within 30 days of the last day of each championship. The amount of prize money to be awarded to each champion and reserve champion in all levels and divisions (open, AA and Jr/YR) of the Regional Championships will be announced by February.
3. The horse/rider combination must obtain the necessary minimum percentage score to be named champion or reserve champion and receive prize money and other prizes. (DR123.4)
4. Ribbons through eight placings and prizes, will be provided.

K. Possible Sanctions for failure to follow USDF Championship Program Rules:

1. Withholding all or part of grant money;
2. USDF penalties;
3. USEF penalties for rule violations; and/or
4. Ineligibility of organizer to host future USDF Championships.