

Dressage with Altitude

The 2008 Adequan / USDF
National Convention & Symposium



with

KYRA KYRKLUND

Dressage
USDF Education Partner

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Audit Committee

Chair: Robert Higgins, FL

Liaison: Connie Huy

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Karin Reid Offield, MI
Howard B. Simpson, IL
Charles A. Smith, OH

*There are no new member(s) of the Audit Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To demonstrate USDF's commitment to a policy of strict fiscal accountability and proper governance by adoption of the best practices to improve internal controls and maintain high standards of stewardship.

Goals:

1. The Audit Committee shall recommend to the Board of Governors the selection of a qualified independent certified public accounting firm, which upon approval by the Board of Governors, shall conduct an annual certified audit of the financial records of USDF.
2. Manage the relationship with the independent auditors, review the independent auditors' findings and management letter and recommend actions to the Executive Board and the Board of Governors as appropriate.
3. Monitor and oversee USDF's internal financial controls to ensure quality financial reporting and financial statements at least quarterly.
4. Review procedures for the receipt, documentation and resolution of complaints received by USDF regarding accounting, internal controls and auditing.
5. Review and approve USDF procedures to ensure that USDF members and employees have adequate "whistle blower" protection, which shall protect the reporting party from any retaliation for reporting concerns or issues to the Audit Committee.
6. Investigate all questions and matters of fiscal control including, but not limited to, budget control, risk management, and financial conflicts of interest.
7. Report investigation findings and recommendations to the Executive Board and the Board of Governors.
8. Recommend to the Executive Board and the Board of Governors policies and controls with regard to activities that impact the financial wellbeing of USDF as appropriate.

2008 Objectives:

1. Work with the selected auditor as they prepare and complete the audit for the current fiscal year.
2. Continue to monitor the fiscal health of USDF by reviewing the quarterly fiscal documents provided by USDF staff and the Investment Portfolio reports provided by the Investment Management Company.
3. Work with USDF staff and the auditor to review internal controls that are used in day to day operations.
4. Continue investigating current whistle blower protection provided by both USDF and the state of Kentucky.
5. Make recommendations to the USDF Executive Board and USDF Board of Governors in any of the above areas, and others, either stated or implied in the bylaws for the Audit Committee.
6. As stated in the USDF Bylaws for the Audit Committee: "The Audit Committee shall recommend to the Board of Governors the selection of a qualified independent certified public accounting firm, which upon approval by the Board of Governors, shall conduct an annual certified audit of the financial records of USDF."

2008 Accomplishments:

- Full committee meeting held January 28, 2008, in Wellington, Florida.
- Reviewed pertinent USDF documents, including the USDF Employee Handbook.
- Reviewed audit letter.
- Reviewed letter from USDF concerning relationship between Auditor and Audit Committee.
- Reviewed USDF provided analysis of feasibility of establishing a formal USDF whistle blower policy.
- Reviewed the harassment/discrimination documents included in the USDF Employee Handbook.

2009 Objectives:

1. Require that the selected auditor work with the Audit Committee as the Auditor prepares and completes the audit for the current fiscal year.
2. Require that the USDF staff provide the Audit Committee with the Investment Portfolio reports provided by the Investment Management Company and the quarterly fiscal documents so that the Audit Committee can monitor the fiscal health of USDF.
3. Require that the USDF staff and the auditor provide to the Audit Committee an analysis of the internal controls that are used in day to day operations so that the Audit Committee can determine the adequacy of these controls.
4. Determine if the current USDF Bylaws (Article X) detailing the duties of the Audit Committee concerning the whistle blower protection provided by both USDF and the state of Kentucky should be modified or deleted.

5. Make recommendations to the USDF Executive Board and USDF Board of Governors in any of the above areas, and others, either stated or implied in the bylaws for the Audit Committee.
6. As stated in the USDF Bylaws for the Audit Committee: "The Audit Committee shall recommend to the Board of Governors the selection of a qualified independent certified public accounting firm, which upon approval by the Board of Governors, shall conduct an annual certified audit of the financial records of USDF.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Provide copies of the Audit Committee report.
- II. Discuss the USDF staff position on USDF whistle blower procedures.
- III. Open the meeting to questions.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

1. Recommendation for selection of the Auditor.
2. Possibility of changing the Audit Committee bylaws.

Bylaws Committee Report

Chair: Chris Trentelman, FL*

Vice Chair: Barbara Cadwell, WI *

Liaison: Deborah Dunivant

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Charee Adams, OH
Connie Davenport, CA
Alison Head, VA
Robert Higgins, FL
Sue Hughes, MI
Paula Langan, CA
Janine W. Malone, NC
Gaye McCabe, OR
Peter Rothschild, WA*

*New member(s) of the Bylaws Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To provide for the fair and equitable governance of the United States Dressage Federation.

Goals:

1. Recommend Bylaws amendments as needed.
2. Present amendments to the USDF Board of Governors for ratification.

2008 Objectives:

1. Coordinate with planning committee(s) and USDF Executive Board to ensure prudent and orderly amendment of corporate governance documents to reflect approved changes in structure.
2. Resolve identified issues raised by the Nominating Council:
 - Adequacy of IMO representation on the USDF Board of Governors.
 - Emergency appointment of GMO proxies when there is a potential conflict of interest for the regional director.

2008 Accomplishments:

- Review of Bylaws changes from 2007 BOG and general discussions concerning philosophy of Bylaws structure.
- Incorporated the approved amendments to the Bylaws document from the 2007 BOG meeting and posted on the USDF Web site.
- Quarterly report from the Bylaws chair on Bylaws activities sent to the EB at the end of March 2008.
- The Chairman, as a member of the Ad-hoc Governance Committee, worked with the Governance Committee to review the USDF governance structure with the goal of making recommendations to the Bylaws Committee and to the BOG on changes to that structure.

2009 Objectives:

1. Recommend Bylaws changes as necessary.
2. Coordinate with the Ad-Hoc Governance Committee as to how any changes they recommend will impact the Bylaws.
3. Draft Bylaws changes as requested by the Ad-Hoc Governance Committee to be presented to the BOG in the future.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Discuss proposal to allow immediate vote on replacement of a USDF Officer or Regional Director who is elected to another office, and for which an immediate successor is not already in place.
- II. Discuss proposal to set policy for openness and transparency in the decision making process of all its entities and the guidelines for the same.
- III. Discuss membership amendments concerning roster submissions.
- IV. Discuss any issues presented by the Nominating Council or the Executive Board that need to be presented to the BOG, and draft appropriate language.
- V. Discuss the Ad-Hoc Governance Committee, what it has accomplished to date, and the issues that may come before the Bylaws Committee in the future to implement changes they recommend.
- VI. Any other issues that may come before the meeting.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

1. Bylaws proposal to amend Article VIII, Section 3, to allow immediate vote on replacement of a USDF Officer or regional director who is elected to another office, and for which an immediate successor is not already in place.
2. Policies and Procedures transparency proposal.

Freestyle Committee Report

Chair: Terry Ciotti Gallo, FL

Liaison: Kim Sodt

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Stephanie Alvord, VA
Elaine Donoghue, MA
Jane Escola, CA
Ann Guptill, CT
Janet Hannon, CO
Alexandra Howard, CA
Anna Lucy Keller, ID
Tracey Lert, CA
Michael Matson, MD
Tigger Montague, VA
Debra Reinhardt, CT
Marilyn Rickman, CA
Marlene Schneider, MN
Elizabeth Searle, CA
Marlene Whitaker, NC

*There are no new member(s) of the Freestyle Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To promote freestyle and provide educational opportunities dealing with choreography, music, and judging. To use musical rides to increase exposure and popularize freestyle, quadrille, pas de deux and the sport of dressage.

Goals:

1. Design and provide educational programs for freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille for the general membership and for judge education.
2. Continue to review freestyle, pas de duex and quadrille rules, guidelines, definitions and score sheets.
3. Coordinate with the Judges Committee and with Competition Management and Awards Councils.
4. Maintain a freestyle Web page on the USDF Web site to increase exposure, as well as to create promotional activities for freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille.

2008 Objectives:

1. Track judges who have completed freestyle education.
2. Continue to improve and update freestyle pages on the USDF Web site.
3. Review freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille rules and guidelines.
4. Revise Quadrille Handbook.
5. Refine the format for an Adult Education Series on music and movement applied to the training scale.
6. Submit articles to be printed quarterly in *USDF Connection*.
7. Coordinate with Jeff Moore regarding additions to the *Glossary of Judging Terms*.
8. Start a pilot program to include pas de deux and quadrille at regional championships.
9. Work on ideas to promote freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille.

2008 Accomplishments:

- *USDF Connection* articles promoting musical freestyle, pas de deux, and quadrille.
 - January – “The Wow Factor” regarding music interpretation and editing.
 - February – “Four (or More) on the Floor” by Stephanie Alvord on quadrille.
 - September – “Freestyle Word Search” for readers to become familiar with correct freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille terminology and definitions.
- *Connection* articles from 2007 – 2008 have been added to the *Connections* section of the USDF Web site as additional resource material. A link has been established from the freestyle home page.
- The musical freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille Web site pages have been updated and enhanced to provide members easy access to educational materials, score sheets, and Rules and Guidelines.
- Judges who have taken the continuing education weekend on freestyle are being tracked.
- A rough draft of the Quadrille Handbook has been completed.
- A preliminary sketch for the new quadrille freestyle score sheet has begun.
- The committee has contributed various promotional ideas to be discussed further at convention.

2009 Objectives:

TO BE DETERMINED AT 2008 CONVENTION

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Explain work and progress of committee projects.
- II. Discuss topics for a convention university session.
- III. Upcoming Articles for *USDF Connection*.
- IV. Discuss ideas for ways to promote freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille.
- V. Establish 2009 objectives.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

None

Historical Committee Report

Chair: Anne Moss, PA

Liaison: Kim Sodt

***2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7
Denver, Colorado***

2008 Committee Members:

Jennifer Bryant, PA
B.R. Cannon, TN
Sharon K. Cannon, TN
Max E. Gahwyler, CT
Becky Johnston, FL
Anna Lucy Keller, ID
Rosalind Kinstler, MI
Susan Lombardi, CA*
Bettina Longaker, VA*
Alice Martin, IL
Anne Ramsay, FL
Dianne H. Stanley, MT
Charlotte L. Trentelman, FL
Roberta Williams, OH

*New member(s) of the Historical Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To recognize and celebrate the rich heritage of dressage in America through education and promotion.

Goals:

1. Oversee and coordinate Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Award selection.
2. Work with USDF and assist in the development and selection of materials and criteria of the Hall of Fame building.
3. Gather and archive information on the heritage of USDF.

2008 Objectives:

1. Nominate suitable candidates to the Hall of Fame and for the Lifetime Achievement Award.
2. Continue to work and provide the USDF staff and Hall of Fame Advisory Subcommittee with input regarding displays and content for the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame building.
3. Continue the concerted effort to collect historical information regarding the GMOs, acting as voluntary repository.

4. Continue recording interviews with the Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, as well as induction ceremonies, to make available to membership.
5. Review and clarify the selection and nomination process of Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.
6. Continue to educate members and advertise the Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Award nomination process.
7. Discuss historical based educational opportunities that the committee may provide for general membership at future USDF conventions.
8. Develop a "Memories" book of members' stories about Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.

2008 Accomplishments:

- Two Hall of Fame inductees were presented to the EB for approval and both were approved: Fiona Baan and Robert Dover.
- A press release announcing the 2008 Hall of Fame inductees was posted September 4, 2008: <http://www.usdf.org/press/news/view-news.asp?news=260>.
- A documentary pertaining to the "History of Dressage" was completed and made available for viewing at the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame.
- All historical materials were catalogued, providing better records of items in storage, as well as tracking capabilities.
- Historical *USDF Connection* article, introducing 2008 Hall of Fame inductees, was published in the December issue of the magazine.

2009 Objectives:

1. Nominate suitable candidates to the Hall of Fame and for the Lifetime Achievement Award.
2. Continue to work and provide the USDF staff and Hall of Fame Advisory Subcommittee with input regarding displays and content for the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame building.
3. Continue the concerted effort to collect historical information regarding the GMOs, acting as voluntary repository.
4. Continue recording interviews with the Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, as well as induction ceremonies, to make available to membership.
5. Review and clarify the selection and nomination process of Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.
6. Continue to educate members and advertise the Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Award nomination process.
7. Discuss historical based educational opportunities that the committee may provide for general membership at future USDF conventions.
8. Develop a "Memories" book of members' stories about Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Hosting 2008 Hall of Fame inductee, Robert Dover, for Fireside Chat.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

None

IMO Committee Report

Chair: Sarah Marchese, NJ*

Liaison: Karin Glassman

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Beth Beukema, MA
Sarah Geikie, CT
Janet Harms, OH
Janine Malone, NC
Gaye McCabe, OR
Dana McCullough, IA
Sandra Piazza, SC

* There are no new member(s) of the IMO Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To promote dressage interest, education and competition within middle, secondary and post-secondary schools.

Goals:

1. Encourage lifelong interest in dressage.
2. Provide a seamless transition from Jr/YR to adult services and programs provided by USDF.
3. Provide communication and recognition of achievement.
4. Provide access to USDF educational programs.
5. Work with Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Dressage Association (IDA) to promote dressage interest and participation among schools and students.
6. Provide incentives for USDF membership to middle schools, secondary schools, post-secondary schools, colleges and universities with student dressage clubs, interscholastic or intercollegiate dressage teams, or who provide equestrian studies courses or degree programs for undergraduates.

2008 Objectives:

1. Participate in Youth Open Forum.
2. Evaluate IMO Awards programs.
3. Encourage IMOs to host Instructor Workshops, "L" Judge Education, and other USDF educational programs in order for students to benefit from demo riding and auditing.
4. Additional objectives to be determined.

2008 Accomplishments:

- Awarded the 2008 IMO Team Leadership and Senior Athletic Achievement Awards.
- The awards were promoted cooperatively through the IDA Web site.
- USDF supplied prizes, a full page program ad, and competitor bags for the IDA National Championships, held at Mt. Holyoke College, So. Hadley, MA, April 25-27.

2009 Objectives:

1. Participate in Youth Open Forum.
2. Evaluate IMO Awards programs.
3. Encourage IMOs to host USDF educational programs in order for students to demo ride and audit.

Meeting Agenda:

There are no items for the meeting agenda at this time.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

None

Judges Committee Report

Chair: Lois Yukins, MA

Liaison: Kim Sodt

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Trenna Atkins, WA
Yvonne Barteau, IL*
Janet Brown-Foy, CO
Sarah Geike, CT
Hilda Gurney, CA
Anneliese Vogt Harber, GA*
Marilyn Heath, FL
Natalie Lamping, CA
Peter Lert, CA
Marianne Ludwig, FL
Janine Malone, NC
Barbara Marks, NC
J. Ashton Moore, CA
Beverly Rogers, AZ
Marlene Schneider, MN
William Solyntjes, MN

*New member(s) of the Judges Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To promote the pursuit of excellence in dressage judging.

Goals:

1. Provide educational opportunities for all levels of judges.
2. Continue to improve the training of individuals currently licensed or aspiring to be licensed judges.
3. Recognize progressive development of judges.

2008 Objectives:

1. Monitor all FEI and USEF rule changes and make proposed rule changes available to membership as soon as possible.
2. Continue to promote and enhance the Continuing Education Program for Judges and USDF "L" Graduates by adding more potential program formats.

3. Promote and facilitate the implementation of the Musical Freestyle “L” Elective Weekend format of the Continuing Education Program for Judges and USDF “L” Graduates, as well as all other program formats.
4. Expand “L” Program video/DVD library to supplement and modernize the educational material presented in the program by faculty.
5. Encourage “L” Program faculty to solicit 2007 test video contributions from competitors at shows where they judge for the “L” educational material.
6. Discuss and develop a strategic plan regarding continuing education for “L” graduates, researching potential requirements and ideas.
7. Continue to promote and educate membership on the philosophy of the “L” Program by utilizing *USDF Connection* and the USDF Web site.
8. Continue to solicit and encourage membership feedback regarding the 2007 tests to compile and send to the pertinent organizations; FEI, USEF or USDF.
9. Carry on with “The Judge’s Box” in *USDF Connection* to further open communication and promote educational opportunities within the area of judge education.

2008 Accomplishments:

- A total of eleven “L” Programs held sessions in Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 in 2008. Five of these programs will complete their final exams in 2008. As of September 21, only one program, with ten candidates, has completed the final exam. Of the ten that took the final exam, nine graduated, with seven of those graduating with distinction.
- The Continuing Education Program for Judges and USDF “L” Graduates will have had five programs take place in 2008, which have been held in Regions 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9. As of October, four programs have been held. Evaluations from all programs have been positive.
- The Test Writing Subcommittee has solicited members for feedback on the 2007 tests through the *USDF Connection*, Heads-Up section, and E-news.
- A FAQ page about the “L” Program has been developed and posted to the Web site.
- An USDF “L” education blog has been created to facilitate communication amongst interested members, “L” candidates, “L” graduates, organizers and faculty and to promote the program. A direct link to the “L” Program blog can be found on the programs web page.
- In a continued effort to enhance the “L” Program educational material, working groups within the “L” Faculty have reviewed and revised teaching presentations, DVD format, for Sessions A-C.
- A series of articles have appeared in the *USDF Connection* magazine under the title of “The Judge’s Box,” including:
 - “A Method to the Madness”
 - “L is for Learning” (3 part series written by Jennifer O. Bryant)
 - “Judging FAQ”
 - “Function Follows Form”
- The collection of videos, showcasing rides at competition, has substantially increased this past year and will be used to supplement educational material in judge related programs.

- Supporting USDF's efforts to "Go Green," the USDF "L" Program participant binder has been made available to all current "L" candidates and "L" Faculty to be downloaded from the USDF Web site.

2009 Objectives:

TO BE DETERMINED AT 2008 CONVENTION

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Report on new developments for USEF rule changes, judges concerns, regional education activities, and educational material, Sport Horse, FEI, ParaEquestrian, "L" Program and Freestyle.
- II. Explore creating programs and requirements for USDF "L" Graduates and Continuing Education.
- III. Discuss ideas and opportunities to further the communication between trainers, competitors, competition management and judges.
- IV. Update and plan for the upcoming year in regards to educational material and enhancing presentations for programs.
- V. Educational program for Judges Roundtable; Topic - Rider issues with concerns about the coefficient score and potential future rider qualifications.
- VI. Establish 2009 objectives.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

None

Membership Committee Report

Chair: Kenneth Levy, IN

Liaison: Cindy Vimont

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Judith Fiorentino, AL
Sherry Guess, OK
Debra Carr-Kirk, MA*
Paula Langan, CA
Peter Rothschild, WA*
Laurie Virkstis, TX*

*New member(s) of the Membership Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To grow, strengthen, and support the USDF membership.

Goals:

1. Expand the USDF membership roster by bringing in new members.
2. Maintain the current USDF membership base.
3. Encourage GMO only members to also become USDF Participating Members.
4. Improve communication between USDF and all membership categories.

2008 Objectives:

1. Implement, monitor and report on GMO Affiliate Verification form responses.
2. Finalize USDF/AQHA competition awards program processes and reporting.
3. Expand USDF/AHA interaction at the GMO level.
4. Investigate how to align USDF and USEF Business Memberships for easier show entry process.

2008 Accomplishments:

- The Membership Committee conducted a telephone conference call committee meeting on May 19, 2008. Progress on the objectives was discussed and additional topics were reviewed for future committee consideration.
 - A) *Objective 1*
 - As of September 30, 2008 the USDF has received 71 GMO Affiliate Verification forms or 55 percent of the 128 GMO's.

- GMO Coordinators have been kept informed as to communications going out to the regions regarding GMO Affiliate Verification and roster notices.

B) Objective 2

- An AQHA dressage task force was formed by AQHA, consisting of USDF, USEF and AQHA representatives. Ken Levy and Cindy Vimont represented the USDF. A meeting was conducted August 13 -14, 2008, in Amarillo, Texas, at the AQHA headquarters. Representatives from the USDF, USEF and AQHA were present.
- The objective of the committee meeting was to discuss how to design and implement a dressage program that would fit into the AQHA point system for their year-end awards. The committee developed a proposal and the proposed scoring system was tested against 2007 scores submitted to the USDF for AQHA horses. After agreement on a scoring system is reached, the proposal will be sent to the AQHA Executive Committee for approval. It was hoped that some award program could be rolled out in conjunction with USDF during 2008. As the project progresses, updates will be provided.

C) Objective 3

- No specific action was taken with the AHA as of this date.

D) Objective 4

- The committee agreed that the amount of time and effort to align the USEF and USDF Business Memberships may not be justified based on the low level of concern expressed by the membership. Before initiating action on this objective, it was agreed that a question should be included in the next USDF membership survey about the importance of alignment.
- Ken Levy served on the Membership Growth and Retention Working Group and was actively involved with the development of the Working Group's recommendation to the Executive Board.

2009 Objectives:

1. Continue to implement, monitor and report on GMO Affiliate Verification form responses.
2. Finalize USDF/AQHA competition awards program processes and reporting.
3. Investigate and potentially work on plans to implement proposals agreed upon by the Executive Board from the Membership Growth and Retention Working Group.
4. Development of implementation plans for changes to the USDF membership structure as approved by the Board of Governors.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Review USDF membership statistics for 2008.
- II. Review USDF Membership Committee objectives and accomplishments.
- III. Question and answer session.
- IV. Closing.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

None

Para Equestrian Dressage Committee Report

Chair: Hope Hand, PA

Liaison: Karin Glassman

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Elaine Donoghue, MA
Liselotte Fore, CA
Kathryn Groves, NC
Kathleen Kiesel, NJ
Lloyd Landkamer, MN
Peter Lert, CA
Julie Barringer-Richers, CO*
Carrie Schwartz, IL
David H. Schmutz, CA
Elisabeth Williams, PA*
Lois Yukins, MA

*New member(s) of the Para Equestrian Dressage Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To increase visibility and comprehension of the available programs for competitive dressage riders with physical disabilities.

Goals:

1. To serve as a coordinator for dressage riders with physical disabilities and to advise interested riders of the various organizations and programs involved.

2008 Objectives:

1. Revise committee mission statement and goals.
2. Update and augment Web site educational documents and links to pertinent organizations.
3. Develop series of articles for *USDF Connection*.
4. Revisit NAYRC criteria to include juniors at NAJC.
5. Research the development of an educational lecture series.
6. Submit for approval a PE Handbook for show managers for inclusion in the USDF Competition Handbook and on the Competition Managers CD.
7. Plan a USDF University Educational Program at the 2008 convention in Denver; possible collaboration with NARHA (headquartered in Denver).

2008 Accomplishments:

- The *Management Guide to Hosting Para Equestrian (PE) Dressage Classes* was created by committee members and posted on the USDF Web site under Guidelines, Forms, and Checklists for Show Management at www.usdf.org/competitions/show-management. It is also available for downloading in the Competition Handbook at <http://www.usdf.org/competitions/handbook/>.
- Show managers were notified of its availability in the *Competition Contact* quarterly E-newsletter, sent by Krystina Firth.
- A FAQ document for those new to Para Equestrian competition was developed by the committee and posted to the USDF Web site: <http://www.usdf.org/faqs/paraequestrians.asp>.

2009 Objectives:

1. Support development efforts and education about the new USEF affiliate: U.S. Para Equestrian Association.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Update on the new affiliate.
- II. Results of 2008 Paralympics.
- III. Develop plan to support objective above.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

None

Regional Championships Committee Report

Chair: Veronica Holt, CO

Liaison: Donna Rocchetti

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Janet Brown-Foy, CO
Joan Darnell, TX
Lisa Gorretta, OH
Lendon Gray, NY
Joyce Hardesty, KS
Carol Lavell, NC
Janine Malone, NC
Kathy Moffitt, NJ
Dorothy Mueller, MI
Helen St. Amand, WA
Maureen Van Tuyl, CA
Anneliese Vogt Harber, GA
Roberta Williams, OH
George Williams, OH
Elisabeth Williams, PA

*There are no new member(s) of the Regional Championships Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To promote and recognize the pursuit of excellence by providing a showcase venue for riders within each USDF Region.

Goals:

1. Establish and update guidelines for qualifying as needed.
2. Educate championship management.
3. Provide recognition and rewards.
4. Promote the championships.
5. Increase the number of participants.

2008 Objectives:

1. Continue to work on a joint agreement between USDF and USEF to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each organization and to ensure that the rules and policies for the regional championships are both understood and followed.
2. Update and print the 2009 Regional Championships document by April 1, 2008.

3. Continue to make the Great American/USDF Regional Championships unique among shows, with the goals of attracting top horses and riders and of providing a showcase event in each region.
4. Improve issues of management involving officials, managers, secretaries, footing, award ceremonies, rule compliance, and USDF reporting and communication that evaluate and improve the events.
5. Provide guidance to regions that work to coordinate their championships with other regions and with other competitive opportunities within the sport.

2008 Accomplishments:

- Worked with the USEF Dressage Committee to secure an extraordinary rule change that removed restrictions from qualifying classes.
- Researched and recommended that instead of mailing a costly qualified rider certificate, beginning in 2009, a patch will be offered at cost. Riders will be able to download a certificate from the Web site.
- An ad-hoc subcommittee developed a detailed set of procedures for award ceremonies.
- Invited a subcommittee composed of managers of regional championships to review the current Manager's Notebook and other championship materials.
- Communicated rule changes going into effect for the 2009 competition year to managers and participating members (non-US citizen, additional divisions in Intermediate 2 and Grand Prix).
- During the last conference call there was a vigorous discussion about changing the date (July 1) when participants have to declare their region for competition. A motion was passed that a deadline extension from July 1 to August 1 will be allowed, but a \$100 fee will be applied.

2009 Objectives:

1. Revise the Manager's Notebook.
2. Continue to "tighten up" the timelines for action items so that management teams can secure facilities two years ahead.
3. Revise host site application, contract, and evaluations in order to address objective evaluation of regional championships, with minimal subjective input.
4. Review current qualifying system in terms of its effectiveness.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Call to order and attendance.
- II. Letters of Automatic Invitation – clarify language. Must be specific as to the difference between "ranked", "invited", and "competed." Must clarify rule in regards to what levels the automatic invitation allows them to enter, where they can compete, and which horses they can bring with them if they choose to change regions.

- III. Equivalencies – Should we have them? – How can they be changed to always remain consistent, even when there are mid-year rule changes by USEF – evaluate the test itself.
- Should the FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider Team tests remain as part of the regional program?
- IV. Clarify how many classes for Junior/Young Riders. Be certain to get language clarified.
- V. Regional Reserve Champion discussion on potential new award; possible saddle pad.
- VI. Championship rules discussion.
- E.2 – Any horse entered in an USEF/USDF Regional Championship competition, even if entered in two levels, must be ridden by the same rider throughout the competition. Therefore, a horse can only be ridden by one rider. – Suggested change that after the horse has completed competition and the awards ceremony for that championship class, another rider be allowed to ride the horse – e.g. Dressage Seat Medal classes.
 - Two judges (at least one of whom must be an S or FEI dressage judge) must officiate in each championship class. It is recommended that three judges officiate in FEI Level Championship classes. A suggestion has been made to have two Rs instead of one R and one S.
 - Fifty percent of judges hired to officiate in regional championship classes must have permanent residence outside the region.
 - 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 principal competition TD, who is the person responsible for filing the TD report for the competition with USEF.
- VII. USEF rule change proposals affecting USDF programs.
- VIII. Discussion of the 2010 Regional Championship dates. WEG dates are September 25 through October 10, 2010. Dressage competition dates – Monday, September 27 through Friday, October 1, 2010.
- IX. USDF staff representation at regional championships.
- X. Clarify in the Program Rule that the “horse/rider” combination is what the intent of the rule was.
- XI. Champion jackets for 2009, Reserve leadshank/saddle pad?

Items to come before the Executive Board:

None

Sport Horse Committee Report

Chair: Scott Hassler, MD

Vice Chair: Kristi Wysocki, CO

Liaison: Cindy Vimont

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Willy Arts, CA
Ekkehard Brysch, IL
Rachel Ehrlich, MA
Douglas Langer, WI
Susan Madden Mandas, OH
Janine Malone, NC
Melanie Sloyer, PA
Charles Smith, OH
Maurine Swanson, PA
William Solyntjes, MN

*There are no new member(s) of the Sport Horse Committee for 2008.

Mission:

To promote the development of quality dressage stock in the United States.

Goals:

1. Promote breeding goals for sport horses.
2. Educate breeders, buyers, trainers, and judges of the desired ideals of a sport horse.
3. Provide competition guidelines.
4. Maintain stallion performance records.
5. Promote tracking of competition records and horse recording for all horses.

2008 Objectives:

1. Evaluate participation, administration, support and sponsorship of the Great American Insurance Group/USDFBC Series.
 - a. Policy
 - b. Development
 - c. Overall success

2. Through USDF staff, provide information to USEF-licensed dressage sport horse breeding judges regarding conduct of the USDFBC qualifying and championship classes.
3. Through USDF staff, support Dressage Sport Horse Breeding shows by providing timely and accurate information and materials.
4. Through USDF staff, continue to provide information to shows and judges on the conduct of Materiale classes.
5. Continue to put 100 percent effort into Materiale promotion, national level awards, awareness, etc.
6. Cooperate with breed registries and the Federation of North American Sport Horse registries.
7. Continue to provide education on breeding, judging and handling sport horses through articles in *USDF Connection*.
8. Search for an avenue to provide incentives to ride young breeding and sport horses.
9. Provide an open communication system for the breeders and continue to work with them.
10. Maintain a list of eligible instructors to conduct USDF Sport Horse Seminars and USDF Handlers' Clinics.
11. Continue to improve USDF pedigree record keeping, sharing and providing information to appropriate sources.
12. Evaluate functioning of Breeder of the Year Award.
13. Evaluate proposed change to declaration and ranking process in the All-Breeds Award program.
14. Improve and expand USDF Dressage Sport Horse Seminar module and curriculum support materials.

2008 Accomplishments:

- Solicited All-Breeds "Breed of the Month" articles.
- Completed the "Cliff Notes for DSHB Competitors."
- Finalized the USDF Sport Horse Seminar application packet, organizer's guide and instructor's outline.
- Developed a proposal for a "Current Year Foal Championship" to be added to the USDFBC Series.
- Continued to develop audio visual and hard copy materials for the USDF Sport Horse Seminar.
- Held two Sport Horse Seminars - July 2008, Texas, with Hilda Gurney and October 2008, Pennsylvania, with Melissa Creswick.
- Provided resources for three statistical articles for the *USDF Connection*. Also provided a fourth summary article of the statistics articles for the *USDF Connection*.
- Kristi Wysocki audited a Sport Horse Seminar to evaluate the materials and format relative to the current updates/revisions being made.
- Reviewed the staff procedure for entering pedigree information in the database, and defined what is considered official pedigree and breeder information for USDF official records and publication purposes.

- Modified the policy for All-Breeds declarations to allow for participating registry changes in and out of the All-Breeds program.
- Proposed modification to DSHB horse of the year awards to allow dropping one score after the minimum three scores has been achieved. All scores attained before the end of the competition year would be included, including USDFBC final scores, unless they are the lowest score after the three score minimum.

2009 Objectives:

1. Continue to encourage Breed of the Month article submission.
2. Make "Cliff Notes" for DSHB competitors available on-line and on Competition Manager's CD.
3. Update 2010 Breeder's Championship rules and incorporate Current Year Foal Championship division, if approved.
4. Develop promotional support and information on the Current Year Foal Championship division for exhibitors, competition managers, and judges, if approved.
5. Develop standardized power point, videos and other visual materials, and handouts for USDF Sport Horse Seminars.
6. Schedule 2009 Sport Horse Seminar(s).
7. Evaluate positive and/or negative impacts of having additional qualifying method using the 77 percent score option, which goes into effect in 2009.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Review and finalize Current Year Foal Championship proposal.
- II. Formalize a recommendation for DSHB horse of the year awards to allow the dropping of one score after the minimum number of three scores has been achieved.
- III. Determine whether a fee should be required for All-Breeds declarations and/or changes to declarations.
- IV. Review the All-Breeds declaration form and proposal for requiring a form for declaring.
- V. Review Breeder's Championship Finals procedures and feedback on 2008 championship program.
- VI. Suggest changes to Breeder's Championship rules for 2010 including allowing owners to attend a different Series Final in certain situations.
- VII. Determine the number of Sport Horse Seminars to be held in 2009.
- VIII. Review Breeder of the Year Award.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

1. USDFBC Current Year Foal Championship division proposal.

Young Rider Graduate Program Report

Chair: Rosalind Kinstler, MI

Liaison: Karin Glassman

2008 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 3 – December 7 Denver, Colorado

2008 Committee Members:

Elizabeth Barclay, IL
Kathy Beal, CA
Margee Koffler, KY
Amanda Johnson, WI
Kathryn Walsh, OH
George Williams, OH
Roberta Williams, OH
Jessica Ranshausen, PA

Mission:

To provide graduates of the USDF Young Rider Program, ages 21-25, information and support for a 'seamless' transition into the adult world as amateur, professional or high performance equestrians.

Goals:

1. For USEF and USDF to work in concert to track and nurture successful, talented riders for future success in both national and international competition.
2. To provide strong role models and effective mentoring to the graduates as they develop into future leaders in the sport of dressage.

2008 Objectives:

1. Plan and organize next Young Rider Graduate Program.
2. Evaluate future format and scheduling to enhance the program.
3. Develop a resource list, including past speakers and participants.

2008 Accomplishments:

- The Young Rider Graduate Program was held January 18-20, 2008, in West Palm Beach, Florida. The program was linked with the USDF FEI - Level Trainers' Conference, providing YR Graduate participants an exclusive opportunity to participate in parts of the TC for a special rate.
- There were 25 participants between the ages of 20 and 26 selected to participate.

- Eighteen speakers participated, representing USDF, USEF, TDF, international high performance riders, national level trainers, former young riders, corporate and patron sponsors and media public relations experts, along with a high performance equine veterinarian and a motivational speaker.
- Fifteen of the 25 participants extended their stay to participate in the special option provided for attendance at the USDF Trainers' Conference.
- Evaluated program, incorporating feedback from 2008 program participants, speakers, and program coordinators.

2009 Objectives:

1. Plan and organize next Young Rider Graduate Program in January 2010.
2. Review program format and scheduling to enhance the program, incorporating evaluation feedback from the 2008 program.
3. Research options for utilizing audio/visual recording of the program for post-program educational purposes.

Meeting Agenda:

There are no items for the meeting agenda at this time.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

None