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**At the time of printing the awards schedule is still being developed. Copies of the tentative awards schedule will be available in the show office upon check-in.*

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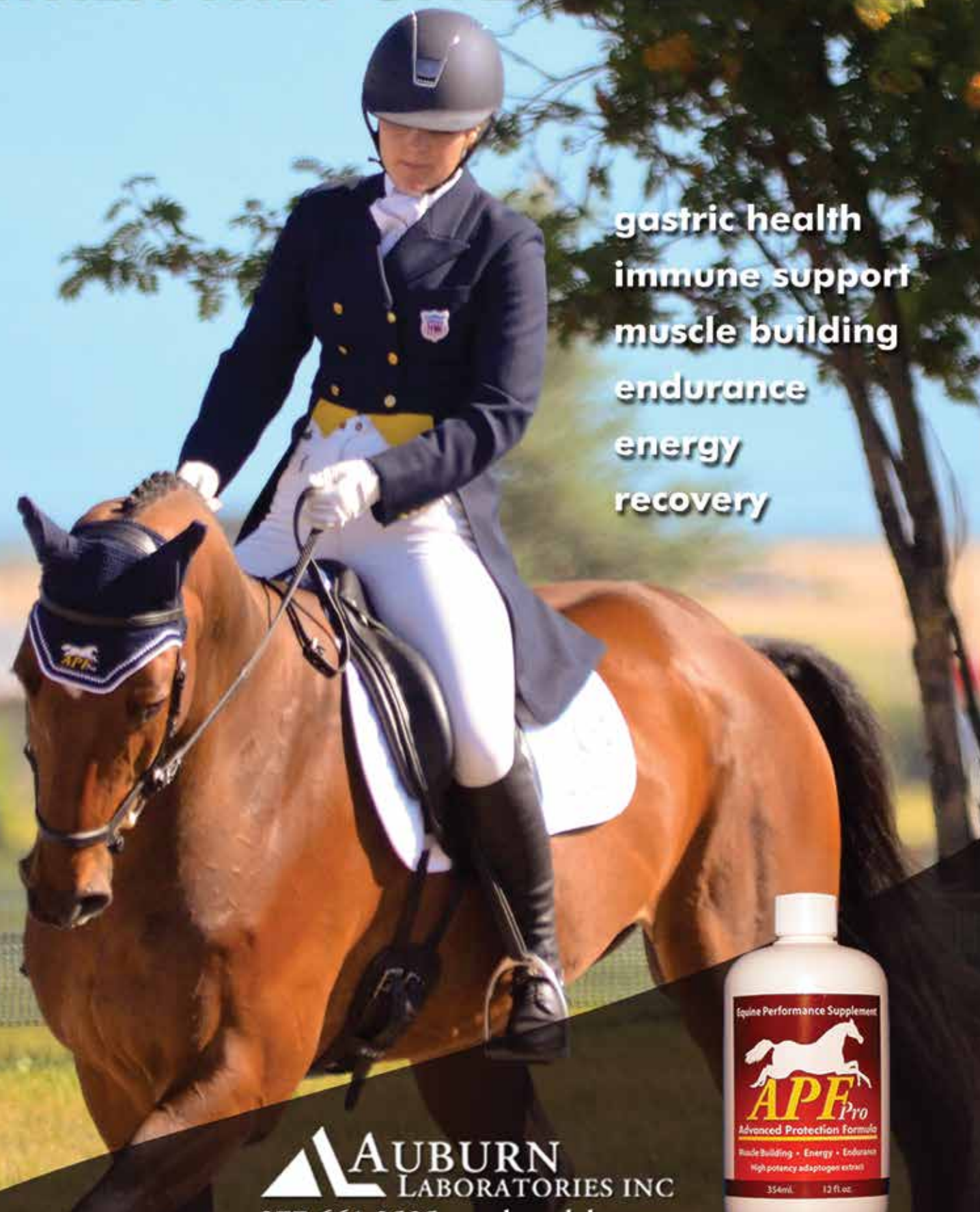
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WHAT ARE THE US DRESSAGE FINALS?

What are the US Dressage Finals Presented by Adequan and USDF Dressage in the Bluegrass?

Every November, dressage competitors from across the country, in junior/young rider, adult amateur, and open divisions, descend on the Kentucky Horse Park to step onto the national stage and make their way down the 'centerline of champions' at the US Dressage Finals. Top qualifiers, representing each USDF region, compete in a national head-to-head championship vying for national titles, prize money up to \$120,000, and most importantly, bragging rights! The US Dressage Finals is a Level Five Competition, the highest level of competition under United States Equestrian Federation rules. USDF Dressage in the Bluegrass offers non-championship classes open to all competitors, including those who are not competing in US Dressage Finals classes.

Spectators, guests, and competitors alike are encouraged enjoy shopping the trade fair held in the Alltech Arena, and visiting Kentucky Horse Park attractions like the Museum of the Horse, the Man O' War memorial, and the USEF headquarters.

This event is organized and hosted by the United States Dressage Federation with support from the United States Equestrian Federation.



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Photo: Sharon Packer Photography



WELCOME

from USDF, USEF, Adequan®, and the Kentucky Horse Park



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 US Dressage Finals, presented by Adequan®. Now in its seventh year, this head to head competition serves as the series final for our Regional Championships program and it has grown in both size and stature as a unique competition for our sport in the US. This year our prize money is up to \$120,000 and we have a total of \$50,000 available for travel grants for eligible competitors!

Whether a first time or a returning competitor, remember that no visit to the Kentucky Horse Park is complete without taking some time to see the sights, such as the Horse Park Museum and the brand new US Equestrian Headquarters. And when you are getting down to the business of competing, you will surely want to stop by the awards table to see the beautiful trophies and class awards, the scoring kiosks that are state of the art in providing dressage results, and of course you'll want to spend some time in the trade fair for some "stress relief retail therapy", all located in and around the Alltech Arena.

For every horse that made the trip, we know there is a "big village" working behind the scenes to make everything happen. So it goes also with this event, as officials and dedicated volunteers also come from across the country to work with our USDF staff to make it all happen for you. You might also have the opportunity to meet representatives from our many sponsors. They would all love to have an opportunity to meet you too!

I would like to thank the show organizing committee, USDF staff, our sponsors and officials, and especially the show volunteers for their commitment to US Dressage Finals. To all of our competitors in both the Open, Adult Amateur, and Jr/Young Rider Divisions, congratulations on making it to the Finals. I wish you best of luck in the arena and a tack trunk full of great memories from this weekend.

Thank you for joining us,

Lisa Gorretta
President
United States Dressage Federation

On behalf of US Equestrian, welcome back to the Kentucky Horse Park in the horse capital of the world - Lexington, Kentucky. An exciting weekend of competition is planned featuring the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®.

In its eighth year, these Finals bring together competitors from all over the country to compete in for national honors in both Adult Amateur and Open Division from Training Level through Grand Prix. We are truly grateful to be happy, healthy, and here after missing last year's Finals due to COVID.

US Equestrian is proud to support the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® and wishes all competitors, horse owners, trainers, and support teams the best of luck.

Enjoy the competition!

Tom O'Mara
President
United States Equestrian Federation



Welcome to the 2021 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®! On behalf of American Regent Animal Health, maker of Adequan® i.m. (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan), congratulations to all riders. We know the work both you and your horses put into rising to this level of competition.

Adequan® has supported horses and riders for more than 30 years, and we are pleased to continue that legacy with the United States Dressage Federation. As presenting sponsor of the Finals, Adequan® is honored to not only supports this elite event but also to help keep the entire dressage community moving forward.

Enjoy the competition and camaraderie as you ride among top athletes from every region of the country. We wish each of you a successful event.

Thank you and enjoy the Finals!

Andy Ferrigno
Senior Director of Sales and Marketing
American Regent Animal Health, a division of American Regent, Inc.



Dear Guests and Competitors:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Lexington, Kentucky – home of the 2021 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® at the Kentucky Horse Park. Owned and operated by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Kentucky Horse Park is a genuine treasure of our state and a facility unlike any other in the world. Since 1978, our mission has been to celebrate our unique relationship with the horse through education, exhibition, engagement, and competition.

The park is a multi-faceted facility, and unless you are positioned behind-the-scenes, you may not realize just how many facets this includes. The lifeblood of the park is our staff who work hard to ensure our venues are ready for events, our horses are properly cared for, and that the park grounds are in pristine condition. With over 1,200 acres, it is a 24 hour, 7 days a week responsibility. The park is a place where visitors from all over the world come to see horses up close and experience just what makes this place so special.

Some of the must-see attractions at the Kentucky Horse Park include: Hall of Champions, Parade of Breeds Shows, the International Museum of the Horse, or simply exploring the numerous monuments throughout the park grounds.

I invite you and your family to come experience all that the Kentucky Horse Park has to offer.

With kind regards,

John Crowell
Interim Executive Director
Kentucky Horse Park

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THE FUTURE OF DRESSAGE

Spotlight to Shine on Juniors and Young Riders at 2021 Dressage Finals

The addition of Junior/Young Rider divisions to the 2021 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® means that riders like Hayley Jonkman have an exciting new incentive to compete.

By Jennifer M. Keeler

Reprinted from YourDressage.org – 8/11/21

When Hayley Jonkman first qualified for the 2016 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® with a First Level wild card score earned aboard her eventing pony named Love Bug, she was only 15 years old and didn't even know what the "Finals" were. But her trainer, Jennifer Conour, encouraged Jonkman and her family to make the trip to Lexington and made the talented junior believe she belonged there among the nation's best.

Since classes for youth weren't offered at the Finals, this meant that Jonkman shared the First Level competition ring with decorated professionals more than twice her age in the Open division. "I'm not going to lie – riding against all the Open riders was very intimidating," Jonkman remembered. "They are all professionals who are paid to ride horses, and I'm there on a \$3,000 asthmatic Chincoteague pony that has lots of attitude."

Nevertheless, the junior rider from Lafayette, Indiana was not deterred. Building upon that initial experience, Jonkman qualified for and returned to the Finals twice more with Love Bug, culminating in a triumphant ninth-place finish in the Second Level Open Freestyle in 2019.

"Just qualifying for the Finals was awesome, but to come back year after year and landmark my progress against the country's best meant so much," Jonkman explained. "I remember lining up for the awards ceremony where there were these professional riders aboard fancy Warmbloods, and then there's me on my 13.1-hand pinto pony. I'll never forget cantering around the Alltech Arena for the awards ceremony with that top ten ribbon with my mom and all of my college equestrian teammates who had driven down to Kentucky cheering me on. It was our proudest moment."

But now juniors and young riders like Jonkman will have their own spotlight at the US Dressage Finals. For the first time, the 2021 event will offer a Junior/Young Rider division for Training through Fourth Levels*, and Jonkman thinks this could be a game changer for many youth.

"I hadn't really considered trying to go back this year because I'm so busy with school plus I have a new mare I'm working with; but I have to say that, with the addition of a Junior/Young Rider division, it's much more enticing," said Jonkman, who is a full-time student at Albion College in Michigan studying geology and paleontology. "Having the ability to compete against my own age group makes me feel like I have more of a fighting chance to do well and could definitely impact my decision as to whether or not I'd come back. I hadn't even thought about the Finals this year, but now that I know about this change, it will make me think twice."

So what prompted this change? USDF President Lisa Gorretta explained that the intention to eventually include a Youth Division was discussed way back in the original planning of the Finals. Over several years, the level of participation at the qualifying Regional Championships in the junior/young rider divisions grew to the point where the division was thought to be sustainable at the Finals as well. An implementation task force was formed to discuss the myriad of details and to make a recommendation to the USDF Board, who approved the change and announced the good news at the 2019 Adequan®/USDF

Haley Jonkman and Love Bug wearing a ribbon at the 2019 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® (photo by SusanJStickle.com)



(photo by SusanJStickle.com)



Annual Convention in Savannah, Georgia. What are the US Dressage Finals Presented by Adequan and USDF Dressage in the Bluegrass?

Every November, dressage competitors from across the country, in junior/young rider, adult amateur, and open divisions, descend on the Kentucky Horse Park to step onto the national stage and make their way down the 'centerline of champions' at the US Dressage Finals. Top qualifiers, representing each USDF region, compete in a national head-to-head championship vying for national titles, prize money up to \$120,000, and most importantly, bragging rights! The US Dressage Finals is a Level Five Competition, the highest level of competition under United States Equestrian Federation rules. USDF Dressage in the Bluegrass offers non-championship classes open to all competitors, including those who are not competing in US Dressage Finals classes.

Spectators, guests, and competitors alike are encouraged to enjoy shopping the trade fair held in the Alltech Arena, and visiting Kentucky Horse Park attractions like the Museum of the Horse, the Man O' War memorial, and the USEF headquarters.

This event is organized and hosted by the United States Dressage Federation with support from the United States Equestrian Federation.

"Remembering that as a national head-to-head championship, the US Dressage Finals is the culmination of all of the hard work and achievement of those riders who qualify from the USDF Regional Championships program," Gorretta noted. But until now, junior and young riders have gone through the same qualifying process as open and adult amateur competitors plus paid the same Regional Championship qualifying fee for each ride (which contributes directly to pay for administration of those programs as well as prize money). So, Gorretta pointed out, youth exhibitors paid their fair share each show season, but didn't have their own place to shine at the grand finale – the Finals.

"To get here, we had to get enough youth riders participating at the Regional Championship level, and we believe we have reached that tipping point," Gorretta added. "Now we're really looking forward to a full-fledged JR/YR division with representatives from the majority of regions at this fall's Finals."

Love Bug is a versatile pony.

Now in her final year of Junior/Young Rider eligibility, 20-year-old Jonkman is thinking about coming back to the Finals yet again to now ride in the new JR/YR division and would encourage other dressage youth to also fully embrace the chance to go to Lexington and compete among their peers.

"I'm not a rider who had the opportunity to compete in the FEI divisions, as the FEI Junior and Young Rider programs were honestly outside of my family's financial means, as well as the physical abilities of my pony. So by having the opportunity to qualify and compete for national honors at the lower levels at the Finals was very special for me," Jonkman said. "I definitely think the Finals are worth the work and effort to go to because it's such an incredible learning experience. Even if you don't do well, the pride you get from just making it there is worth it and motivates you for the next season."

"Going there and seeing all the incredible horses and riders I competed against was inspiring, and being a part of the 'big stage' was invaluable, especially for someone like me working my way up the levels on a non-Warmblood," Jonkman concluded. "We've come so far together – Love Bug was abused before I got her, and she threw me countless times growing up. But I learned that all of your hard work and hundreds of hours of training CAN pay off, and even a teenager on a little Chincoteague pony can go to the Finals and be among the top ten in the country."

**Starting with the 2021 US Dressage Finals, Juniors and Young Riders will have the opportunity to compete in a combined JR/YR division for Training through Fourth Levels. Juniors and Young Riders entering an FEI-level test or any freestyle at the Finals will still be required to compete in the Open division.*



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1 Adequan® i.m. Package Insert, Rev 1/19.

2 Burba DJ, Collier MA, DeBault LE, Hanson-Painton O, Thompson HC, Holder CL: In vivo kinetic study on uptake and distribution of intramuscular tritium-labeled polysulfated glycosaminoglycan in equine body fluid compartments and articular cartilage in an osteochondral defect model. *J Equine Vet Sci* 1993; 13: 696-703.

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SPECIAL EVENTS & AREA ACTIVITIES

Competitor Parties

- Thursday** **Competitor Welcome Party and Trade Fair Kick-Off located in the Alltech**
5:30 pm Shop in the trade fair and enjoy delicious appetizers and beverages for competitors and guests. Listen to live music of the Bluegrass band 5 String Theory. Visit every vendor to collect your Trade Fair Passport stamped and get entered to win one of three \$50 trade fair coupons. Turn in your stamped passport to the registration desk by 6pm, on Friday, for a chance to win.
- Friday** **Bluegrass Competitor Party in the Alltech**
6:00 pm Kentucky-themed appetizers for competitors and guests. Enjoy a taste of what Kentucky has to offer and stay for the Grand Prix classes.
- Saturday** **A Taste of the South Competitor Party in the Alltech**
6:00 pm Enjoy appetizers with a southern flare for competitors and guests while tapping your toes during the Grand Prix Freestyles.

Area Activities

Take advantage of all Lexington and the surrounding areas have to offer by participating in local activities and tours during the US Dressage Finals. For a list of activities and more information, please visit the information desk or usdressagefinals.com.

Follow the action on



usef.org/network

with commentary by Kathy Connelly



Kathy Connelly

Kathy Connelly is a highly respected international Dressage rider, trainer, coach, USEF "S" Dressage judge, USDF Honorary Instructor and International Dressage Commentator. She represented the U.S. Dressage Team at both the World Cup in Sweden and also at the North American Championships in Canada.

Kathy is presently Co-Chair of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. She has provided commentary at the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Kentucky, the 2010, the 2015 World Cup Finals in Las Vegas, for USEF at the Festival of Champions in 2016 and 2018, and for the last five years at the USEF/USDF National Dressage Finals in Lexington, Kentucky



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SUPPLEMENT MYTHS BUSTED

by SmartPak



ASK TEN HORSE PEOPLE HOW TO do something and you'll get nine answers. It's true—there is usually more than one "right" way to accomplish anything from training and riding to mucking a stall. But not necessarily when it comes to supplements.

With a staff of equine health experts, SmartPak understands there are some common misconceptions with supplements, which is why they've picked seven supplement myths and officially busted them. Once you find out the truth, you may reconsider how and what you feed your horse!

The number one myth is that healthy horses don't need supplements. A smart supplement program is a tool for maintaining your horse's good health. Modern horsekeeping puts horses under stress from limited grazing, stall confinement, feeding grain and training. These factors disrupt the horse's digestive health, immunity and wellbeing. Even a horse that looks great could be fending off health problems like chronic inflammation, digestive upset or insulin resistance. Help your horse thrive by first balancing his diet for vitamins and minerals, and adding omega 3 fatty acids. Next, ensure proper hydration with electrolytes as needed, and consider supplements for digestive support, joint support or other targeted formulas.

The second most common myth is that horses on fortified grain don't need a multi-vitamin, which is false. In an assessment of feeding practices, SmartPak found that 7 out of 10 horses were not getting enough vitamins and minerals from

their fortified grain. To meet his nutrient requirements, your horse must get the full amount of fortified grain recommended on the feed bag for his age, weight and workload. But like many horses, yours may not need the amount of calories that much grain provides. Feeding a multivitamin/mineral supplement is the perfect way to add the nutrients he needs without extra calories.

#1 MYTH:

Healthy horses don't need supplements.

The third myth is that skinny horses need more grain. Underweight horses may have other problems that need to be addressed first. If your horse can't maintain a healthy weight, be sure he gets a complete veterinary exam that includes a dental check, fecal test, and assessment of his overall diet. A horse's digestive system was built for constant grazing, and an average-sized horse should eat 15–20 lbs of forage daily, so be sure to evaluate his serving of forage when you assess his diet. Next take a look at his grain ration and consider whether a grain with a higher fat content may be appropriate. If you've ruled out medical reasons and have his diet squared away, consider a weight gain supplement, which provides extra calories from healthy sources of fat, such as rice bran and coconut meal, as well as amino acids for lean muscle development.

When it comes to calming supplements, the fourth, and commonly thought myth is that they should be given only before a stressful event like trailering. Most calming supplements are actually designed to be given on a daily basis. Because these products work by addressing dietary deficiencies and soothing the nervous system, they need to be provided in the horse's system consistently in order to see results. It generally takes 4–6 weeks to see the full benefits in your horse.

While many believe that corn oil is a good source of fat for horses, that is also a myth— corn oil actually promotes chronic inflammation. Corn oil contains about 70% omega 6 fatty acids and virtually no omega 3 fatty acids. Why does this matter? Omega 6s are generally considered proinflammatory. Too many omega 6s in the diet puts your horse's body in a state of chronic inflammation, lending him to degenerative health conditions. Grain is also very high in omega 6s, causing further imbalance. Instead of corn oil, turn to alternative fat sources like flax seed and fish oil which contain higher levels of omega 3s.

The sixth myth is that joint supplements are only for old or injured horses. Any horse can benefit from joint support – even horses who are young and still feeling great. That's because all horses, even wild Mustangs who have never worked a day in their lives, are at risk for joint deterioration. Even worse, unhealthy joints can affect your horse's performance and can even cut short the years you're able to enjoy riding together. Providing your horse with a daily joint supplement will help ensure that he always has a steady supply of the ingredients he needs to cope with the stress of exercise and maintain healthy joints.

Finally, the last myth is that a salt block is a good way to ensure my horse's needs are met. If a salt block is your horse's only source of salt, you won't be able to track whether he's getting enough to meet his daily requirements. For adult horses in no work, that requirement is at least an ounce per day! Since hay, pasture, and commercial feeds provide very little salt, it's a smart idea to top dress your horse's meals with a supplement like SmartSalt® Pellets to help ensure he's getting the salt he needs.

Now that you know more about the truth behind those supplement myths, visit www.SmartPak.com to learn more about how you can support your horse's health.

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MEET THE OFFICIALS

Judges



Anne Cizadlo

Anne Cizadlo is a USEF licensed USEF “S” Dressage judge with added designations for Freestyle and Young Horse. Anne is an FEI Rider who currently competes as well as trains, teaches, and coaches riders from across the country and has earned her USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medals.



Joan Darnell

Joan Darnell is a USEF “S” Dressage and FEI3* Para Dressage Judge and a USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalist. Joan has been an active member of USDF having served in many roles. She is currently a member of the USDF Freestyle committee and the USDF “L” Program Faculty. Joan is from Georgetown, Texas and owns two full brothers by Contucci that she enjoys riding and training.



Catherine Bass

C. Carter Bass is a licensed USEF “S” Dressage judge with added designations for Freestyle and Young Horse and also a licensed USEF “R” DSHB judge who started her judging career in 1989. Carter has competed through Grand Prix winning Regional Championships and earning her USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medals on homebred Oldenburgs.

She has been a Dressage instructor for over 40 years, with students winning numerous Horse of the Year awards and Regional Championships, competing through Grand Prix.



Jodi Lees

Jodi Lees is a licensed USEF “S” Dressage judge with added designations for Equitation, Freestyle, and Young Horse. She is currently competing at FEI level and has earned her USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medals plus numerous riding awards and performance certificates. Jodi is currently apprenticing to become a member of the USDF L Faculty. She and her husband own a 30-acre facility named River’s Edge Farms where she trains and teaches.



Sandra Hotz

Sandra Hotz is an FEI 4* Dressage Judge and Young Horse Judge and licensed USEF “S” Dressage judge with added designations for Equitation, Freestyle, and Young Horse. Sandra has been judging since 1989 and has officiated at most of the top U.S. competitions including U.S. Dressage Finals. She has also judged at the Central American/Caribbean Games, Mexican National Championships, and FEI Nations Cup. She has trained young horses and riders to the FEI levels, and conducts clinics throughout the U.S.

Judges



Elizabeth Kane

Elizabeth Kane is a licensed USEF “S” Dressage judge with added designations for Equitation Freestyle, and Young Horse. Elizabeth has owned and competed several horses through the Grand Prix level. She has officiated at numerous regional and national championships including the US Dressage Finals and the Festival of Champions. Elizabeth is an active member of the International Dressage Officials Club and has served as past president of the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association.



Kari McClain

Kari McClain is a USEF “S” Dressage judge with added designations in Young Horse and Freestyle. She has earned the USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals, as well as the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Freestyle bars. Kari serves on the USDF Freestyle Committee, and was USDF National Reserve Champion Sport Horse Breeder of the Year in 2016. Kari resides in Olympia, WA.



Sandy Osborn

Sandy Osborn is a licensed USEF “S” Dressage judge with added designations for Equitation Freestyle, and Young Horse. She began her judging career in 1983. In addition, Sandy has earned her USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medals, on self-trained horses. Sandy is based at Ashland Farm in Covington, GA where she teaches and trains.



Janet Foy

Janet Foy is an FEI 5* Dressage and Young Horse Judge and a licensed USEF “S” Dressage judge with added designations for Equitation, Freestyle, and Young Horse. Along with being part of the ground jury at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Janet has judged all the major shows in the United States and Canada including the Young Rider Championships and the 2019 Pan American Games. Internationally she has judged the Paris World Cup Finals in 2018 and the 2019 European Championships and many top CDI-W and CDI 5* in the world including the famous Aachen 5*. Janet currently serves on the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and International Disciplines Council, the USDF Judges and L Program Committee, L Program Faculty, and the USDF Test writing Working Group.



Kristi Wysocki

Kristi Wysocki is an FEI 4* Dressage and FEI 5* Para Dressage Judge, a licensed USEF “S” Dressage judge with added designations for Equitation, Freestyle, and Young Horse, and a licensed USEF “R” DSHB judge. Kristi has judged CDIs and CPEDs in many countries and continents including the 2018 World Equestrian Games Para Dressage and the European Championships Para Dressage in 2017 and will serve on the 2022 World Championship Para Dressage Judge Panel. She has judged previous US Dressage Finals and many USDF Regional Championships.

Kristi has successfully trained and ridden many horses from start to Grand Prix and has earned her USDF Bronze, Silver, Gold medals.



Judges



Gary Rockwell

Gary Rockwell, a licensed FEI 5*, FEI 5* young horse, and USEF "S" judge, has been a USEF judge for more than 25 years. Gary's extensive judging career includes officiating at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong, American Young Rider Championships, FEI Challenge Tours, European Championships, four World Cup Finals, and many regional finals and national championships. Gary is also the chair of the USDF Judges Committee, a member of the "L" Program Faculty, a member of the USEF Dressage Committee, and the chair of the Test Writing Subcommittee.

As a member of the United States Equestrian Team, Gary represented the US in competition throughout Europe. He and his Danish Warmblood mare, Suna, won a Team Silver Medal at CHIO Rotterdam in 1993 and a Team Bronze at the 1994 World Championships at The Hague, Netherlands.



William Warren

William Warren is an FEI 3* Dressage and Young Horse Judge and Licensed USEF "S" Dressage Judge with added designations for Young Horse and Freestyle. William has earned his USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals along with the USDF Freestyle Gold Bar and operates Warren-McMullin Dressage along with Bill McMullin in Massachusetts and Wellington FL.

Technical Delegates



Rusty Cook

Rusty Cook is a licensed USEF "R" Technical delegate and C2 Steward. She has owned, shown, and raised horses since 1973. She has officiated at horse shows from coast to coast and loves to travel.



Camille Kopcik

Camille Kopcik is an FEI Level 2 Steward and licensed USEF "R" Dressage Technical Delegate. Camille enjoyed competing in several Equestrian sports including Dressage, Hunter Paces, Point to Points, Polo and Fox Hunting.

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Kari McClain, S (WA)
Sandy Osborn, S (GA)
Janet Foy, S (CO)
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and
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and dedication this
event would not
be possible!



US Dressage Finals
presented by Adequan®



2019 CHAMPIONS

Training Level Adult Amateur

FANTASTICA CS (Hanoverian), Kimberly Frederick (CA), owner/rider; Furst Romancier, sire; Lady Lieselo, dam 70.172%

Training Level Open

JAMESON SW (Dutch Warmblood), Kathryn Fleming-Kuhn, owner; Martin Kuhn (IL), rider; Chippendale, sire; Dulcinea BF, dam 74.483%

First Level Adult Amateur

FRANZISKA (Hanoverian), Bonnie Canter (TX), owner/rider; Franziskus, sire; Wempy, dam 75.370%

First Level Open

RONIN (Hanoverian), Kathryn Fleming-Kuhn & Martin Kuhn, owners; Martin Kuhn (IL), rider; Romanov Blue Hors, sire; Something Royal, dam 77.130%

First Level Adult Amateur Freestyle

HEART THROB SCF (Dutch Warmblood), Elizabeth Charpentier Allwein (NY), owner/rider; Jazz, sire; Divine SCF, dam 70.911%

First Level Open Freestyle

FORDEA BELLA (Dutch Warmblood), Sally Miller, owner; Brianna Zwill- ing (MO), rider; Don Schufro, sire; A Royal Diamond MC, dam 80.111%

Second Level Adult Amateur

FREUDENTÄNZER (Hanoverian), Christine Malpartida (FL), owner/rider; Furst Nymphenburg, sire; Design-Ra, dam 71.508%

Second Level Open

REFLECTION (Kleines Deutsches Reitpferd), Margaret Groom, owner; Donna Gatchell (VA), rider; Ridley, sire; Royal Beauty, dam 73.452%

Second Level Adult Amateur Freestyle

NICENE (Oldenburg), Heather Mason, owner; Alexandra Krossen (NJ), rider; Nimbus, sire; Pamela, dam 71.256%

Second Level Open Freestyle

RONIN (Hanoverian), Kathryn Fleming-Kuhn & Martin Kuhn, owners; Martin Kuhn (IL), rider; Romanov Blue Hors, sire; Something Royal, dam 76.000%

Third Level Adult Amateur

FAIROUZ (Oldenburg), Alice Tarjan (NJ), owner/rider; Franziskus, sire; Diva, dam 72.792%

Third Level Open

SENSATION HW (Westfalen), Carol McPhee, owner; Michael Bragdoll (MD), rider; Sunday, sire; Donata, dam 73.083%

Third Level Adult Amateur Freestyle

FAHRENHEIT (Dutch Warmblood), Beth Parsons Bird (NC), owner/rider; Florencio I, sire; Revanche, dam 70.922%

Third Level Open Freestyle

SERENGETI (Oldenburg), Jennifer Roth (OH), owner/rider; Sir Donnerhall, sire; Feldbunte, dam 73.711%

Fourth Level Adult Amateur

BANDINI (Hanoverian), Jocelyn Towne (CA), owner/rider 70.833%

Fourth Level Open

INFINITY (Dutch Warmblood), Karen Lipp (GA), owner/rider 70.139%

Fourth Level Adult Amateur Freestyle

SAN ANGELO (Oldenburg), Tricia Earley (TX), owner/rider 72.367%

Fourth Level Open Freestyle

DALWHINNEY (Dutch Warmblood), Hailey Guard (NC), owner/rider; UB 40, sire; Windsor CA, dam 73.256%

Prix St. Georges Adult Amateur

EYE CANDY (Dutch Warmblood), Amy Gimbel (NJ), owner/ rider; UB 40, sire; Wednesday, dam 71.373%

Prix St. Georges Open

STERNLICHT HILLTOP (Hanoverian), Hilltop Farm Inc., owner; Michael Bragdoll (MD), rider; Soliman de Hus, sire; Rhapsody GGF, dam 72.500%

Intermediate I Adult Amateur

EYE CANDY (Dutch Warmblood), Amy Gimbel (NJ), owner/ rider; UB 40, sire; Wednesday, dam 72.794%

Intermediate I Open

FIGARO H (Zweibrucker), Angela Jackson (KY), owner/rider; Fantasmic, sire; Romina H, dam 72.157%

Intermediate I Adult Amateur Freestyle

WYLEIGH PRINCESS (Hanoverian), Ruth Shirkey (CA), owner/ rider; Weltmeyer, sire; Heiress B, dam 73.900%

Intermediate I Open Freestyle

AU REVOIR (Oldenburg), Sandi Chohany, owner; Heather McCarthy (IL), rider; Ampere, sire; Lara, dam 74.450%

Intermediate II Adult Amateur

CANDESCENT (Hanoverian), Alice Tarjan (NJ), owner/rider 73.824%

Intermediate II Open

RTF LINCOLN (Oldenburg), Heather Mason (NJ), owner/rider 72.157%

Grand Prix Adult Amateur

CANDESCENT (Hanoverian), Alice Tarjan (NJ), owner/rider 70.797%

Grand Prix Open

ADIAH HP (Friesian Cross), Hidden Promise Sporthorses & Sherry Koella, owners; James Koford (NC), rider 69.058%

Grand Prix Adult Amateur Freestyle

CANDESCENT (Hanoverian), Alice Tarjan (NJ), owner/rider; Christ, sire; Farina, dam 77.775%

Grand Prix Open Freestyle

ADIAH HP (Friesian Cross), Hidden Promise Sporthorses & Sherry Koella, owners; James Koford (NC), rider 75.108%



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REGIONS CUP COMPETITION

The 2021 US Dressage Finals features the return of the annual Regions Cup Team competition! The US Dressage Finals Regions cup features one team per USDF region, consisting of three athlete/horse combinations vying with competitors from across the country for bragging rights for their respective USDF Region. The top scoring eligible combination from the Training/First Level and the FEI Level Regional Championships classes, and the highest scoring eligible adult amateur athlete/horse combination from the Second through Fourth Level Regional Championship classes, from each region, makes up a team. The winning team is determined by the average highest final scores achieved by each athlete/horse combination, in their US Dressage Finals class. Congratulations to our 2019 winners, and good luck to this year's teams!

2019 Winners

CHAMPION: Region 2 72.007%

Team Participants

Angela Jackson and Royal Heiress,
73.678%

Elisabeth Ritz and Fairmount,
70.185%

Angela Jackson and Figaro H,
72.157%

RESERVE CHAMPION: Region 8 71.343%

Team Participants

Carly Neilson and Gustav,
68.736%

Alice Tarjan and Fairouz, 72.792%

Michael Bragdell and Sternlicht
Hilltop, 72.500%

THIRD PLACE: Region 4 71.244%

Team Participants

Martin Kuhn and Ronin, 77.130%

Caryn Vesperman and Diamond
Dureza, 65.083%

Mike Suchanek and Hero L,
71.520%

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HIGH SCORE BREED AWARDS

Participating breed and performance registries will award two high score awards for adult amateur riders, one for the national levels (Training through Fourth levels combined) and one for the FEI levels (Prix St. Georges through Grand Prix levels combined). There will also be two high score awards offered for open riders, one for the national levels (Training through Fourth levels combined) and one for the FEI levels (Prix St. Georges through Grand Prix levels combined). Results from freestyle and non-championship classes will not be included.

2021 Participating Breed Organizations

American Dutch Harness Horse Association	International Andalusian & Lusitano Horse Association
American Hanoverian Society	International Georgian Grande Horse Registry
American Morgan Horse Association	International Sporthorse Registry/Oldenburg NA
American Mustang & Burro Association	Irish Draught Horse Society of North America
American Rhineland Studbook	KWPN of North America
American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association	North American Danish Warmblood Association
American Trakehner Association	Oldenburg Horse Breeders Society/German Oldenburg Verband
American Warmblood Society & Sporthorse Registry	Rheinland Pfalz-Saar International
Appaloosa Horse Club	Swedish Warmblood Association of North America
Arabian Horse Association	The Jockey Club
Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association	Trakehner Association of North America
Cleveland Bay Horse Society of North America	United States Lipizzan Federation
Draft Cross Breeders & Owners Association	Weser-Em Ponies & Small Horse Registry of the GOV
Friesian Horse Association of North America	Westfalen Verband NA
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Terri Miller

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PERPETUAL TROPHIES



Janine Westmoreland Malone Perpetual Trophy
Prix St. Georges Adult Amateur Champion
presented by USDF
2019 Recipient:
Amy Gimmel riding Eye Candy



George W. Wagner Jr. Perpetual Trophy
Grand Prix Adult Amateur Champion
presented by International Georgian Grande Horse Registry
2019 Recipient:
Alice Tarjan riding Candescant



Lloyd Landkamer Perpetual Trophy
FEI Highest Scoring Mare
presented by Janet Foy
2019 Recipient:
Alice Tarjan riding Candescant



Verne Batchelder Memorial Trophy, presented by River House Hanoverians

Awarded to the FEI Highest Scoring US Bred Horse at US Dressage Finals, the Verne Batchelder Memorial Trophy celebrates Verne by championing his desire to promote dressage at the highest levels of the sport on horses bred in the United States.

In addition to being a highly sought-after dressage clinician, USDF medalist, and respected Hanoverian breeder and trainer, Verne was an avid supporter of American breeders and continually strived to increase his knowledge of breeding techniques and bloodlines. Along with wife, Jeanie Hahn, and daughters, Emma and Nora Batchelder, Verne developed the nationally known breeding program at River House Hanoverians.

A beautiful sculpture of Bretone (Brentano II – Santiana, Salut), a personal favorite of Verne's, was created by artist Clark Moss. Bretone, aka "Tony the Stallion", was a force to reckon with in the dressage arena, an all-around generous schoolmaster with a sweet disposition and a farm favorite!



Calaveras County Perpetual Trophy
Grand Prix Freestyle Adult Amateur Champion
presented by Olva Stewart Pharo
2019 Recipient:
Alice Tarjan riding Candescant



Jazzman Perpetual Trophy
Grand Prix Freestyle Open Champion
presented by Donna Richardson
2019 Recipient:
James Koford riding Adiah HP



Veronica Holt Perpetual Trophy
Grand Prix Open Champion
presented by USDF Region 5 and Friends
2019 Recipient:
James Koford riding Adiah HP



Miki Christophersen Perpetual Trophy
Prix St. Georges Open Champion
presented by USDF Region 4
2019 Recipient:
Michael Bragdell riding Sternlicht Hilltop



PERPETUAL TROPHIES



Top Hat Perpetual Trophy, presented by Janet Foy

Beginning in 2021, the Top Hat perpetual trophy, presented by renowned FEI 5* and USEF 'S' Dressage Judge Janet Foy, will recognize the US Dressage Finals horse and rider combination with the highest freestyle and non-freestyle average score at the same level. Janet states "I wanted to encourage top technical championship riders to ride both technical and freestyles tests."

Janet obtained the impressive bronze statue, sculpted in the likeness of the legendary Brentina and Debbie McDonald, in the late '80s. She reminisced, "This bronze is number one of the edition and I have enjoyed it in my home for many years. As difficult as it is to part with it, I wanted to encourage top technical champions riders to ride both technical and freestyle tests, and this seems like a perfect opportunity."



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SPECTATOR'S GUIDE TO DRESSAGE

Dressage horses can be of any breed, sex, age, color or size. Exceptional basic paces – walk, trot and canter – together with a good temperament and sound conformation are what riders look for in a potential dressage horse. The horse should have athletic paces, be light on its feet and have the scope to take short, springy strides as well as free, long and swinging ones.

Dressage is a sport where competitors pursue the unobtainable 100%; in order to even come close, meticulous attention to detail, in addition to ability, is necessary. Marks may be out of reach because of a lack of talent, experience, or technique, but they should not be thrown away for lack of preparation.

There are different levels of tests in “International” dressage competition. In order of difficulty, they are, the Young Rider Tests, the Prix St. Georges, Intermediare I, Intermediate II and Grand Prix. Within the Grand Prix level are the Grand Prix, the Grand Prix Special, and the Grand Prix Freestyle – a musical ride choreographed by the rider. Although certain movements must be performed and each performance has a time limit, the competitor can create a program which suits his/her horse and is especially pleasing to the eye.

It is these International tests where we see the most spectacular movements: Piaffe, the highly collected, elevated trot in place; Passage, the suspended trot in slow-motion; Pirouette, a rhythmic turning in place at the walk and canter; Half Pass, a forward and sideways movement at the trot or canter where the horse crosses his legs; Flying Change, a skipping type movement at the canter where the horse changes leads every fourth, third, second, and finally at every stride.

It is important to understand that none of these movements are tricks; all are natural and performed by the horse at play. With careful training, the horse learns to duplicate these natural movements, willingly, on command, and with grace, while accommodating the weight of the rider. The trust and harmony which makes this possible are a tribute to the rider's ability and the horse's generosity.

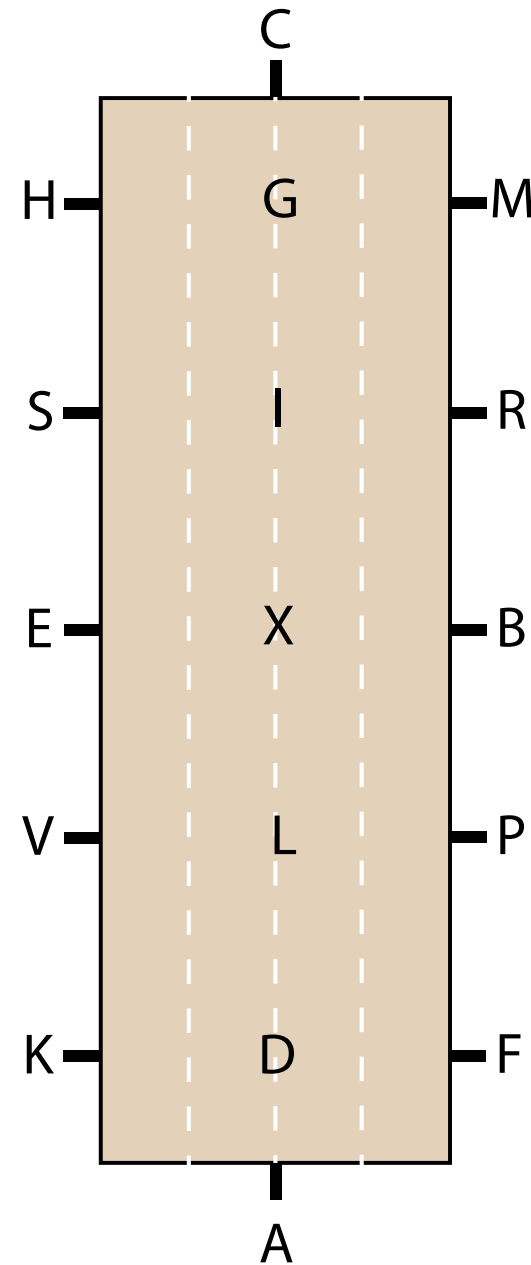
One to five judges, positioned at specific locations around the arena, evaluate the performance from their different perspectives. Scores are awarded on a scale of zero (not executed) to 10 (excellent) for each movement, with some particularly difficult movements earning scores that are multiplied by two.

Spectators tend to base their judgments on general impressions – on how pleasing the performance was as a whole. The judges also take this into consideration when awarding the “collective marks” for paces, impulsion, submission and the rider's position. Scores are tallied and divided by the total possible, and the final score given as a percentage.

These final percentages are somewhat misleading; the winning score may only be a 63%. But keep in mind that the marks are given movement by movement, and are judged against a standard of absolute perfection.

The attention to detail starts with good horsemanship. Quality veterinary care, proper feeding and an ongoing training program are the foundation. Correctly fitted equipment and good grooming are also necessary ingredients. The horse and rider which is turned out immaculately, with everything gleaming and in place, make it hard for the judge not to give the benefit of the doubt to the combination which pleases his eye. Dressage is a performance, and, as such, competitors strive to look as beautiful as nature will allow.

Competitive dressage takes place in a 20 x 60 meter arena, with 12 lettered markers placed at specific points along the rail. Here, horse and rider perform a designated test, a series of movements for which the arena markers serve as reference points.



Spectator Pointers

Riding a dressage test requires a great deal of concentration on the part of the horse and rider. The following guidelines will help ensure that all riders have the opportunity to achieve their very best performance.

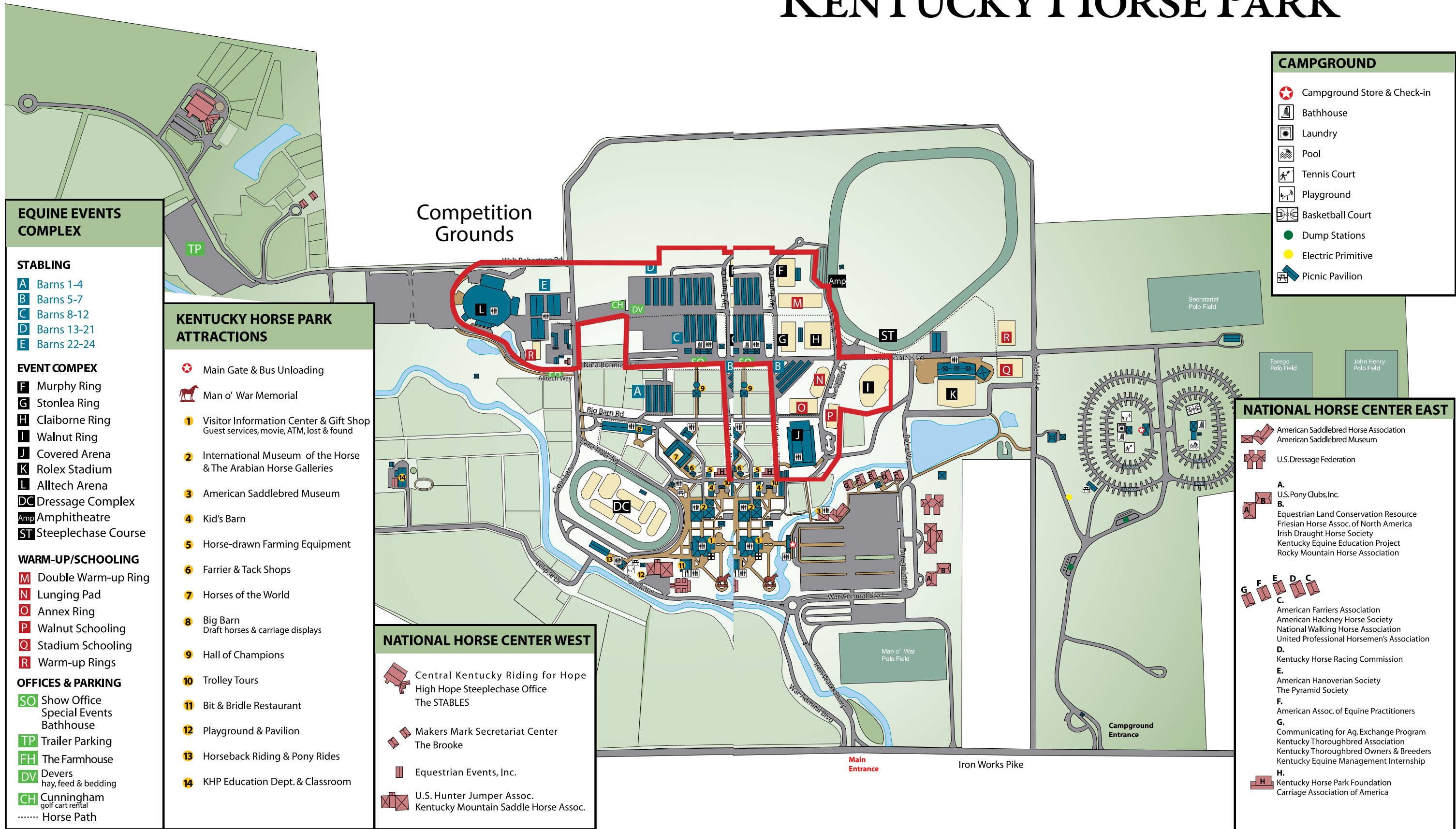
- Avoid running, shouting, or sudden movements while a horse is in the ring.
- Applaud only after the rider has completed the final salute.
- You may speak in a normal tone, but do not shout or wave.
- Spectators must stay back from the white fence surrounding the competition area.

It is our wish that you enjoy the competition and our hope that this information gives you some understanding of the dedication needed and the intensive work of horse and rider in providing these performances.

United States Dressage Federation
www.usdf.org

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 - C** Barns 8-12
 - D** Barns 13-21
 - E** Barns 22-24
- EVENT COMPLEX**
- F** Murphy Ring
 - G** Stonlea Ring
 - H** Claiborne Ring
 - I** Walnut Ring
 - J** Covered Arena
 - K** Rolex Stadium
 - L** Alltech Arena
 - DC** Dressage Complex
 - Amp** Amphitheatre
 - ST** Steeplechase Course
- WARM-UP/SCHOOLING**
- M** Double Warm-up Ring
 - N** Lunging Pad
 - O** Annex Ring
 - P** Walnut Schooling
 - Q** Stadium Schooling
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- 5 Horse-drawn Farming Equipment
- 6 Farrier & Tack Shops
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- 8 Big Barn
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- 12 Playground & Pavilion
- 13 Horseback Riding & Pony Rides
- 14 KHP Education Dept. & Classroom

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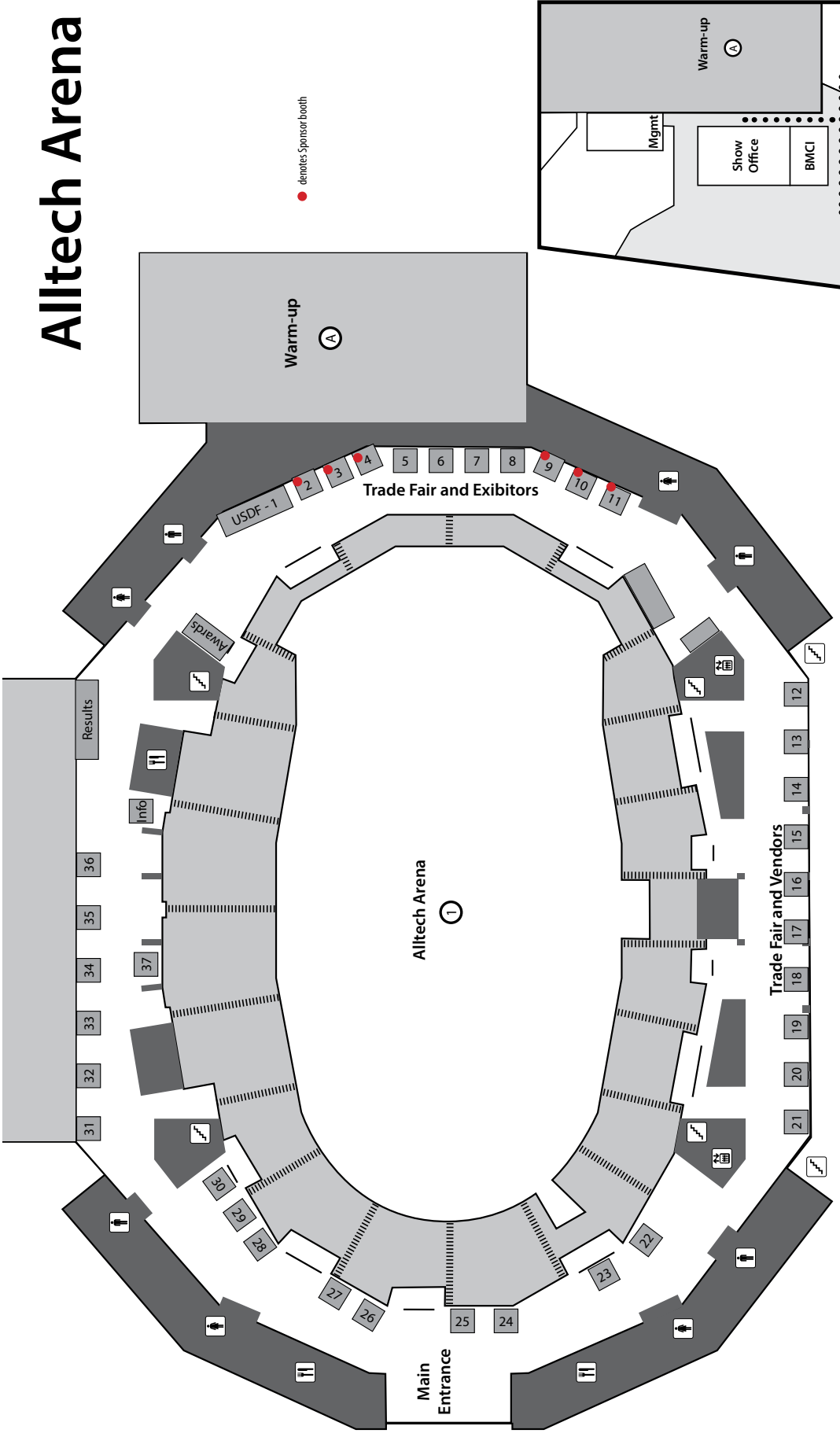
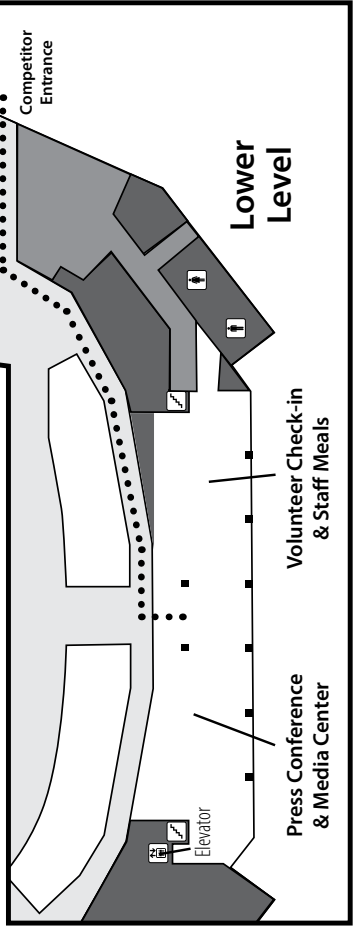
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- 🏠 U.S. Hunter Jumper Assoc.
Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse Assoc.

CAMPGROUND

- ★ Campground Store & Check-in
- 🚻 Bathhouse
- 🧺 Laundry
- 🏊 Pool
- 🎾 Tennis Court
- 🎡 Playground
- 🏀 Basketball Court
- 🟢 Dump Stations
- 🟡 Electric Primitive
- 🏠 Picnic Pavilion

NATIONAL HORSE CENTER EAST

- 🏠 American Saddlebred Horse Association
- 🏠 American Saddlebred Museum
- 🏠 U.S. Dressage Federation
- A.** U.S. Pony Clubs, Inc.
- B.** Equestrian Land Conservation Resource
Friesian Horse Assoc. of North America
Irish Draught Horse Society
Kentucky Equine Education Project
Rocky Mountain Horse Association
- C.** American Farriers Association
American Hackney Horse Society
National Walking Horse Association
United Professional Horsemen's Association
- D.** Kentucky Horse Racing Commission
- E.** American Hanoverian Society
The Pyramid Society
- F.** American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners
- G.** Communicating for Ag. Exchange Program
Kentucky Thoroughbred Association
Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders
Kentucky Equine Management Internship
- H.** Kentucky Horse Park Foundation
Carriage Association of America

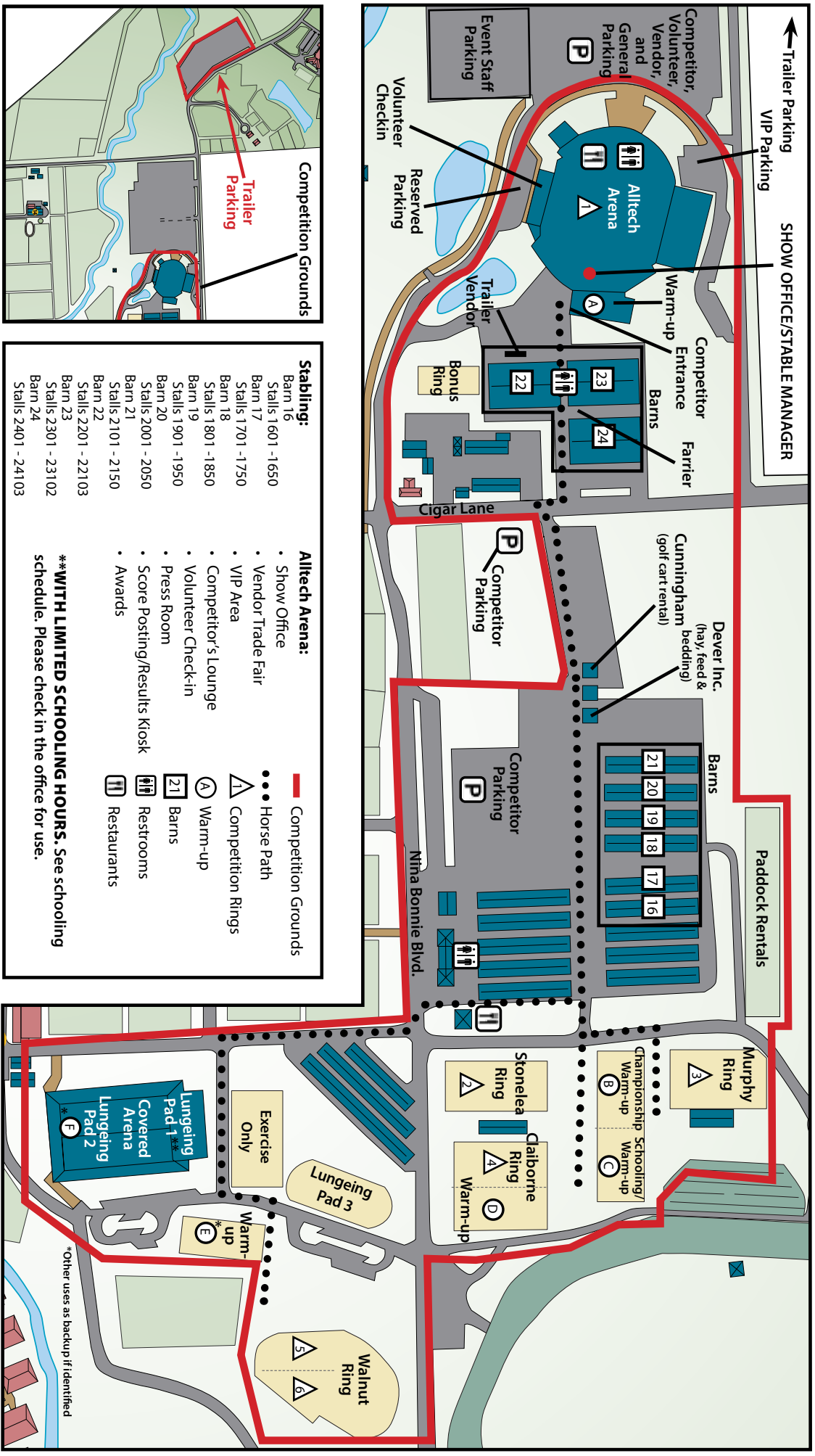


TRADE FAIR BOOTHS

2) Adequan®	12) I Love My Horse	23) Tradings LLC Tracewear	33) Black Petticoat
3) The Dressage Foundation	13) C U at X Tack	24) Martin Collins USA, LLC	34) The Equine Artisan
4) Hygain Feeds	14) Dressage Collections	25) Ronald Ravan Designs	35) Sporthorse Consultation Services
5) The Dressage Connection	15) The Horse of Course	26) Bluegrass Vbershield	36) Above and Beyond Custom Equestrian
6) Equestrian Specialties	16) EGO7 & KEP Italia	27) Aniat Int'l	37) Beautiful Tone Massage
7) Hound & Hare	17) Annette Ellen Designs	28) Varnan Waters	Outside Trailer Vendor
8) Hagyard Equine Medical Institute	18) Richards Equine Video	29) BEMER Group	Top Hats & Under That
9) Platinum Performance	19) Susan J Strike Photography	30) Stella, LLC (Romitelli Boots)	
10) Sterling Thompson Equine Insurance	20) Custom Saddlery	31) By Design Equestrian Boutique LLC	
	21) Avlar	32) Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation	
	22) US Equestrian		

Alltech Arena

Competition Grounds Map



All Lungeing is in Covered Arena until 5 pm, Lungeing Pad 1 & 3
Riders must sign up in the show office if they wish to school in Ring 5 after 5 pm

Exercise Area
 Friday - Saturday 5 pm - 7 pm, Sunday 3 pm - end of show



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Martin Collins USA, LLC
Platinum Performance
Richard's Equine Video
Ronald Ravan Designs
Sporthorse Consultation Services
Stellina, LLC (Romitelli Boots)
Sterling Thompson Equine Insurance
Susan J Stickle Photography
The Dressage Connection
The Dressage Foundation
The Equine Artisan
The Horse of Course
Top Hats & Under That
Tracings LLC Tracewear
US Equestrian
USDF
Varnan Waterers

US DRESSAGE FINALS RULES

1. The US Dressage Finals is a Level 5 competition. Please refer to USEF Dressage Levels Chart for specific competition requirements.
2. Each entry must designate the division being entered (open, adult amateur, or junior/young rider) and must meet invitation or wild card requirements for each championship class entered.
3. If a rider intends to enter the US Dressage Finals 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)
4. A Rider must be a US citizen at the time of the US Dressage Finals competition in order to ride in a Finals class.
5. Proof of membership: USEF and USDF registration are verified electronically if valid membership numbers are provided on entry form. Copies of USEF and USDF memberships, horse recordings, and Lifetime Horse Registration ARE NOT REQUIRED with your entry provided you include the membership numbers on your entry form. You may be asked to provide copies if your memberships cannot be verified for any reason.
6. If the horse has more than one owner, at least one owner must have both active USEF membership and active USDF Participating or Business Membership. To be a valid owner under this requirement, a business or farm must be listed as an owner with both USEF and USDF.
7. Whips may not be carried in championship tests (Exception: Competitors in possession of a Federation Dispensation Certificate or Presidential Modification letter. 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 DR126.1.f.5)
10. Under penalty of disqualification from all championship classes for the horse/rider combination, within 24 hours prior and at no time during a USEF/USDF 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 the Finals competition, even entered at two levels, must be ridden by the same rider throughout the 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 championship 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.). For ties in freestyle classes refer to USEF DR129.5 which states the highest score shall be declared the winner of the class. In the case of a tie, the higher artistic score shall determine the winner. Ties (equality of total points) after second place will be broken by collective marks. Ties (equality of total points and collective marks or artistic scores) occurring in third through eight places will remain unbroken. In the case of a tie (equality of total points and collective marks or artistic scores) 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) Horses competing Hors de Concours in a non-championship class at the competition, are no longer eligible for further prizes, awards or placings at that competition.
13. In a US Dressage Finals class, the horse/rider combination must obtain the necessary minimum percentage score to be named champion or reserve champion. (USEF DR123.6) 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.
14. In USEF/USDF championship classes, a steward will 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 DR126.1.i.1)
15. TDs must investigate incidents of non-compliance and report violations to USEF.
16. The confirmed schedule for the awards ceremonies will be posted in the show office by noon on the day prior to the beginning of the competition. If the posted awards schedule is changed, all affected competitors will be notified.
17. Participation in awards ceremonies by placed rider/horse combinations is not mandatory. If riders placed in US Dressage Final classes choose to participate in awards ceremonies, they must be present, mounted and in full riding attire at their designated times. It is recommended that saddlery for awards ceremonies be the same as in the competition, but that black or white leg bandages are allowed. For safety reasons competitors may decline to participate in the victory round.



AWARDS AND PRIZE MONEY

Awards and Prize Money for US Dressage Finals Classes:

Prize money for US Dressage Finals Championship classes will be paid directly by the USDF office to the recorded horse owner within thirty (30) days of the end of the championship. The amount of prize money to be awarded for the US Dressage Finals Championships classes will be \$1750 for Champion, \$850 for Reserve Champion, \$400 for third place, \$200 for fourth place and \$135 for fifth place.

Prizes will include:

- **Champion:** Embroidered wool dress sheet from SmartPak, prize from Platinum Performance, helmet gift certificate from UVEX sports, engraved crystal plate, neck sash
- **Reserve Champion:** Deluxe halter with engraved nameplate from SmartPak, prize from Platinum Performance, riding gloves gift certificate from UVEX sports, engraved crystal plate, neck sash
- **Third through Tenth place:** Neck sash

Awards for Dressage in the Bluegrass Classes:

Ribbons to sixth place for each class. First place competitors will receive a Dressage in the Bluegrass commemorative stall plaque. Divisions (AA, Open, Jr/YR (for national level non-freestyle classes) may be run concurrently as one class. Divisions will be pinned separately. Riders must clearly specify division choice. When no designation is made, riders will automatically be entered as open. Riders may enter only one division per class.

AWARDS PROTOCOL FOR US DRESSAGE FINALS CLASSES

Awards and Prize Money for US Dressage Finals Classes:

Participation in awards ceremonies by placed rider/horse combinations is not mandatory. If riders placed in US Dressage Final classes choose to participate in awards ceremonies, they must be present, mounted and in full riding attire at their designated times. It is recommended that saddlery for awards ceremonies be the same as in the competition, but that black or white leg bandages are allowed. For safety reasons competitors may decline to participate in the victory round.

**At the time of printing the awards schedule is still being developed. Copies of the tentative awards schedule will be available in the show office upon check-in.*

Be sure to stop by the USDF Booth at the 2021 US Dressage Finals for exclusive new merchandise for everyone!



VISIT THE USDF ONLINE STORE FOR US DRESSAGE FINALS CLOTHES, GIFTS, JACKETS AND MORE

order online at www.usdf.org/store



USDF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

USDF is committed to good sportsmanship and developing a high standard of knowledge and skill in dressage. USDF members are encouraged to:

1. Conduct themselves in an ethical, fair and sportsmanlike manner, and take responsibility for their actions while training and competing.
2. Treat competitors, instructors, competition management, officials and employees with respect and dignity.
3. Respect the integrity and judgment of equine caregivers and horse owners.
4. Observe and respect the rules, regulations and authority of the sports organizations that sanction each activity and competition.
5. Promote the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
6. Protect the welfare of the horse during competition and in training.
7. Demonstrate proper preparation, training and fitness of horse and rider for the level at which they are competing.
8. Observe the highest standard of nutrition, healthcare and safety in the care of horses.

USDF Statement on Animal Welfare

The United States Dressage Federation, Inc. (USDF), a federation of individual members and over 100 independent organizations throughout the United States, supports the concept of ethical treatment of animals.

Dressage is a classical method of training horses, based upon the horse's natural responses, as carried out in a gradual, planned program during which the horse's athletic abilities are improved in a systematic manner. As a result, the horse becomes capable, comfortable, and responsive in partnership with the rider without the use of force. Dressage competition at various levels of achievement is the ultimate test of the training program to determine whether the desired harmony between horse and rider has been achieved.

The rules pertaining to dressage competition prohibit the use of artificial appliances, training aids, and drugs, which would force the horse to submit. Instead, the emphasis is upon training and a cooperative partnership with the rider. Major competitions are carefully monitored to assure that there is no unnecessary force or harshness displayed.

Unlike other horse sports in which horses enter training at a relatively immature state, dressage training is usually not seriously begun until the horse is three or four. The top levels of achievement require five or more years of progressive training and it is not unusual to see horses in international competition in their late teens. This, in itself, places a premium on good care and soundness throughout the horse's life.

While supporting the concept of animal welfare in its broadest form, the United States Dressage Federation, Inc., also recognizes that it is unrealistic to ascribe human emotions and responses to the horse which in its wild state is a creature of flight, living a hard and precarious existence. Under domestication, the horse is assured of ample food, water, and shelter, as well as protection against infectious diseases and damaging parasites, thus leading a longer and healthier life with a high rate of survival.

As an educational organization, USDF has numerous programs, which teach people how to pursue the accepted, humane training methods. A program of certifying instructors also emphasizes protecting the horse's welfare in pursuit of dressage training.

United States Dressage Federation
4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: 859-971-2277, Fax: 859-971-7722, usdressage@usdf.org, www.usdf.org

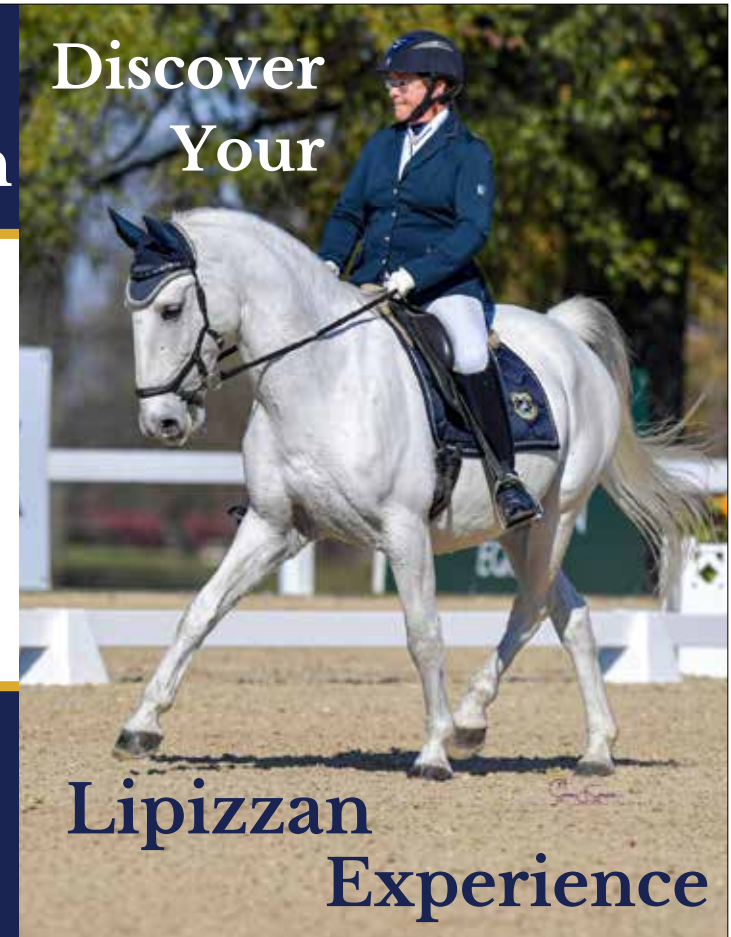
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Good luck to all our athletes competing in the 2021 US Dressage Finals!

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CONGRATULATIONS!





A LOOK AT FINALS PAST

All photos credit Chelsey Burris

