



UNITED STATES *Dressage* FEDERATION

2010 Great American Insurance Group/ USDF Regional Championship Program Rules



The Regional Championship program rules published herein are effective October 1, 2009. The program rules and qualifying criteria published herein are subject to additions or revisions. While every effort has been taken to avoid mistakes in this publication, the United States Dressage Federation Inc. assumes no liability to anyone for errors or omissions. USEF rules supersede all other rules when qualifying for this championship program. USEF rules are subject to change at any time. Changes and corrections subsequent to this publication are published in the USDF Connection and on the USDF Web site at www.usdf.org. Refer to the United States Equestrian Federation's Web site at www.usef.org for official rule changes and the most up-to-date version of their rulebook.

A single Regional Dressage Championship program organized by the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), and recognized by the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF), will be held in each of the nine USDF regions. In addition, Alaska and Hawaii may each hold state championships if an official request from a Group Member Organization (GMO) is received by April 1 of the prior year.

The 2010 Regional Championships will be sponsored by the Great American Insurance Group (Great American), as the title sponsor. The official title of the Regional Championships shall be:

GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE GROUP/UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION
REGION (6) DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
recognized by United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.

In each region, USEF/USDF Regional Championship classes must be offered at each level through Grand Prix, in three divisions: open, adult amateur (AA), and junior/young rider (Jr/YR). Freestyles at First, Second, Third, Fourth, Intermediate I, and Grand Prix levels must also be offered in the open division. If freestyle classes are combined, each championship level must be awarded separately.

Dates and locations of the 2010 Regional Championships will be available from USDF after December 1, 2009.

An official Great American/USDF Regional Championships Master Omnibus Prize List will be published by USDF and may be downloaded from the USDF Web site after May 1, 2010. This omnibus will contain complete prize lists and entry forms for all nine Regional Championships. A printed copy of this prize list may be obtained from USDF by calling (859) 971-2277 or emailing regchamps@usdf.org.

Complete Regional Championship Program Rules can be found on the USDF Web site at:

<http://www.usdf.org/Programs/RegionalChampionships/index.asp>

Please refer to the USDF Directory for the comprehensive list of rules and requirements for this program.

For the remainder of this document USEF/USDF championship classes will be considered the same as Great American/USDF championship classes.

A. Membership/Registration Requirements for Qualifying and Championships

Rider:

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

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Horse:

- Must be USDF Lifetime Registered (LTR) at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.
- Must be USEF (Annual or Lifetime) recorded at the time qualifying scores are earned and at the time of the championships.
- USDF horse registration and USEF horse/recording must be in the name(s) of the current owner(s) or lessee(s) of record.

A horse is not required to have registry papers.

Owner:

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

* Participating Members are USDF members who join USDF directly.

Minimum Qualifying Scores

One set of nationally-standardized qualifying scores has been established for all USEF/USDF Regional Championships, for levels through Grand Prix, in three divisions: open, adult amateur, and junior/young rider. FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider classes have only one respective division. Freestyles have only open divisions. The minimum percentages are as follows:

	OPEN	ADULT AMATEUR	JR/YR
Training Level (Test 4)	68%	63%	63%
First Level (Test 4)	66%	62%	62%
Second Level (Test 4)	64%	61%	61%
Third Level (Test 3)	62%	60%	60%
Fourth Level (Test 3)	62%	60%	60%
FEI Junior (Team Test)	---	---	60%
FEI Young Rider (Team Test)	---	---	60%
Prix St. Georges	60%	60%	60%
Intermediate I	60%	60%	60%
Intermediare II	60%	60%	60%
Grand Prix	60%	60%	60%
FREESTYLES			
First Level	65%	n/a	n/a
Second Level	65%	n/a	n/a
Third Level	65%	n/a	n/a
Fourth Level	63%	n/a	n/a
Intermediare I	63%	n/a	n/a
Grand Prix	63%	n/a	n/a

USEF/USDF Qualifying Class and Championship Eligibility

1. Horse/rider combinations which have won a USEF/USDF Regional Championship may no longer compete in a USEF/USDF Regional Championship competition, in that division, at that or a lower level (Grand Prix Level excepted) if they received the minimum qualifying score or higher for that division and level in the championship test per USEF DR127.5.
2. A horse may not be entered in more than one USEF/USDF Regional Championship at a particular level in the same calendar year.
3. Riders are NOT required to be a resident of the region to compete in that region's championship. USDF will presume qualified horses will compete in the region in which the rider resides. Regional Championship riders who wish to change their region have up to July 1 to do so with no fee; from July 2 through August 1 with a \$100 late fee; and from August 2 up to the closing date of the Region in which they intend to compete, for a late fee of \$300. Please visit the USDF for a copy of the current form.
4. A rider may not compete in more than one Regional Championship competition in the same calendar year.
5. In the event a competitor is unable to produce copies of the USDF membership or lifetime horse registration documents required to enter a qualifying class, a USDF membership/registration affidavit may be completed and filed with the competition secretary. A fee of \$5 is required for each affidavit filed. The \$5 fee and a copy of the affidavit must be submitted to USDF by the competition secretary with the competition results. **Copies of the required memberships and registrations MUST be included with championship entry. Affidavits will not be accepted for USEF or USDF membership or horse recording verification purposes for entry in USEF/USDF championship classes.**
6. USEF Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals: All junior riders through age 18 who have qualified at any level for the Regional Championships (excluding freestyle) are automatically eligible to compete in the Semi-Final classes of the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Program. One Semi-Final class will be offered for juniors, ages 13 and under, and a second Semi-Final class for riders 14 through 18 in each Great American/USDF Regional Championship. A regional champion and reserve champion for each age group will be named in each USDF region. Protective headgear as described in the USEF Rule Book GR801 will be required for participation in these classes. For complete details of this program, see the USEF Rule Book, DR132.2, visit the dressage page of the USEF Web site at www.usef.org, or contact the USEF dressage department at (859) 258-2472.
7. Horses must be entered in qualifying and championship classes under their official recorded names and ownership as specified in USEF Rule Book GR1102, and transfers of ownership or lease registrations must be completed in compliance with USEF rules prior to the competition in order for the horse to compete under the name of the new owner or lessee. (USEF DR127.2)

Qualifying System

1. There is currently one qualifying system with nationally-standardized minimum percentages (see Page 16 for percentages).
2. Prior to competing in a Great American/USDF qualifying class, a horse/rider combination must be eligible according to the USDF/USEF membership and registration requirements for qualifying.
3. To qualify for a Regional Championship, horse/rider combinations must earn a total of two qualifying scores (each score must be the average of all judges officiating in a designated Great American/USDF qualifying class), at two different USEF/USDF-recognized Dressage Competitions, from two different judges, or combination of judges. In addition, the same judge may not have officiated in classes from which qualifying scores are earned, unless the following conditions are met: A panel of judges will be considered as a different judging entity if 50 percent or more of that panel is changed (e.g. a panel of two judges must have one new person, a panel of three judges must have two new people and a panel of five judges must have three new people).
4. To qualify, eligible riders must enter an official Great American/USDF qualifying class at a USEF/USDF-recognized Dressage Competition. The Great American/USDF qualifying class will be the highest or single test of the level and the class must be designated as Great American/USDF qualifying in the prize list. Only the following tests can be used to qualify for the 2010 USEF/USDF Regional Championships:

Training Level Test 4
First Level Test 4
Second Level Test 4
Third Level Test 3
Fourth Level Test 3
Prix St. Georges
Intermediare I
Intermediare II
Grand Prix

First Level Freestyle
Second Level Freestyle
Third Level Freestyle
Fourth Level Freestyle
Intermediare Freestyle
Grand Prix Freestyle

5. Riders must pay the \$10 qualifying class fee to the competition secretary prior to riding in the class. USDF does not refund USDF Regional Championships qualifying fees to competitors for any reason.
6. The qualifying ride fee of \$10 will be sent to USDF from the competition secretary. Eligible competitors must be given the option to enter the class as "USDF qualifying" for a maximum additional fee of \$10. Only one ride is permitted and a maximum of one entry fee charged for the class in addition to the \$10 USDF qualifying fee. Separate ribbons or trophies are not awarded for Great American/USDF qualifying entries. USEF/USDF qualifying and/or championship classes must be designated as such in the prize list. (USEF DR127.4)

Qualifying System - continued:

7. Horse/rider combinations may enter only one test, and one freestyle, at each level per day as “USDF qualifying.” (USEF DR127.4)
8. Competitions, lasting one or multiple days, may offer only one qualifying class per level/division per day.
9. Any and all eligible horse/rider combinations who achieve the minimum qualifying score in a Great American/USDF qualifying class will receive one qualifying score toward their two score requirement to be eligible to enter a Regional Championship if all other conditions are met.
10. To qualify at freestyle, riders must earn a total of two freestyle qualifying scores at the level at which they wish to qualify, earned in designated Great American/USDF qualifying classes, at two different USEF/USDF-recognized Dressage Competitions from two different judges or combinations of judges.
11. FEI classes at CDI/CDI-Y/CDI-J/CDI-P or USEF High Performance qualifying competitions must be designated as Great American/USDF qualifying in the prize list in order for classes to be counted as qualifying by USDF. Prior to riding in the class, riders must pay the \$10 qualifying class fee to the competition secretary.
12. The rider must enter the Great American/USDF Regional Championships in his own region unless an Annual Change of Region form has been received in the USDF office by July 1 of the championship year. All persons living outside of the United States must declare a region by the deadline of July 1 of the current competition year.
13. All horse/rider combinations may receive qualifying scores in ANY region but only at shows within the current qualifying year of the region in which the show is held.
14. There is no limit on the number of horses on which a rider may qualify.
15. Qualification is based on horse/rider combination. If a new rider wishes to compete with the horse at the championships, he must requalify. (USEF DR127.7)
16. Automatic invitations shall be extended to the top twelve placed competitors who are U.S. citizens, in the NAYRC and NAJC final team and individual classes. Invitations shall also be extended to the top twelve horse/rider combinations invited to, in addition to those horse/rider combinations that competed at, the USEF High Performance National Championships at Grand Prix and Intermediaire I, and to the top twelve horse/rider combinations ranked from the USEF National Junior, Young Rider and Young Adult Ranking lists. However, these invitations exclude Regional Championship freestyle classes for invitees from the USEF National Junior, Young Rider and Young Adult Ranking lists. These invitations cannot be transferred or applied to other horse/rider combinations, classes, or divisions. Riders receiving an automatic invitation are responsible for entering the Regional Championships by the closing date, and may change their region designation, provided that they do so in writing to the USDF office so prior to the closing date of entries. USDF BOG 12/05/08
17. Competitors obtaining qualifying scores after the official closing date (see Section C.20 below) must either enter the championship class(es) before the closing date OR submit a post entry to compete in the championship classes, if post entries are allowed in the prize list of the competition.
18. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash may be carried in all qualifying classes. (including NAYRC and NAJC) unless such use is otherwise prohibited by FEI or Federation rules or selection procedures for the classes. (USEF DR120.5) An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider.
19. Tests may be read in qualifying classes except in FEI level classes and freestyle classes and those concurrent with USEF/USDF Championship or NWDC Classes.
20. Qualifying seasons will vary for each region. The season during which qualifying scores may be earned for a particular Regional Championship is from the day after the closing date of that region’s 2009 championship, to the closing date of that region’s 2010 championship. The closing date must be at least four weeks prior to the championship event.
21. Competition secretaries must send the results of the Great American/USDF qualifying classes to USDF, along with \$10 per ride. USDF will deposit the funds received from the Great American/USDF qualifying classes, less an administrative fee, into a prize money fund, and a restricted fund for the National Dressage Championships. (See Section J.3)
22. USDF will maintain a database of qualified horse/rider combinations. A list of qualified horse/rider combinations will be posted for each level and division on the USDF Web site. USDF will verify eligibility of championship class entries with the championship’s secretary prior to each championship’s competition.