

2025 ProElite/USDF Breeders Championship Series Program Rules



The ProElite/USDF Breeders Championship Series (ProElite/USDFBCS) is a program intent on recognizing quality bloodlines and dressage prospects across the nation. Through a combination of in-hand and materiale classes, the ProElite/USDFBCS provides competition opportunities for dressage prospects and breeding stock.

- The ProElite/USDFBCS is scheduled on a calendar year basis. It starts January 1 and ends September 30.
- A series must have a minimum of two qualifying events to host a series final competition.
- Series boundaries are determined by USDF. Please be advised that the boundaries of any given series may cross the regional boundaries established for regular dressage competitions.
- All Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) and ProElite/USDFBCS exhibitors and management are responsible for knowing the rules for USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competitions holding DSHB classes, as well as USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions in general. The USEF Rule Book Dressage Chapter, Subchapter DR-2, contains the DSHB class rules, and can be found at www.usef.org.

I. PROELITE/USDFBCS IN-HAND CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISIONS

DSHB In-Hand classes provide evaluation of conformation and movement of horses of all ages for potential dressage horses and/or breeding stock.

A. IN-HAND CLASSES - HORSE REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS (PROELITE/USDFBCS QUALIFYING OR SERIES FINAL CLASSES)

CHART 1: USDF REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-HAND DIVISIONS	
HORSE	<p>Either USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) or USDF Horse Identification Number (HID) is required for all horses entered and must be submitted. Horses registered with a breed organization should have a copy of their registration papers submitted directly to USDF.</p> <p>Horses participating in ProElite/USDFBCS qualifying or series final competitions are not required to be registered with any breed registry. For registered horses the name of the breed, sire, dam, damsire, and breeder must be given on the entry blank. Horses not registered with a breed registry should be listed as “unregistered” on entry blank. For unregistered horses competing in DSHB classes, the breeding information is strongly recommended.</p>
OWNER	Owner is not required to be a USDF member for qualifying or series final competitions. If the owner does not have a USDF Participating, Group or Business membership, then a USDF non-member fee will apply.
HANDLER/ ASSISTANT HANDLER	Neither USDF membership nor a USDF non-member fee is required for the handler.
Elimination of a horse from its relevant class or series final class may occur should any USDF non-member, membership or horse registration/HID applications with related fees fail to be paid and/or collected by show management and submitted to USDF at the completion of a competition.	

B. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROELITE/USDFBCS IN-HAND QUALIFYING CLASSES

1. Classes must be offered and judged according to DR209.
2. Neither foals nor horses of any other age may be shown loose.
3. All qualifying competitions must offer every Sport Horse Prospect In-Hand and Breeding Stock In-Hand division of the ProElite/USDFBCS. The divisions are:
 - a. Current Year Foal Championship
 - b. Filly Championship
 - c. Colt/Gelding Championship
 - d. Four-Year-Old Prospect Championship
 - e. Mare Championship (Breeding Stock)
 - f. Stallion Championship (Breeding Stock)

4. Only a single set of Sport Horse Prospect and Breeding Stock In-Hand DSHB qualifying classes may be offered per competition. These classes must be open to all horses and ponies of the appropriate age and sex, and not subject to any entry restriction.
5. A separate qualifier championship class must be held for all divisions, even those that have only one class or one horse in the division. All horses must be re-evaluated by the judge(s) at both the walk and the trot in the championship class per DR210. If any one of the judges adjudicating this class has not previously judged all the horses in this class, conformation must also be reevaluated on every horse.
6. Qualifier championship classes must be open to first and second place winners of their respective In-Hand qualifying classes as listed in Chart 2 below. Organizers have the option of including third placed horses in qualifier championship classes. No scores are given. Ties are not allowed. The champion and reserve champion of each division at each qualifier event are eligible to compete in their respective ProElite/USDFBCS Final championship class. A third-place horse in each championship class must be named as well.
7. Current Year Foals ARE NOT ALLOWED in Filly Championship and Colt/Gelding Championship classes. Fillies of Current Year and Colts/Geldings of Current Year will compete in the same Current Year Foal Championship.
8. Four-Year-Old Prospect mares and Four-Year-Old Prospect stallions/geldings will compete against each other in the same Four-Year-Old Prospect Championship.
9. Mare classes may be divided by age, competition and/or breeding status (as of January 1st of the current competition year), as in the following examples:
 - a. Four-Year-Old & Older Maiden Mares
 - b. Four-Year-Old & Older Yeld Mares
 - c. Four-Year-Old & Older Broodmares
10. Stallion classes may be divided by age, competition and/or breeding status, as in the following examples:
 - a. Four-Year-Old & Older Stallions Showing Only In-Hand
 - b. Four-Year-Old & Older Stallions Showing Also Under Saddle
11. Note the following clarification on “stallion”: No geldings may compete in the ProElite/USDFBCS classes for stallions even if they are gelded after qualifying for the finals and are breeding via frozen semen.
12. Each horse may only enter the ProElite/USDFBCS qualifying class(es) for which it is eligible and may only qualify for the specific ProElite/USDFBCS championship class(es) for that division(s). Four-Year Old Mares & Stallions may show in both the Four-Year Old Prospect class AND their respective Breeding Stock class.
13. Geldings of any age may NOT show in breeding stock classes/categories. Geldings, age four and under, may show ONLY in sport horse prospect classes.
14. All classes must be judged using the correct scoresheet for appropriate category percentages. Sport horse prospects four years old and under MUST be evaluated on the current USDF Dressage Sport Horse Prospect In-Hand scoresheets and mare and stallion breeding stock MUST be evaluated on the current USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Stock scoresheets.
15. During awards ceremonies, each division champion and reserve champion must be named ProElite/USDFBCS qualifying champions and reserve champions for the show and be awarded a qualifier ribbon that is supplied to the show by USDF. Announcements must identify sponsors and horses’ breeding information. If a champion and/or reserve has already qualified for a final, the third-placed horse from the pertinent qualifying championship class will be eligible to compete in a final. Qualifying ribbons are still awarded to the champion and reserve champion, the third-place horse will not receive a qualifier ribbon.
16. Any horse receiving a 75.000% or higher in its age/sex class is eligible to compete in the ProElite/USDFBCS Finals, independent of whether they go forward to a qualifying championship class.
17. A list of qualified horses is maintained on the USDF website.
18. All champions and reserve champions will be eligible to compete in **ANY** ProElite/USDFBCS Final, regardless of where qualification is earned, but may compete in only **one** series final competition per calendar year.

Chart 2: USDF IN-HAND DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING PROGRESSION				
Class	Qualifier Championship	Finals Championship	Eligibility	Scoresheet
Current Year Fillies	Current Year Foal Qualifier Championship 1 st & 2 nd Place from age classes move here	ProElite/USDFBCS Final Current Year Foal Championship Champion & Reserve from Qualifier AND any horse scoring 75% or higher in class	current year fillies & colts/geldings	Sport Horse Prospects (In Hand)
Current Year Colts/Geldings				
Yearling Fillies	Filly Qualifier Championship 1 st & 2 nd Place from age classes move here	ProElite/USDFBCS Final Filly Championship Champion & Reserve from Qualifier AND any horse scoring 75% or higher in class	yearling, two-year-old, three-year-old fillies	
Two-Year-Old Fillies				
Three-Year-Old Fillies				
Yearling Colts/Geldings	Colt/Gelding Qualifier Championship 1 st & 2 nd Place from age classes move here	ProElite/USDFBCS Final Colt/Gelding Championship Champion & Reserve from Qualifier AND any horse scoring 75% or higher in class	yearling, two-year-old, three-year-old colts/geldings	
Two-Year-Old Colts/ Geldings				
Three-Year-Old Colts/ Geldings				
Four-Year-Old Mares Sport Horse Prospects	Four-Year-Old Prospect Qualifier Championship 1 st & 2 nd Place from age classes move here	ProElite/USDFBCS Final Four-Year-Old Prospect Championship Champion & Reserve from Qualifier AND any horse scoring 75% or higher in class	four-year-old mares, stallions & geldings	
Four-Year-Old Stallions/ Geldings Sport Horse Prospects				
Four-Year-Old and Older Maiden Mares	Mare Qualifier Championship 1 st & 2 nd Place from respective classes move here	ProElite/USDFBCS Final Mare Championship Champion & Reserve from Qualifier AND any horse scoring 75% or higher in class	four-year-old & older mares	Sport Horse Breeding Stock (In Hand)
Four-Year-Old and Older Yeld Mares				
Four-Year-Old and Older Broodmares				
Four-Year-Old and Older Stallions (showing only in-hand)	Stallion Qualifier Championship 1 st & 2 nd Place from respective classes move here	ProElite/USDFBCS Final Stallion Championship Champion & Reserve from Qualifier AND any horse scoring 75% or higher in class	four-year-old & older stallions	
Four-Year-Old and Older Stallions (showing also under saddle)				

C. CONDUCT OF SERIES FINAL IN-HAND CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

1. At least two USEF DSHB judges must officiate in each series final class. Placings will be determined by the average of all judges' scores. At least one judge must be a USEF DSHB 'R' judge.
2. Ties in series final classes must remain unbroken. Examples:
 - a. If there are two champions, there is not a reserve champion.
 - b. If there are two reserve champions, the next place will be 4th place.

3. A grand champion and reserve grand champion for each division will be named at each ProElite/USDFBCS Final event and will receive awards and prizes provided by USDF. Third through sixth place horses will receive ribbons provided by USDF. After the last ProElite/USDFBCS Final held in a competition year, certificates will be available from USDF via the website.
4. USDF reserves the right to change, alter, or retract any placings and/or prizes for up to 60 days after the last day of competition if an error or violation is discovered.
5. Each horse must be shown individually on the triangle at the walk and trot and stand for conformation. Callbacks are permitted only if stated in the prize list or program (DR209).
6. The owner **must enter** the qualified horse in the appropriate ProElite/USDFBCS Final championship class. The horse is NOT automatically entered in the series final championship class because it qualified earlier in the day or at another show. Series final events must allow late entries in series final classes for horses that qualified after the official closing date.
7. Management must collect all USDF non-member, membership and/or horse registration/HID applications and related fees prior to the start of a series final class for eligible entries to compete in the class. Should the required USDF non-member, membership or horse registration/HID applications and related fees fail to be submitted to USDF following the completion of a series final competition, elimination of a horse from its series final class may result.

II. PROELITE/USDFBCS Materiale Championship Division

DSHB Materiale classes provide evaluation of movement and rideability under saddle of three, four, and five-year olds as potential dressage riding horses.

A. MATERIALE CLASSES - HORSE REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS (PROELITE/USDFBCS QUALIFYING OR SERIES FINAL CLASSES)

CHART 3: USDF REQUIREMENTS FOR MATERIALE DIVISIONS	
HORSE	<p>Either USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) or USDF Horse Identification Number (HID) is required for all horses entered and must be submitted. Horses registered with a breed organization should have a copy of their registration papers submitted directly to USDF.</p> <p>Horses participating in ProElite/USDFBCS qualifying or series final competitions are not required to be registered with any breed registry. For registered horses the name of the breed, sire, dam, damsire, and breeder must be given on the entry blank. Horses not registered with a breed registry should be listed as “unregistered” on entry blank. For unregistered horses competing in DSHB classes, the breeding information is strongly recommended.</p>
OWNER	Owner is not required to be a USDF member for qualifying or series final competitions. If the owner does not have a USDF Participating, Group or Business membership, then a USDF non-member fee will apply.
RIDER	Rider is required to have a current USDF Participating Membership at the time a horse’s qualifying score is earned and at the time of the ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championship class.
Elimination of a horse from its relevant class or series final class may occur should any USDF non-member, membership or horse registration/HID applications with related fees fail to be paid and/or collected by show management and submitted to USDF at the completion of a competition.	

B. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROELITE/USDFBCS MATERIALE QUALIFYING CLASSES

1. Classes must be offered and judged according to DR134 & DR204 and the directives on the scoresheet.
2. Dressage Competitions and DSHB Competitions may offer Materiale classes in the following categories:
 - a. Three-year old Fillies Materiale

- b. Three-year old Colts and Geldings
Materiale
 - c. Four-year old Mares Materiale
 - d. Four-year old Stallions and Geldings
Materiale
 - e. Five-year old Mares Materiale
 - f. Five-year old Stallions and Geldings
Materiale
3. Qualifying competitions may combine age groups but not different sexes. Fillies and/or mares may not be combined in classes with colts, geldings and/or stallions except in championship materiale classes (DR204).
 4. Two numbers (min. 3" x 5") must be provided to and worn by Materiale class entries and they must be positioned on each side of the saddle pad.
 5. Scores must be awarded to all competitors competing in materiale classes.
 6. A horse may qualify to compete in a ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championship Final by receiving one score of 72.000% or higher in a materiale class held at any USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized DSHB or Dressage competition during the relative competition year.
 7. Scores earned at competitions licensed by USEF as Regular or Local competitions are not eligible to be used as qualifying scores for the ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championships.
 8. The ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championships will run on the same calendar year as the ProElite/USDFBCS (January 1-September 30). Qualifications to compete in a ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championship class must be earned in the calendar year that the championship occurs.
 9. Qualifying scores to compete in a championship class may be earned up until the championship class occurs. Materiale scores earned at dressage competitions held after all ProElite/USDFBCS Finals in a competition year, are not eligible as qualifying scores.
 10. A list of qualified horses is maintained on the USDF website.
 11. A horse may qualify with a different rider than the rider who competes the horse in the championship class.
 12. All qualified horses will be eligible to compete in ANY ProElite/USDFBCS Final, regardless of where qualification is earned, but may compete in only one series final competition per calendar year.

C. CONDUCT OF SERIES FINAL MATERIALE CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

1. At least two USEF DSHB judges must officiate in each ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championship class. Placings will be determined by the average of all judges' scores. At least one judge must be a USEF DSHB 'R' judge.
2. Series final events must hold materiale classes allowing for qualification opportunities prior to holding the ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championship classes.
3. **Two** numbers (min. 3" x 5") must be provided to and worn by Materiale class entries and they must be positioned on each side of the saddle pad.
4. Scores must be awarded to all competitors.
5. Ties in ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championship classes must remain unbroken.
6. Materiale Championships will be held at each ProElite/USDFBCS Final competition. All qualified horses regardless of sex will compete against one another in their respective age groups. Each ProElite/USDFBCS Final will hold the following divisions:
 - a. Three-year old Fillies, Colts and Geldings Materiale
 - b. Four-Year-Old Mares, Stallions and Geldings Materiale
 - c. Five-Year-Old Mares, Stallions and Geldings Materiale
7. Horses will be evaluated according to the criteria listed on the current "USDF Materiale Class" scoresheet, and classes must be conducted according to the current USDF "Procedures to Host USDF Materiale Classes".
8. A grand champion and reserve grand champion for each division will be named at each ProElite/USDFBCS final event and will receive awards and prizes provided by USDF. Third through sixth place horses will receive ribbons provided by USDF. After the last ProElite/USDFBCS Final held in a competition year, certificates will be available from USDF via the website.
9. USDF reserves the right to change, alter, or retract any placings and/or prizes for up to 60 days after the last day of the championship if an error or violation is discovered.
10. Owner must enter the qualified horse in the horse's appropriate ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championship class prior to commencement of the class. The horse is NOT automatically entered in the class because the horse qualified

earlier in the day or at another show. ProElite/USDFBCS Final events must agree to allow late entries in the ProElite/USDFBCS Materiale Championship classes for horses that qualified for the championship after the official closing date.

- Management must collect all USDF non-member, membership and/or horse registration/HID applications and related fees prior to the start of a series final class for eligible entries to compete in the class. Should the required USDF non-member, membership or horse registration/HID applications and related fees fail to be submitted to USDF following the completion of a series final competition, elimination of a horse from its series final class may result.

Chart 4: USDF MATERIALE DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING PROGRESSION	
Class	Championship
Three-Year-Old Filly Materiale	ProElite/USDFBCS Final Three-Year-Old Materiale Championship any horse scoring 72% or higher in their respective class
Three-Year-Old Colt/ Gelding Materiale	
Four-Year-Old Mare Materiale	ProElite/USDFBCS Final Four-Year-Old Materiale Championship any horse scoring 72% or higher in their respective class
Four-Year-Old Stallion/Gelding Materiale	
Five-Year-Old Mare Materiale	ProElite/USDFBCS Final Five-Year-Old Materiale Championship any horse scoring 72% or higher in their respective class
Five-Year-Old Stallion/Gelding Materiale	
Current Materiale scoresheets must be used, and scores given to every entry. Qualifying competitions may combine age groups but not different sexes. Fillies and/or mares may not be combined in classes with colts, geldings and/or stallions except in championship materiale classes.	

III. PROELITE/USDFBCS FINALS PROSPECT AWARDS

At each ProElite/USDFBCS Final, a Three-Year-Old Prospect Award and a Four-Year-Old Prospect Award will be presented to the Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Old horses earning the highest combined scores from their respective in-hand and materiale series final championship classes. USDF will provide each ProElite/USDFBCS Finals with the prizes for the Three-Year-Old Prospect and Four-Year-Old Prospect Awards that must be presented to the winners at each competition.

Prospect Award Calculation

