

USDF Membership Benefits: USDF is dedicated to education, the recognition of achievement, and promotion of dressage. For details on member benefits, including educational programs, awards, and other opportunities, refer to the *USDF Member Guide* or the USDF website at www.usdf.org.

**This
competition
is recognized
by USDF
for 2026**

Membership Requirements for USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized Competitions: Owners and riders, including foreign riders and owners who are not residents of the US, wishing to participate in a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competition as a rider or owner/lessee, must have either a USDF Group Membership (GM), Participating Membership (PM), or have a USDF Non-Member (NM) identification number and pay the USDF Non-Member (NM) fee. (Note: USDF Business Members can own horses but cannot compete as riders with their USDF Business Membership.)

Horses competing at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions must have either a USDF Horse Identification (HID) number or a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR). Proper credentials or verification certificates must be presented to the competition secretary.

Riders and owners wishing to participate in a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competition, and not able to present the competition secretary with verification of a USDF membership or NM identification, and USDF LHR or USDF HID, must complete a USDF Competition Affidavit Form and pay the \$5 affidavit filing fee. A copy of a completed affidavit form from another competition may also be used for verification purposes for up to 60 days. (Exception: Affidavits cannot be used at Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Dressage Championships.)

Exceptions:

- Horses competing only in Individual Breed Classes (IBCs) at DSHB competitions, sires and dams of horses in DSHB group classes, where those sires or dams are not actually competing in the same competition, horses competing only in breed restricted dressage or DSHB classes at Regular Competitions (e.g. all Arabian, all Friesian, or all Morgan classes), or in USDF Introductory Level tests, pas de deux or quadrille, are exempt from this requirement. Also exempt are horses ridden in leadline, exhibitions, games and races, classes for 4-H members, walk-trot, academy, and opportunity classes.
- Riders and owners/lessees competing only in classes which are exempt from the USDF HID requirements are also exempt from the USDF NM identification number and NM fee requirements. Also exempt are handlers of horses competing in DSHB In-Hand or Group classes.

Memberships Defined

Participating Membership (PM): A membership issued to an individual directly by USDF. The membership year is December 1 through November 30. PMs are available for 1-year (\$100), 5-years (\$400), or life (\$2,000). A USDF Youth Participating Membership (YPM) is available for individuals who have not reached their 21st birthday by December 1 of the current membership year (\$80). A PM allows the member to compete at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions and to participate as a rider and/or owner/lessee for all Adequan[®]/USDF Year-End Awards and the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Dressage Championship program.

Group Membership (GM): A membership issued to an individual by USDF when the member name and dues are submitted to USDF through an affiliate Group Member Organization (GMO). The GM year begins December 1 and ends November 30. A GM allows the member to compete at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions and participate in the USDF Rider Awards Program.

Business Membership (BM): A membership that runs December 1 through November 30 and is issued to a business or organization directly by USDF. The USDF BM (\$280) offers a wider variety of advertising benefits. BMs satisfy requirements of horse ownership only.

Non-Member (NM) Identification Number: For each USDF NM owner/lessee and USDF NM rider there will be a USDF NM fee of \$55 per competition that must be collected by the show secretary and submitted to USDF, along with the USDF Report of Fees document and the \$5 affidavit fee and Competition Affidavit Form if the person cannot provide a copy of their USDF NM card. Owners/lessees or riders exempt from the NM number requirements are also exempt from paying the USDF NM fee. If there are multiple owners of a horse and all are NMs, only one of the owners must pay the NM fee. If the horse has at least one owner who is a current USDF PM, GM, or BM there is no NM fee assessed. Competition management will be invoiced for all applicable USDF NM fees not received with the USDF post-competition paperwork, along with a report listing all USDF NMs. Competition management is then required to submit the NM fees within 30 days to the USDF. An individual with a USDF NM identification number is not eligible for any USDF membership benefits. Once a USDF NM number has been assigned, a USDF NM card can be obtained from the USDF website.

Horse Identification (HID) Number: A one-time tracking number for horses (\$45). Scores earned by a horse with an HID number will be recorded but will NOT be counted towards Adequan[®]/USDF Year-End Awards. A horse with an HID number is not eligible to compete in Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional qualifying or championship classes. An HID number can be upgraded to a Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) for a fee of \$95. If a horse has a USDF LHR it does not need an HID number. An HID number is a one-time fee that does not need to be renewed.

Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR): A horse with an LHR (\$140) is eligible for Adequan[®]/USDF Year-End Awards, and eligible to compete in Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional qualifying and championship classes, assuming requirements for the owner and rider are met. If a horse has an LHR it does not need an HID number. An LHR does not need to be renewed.

How to Join USDF

Applications for USDF Participating Membership (PM), Business Membership (BM), Horse Identification (HID) number, and Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) may be found in the following locations:

- On the USDF website: www.usdf.org. You can submit the application online or download the form.
- In the show office at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions classified by USEF as Dressage Competitions, and Regular Competitions which are open to all breeds.
- By calling or writing the USDF office at (859) 971-2277, 4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

The effective date of membership is the date the form and correct fees are received in the USDF office or, if applying at a competition, the date accepted by the competition secretary, provided the application is signed and dated by the competition secretary, member, and/or horse owner on that same day.