

PARAMETERS FOR THE COMPETITION – May be held on its own or in conjunction with any level of Licensed Dressage Competition. If stand-alone, the competition may be a Level 1 or 2. **Review DR 202 for specific requirements for scheduling DSHB divisions and classes.**

The competition manager or secretary cannot be the judge/competer as rider, handler or assistant handler in his/her own competition except as HC, if someone is covering their duties while they show. They may own horses that are competing.

JUDGES – Must be a Federation licensed DSHB judge. Apprenticing is prohibited in USDFBCS Finals classes.

HANDLERS/ASSISTANT HANDLERS and WHIP ASSISTANTS

No handler or assistant handler, under the age of fourteen, may handle two or three year old colts, or stallions of any age.

No handler or assistant handler, under the age of ten, may handle horses or ponies of any age except in Junior/YR Handler classes.

No rider, under the age of fourteen, may ride a three-year old colt, or stallion of any age, in under saddle classes including DSH Prospect Under Saddle/Materiale and Suitability classes.

Handlers - USEF membership or Show Pass fee, no USDF needed - Assistant Handlers/Whip Assistants -no memberships required.

Only handlers/assistant handlers may act as whip assistants in the competition ring. A whip assistant may accompany horses in the competition ring and on the triangle. Handlers are permitted to have one assistant if necessary.

Each horse in the ring must have its own handler.

PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR – Handlers/assistant handlers and whip assistants must wear Protective Headgear, which is properly secured, while in the competition ring. They must not be allowed to continue until Protective Head Gear is in place and properly secured.

ENTRY FORMS/ASSISTANT HANDLER RELEASE FORMS/WRISTBANDS - Handlers/assistant handlers and whip assistants must sign an entry form or handler/assistant handler release form before being given a wristband or other form of identification (this ID must not be transferable to other people). Judges **must excuse** horses with handlers and/or assistant handlers who are not properly identified (wrist bands or other ID) and not wearing Protective Headgear.

BRIDLES – Only snaffle bridles are allowed & are mandatory on horses age two or older in the competition ring, even non-competing mares accompanying a foal. Yearlings can wear snaffles but not foals and weanlings. Snaffle bridles must have two reins, headstall and throatlatch. Nosebands are optional. Reins attached as described in DR121.3.e.

LEADS – A split/single chain with a lead may be used instead of or in addition to reins. Lead shank required if reins placed over neck. The handler must hold the shank.

HALTERS - Horses under two may be shown in halters, and chain shanks may be used. Traditional halters made of leather or leather-like material (may be reinforced with nylon) are required. European Foal Show Halters (halters with a cavesson, browband and throatlatch but no bit attachment) may only be used on current year foals. Loose foals are not allowed.



YES



YES



YES



Only Current Year Foals



NO

WHIPS - Handler/assistant handler and/or whip assistant may each carry only one whip or one standard lungeing whip (without attachments, i.e., plastic bags, etc.).

BANDAGES – of any kind are not allowed in the competition ring/area.

WARMUPS/COMPETITION AREAS - Separate gates for entry and exit and separate holding areas for fillies/mares and colts/stallions are recommended.

SAFETY OFFICERS/RING STEWARDS - monitor safety for horses/handlers and spectators and ensure that only eligible (wristbands and properly secured helmets) handlers and assistant handlers are permitted to enter the arena.

ATTENTION GETTING DEVICES – Whip attachments, loud snapping whips, noise making devices are not permitted in the warmup or competition ring.

UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE - by individuals outside the competition ring is not permitted.

EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS - not required or advised for DSHB classes. If equipment must be looked at, go to the stall.

NUMBERS - One for each in-hand horse. Entries in group classes (i.e., Get of Sire) must display the number assigned to their group. Entries should not be penalized if horses in a group also display their individual assigned numbers. Entries in Materiale and Under Saddle classes must be issued a separate number only if the rider did not also show the same horse in hand. Horses/riders required to display only one number with no penalty, except Materiale and/or Under Saddle Classes. Two numbers (min 3" x 5") must be provided and worn by Materiale and Under Saddle class entries – positioned and visible on each side of saddle pad.

TRIANGLES - The size of the triangle may be adjusted to meet local conditions, but the back side of the triangle must be at least 25 meters in length and the other two sides must be at least 20 meters in length.

SCORE SHEETS/CLASS SHEETS/PLACINGS/TIES - Judge must use individual score cards for In-Hand, Group, Individual Breed and Amateur/Jr/YR Handler classes. Class sheets must be used for Materiale and Championship classes. Decimals may be used in scoring. Placings and final scores for each judge must be posted, but Master class scoresheets cannot be posted. Tied scores broken first by referring to the totals of the movement scores. If still tied, the tie may be broken at the judge's discretion, by the use of decimals, or the horses may be examined again (movement only). If a class is judged by more than one judge, the judges may consult and arrive at an agreed upon placement.

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES (not Series Final) – One or more judges. When two or more judges are officiating, they may use the same score sheets or class cards and agree on each score before informing the scribe, or they may judge independently. The judge(s) will re-evaluate the entries, with or without awarding scores. All horses must be re-evaluated in same manner/all horses must be shown at the walk and trot (and canter, in applicable classes.) If judged individually, scores are averaged. If judged together, only one agreed upon score.

Championship classes qualifying for the USDF Breeders Championship Series Finals. If all judge(s) have not judged all horses in their individual in-hand classes - judge(s) must re-evaluate conformation in championship class. No scores are given. Ties not allowed.

Horses in USDF Breeders Championship classes must be shown individually on the triangle - walk/trot/standing for conformation. Each horse must be evaluated in the same manner and callbacks are permitted. If horses may be recalled, the prize list or program must state that this procedure will be used (DR209).

If sufficient entries, champ/res champ/third place must be named in qualifying classes for the USDF Breeders Championships series.

SERIES FINALS - At least two USEF DSHB judges must officiate each series final class; one of the two must be a USEF 'R' DSHB. Apprenticing is prohibited in USDF Breeders Championship Finals classes. Each judge will evaluate entries independently utilizing their own scribe. Winners are determined by the average of all judges' scores. Highest scoring horses will be declared champions/second highest declared reserve champions of the series final. Ties remain unbroken.

Owner must enter the qualified horse in the USDFBCS series 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. Monitor for this.

See also USDF Breeders Championship guidelines, 'USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Show Scoresheets' and the scoresheets themselves (available on USDF website).