



USDF Committee Reports to:

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

December 6 & 7, 2024

Houston, TX

USDF

Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting Materials Index

BOG General Assembly Draft Agenda 1

December 1, 2023 BOG Meeting Minutes (DRAFT) 2

December 2, 2023 BOG Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)12

Administrative Council

Bylaws.....14

Proposed Bylaws Edits.....15

Group Member Organizations.....17

Historical Recognition.....18

Nominating.....19

Technical Council

Competition Management.....21

Instructor/Trainer Development Program.....22

Judges.....24

L Program.....26

Technical Delegates.....28

Activities Council

Adult Programs.....30

Awards.....32

FEI Youth.....33

National Youth Programs.....37

Regional Championships.....40

Sport Horse.....41

Sport Horse (SH) Proposal: Four-Year-Old Dressage SH Prospect Year-End Award.....43

Independent Council

Audit.....44

2025-2026 Proposed Budget.....45

Actual/Budget Comparison.....46

Board of Governors (BOG) General Assembly DRAFT Agenda 2024

Friday, December 6

1:00 PM – MEETING BEGINS

1. Delegate roll call (begins at 1 PM sharp!) – Debra Reinhardt, Secretary
2. Delegate orientation
 - *Only delegates can speak at the microphone.*
 - *State your name and region when you are speaking to the BOG.*
 - *If you make a motion, it must be submitted in writing to the USDF Secretary.*
3. Approval of agenda – George Williams, President
4. Approval of 2023 BOG minutes – Debra Reinhardt, Secretary
5. President's report – George Williams
6. Executive Director's report – Stephan Hienzsch
7. Treasurer's report – Lorraine Musselman
8. Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget – Lorraine Musselman, Treasurer
9. Audit Committee report – approval of 2025 auditor – Guilherme Schmidt, Chair
10. Presentations by candidates for USDF President and Treasurer – Linda Mendenhall, Nominating Committee Chair
11. Approval of committee motions and their reports – Chairs
 - Proposed bylaws edits – Chris Trentelman, Bylaws Committee Chair
 - Four-Year-Old Dressage Sport Horse Prospect Year-End Award proposal – Kristi Wysocki, Sport Horse Committee Chair
12. Q & A and collective approval of committee reports with no motions
13. USEF report – David O'Connor, Chief of Sport
14. USEF High Performance report – Laura Roberts, Managing Director, Dressage
15. The Dressage Foundation report – Beth Baumert, President & CEO and Jenny Johnson, Executive Director

2:30 PM-3:00 PM – BREAK

4:00 PM – MEETING ADJOURNS

Saturday, December 7

8:00 AM – MEETING BEGINS

1. Delegate roll call (begins at 8 AM sharp!) – Debra Reinhardt, Secretary
2. Elections for USDF President, Treasurer, and Regional Director in Regions 2, 4, 6, and 8; Special election for Region 7 Director – Linda Mendenhall, Nominating Committee Chair
3. Voting on the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget – Lorraine Musselman, Treasurer
4. Recognition of outgoing USDF Treasurer, Lorraine Musselman – Presented by George Williams, President
5. Recognition of outgoing USDF President, George Williams – Presented by Kevin Reinig, Vice President
6. Presentation of GMO Awards – Lorretta Lucas, Group Member Organizations Committee Chair and George Williams, President
7. New business

9:45 AM – MEETING ADJOURNS

USDF Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting
December 1, 2023 – Omaha, NE

DRAFT MINUTES – PENDING 2024 BOG APPROVAL

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. CST on Friday, December 1.

Delegate roll call – Debra Reinhardt, Secretary

A quorum was reached.

Approval of agenda – George Williams, President

Lisa Gorretta moved and Fie Andersen seconded **to accept the agenda with the following amendments: 1) Move the USEF report after the approval of the 2022 BOG minutes, and 2) Under the approval of committee motions and their reports, move USDF Adult Amateur (AA) and Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) Handler Year-End Awards to tomorrow's session.** Motion carried.

Approval of 2022 BOG Minutes – Debra Reinhardt, Secretary

Diane Holsten moved and Robert Higgins seconded **to approve the minutes of the 2022 BOG meeting with following change to the Audit Committee report.** Motion carried

Audit Committee report – Guilherme Schmidt

*The committee has reviewed and approved the financial reports. ~~Guilherme Schmidt~~ Paul Cormier moved and ~~Paul Cormier~~ Sally Davenport seconded **to have Oberlander Financial Services conduct the audit.** Motion carried.*

USEF report – Bill Moroney, CEO

Bill gave highlights of 2023, which included dressage qualifying for Paris 2024. At the Pan Am Games, dressage earned team gold and individual bronze medals. Hallye Griffin became Director of FEI/High Performance Sport, with Laura Roberts becoming the Managing Director of Dressage.

USEF membership is up 4% at 81,000 and Fan memberships are at 190,000. Competitions have rebounded from COVID with 2128 shows having 370,000 entries. This is 26,000 more entries than 2022. Licensed officials are up a little to 2164.

There is a new partnership with Clip My Horse for live streaming to members. The Coaching Development Program, conducted by the US Center for Coaching Excellence has started, with dressage being one of the first in the program. The USEF Board has approved research and resources to develop a USEF Entry System for all disciplines. This product is to be completed in two years and be free to the user. There is a partnership with EquiRating to build a platform that focuses on equine and human safety in competition. USEF will expand 'lite' competition opportunities for several breeds and disciplines.

The future of USEF is maintaining the sport, amplifying media, enhancing properties, and investing in initiatives that add value.

President's report – George Williams

Welcome to the 2023 USDF Convention in Omaha. Our hosts, Region 4 and the Nebraska Dressage Association, were acknowledged. It's fitting that we are celebrating our 50th anniversary in Nebraska!

A moment was taken to acknowledge and remember those who fifty years ago had the vision of bringing dressage enthusiasts from all over the country together by creating a national organization dedicated purely to dressage with education, recognition and promotion as their mission statement.

George touched on a few items that fall into those three categories.

Promotion:

This is definitely both an exciting and trying time for dressage. We're seeing some wonderful horse/rider partnerships at the top of our sport. At the same time, we're seeing and hearing about things that are forcing us to examine the issue of equine welfare and well-being, social license to operate, and our roles even more thoroughly as horse people, whether we're trainers, competitors, judges, owners, grooms, or on the governance side of the sport.

This may have happened faster than we expected, but now that it is up close and personal, or shall we say in our face, we have to discuss what has always been a bit of an elephant in the room. Personally, These discussions are welcomed. They are needed, they must be open, frank and honest. However, they must be done with an empathy for each other and most importantly for our horses. We are finally starting a new chapter and this time we all have to get it right.

Para Dressage:

This past summer the USDF received a request from the US Para Equestrian Association to become the US Equestrian affiliate for para dressage. They are stepping down as an affiliate and want to focus on being a fundraising organization for para equestrian. This would be following the global trend of the FEI and other national federations which over past several years have been bringing para equestrians more and more under the umbrella of their respective disciplines.

Integrating para dressage with able-bodied makes sense and is a natural step forward for our sport. As the official US Equestrian affiliate for dressage, USDF is the obvious home.

The Executive Board (EB) has blessed this in concept. Stephan and George met with Tina Wentz, the Interim USPEA President, and Ellie Brimmer, USPEA Secretary to discuss the transition process. Earlier we had met with Tom O'Mara and Bill Maroney along with David O'Connor and Hallye Griffin, all of USEF to discuss some of the broader picture issues, such as governance representation, committee structure, affiliate agreements and areas of responsibility.

To be clear, when it comes to international competition the model would be as it is today. Athletes involved in the Olympic movement, USOPC compliance, and those types of responsibilities will continue to fall under US Equestrian as the national governing body (NGB).

We will be forming a Structural Development and Implementation Task Force in the next few weeks. It will be charged with looking at how to best assimilate para dressage into our USDF governance structure. We will work closely with the Bylaws Committee and will continue talks with US Equestrian to make whatever amendments to the affiliate agreement are deemed necessary. We anticipate the process to take approximately one year with the expectation of bringing it back to the BOG in 2024.

In the meantime, we would like to ask the BOG for your endorsement in moving forward with the concept of having para dressage come under the umbrella of USDF as the recognized USEF affiliate for dressage.

Education:

This week a Judge Education Initiative Workshop was held for the stakeholders involved in judge education, (including the L Education Program), to introduce a new initiative we have given the working title of Judging Education Project. This is an initiative to enhance our judge education programs through greater use of virtual and in-person technological capabilities offered through Black Horse One.

An exciting aspect of this project, and one with a more direct benefit to our members, is that it will have funding support through The Dressage Foundation's (TDF) Mary Anne and Walter McPhail Judge Education Fund.

As part of that agreement, USDF will make 3-4 online educational modules available to our membership. These modules are designed to help non-judges understand the judging process, judging methodology, gain a better understanding of what judges are looking for in specific movements, and hopefully open the door for more communication between judges and our members.

A big thank you to TDF and especially to Mary Anne and Walter McPhail; this is a great example of what we can do when we all work together.

The USDF is working with US Equestrian to add a coaching element to the Instructor/Trainer Development Program. Next week five members of our Instructor/Trainer Development Program faculty will be participating in a newly created U.S. Equestrian initiative focused on coaching development.

The program is a combination of virtual and in-person sessions and is conducted by the US Center for Coaching Excellence. They conduct programs for the USOPC and describe themselves as “a national non-profit organization dedicated to elevating and enhancing the professions of sport coaching, coach education, and coach development.”

This is a big country. The best way to ensure that every one of our USDF members has access to quality dressage instruction wherever they live in the US is by having as many good, truly qualified instructor/trainers as possible. Ultimately our goal should be for every member, regardless of what state they live in, to have viable options for quality dressage instruction.

That’s a big goal, but it underscores the importance of development programs like the ones for coach development, instructor/trainer development and the new initiative for judges. Some may feel that these programs are not beneficial to them and that they are just for a few individuals. The more we can do on all fronts education wise, the better for everyone.

And, with the current state of affairs, it is even more crucial that we have well trained professionals/individuals as instructors, trainers and judges.

Recognition:

This year was the 10th anniversary of the US Dressage Finals. As many of you have heard, the numbers were down this year, especially when compared with 2022 and 2021 (which due to COVID from an entry standpoint combined the years of 2020 and 2021).

Actually, it’s a good thing that numbers were lower. The experience of the past two years has shown us that the Finals actually can be too big.

This year we returned to numbers that were more in line with the pre-COVID entry numbers. As many of you know we upped the wild card score requirements, fully aware that it would affect the numbers. By how much is and was anybody’s guess, as there are many factors that play a role.

However, the bottom line is there actually being an ideal number of entries. One that allows us flexibility in scheduling and the number of arenas needed, not needing the Rolex arena (which is a great distance from the heated stabling), and the number of stalls available in those heated barns.

Ultimately, we must remember that this is not about being the largest show possible, it is designed to be a national Finals, a head-to-head competition of the best coming from the regional championships.

Finally, let’s recognize our great staff and all of the volunteers who keep USDF moving forward!

Executive Director's report – Stephan Hienzsch

Happy Birthday USDF! 50 years and it is great to be here in Nebraska where it was all started. Thank you to all volunteers, staff, contractors, and volunteer based leadership.

As a reminder, special award honors will be presented as follows: Lifetime Achievement Award - Sally Davenport (Region 8); Member of Distinction - Brook Irving Martz (Region 6); Member of Distinction - Beth Jenkins (Region 8); Youth Volunteer of the Year - Alice Burley (Region 3); and Volunteer of the Year - Eleanor Brimmer (Region 3).

The 2024 Trainers Conference will be held January 15-16, 2024, with Sven Rothenberger and Sabine Schut-Kery at High Meadow Farm in Loxahatchee, FL. Sven and Sabine will be addressing the movements within the FEI levels and the more complicated basics that must be achieved for those movements as it applies to each horse.

Sven Rothenberger is a German who represented the Netherlands in the 1996 Olympic Games held in Atlanta, earning a team silver medal and an individual bronze medal, and again in Athens in 2004. Sven is currently a Level 2 FEI Judge. His son, Sonke Rothenberger, was part of the gold medal team representing Germany at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Membership numbers are about the same as pre-pandemic levels, but Participating Member (PM) numbers are up and Group Member (GM) numbers are down. Horse registrations have been up for two years and are above pre-pandemic levels. Reflecting, the increase in activity right after the pandemic seems to be leveling out.

The 2024 convention will be held in Houston, TX at the JW Marriott Houston, December 4-7, with a room rate of \$164.

The 2025 convention will return to Lexington, KY at the Hyatt Regency Lexington, December 3-6, with a room rate of \$155.

As you know, the EB is asking the BOG to approve a dues Increase proposal. USDF members will have had seven years of static dues while inflation has eaten into the operating budget of USDF activities and member services. Dues are approved by the BOG and if approved at this meeting would go into effect for the 2025 membership year.

Key fee increases have been approved by the EB, which on the average last increased seven years ago. The increase in the regional championship qualified ride fee will increase prize money for regional championships and the US Dressage Finals. It may also allow for an increase in the travel grants fund for the US Dressage Finals in the future.

By applying increases to all dues and numerous key fees it spreads the burden. Delaying the proposed initiatives will result in more painful measures needed later.

The budget numbers are forecast based on the available actual financial information available at the time. There is a long lead time from when those projections are made versus implemented and actualized. The dues increase proposed, and the fees approved by the EB, are included in the preliminary FY 2024-25 budget proposal.

Treasurer's report – Lorraine Musselman

Proposed membership dues increases (to be effective 12/1/2024)

Membership Dues	Current Dues	Implemented	Proposed Dues	Effective Date/Years Since Last Increase Implementation	\$ Increase
Participating Membership	\$90	December 2017	\$100	12/1/2024 (7 years)	\$10
Youth Participating Membership	\$72	December 2017	\$80	12/1/2024 (7 years)	\$8
5-Year Participating Membership	\$360	December 2017	\$400	12/1/2024 (7 years)	\$40
Life Participating Membership	\$1,800	December 2017	\$2,000	12/1/2024 (7 years)	\$200
Business Membership	\$240	December 2017	\$280	12/1/2024 (7 years)	\$40
Group Membership (Individual/Primary Family Member)	\$24	December 2019	\$25	12/1/2024 (5 years)	\$1
GM Supporting Family	\$10	December 2010	\$12	12/1/2024 (14 years)	\$2

Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget – Lorraine Musselman, Treasurer

Statements of Financial Position:

The Statement of Financial Position is basically a balance sheet. This is a comparative statement which shows the balances as of March 31, 2023 and March 31, 2022. This past fiscal year the USDF has been able to both expand existing programs and add new ones.

Assets:

The Statement of Financial Position – Assets

Total current assets (assets expected to be converted to cash within a year) shows a slight decrease of 5.2% for the 2023 year-end as compared to the 2022 year-end. Operating cash is flat. Inventory and prepaid expenses show slight increases, offset by a decreases in investments and accounts receivable. Capital (or Fixed) Assets are down slightly. mostly due to depreciation expense.

Liabilities and net assets

The liabilities side of the Statement of Financial Position shows our liabilities are down overall. The majority of the decrease is in deferred revenue, offset by slight increases in accounts payable and accrued expenses. The USDF does not have any long term liabilities. Current liabilities are those that will come due in one year or less. Long term would be over one year (an example would be a mortgage).The net assets are a net of the total assets minus the total liabilities. They are down just under 5% from the prior year.

Statement of Activities:

The Statement of Activities is a breakdown of revenues and expenses by program area and whether any are donor restricted. The USDF does not have any new donor restricted items.

Revenues

This is a breakdown of the revenues of the organization by functional area. Membership dues account for just over 55% of the revenues at \$2,624,715. Competition areas (competition, regional championships, and the US Dressage finals) combined (\$1,707,958) make up just over 36. Program services, publications, and regional revenues follow behind those amounts coming in at \$289,635, \$229,338, and \$207,529 respectively.

Expenses

This is a breakdown of expenses of the organization by functional areas. Program services expenses make up two-thirds of our expenses and supporting services (general administrative) make up one-third. As you can see, the largest portion of our program services expenses goes to the competition area

The **Statement of Functional Expenses** is a breakdown of expenses by type versus program area. This organization is mostly personnel driven, so naturally compensation and related expenses make up the largest portion of total expenses. Most of this is related to program areas that are for the benefit of the membership. Advertising and sponsors, programs and events and prizes and awards follow all between 9% and 10%.

The **Days Cash Reserve** indicator is the calculation used to determine roughly how many days of expenses you can cover with the cash on hand without adding any income over those days. The common goal for non-profits is 3-6 months. We ended the year at 149 days (right at 5 months) versus 156 days for the previous year. While slightly lower than last year (6 days), we are still in good shape.

The **Liquidity** ratio is used to determine how financially stable the organization is based on its current assets over its current liabilities. You always want this ratio to be a minimum of 1 to 1. Since the USDF does not carry many liabilities, this ratio is 29.83 for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 compared to 26.81 for the year ended March 31, 2022. This indicates USDF is fully capable of meeting its financial obligations. You can see our organization is highly reliant on membership dues to keep our programs going. Competition areas (US Dressage Finals, regional championships and competition) make up the second most significant portion of our revenues.

Statement of Activities – Program Expenses:

This is what program areas comprise most of our expenses. Competition services make up the highest portions of our expenses (46%). This follows along since that is also the second largest revenue area for the organization. Following that, programs and education makes up 19%, marketing publications and merchandise at 16%, and membership services at 11%.

The total balance in investments on March 31, 2023 was \$7,252,348, down from 7,844,480 in March 2022. The Investments Working Group made some tweaks with our investment policy over the summer to limit the effect of the market fluctuations as much as possible. That said, no one has a crystal ball and knows exactly what the investments market will do.

The decision to combine the “Operating Cash” and “General Funds” was made after the 2018-19 Fiscal Year. This was done to simplify reporting as both funds are used for the same purpose. During 2019, the decision was made to report the balances in the Youth Endowment and General Endowment funds as separate amounts as they are used for separate purposes.

The Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 (April 2024 through March 2025):

This budget is based on normal levels of operation. It takes into account inflationary trends and programs that have been expanded or added. Staffing will be increased minimally in order to deliver the additional services to our members that have been added.

The revenue side of the budget does include fee increases approved by the EB and the proposed dues increases to be voted on at this convention. Actual USDF revenue has been fairly stagnant while expenses have increased significantly.

The annual convention will be in Houston next December. These are the projected revenues and costs associated with that location.

Championships and competition services have been adjusted to reflect an increased expectation of competitors based on actual trends.

Audit Committee report

The committee has reviewed and approved the financial audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023. Lisa Gorretta moved and Kim Kriekhaus seconded **to approve Oberlander Financial Services, PLLC, Lexington, KY to be contracted to conduct the audit for fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.** Motion carried.

Presentations by candidates for USDF Administrative Council At-Large Director (ALD) and Technical Council ALD – Linda Mendenhall, Nominating Committee Chair

There are elections this year for USDF Administrative Council ALD, USDF Activities Council ALD, and USDF Technical Council ALD. Current USDF Activities Council ALD Sue Mandas is uncontested and will not address the meeting. The USDF Administrative Council ALD candidates are Barbara Cadwell, Anne Snipes Moss, and Cindi Wylie. The USDF Technical Council ALD candidates are Janet Foy and Sue McKeown. Barbara Cadwell, Cindi Wylie, Anne Snipes Moss, Sue McKeown, and Janet Foy addressed the meeting.

Approval of committee motions and their reports

- Bylaws Committee – Chris Trentelman, Chair

The bylaws proposals were presented individually.

Paul Cormier moved and Ken Levy seconded **to approve the edits in Article V, page 5, section 2 as seen below.** Motion carried.

ARTICLE V Page 5

MEMBERSHIP

Add new and re-letter remaining:

Section 2. Group Member Organizations

- k) A Group Member Organization shall annually elect or appoint from its membership a delegate to the USDF Board of Governors for a term of not less than one year, under procedures established by each Group Member Organization. Such delegate shall not be an elected Officer, Regional Director or At-Large Director of the USDF. Such delegate shall be entitled to one vote for every 25 (or major fraction thereof) dues-paying members of the Group Member Organization. Group Member Organizations having more than 200 members may elect one additional delegate per every 200 additional members.

(Example: 25 members – 1 delegate, 201 members – 1 delegate, 399 members – 1 delegate, 400 members – 2 delegates, 600 members – 3 delegates.)

l) **Group Member Organization delegates elect Officers, At-Large Directors, and a Regional Director from their respective region to the USDF Executive Board.**

+ m) Final membership rosters and dues for any members of Group member Organizations not previously paid pursuant to Sections 2(g) and (h) shall be submitted to the USDF office no later than November 30 of each year.

⌘ n) The number of Group Members of each Group Member Organization as of September 1 shall determine its voting strength at the annual meeting.

Kim Kriekhaus moved and Diane Holston seconded **to approve the edits in Article V, page 6, section 3 as seen below.** Motion carried.

ARTICLE V Page 6

MEMBERSHIP

Change to read:

Section 3. Participating Membership

e) ~~The Participating Member delegates and Group Member Organization delegates of each region shall elect **Officers, At-Large Directors, and** a Regional Director from among the members of that region **their respective region to the USDF Executive Board.**~~

Robert Higgins moved and Caren Caverly seconded **to approve the removal of Article V, page 6, Section 3.f as seen below.** Motion carried.

ARTICLE V Page 6

MEMBERSHIP

Remove:

Section 3. Participating Membership

f) ~~Candidates for delegates to represent the Participating Members to the Board of Governors and candidates for Regional Director shall be nominated by sending the names of nominees to the Nominating Committee staff liaison, or the Nominating Committee representative from the respective region, or the Nominating Committee chair by the date established in the USDF Policies and Procedures.~~

Fie Andersen moved and Ken Levy seconded **to approve the edits in Article VI, page 10, section 6 as seen below.** Motion carried.

ARTICLE VI Page 10

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Change to read:

Section 6. The delegate of a Group Member Organization may be represented on the Board of Governors by proxy, signed by an officer of the Group Member Organization and filed with the Secretary of the Board of Governors as set forth in Section (a) below. Elected Officers, Regional Directors and At-Large Directors of the USDF, and USDF Audit Committee members shall not be delegates or hold proxies.

- a) Proxies may be either “designated” or “undesignated” and shall be made by facsimile bearing the signature and title of an authorized officer representing the Group Member Organization, by e-mail or other means as described in the Policies and Procedures. A “designated” proxy identifies the Member ***in their region*** who shall vote the proxy and an “undesignated” proxy does not identify the Member.

Danielle Perry moved and Nancy Gorton seconded **to approve the edits in Article VII, page 10, section 1 as seen below.** Motion carried.

ARTICLE VII Page 10

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Change to read:

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the Officers, ~~and~~ *and At-Large Directors*, elected by the Board of Governors, ~~and one Regional Director elected from each USDF Region elected by each regions' delegates on the Board of Governors and the At-Large Directors.~~ The number of regions and their boundaries shall be determined by the Board of Governors.

Kate O'Connor moved and Cindi Wylie seconded **to approve the edits in Article XII, page 19, section 2 as seen below.** Motion carried.

ARTICLE XII Page 19

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Change to read:

Section 2. Participating Members, Group Members, and Group Member Organizations may all nominate candidates ***for Officer and Regional Director positions on the USDF Executive Board and for Participating Member delegates. Nominations shall be made by sending the names of the nominees to the Nominating Committee staff liaison, the Nominating Committee representative from the nominee's region, or the Nominating Committee chair by the date established in the USDF Policies and Procedures.*** . The Nominating Committee shall be responsible, when applicable, for the nomination of Officers, Regional Directors and delegates to represent the Participating Members. ***At-Large Director nominations shall be in accordance with the USDF Policies and Procedures.***

Kim Kriekhaus moved and Robert Higgins seconded **to approve the edits in Article VI, page 9, section 1 as seen below.** Motion carried.

ARTICLE VI Page 9

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Change to read:

Section 1. The Board of Governors shall consist of the following:

- a) It shall be the responsibility of each Group Member Organization to notify the USDF in writing (which includes electronic means) as to the identity of the delegate or delegates representing such Group Member Organization by ~~August 31~~ **October 31**. If a Group Member Organization fails to notify the USDF the identity of its delegate or delegates, the President of the Group Member Organization shall be designated as the delegate. In the event that a Group Member delegate shall either 1) die, 2) resign, or 3) be removed as delegate by the Group Member Organization, then the Group Member

Organization shall appoint or elect a new delegate to serve the remainder of the one-year term and notify the USDF as to the identity of the new delegate.

Q & A and collective approval of committee reports with no motions

Paula Briney moved and Lisa Gorretta seconded **to approve the committee reports with no motions.**

Motion carried.

USEF High Performance report – Laura Roberts, Managing Director of Dressage

Pathway Programs Review – The Elite Program has five athletes (up from three). There are twelve athletes in the Pre-Elite, 30 athletes in Development, 22 athletes in the Emerging Athlete, and fourteen athletes in the Emerging Young Horse. Some of these athletes have several horses in the program and USEF coach staff meet in-person with these athletes twice a year. Pathway is really working as we see riders start at Elite and move up to team members as seen in the Pan Am Games. New this year were Pathway Program Clinics to reach more of the country and open to all FEI Levels. We introduced five clinics in 2023 to see new talent. Clinicians were the USEF coaching staff. They were held in New Jersey, Kentucky, Colorado, Georgia, and Texas. In 2024 we will do the same but in different areas.

European opportunities this year included the Nations Cup, which was held in Wellington, Rotterdam, and Aachen. There was U25 in the Wellington CDI-O and a European U25 tour for the first time. The combinations were very successful with quite a few first places. We also had our European Young Rider tour. Our combinations competed at the future champions in Hagen; two of those combinations went on to compete in Aachen.

Achievement World Cup Final in Omaha, NE with three combinations competing, i.e. Steffen Peters, Alice Tarjan and Anna Buffini. USEF sent three combinations to Dressage World Breeding Championships, which is the largest group sent from the US. At the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in Traverse City, MI, there were 24 Juniors, 19 Young Riders, and for the first time five U25. Hopefully, the Children's division will be added in 2025.

The USEF Dressage Festival of Champions in Wayne, IL had 185 combinations with 14 national championships including Dressage Seat Equitation Finals. Para Dressage Championships were held for the second year.

There were four combinations representing us at the Pan Am Games.. Two of these combinations had never left the US and this was a great experience for them. The entire team scored personal best. Codi Harrison, Anna Marek, Christian Simonson, Sarah Tubman brought home team gold and individual bronze.

The road to the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028 is on target.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm CST with the TDF report being moved to tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Reinhardt
USDF Secretary

USDF Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting
December 2, 2023 – Omaha, NE

DRAFT MINUTES – PENDING 2024 BOG APPROVAL

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. CST on Saturday, December 2.

Delegate roll call – Debra Reinhardt, Secretary

A quorum was reached.

Approval of committee motions and their reports

- Sport Horse Committee – Kristi Wysocki, Chair

The USDF Adult Amateur (AA) and Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) Handler Year-End Awards proposal was presented.

Kathy Grisolia moved and Anne Snipes Moss seconded **to approve the creation of two new USDF year-end awards: AA and Jr/YR Handler as proposed by the Sport Horse Committee**. Robert Higgins called the question. Discussion closed. Motion carried.

The Dressage Foundation (TDF) report – Beth Baumert, President & CEO and Jenny Johnson, Executive Director

Beth Baumert: TDF was founded to ease the financial burden of this sport by raising money for dressage programs, riders, and officials. The foundation's three activities are: 1) Raising money by donations, 2) Managing these funds based on the market place and 3) Giving it away based on need or merit. Donors Mary Anne and Walter McPhail established the Judge Education Fund.

The smaller donor is key as well. If \$25 was given by each USDF member, that would be more than \$682,000. So any size donation is important.

Jenny Johnson, Executive Director: Introduction of new staff members Sara Weiss, Director of Grants and Programs, and Kimberly Tebrugge, Director of Donor Relations. Jenny expressed that the generosity of the people in the sport is amazing. She gave a very heartwarming donation story from a Century Club member who sends two new crisp \$1 bills every year.

Elections for USDF Administrative Council At-Large Director (ALD) and Technical Council ALD – Linda Mendenhall, Nominating Committee Chair

USDF Activities Council ALD – Sue Mandas was elected by acclamation.

Votes cast for USDF Administrative Council ALD: Anne Snipes Moss received 780 votes, Cindi Rose Wylie received 530 votes, and Barbara Cadwell received 42 votes. Anne Snipes Moss was elected Administrative Council ALD.

Votes cast for USDF Technical Council: Sue McKeown received 1108 votes and Janet Foy received 242 votes. Sue McKeown was elected Technical Council ALD.

Voting on proposed membership dues increases (to be effective 12/1/2024) – Lorraine Musselman, Treasurer

Paul Cormier moved and Fie Andersen seconded **to accept the proposed membership dues increases**. Paula Langan moved and Rebecca Harris seconded **to accept all proposed dues increases except the \$1 group member dues increase**. Kate O'Connor called the question. Discussion closed. Motion defeated by voice vote. Rebecca Harris called for roll call.

Votes cast: Yes-329 and No-1010. Motion defeated.

Lisa Gorretta called the question on the original motion. Discussion closed. Motion carried.

Voting on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget – Lorraine Musselman, Treasurer

Paul Cormier moved and Fie Andersen seconded moved to accept the proposed 2024-2025 budget. Motion carried.

Recognition of outgoing Executive Board members and committee chairs – George Williams, President

Barbara Cadwell is the outgoing Administrative Council ALD on the Executive Board.
Kevin Bradbury is stepping down as chair of the Competition Management Committee.
Cindi Rose Wylie is stepping down as chair of the Group Member Organizations Committee.
Lois Yukins is stepping down as chair of the L Program Committee.

Presentation of GMO Awards – Cindi Wylie, Group Member Organization Committee Chair and George Williams, President

In recognizing USDF's 50th anniversary, the Charter GMOS were:

*Andover (Massachusetts) Dressage Club
California Dressage Society
Deep South Dressage Association (now Dressage and Combined Training Association)
Delaware Valley Combined Training Association
Dressage and Combined Training Association (later Central States Dressage and Combined Training Association, and now Central States Dressage & Eventing Association)
Eastern States Dressage Association (now DCTA)
Equestrians' Institute (Washington state)
*Florida Dressage Society (Now Alpha Dressage Association)
Illinois Dressage Association (now DCTA)
Indiana Dressage Association (now Society)
International Equestrian Association (Pennsylvania)
Kansas City Dressage Society
Long Island Dressage and Combined Training Association
Midwest Dressage Association
Nebraska Dressage Association
New England Dressage Association
*Ohio Valley Dressage and Combined Training Association
Oregon Dressage Society
Potomac Valley Dressage Association
Rocky Mountain Dressage Society
St. Louis Area Dressage Society
Texas Dressage Society (now Alamo Dressage Association)
Virginia Dressage Association
*Westchester-Fairfield Dressage Association
Winds Reach Dressage and Combined Training Association (now Eastern Iowa Dressage & Eventing Association)
Wisconsin Dressage Association (now DCTA).
**not active*

The GMO awards were presented.

The Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund Grant went to Jen Lowe from South Dakota Dressage Association.

GMOs marking their 50-year anniversary in 2023 were Illinois Dressage and Combined Training Association, Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association, Kansas City Dressage Society, and Nebraska Dressage Association.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Reinhardt
USDF Secretary

Board of Governors General Assembly

Administrative Council Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee Report

Chair: Chris Trentelman, FL
Liaison: Sarah Garn

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7 Houston, TX

2024 Committee Members: Janine Malone, NC; Sue Hughes, MI; Barbara Cadwell, FL; Robert Higgins, FL; Carrie Cross, NE; Heather Petersen, CO; Gaye McCabe, OR; Peter Rothschild, WA; Diane Nell, CA; Bess Bruton, TX*

**New member(s) of the Bylaws Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 7

Number in attendance at open meeting: 12

2024 Objectives:

1. Recommend proposed bylaws amendments as needed.
2. Discuss and draft bylaws amendments as required by the USDF Executive Board, committees, and members to be presented to the BOG in the future.

2024 Accomplishments:

- The proposed bylaws amendments that were approved by the 2023 BOG were incorporated into the USDF Bylaws document.
- The revised Bylaws document was posted on the USDF website and distributed to USDF's governance representatives.
- At the request of the Executive Board, created a non-voting GMO category to incorporate into the Bylaws. The proposed language will go before the 2024 BOG for approval.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on language to incorporate para dressage into the Bylaws. The proposed language will go before the 2024 BOG for approval.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on a proposal submitted by committee member and PM delegate Peter Rothschild regarding the concept of an Affiliate Membership/Affiliate Member. While the Bylaws

Committee itself will not be putting the proposal forward, in the event it is brought forward from the floor of the BOG, the committee made an official decision to report to the BOG that the amendment conformed to the Bylaws as to form and content, and that any decision as to its fate should be left up to the BOG. The committee informed the Executive Board of this as well. Feedback was also gathered from the Group Member Organizations and Competition Management Committees on the proposal.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Review of the 2024 bylaws proposals being put forward by the committee.
- Developing a procedure to formalize how the Bylaws Committee deals with proposed amendments submitted by a third party member (not the Bylaws Committee, Executive Board, or USDF staff).

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Introduction of committee members.
- Review of the committee's 2024 accomplishments.
- The committee will be working to develop a procedure for how a third party member (not the Bylaws Committee, Executive Board or USDF staff) submits bylaws amendments and how the Bylaws Committee deals with those proposals.

2025 Objectives:

1. Recommend proposed bylaws amendments as needed.
2. Discuss and draft bylaws amendments as required by the USDF Executive Board, committees, and members to be presented to the BOG in the future.
3. Develop and formalize policies and procedures for how the Bylaws Committee deals with proposed amendments submitted by a third party member (not the Bylaws Committee, Executive Board, or USDF staff).

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: 2024 proposed bylaws edits.

Article IV Page 3

STRUCTURE

Add new:

Section 2. Definitions

- A. The following rules apply in computing any time period or date certain specified in these Bylaws or the Policies and Procedures:
 - 1) When the period is stated in days or a date certain:
 - a) exclude the day of the event that triggers the period;
 - b) count every day, including intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays; and
 - c) include the last day of the period, but if the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the period continues to run until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.
- B. A "Member in Good Standing" is one who is in compliance with all current Bylaws, including payment of dues, and not subject to any restriction as set forth in Article V.
- C. A "Meeting" as stated in these Bylaws may be held in person or by electronic means unless otherwise stated.

D. The term “dressage” as stated in these Bylaws includes para dressage.

Submitted by: USDF Bylaws Committee

Reason: To integrate and assimilate national para dressage interests into USDF’s current structure.

Effective: January 1, 2025

ARTICLE V Page 6

MEMBERSHIP

Add new:

Section 2. Group Member Organizations

o) Limited Group Member Organizations

- 1) A local or regional dressage organization consisting of at least eight, but fewer than 25 dues paying members, may become a Limited Group Member Organization by submitting an application to the United States Dressage Federation which shall include:**
 - **Payment of fees as determined by the Executive Board;**
 - **A roster of all dues paying members; and**
 - **An agreement to abide by the rules and regulations of the USDF concerning Group Member Organizations.**
- 2) Upon acceptance of the application by the USDF, the applicant will be a Limited Group Member Organization and the dues paying members of the applicant shall be considered Group Members of the USDF and granted all privileges of such membership.**
- 3) The Limited Group Member Organization shall not be a member of the USDF Board of Governors but otherwise shall have the same privileges and obligations as a Group Member Organization.**
- 4) When a Limited Group Member Organization submits a roster to the USDF of at least 25 dues paying members, it shall automatically become a member of the USDF Board of Governors and shall have those rights and obligations as a Group Member Organization.**
- 5) An existing Group Member Organization that, by attrition, has fewer than 25 members, but more than seven members, will automatically be reclassified as a Limited Group Member Organization with its rights and privileges.**

Submitted by: USDF Bylaws Committee

Reason for proposal: The Executive Board passed a motion at their 2024 spring meeting tasking the Bylaws Committee with creating a non-voting GMO category with 8-24 members.

Effective: Upon approval by the Board of Governors

ARTICLE V Page 5

MEMBERSHIP

Change to read:

Section 2. Group Member Organizations

- g) A–Group Member Organizations, including Limited Group Member Organizations (as defined in letter o of this section), shall pay annual dues on the basis of per capita assessment of its dues-paying members as are contained in the current roster. All members of the Group Member and Limited Group Member Organizations shall be included on the roster and dues paid for each member. A current roster of members must be filed with the USDF on or before the beginning of each**

USDF membership year. Newly established groups shall pay their per capita assessment on their membership count as of the date of the entry into the USDF.

Submitted by: Sarah Garn, Melissa Schoedlbauer

Reason for proposal: To provide clarification that dues have to be submitted for each member not only in Group Member Organizations, but also for Limited Group Member Organizations. Approval of this edit will depend on whether the BOG approves the new Limited Group Member Organization category outlined in the proposed new language for Article V, Section 2.o.

Effective: Upon approval by the Board of Governors.

Group Member Organizations Committee Report

Chair: Loretta Lucas, FL

Liaison: Jill Chamblin

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7 Houston, TX

2024 Committee Members: Dr. Lisa Toaldo, NJ; Jeri Fuller-Matheny, KY; Megan Ward, IA*; Bobbi Lehman, AZ; Kathryn Lewis, WA; Michele Ng, CA; Regina Antonioli, CA*; Dawn Mackenzie, MA; Jennifer Jarvis, TX

**New member(s) of the Group Member Organizations Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 11

Number in attendance at open meeting: 17

2024 Objectives:

1. Continue promotion of GMO educational programs and material.
2. Choose topics and moderators for GMO roundtable discussions.
3. Request USDF Executive Board approval for a GMO educational session at the annual convention, providing suggestions for a topic and lecturer.
4. Continue to provide questions quarterly for the USDF GMO trivia challenge.
5. Make GMO Volunteer Incentive Program pins available to members that earn them.
6. Secure judges for the 2024 USDF GMO Awards Program.

2024 Accomplishments:

- In cooperation with the USDF Dressage Radio Show book club and the Adult Programs Committee, we are promoting the book club and will be recognizing the GMOs with the highest participation rate.
- We continue to promote GMO education programs via regional Facebook pages, as well as posting on the GMO Officials Facebook group.
- Topics and moderators have been chosen for the GMO roundtable discussions at convention.
- Topic and presenter were secured for the GMO education session at convention.
- The trivia challenge was modified to a "Did You Know?" listing due to very low participation rates.
- GMO VIP pins were delayed but are now in the office. GMO contacts have been notified. Pins will be sent to the individual GMOs to distribute.
- Judges for the GMO awards were selected and nominations have been judged.
- In an effort to assist GMOs in membership retention and growth, the committee will review a marketing plan that will reach out to Participating Members (PMs) who are not Group Members (GMs), which will be implemented for the 2025 membership year.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Affiliate Membership bylaws proposal: Committee members discussed this proposal, which may come forward from the floor at the 2024 Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. This potential proposal would add another layer of membership to either USDF and/or GMOs as an Affiliate Membership. The committee is not in favor of supporting this bylaws addition at this time, as there are more questions than answers at this point.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- A meet and greet was held, during which everyone had the opportunity to introduce themselves and share a little about their background.

2025 Objectives:

1. Complete outreach to PMs and encourage participation in their local GMO.
2. Continue promotion of GMO educational programs and material.
3. Choose topics and moderators for GMO roundtable discussions.
4. Request USDF Executive Board approval for a GMO educational session at the annual convention, providing suggestions for a topic and lecturer.
5. Continue to provide "Did You Know?" topics for the newsletter..
6. Make GMO VIP pins available to members that earn them.
7. Secure judges for the 2025 USDF GMO Awards Program.
8. Complete outreach to PMs who are not GMs.
9. Discuss and develop ways to reach out to other equestrian groups and encourage membership in USDF GMOs.
10. Discuss and develop ways to help smaller and new GMOs meet their challenges.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

Historical Recognition Committee Report

Chair: Jennifer Bryant, PA

Liaison: Chelsey Burris

***2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7
Houston, TX***

2024 Committee Members: Lauren Annett, PA; Margaret Freeman, NC*; Bettina Longaker, VA; Anne Moss, PA; Roz Kinstler, FL; Charlotte Trentelman, FL; Roberta Williams, FL; Annalucy Keller, ID; Terry Wilson, CA; Sally Davenport, MA*

**New member(s) of the Historical Recognition Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 8

Number in attendance at open meeting: 10

2024 Objectives:

1. Nominate suitable candidates for the Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Member of Distinction.
2. Provide input regarding content for the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame.
3. Continue the concerted effort to collect historical information regarding the GMOs, acting as voluntary repository.

4. Continue recording interviews or other video content with the Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients for use in USDF educational resources, on the USDF website, and the National Education Center.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Nominate suitable candidates for the Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Member of Distinction.
- Provide input regarding content for the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame.
- Continue the concerted effort to collect historical information regarding the GMOs, acting as voluntary repository.
- Continue recording interviews with the Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients for use in USDF educational resources, on the USDF website, and the National Education Center.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Discussion about 2024 convention plan, including ways to utilize future Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement, or Member of Distinction honorees to produce content (interviews, fireside chats at Convention, etc.)
- Brief discussion on a plan to evaluate possible new award recognition categories in 2025.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- How the Historical Recognition Committee works.
- USDF 2024 Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement honorees.

2025 Objectives:

1. Nominate suitable candidates for the Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Member of Distinction.
2. Provide input regarding content for the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame.
3. Continue recording interviews or other media content with the Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients for use in USDF educational resources, on the USDF website, in *USDF Connection*, on *YourDressage.org*, and/or the National Education Center.
4. Evaluate recognition categories and potentially recommend new or altered criteria.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

Nominating Committee Report

Chair: Linda Mendenhall, MA

Liaison: Sarah Garn

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7 Houston, TX

2024 Regional Representatives: Region 1:Lori Kaminski, MD; Region 2: Molly Fine, IL;
Region 3: Barbara Cadwell, FL; Region 4: Lin Nelson-Mayson, MN; Region 5: Virginia Sorenson, UT*;
Region 6: Tabitha Hopp, WA*; Region 7: Paula Langan, CA; Region 8: Kate O'Connor, MA; Region 9:
Alecia Daniel, TX

**New member(s) of the Nominating Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 7

Number in attendance at open meeting: 10

2024 Objectives:

1. Procure nominations for PM delegates in all nine regions by April 15.
2. Procure nominations for the following USDF Executive Board positions by June 1st, aiming for each position to have one or more qualified candidates: president, treasurer, and regional director in USDF Regions 2, 4, 6, and 8.
3. Obtain GMO delegate and proxy appointments when designated by each GMO.
4. Oversee the election process.
5. Notify each GMO who fails to respond to delegate and proxy-holder requests that they lacked representation at the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting.

2024 Accomplishments:

- GMOs who failed to respond to delegate and proxy-holder requests and lacked representation at the 2023 BOG meeting were notified.
- PM delegate nominees were secured in all nine regions. The PM delegate elections took place June 1-30 and election results were published in July.
- The following Executive Board nominations were secured by June 1 for the elections that will take place at the 2024 BOG meeting. Nominations for these positions will also be accepted from the floor of the BOG meeting.
 - President: Kevin Reinig (CA)
 - Treasurer: Steven Schubert (FL)
 - Region 2 Director: Debby Savage (OH)
 - Region 4 Director: Anne Sushko (IA)
 - Region 6 Director: Noah Rattner (OR)
 - Region 8 Director: Helen van der Voort (NY)
- There will be a special election at the 2024 BOG meeting for Region 7 Director to serve the remainder of the term (January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025) for that position. Nominations are currently being accepted and will also be accepted from the floor of the BOG meeting. At the time of this report, there is one nominee for Region 7 Director, which is Regina Antonioli (CA), who was appointed by the Executive Board as the interim Region 7 Director in August 2024.
- Biographies and Q&A for USDF Executive Board candidates were posted on the USDF website and USDF convention website, Delegate Facebook Group, and were published in the September/October issue of *USDF Connection*.
- GMO delegate and proxy appointments are being secured leading up to the 2024 convention.

PM Delegate Voting Returns

	2023 Mailed	2023 Online	2023 Total % Return	2024 Mailed	2024 Online	2024 Total % Return
Region 1	0	641	20.764%	0	667	22.315%
Region 2	0	533	24.194%	0	516	24.409%
Region 3	0	490	16.633%	1	565	17.737%
Region 4	0	214	27.089%	0	214	30.014%
Region 5	0	189	19.385%	0	224	22.603%
Region 6	0	310	25.726%	0	291	24.979%
Region 7	1	322	18.358%	0	360	20.112%
Region 8	0	372	19.507%	0	374	20.871%
Region 9	0	258	21.078%	0	218	18.258%

*2023 = 20.689% of PMs voted; 2024 = 21.520% of PMs voted

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Review of the committee’s fall report.
- Discussed ways to educate new GMO board members about the importance of having representation at the annual BOG meeting.
- Examined how the cost of attending convention is a stumbling block when trying to secure PM delegates.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Review of the committee’s mission, 2024 accomplishments, and objectives for the coming year.
- Discussed ways to increase participation, particularly with those GMOs who consistently lack representation at the annual BOG meeting.

2025 Objectives:

1. Procure nominations for PM delegates in all nine regions by April 15.
2. Procure nominations for the following USDF Executive Board positions by June 1, aiming for each position to have one or more qualified candidates: vice president, secretary, and regional director in USDF Regions 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.
3. Obtain GMO delegate and proxy appointments when designated by each GMO.
4. Oversee the election process.
5. Notify each GMO who fails to respond to delegate and proxy-holder requests that they lacked representation at the BOG.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

**Board of Governors
General Assembly
Technical Council
Committee Reports**

Competition Management Committee Report

Chair: Marinea St. Amand, WA

Vice Chair: Kevin Bradbury, MI

Liaison: Elena Sandidge

**2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7
Houston, TX**

2024 Committee Members: Kathryn Grisolia, KY; Andrea Davenport, AL; Carlie Evans, FL; Debra Reinhardt, FL; Heather Petersen, CO; Michael Taylor, ID; Regina Antonioli, CA; Anita Jaffe, NY; Marilyn Kulifay, TX

**There are no new members of the Competition Management Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 13

Number in attendance at open meeting: 16

2024 Objectives:

1. Assist new competition managers and secretaries through the mentor program.
2. Provide educational opportunities to competition management.
3. Review and address other issues relevant to competition management.

2024 Accomplishments:

- The committee had many opportunities to review and give feedback on rule proposals.
- Planned an education session for the 2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention titled, “Management Coping Strategies.”

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- USEF rule DR123.12 (the distribution of score sheets) was discussed and whether there needs to be a rule clarification made.
- Discussed a survey that the Technical Delegates Committee is sending out to competition managers.
- Extraordinary rules regarding welfare and yellow carding.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- An overview of the mentor program was given for attendees.
- USEF waivers were discussed and whether waivers can be signed when USEF memberships are renewed.
- Challenges regarding providing food during competitions and the availability of food trucks were discussed.
- Competition level specifications were discussed regarding the limited number of competitors allowed at Level 1 competitions, Level 3 secretarial requirements for USEF/NAYC qualifiers, and required qualifying classes at USEF/NAYC competitions.

2025 Objectives:

1. Continue to support and assist new up-and-coming managers and secretaries.
2. Provide educational opportunities for competition management.
3. Review and address issues relevant to competition management.
4. Continue to work with other committees and the USDF office.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

Instructor/Trainer Development Program Committee Report

Co-Chairs: Lilo Fore, CA and Sarah Geikie, CT

Liaison: Katherine Robertson

***2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7
Houston, TX***

2024 Committee Members: Debbie Bowman, VA; Bailey Cook, NC; Kathryn Fleming-Kuhn, IL; Christopher Hickey, FL; Sarah Martin, FL; William McMullin, FL; Cathy Zappe, AL; Janet (Dolly) Hannon, CO; Kathy Simard, CO; Lendon Gray, NY; Ann Guptill, CT; Vicki Hammers-O’Neil, CT; Fern Feldman, CT

**There are no new members of the Instructor/Trainer Development Program Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 20

Number in attendance at open meeting: 22

2024 Objectives:

1. Host FEI workshop and exam.
2. Host professional development assessment and exam.
3. Host dressage seminars in all three areas: riding/training, teaching, and lungeing.
4. Host the 2024 FEI level trainers conference.
5. Continue review of manuals.
6. Develop supplemental videos.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Hosted seven dressage seminars: three riding, one lungeing, two teaching, and one combined lungeing/teaching.
- Hosted seven professional development education series sessions via Zoom. Topics for these sessions have varied, all with approximately 15-20 people in attendance. Faculty members who have led these webinars include Sarah Martin, Heidi Chote, Lendon Gray, Dolly Hannon, Kathy Simard, Sarah Geikie, Vicki Hammers-O'Neil, Bill McMullin, Kathryn Fleming-Kuhn, and Lilo Fore. All sessions are available for on demand viewing for all certified instructors. Our final session of the year will be held in November with Ann Guptill and Debbie Bowman.
- Continue to accept applications for the professional development pathway. As of the date of this report, we have 28 instructors participating in this aspect of the program.
- Developed mentor program.
- Created Facebook group for professional development participants.
- Reviewed and updated materials for riding, lungeing and teaching seminars.
- Reviewed and began development of expanded online learning modules.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Review of program summary.
- Review of year and program updates.
- Discussed tentative schedule for 2025:
 - Six dressage development seminars
 - Two professional development assessments and exam
 - One FEI workshop and exam

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Continued discussion of program review and summary.
- Continued discussion of schedule for 2025.
- Discussed new marketing ideas.

2025 Objectives:

1. Continue review of curriculum and manual updates.
2. Review, update, and develop online education modules.
3. Host 2025 FEI level trainers conference.
4. Host nine dressage seminars: three riding, three lungeing, and three teaching.
5. Host two professional development assessments, followed by needed exams.
6. Host one FEI level workshop and exam

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

Judges Committee Report

Chair: Gary Rockwell, FL

Vice Chair: Michael Osinski, WA

Liaison: Sharon Vander Ziel

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7 Houston, TX

2024 Committee Members: Jeanne McDonald, PA; Marilyn Heath, FL; Amy Bradley, FL; Janet Foy, CO; Janet (Dolly) Hannon, CO*; Joan Darnell, WA; Teresa Stewart, WA; Kristi Wysocki, WA; Lois Yukins, MA
**New member(s) of the Judges Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 11

Number in attendance at open meeting: 25

2024 Objectives:

1. Provide educational opportunities for all levels of judges and L graduates through the USDF Continuing Education (CE) Programs.
2. Review and update mission and goals as needed for the new committee structure.
3. Host the judges roundtable via Zoom over the winter.
4. Work with the L Program Committee to carry on with “The Judge’s Box” in *USDF Connection* to further open communication and promote educational opportunities within the area of judge education.
5. Continue to review/revise the licensed officials training programs, including quizzes and exams.
6. Provide input on proposed rule changes that pertain to judges and judging tests.
7. Streamline communication between working groups involved in judging, judge training, and test writing, including equitation, freestyle, and sport horse.
8. Monitor complaints about judges submitted by USDF members.

2024 Accomplishments:

- The judges roundtable webinar was held January 10th from 11:00 am-12:30 pm EST. It was well attended with 269 attendees.
- The four presentations developed as remote programs (Freestyle, Taste of the L Program, Know the Movements, and Focus on Collectives) are also being used as classroom presentations and are a valuable resource for GMOs.
- Working groups within the Judges Committee developed the online exams now required for the USEF dressage judge designations for freestyle, equitation, and young horse.
- Janet Foy authored “The Judge’s Comments: A Guideline to Better Performance” for the “The Judge’s Box” in *USDF Connection*. It was featured in the November/December issue.
- There were 20 CE in Dressage Judging Programs in 2024. Attendance for these programs totaled over 500.

Start Date	Title	Host/ region	GMO	Instructor
1/30/2024	Know The Movements	2	IDS	Kathy Rowse
2/3/2024	Continuing Education in Judging Freestyle	1	SVDA/VADA	Joan Darnell
2/4/2024	Practice Judging	1	ESDCTA	Marilyn Payne
2/12/2024	Focus on Collective Marks (2 sessions)	8	D4K	Margaret Freeman
2/17/2024	Continuing Education in Judging Freestyle	9	Dallas	Joan Darnell
2/19/2024	Focus on Collective Marks	1	VADA/NOVA	Lisa Schmidt
3/24/2024	Know The Movements- Classroom	4	KCDS	Jodi Lees
3/30/2024	Know the Movements - Classroom	1	Three Rivers	Debbie Savage
3/19/- 4/16/2024	Know The Movements- remote	3	River's edge	Jodi Lees
4/27/2024	Upgrade your Judging Eye I&II	5	Sante Fe	Dolly Hannon
4/29/2024	Taste of the L Program(2 sessions)remote	8	D4K	Lisa Schmidt
5/7/2024	Know the Movements Remote	2	WDCTA	Jayne Ayres
5/21/2024	Focus on the Collective Marks- remote	3	River's edge	Jodi Lees
6/8/2024	Know the Movements- classroom	2	NODA	Debbie Savage
7/2/2024	Musical Freestyle- remote	3	Goodhorseman	Dolly Hannon
8/3/2024	Up Grade your Judging Eye I	9	Galloping Springs	Dorie Vlatten Schmitz
8/4/2024	Up Grade your Judging Eye II	9	Galloping Springs	Judy Downer
8/12/2024	Focus on Collectives- remote	2	IDS	Sue Kolstad
8/27/2024	Focus on Collectives- remote	1	SVDA/VADA	Joan Darnell
10/12/2024	Continuing Education in Judging Freestyle	5	RMDS	Dolly Hannon

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Suggestions for discussion at judges roundtable during convention.
 - Welfare issues
 - Running large equitation classes
 - Consistency in judging and technical delegates
- Committee members will be asked to be involved in the test revisions as needed.

- A Dressage Seat Equitation (DSE) Working Group will be set up to review all aspects of the DSE classes.
- Working on clear directives of how judges deal with welfare issues like “blue tongue” in the arena.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Timeline for the 2027 test cycle.
- Requested input on current tests.
- Running large group classes efficiently.
- Issues with overly high scoring judges.
- Ways to improve consistency in scoring.
 - The importance of panel judging in judge training
 - Could panel judging be required for regional championship qualifying classes or awards qualifications?

2025 Objectives:

1. Provide educational opportunities for all levels of judges and L graduates through the USDF CE Programs.
2. Work with the L Program Committee to carry on with “The Judge’s Box” in *USDF Connection* to further open communication and promote educational opportunities within the area of judge education.
3. Continue to review/revise the licensed officials training programs, including quizzes and exams.
4. Support the Test Writing Working Group in the revision process for the 2027 test cycle.
5. Provide input on proposed rule changes that pertain to judges and judging tests.
6. Streamline communication between working groups involved in judging, judge training, and test writing, including equitation, freestyle, and sport horse.
7. Monitor complaints about judges submitted by USDF members.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

L Program Committee Report

Chair: Joan Darnell, WA

Vice Chair: Kathy Rowse, VA

Liaison: Sharon Vander Ziel

**2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7
Houston, TX**

2024 Committee Members: Debbie Rodriguez, VA; Lisa Schmidt, NJ; Jayne Ayers, WI; Judy Downer, FL*; Marilyn Heath, FL; Jodi Lees, SC; Janet (Dolly) Hannon, CO*; Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez, CO; Dorie Vlatten-Schmitz, AZ; Michael Osinski, WA; Lois Yukins, MA

**New member(s) of the L Program Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 10

Number in attendance at open meeting: 13

2024 Objectives

1. Continue to develop and enhance the USDF L Education Program website to supplement what is presented in the classroom setting and to provide continuing education for L graduates and USEF-licensed dressage judges.

2. Work with the Judges Committee to carry on with “The Judge’s Box” in *USDF Connection* to further open communication and promote educational opportunities.
3. Continue communication with competition managers to promote the importance of their support of the Part 2 sessions.
4. Host a Zoom meeting for L participants and candidates to answer questions and listen to suggestions to enhance the program.
5. Continue to review the USDF L Education Program process to ensure the quality of candidates applying to the USEF ‘r’ Judge Training Program.
6. Select appropriate L faculty candidates to start the apprentice program.

2024 Accomplishments:

- A webinar on “How to be Successful in the L Program” was held April 24th. A panel of L faculty members included Joan Darnell, Kathy Rowse, Marilyn Heath, Judy Downer, and USDF staff member Sharon Vander Ziel. Approximately 150 members attended and plenty of time was allowed to answer questions.
- Videos were created from the webinar and are posted on the USDF website, L website and L program Facebook groups.
 - Introduction to the L Program – Posted on the L education information page on the main website.
 - How to be Successful in the L Program, Part 1– Posted on the introduction page of the L program website.
 - Judging Tips – Posted on the L candidates and graduates Facebook group.
- Jayne Ayres authored an article on rider biomechanics for the July/August issue of *USDF Connection*.
- The L Program Part 1 Facebook group has 1,414 members.
- The closed Facebook group for L candidates (in Part 2) and graduates has 667 members.
- There are 175 current L graduates with distinction and 166 current L graduates listed on the USDF website.
- Worked in cooperation with the US Eventing Association to allow the Association to use the A Session presentation for their judge education clinic in September. L faculty member Debbie Rodriguez will be the presenter.
- To date, there are 23 L Education Program sessions scheduled for 2024. Programs are being hosted by:
 - Central States Dressage and Eventing Association, WI (Region 2) – Part 1
 - Central Texas Dressage Society, TX (Region 9) – Part 2
 - Delaware Valley Combined Training Association, PA (Region 1) – Part 1
 - Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, GA (Region 3) – Part 2
 - GLASS-ED, MI (Region 2) – Part 1
 - Houston Dressage Society, TX (Region 9) – Part 2
 - Indiana Dressage Society, IN (Region 2) – Parts 1 and 2
 - Lower Puget Sound Dressage Club, WA (Region 6) – Part 2
 - New England Dressage Association, MA (Region 8) – Part 1
 - Virginia Dressage Association, VA (Region 1) – Part 1
- Three final exams were scheduled for 2024. Exams were held in Regions 3 and 6.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Proposed changes to L Faculty Apprentice Application, Guidelines, and Manual were discussed and approved.
- Proposed changes to the Organizer and Participant Guidelines were discussed and approved.
- Ways to encourage participants to utilize their homework more. The homework quizzes are used most often prior to the final exam for the L Program and ‘r’ Program.
- Maintaining Classroom D1 as a L Program session only. It will not be available as a CE Program.
- Adding additional optional handouts for the auditors of the L Program.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- L Programs currently on the calendar.
- Issues with large equitation classes.
- Start to consider how to add information on judging para dressage classes to the L Program.

2025 Objectives:

1. Continue to develop and enhance the USDF L Education Program website to supplement what is presented in the classroom setting and to provide continuing education for L graduates and USEF-licensed dressage judges.
2. Work with the Judges Committee to carry on with “The Judge’s Box” in *USDF Connection* to further open communication and promote educational opportunities.
3. Continue communication with competition managers to promote the importance of their support of the Part 2 sessions.
4. Continue to review the USDF L Education Program processes to ensure the quality of candidates applying to the USEF ‘r’ Judge Training Program.
5. Update L faculty application and apprentice process to help ensure appropriate L faculty candidates are selected to start the apprentice program.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

Technical Delegates Committee Report

Chair: Jean Kraus, MO

Liaison: Bonnie Barr-Briggs

**2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7
Houston, TX**

2024 Committee Members: Michelle King, VA; Angela Goodwin-Volpert, IN; Cheryl Tobey, GA; Dianne Stanley, FL; Susan Lang, KS; Kaye Phaneuf, OR; Doris North, CA; Paul Cormier, MA; Marilyn Kulifay, TX; Carolyn VandenBerg, TX

**There are no new member(s) of the Technical Delegates Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 15

Number in attendance at open meeting: 21

2024 Objectives:

1. Continue our efforts to grow the ranks of licensed dressage TDs with help from the Veronica Holt Fund.
2. Continue to build our TD public relations and communications efforts to educate competitors, judges, and competition management about the role of the TD.
3. Continue to find the best approaches to keeping TDs as informed as possible.
4. Continue in our efforts to build communication between TDs and competition management.
5. Continue to develop new, and update existing, educational learning modules.

2024 Accomplishments:

- The TD Resource Management Working Group has worked to keep the TD resource document current. The document has been maintained with quarterly updates.
- Hosted two USDF TD townhall meetings, held virtually, with approximately 60 TDs attending each one.

- Hosted a USEF/USDF TD Clinic virtually, with 28 TDs attending.
- Hosted a live USEF/USDF TD Clinic during the 2023 convention.
- Continued to utilize the TD communication tree where committee members from each region reach out with important information to the TDs in their region.
- A think tank session was held to explore the effectiveness of TD education and resources and explore possible options for improvements.
- The committee members reviewed all the TD education/information content that is posted on the TD resource page of the USDF website in order to make sure that all items are current.
- There is a case study learning module under construction.
- The 2024 Veronica Holt Fund, which provides funds for the education of TD applicants or TDs going for promotion, was not utilized this year as there were no applicants. We need to promote this fund more.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Case studies for possible townhall meeting or small group Zoom meeting.
- Thoughts on the new Dressage Seat Equitation Field Guide.
- Topics for upcoming TD clinic, ideas for role playing scenarios.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- How established TDs can help newer TDs, The Dressage Foundation grants and USEF grants.
- How TDs can help everyone at dressage shows.
- Measurement clinics, USEF and in the field.
- TD insurance through USEF.

2025 Objectives:

1. Continue our efforts to grow the ranks of licensed dressage TDs with help from the Veronica Holt Fund. As this fund was not utilized in 2024, we need to develop a plan for encouraging our TDs and TD applicants to utilize it.
2. Continue to build our TD public relations and communications efforts to educate competitors, judges, and competition management about the role of the TD.
3. Continue to find the best approaches to keeping TDs as informed as possible.
4. Continue in our efforts to build communication between TDs and competition management.
5. Continue to develop new, and update existing, educational learning modules.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

**Board of Governors
General Assembly
Activities Council
Committee Reports**

Adult Programs Committee Report

Chair: Holly Hilliard, FL

Vice Chair: Gwen Ka'awaloa, CO

Liaison: Evelyn Lancione

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7 Houston, TX

2024 Committee Members: Jill Ekis, PA; Ken Levy, IN; Tashina Hadley Heiser, FL*; Carrie Cross, NE*; Kelly Vallandingham, MN; Frances Haupt, OR; Sarah Denham, TX

**New member(s) of the Adult Programs Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 7

Number in attendance at open meeting: 12

2024 Objectives:

1. Increase awareness of the GMO Education Initiative (GEI) and grant opportunities.
2. Increase awareness of USDF education opportunities.
3. Develop topics for virtual education series (VES) and produce a minimum of four programs.
4. Continue to work with GMOs to identify education chairs.
5. Continue efforts to improve communication with USDF members.

2024 Accomplishments:

- The Adult Programs Committee has been involved in the execution of 15 educational programs with 691 members having participated or attended, earning USDF University credits.
- USDF University will be awarding the following certificates and diplomas for the 2024 academic year:

Certificates	120
Diploma	58
Bronze Diploma	40
Silver Diploma	34
Gold Diploma	22
Platinum Diploma	10
Diamond Diploma	17

- In 2024, five GEI events were approved and hosted.
- Four applications received were turned down due to noncompliance with guidelines.
- One applicant was given feedback on how to clarify their application information, but did not respond.
- Year to date there have been five GEI grants distributed.

GMO	Date	Event
California Dressage Society	1/21/2024	CDS Annual Meeting & Health Faire - Unmounted event, Purpose of the Movements presented by Sarah Geikie
Gulf Coast Chapter – Deep South Dressage & CTA	3/2 – 3/3/2024	Clinic with Matt McLaughlin - 2-day riding clinic with 45-minute private lessons, horses & riders of all levels

Oklahoma Dressage Society	4/20- 4/21/2024	ODS Spring Symposium with Shelly Francis - 2-day symposium with Shelly Francis including private lessons; auditors welcome
Central Texas Dressage Society	5/18- 5/19/2024	CTDS Equine Conditioning for Performance and Soundness with Jec Ballou - 2-day symposium with Jec Ballou, Masterson Method presentation by Kelly Jefferson
Indiana Dressage Society	10/4- 10/6/2024	IDS Adult Dressage Camp 2024 - Kate Fleming-Kuhn, Karen McGoldrick & Jennifer Grant conducting lessons; auditors welcome; unmounted education sessions

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- GEI budget usage
 - In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, approximately 63% of the budgeted grant funds were used.
 - To date, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, approximately 22% of the budgeted funds have been allocated.
- One of the approved convention education presenters is not able to join us. Staff will review additional suggestions, get feedback from the Executive Board, and proceed accordingly to fill the spot.
- Convention attendance by members of the committee was confirmed.
- The next VES session taking place in January 2025 on the topic of “Developing an Effective Warmup”, presented by members of the Instructor/Trainer Development Program Faculty.
 - Gwen volunteered to present on the topic of “The Dressage Test is a TEST” with another judge in March 2025, possibly Sarah Geikie.
 - Effective marketing tools will continue to be explored for 2025.
- Suggestions for the 2025 convention education topics were discussed.
 - Lexington veterinary practices offer a wide range of specialists to consider.
 - A discussion of joint therapies including the relatively new therapy, polyacrylamide gel joint injections (Arthramid Vet, Noltrex) was suggested.
 - An interactive fitness session was suggested with Coach Sando Training, who is local to the area.
 - LandSafe – explore feasibility of lecture/video presentation on emergency dismounts/safe landing.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- The mission of the committee and projects directed by the committee were outlined – VES, convention education, and GEI.
- Member question: How can PM delegates be helpful to the committee?
 - Answer: Help to raise awareness of the educational programs offered by USDF, help increase communication with individual members and GMOs/Chapters regarding educational opportunities and networking.
- The application process for GEI grants and programs and the allocation of grant money was explained.

2025 Objectives:

1. Increase awareness of the GEI and grant opportunities.
2. Increase awareness of and participation in USDF education opportunities.
3. Continue to develop topics for VES and produce a minimum of four programs per year.
4. Continue efforts to develop GMO contact lists for education chairs.

5. Continue efforts to improve communication with USDF members.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

Awards Committee Report

Chair: Amy Bradley, FL

Liaison: Cristen Brown

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7 Houston, TX

2024 Committee Members: Jessie Ginsburg, VA; Deborah Garris, IL; Jan Brons, FL; Mickayla Frederick, IA; Marie Maloney, KS ;Cecilia Cox, NM; Jo Renn, WA; Doris North, CA; Diane Holston, MA; Elizabeth Clifton, MS

**There are no new members of the Awards Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 16

Number in attendance at open meeting: 17

2024 Objectives:

1. Finalize design and draft proposal for an additional award per level in the Horse Performance Certificate Program.
2. Draft proposals for a national level and FEI level Born in the USA year-end award perpetual trophy.
3. Generate online tutorials of relevant USDF Awards Program subject matter.
4. Explore opportunities to promote USDF Awards Programs.
5. Evaluate additional award options for senior riders.
6. Examine possible award options for year-end award champion riders.
7. Review and evaluate any possible changes to the current awards program's requirements and prizes.
8. Confirm award requirements provided in the *USDF Member Guide* are clear and up to date.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Completed a proposal to rebrand the current Horse Performance Certificate Program. The updated program will be called the USDF Horse Performance Recognition Program and will include a stall plaque in addition to a certificate.
- Drafted a proposal for a national level and FEI level "Bred in the USA" year-end award perpetual trophy.
- Created an online tutorial "Navigating Your USDF Dashboard - Awards."
- Promoted the USDF Awards Programs on *YourDressage*, social media, and the USDF eNewsletter.
- Discussed potential new rider awards.
- Approved the Sport Horse Committee's proposal for a new Four-Year-Old Dressage Prospect year-end award.
- Reviewed the *USDF Member Guide* to ensure that all award requirements and descriptions were straightforward and concise.
- Began discussion on potential changes to the prizes offered to year-end award champions and reserve champions.
- Began discussion regarding potential USDF store products to provide additional recognition opportunities for USDF award recipients.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Potential changes to year-end awards for champions and reserve champions.
- Presentation at Activities Council Open Forum at 2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.
- 2024 USDF year-end, rider award and horse performance certificate participation statistics.
- Year-end awards with lower participation and the need for the committee to work on increasing visibility in these areas.
- Identified some items the committee would be focusing on during 2025.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Items that the committee accomplished during 2024 including the “Bred in the USA” perpetual trophies and the additional prize for the soon to be rebranded USDF Horse Performance Recognition Program.
- 2025 committee objectives including potential new year-end awards and prize changes, and online tutorials.

2025 Objectives:

1. Explore the possibility of a dressage seat equitation year-end award.
2. Create an online awards tutorial featuring USDFScores.com.
3. Continue discussion of potential changes to the year-end awards for champions and reserve champions.
4. Evaluate Intermediate A and B for possible inclusion in the year-end awards.
5. Investigate the Young Horse awards for possible changes.
6. Explore marketing opportunities for the USDF Awards Programs.
7. Confirm the award requirements displayed in the *USDF Member Guide* are clear and up to date.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

FEI Youth Committee Report

Chair: Roberta Williams, FL

Liaison: Sarah Delahanty

**2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7
Houston, TX**

2024 Committee Members: Region 1: Deborah DelGiorno, DE; Region 2: Roz Kinstler, FL; Region 3: Elizabeth Molloy, GA; Region 4: Nancy Gorton, MO; Region 5: Joan Clay, CO; Region 6: Nicki Grandia, WA; Region 7: Ann Boehning, CA; Region 8: Roberta Carleton, CT; Region 9: Marsha Lewis, TX; Advisors – Laura Roberts (USEF) and Sarah Hollander (USEF)

**There are no new members of the FEI Youth Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 18

Number in attendance at open meeting: 20

2024 Objectives:

1. Monitor the progression of FEI youth and their participation in the NAYC and the Festival of Champions.
2. Help facilitate the anticipated addition of the Childrens division at NAYC in the future.
3. Continue to identify clinic sites in response to demand.
4. Oversee NAYC Program.

5. Provide feedback on the NAYC qualifying calendar.
6. Provide input into the NAYC selection procedures.
7. Review and revise the *NAYC Handbook and Guidelines* for regional coordinators.
8. Create guidelines for chefs d' equipe.

2024 Accomplishments:

FEI Youth Clinics

- There have been nine FEI Youth Clinics scheduled. George Williams, Lilo Fore and Sabine Schut-Kery are the clinicians for these clinics.
 - Region 1: November 23-24 at Hilltop Farm, Inc. with George Williams
 - Region 2: October 19-20 at Duncan Run Farm with Lilo Fore
 - Region 3: November 16-17 at Noble Steed, LLC with George Williams
 - Region 4: July 6-7 at Providence Farm with Sabine Schut-Kery
 - Region 5: October 19-20 at Nighthawk Equestrian Center with George Williams
 - Region 6: November 2-3 at DevonWood Equestrian Centre with Sabine-Schut-Kery
 - Region 7: November 23-24 at B & B Farm with Lilo Fore
 - Region 8: June 29-30 at Weatogue Stables with Lilo Fore
 - Region 9: November 2-3 at Paragon Farm with George Williams

NAYC

- The date and location of the 2025 NAYC has been announced. The event is scheduled for July 29-August 3, 2025, in Traverse City, MI. This will be the inaugural year of the Children's division.
- The 2024 NAYC was held July 30-August 4 in Traverse City, MI. This was the fourth time this competition has been held at the Flintfields facility.
 - A special thanks to all the volunteers and team at Traverse City who made this event as special as it was.
 - Overall, the event ran smoothly. Traverse City was a lovely facility, and the dressage competitors enjoyed the good atmosphere and accommodating management. The new permanent stabling was well received.

Statistics for the number applying versus the number representing each region as a team or individual:

Juniors:

	2019		2020*		2021		2022**		2023		2024	
	Applied	Team	Applied	Team	Applied	Team	Applied	Team	Applied	Team	Applied	Team
Reg 1	12	4	7	NA	9	4	11	4	10	4	5	4
Reg 2	15	4	11	NA	14	4	11	4	9	4	8	3
Reg 3	9	4	5	NA	9	3	4	2	8	4	9	4
Reg 4	8	4	1	NA	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	1
Reg 5	4	0	2	NA	7	3	7	4	4	3	2	1
Reg 6	4	1	4	NA	3	2	4	0	6	3	7	4
Reg 7	4	1	5	NA	7	4	8	4	5	3	3	2
Reg 8	7	4	4	NA	11	4	5	4	6	3	4	1
Reg 9	11	4	9	NA	10	4	4	1	7	0	6	4
	74	26	48	NA	74	31	57	26	58	26	46	24

Young Riders:

	2019		2020*		2021		2022**		2023		2024	
	Applied	Team	Applied	Team	Applied	Team	Applied	Team	Applied	Team	Applied	Team
Reg 1	12	4	7	NA	6	4	6	1	7	1	7	4
Reg 2	5	2	7	NA	10	4	6	2	7	1	5	2
Reg 3	16	4	7	NA	7	4	7	2	8	4	4	3
Reg 4	6	3	5	NA	8	4	5	1	5	2	3	1
Reg 5	2	0	1	NA	3	1	5	2	5	4	2	1
Reg 6	5	2	3	NA	4	2	2	1	2	0	2	2
Reg 7	7	1	8	NA	7	4	8	4	9	2	7	4
Reg 8	6	4	5	NA	9	2	6	3	6	3	7	1
Reg 9	1	0	1	NA	4	3	2	2	2	2	4	2
	60	20	44	NA	58	28	47	18	51	19	41	20

* NAYC cancelled due to Covid

** Minimum qualifying scores raised from 62% to 64%

- Takeaways from the above statistics:
 - Overall, participation on the Junior Team was down by two riders in 2024 (24 riders) over the 26 riders in 2019 (pre-Covid).
 - Participation on a Young Rider Team remained the same in 2024 as it was in 2019. These numbers reflect the numbers of riders actually selected for teams.

Juniors	2019	2024	Change		Young Riders	2019	2024	Change
Region 1	4	4	0		Region 1	4	4	0
Region 2	4	3	-1		Region 2	2	2	0
Region 3	4	4	0		Region 3	4	3	-1
Region 4	4	1	-3		Region 4	3	1	-2
Region 5	0	1	+1		Region 5	0	1	+1
Region 6	1	4	+3		Region 6	2	2	0
Region 7	1	2	+1		Region 7	1	4	+3
Region 8	4	1	-3		Region 8	4	1	-3
Region 9	4	4	0		Region 9	0	2	+2

- In 2019, there was a total of six full Junior Teams and no combined Junior Teams. In 2024, there were five Young Rider Teams, of which three were full teams and two were combined.
- In 2024, there was five Junior Teams, of which three were full teams and two were combined teams. In 2024, there were five Young Rider Teams, of which two were full teams and three were combined.
- It is anticipated that the incidence of combined teams will stay the same or increase in the Junior and Young Rider divisions. In the case of the Children’s division, in the initial development years, it is anticipated that combined teams will be the norm. The combining of teams cannot take place until the

definite entries are finalized. As a result, there will be an increased emphasis on USDF and USEF working together to ensure as completely as possible the team experience of youth athletes representing the USA.

- The placings for the 2024 NAYC were as follows:
 - Young Rider Team
 - Gold – Regions 3/5 with 207.707 points
 - Silver – Canada with 207.118 points
 - Bronze – Regions 2/4/8 with 197.000 points
 - Junior Team
 - Gold – Region 3 with 198.455 points
 - Silver – Regions 4/5/7 with 197.060 points
 - Bronze – Region 9 with 197.302 points
 - Young Rider Individual
 - Gold – Kat Fuqua (Region 3)/Dreamgirl with 70.971
 - Silver – Kiara Williams-Brown (Canada)/Fortissimo with 69.941%
 - Bronze – Anna Swackhammer (Canada)/Fabienna GVI with 69.765%
 - Junior Individual
 - Gold – Virginia Woodcock (Region 3)/ Mollegardens Sans-Souci with 71.088%
 - Silver – Olivia Martz (Region 6)/Rihanna Ymas with 70.706%
 - Bronze – Claire Tucker (Region 4)/Finnur with 70.029%
 - Young Rider Freestyle
 - Gold – Kat Fuqua (Region 3)/Dreamgirl with 74.355%
 - Silver – Eva Levy (Jamaica)/Living Diamond with 73.400%
 - Bronze – Alicia Berger (Region 3)/Aqua Marin with 72.350%
 - Junior Freestyle
 - Gold – Virginia Woodcock (Region 3)/ Mollegardens Sans-Souci with 72.635%
 - Silver – Claire Tucker (Region 4)/Finnur with 72.150%
 - Bronze – Laila Edwards (Region 1)/Farah-Jade with 71.400%
- The winner of the Fiona Baan Pursuit of Excellence Award was Kat Fuqua, Region 3, with her mount Dreamgirl.
- The winner of the Amanda Johnson Pursuit of Excellence Award was Olivia Martz, Region 6, with her mount Rihanna Ymas.
- The winner of the Patsy Albers Award was Angela Jackson for Regions 2/4/8.
- The 2024 qualifying period began on July 23, 2024. It is anticipated that the qualifying period will finish a minimum of seven days prior to the nominated entry date.
- The 2024 Festival of Champions competition was still held as scheduled on August 19-25, 2024, at HITS Chicago at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Continuation of tabled discussion from September 17, 2024 meeting.
- FEI Youth Clinics
- 2025 NAYC
 - 2025 Selection Procedures
 - Team kits
 - Childrens division

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Childrens division
- Youth community stable at regional championships.
- Request for video content for Activities Council presentation at the convention.

2025 Objectives:

1. Monitor the progression of FEI youth and their participation in the NAYC and the Festival of Champions.
2. Help facilitate the inaugural debut in 2025 of the Children's division at NAYC.
3. Continue to identify clinic sites in response to demand.
4. Oversee NAYC Program.
5. Provide feedback on the NAYC qualifying calendar.
6. Provide input into the NAYC selection procedures.
7. Review and revise the *NAYC Handbook and Guidelines* for regional coordinators.
8. Create guidelines for chefs d' equipe.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

National Youth Programs Committee Report

Chair: Roz Kinstler, FL

Liaison: Sarah Delahanty

**2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7
Houston, TX**

2024 Committee Members: Jennifer Koch, PA; Kathy Rowse, VA; Laurie Moore, MI; Elizabeth Molloy, GA; Janie Pride, GA; Sophia Shults, FL*; Roberta Williams, FL; Julie Barringer-Richers, CO; Rebecca Harris, CA*; Lendon Gray, NY

**New member(s) for the Youth Programs Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 12

Number in attendance at open meeting: 16

2024 Objectives:

1. Explore opportunities to connect with youth.
2. Explore opportunities to connect with youth instructors.
3. Continue to promote USDF Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals.
4. Continue outreach to GMOs to include youth in their programs.
5. Promote and encourage participation in the Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Program, Shining Star Sportsmanship Award, and the Dressage Spirit Award.
6. Continue to publish youth eNewsletter in order to keep youth members informed of programs offered.
7. Explore opportunities that engage the younger generation in the governance structure of USDF and the sport.
8. Explore partnering opportunities with other youth organizations.
9. Plan 2025 Young Rider Graduate Program.
10. Continue to promote the Youth Outreach Clinic Program.

2024 Accomplishments:

- The Dressage Spirit Award, implemented in 2022, had five individuals receiving the award this year:
 - Harper Kane, Corneilus, NC
 - Hayden Kane, Corneilus, NC
 - Finley Peterson, Woodstock, VT
 - Trinity Schatzel, Eagle, ID

- Sophie Shohet, Las Vegas, NV
- There are five Shining Star recipient this year:
 - Genevieve Oliver, Coatesville, PA
 - Taiwan Parrish, Milford, NJ
 - Ryleigh Koch, Fogelsville, PA
 - Marley McCourt, Atco, NJ
 - Ella Austino, Voorhees, NJ
- The USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year received four applicants. Lillian Frenzel of Bluffton, SC was selected.
- Four applicants received the USDF Youth Convention Scholarship Award.
 - Tayla Damvanovich, Hibbing, MN
 - Marley McCourt, Atco, NJ
 - Ryder Mosqueda, Hemet, CA
 - Katie Staib, Allentown, PA
- Three individuals were awarded the Ravel Education Grant.
 - Genevieve Oliver, Coatesville, PA
 - Taiwan Parrish, Milford, NJ
 - Ryleigh Koch, Fogelsville, PA
- There were three Youth Outreach Clinics organized: Region 5 (October 2024), Region 6 (November 2024), and Region 9 (June 2024).
- The “Youth Corner” youth eNews continues to be released quarterly to all youth members, regional coordinators, regional directors, all members of the National Youth Programs Committee, as well as GMO youth contacts.
- The 2024 USDF Youth Recognition Pin Program saw a slight increase in participation from 2023.

Region	2024			2023			2022							2021					
Year	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	6th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1	3	1	3	2	2	1	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
2	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
6	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
8	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
9	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
10 (Bermuda)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	12	7	4	13	4	1	10	2	0	1	1	1	1	7	0	1	3	2	1

First Year Recipients:

- Chloe Adrian-Giannetto, Santa Barbara, CA
- Juliet Bradley, Santa Barbara, CA
- Piper Hill, Vermillion, MN
- Laura Kosjek, Westfield, NJ
- Chloe Luedtke, Odenton, MD
- Genevieve Morehead, Cedar Park, TX
- Sophia Paliotto, Hayden, ID
- Adeline Shelton, Liberty Hill, TX
- Mariska Sherlin, Mesa, AZ

- Felicity Thunes, Gilbert, AZ
- Madelyn Weller, Millerstown, PA
- Arlena Worm, Borden, IN

Second Year Recipients:

- Candice Christopher, Parker, CO
- Walker Lefkowitz, Las Vegas, NV
- Adelyn Nelson, Marion, IA
- Teagan Niles, Stafford, VA
- Finely Peterson, Woodstock, VT
- Natalie Porto, Cooperstown, NY
- Britney Richwine, Jamestown, IN

Third Year Recipient:

- Lauren Anderson, Effort, PA
- Kaylin Bowman, Dallas, TX
- Harper Kane, Cornelius, NC
- Hayden Kane, Cornelius, NC

- There were 26 participants across 13 universities for the 2024 USDF/IDA National Quiz Challenge.
 - Grand Prize winner: Sami Scigouski, Miami of Ohio University. Sami was the winner of the First Level division.
 - The level winners were:
 - Upper Training Level – Lily Drew, Johnson & Wales University
 - Lower Training Level – Alexandria Davis, Averett University
 - Intro Level – Evangeline Li, Rutgers University

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Committee members attending convention.
- Convention Youth Assembly
- USDF/USEF Youth Rider Graduate Program
- USDF Shining Star Award Program
- USDF Dressage Spirit Award, Ravel Education Grant, and Dressage Seat Equitation Programs

Items discussed at open meeting:

- How to involve more youth in programs.
- Developing a youth committee fielded and administered by youth members.
- Dressage Seat Equitation Program

2025 Objectives:

1. Explore opportunities to connect with youth.
2. Explore opportunities to connect with youth instructors.
3. Continue to promote USDF Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals.
4. Continue outreach to GMOs to include youth in their programs.
5. Promote and encourage participation in the Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Program and the Dressage Spirit Award.
6. Continue to publish youth eNewsletter to keep youth members informed of programs offered.
7. Explore opportunities that engage the younger generation in the governance structure of USDF and the sport.
8. Explore partnering opportunities with other youth organizations.
9. Plan 2025 Young Rider Graduate Program.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

Regional Championships Committee Report

Chair: Angela Goodwin-Volpert, IN

Vice Chair: Janine Malone, NC

Liaison: Lacy Jinks

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7 Houston, TX

2024 Committee Members: Ellen Brindle-Clark, NJ*; Anne Kuhns, KY; Anneliese Vogt-Harber, GA; Roberta Williams, FL; Jean Kraus, MO; Jessica Greer, CO*; Kelly Irving-Burris, WA*; Kevin Reinig, CA; Camille Kopcik, NY; Carolyn Vandenberg, TX

**New member(s) of the Regional Championships Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 17

Number in attendance at open meeting: 20

2024 Objectives:

1. Review regional championship surveys to determine compliance with rules and requirements, and to identify areas for future improvements.
2. Review and amend the host site application.
3. Review rules and requirements for regional championships.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Reviewed regional championships surveys to identify areas for future improvement.
- Reviewed the 2025 host site application.
- Reviewed and approved the 2025 Regional Championship Program Rules.
- The committee updated the dressage seat equitation class guidelines to make the procedures more streamlined and efficient.
- Provided feedback on judge training session and/or exam at regional championships.
- Discussed raising the minimum qualifying scores for some regional championship levels. After analyzing the data on the number of rides that would not qualify under the proposed increase, it was determined that several regions would be significantly harmed by such an increase and therefore no increase is proposed at this time.
- Discussed how to manage the size of shows in larger regions (such as 1, 2, 3, and 8) without adding requirements that would be detrimental to other regions. It was noted that some regions have one or only a few facilities that have the number of rings required for the larger regional championships.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Appointment of three members to the 2025 Regional Championships Site Selection Working Group to review 2026 host site applications.
- The 2026 regional championships host site application.
- The successes and items needing improvement at the 2024 regional championships.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- The new guidelines for the Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals and Adult Amateur Equitation Regional Finals.

- Awards ceremony protocols and future recommendations for improvements.
- USDF sportsmanship awards and the opportunity to highlight those at future regional championships.

2025 Objectives:

1. Review regional championship surveys to determine compliance with rules and requirements, and to identify areas for future improvements.
2. Review and amend the host site application.
3. Review rules and requirements for regional championships.
4. Continue to review dressage seat medal protocol.
5. Review award ceremony protocol.
6. Review current regional championship qualification criteria.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: None

Sport Horse Committee Report

Chair: Kristi Wysocki, WA

Vice Chair: Regina Milliken, LA

Co-Liaisons: Bonnie Barr-Briggs and Cristen Brown

**2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7
Houston, TX**

2024 Committee Members: Natalie DeBerardinis, MD*; Caitlin Gallegher, PA*; Janine Malone, NC; Christine Smith, VA; Melanie Sloyer, PA; Megan Dischler, WI; Susan Mandas, OH; Deborah Davenport, KS; Anne Sparks, NM; Kevin Reinig, CA; Jennifer Vanover, NY*

**New member(s) of the Sport Horse Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 15

Number in attendance at open meeting: 20

2024 Objectives:

1. Host a USDF Sport Horse Seminar in conjunction with a USEF/USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) Training Program and Clinic.
2. Host a USDF Youth Sport Horse Breeder Seminar at Devon Dressage Show.
3. Host a USDF Handler Clinic.
4. Continue dressage judges' education for materiale classes.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Approved a proposal for Four-Year-Old Prospect Horse of the Year (HOY) awards for mares and stallions/geldings. The Four-Year-Old Prospect divisions were added to the Breeder Championship Series in 2023. These awards are designed to provide equivalent opportunities for horses in this division as in all other divisions of sport horse.
- The 2024 USDF Handler Clinic was postponed.
- The USDF Sport Horse Seminar was held in conjunction with the USEF/USDF DSHB Judge Training Program and Clinic on July 27-29, 2024, at Haras de Vess Stables in Wichita, KS. A total of seventeen people attended, four participated in the DSHB Judge Training Program, one 'r' candidate tested, and one 'R' candidate tested.

- The USDF Dressage Sport Horse Youth Handler/Breeder Seminar was held at Devon, September 23-24, 2024. The age restriction was lifted to encourage more participation.
- USEF/USDF DSHB Judges Clinic (virtual) will be held October 22-23, 2024, with Kristi Wysocki and Sue Mandas. The clinic will also feature three guest speakers: Janet Foy, Ludwig Christmann, and Hilary Clayton.
- Added Gwen Ka'awaloa as a new member of the Sport Horse Seminar Faculty.
- Supported the Awards Committee proposal for a new perpetual trophy recognizing the US bred horse with the highest median score in the dressage HOY standings. Additionally, the Sport Horse Committee suggested that two awards be presented, one for the highest median national level horse and one for the highest median FEI level horse. The perpetual trophies were approved by the Executive Board.
- Seven Breeder Championship Series Finals were held in 2024 (North Central, North West, South East, Southern, North East, Rocky Mountain, and East Coast Series). The Midwest Series and Western Series were not held in 2024.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Reviewed in-hand championship numbers region by region.
- Reviewed materiale championship participation numbers.
- Discussed promoting breeders championship series and sponsors.
- 2025 education programs:
 - Sport Horse Seminar with judges clinic and training program (East Coast)
 - Youth Breeder – ideas for site and date in Midwest or Western area
 - Sport Horse Prospect Forum – looking at Florida

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Reviewed the committees' purpose, breeders championship series, and plans for 2025 educational offerings.
- Discussed ways to help breeders keep their names on horses they have bred and sold.
- Discussed success of Breeder/Handler Seminar at Devon and how to address the problems of breeders/owners all using the same few handlers at shows.

2025 Objectives:

1. Host a USDF Sport Horse Seminar in conjunction with a USEF/USDF DSHB Training Program and Clinic.
2. Host a Dressage Sport Horse Prospect Forum.
3. Host a USDF Handler Clinic.
4. Continue dressage judge's education for materiale classes.
5. Review policy and methods for acceptance of breed registry papers. The digital world has changed many things, including how registries provide registry documentation. USDF has always required hard copy papers, but some registries don't provide that in current times.
6. Create a tutorial for the USDF website on the Breeder Series Championship Finals Program, how it works, qualifier competitions, finals, awards and more.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. Four-Year-Old Dressage Sport Horse Prospect Year-End HOY Award proposal.

**Sport Horse Committee Proposal:
Four-Year-Old Dressage Sport Horse Prospect Year-End Award**

Background

In 2022, the Four-Year-Old Dressage Sport Horse Prospect division was added to the USDF Breeders Championship Series. This division was added to give four-year-old mares, stallions, and geldings an opportunity to compete as dressage sport horse prospects. Prior to this time, only horses three-years-old and younger were allowed to compete as sport horse prospects. Four-year-old mares and stallions were eligible to compete in breeding stock classes.

In 2024, the Four-Year-Old Dressage Sport Horse Prospect Award was implemented for each USDF Breeders Championship Series Final to recognize the horse with the highest combined score from the respective in-hand finals championship class and the materiale finals championship class.

Recommendation

The Sport Horse Committee recommends the creation of two new year-end award divisions within the USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Horse of the Year (DSHB HOY) award category:

- Four-Year-Old Dressage Sport Horse Prospect Mares
- Four-Year-Old Dressage Sport Horse Prospect Stallions/Geldings

Justification

- The Four-Year-Old Sport Horse Prospect class for mares and the Four-Year-Old Sport Horse Prospect class for stallions/geldings were implemented two years ago.
- All other age categories in the USDF DSHB classes are eligible for year-end awards. Adding these two award categories would be consistent with the other DSHB award categories and would bring this new category in line with all other DSHB HOY awards.
- Offering DSHB HOY awards for Four-Year-Old Sport Horse Prospect Mares and Four-Year-Old Sport Horse Prospect Stallions/Geldings would further acknowledge those horses which are competing successfully in-hand as four-year-old sport horse prospects.

Should this proposal be approved, the award requirements would be consistent with other DSHB HOY divisions including:

- Horse must have a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration at the time scores are earned.
- Owner must have a USDF Participating or Business Membership at the time scores are earned.
- Minimum of three scores required to be earned in a Four-Year-Old Sport Horse Prospect class.
 - from at least three different judges
 - from three different USEF-licensed /USDF-recognized competitions
- Median score of 65% or higher to qualify for award.

Implementation

This award would be implemented in the 2026 competition year (October 1, 2025).

Budget Implication

If this proposal is approved, adding these awards to the USDF Year-End Awards would require:

- Awards for champions for each division:
 - Plaque
 - Cooler
 - Prize from Dressage Extensions
- Awards for reserve champions for each division:
 - Plaque
- Third through fifth place would receive a stall plate for each division.

- The top five in each division would be recognized in the Yearbook issue of *USDF Connection*.
- All placings would receive an online certificate.
- Cost estimate does not include staff time.
- The estimated cost/value of awards for these additional award divisions would be approximately \$850.00 per year.

Board of Governors General Assembly

Independent Council Committee Report

Audit Committee Report

Chair: Guilherme Schmidt, MN

Liaison: Connie Huy

**2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7
Houston, TX**

2024 Committee Members: Elizabeth Juliano, OH; Jane Cleveland, FL

**There are no new members of the Audit Committee for 2024.*

Number in attendance at closed meeting: N/A

2024 Objectives:

1. Recommend to the Board of Governors the selection of a qualified independent certified public accounting firm, which upon approval by the Board of Governors, shall conduct an annual certified audit of the financial records of USDF.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Contracted Oberlander Financial Services, PLLC, Lexington, Kentucky to perform the financial audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.
- Reviewed the financial audit statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. Approved the financial audit statements.
- Presented an informative and transparent audit report.

Items discussed at closed meeting: N/A

2025 Objectives:

1. Recommend to the Board of Governors the selection of a qualified independent certified public accounting firm, which upon approval by the Board of Governors, shall conduct an annual certified audit of the financial records of USDF.

New budget requirements: None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

The Audit Committee recommends Oberlander Financial Services, PLLC, Lexington, KY be contracted to conduct the financial audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

United States Dressage Federation, Inc.
2025-2026 Proposed Budget
(April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026)
As of September 20, 2024

	Budget	Budget	Budget	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget	
	Revenue	Expense	Net Profit	Revenue	Revenue	Revenue	
	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2025-2026	
	4/1/24-3/31/25	4/1/24-3/31/25	4/1/24-3/31/25	4/1/25-3/31/26	4/1/25-3/31/26	4/1/25-3/31/26	Budgets Include:
Annual Convention	93,625	165,300	(71,675)	121,750	146,900	(25,150)	
Championship Programs	647,350	463,557	183,793	743,500	472,730	270,770	<i>Regional Championships, Breeder's Championship Series , Dressage Seat Medal Program</i>
Competition Services	268,000	383,201	(115,201)	263,500	390,205	(126,705)	<i>Competition Management Activities</i>
Education Department	381,350	658,386	(277,036)	423,600	694,463	(270,863)	<i>Adult Programs, Judges, Freestyle, "L" Program, Instructor Trainer Activities, Trainers Conference, LO Events, SH Education</i>
General Administration	87,300	2,146,309	(2,059,009)	97,300	2,269,935	(2,172,635)	<i>Development, Administration, Audit , Bylaws, Nominating, Steering & EB Activities, (IT, Accounting, HR, Office Administration, Executive Departments) Marketing (Historical Rec)</i>
Member Services	2,855,700	524,575	2,331,125	2,929,725	558,232	2,371,493	<i>GMO & Membership Activities, Horse Reg & transfers</i>
Merchandise	158,500	117,808	40,692	127,000	117,852	9,148	<i>Merchandise, Royalties and Licensing</i>
Publications	233,000	416,054	(183,054)	220,000	408,236	(188,236)	<i>Connection, YourDressage.com, Member Guide</i>
US Dressage Finals	916,925	916,925	0	962,442	962,442	0	
Youth Programs	187,125	176,760	10,365	159,800	157,622	2,178	<i>Youth & Jr Y Rider Program Activities (YR Graduate Program, Youth Clinics)</i>
Investments	335,000	0	335,000	343,000	0	343,000	
Operating Profit/(Loss)	6,163,875	5,968,875	195,000	6,391,617	6,178,617	213,000	
Less Depreciation/Amortization			140,000			130,000	
Investment Income			(335,000)			(343,000)	
Remaining Budget Overage/Shortfall			\$0			\$0	

United States Dressage Federation, Inc.
Actual / Budget Comparison

	Annual	Actual	Annual	Proposed
	Budget	FY	Budget	Budget
	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	4/1/23-3/31/24	4/1/23-3/31/24	4/1/24-3/31/25	4/1/25-3/31/26
Revenue				
Annual Convention	83,000	78,305	93,625	121,750
Championship Programs	568,500	584,260	647,350	743,500
Competition Services	262,250	266,045	268,000	263,500
Education Department	325,050	199,014	381,350	423,600
General Administration	86,500	45,663	87,300	97,300
Member Services	303,000	834,800	2,855,700	2,929,725
Merchandise	2,641,091	2,462,267	158,500	127,000
Publications	158,500	138,090	233,000	220,000
US Dressage Finals	234,500	224,737	916,925	962,442
Youth Programs	876,925	841,959	187,125	159,800
Investments	137,656	69,175	335,000	343,000
	5,676,972	5,744,315	6,163,875	6,391,617
Expense				
Annual Convention	138,300	159,079	165,300	146,900
Championship Programs	434,783	377,930	463,557	472,730
Competition Services	368,047	363,735	383,201	390,205
Education Department	552,963	438,115	658,386	694,463
General Administration	2,076,953	2,036,376	2,146,309	2,269,935
Member Services	406,403	403,277	524,575	558,232
Merchandise	110,490	114,911	117,808	117,852
Publications	403,784	399,023	416,054	408,236
US Dressage Finals	876,925	841,959	916,925	962,442
Youth Programs	141,324	117,909	176,760	157,622
Investments	0	0	0	0
	5,509,972	5,252,314	5,968,875	6,178,617
Net Income/ (Loss) Operations	167,000	492,001	195,000	213,000
Net Income / (Loss) Regions	0	18,041	0	0
Depreciation/Amortization	136,000	136,000	140,000	130,000
Less Investment Income	(303,000)	(834,800)	(335,000)	(343,000)
Net Income / (Loss)	\$0	(\$188,758)	\$0	\$0