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Outreach, Awareness, and Inclusion (OAI) Task Force Report

Chair: Gwen Ka'awaloa

Liaison: Ross Creech

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

Mission: To expand USDF's inclusionary efforts to dispel preconceived notions, highlight the diversity that already exists, and grow interest and participation in dressage through initiatives developed to address concerns related to inclusion, equity, and diversity at all levels of the organization and sport.

2024 Task Force Members:

Carol Tice Lehua Custer

Lisa Chan Lisa El-Ramey

Lisa Hellmer Wendy Sasser

Alanna Flax-Clark (outgoing for 2025)

Patrick Wolfe (outgoing for 2025)

Over the course of 2024, the OAI Task Force has welcomed new members Lisa Chan and Lisa Hellmer, implemented the F.A.B. Award certificates to be awarded by judges and TDs at competitions, continued to develop concepts and ideas related to our mission, and begun working with the USDF staff to develop stories and series for *YourDressage* that highlight the diversity and opportunity within the sport. The first of these stories, [Aloha, E Komo Mai!](#), focused on Marla-Braun Miller and how she combines her love of horses and her Hawaiian heritage to bring dressage to the islands. A second series is also in development highlighting USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage Centers of Excellence and how they utilize dressage and para dressage in their programs and offerings. The first installment in the series focuses on Sarah Armentrout's Carlisle Academy.

For 2025, with two outgoing members of the task force in Alanna and Patrick, the group is focusing on procuring resumes of potential replacement members to be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. Additionally, the task force will continue discussion with USDF committees regarding the Resource Advisory Network concept and its viability within the USDF structure, as well as continuing to generate content and leads for *YourDressage* that support the task force mission. Preliminary brainstorming has also begun for ways the task force can engage attendees at the annual convention to further the inclusive community aspects of the organization, to break up the business-filled schedule. The task force, through their staff liaison, will work with staff involved in the convention planning as these ideas continue to develop and come to fruition.

The OAI Task Force wishes to thank our previously departed and outgoing members for the perspective, dedication, and expertise they brought to their roles during their tenure. These include Andrea Davenport-Himmel, Gwen Samuels, Michelle King, Alanna Flax-Clark, and Patrick Wolfe.

Rules Advisory Working Group Report

Chair: Michelle King

Liaison: Katherine Robertson

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

Current Members:

Amy Bradley, FL*

Teresa Stewart, WA*

Jean Kraus, MO

Sue McKeown, MA*

Kristi Wysocki, WA

Advisor – Lisa Gorretta, OH

*New member(s) of the Rules Advisory Working Group as of June 1, 2024.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Rules Advisory Working Group (RAWG) will be to work in support of USDF staff; make recommendations to staff and the Executive Board about USEF rule change proposals originating within USDF or sent to USDF by USEF or the Dressage Sport Committee for review.

Responsibilities:

1. Review rule change proposals originating within USDF committees or councils.
2. Assist committees and councils, staff, and the Executive Board in writing rule change proposals in prescribed USEF format, explained by an accurately stated “intent” and with any necessary supporting materials.
3. Identify the appropriate committees or councils where proposed USDF rule changes should be shared for review and comment prior to submission to the Executive Board.
4. Refer USEF proposed rule changes to committees and councils for comments, as needed.
5. Recommend changes or clarifications to wording of proposals, as needed.
6. Recommend the approval or disapproval of rule change proposals to the Executive Board and provide reasons for its recommendations.

Progress to Date:

- The working group reviewed ten FEI, clarifications, and extraordinary rule change proposals that were effective September 1, 2024. Their recommendations were submitted to the Executive Board with official comments submitted to USEF.
- The working group has begun gathering feedback from the membership and relevant stakeholders on standard rule change proposals that are posted on the USEF website this fall, to be effective December 1, 2025. These changes will be discussed at the USEF/USDF Open Forum, held at the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.
- The working group has reviewed the rule change proposals specific to dressage and the feedback gathered to date. Their recommendations will be submitted under separate cover to the Executive Board for their review.

Items to come before the Executive Board:

- Recommendations for standard, extraordinary, and clarification rule change proposals.

USDF Licensed Officials Education Working Group Report

Chair: Jean Kraus, MO

Liaison: Katherine Robertson

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

2024 Working Group Members:

Lisa Gorretta, OH	William McMullin, FL
Gary Rockwell, FL	George Williams, FL
Anne Sushko, IA	Janet Foy, CO
Dolly Hannon, CO	Joan Darnell, WA*
Kristi Wysocki, WA	Lois Yukins, MA
Sue McKeown, MA	Marilyn Kulifay, TX

*New member(s) of the USDF Licensed Officials Education Working Group for 2024.

Purpose: To advise USDF staff, as needed, on licensed official's education activities and protocols.

Progress to Date:

- We are currently tracking/monitoring 79 licensed official applicants across all license types. The breakdown is as follows:
 - 1) 52 dressage judge applicants:
 - Thirty-nine 'r' applicants
 - Eight applicants have completed the training and are waiting for final licensing from USEF.
 - Eighteen applicants have completed the training session and are working on their apprenticing and/or observing requirements.
 - One candidate was unable to attend the training session due to the recent hurricanes. Staff is exploring their options with USEF.
 - Twelve applicants are on waitlist.
 - Nine 'R' applicants
 - All candidates have accepted an invitation to attend a training session in 2025, with their exam in 2026.
 - Four 'S' applicants
 - Four candidates are completing additional apprentice experiences and will retake the final exam in January 2025.
 - 2) Eighteen technical delegate (TD) applicants (all in various stages of the process)
 - Sixteen 'r'
 - Two 'R'
 - 3) Nine dressage sport horse breeding (DSHB) judge applicants (all in various stages of the process)
 - Six 'r'
 - One 'R'
- As of the date of this report, three 'r' TDs and eight 'r' dressage judge applicants have successfully completed their training programs and exams and have been sent forward to the LOC for final licensing.

- Thirteen applicants received their license or promotion following the April and August LOC meetings:
 - One 'r' dressage TD
 - Two 'S' dressage judges
 - Ten 'R' dressage judges
- The following clinics were held in 2024, as required for licensed officials to maintain their license (when possible, L graduates have been invited to attend):
 - 1) Judges (all judges clinics used the technologies of BlackHorseOne during the classroom portion of the clinic)
 - USEF/USDF Dressage Young Horse Clinic – Twelve attendees
 - USEF/USDF Dressage Judge Clinic (FL) – Forty-nine attendees
 - USEF/USDF Dressage Judge Clinic (WA) – Twenty attendees
 - USEF/USDF Dressage Judge Clinic (KY) – To date, thirty people have registered to attend.
 - USEF/USDF Dressage Seat Equitation Judges Clinic (KY) – To date, twelve people have registered to attend.
 - Para Dressage (KY) will be offered as an additional resource – To date, twelve people have registered to attend.
 - 2) DSHB Judges
 - USEF/USDF DSHB Judges Clinic (held virtually) – To date, twenty-eight people have registered to attend.
 - 3) TDs
 - USEF/USDF Dressage Technical Delegate Clinic (virtual) – twenty-seven attendees
 - USEF/USDF Dressage Technical Delegate Clinic (TX) – registration still open.
- The following outlines education that is scheduled in 2025 and 2026 for all license types (to date):
 - 1) Judges
 - The following training programs are scheduled to finish their exams in 2025 and 2026:
 - An 'r' program exam is scheduled in July 2025 (MI).
 - An 'r' program exam is scheduled in August 2025 (NY).
 - An 'S' program re-test is scheduled for January 2025 (FL).
 - The following new training programs are scheduled to start:
 - 'R' training program scheduled to start in June 2025 (NY) with the exam in June 2026 (NY).
 - Clinics
 - USEF/USDF Dressage Judges Clinic; March 6-7, 2025, in Florida with Janet Foy and Gary Rockwell.
 - Additional clinics will be scheduled as locations and presenters are confirmed.
 - Additional opportunities
 - A judge education workshop will be held during the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention using the technologies of BlackHorseOne. This will be an additional opportunity for judges to “hone” their skills.
 - Additional resources for judging materials, dressage seat equitation and para are posted on the website and available to the judges as needed throughout the year.
 - USDF is working with BlackHorseOne to develop online education resources that will be available to judges that will allow them to continue improving their skills.
 - 2) Sport Horse Judges - A training program and exam will be scheduled in 2025.

3) TD

- Clinic
 - USEF/USDF Technical Delegate Clinic; December 8, 2024, in Houston, TX (in conjunction with the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention) with Jean Kraus, Lisa Gorretta, and Michelle King.
 - It is anticipated that a virtual clinic will be held in the spring of 2025.
- Additional educational opportunities
 - USDF hosted a TD town hall session on September 4, 2024, to address any problems that have come up in the field concerning the equipment checks that are being done. The recording from this virtual session has will posted on the USDF website as a resource for TDs and other USDF members. FEI Level 1 Stewards (who are not USEF DTDs) were invited to join the webinar.
 - Additional field guides and resources have been posted on the website and are available to the TDs when needed.

4) Other initiatives

- Review of the *US Equestrian Licensed Officials Policies and Procedures* for any needed edits for 2025 has been completed and was sent to USEF by April 1st.
 - It should be noted that USEF will be moving to an every other year rotation for making edits to this document. Dressage will make edits for 2025, 2026, but not for 2027.
- Review of all documents has begun for any updates needed to be consistent with the changes to the *US Equestrian Licensed Officials Policies and Procedures*, effective December 1, 2024.
- Staff continues to work with volunteers on curriculum review, with updates as needed (for all licenses).

Items to come before the Executive Board: None

Test Writing Working Group Report

Chair: Gary Rockwell, FL

Liaison: Sharon Vander Ziel

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

2024 Working Group Members:

Jeanne McDonald, PA

Amy Bradley, FL

Janet Foy, CO

Dolly, Hannon, CO (Freestyle representative)

Kari McClain, WA

Mike Osinski, WA (DSE representative)

Nadine Schwartzman, ID (Rider/Trainer)

Teresa Stewart, WA

Kristi Wysocki, WA (Sport Horse Committee Chair)

Lilo Fore, CA

Lois Yukins, MA

Mission: To review and update USDF/USEF Dressage tests.

2024 Objectives:

1. Review input from membership regarding current dressage tests.
2. Review and revise the Purpose of the Levels as needed.
3. Review all USDF/USEF Dressage tests for needed changes

2024 Accomplishments:

- Comments were collected from members, judges, and trainers through requests in the *USDF Connection* magazine and social media.
- The working group reviewed and submitted their comments regarding the current tests.
- The Purpose of the Levels was reviewed and suggestions for revisions will be submitted by Janet Foy.
- The working group identified which tests need to be revised.
- Discussion on how to address Submission in regard to pending changes from FEI.
- Discussed if the Coefficients for transitions scores were putting too much weight on the transitions.

2025 Objectives:

1. Have all USDF/USEF tests updated and ready for final approval by fall of 2025.