

# USEF RULES

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USEF Rules apply to Licensed Competitions. The following is only a small portion of the rules. If you are entering a recognized Competition, you are responsible for understanding all pertinent rules. Contact THE FEDERATION at (859) 258-2472 if you need a Rulebook. The Rule Book is available online or may be downloaded at [http://www.usef.org/\\_IFrames/Rule Book/rulebooks.aspx](http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/RuleBook/rulebooks.aspx)

**1) Every** class offered herein which is covered by the rules and specifications of the current USEF or FEI Rules will be conducted and judged in accordance therewith. It is the responsibility of the competitor to be familiar with these rules.

**USEF MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT.** Life, senior active and junior active members shall be eligible to participate in all classes at Regular Competitions, Eventing Competitions at the Preliminary Level or above and Combined Driving Competitions at the Advanced Level, Dressage, Reining and Vaulting Competitions and Endurance Rides. A nonmember may participate as a handler, rider, driver, owner, lessee, agent, coach or trainer at Regular Competitions, Eventing Competitions, Dressage Competitions, Reining Competitions and Combined Driving Competitions upon payment of a \$30 Show Pass fee. Participants in the following classes are exempted from the Requirements of this rule: 1) leadline; 2) exhibitions; 3) games and races; 4) classes for 4-H members; 5) walk trot and academy classes (academy classes are classes limited to horses used regularly in a lesson program); 6) USDF introductory level tests, pas de deux and quadrille classes; 7) NRHA Endorsed Reining Competitions; 8) Opportunity classes. 9) citizens of other nations who have proof, in English, of current membership in good standing of their own National Federation, 10) USEA beginner novice division; and 11) assistant handlers in Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes.

## **2) PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP--SEE SHOW RULES ON REQUIRED ENTRY PROOF OF REGISTRATIONS/ MEMBERSHIPS**

**2.A) USEF MEMBERS:** Proof of USEF Competing Membership for owner, handler, trainer, rider and coach plus horse registration, if applicable, must accompany entry. The USEF card must be available during the show for inspection by the Show Secretary. In the event a member does not have proof of USEF membership, GR 1309.2b will apply. GR1309.2b states, "If an exhibitor does not submit the proper membership documentation to the competition and the competition cannot verify such information (with the exception of Federation measurement cards), the exhibitor will be responsible to pay a \$30 non-member fee which is non-refundable." This is payable to the competition and the competition will submit these payments to the Federation via the post-competition report.

**2.B.) USEF NON-MEMBERS:** If the owner, trainer, rider is not an USEF member, he/she must pay the \$30.00 USEF SHOW PASS (non-member) fee per GR202.5.

**2.C)** Riders in Adult Amateur Classes, if offered, must be at least 21 years old and hold a current USEF Amateur Card, proof of which must accompany entry. (GR 1307.1)

**3)** Each competitor is responsible for supplying management with correct association numbers. (USDF, USEF) for horse, owner, rider, and trainer before the day(s) of competition. The scores of competitors who fail to supply correct numbers may not count toward national awards.

**4) VETERINARIAN:** A Veterinarian will be on call. His/Her name and phone number will be posted at the Show Office.

**4.A) VACCINATION:** USEF GR845 Equine Vaccination Rule. At Federation licensed competitions, horses entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhino pneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables.

**5) FIRST-AID:** A first aid provider will be present on the grounds.

**6) CONCESSIONS:** Food concession will be available on the show grounds during the performances of the show.

**7) FREESTYLE:** USEF DR129.9 Except for USEF/USDF Championship classes and for FEI Pony Riders, FEI Junior, FEI Young Rider and FEI Para-Equestrian Freestyles, in order to enter a freestyle class at any level, a horse/rider combination must have received a minimum score of 60% in the highest test of the declared freestyle level or any test of a higher level at a Federation Licensed or FEI recognized Dressage Competition or "open" Dressage class (i.e. open to all breeds) at a Federation Licensed Competition held prior to the competition where the horse/rider combination is entered to ride a freestyle class. A photocopy of the test verifying eligibility must be submitted with the entry for a freestyle class..

**8) FEDERATION ENTRY AGREEMENT.** USEF GR906.4. By entering a Federation-licensed Competition and signing this entry blank as the Owner, Lessee, Trainer, Manager, Agent, Coach, Driver, Rider, Handler, Vaultor or Longeur and on behalf of myself and my principals, representatives, employees and agents, I agree that I am subject to the Bylaws and Rules of The United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (the "Federation") and the local rules of the competition. I agree to

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be bound by the Bylaws and Rules of the Federation and of the competition. I will accept as final the decision of the Hearing Committee on any question arising under the Rules, and agree to release and hold harmless the competition, the Federation, their officials, directors and employees for any action taken under the Rules. I represent that I am eligible to enter and/or participate under the Rules, and every horse I am entering is eligible as entered. I also agree that as a condition of and in consideration of acceptance of entry, the Federation and/or the Competition may use or assign photographs, videos, audios, cablecasts, broadcasts, Internet, film, new media or other likenesses of me and my horse taken during the course of the competition for the promotion, coverage or benefit of the competition, sport, or the Federation. Those likenesses shall not be used to advertise a product and they may not be used in such a way as to jeopardize amateur status. I hereby expressly and irrevocably waive and release any rights in connection with such use, including any claim to compensation, invasion of privacy, right of publicity, or to misappropriation. The construction and application of Federation rules are governed by the laws of the State of New York, and any action instituted against the Federation must be filed in New York State. See USEF GR908.4.

**9) SHARPS DISPOSAL.** Disposal of needles or other sharp disposable instruments: In accordance with USEF GR1210.4, competition management shall place a minimum of one sharps container per each competition, whether or not stabling is provided. Additionally, at least one sharps container per fifty occupied stalls for the disposal of needles and other disposable sharp instruments in convenient locations in barns housing show horses. It is the competition management's responsibility to replace such containers when full and dispose of them properly. Competition management may fine any individuals, including trainers, owners, exhibitors, or their agents, up to \$100.00 for improper disposal of needles or other sharp disposable instruments.

**10) OPERATION OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES:** USEF GR1301.7. Minors who do not have a valid driver's license which allows them to operate a motorized vehicle in the state in which they reside will not be permitted to operate a motorized vehicle of any kind, including, but not limited to, golf carts, motorcycles, scooters, or farm utility vehicles, on the competition grounds of licensed competitions. Minors who have a valid temporary license may operate the above described motorized vehicles as long as they are accompanied by an adult with a valid driver's license. The parent(s), legal guardian(s), or individual who signs the entry blank as a parent or guardian of a minor operating a motorized vehicle in violation of this rule are solely responsible for any damages, claims, losses or actions resulting from that operation. Violations of this rule will be cause for sanctions against the parent(s), guardian(s) and/or trainer(s) who are responsible for the child committing the offense. Penalties may include exclusion of the child, parent(s), guardian(s), and/or trainer(s) from the competition grounds for the remainder of the competition and charges being filed against any of the above individuals in accordance with Chapter 6. Wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices for individuals with disabilities are exempt from this rule.

**11) PETS:** USEF GR1301.6: Dogs are not permitted to be loose on competition grounds and must be on a leash or otherwise contained. Individuals must not lead dogs on a leash while mounted. Dog owners failing to comply with this rule may be subject to penalty under Chapters 6 and 7, as well as issuance of warning cards.

**12) DRESS: DR120 applies. Competitors should review DR120 in the USEF Rule Book to ensure compliance.**

1. The dress code for all Dressage tests and classes through Fourth Level (see .5 below) is a short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker or stock tie, white or light-colored breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots, and protective headgear as defined in DR120.5 and in compliance with GR801. A cutaway coat (modified tailcoat) with short tails is permitted. Half chaps, gaiters and/or leggings are not allowed. Gloves of conservative color are recommended. Exception: Riders through First Level may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material. The dress code for the FEI Junior Tests, FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses and the USEF test for 4-year old horses is a short riding coat of conservative color, with stock or tie, breeches, and protective headgear as defined in DR120.5 and in compliance with GR801. A dark tailcoat is also permitted for the FEI Junior Tests. The dress code for FEI Pony Riders is dark coat or club uniform coat, breeches or jodhpurs, white shirt with tie or hunting stock, gloves, boots and protective headgear as defined in DR120.5 and in compliance with GR801. Spurs are optional for all of the FEI Pony and Junior Tests, FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses and the USEF test for 4-year old horses. (See DR120.8).

2. For all tests above Fourth Level, the dress code is: a dark tailcoat or a dark jacket with protective headgear, as defined in DR120.5 and in compliance with GR801, and white or light colored breeches, stock or tie, gloves, and black riding boots. Spurs are mandatory for FEI tests (except as noted above under DR120.1). (See DR120.8)

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3. At all test levels, riders may wear jackets in other colors within the international HSV color scale, as described in FEI Dressage Regulations, Art. 427.1. Contrast coloring and piping is allowed. Protective headgear, stocks, ties, gloves and riding boots may be the same color as the coat. For Grand Prix Freestyle only: any single color tailcoat will be allowed; striped or multi-colored coats are not permitted, and tasteful and discreet accents, such as a collar of a different hue or modest piping or crystal decorations, are acceptable.

4. Current and retired members of the Armed Services and police units may ride in the uniform of their service. All riders who choose to wear Armed Services or police uniform, must wear protective headgear as defined in DR120.5 and in compliance with GR801.

5. Riders in classes and tests at all levels in Level 1 Competitions, and riders in Opportunity classes in Level 2 and Level 3 Competitions, may compete wearing breeches and shirts of any color as permitted in DR120.8. Jackets or vests of any type are allowed but not required and neck wear may be worn only if the rider chooses to compete in a riding jacket. Boots and protective headgear are required as specified in DR120.1-6.

6. From the time horses are officially admitted to the competition grounds by competition management, anyone mounted on a horse at any time on the competition grounds, including non-competing riders, riders on non-competing horses, and those competing in all classes and tests, including Para-Equestrian tests, must wear protective headgear as defined by this rule and otherwise in compliance with GR801. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. The harness must be secured and properly fitted. Unless jackets are waived, while in the competition ring, exhibitors wearing protective headgear must wear a short, dark jacket, dark tailcoat (only permitted for tests above Fourth Level), or Armed Services or police uniform (if eligible), dark hat covers (where applicable) and must otherwise conform to DR120 (see GR801).

**13) APPROACHING A JUDGE:** USEF GR1304.13. No one shall approach a judge with regard to a decision unless he first obtains permission from the Show Committee, steward or technical delegate who shall arrange an appointment with the judge at a proper time and place. No exhibitor has the right to inspect the judge's cards without the judge's permission.

**14) VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES SUBCHAPTER 7-A INDIVIDUALS.** USEF GR701 General. The provisions of this rule apply in connection with any Licensed Competition to the following persons: owner, exhibitor, agent, trainer, manager, rider, driver, handler, competition official, competition staff, including volunteers (see GR111), a veterinarian who, while on the competition grounds, prescribes, dispenses, or administers a forbidden substance to a horse and member of the family of the above, a member of the Federation or any person who acts in a manner in violation of the rules of the Federation or deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the sport and the Federation. Any act in connection with a Licensed Competition in violation of the Rules by a member of the family of a person participating in the competition who is described in the previous sentence, may be deemed to have been committed by such person and subject him or her to penalties.

**15) VIOLATIONS:** USEF GR702 1. A violation is any act prejudicial to the best interests of the Federation, including but not limited to the following: a. Violation of the rules of the Federation. b. Disqualification by a Licensed Competition. c. Penalization by an administrative agency, humane society or court of law for violation of Federation rules. d. Acting or inciting or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the rules of the Federation, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interests of the sport and the Federation. e. Any act committed or remark made in connection with the competition considered offensive and/or made with the intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the licensed officials, approaching a judge before or after a decision without first obtaining permission from the show committee or steward/technical delegate, inspecting a judge's card without the judge's permission, or public verbal abuse of competition officials. f. Physical assault upon a person and/or cruelty to a horse as defined in GR839.

**16) SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT:** DR121 applies. Competitors should review DR121 in the USEF rulebook to ensure compliance as these rules may change during the competition year.

# USEF VACCINATION RULE

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## GR8

CONDUCT OF  
LICENSED  
COMPETITIONS

### GR845 Equine Vaccination Rule

1. At Federation licensed competitions, horses entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhino-pneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables. Horses not in compliance with this rule may be required to leave the competition grounds upon request by Competition Management. Documentation should consist of one of the following methods mentioned below. The frequency of vaccine administration should be per the vaccine manufacturers' or veterinarian's recommendations. It is recommended that vaccines are administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian.
2. In the case of vaccines administered by a veterinarian, the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide documentation from the veterinarian on documenting that the horse in question received the vaccinations; name of the vaccines and date of vaccine administration.
3. In the case of vaccines administered by a person other than a veterinarian, the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide a receipt of the vaccine purchase which is signed by the owner, or agent with care, custody, and control of the horse; name, serial number and expiration date of the vaccine; and date of vaccine administration.
4. In the case of a horse that is unable to receive either of the vaccinations due to a history of adverse reactions, the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide a letter from the veterinarian on official letterhead stating that the horse in question cannot be vaccinated due to medical concerns and a log of temperatures taken twice daily for the seven days prior to entering the competition grounds. These horses must also have their temperature taken and logged twice daily while on the competition grounds. The log of temperatures should be provided to the Competition Management, steward, or technical delegate when requested.
5. Competition Management may not amend or enhance vaccination requirements without prior approval of the Veterinary Committee. BOD 1/17/15 Effective 12/1/15.