



Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judges Training Program

Requirements and Procedures for Obtaining Recorded (“r”) Status

Eligibility to enter a program:

All applicants must be senior active members (21 years of age or older) in good standing of the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF).

A. All applicants must demonstrate knowledge and experience through close involvement with the breeding of horses raised primarily for dressage for a minimum of five years as a breeding manager, owner/manager, breeder or trainer of sport horses showing in Dressage Competitions holding Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) classes, or as a member of an inspection jury of a breed association, which is a member of the WBFSH and requires inspection for the approval of breeding stock.

B. All applicants must also fulfill two of following (either 4a or 4b can be counted, but not both):

1. Be a USEF licensed Dressage Judge.
2. Have judged USEF/USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) classes totaling at least 16 hours, including in hand, group and under saddle or materiale classes. Classes must be at USEF/USDF licensed Dressage Competitions holding DSHB classes.
3. Have exhibited as a breeding manager, owner/manager, breeder or trainer in DSHB classes at USEF/USDF licensed Dressage Competitions in Sport Horse Prospect or Breeding Stock in-hand classes, receiving a minimum of four (4) scores at 70% or higher, from a minimum of three (3) different judges. Group or Individual Breed Classes (IBC) will not be considered.
- 4a. Either, have owned, bred or trained at least two (2) horses which have shown successfully in DSHB classes at USEF/USDF licensed Dressage Competitions resulting in placing in the top 25% of USDF DSHB Horse of the Year (HOY) awards or qualifying for a USDF Breeders Championship Series Finals with a minimum score of 70% ;
- 4b. Or, have bred at least two (2) horses which have qualified under saddle for USEF/USDF Dressage Regional Championships at any level and division per published minimum requirements.
5. Participate as a member of the Inspection Jury for a European breed association or its North American affiliate at a minimum of three (3) inspection sites with a minimum of ten (10) horses inspected at each site.

C. All applicants must also complete the following preparatory training prior to applying to the Licensed Officials committee:

1. Attend two USDF Sport Horse Seminars within six (6) years prior to submitting an application for enrollment.

2. Scribe and/or observe for a minimum of sixteen (16) hours in DSHB classes at USEF/USDF licensed Dressage Competitions, with licensed USEF DSHB Judges only. Any scribing or observing with Foreign Judges or Foreign Breeding Experts will not count toward this requirement.

(The 16 hour requirement may be fulfilled by a combination of scribing and/or observing.)

Once the above requirements have been fulfilled, application can be made to the USEF Licensed Officials Committee for approval to enter a program. Documentation of the above must be included with the application. If approved, the applicant may enter a training program approved by the USEF Dressage Committee.

The following documents regarding this program are available from the USEF office and on the USEF website.

- Requirements and Procedures for obtaining Recorded (“r”) Status
- Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge’s Application for Enrollment
- Guidelines for Observing and Apprentice Judging
- Verification forms for Observing, Apprentice Judging or scribing
- Evaluation form for Practice Judging or Apprentice Judging
- Tabulation forms for reporting and comparing Candidate and Instructor Judge’s scores

The Training Program:

After receiving approval from the USEF Licensed Officials Committee, candidates are allowed two years to complete a DSHB judge training program approved by the USEF Dressage Committee. If none is offered, they must attend the next possible program. All teaching and examining will be done by Federation “R” DSHB Judges approved by the USEF Dressage Committee.

Format and Duration:

The program consists of:

1. A classroom session of at least eight (8) hours.
2. A structured training session of at least eight (8) hours consisting of planned judging exercises, not at a horse show. Candidates receive instruction and guided practice in analyzing and scoring conformation and movement. Some live horses must be used, but video, slides and still pictures may also be employed.
3. A practice judging session consisting of at least four (4) hours must be included, judging live horses in a mock horse show situation, comparing and ranking horses of the same sex and age.
4. A final examination consisting of a written exam, and oral and practical judging.

Schedule – Training Course

All of the following subjects and aspects of judging must be covered during the program in theory and/or practical sessions.

Classroom Session: A minimum of eight (8) hours of lecture/discussion covering:

1. Duties and responsibilities of the judge
2. USEF Rules (General rules and DSHB rules)
3. Conduct of Competition and DSHB classes.
4. Relationship of form to function
5. Anatomy
6. Vocabulary and remarks
7. Blemishes vs. unsoundness
8. Inheritability of traits

9. Discussion of score sheets
10. Scoring methodology (consistency)
11. Biomechanics

Structured Training Session: A minimum of eight (8) hours of planned judging exercises in structured judging forum setting. Candidates receive instruction and guided practice in analyzing and scoring conformation and movement and in assigning general impression scores. Some live horses must be used, but video, slides and still pictures may also be employed. The following subjects will be covered:

1. Scoring conformation
2. Scoring movement
3. Riding type vs. breeding type
4. Judging group classes, mixed age or sex classes
5. Judging under saddle, materiale and suitability classes
6. Relative seriousness of common faults in conformation and movement (trade-offs)

Practice Judging Sessions: A minimum of four (4) hours must be spent judging live horses in a mock horse show situation, comparing and ranking horses of the same sex and age.

For classroom, structured training and practice judging sessions, candidates should bring the following materials:

1. Notebook, pens and clipboard
2. Score sheets (provided by Program Organizer)
3. USEF Rulebook
4. Calculator

The instructor is required to evaluate each candidate after the training and practice judging sessions, using Form 10 (Candidate Evaluation Form). A copy of this evaluation form should be provided to each candidate before the examination; the original is returned to the Federation. The Candidate Judges Program should not be open to auditors during any of its phases.

Outside the Structured Candidate Judges Program

1. After approval by the Licensed Officials Committee as a Candidate judge, and before the written and practical examination to become a licensed Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge, candidates **must apprentice judge** at a minimum of two (2) USEF licensed Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Competitions with at least 2 USEF licensed DSHB Judges a total of twenty-five (25) entries in-hand at each competition. They must also apprentice judge at least four (4) DSHB under saddle, materiale or suitability classes at Dressage Competitions. There must be a minimum **total** of eight (8) horses judged in the four (4) classes.
2. Applicants who are not already USEF licensed Dressage judges **must attend, (as auditor or participant), Sessions A, B and C of any USDF “L” Education Program.** Written verification of attendance is required. This requirement must be completed before the written and practical examination to become a licensed Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge.
3. Candidate Judges **must also attend a USEF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judges Forum** within two years of Licensed Officials Committee approval as a Candidate Judge, providing one is offered.

Schedule – Examination

After the candidates have completed the requirements of the Candidate Judges Training Program, they will be examined by two examiners approved by the USEF Dressage Committee. **The examination will last one-half to one day and must be conducted at least 30 days after the Candidate Judges Training Program.** One examiner should have taught the Training Program. Both examiners must be present for the entire examination, except for the written test, where only one needs to be present. The examination includes:

1. A **closed book written examination** on the USEF rules and terminology. This examination is held prior to the oral examination and practical testing. All candidates must take the written examination at the same time. The written tests will be sent directly to the organizer by the Federation office and will be returned to the USEF office by one of the examiners. No books or notes may be used for the written test. For a successful completion, the candidate must attain a passing score of 80% or better. If the candidate fails the written examination, he or she may retake another closed book examination under the supervision of the program organizer or an official proctor in the applicant's home area. The exam may be repeated only once. If the candidate fails the written exam twice, the entire program must be repeated.
2. **Oral examination** comprised of questions pertinent to judging.
3. **Practical judging** of at least three horses per age group (sexes may be combined in weanling, yearling and two year old classes). All DSHB divisions (see USEF rulebook) must be covered. The practical examination will consist of the evaluation of horses, scoring conformation and movement and placing by conformation and/or movement. Veterinary considerations and anatomy are included. The evaluation and discussion will consist of oral questions and actual judging of horses and classes, using each category of scoresheets. The practical and oral examinations together must be passed with a score of 70% or higher.

The following definitions will apply:

Scribe: To record comments and scores of judge(s) on score sheets in DSHB classes.

Observe: To stand with and listen to comments of the official judge(s) in DSHB classes.

Judge: To be an official judge in DSHB classes.

Apprentice Judging: To unofficially and independently judge DSHB classes at a USEF/USDF licensed Dressage Competition, with permission of competition management and a USEF licensed judge. Apprentice judging must be with a USEF licensed DSHB judge approved by the USEF Dressage Committee.

- Arrangements for apprentice-judging must be made ahead of time by candidate. This includes:
 - obtaining permission from the competition management and from the presiding judge and
 - providing his or her own test sheets and scribe, as well as the copies and carbons and the evaluation form which the presiding judge will return directly to the Federation office.
- **Apprentice-judges may not work with more than one judge per day so as not to interfere with the discussion time between instructor-judge and apprentice-judge.** A judge should not accept more than one apprentice for any day of a competition.
- Candidates should always remember that the organizer and the presiding judge are under no obligation to work with them, but rather do this as a personal favor. If candidates try to obtain permission by phone, they should not expect the judge to call back. It is best to ask for permission by E-mail. If permission is requested by regular mail, an answering card and a self addressed and stamped envelope should be included. For a secretary to call on the candidate's behalf and ask the judge for permission to apprentice judge is not considered proper attitude!
- Most importantly, candidates *may not interfere* in any manner or at any time with competition management. Candidates are *guests!* It is not their right but a privilege to be able to apprentice judge. The competition organizer or secretary may suggest the easiest way, with the least interference, to make copies of the score sheets from the official judge/instructor with whom the candidate worked. If management offers to make copies, candidates should offer to pay for them. Alternatively, the candidate may use their own portable copy machine whenever that is convenient for management.

- A class list and current/official daily schedule is usually posted the day before the competition in the competition office where judges, handlers, trainers as well as candidates easily can obtain a copy. Competition organizers may not be called at home to obtain the information.
- Candidates who compete at the same competition where they want to apprentice judge with one of the official judges may do so only *after* having completed all showing or handling in front that judge.
- Candidates must arrange for a meeting with the presiding judge, either on the evening before or the morning of the show to discuss the technicalities of the apprentice judging—that is:
 - Which classes should be judged
 - How should the tabulation forms be filled in
 - At what time does the presiding judge want to meet with the candidate and discuss the results of the apprentice judging
- It is the candidate's responsibility to provide the evaluation and tabulation forms that must be completed by the instructor judge. Copies of these forms are included in the candidates' original package when they get approved to go in to a program. Candidates can make as many copies as they need. If the proper forms are not filled out and signed, the apprentice judging will not count towards the required number of apprentice judging.
- **NOTE:** Apprentice-judging only counts towards requirements if the recognized instructor-judge has DISCUSSED the tests and filled out the proper evaluation form.
- Tabulation forms must be completed for all horses and classes judged. Verification, tabulation and evaluation forms must be signed by the instructor judge and submitted to the USEF Licensed Officials Dept. prior to the written and practical examinations.
- Candidates must provide their own scribe and calculator.
- After candidates are finished judging for the day, they must tabulate their tests and enter the total scores and those from the official judge/instructor on the tabulation form. If they had not been able to obtain the official scores and placing of the classes from the competition office, they should get this information from the posted classes at the scoreboards.
- After studying the material, the presiding judge may return the score sheets to the candidate for safe keeping or he/she may elect to take them home if there wasn't sufficient time for discussion at the show. Candidates who want to have the test sheets returned, must furnish a self addressed stamped envelope of suitable size.
- The competition may not be interrupted for any reason on account of the apprentice judge.
- It is appropriate to send written thank you notes to the official judge and to show management for giving the opportunity to apprentice-judge at the competition.

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United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.

Guidelines for:

- (1) Observing and Practice Judging for Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge Applicants
- (2) Apprentice Judging for Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Candidate Judges

What applicants or candidates need to do PRIOR to observing, practice judging or apprentice judging:

Well in advance of the competition, first obtain permission from the show manager, and then from the *presiding judge to observe, practice or apprentice. Clearly specify your status and your request. Failure to get advance permission may result in refusal to grant permission by show management and/or the presiding judge. Or, the presiding judge may already have given permission to another candidate. For judges to work with more than one candidate per day is discouraged. Also, please remember that the show or the presiding judge are under no obligation to perform this task, but rather will do this as a personal favor to you. If you try to obtain permission by phone, do not expect the judge or the manager in question to call back. It is best to ask for permission by mail, and include a prepared answering card and a self addressed and stamped envelope. (*Only USEF licensed Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judges may be used for apprentice or practice judging.)

For Practice Judging or Apprentice Judging:

- The day before the competition you must arrange for a meeting with the presiding judge for either the evening before or the morning of the show to discuss the technicalities of the practice judging or apprentice judging; for example, which classes should be used, if or how the tabulation forms should be filled in (for apprentice judging, only) and at what time the presiding judge wants to meet with you to discuss the results of the classes; necessary if you are apprentice judging, and recommended if practice judging.
- It is your responsibility to provide the evaluation and tabulation forms that must be completed by the instructor judge if you are apprentice judging. The forms are available from the USEF office. If the proper forms (tabulation, verification, etc.) are not filled out and signed, the practice judging or apprentice judging will not count towards your enrollment.
- Practice judges or apprentice judges may not work with more than one judge per day so as not to interfere with the discussion time between the instructor judge and practice or candidate judges.
- Plan to arrive WELL IN ADVANCE of the competition so that you have ample time to introduce yourself to management, and be situated at the ring when the class(es) are ready to start. Remember that you must remain in the ring throughout the class, even if you do not judge the entire class.
- If practice judging or apprentice judging, you must provide your own scribe, calculator and scoresheets.
- After the practical judging, you must tabulate your scoresheets and obtain the official scores and placings of the class from scorer or from the posted sheets on the score boards. You must fill out the tabulation forms for the classes you have discussed with the official judge, if you are apprentice judging. You must also arrange for copies to be made of your and the presiding judge's original scoresheets to be provided to the presiding judge prior to discussing the evaluation of the horses that were judged.

For Apprentice Judges Only: After studying the material, the presiding judge may give back to you all the score sheets for safe keeping or he/she may elect to take them home if there wasn't sufficient time at the show. If you want to have the test sheets returned to you, you must furnish a self addressed stamped envelope of suitable size.

Do not expect the official judge to chat and educate you during the competition. The show may not be interrupted for any reason regarding observing, practice judging or apprentice judging. The judge may however, ask some questions during breaks or scratches pertaining to judging in general; i.e., quality of movement, basic conformation, methodology, etc.



United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.
Verification Form for Observing, Practice Judging or Apprentice Judging

Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Practice or
Candidate Judges, Observers

NOTE TO PRESIDING JUDGE: (1) If the prospective judge was observing or practice judging with you, please check number of horses/entries during which the candidate was with you, sign the form and return it to the candidate. (2) If the prospective judge was apprentice judging with you, check number of horses/entries, sign and return the form with your evaluation directly to the USEF office.

Name of Applicant or Candidate: _____

USEF Member Number: _____

Name of Presiding Judge: _____

Name of Competition: _____

Location of Competition: _____ Date: _____

CLASS	HORSES/ENTRIES/HOURS	PRACTICED (P) /APPRENTICED (A) /OBSERVED(O)
Weanlings	_____	_____
Yearlings	_____	_____
Two-year olds	_____	_____
Three-year olds	_____	_____
Four-year old maiden/yeld mares	_____	_____
Four-year old broodmares	_____	_____
Suitable to become a broodmare	_____	_____
Stallions	_____	_____
Get of sire/Sire and get	_____	_____
Produce of Dam/Dam and Produce	_____	_____
Breeder's Group	_____	_____
Family Class	_____	_____
Championship Classes	_____	_____
Three-year old Under Saddle	_____	_____
Mares Under Saddle	_____	_____
Stallions Under Saddle	_____	_____

I hereby verify that the prospective judge (**circle one**) observed/practice judged/apprentice judged with me the above number of entries.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Total Hours: _____



United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.
 Evaluation Form for Practice Judging or Apprentice Judging
 Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Practice or Candidate Judges

Please note: This evaluation form is required for Apprentice Judging and only recommended for Practice Judging, in order to verify experience gained prior to application to USEF to become a Candidate Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge.

Name of Applicant or Candidate: _____

Name of Presiding Judge: _____

Name of Competition: _____

Location of Competition: _____ Date: _____

Please circle appropriate answers and rate candidate on a scale of 1 to 10: 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest

Candidate understands criteria of Sport Horse Prospects In-Hand Classes Y / N _____

Candidate understands criteria of Sport Horse Breeding Stock In-Hand Classes Y / N _____

Candidate understands criteria of Sport Horse Group Classes Y / N _____

Candidate understands criteria of Sport Horse Under Saddle Classes Y / N _____

Candidate understands criteria of Sport Horse Championship Classes Y / N _____

Judicial temperament to officiate _____

Attitude towards competitors _____

Impartiality in rendering decisions _____

Candidate is cooperative and willing to learn _____

Placement of horses within each class _____

Ability to give marks appropriate to comments _____

Ability to evaluate conformation _____

Ability to evaluate movement _____

Ability to evaluate general impression _____

Knowledge of rules _____

Scores of applicant generally were High / Standard / Low

Comments: (Please continue on reverse side if necessary)

Signature of Presiding Judge: _____ Date: _____



United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.
Verification Form for Observing, Practice Judging or Apprentice Judging

Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Practice or
Candidate Judges, Observers

Please note: This form may also be used to verify scribing hours.

I _____ hereby certify that _____ has
Print name of competition manager Name of Observer, Practice or Apprentice Judge
officiated or served in his capacity as a (circle one) Practice Judge, Apprentice Judge or Observer at our
USEF licensed competition _____
Name of competition
held on _____, which was located at _____
Date City/State

and has (circle one) practice judged, apprentice judged or observed the following classes:

	CLASS	PRACTICE JUDGED/APPRENTICE JUDGED/OBSERVED	NO. OF ENTRIES/NO. OF HOURS
1.	_____	_____	_____/_____
2.	_____	_____	_____/_____
3.	_____	_____	_____/_____
4.	_____	_____	_____/_____
5.	_____	_____	_____/_____
6.	_____	_____	_____/_____
7.	_____	_____	_____/_____
8.	_____	_____	_____/_____
9.	_____	_____	_____/_____
10.	_____	_____	_____/_____
11.	_____	_____	_____/_____
12.	_____	_____	_____/_____

Signature of Manager: _____ Date: _____ Total Hours: _____



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Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge Program

Pertinent Definitions

1. **Applicant** - Any individual who has submitted or is planning to submit an application to the USEF Licensed Officials Committee (LOC) to become a Candidate Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) Judge. An Applicant or potential Applicant is permitted to Practice Judge in order to gain preparatory training prior to applying to USEF, and prior to being approved by the Licensed Officials Committee to become a Candidate DSHB Judge.
2. **Practice Judge** - Any individual who, before being approved by the USEF Licensed Officials Committee as a Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) Candidate Judge, *unofficially judges Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) classes, with permission of show management and one presiding judge, who may discuss evaluation of horses, as time permits. (Evaluation and tabulation forms are not required from the instructor judge, but may be completed and included in the application to USEF to become a DSHB Candidate Judge, in order to document experience.)
*Scores are not recorded by the show, considered for placement of horses, or published.
3. **Apprentice Judge** - Any individual who has been approved by the USEF Licensed Officials Committee as a “Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Candidate Judge” and *unofficially judges Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes, with permission of show management and one presiding judge, who serves as instructor judge and who must discuss evaluation of horses with candidate, as outlined in the USEF “Guidelines for Apprentice Judging”. Evaluation forms are required from the instructor judge, and tabulation forms must be completed for all horses and classes judged. All forms must be signed by the instructor judge. Verification, evaluation and tabulation forms must be provided to the Licensed Officials Committee prior to the written and practical examination. Candidate Judges who are apprentice judging must arrange for copies of their original scoresheets, as well as copies of the Presiding Judge’s original scoresheets, to be provided to the Presiding Judge prior to discussing the evaluation of the horses that were judged.
*Scores are not recorded by the show, considered for placement of horses, or published.
4. **Judge** - Any individual who serves as an *official judge in Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes. For Federation licensed shows, judges must be a licensed Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge, a USEF-approved foreign breeding expert, a foreign FEI-licensed Dressage Judge or a licensed Dressage Judge who is judging on a **Federation “Guest Card”. If judging hours are submitted in the application to become a Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Candidate Judge, all experience must be documented; if judging experience is in non-USEF recognized classes, Applicant should provide complete details of classes, scoring system, etc., in application to USEF.
*Scores are recorded by the show, considered for placement of horses, and published.
** A USEF Dressage Judge is limited to a lifetime limit of two (2) Guest Cards to judge DSHB classes.
5. **Scribe** - Any individual who records comments and scores of judge(s) on scoresheets in Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes. In order to submit scribing hours as preparatory training to becoming a Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Candidate Judge, all scribing experience must be with licensed DSHB Judges or foreign judges in Federation recognized DSHB classes.
6. **Observer** - Any individual who stands with and listens to comments of the official judge(s) in Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes, with permission of show management and presiding judge(s). In order to submit observing hours as preparatory training to become a Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Candidate Judge, all observing experience must be with a licensed DSHB Judge or foreign judge in Federation recognized DSHB classes.

NOTE: Individuals who complete preparatory training to become a licensed Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge during USEF-licensed shows do so under their own authority, and are responsible for knowing and following all local and Federation rules and regulations at all times during Federation licensed shows.



United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.®
Verification of Attendance
Sessions A, B and C of the USDF 'L' Training Program

Session A:

Name of the program: _____

Name of the instructor: _____

Location & Date: _____

Name of Organizer (*print*): _____

Signature of Organizer _____

Session B:

Name of the program: _____

Name of the instructor: _____

Location & Date: _____

Name of Organizer (*print*): _____

Signature of Organizer _____

Session C:

Name of the program: _____

Name of the instructor: _____

Location & Date: _____

Name of Organizer (*print*): _____

Signature of Organizer _____

Candidate signature _____ Date: _____

Upon completion of the above, sign and return with your other information as required by the LOC for your application to become a DSHB or Dressage Judge.