



Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judges Training Program

Requirements and Procedures for Obtaining Registered ("R") Status

Eligibility to enter a program:

1. All applicants must be senior active members in good standing of the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) and current Recorded ("r") DSHB judges.
2. All applicants must demonstrate the following experience:
 - a. Must have judged a minimum of five years as a USEF Recorded ("r") DSHB judge.
 - b. Must have judged a minimum of eight (8) competitions with DSHB divisions each with ten (10) or more horses and with a minimum of 100 horses judged overall. Breed specific Sport Horse divisions cannot be counted as part of the minimum eight competitions or in the minimum total number of horses judged.
 - c. Must have judged at least one USDF Breeders Championship.

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. Applicant must also receive the minimum number of positive references required by USEF for promotion. If approved, the applicant may enter a training program approved by the USEF Dressage Committee.

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:

1. The program consists of:
 - a) A classroom session of at least three (3) hours.
 - b) A structured training session of at least two (2) hours consisting of planned judging exercises. 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.
 - c) A practice judging session must be included.
 - d) A final examination consisting of a written exam, 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 three (3) 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 two (2) 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 may 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: Time should be spent, if possible, 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.

Schedule – Examination

After the candidates have completed the requirements of the “R” DSHB Judges Training Program, they will be examined by two examiners approved by the USEF Dressage Committee. 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, notes, or other resources may be used during 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. **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.

United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.®
4047 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, Ky 40511
Phone (859) 258-2472 Fax (859) 231-6662
www.usef.org

