



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

USDF USEF/USDF Dressage Seat Medal Program Guidelines for Competitors

The USEF/USDF Dressage Seat Medal (DSM) Program celebrates excellence in equitation and strives to develop a solid foundation for future success in the dressage arena.

The DSM Program is for riders ages 18 and under and is made up of three types of classes: Dressage Seat Equitation classes, the USDF Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals, and the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals.

- **Dressage Seat Equitation** classes are offered at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competitions. If you compete in an eligible Dressage Seat Equitation class and earn a qualifying score, you may qualify to compete in the USDF Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals.
- **The USDF Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals** are held at each of the nine Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Dressage Championships. There are two age divisions in the USDF DSM Semi-Finals: 13 and under, and 14–18. The top two placed riders at the USDF DSM Semi-Finals are invited to compete in the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals.
- **The USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals** are held in conjunction with the US National Dressage Championships, or other designated competition. Riders will compete in the USEF DSM Finals in the same age division in which they rode at the Semi-Finals. The top two riders in each Semi-Finals class will qualify to advance to the annual USEF DSM Finals. In case one of the top two riders in either Semi-Finals class does not compete in the Finals, the third-place rider in the respective class will be allowed to compete.

RIDER, OWNER, AND HORSE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS TO COMPETE IN A DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION CLASS

- Rider must have a USDF Participating Membership (PM) or Group Membership (GM), or pay the USDF non-member fee.
- Owner must have a USDF PM, GM, or Business Membership (BM), or pay the USDF non-member fee.
- Horse must have either a USDF Horse Identification Number (HID) or USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR).

TO COMPETE IN A DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION CLASS AND RECEIVE A QUALIFYING SCORE FOR THE USDF DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL SEMI-FINALS

- Rider must have a USDF GM or PM at the time of the qualifying ride.
- Owner must meet minimum competition eligibility requirements.
- Horse must have either a USDF HID or a USDF LHR at the time of the qualifying ride.

TO COMPETE IN A USDF DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL SEMI-FINALS CLASS

- Rider must have a USDF PM and USEF Competing Membership.
- Owner must meet minimum competition requirements for USDF and USEF.
- Horse must have either a USEF HID or be USEF Recorded and must have a USDF HID or USDF LHR.
- Refer to the USEF Rule Book for all rules regarding USEF-licensed competitions; DR 133 and the USDF website for complete specifications for the USDF DSM Semi-Finals

TO COMPETE IN THE USEF DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL FINALS

- Rider must have a USDF PM and a USEF Competing Membership.
- Owner must meet minimum competition requirements for USDF and USEF.
- Horse must have either a USEF HID or be USEF Recorded and must have a USDF HID or USDF LHR
- Refer to the USEF Rule Book for all rules regarding USEF-licensed competitions; DR133 and the USEF website for complete specifications USEF DSM Finals.

PLEASE NOTE: Borrowed horses or ponies are permitted in all Dressage Seat Equitation classes, USDF DSM Semi-Finals, and USEF DSM Finals classes. A rider is permitted to ride a different horse in each of the three phases of the DSM Program.

Substitution of horse or pony is permitted at any time before the start of a Semi-Finals or Finals class, as long as the appropriate changes are made through the competition secretary to the entry records.

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE USDF DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL SEMI-FINALS

A competitor can qualify for the USDF DSM Semi-Finals by one of two methods.

1. Earning a qualifying score (70% or higher) in any eligible dressage seat equitation class (except walk/trot), held at a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competition during the qualifying period of January 1 through the end of the qualifying period for the regional championships the rider plans on attending. The list of eligible riders who have qualified by score can be found on the USDF website.
 - a. Classes restricted by criteria other than normal dressage rider categories of open, junior, or junior/young rider are not eligible.
 - b. Classes offered as Test of Choice (TOC) will not count.
 - c. Opportunity classes will not count.

2. Qualifying for the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Dressage Championships. Competitors who earn the necessary qualifying scores to participate in the regional championships at any level (excluding freestyles), and are otherwise eligible, are automatically qualified to participate in the USDF DSM Semi-Finals. A list of riders qualified for the regional championships is maintained and updated continuously on the USDF website.

GENERAL RULES FOR THE DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL PROGRAM

- Dressage Seat Equitation classes may be offered for Juniors, Young Riders, Adult Amateurs and/or Open riders.
- USDF DSM Semi-Finals and the USEF DSM Finals offers two age divisions and are defined as:
 - 13 and under: A rider is eligible for the 13 and under Semi-Final class until the end of the calendar year in which he/she reaches the age of 13 (DR 133.2 (f)).
 - 14 through 18: A rider is eligible for the 14 through 18 Semi-Final class from the beginning of the calendar year in which he/she reaches 14 until the end of the calendar year in which he/she reaches the age of 18 (DR 133.2 (f)).
 - Riders will compete in the USEF DSM Finals in the same age division in which they rode at the Semi-Finals.
- Riders can elect to compete in any one of the nine USDF DSM Semi-Finals. No declaration of region is required, but riders must submit an entry for the USDF DSM Semi-Finals class at the regional championship of their choosing, in order to compete.
 - Riders may only compete in one DSM Semi-Final competition per calendar year.
 - Riders are not required to ride in a USDF DSM Semi-Finals class in the same region as they participate in regional championship classes.
 - Riders who qualify for the USDF DSM Semi-Finals by qualifying for regional championships, may compete in the DSM Semi-Finals even if they do not compete in the regional championships.
 - Riders can choose to compete on the same horse in a regional championship in one region, and in a USDF DSM Semi-Finals class in another region.
- For DSM Semi-Final Classes and DSM Finals Classes, competitors must comply with all championship rules for those championships pertaining to horses entered in Great American Insurance Group/USDF championship classes, including but not limited to the rule that only the rider entered in the championship class may ride that horse. Borrowed horses that are only entered in open (i.e. USDF or USEF non-championship) classes at these shows are not subject to the one-rider restriction. Additionally, horses and ponies may be ridden by only one rider in each division but may compete in both divisions.

*****VISIT THE USDF WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT RULES AND UPDATES*****