The total number of renewing Alliance Partner organizations has continued to decrease over the past ten years. The requirements and responsibilities associated with obtaining Alliance Partner status have become more restrictive and onerous in the past few years making the classification less desirable and not offset by the few benefits these organizations receive for obtaining the classification. In 2022, the total number of organizations that renewed their Alliance Partner status had lowered to 14. The amount of staff time dedicated to processing the renewal applications and verifying compliance with the Alliance Partner obligations far exceeds any benefit realized by the Federation. In June, 2022, USEF stopped accepting new Alliance Partner applications and it will not seek renewal from the existing Alliance Partners for the 2023 year. Organizations or businesses seeking to run a league or series at USEF competitions will register with the USEF and pay an applicable fee. Additionally, Education Partner organizations (formerly considered a sub-set of Alliance Partners) or any other organizations wishing to maintain a formal connection with USEF (e.g., UPHA) can do so by having USEF draft individual contracted agreements with each entity to codify the mutually agreed-upon terms. This rule change is submitted to remove all references to Alliance Partners from the USEF Rule Book beginning with the 2024 competition year.
GR204 Affiliated Associations and Associated Youth Organizations

1. Recognized Affiliate Associations
Recognized Affiliate Associations consist of corporations, organizations, and associations in good standing that have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Federation. Recognized Affiliate Associations shall comply with and be bound by the bylaws and the Rules of the Federation and decisions of the Federation including those of the Hearing Committee, and must pay annual fees and/or dues as determined by the Federation. Recognized Affiliate categories shall include:
   a. International Discipline Associations where the discipline is recognized through the Federation to the FEI or the USOPC. The Federation may only recognize one International Discipline Association for each discipline recognized by the FEI. International Discipline Associations are sometimes referred to as the “FEI Affiliates”; or
   b. National Associations where the national breed or discipline has competition rules which have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Federation for inclusion in the Federation’s Rulebook. The Federation may only recognize one national breed/discipline association for each breed or discipline with competition rules in the Rulebook. If a Recognized National Affiliate Association ceases to affiliate with the Federation, the Board of Directors may in its discretion replace the organization that has seceded or been removed for cause with another association involving the same breed or discipline or the Board of Directors may replace the organization with an appropriate Federation Breed or Discipline Committee. Such Committee shall be deemed a Recognized National Affiliate Association for purposes of Bylaw 303. Recognized National Affiliate Association requirements are established by the Board of Directors from time to time.

2. Alliance Partners consist of corporations, associations, educational institutions offering equine related programs, or other organizations approved by the Federation. Alliance Partners must pay annual fees and/or dues as determined by the Federation.

3. Any Alliance Partner local or state organization or association that is also a member of affiliated with a Federation Recognized Affiliate may utilize only the applicable Breed/Discipline rules contained in the Federation Rulebook as a guideline for conducting non-Federation competitions. Such use does not include access to the Federation regulatory process. The use of any other Federation rules is prohibited unless written permission is granted by the Federation.

4. Any non-Federation competitions using the applicable Breed/Discipline rules as described in .3 above must give notice to exhibitors in the prize list that Federation rules do not apply.

[...]

CHAPTER 9 COMPETITION PRIZE LISTS AND ENTRIES

SUBCHAPTER 9-C SUBMISSION, ACCEPTANCE, AND REFUSAL OF ENTRIES

GR915 Limiting Entries

[...]

3. Leagues, Series, and Finals:
   a. Definitions:
      1. “Finals” means any championship, trophy or other award final, league final or other final class or final event with entries based upon the outcomes of earlier contests.
      2. “System” means classes or events which are part of a league, series, ranking/tracking lists or championship, final trophy or other award system, whether or not generated or tracked by a computer program or otherwise.
   b. All of the following requirements must also be met:
      1. The league or series must be run under the auspices of either a Recognized Affiliate or have registered with an Alliance Partner of the Federation and paid the applicable fee.
      2. All the qualifying classes must be held at Federation licensed competitions, or at competitions recognized by a Recognized Affiliate or an Alliance Partner of the Federation.
      3. The league or series must award the qualifying classes to licensed competitions on an equal basis. If a licensed competition meets the requirements to hold a qualifying class and wishes to do so, it must be given the opportunity.
      4. The principal of the organization or individuals financially responsible for the league or series system
must be USEF Federation Senior Active Members, Federation Recognized Affiliates, or Federation Alliance Partners and must agree to be bound by and comply with all applicable Federation rules in the conduct of the System and its application in the league or series.

5. If there is an award category for classes in the league or series and the above requirements are met, HOTY points will be awarded for the qualifying classes and for the finals held at licensed competitions.

6. If the finals of a league, series, or other ranking system are not held at a licensed competition, HOTY points for the finals will not be awarded.