

| Rule Change Type | Effective Date | Draft Received | Board Action |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Standard | 12/1/2023 | 6/7/2023 | |

Rule Change Intent

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.

| Proponent Details | Contact Information |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| USEF Officers | Leslie Mangan lmangan@usef.org |
| Linked Rules | Comments |

Committee Actions

AHHS

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/15/2022

Draft 1: The committee is recommending disapproval of the proposed rule change. While the committee agrees with the intent, they believe forcing all league, series, or final qualification classes to occur at federation licensed competition would be detrimental to organizations such as UPHA. The committee questioned whether the individual contracted agreements would take into consideration exceptions for such organizations or will it be a blanket agreement. The committee would love to see more federation licensed competition, however, at this time, competitions are struggling with costs associated, stewards, etc. This rule change would add severe hardship to competition organizers and result in a loss of entries, negatively impacting the sport.

Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/19/2022

Arabian

Draft 1: No Action 02/09/2023

ARHPA

ASHA

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/31/2023

Competition Management

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/24/2023

Draft 1: It would be a hardship to not allow qualifying at a non licensed competition

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/13/2022

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/09/2023

Council - Member Services

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/09/2023

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 05/15/2023

Draft 1: The Council agreed with the intent to remove the alliance partner designation, however, they voted to disapprove mandating all qualifying classes occurring at Federation licensed competitions. This would be detrimental to the grass roots level competitors. Many Affiliates have programs that run at unlicensed events to catch more grass root level riders and get them qualified for their Championships/Finals. Often, this is the competitors first introduction to a USEF Licensed Competition. The Council is asking the USEF Officers to consider removing that language in the current proposal or to create individual agreements with those organizations that would be effected with carve out for those programs.

Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/22/2023

Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/11/2023

Endurance

Draft 1: No Action 04/06/2023

Friesian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/30/2023

Hackney

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/13/2023

Draft 1: The committee calls to disapprove this rule change. Written within the rule change it states that all qualifying classes for League, Series, and Finals, be held at Federation licensed competitions. This would be detrimental to the Hackney Medallion Classes. Currently, these classes are run at non-licensed shows. The intent of the Medallion classes was to increase participation, and encourage competition within the Hackney community, for those that cannot afford to attend Federation licensed events. By enforcing this rule, it will decrease the accessibility of the classes to Hackney exhibitors, thus severely impacting the industry.

Morgan

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/20/2022

Draft 1: The committee does not agree with the dissolution of the alliance partnership level, they feel this leaves the current alliance partners who have been loyal to USEF without protection and feeling underappreciated. The committee also disagrees with the language which requires qualification to occur at Federation licensed competitions.

National Hunter Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/06/2023

National Show Horse

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/20/2023

Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 05/09/2023

Draft 1: The Advisory Group disapproved of the rule change because requiring all qualifying classes to be held at Federation licensed competitions would be detrimental to the grass roots level of competition.

Paso Fino

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/06/2022

PFHA

Roadster

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/22/2023

Draft 1: Although the committee agrees with the removal of the alliance partner category, they do not agree with the verbiage of having all league, series, and qualifying classes run at federation licensed competitions. This will have a significant impact on the roadster community. By accepting this change, the roadster community would see a significant drop in attendees at licensed competitions. The committee would approve this rule change if this language was removed.

Saddle Seat Eq

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/07/2022

Draft 1: The committee disapproved the rule change due to concerns of qualifying classes being held at licensed Federation competitions. Currently, there are numerous UPHA classes held for youth at non-licensed competitions. There are concerns that by adding this requirement, less opportunities for youth will become available. The committee feels these shows will not be licensed, which in turn will result in a decrease in exhibitors, causing a hardship on competitions.

Shetland

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/24/2023

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/24/2023

Draft 1: No additional comment

USHJA

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/15/2022

Draft 1: The Board has concerns about the limited entries part that removes USHJA from the review process. The Board would approve if affiliate was still included in review process for league series and limited entry requests. Don't strike out affiliate part.

Welsh

Draft 1: No Action 12/08/2022

Draft 1: The committee moved to take no action as this proposal does not impact this discipline.

Western Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/08/2023

Western Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/24/2023

Draft 1: The committee disagrees with dissolving the Alliance Partnership which allows entry level shows, not licensed with USEF, to still use the USEF rules for competitions that are under the umbrella of the Alliance partner, regardless of if licensed or not. The ability for these shows to run using USEF rules allows for entry level exhibitors to be learning from the same rules used at recognized shows. It also allows for a fair and level playing field. This change would be extremely detrimental to the growth of Western Dressage worldwide.

CHAPTER 2 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS

SUBCHAPTER 2-B AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

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. **See Bylaw 222.** ~~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 that is also a member of 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.~~

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

GR914 Limiting Entries

For Hunter and Jumper competitions see HJ125 - 126.

1. Management can limit the number of horses entered by an owner and the number of horses ridden by a rider.
2. Any competition that sets restrictive criteria for accepting entries and/or offers classes or events which are part of a league, series or other ranking or award system must do so by meeting the applicable requirements described below:
 - a. Based strictly on a First-Come, First-Served basis (See GR907.1) under this method the prize list must be distributed at least two weeks prior to close of entries to any person requesting a prize list as well as at least three times the number of potential entrants as there will be entries accepted.
 - b. Qualification based only on winnings or participation: (i.e., ribbons and/or prize money or dressage scores during a specified time period, of at least eight (8) consecutive weeks' duration, established by Competition Management and published in the prize list or otherwise prior to the end of the specified period. (See applicable breed/discipline rules for further requirements under this rule).
 - c. By CEO Approval: Any other competition wishing to set restrictive criteria for accepting entries other than as specified above must make written application to the Federation CEO, accompanied by a nonrefundable fee, at least 120 days prior to the event detailing the criteria being requested. The Federation office may refer the

application to the appropriate discipline or other committee for its recommendation regarding the application prior to the application and any recommendation being considered by the CEO. The CEO will consider such recommendations and may approve any such applications in their discretion and may condition any such approval in their discretion, and must require, if approved, that there be publication in the prize list or otherwise of such restrictive criteria sufficiently in advance of the closing date of entries, where appropriate, for all interested to have a fair opportunity to enter.

~~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 an Alliance Partner of the Federation.~~
- ~~2. All the qualifying classes must be held at 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 organization or individuals financially responsible for the system must be USEF 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.~~

GR916 Leagues, Series, and Finals

1. Leagues, Series, and Finals:

a. Definitions:

- i. "Finals" means any championship, trophy or other award final, league or series final or other final class or final event with entries based upon the outcomes of earlier contests.**
- ii. "System" means classes or events which are part of a league, series, ranking/tracking lists or championship, final trophy, or other award system, whether generated or tracked by a computer program or otherwise.**
- iii. "League" means a group of competitions held over a period of time leading up to a League Finals.**
- iv. "Series" means two or more competitions held in succession leading up to a Series Finals.**

b. All of the following requirements must also be met:

- i. The League or Series must be registered with and approved by the Federation and pay the applicable fee.**
- ii. All the qualifying classes must be held at Federation licensed competitions, unless otherwise approved by the Federation's Chief Executive Officer.**
- iii. 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.**
- iv. The principal of the organization or individuals financially responsible for the League or Series must be Federation Senior Active Members, 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.

- v. ***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.***
- vi. ***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.***