



August 15, 2023

William J. Moroney, Chief Executive Officer
US Equestrian Federation
4001 Wing Commander Way
Lexington, KY 40511
Sent via email: bmoroney@usef.org

Dear Mr. Moroney:

Thank you for submitting your request for a Presidential Modification to the application of USEF Lite rules GR310.1, GR310.7.6, AR162.1.k-m, HJ127.1-2, HK103.2, HK134.3, RD101.2, SB145.1.b, SB204.2, SP107.2, and WL102.2.a-c. A Presidential Modification is granted in cases of extraordinary, special circumstances. When measured against that criterion, it has been determined that your request does meet the standard for a Presidential Modification and therefore is approved.

As a result, the USEF Lite rules identified above and in the rule modification attachment are effective August 15, 2023 through November 30, 2024. These rule modifications will:

- Provide the Federation with the ability to consider allowing competitions that offer more than \$500 in prize money to be licensed as USEF Lite;
- Establish horse entry number thresholds to define eligibility for an Arabian, Morgan, Saddlebred/Roadster/Hackney/Harness, or Multi-Breed USEF Lite competition license that will permit these competitions to be licensed as USEF Lite for longer than three years (*see attached "Entry Thresholds for USEF Lite License Maintenance" document*); and
- Exempt measurement requirements for horses and ponies competing in classes restricted by height.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. X. O'Mara
President

cc: Lisa Owens, Competition Operating Director
Katlynn Wilbers, Competition Licensing, Evaluation & Safety Director
Terri Dolan, National Breeds & Disciplines Sport Manager
David O'Connor, Chief of Sport
Alina Brazzil, Licensed Officials Director

Attachments

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Entry Thresholds for USEF Lite License Maintenance Effective August 15, 2023

The following are specific unique horse entry thresholds that allow competitions to retain a USEF Lite License for more than three years:

USEF Lite, Sub-Type Arabian

- Competitions with **200 or fewer** unique horse entries in the previous two consecutive years can become or remain **USEF Lite**. This would include existing Regular or Local Sub-Type Arabian competitions, except for AHA Regional or National Championships (see third bullet point).
- Competitions with **over 200** unique horse entries for the previous two consecutive years must obtain either a **USEF Regular** or **Local** license.
- All AHA Regional or National Championships must have a USEF Regular license.
- All non-USEF licensed AHA Value Shows can enter the USEF Lite license environment for two years. Following the second year of operation, and every year thereafter, if the unique horse entry count exceeds 200 for the prior two consecutive years, the competition is no longer eligible for a USEF Lite license.
- All new Arabian competitions can enter the USEF Lite license environment for two years. Following the second year, and every year thereafter, if the unique horse entry count exceeds 200 for the prior two consecutive years, the competition is no longer eligible for a USEF Lite license.

USEF Lite, Sub-Type Morgan or Multi-Breed

- Existing Regular, Morgan Sub-Type competitions cannot become USEF Lite. If there is an extreme hardship being incurred by a competition, it may apply for an exemption from this restriction. The request will be reviewed by both USEF and AMHA.
- All AMHA Regional or National Championships must have a USEF Regular license.
- Existing Regular or Local Multi-Breed Sub-Type competitions with a two-year average of **200 or fewer** unique horse entries can become a **USEF Lite** Competition.
- Existing USEF Lite Multi-Breed Sub-Type competitions with Morgan Division classes can continue to operate in the USEF Lite environment for a maximum of three years. Following the third year, and every year thereafter, if the average of the previous three-year unique horse entry number exceeds **200** the competition must obtain either a **USEF Regular** or **Local** license.
- All non-USEF licensed AMHA Star Shows can enter the USEF Lite license environment for three years. Following the third year, and every year thereafter, if the average of the previous three-year unique horse entry number exceeds **200** the competition must obtain either a **USEF Regular** or **Local** license.
- All new Morgan or Multi-Breed Sub-Type competitions with Morgan Division classes can enter the USEF Lite license environment for three years. Following the third year, and every year thereafter, if the average of the previous three-year unique horse entry number exceeds **200** the competition must obtain either a **USEF Regular** or **Local** license.



USEF Lite, Sub-Type Saddlebred/Hackney/Roadster/Harness or Multi-Breed

- Existing Regular, SB/HK/RD/HRN Sub-Type competitions cannot become USEF Lite. If there is an extreme hardship being incurred by a competition, it may apply for an exemption from this restriction. Requests will be reviewed by both USEF and ASHBA.
- Existing Regular or Local Multi-Breed Sub-Type competitions with a two-year average of **200 or fewer** unique horse entries can become a **USEF Lite** Competition.
- Existing USEF Lite Multi-Breed Sub-Type competitions can continue to operate in the USEF Lite environment for a maximum of three years. Following the third year, and every year thereafter, if the average of the previous three-year unique horse entry number exceeds **200** the competition must obtain either a **USEF Regular** or **Local** license.
- All non-USEF licensed ASHBA Star Shows can enter the USEF Lite license environment for three years. Following the third year, and every year thereafter, if the average of the previous three-year unique horse entry number exceeds **200** the competition must obtain either a **USEF Regular** or **Local** license.
- All new SB/RD/HK/HRN or Multi-Breed Sub-Type competitions with Saddlebred Division classes can enter the USEF Lite license environment for three years. Following the third year and every year thereafter, if the average of the previous three-year unique horse entry number exceeds **200** the competition must obtain either a **USEF Regular** or **Local** license.

For all License Types (Excluding Dressage)

- If a previously USEF-licensed Regular or Local competition leaves the recognized environment for one or two consecutive years and then reapplies to the Federation, it would be allowed to apply for a USEF Lite license.

GR310 Restrictions on Local Competitions

1. **Unless otherwise approved by the Federation**, the total cash prizes shall not exceed **five hundred dollars (\$500.00)**. Except Open Western Division (see GR310.5), 100% sweepstakes, and Reining Competitions; not including value of trophies offered. **For Hunter and/or Jumper Lite competitions, the value of any in-kind gifts and awards shall count toward the total amount of prize money offered and, unless otherwise approved by the Federation, cannot exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) total for the competition. (BOD 06/20/23 Effective 12/01/2023)**

2. The designation Local Competition must be stated on the cover of the prize list.

3. The Federation and applicable Federation Recognized Affiliate Association non-member/Show Pass fee will not apply.

4. Local Competitions benefit from all the general rules of the Federation and must abide by applicable division rules unless class specifications are printed otherwise in the prize list.

5. Western Division competitions may retain Local Competition status regardless of the amount of prize money offered.

6. Hunter Division competitions or competitions restricted to Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation must obtain a Regular Competition License **or a Lite competition license. Competitions offering any Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Medal classes with a National Year-End Final are not eligible for Lite competition status and must obtain a Regular competition license. (BOD 06/20/23 Effective 12/01/2023)**

7. Lite. Beginning December 1, 2022, Lite Competitions are a subtype of Local Licenses and are to be conducted in accordance with the General Chapters and applicable breed/discipline Chapter, except as stated otherwise below (Exception: Open Dressage classes are not permitted to be held at Lite Competitions):

1. License requirements

a. Eligibility Requirements. The following competitions are eligible to be licensed as Lite:

1. A first-time competition;

2. A competition that has only ever been run as a Lite competition in the past three (3) years; or

3. A competition that has not been Federation Licensed in the past three (3) years; or

4. A competition that meets the criteria listed on the Federation website.

4 5. A competition that does not meet the above criteria may submit a request to be licensed as Lite. The licensing request will be reviewed and a decision will be rendered in the Federation's Chief Executive Officer's sole discretion.

b. Licensing Requirements.

1. License applications and a copy of the prize list must be submitted thirty (30) days prior to the first day of competition.

2. Competitions may operate under a Lite license for no more than three (3) consecutive years. **Exception: competitions that meet the criteria listed on the Federation website.**

3. The licensees of (i) Lite Licensed Competitions that have operated for three (3) consecutive years or (ii) competitions that have operated under a regular competition license in any of the previous three (3) year(s) are prohibited from submitting a new application for comparable dates in an attempt to downgrade to a Lite license by the same licensee or any entity associated with the licensee for a period of two (2) years. **Exception: competitions that meet the criteria listed on the Federation website.** If the licensee is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity.

2. Membership Requirements
 - a. Any individual signing an entry blank as Trainer or Coach, must be an Active Competing Member of the Federation.
3. Safe Sport Requirements
 - a. Any individual signing an entry blank as Trainer or Coach, must have completed the Safe Sport Training prior to the first day of competition.
 - b. Competition Manager(s), Secretary, and any person acting in the role of a licensed official are bound by all requirements of the USEF Safe Sport Policy.
4. Steward and Technical Delegate requirements
 - a. Competitions must have at least one Steward or Technical Delegate who meets the following criteria:
 1. Enrolled in and pursuing a Federation Steward or Technical Delegate license and have completed the Designated Applicant Training; or
 2. Licensed Federation Steward or Technical Delegate.
5. Federation Horse of The Year (HOTY) Points
 - a. For HOTY Points Associated with the Horse. Lite Competitions will award half-value points to all USEF Recorded horses, whose owner is a Federation Active Competing Member and meets any applicable breed/discipline required memberships. **Exception: No Federation National or USHJA Zone HOTY points will be awarded at Hunter and/or Jumper Lite Competitions.**
 - b. For HOTY Points Associated with the Rider. Lite Competitions will award half-value points to all riders who are Federation Active Competing Members and meet any applicable breed/discipline required memberships. **Exception: No Federation National or USHJA Zone HOTY points will be awarded at Hunter and/or Jumper Lite Competitions. (BOD 06/20/23 Effective 12/01/2023)**
6. **Measurement**
 - a. **A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony.**

AR162 Height of Obstacles

1. Regular Hunter Divisions/Classes to be determined as follows (Note: any class offered at an AHA approved show that does not specifically adhere to the following nomenclature and specifications will be considered an unrated class):

[...]

 - k. 14.2 hands and under Working Hunter Over Fences - Open - 2'6" - must have a Federation measurement card or a Federation valid measurement form issued by the Federation in accordance with AR159.4. **Exception: Lite competitions.**
 - l. 14.2 hands and under Working Hunter JTR, AATR, ATR, AOTR - 2'3" - must have a Federation measurement card or a valid Federation measurement form issued by the Federation in accordance with AR159.4. **Exception: Lite competitions.**
 - m. 14.2 hand and under Green Hunter over Fences - Open - 2'3" - must have a Federation/EC measurement card or a valid Federation measurement form issued by the Federation in accordance with AR159.4. **Exception: Lite competitions.** Horses never to have been shown over fences at Federation licensed Arabian competitions...

HJ127 General

1. Horses or ponies competing in any division, section or class where height is a requirement must be measured. Measurements will be conducted in accordance with Subchapter HJ-7 Measurement.

Exception: Lite competitions

2. Competition Management is required to check measurement cards for horses or ponies showing in divisions, sections, or classes where height is a requirement. **Exception: Lite competitions.** Management shall not provide a back number to an animal entered in such sections unless the exhibitor or their agent is in possession of:

- a. the original or a copy of a measurement card issued by the Federation.
- b. a copy of a valid measurement form.

HK103 Height

[...]

2. Ponies shown in the Harness Pony and Roadster Pony sections must possess a current measurement card or valid measurement form issued by the Federation. (See GR502). **Exception: Lite competitions.**

HK134 General

[...]

3. Ponies may not be shown in a Roadster performance class unless the owner possesses a current measurement card or valid measurement form issued by the Federation or Management can confirm the measurement electronically with the Federation (see General Rules, GR502). **Exception: Lite competitions.**

RD101 Eligibility

[...]

2. Roadster Ponies: Registration is not required for ponies competing in the Roadster division. Ponies may not be shown in a performance class unless the owner possesses a current Measurement Card or valid Measurement Form issued by the Federation (see GR502). **Exception: Lite competitions.** All Roadster Ponies must be re-measured and issued new measurement cards prior to competing in licensed competitions for the year 2004 and beyond.

SB145 Division of Classes

1. Classes may be divided according to:

- a. Sex or age of horse.
- b. Height—over 15.2 hands; 15.2 hands and under; 14.2 hands and under. Entries 14.2 hands and under must possess a valid measurement card or form, the measurement to be done as per SB204.3. **Exception: Lite competitions.**

SB204 Eligibility

1. Ponies must be ridden by Junior Exhibitors; therefore, manners are paramount and the ponies should have agreeable attitudes.

2. American Saddlebred-type Pony classes are restricted to mares and geldings 14.2 hands and under (see SB204.3c). The owner must possess a current USEF Measurement Card or a valid measurement form issued by the Federation. See GR502. **Exception: Lite competitions.**

SP107 Height

2. A pony shall not be shown in a Performance class unless the owner is in possession of a current ASPC or Federation Measurement Card or valid measurement form issued by ASPC or the Federation or

Management can confirm the measurement electronically with the Federation. (See GR502.)
Exception: Lite competitions.

WL102 Height

2. Management shall not permit an animal to be shown in any Welsh performance class at a Federation Licensed Competition unless the person presenting the animal is in possession of one of the following:

- a. A measurement card issued by the Federation bearing the date of August 15, 1993 or thereafter; **Exception: Lite competitions;** or
- b. Certified measurement card applied for prior to December 1, 1987; **Exception: Lite competitions;** or
- c. A copy of a valid measurement form. Competition management may, at its discretion, confirm any of the foregoing information electronically with the Federation Office. **Exception: Lite competitions.**
- d. A copy of a valid permanent measurement card issued by WPCSA or two copies of a temporary measurement card issued by WPCSA.