All Dressage licensed official applicants must submit a USDF training program application to USDF.

**Recorded Judge Application Information**

Following the approval of a Licensed Officials Checklist and submission of a USDF training program application, applicants will be placed on the training program waitlist.

Once approved into a training program, the USDF Education Department will send the following material to the applicant:

- Guidelines for Apprenticing and Observing
- Mentor Criteria
- Synopsis of Apprenticing Requirements
- Tabulation Form
- Verification of Apprenticing/Observing Form
- Evaluation Form for Apprenticing
- Competition Management’s Evaluation of Apprentice Form
- Confirmation of Completion Form

**Training Program Format**

The Training Program is offered in two sections. The first section will last three days and is the training part, and the second section is the examination. There should be a minimum of 10 to 12 months between the two sections. All apprenticing must be completed before taking the exam. Only ten applicants can be accepted per program and no auditors are allowed.

1. **Online Lectures and Quizzes** - Prior to the start of the program the following topics have to be studied online and 10 to 15 quiz questions per lecture must be answered:
   a. Licensing and Regulation
   b. Rules and a Review of the Rulebook
   c. Biomechanics
   d. Dressage Seat Equitation
   e. Freestyle
   f.

2. **Classroom Session** - Every program must begin with this session of six to eight hours, and should cover the following subjects:
   a. Introduction and briefing of applicants
   b. Answer questions that the applicants might have regarding the subjects that were taught online
   c. Discussion of online rule quiz
   d. Recap and discussion of all other pertinent USEF rules, procedures, and directives, including current changes and/or additions as listed in the Rulebook supplement.
e. Use of .5 marks  
f. Position and Aids of the Rider  
g. Recap of judging methodology and criteria of the various gaits and paces, as well as the key figures and movements for Training through Second level.  
h. Recognizing correct basics at Training through Second level  
i. Vocabulary and remarks for Training through Second level. (May be taught by using videos).

3. Practice Judging Session on Figures and Movements:  
a. In this session the applicants will practice judge all key figures and movements from all Training through Second Level tests. This may be a structured session or it may take place during a USEF licensed Dressage Competition.  
b. Scribes are not mandatory for this session. However, if the applicant feels more comfortable having a scribe, they should plan to bring their own scribes with them or ask the organizer for suggestions for local scribes who may be willing to work with applicants. Please be advised that some scribes want to be paid.  
c. The instructor is required to evaluate each applicant and return the evaluation form directly to the USDF.

4. Practice Judging of Entire Tests, including Collective Marks  
a. This session must be done at a USEF licensed Level 2 or higher Dressage Competition. Entire tests at Training through Second level, including Collective Marks and summaries under further remarks, must be judged and discussed. At least 8 to 10 horses per level should be judged.  
b. Scribes are mandatory for this session.  
c. The instructor is required to evaluate each applicant and return the evaluation form directly to the USDF.

5. Examination  
After the applicant has completed ALL requirements of the training program, they will be examined at a licensed USEF Dressage Competition, by two examiners appointed by USDF. The examination consists of a 60-90 minute written exam plus 1 ½ days of oral questions and practical evaluation.  
The examination includes:  
a. A closed book examination on the USEF Dressage Rules (including but not limited to rules pertaining to criteria for paces, figures and movements, conduct of Dressage classes, and rules governing judges), pertinent USEF General Rules, and the USDF Glossary. The written test usually takes place on the evening prior to the oral examination and practical testing. All applicants must take the written examination at the same time. No resource materials, including computers, may be used for the written test.  
b. Oral examination will include questions pertinent to judging e.g. the criteria and essence of a particular movement as well as questions about vocabulary or methodology of judging.
c. Practical judging will require judging of entire tests, including Collective marks and summaries under Further Remarks at Training, First, and Second level.

Grading of the Final Examination
a. Closed-book written examination – The written examination is graded at the USDF Office. For a successful completion, the applicant must attain a passing score of 80% or better. If the applicant fails the written exam, a one-time only make-up exam can be taken in a proctored situation but not until at least six months after the first attempt.
b. Oral examination and practical judging - If an applicant fails the practical test (includes oral examination), he may repeat the practical exam by joining a current program.
c. If the applicant fails either portion of the exam twice, the entire program must be repeated.
The USDF office will inform the applicants about the results of the examination.
Examiners must never advise any applicant of the result. Competition Manager’s Evaluation form is to be given to the manager to complete and return to the USDF office.

What to bring to the classroom and practical judging sessions
- Notebook, pencils, pens
- Laptop or other devices if at all possible
- All handouts that were downloaded for the various online lessons and current USDF ‘L’ program handouts
- Test sheets with their own diagrams for all Training through Second level tests.
- USEF Rule Book and any rule book supplements.
- Glossary (USDF)

What to bring to the Final Examination
- Their own scribes or ask the organizer for suggestions of local scribes who may be willing to work with an applicant
- Test sheets with their own diagrams for all tests to be judged
- Pens (not pencils) and clipboard
- Calculator
- USEF Rule Book
Registered Judge Application Information

Following the approval of a Licensed Officials Checklist and submission of a USDF training program application, applicants will be placed on the training program waitlist.

Once approved into a training program, the USDF Education Department will send the following material to the applicant:

- Guidelines for Apprenticing and Observing
- Mentor Criteria
- Synopsis of Apprenticing Requirements
- Tabulation Form
- Verification of Apprenticing/Observing Form
- Evaluation Form for Apprenticing
- Competition Management’s Evaluation of Apprentice Form
- Confirmation of Completion Form

Training Program Format

The Training Program is offered in two sections: the first section will last three days and is the training part, and the second section is the examination. There should be a minimum of 10-12 months between the two sections. All apprenticing must be completed before taking the exam. Only 10 applicants can be accepted per program and no auditors are allowed.

1. Online Lectures and Quizzes - Prior to the start of the program the following topics have to be studied online and 10 to 15 quiz questions answered:
   a. Apprenticing & Regulations
   b. Biomechanics of the horse
   c. Dressage Seat Equitation
   d. Freestyle judging
   e. Young Horse judging

2. Classroom Session - Every program must begin with this session of six to eight hours, and should cover the following subjects:
   a. Introduction and a briefing of applicants
   b. Answer questions that the applicants might have regarding the subjects that were taught on line
   c. Discussion of on-line rule quiz
   d. Recap and discussion of all other pertinent USEF rules, procedures, and directives, including current changes and/or additions as listed in the Rulebook supplement.
   e. Use of .5 marks
   f. Position and aids of the rider
   g. Recap of judging methodology and criteria of the various gaits and paces, as well as the key figures and movements for the Third and Fourth levels.
   h. Recognizing correct basics at the Third and Fourth levels
   i. Vocabulary and remarks for the Third and Fourth levels (May be taught by using videos).

3. Practice Judging Session on Figures and Movements:
a. In this session the applicants will practice judge all key figures and movements from all Third and Fourth Level tests. This may be a structured session or it may take place during a USEF licensed Dressage Competition.

b. Scribes are not mandatory for this session. However, if applicants feel more comfortable having scribes, they should plan to bring their own scribes with them or ask the organizer for suggestions for local scribes who may be willing to work with applicants. Please be advised that some scribes want to be paid.

c. The instructor is required to evaluate each applicant and return the evaluation form directly to the USDF.

4. Practice Judging of Entire Tests, including Collective Marks.
   a. This session must be done at a USEF licensed level 2 or 3 Dressage Competition. Entire tests at Third and Fourth level, including Collective Marks and summaries under Further Remarks, must be judged and discussed. At least 8 to 10 horses per level should be judged.
   b. Scribes are mandatory for this session.
   c. The instructor is required to evaluate each applicant and return the evaluation form to the USDF.

5. Examination: After the applicant has completed ALL requirements of the training program, they will be examined at a USEF licensed dressage competition, by two examiners appointed by USDF. The examination consists of a 60–90 minute evening session to complete the written exam plus 1 ½ days of oral questions and practical evaluation. The examination includes:
   a. A closed book examination on the USEF Dressage Rules (including but not limited to rules pertaining to criteria for paces, figures and movements, conduct of Dressage classes, and rules governing judges), pertinent USEF General Rules, and the USDF Glossary. The written test usually takes place on the evening prior to the oral examination and practical testing. All applicant must take the written examination at the same time. No resource materials, including computers, may be used for the written test.
   b. Oral examination will include questions pertinent to judging e.g. the criteria and essence of a particular movement as well as questions about vocabulary or methodology of judging.
   c. Practical judging will require judging of entire tests, including Collective Marks and summaries under Further Remarks at Third and Fourth level (or equivalent tests).

Grading of the Final Examination
   a. Closed-book written examination – The written examination is graded at the USDF Office. For a successful completion, the applicant must attain a passing score of 80% or better. If the applicant fails the written exam, a one-time only make-up exam can be taken in a proctored situation but not until at least six months after the first attempt.
   b. Oral examination and practical judging - If an applicant fails the practical test (includes oral examination), he may repeat the practical exam by joining a current program.
   c. If the applicant fails either portion of the exam twice, the entire program must be repeated.
The USDF office informs the applicants about the results of the examination. Examiners must never advise any applicant of the result.

**What to bring to the classroom sessions**
- Note book, pencils, pens
- Laptop or other devices if at all possible
- All handouts that were downloaded for the various online lessons and current ‘L’ program handouts
- Their own diagrams for all Third and Fourth level tests
- USEF Rule Book and any rule book supplements.
- Glossary (USDF)

**What to bring to the final examination**
- Their own scribe or ask the organizer for suggestions of local scribes who may be willing to work with an applicant.
- Test sheets with their own diagrams for all tests to be judged.
- Pens, pencils and clipboard.
- Calculator
- USEF Rule Book
Senior Judge Applicant Information

Following the approval of a Licensed Officials Checklist and submission of a USDF training program application, applicants will be placed on the training program waitlist.

Once approved into a training program, the USDF Education Department will send the following material to the applicant:

- Guidelines for Apprenticing and Observing
- Mentor Criteria
- Synopsis of Apprenticing Requirements
- Tabulation Form
- Verification of Apprenticing/Observing Form
- Evaluation Form for Apprenticing
- Competition Management’s Evaluation of Apprentice Form
- Confirmation of Completion Form

Training Program Format
The Training Program is offered in two sections: the first section will last three days and is the training part, and the second section is the examination. There should be a minimum of 10-12 months between the two sections. All apprenticing must be completed before taking the exam. Only 10 applicants can be accepted per program and no auditors are allowed.

1. Online Lectures and Quizzes Prior to the start of the program the following topics have to be studied on line and 10 to 15 quiz questions answered:
   a. Apprenticing & Regulations
   b. Biomechanics of the horse
   c. Dressage Seat Equitation
   d. Freestyle judging
   e. Young Horse judging
2. Classroom Session - Every program must begin with this session. Six to eight hours should cover the following subjects:
   a. Introduction and a briefing of the applicants.
   b. Answer questions that the applicants might have regarding the subjects that were taught on line.
   c. Discussion of online rule quiz.
   d. Recap and discussion of all other pertinent USEF rules, procedures, and directives, including current changes and/or additions as listed in the Rulebook supplement.
   e. Use of .5 marks.
   f. Position and aids of the rider.
   g. Recap of judging methodology and criteria of the various gaits and paces, as well as the key figures and movements for each of the FEI tests.
   h. Recognizing correct basics at the FEI levels.
   i. Vocabulary and remarks for the FEI levels. (May be taught by using videos).
3. Practice Judging Session on Figures and Movements

2/19/2019
a. In this session the applicants will practice judge all paces, movements, and figures of Prix St. Georges through Grand Prix Special and FEI Young Riders Tests. This may be a structured session or it may take place during a USEF licensed Dressage Competition.

b. Scribes are not mandatory for this session. However, if applicant feels more comfortable having a scribe, they should plan to bring their own scribes with them or ask the organizer for suggestions for local scribes who may be willing to work with applicants. Please be advised that some scribes want to be paid.

c. The instructors are required to evaluate each applicant and return the evaluation form to the USDF.

4. Practice Judging of Entire Tests, including Collective Marks
   a. This session must be done at a USEF licensed level 4 or 5 Dressage Competition. Entire tests at Prix St. Georges through Grand Prix, including Collective Marks, and summaries under further remarks, must be judged and discussed. At least eight to 10 horses per level should be judged.
   b. Scribes are mandatory for this session.
   c. The instructors are required to evaluate each applicant and return the evaluation form to the USDF.

5. Examination
   After the applicant has completed ALL requirements of the training program, they will be examined at a USEF licensed dressage competition, by two examiners appointed by USDF. The examination generally consists of a 60–90minute evening session to complete the written exam plus 1 ½ days of oral questions and practical evaluation through judging of actual rides. The exact time frame depends on the schedule of the competition selected for the examination.

The examination includes:
   a. A closed book examination on the USEF Dressage Rules (including but not limited to rules pertaining to criteria for paces, figures and movements, conduct of Dressage classes, and rules governing judges), pertinent USEF General Rules, and the USDF Glossary. The written test usually takes place on the evening prior to the oral examination and practical testing. All applicants must take the written examination at the same time. No resource materials, including computers, may be used for the written test. For a successful completion, the applicant must attain a passing score of 80% or better.

   b. Oral examination will include questions pertinent to judging e.g. the criteria and essence of a particular movement as well as questions about vocabulary or methodology of judging.

   c. Practical judging: Judging of entire tests, including Collective Marks and summaries under Further Remarks at all the FEI levels (Prix St. Georges through Grand Prix) is required for the practical examination.

Grading of the Final Examination
   a. Closed-book written examination – The written examination is graded at the USDF Office. If the applicant fails the written exam, a one-time only make-up exam can be taken in a proctored situation but not until at least six months after the first attempt.
b. Oral examination and practical judging - If a applicant fails the practical test (including the oral examination), he may repeat the practical exam by joining a current program.

c. If the applicant fails either portion of the exam twice, the entire program must be repeated.

The USDF office informs the applicants about the results of the examination. Examiners must never advise any applicant of the result.

**What to bring to the classroom sessions**
- Note book, pencils, pens,
- Laptop or other devices if at all possible
- All handouts that were downloaded for the various online lessons and current ‘L’ program handouts
- Their own diagrams for all FEI tests
- USEF Rule Book and any rulebook supplements.
- FEI Dressage Rules
- USDF Glossary
- FEI score sheets

**What to bring to the final examination**
- Their own scribe or ask the organizer for suggestions of local scribes who may be willing to work with an applicant.
- Test sheets with their own diagrams for all tests to be judged.
- Pens (not pencils) and clipboard.
- Calculator
- USEF Rule Book
- FEI Rule Book

It is strongly recommended that ‘R’ Judges who did not complete the USDF ‘L’ Training Program before being initially licensed, audit sessions ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’ of that program prior to the start of the ‘S’ program.
Recorded DSHB Application Information

Once approved into a training program, the USDF Education Department will send the following material to the applicant:

- Guidelines for Apprenticing
- Mentor Criteria
- Tabulation Form
- Verification of Observing/Scribing Form
- Apprentice Evaluation Form
- Confirmation of Completion Form

Training Program Format
The Training Program is offered in two sections. The first section will last three days and is the training part, and the second section is the examination.

Classroom Session Description
A minimum of eight 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 Description
A minimum of eight hours of planned judging exercises in structured judging forum setting. Applicants receive instruction and guided practice in analyzing and scoring conformation and movement and in assigning general impression scores. Some live horses must 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 Description

2/19/2019
A minimum of four hours must be spent 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, applicants should bring the following materials:

- Notebook, pens and clipboard
- Score sheets (provided by Program Organizer)
- USEF Rulebook
- Calculator

**Final Examination**

The examination will last one-half to one day and must be conducted at least 30 days after Part I of the Judges Training Program. One examiner should have taught Part I of 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 applicants must take the written examination at the same time. No books or notes may be used for the written test. For a successful completion, the applicant must attain a passing score of 80% or better. If the applicant 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 applicant fails the written exam twice, the entire program must be repeated.

2. Oral examination comprised of questions pertinent to judging.

3. 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.
Registered DSHB Application Information

Training Program Format
The Training Program is offered in two sections. The first section will last three days and is the training part, and the second section is the examination.

Classroom Session Description
A minimum of eight 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 Description
A minimum of eight hours of planned judging exercises in structured judging forum setting. Applicants receive instruction and guided practice in analyzing and scoring conformation and movement and in assigning general impression scores. Some live horses must 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 Description
A minimum of four hours must be spent 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, applicants should bring the following materials:
- Notebook, pens and clipboard
- Score sheets (provided by Program Organizer)
- USEF Rulebook
- Calculator

Final Examination

2/19/2019
After the applicants have completed the requirements for the ‘R’ DSHB Judge training program, they will be examined by two examiners approved by USDF. One examiner should have taught Part I of 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 applicants must take the written examination at the same time. No books or notes may be used for the written test. For a successful completion, the applicant must attain a passing score of 80% or better. If the applicant 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 applicant 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.