



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Competition Management of USEF Regular Competitions

**Date:** February 8, 2017

**From:** United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.

**Subject:** USEF Regular Competitions Offering Dressage

For Regular breed and multi-breed USEF licensed events, please be aware of the following:

- If you offer **open** Dressage classes (these classes are open to any breed and non-registered horses):
  1. The USEF Dressage (DR) rules apply for those classes and a Technical Delegate (TD) is required (No Exceptions).
  2. Results from open Dressage classes at Regular Competitions may be used for USDF Year-End Awards if competition is recognized by USDF.
  3. Results from open Dressage classes at Regular Competition cannot be used for USEF/USDF Regional Championship qualifying.
  4. If the competition permits cross-entry between the Open Dressage Classes and other classes at a Regional Competition:
    - a. Horse or horse/rider combinations entered in the Open Dressage classes must strictly adhere to the USEF Dressage Rules upon arrival to the competition grounds and until the conclusion of their participation in the Open Dressage classes. This includes the USEF Dressage dress and saddlery rules as well as the horse wearing the number at all times when being exercised/ridden. Additionally, the horse may only be exercised/ridden in the Dressage designated warm-ups and training areas of the competition grounds. *Please see page 2 for suggestions on how to implement this at your competition.*
    - b. The Open Dressage classes must be offered **FIRST** in the competition schedule. Once the horses or horse/rider combinations have finished their open Dressage classes, they may then cross enter into other classes/section at the competition (not including open Dressage classes).
  5. If cross entry is **NOT** allowed between the Open Dressage classes and other classes at the competition, then the Dressage classes may be held on any day of the competition; however, the USEF Dressage rules apply to anyone entered in the Open Dressage classes from arrival on the competition grounds until the conclusion of their participation in the Open Dressage classes. This includes the USEF Dressage dress and saddlery rules as well as the horse wearing the number at all times when being exercised/ridden. Additionally, the horse may only be exercised/ridden in the Dressage designated warm-ups and training areas of the competition grounds. *Please see page 2 for suggestions on how to implement this at your competition.*
  
- If all of your Dressage classes are breed-restricted:
  1. Dressage (DR) rules apply along with the exceptions listed within that specific breed division chapter rules. Breeds which have such exceptions are AL, AR, MO, FR, etc.



2. For combined breed-restricted Dressage classes, e.g., a class open to Arabians and Morgans, the rules for such a class would then revert back to open DR Division rules as the exception in Arabian Chapter rules differ from those found in the Morgan Chapter rule exceptions.
3. If a competition has only Dressage breed-restricted classes (one breed/class), these classes can be scheduled on any day and in any order i.e., they may be interspersed with other classes during the day(s). However, a Dressage defined warm-up/schooling area is required for those competitors warming-up, training or schooling Dressage horses. A ring steward is responsible for monitoring this work area for compliance with dress and saddlery rules.
4. Any class offered for Dressage must run in its entirety.
5. If Western Dressage classes whether open or breed-restricted are also offered, separate warm-ups must be defined for both, and each warm-up must be monitored by a ring steward for appointments' (saddlery, equipment, and attire) compliance.

### Suggestions for Competition Management

- To assist the TD(s) and Stewards in identifying the Open Dressage competitors, a block of numbers could be assigned to those entered in the Open Dressage Classes. The TD(s)/Stewards need to be able to easily identify these competitors.
- Provide a list of the Open Dressage entries to the TD and Steward.
- Provide and post a map of the grounds designated for the Dressage portion of the Competition (and make sure the TD and Steward have a copy of the map). Identify the specific warm-up areas that can be utilized by the Open Dressage Competitors. Those competitors should only be warming-up in those areas. Each designated warm-up area should be monitored by a ring steward as to requirements for equipment, saddlery, attire. Give this map and warm-up requirement to all Open Dressage Competitors.
- If open Dressage classes are run concurrently with Western Dressage, two separate warm-up areas are required. If this is not possible, divide the warm-up area with cones with signage. Each should be monitored by a ring steward as requirements for equipment, saddlery, attire and checking are different.

*If there are additional concerns, please contact the US Equestrian Federation via email [westerndressage@usef.org](mailto:westerndressage@usef.org) or Hannah Niebielski, Director, Dressage National Programs, ([hniebielski@usef.org](mailto:hniebielski@usef.org)).*