



## 2026 USEF Saddle Seat Medal Specifications Document

### 1. Rider Eligibility:

- a. The USEF Saddle Seat Medal (“Medal”) Final is open to riders who have not yet reached the age of eighteen (18) prior to December 1 of the competition year of the Medal (See GR128)
- b. Riders, Owners, and Trainers must be USEF Junior Active members in good standing in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in the Medal Final.
- c. Riders must be U.S. citizens in order to compete in the Medal Final.
- d. Upon winning a Medal Final, riders will no longer be eligible to participate in subsequent Medal Finals.

### 2. Qualifying Criteria:

- a. The qualifying period of the Medal Final will begin **November 1, 2025, and run until October 31, 2026.**
- b. Eligible riders, must qualify by finishing in the top four placings in any of the following classes, held at USEF licensed competitions:
  - i. Any USEF Saddle Seat Medal Qualifying class;
  - ii. Any AMHA Saddle Seat Silver Medal class;
  - iii. Saddle Seat Equitation 15-18 at the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show;
  - iv. Saddle Seat Equitation 15-18 at the Ohio Buckeye Sweepstakes & NSHR District Championships;
  - v. Purebred Saddle Seat Equitation at the Arabian & Half Arabian Youth National Championship; or
  - vi. Half Arabian/Angle Arabian Saddle Seat Equitation 15-18 at the Arabian & Half Arabian Youth National Championship.

### 3. Entry:

- a. By no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, USEF will announce the date and location of the Medal Final.
- b. Post-entries will be accepted (See GR909).

### 4. Class Conduct (See EQ118):

- a. The Medal Final will consist of two rounds, rail and posted pattern work.
  - a. The Medal Final may either be conducted in a single phase or two phases.
    - a. If only a **single phase** is held, the final placement in the Medal Final will be determined by weighing the scores earned in on the rail and pattern equally.
    - b. If the Medal Final is conducted over **two phases**, final placement in the Medal Final will be determined by weighing each of the four scores equally (i.e. 25% on the first rail work, 25% on the first pattern work, 25% on the second rail work, and 25% on the second pattern work).
      - i. The number of riders to be selected for the second phase will be at the judge’s discretion based on the scores obtained in the first rail and pattern work.
      - ii. If a second phase is conducted, different tests must be used.