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## CHAPTER 13 COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS AND ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS

Exhibitors' attention is directed to Chapter 8 which includes rules pertaining to conduct at Licensed Competitions.

### SUBCHAPTER 13-A RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **GR1301 General**

1. Knowledge of and compliance with the rules of the Federation.
2. Obtain Federation membership or pay a per-competition Show Pass fee if competing at Federation member competitions. (See GR202 and GR205-GR206.) Exception: See GR310 for Lite Competitions
3. Obtain Federation Amateur Certification and measurement cards where required. (See GR1307, GR501, and HU137.) Exception: Amateur Certification is not required for participation in Lite Competitions, unless HOTA Points are being awarded to the participant.
4. Any member or non-member who fails to pay sums owing to the Federation or who makes payment for fees to the Federation which is not negotiable will be notified by the Federation of their indebtedness and warned that unless settlement is made within two weeks they will automatically be fined the sum of \$250 to be paid to the Federation; and further, that they and any horses owned by them and any horses and/or persons for which payment has not been made or for which the non-negotiable sums have been paid will automatically be barred from taking any part whatsoever in Licensed Competitions until payment or settlement is made of the total indebtedness to the Federation. Publication of the suspension will be published on the Federation's web site.
  - a. If any individual affected by GR1301.4 disputes that the amounts in question are owed or unpaid, they may request a procedural review of these issues before the Co-Chairs of the Hearing Committee or their designees provided the individual's written statement specifying the grounds for the review is received at the Federation's office within said two week period accompanied by the fee, which will be refunded if the dispute is settled in favor of said person.
  - b. In the event a person makes non-negotiable payment for fees to the Federation on three or more occasions, they are, after a hearing, subject to further disciplinary action. In addition, any future payments made to the Federation, must be submitted in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, money order, or valid credit card.
5. Every person participating in any competition licensed by the Federation is subject to the Federation Bylaws and Rules and is responsible under the rules for their own acts and failures to act and for the acts and failures to act of their agent or agents whether or not they or their agent or agents have signed an entry blank.
6. Dogs are not permitted to be loose on competition grounds and must be held on a leash or otherwise restrained. Individuals must not lead dogs on a leash while mounted. Dog owners are solely responsible for any damages, claims, losses, or actions resulting from their dogs' behaviors. Dog owners failing to comply with this rule will be issued a Yellow warning card and may be subject to penalty under Chapter 7.
7. Minors who do not have a valid driver's license which allows them to operate a motorized vehicle in the state in which they reside will not be permitted to operate a motorized vehicle of any kind, including, but not limited to, golf carts, motorcycles, scooters, or farm utility vehicles, on the competition grounds of licensed competitions. Minors who have a valid temporary license may operate the above described motorized vehicles as long as they are accompanied by an adult with a valid driver's license. The parent/legal guardian or individual who signs the entry blank as a parent or guardian of a minor operating a motorized vehicle in violation of this rule are solely responsible for any damages, claims, losses or actions resulting from that operation. Violations of this rule will be cause for penalties against those responsible for the child committing the offense. Wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices for individuals with disabilities are exempt from this rule.
8. The unsafe use of personal electronic transport devices, as determined by the competition officials and management in their sole discretion, that do not require a driver's license to operate, including but not limited to segways, hover boards, and single wheeled scooters is prohibited on competition grounds. Operating such devices in areas where people gather may be deemed "unsafe use" if there is a risk of harm to others. If the operator of the device is a minor, the parent/legal guardian or individual who signs the entry blank as a parent or guardian of a minor operating the device in violation of this rule is accountable and may be subject to penalties. Wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices for individuals with disabilities are exempt from this rule.

9. In the event of an acute and serious injury to or illness of a horse on competition grounds when the owner or trainer of the horse or agent of the owner is not present, after reasonable effort to contact that individual has been made, competition management, in consultation with a licensed equine veterinarian, may authorize the provision of emergency veterinary treatment of the horse. If competition management so authorizes treatment under the provisions of this rule, competition management and veterinarian are not liable for any resulting costs, damages, losses, claims, or actions arising directly or indirectly from the treatment of the horse.

## **GR1302 Duties**

1. Every exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, and trainer or their agent(s) must sign an entry blank (see GR404 and GR908.2). In the case of a rider, driver, or handler under 18, their parent or guardian, or if not available, the trainer, must sign an entry blank on the minor's behalf.
2. Every exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, and trainer or their agents must provide on the competition entry blank, all information required under Federation rules. Exhibitors are responsible for their own errors and those of their agents in the preparation of entry blanks.
  - a. The following credentials must be made available to Competition Management. Competitions may, at their discretion, confirm any of the below electronically with the Federation Office:
    1. Original or copies of Federation membership cards, Exemption: Applications completed at the competition. The member will retain the pink copy of the membership application form which, when properly signed by Competition Secretary, is valid for 45 days from the date signed or until the membership card is received from the Federation.
    2. Copies of Federation Measurement cards;
    3. Federation Amateur Certification;
    4. Federation horse recordings for USEF/USDF qualifying classes for dressage championships and USEF/USDF Dressage Championships (see DR127.2).
    5. Registration papers showing proof of ownership or a copy of the registration papers with a Certificate of Eligibility to Show issued by the American Saddlebred Registry for horses entered in classes restricted to American Saddlebreds must be submitted either with entry form at the time of making entry or submitted to the show office before show numbers will be released. If a copy is sent with the entry form, the copy of registration papers will be returned when exhibitors pick up their numbers, if requested by the exhibitor. Original or copies of United States Hunter Jumper Association, Inc., membership card, if applicable.
  - b. Exhibitors are urged to submit photostatic copy of all required credentials with their entry blanks. (Exception: measurement cards, see Rules GR502.1 and HJ135).
  - c. If an exhibitor does not submit the proper membership documentation to the competition and the competition cannot verify such information, (with the exception of Federation measurement cards) the exhibitor will be responsible to pay a Show Pass fee which is non-refundable.

## **GR1303 USEF SafeSport Requirements**

Consistent with the mission statement of the Federation, the welfare of equestrian participants, especially minors, is of paramount concern. When any member -- athlete, participant, trainer, coach, organizer, official, volunteer, or staff member is subjected to or engages in abuse or misconduct, it undermines the mission of the Federation and is inconsistent with the best interests of equestrian sport and of the athletes the Federation serves. **The USEF Safe Sport Policy, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), found at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org), contains requirements for all participants in Federation licensed and endorsed competitions. Participating in a Federation licensed competition while ineligible to compete due to a SafeSport Training deficiency may result in forfeiture pursuant to GR703.1(h) in connection with classes competed in while ineligible. Points and results will be nullified and redistributed. Additional penalties may be imposed (see Chapter 7).**

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## GR1304 Regulations Governing Showing Under Judges, Stewards, and Technical Delegates

1. See also GR1039, GR1040, GR1041, and GR107.
2. For the purposes of this rule, any references to “compete” includes serving in the role of trainer, coach, owner, lessor, lessee, exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, and vaulter.
3. For the purposes of this rule, any references to “rider” includes riders, drivers, and vaulters.
4. For purposes of this rule, “ongoing relationship” is a relationship that has not been terminated at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the competition.
5. The following are not permitted to compete in a class being officiated by a Judge if there is an ongoing relationship between the individual competing (see above definition) and the judge:
  - a. A Judge’s family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, or member of a Judge’s household;
  - b. A Judge’s client, employers, or employees;
  - c. Employers of a member of the Judge’s family;
  - d. A Judge’s trainer or coach;
  - e. A Judge’s trainer’s or coach’s clients;
  - f. A horse trained by the Judge or a member of the Judge’s family;
  - g. A horse sold by the Judge or by the Judge’s employer;
  - h. A horse leased by the Judge or by the Judge’s employer;
  - i. A horse owned by the Judge (including but not limited to syndicate and partnership shares);
  - j. Any individual that has received or has contracted to receive any remuneration for the sale, purchase, or lease of any horse, unless the sale or purchase has been made and fully concluded at public auction;
  - k. Any individual that pays board to the Judge. Retiree and broodmare board are excluded;
  - l. A rider whose parent, guardian, or instructor has had any financial transaction in connection with the sale, lease, board, or training of a horse with the Judge, unless the sale was made and fully concluded at public auction; and
  - m. A rider that has been instructed, coached, or tutored with or without pay by the Judge;
    1. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities will not be considered as instruction, coaching, or tutoring (See GR107).
6. For purposes of this rule, the following are considered employers: any individuals, corporations, partnerships, foundations, trusts or non-profit organizations and shareholders owning five or more percent of the stock of any corporation which employs the Judge or a member of the Judge’s family, and any officers, directors, or partners of any corporation or partnership and officers, directors, or trustees of any trust or foundation or nonprofit organization which employs the Judge or a member of the Judge’s family. The hiring of a Judge to officiate at Licensed Competitions shall not constitute employment for purposes of this rule.
7. Catch Riders and Independent Service Providers (defined below) are not employees for the purposes of this rule.
  - a. Catch Rider: An individual who is engaged, for remuneration or not, exclusively to compete, including any warm-up schooling for that immediate competition, a horse(s) owned by another with whom they have no current business relationship. A catch rider has no influence regarding the ongoing competition schedule, management, schooling, exercising, training, care, custody, or control of the horse.
  - b. Independent Service Provider: An individual who performs a service(s) for another and the payer has the right to control or direct only the result of the work and what work will be done. The Independent service provider controls the details as to how the work is performed.
8. No one shall approach a judge with regard to a decision unless they first obtain permission from the Steward, or Technical Delegate who shall arrange an appointment with the judge at a proper time and place. The Steward or Technical Delegate shall be present for the meeting. No exhibitor has the right to inspect the judge’s cards without the judge’s permission.
9. If a horse or person is presented to a judge that the judge knows is ineligible to compete under these rules, the judge may advise the ring steward they believe the entry to be ineligible and request that the entry be excused, or the judge may proceed to judge the entry and report the alleged rule violation to the Federation. If a judge has any doubt as to the eligibility of any entry, they should judge the entry and report the alleged rule violation to the Federation.

10. Sixty days prior to the first day of a competition through thirty days after the last competition day, no horse or rider that has been trained by a Judge, or a Judge's employee or agent, may show before that Judge officiating at any of the following competitions:
  - a. USEF Junior Hunter National Championship
  - b. USEF Pony Hunter National Championship
  - c. USEF Hunter Seat Medal Final
  - d. USEF Pony Medal Final
  - e. USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals
  - f. ASPCA Maclay Final
  - g. Washington International Horse Show Equitation Final
11. An Eventing Judge or Combined Driving Judge may officiate on the Ground Jury of an Eventing or Combined Driving competition when a **relationship** listed in **GR1304.5 competes at the same competition**, under the following restrictions:
  - a. The Judge must notify the Technical Delegate and the Organizer of the conflict prior to the start of competition. If the conflict is discovered after the start of competition the **individual(s)** or horse(s) must either withdraw from competition or participate Hors de Concours (H.C.).
  - b. The Judge may not judge any of the **phases/tests** for the Section in which the affected **individual(s)** or horse(s) are competing. For decisions regarding disqualification, elimination or penalties, the Technical Delegate will assume the role of the Ground Jury.
  - c. If an Inquiry or Protest is lodged from the Section in which the affected **individual(s)** or horse(s) is/are competing, the Judge must excuse themselves from the process and the Technical Delegate will assume the role of the Ground Jury.
  - d. There are no restrictions on a Judge if an **individual(s)** or horse(s) listed in GR1304.5 participates in the Competition H.C.
12. **The following are not permitted to compete at the same competition as a Steward or Technical Delegate if there is an ongoing relationship between the individual competing and the Steward or Technical Delegate (see GR1304.4 for definition of ongoing relationship):**
  - a. A Steward or Technical Delegate's family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, or member of a Steward or Technical Delegate's household;
  - b. A Steward or Technical Delegate's client;
  - c. A Steward or Technical Delegate's employee;
  - d. A Steward or Technical Delegate's trainer or coach;
  - e. Any individual that has purchased or leased a horse from the Steward or Technical Delegate, unless the purchase has been made and fully concluded at public auction;
  - f. A horse owned by the Steward or Technical Delegate (including but not limited to syndicate and partnership shares);
  - g. A horse trained by the Steward or Technical Delegate;
  - h. A horse sold by the Steward or Technical Delegate or by the Steward or Technical Delegate's employer, unless the sale has been made and fully concluded at public auction.
13. **The following are not permitted to compete at the same competition as a Federation Endurance Veterinarian:**
  - a. A horse that is owned by the veterinarian or veterinarian's family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, or member of the veterinarian's household (including but not limited to syndicate and partnership shares); and
  - b. The above relationships are permitted if the relationship has been terminated at least 30 days prior to the start date of the competition.

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## **GR1305 Elimination & Withdrawal from Classes & Competition**

(See also GR118)

1. No exhibitor may withdraw horses from a Licensed Competition after it has commenced, or remove them from the competition grounds, without the permission of the competition secretary.

2. If an exhibitor voluntarily removes a horse from the ring without the permission of the judge, the Show Committee or Competition Management will disqualify the exhibitor and all their entries from all future classes at that competition and all prizes and entry fees for the entire competition will be forfeited.
3. Any horse leaving the ring without the exhibitor's volition is deprived of an award in that class. See also division rules for other causes of elimination.

## **SUBCHAPTER 13-B AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS**

For purposes of this Subchapter the following definitions apply:

**Family:** Family includes a cohabitant, a member of a couple who live together and have an intimate relationship without being married.

**Remuneration:** Remuneration is compensation or payment in any form such as cash, goods, sponsorships, discounts or services; reimbursement of any expenses; trade or in-kind exchange of goods or services such as board or training.

**Social Media Brand Ambassador:** A Social Media Brand Ambassador is a social media user who spreads the word about a company/brand or its products by posting about them on social media and promoting them to their unique social audience.

**Social Media Influencer:** A Social Media Influencer is an individual who has built a reputation for their knowledge, content creation, and expertise on a specific topic. They make regular posts about that topic on their preferred social media channels and generate large followings of enthusiastic, engaged people who pay close attention to their content.

**Sponsored Rider:** A Sponsored Rider is an individual who is paid by companies, sponsors, and/or owner/s to compete and perform, leveraging their exposure and performance in competition.

### **GR1306 Professional/Amateur Status**

1. Amateur. Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, a person is an amateur if after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, as defined in GR101 and GR103, they have not engaged in any of the activities identified in Section 4 below.
  - a. For Amateurs in the Dressage Division, see DR119.3.
  - b. For Amateurs in Jumper Sections, see JP118.
  - c. For Amateurs in Hunter Sections, see HU137-HU138.
  - d. For Amateurs in Eventing, see EV Appendix 3-Participation in Horse Trials.
  - e. For Amateurs in the Arabian Division, see AR110.6 and AR110.7.
2. Remuneration. Amateurs are permitted to accept remuneration for the following activities:
  - a. Accept remuneration for barn duties on or off competition grounds. Barn duties include but are not limited to grooming, tacking and un-tacking, bathing, clipping, lunging, braiding, and stall and tack cleaning.
  - b. In the American Saddlebred, Saddle Seat Equitation, Morgan, Arabian, Andalusian/Lusitano, National Show Horse, Paso Fino, and Western Divisions, an amateur is permitted to accept remuneration for teaching riding lessons under the following conditions:
    - i. The amateur must register with USEF prior to performing any instruction.
    - ii. Total lesson time cannot exceed 20 hours per calendar week.
    - iii. Lessons must be given under the oversight of a USEF Competing Member in good standing who is designated as a Professional.
    - iv. Lessons cannot be conducted at a competition, including Federation Licensed Competitions and non-licensed competitions.
    - v. Student must be a beginner who has not competed and is not competing at any level of competition, and lessons must not exceed the basic beginner level.
    - vi. Teacher must maintain a log of all lessons. Log must include lesson date, lesson time and name of student.
    - vii. A USEF Competing Member designated as a Professional must review the teacher's log and verify its accuracy.
    - viii. The teacher and professional are responsible and accountable for compliance with this rule.

- ix. USEF may request proof of compliance and refusal to provide such proof constitutes a violation of the rule.
  - c. Accept remuneration for teaching or training disabled riders for therapeutic purposes.
  - d. Accept reimbursement for expenses associated with conducting classroom seminars.
  - e. Accept remuneration for serving as a camp counselor when not hired in the exclusive capacity as an equestrian instructor
  - f. Accept remuneration as a Social Media Influencer or Social Media Brand Ambassador.
  - g. Accept remuneration for providing service in one's capacity as a: clinic manager or organizer (so long as they are not performing the activities of instructor or trainer), presenter or panelist at a Federation licensed officials' clinic, Competition Staff, Competition Official, TV commentator, veterinarian, groom, farrier, tack shop operator, breeder, or boarder, or horse transporter.
  - h. Accept reimbursement for any expenses directly related to the horse (i.e. farrier/vet bills, entries). Travel, hotel, equipment, and room and board are not considered expenses related to the horse.
3. Other Permitted activities by Amateurs. An Amateur is permitted to do the following:
- a. Appear in advertisements and/or articles related to acknowledgement of one's own personal or business sponsorship of a competition and/or awards earned by one's owned horses.
  - b. Accept prize money as the owner of a horse in any class.
  - c. Accept a non-monetary token gift of appreciation valued less than \$1,000 annually.
  - d. Serve as an intern for college credit or course requirements at an accredited institution provided one has never held professional status with the Federation or any other equestrian National Federation. In addition, one may accept reimbursement for expenses without profit, as prescribed by the educational institution's program, for the internship. At the request of the Federation, an Amateur shall provide certification from the accredited educational institution under whose auspices a student is pursuing an internship that they are undertaking the internship to meet course or degree requirements.
    - i. In the Hackney, Roadster, American Saddlebred, Saddle Seat Equitation, Morgan, Andalusian/Lusitano, Friesian, Arabian, and National Show Horse Divisions, college students may also accept a stipend (maximum value of the Federal minimum wage rate) and reimbursement of expenses during the internship served under the above paragraph.
    - ii. In the Hackney, Roadster, American Saddlebred, Saddle Seat Equitation divisions: If a college student serving as an intern exhibits a horse trained by the stable at which they are pursuing the internship, the intern shall only exhibit those horses solely owned by: the intern, the intern's family as defined by GR123, the college at which they are a student, or the stable where they are pursuing their internship. The intern shall not exhibit horses owned/leased nor co-owned by the stables' client(s).
  - e. Write books or articles related to horses.
  - f. Accept educational, competition, or training grant(s).
  - g. Assist in setting schooling fences without remuneration.
  - h. Retain their Amateur status when riding any horse so long as they do not ride a horse owned by a client of any family member who is a Professional.
4. Professional based on one's own activities. A person is a professional if after their 18th birthday they do any of the following:
- a. Accepts remuneration AND rides, exercises, drives, shows, trains, assists in training, schools or conducts clinics or seminars, except as provided in GR1306.2.g. Interns, apprentices, and working students are included in this rule.
  - b. Accepts remuneration AND gives equestrian lessons, or provides consultation services in riding, driving, showmanship or equitation, except as provided for in GR1306.2.b. Interns, apprentices, and working students are included in this rule.
  - c. Rides, drives or shows any horse that a family member or a family member's business receives remuneration for boarding, training, riding, driving or showing. A family member of a trainer may not absolve themselves of this rule by entering into a lease or any other agreement for a horse owned by a client of the trainer.
  - d. Gives instruction to any person or rides, drives, or shows any horse, for which activity another person in their family or business in which a family member controls will receive remuneration for the activity. A family member of a trainer may not absolve themselves of this rule by entering into a lease or any other agreement for a horse owned by a client of the trainer.
  - e. Accepts remuneration AND acts as an agent in the sale of a horse or accepts a horse on consignment for the purpose of sale or training that is not owned by them, their family, or a family business.
  - f. Accepts remuneration for the use of commercially logoed items while on competition grounds, as a Sponsored Rider.

5. Professional based on one's own activity along with another's. A person is also deemed a professional after their 18th birthday, if they accept remuneration for their family member engaging in any activity enumerated in 4 a-l above.
6. Violations of Amateur status. The holding of an amateur card does not preclude the question of amateur standing being raised. After an investigation as to proper status has been initiated, and upon request by the Federation, an Amateur must submit verifiable proof of Amateur status. Failure to submit requested documentation to the Federation may be deemed a violation of this rule. Any responsible person(s) found to have violated these rules, may be subject to the penalties as set forth in GR703.
  - a. Any individual found to have knowingly assisted in the violation of the Amateur rule may also be subject to proceedings in accordance with the Federation Bylaws. See GR1307.
7. Questions about whether you are an Amateur or Professional. For specific inquiries, email [amateurinquiry@usef.org](mailto:amateurinquiry@usef.org).

## **GR1307 Amateur Status**

1. Only Senior Active Members of the Federation may obtain amateur status. Every person who has reached their 18th birthday and competes in classes for amateurs under Federation rules must possess current amateur status issued by the Federation. Amateur status will be issued only on receipt of the application properly signed, or on receipt of an online status declaration, and is revocable at any time for cause. Any person who has not reached their 18th birthday is an amateur and does not require amateur status.  
 Exceptions:
  - a. Amateur status is not required for Arabian ATR/AATR Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 11 and Over classes or Opportunity classes or Lite Competitions except for the Dressage classes and divisions that are restricted to amateurs. If Opportunity classes are offered at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes and are restricted to amateurs, riders are required to have amateur status with the Federation.
2. Foreign riders requesting Federation Amateur status, must be a Senior, or Life Competing Member of the Federation.
3. There is no fee for amateur status. An amateur continues to be such until they have received a change in status from the Federation. Any amateur who wishes to be re-classified on the grounds that they have engaged in or is planning on engaging in activities which would prevent them from continuing to remain an amateur must notify the Federation in writing.
4. Any professional who wishes to be reclassified as an amateur on the grounds that they have not engaged in the activities which made them a professional within the last twelve months must complete the reclassification process outlined below.
  - a. Such person shall submit to the Hearing Committee an amateur reclassification request which is supported by:
    - i. A notarized letter signed by themselves briefly outlining their previous horse related professional activities and outlining their current activities performed within the twelve months since professional activities have ceased;
    - ii. Two or more notarized letters from any Active Competing Federation members stating the relationship with the applicant, outlining the applicants activities for the previous twelve-month period, and testifying that the applicant has not engaged in any activities which would make them a professional as outlined in GR1306 during that period;
    - iii. A processing fee; and
    - iv. Sign and declare amateur status on a current Federation membership application or through an online status declaration. The burden of proof of proving amateur status is on the applicant. The Hearing Committee may call for and/or consider any and all further evidence and facts which it deems pertinent. The decision of the Hearing Committee on the reclassification request shall be final.
    - v. EXCEPTION: Any amateur 25 and under, who has engaged in professional activities (as defined herein) may reapply for their amateur status utilizing a 3-month waiting period. The 3-month option is only available for a one-time use. Any subsequent application for amateur status would require a twelve-month waiting period.

Please contact the Federation office for information regarding international/professional licenses.



## **SUBCHAPTER 13-C MEMBERSHIP AND DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS**

### **GR1308 Membership and Document Requirements**

1. To be eligible to participate as a rider, driver, owner, handler, vaulter, longeur, lessee or agent at Federation Licensed Competitions, persons must be Members of the Federation as provided in GR202 or if not a member, must pay a Show Pass fee as provided in GR206 (for exceptions see GR901.9). Exception: Applications for Federation Individual Membership and Horse Recordings submitted at Licensed Competitions:
  - a. For Dressage Competitions:
    1. Applications are considered effective on the date the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary provided the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary on that same day.
    2. Applications completed online at the competition are effective the date the application is submitted.
  - b. For all Competitions other than Dressage Competitions:
    1. Applications are considered effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of said Competition provided the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary and the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary during the period of the Competition.
    2. Applications completed online at the competition are effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of the Competition.
  - c. Lessees are considered owners in connection with this membership requirement. When an entry is under multiple ownership, only one owner need be a Member or pay a Show Pass fee.
2. Memberships completed at the competition must be forwarded to the Federation office within ten (10) days of the close of the competition as part of the full competition results, which are defined in GR1214. The member's copy of the application is valid for 45 days or until the membership card is received from the Federation.
  - a. The following credentials must be available to Competition Management and the Federation steward/technical delegate. Competitions may, at their discretion, confirm any of the below electronically with the Federation office:
    1. Amateur Status.
    2. Copies of Junior Hunter and pony measurement cards.
    3. Federation membership cards or a copy thereof, Exception: Applications completed at the competition. The member will retain the pink copy of the membership application form which, when properly signed by the Competition Secretary, is valid for 45 days from the date signed.
    4. Federation horse recordings for USEF/USDF qualifying classes for dressage championships (see DR127.2), and USEF/USDF Dressage Championships (see DR127.2).
    5. A copy of the registration papers showing recorded ownership or a copy of the registration papers with a Certificate of Eligibility to Show issued by the American Saddlebred Registry for horses entered in classes restricted to American Saddlebreds unless the competition, at their discretion, confirms registration electronically with the American Saddlebred Registry or the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation.
    6. A copy of the registration papers showing proof of ownership or copy of the registration papers issued by the American Hackney Horse Society and/or the Canadian Hackney Society for ponies and horses entered in classes restricted to Hackney Horses and Hackney Ponies.
    7. Non-U.S. citizens (as defined by GR901.9) and Foreign Competitors (as defined by GR828.4) must provide proof, in English, of current membership in good standing in their respective National Federation, and hold current membership in good standing with the Federation.
    8. For all horses competing in Young Jumper classes a copy of the registration papers issued by a Breed Registry (or other means of identification issued by the Federation providing proof of age and identity) must be checked by the horse show office.
    9. Originals or copies of United States Hunter Jumper Association, Inc., membership card, if applicable.
  - b. If an exhibitor does not submit the proper membership documentation to the competition and the competition cannot verify such information, (with the exception of Federation measurement cards) the exhibitor will be responsible to pay a Show Pass fee which is non-refundable.

3. Participation of non-US citizens in non-breed-restricted national competitions in the US.
  - a. Non-US citizens who are not current members of the Federation as provided in GR202 must provide proof, in English, of current membership in good standing in their own National Federation, and must pay a registration fee as provided for in GR206 (for exceptions see GR901.9.)
  - b. Foreign Competitors (non U.S. citizens) who participate in Federation amateur classes, in any discipline, must be in possession of a Federation Amateur Card and must be a Junior, Senior, or Life Competing Member of the Federation.
4. U.S. Competitors competing in their own country in an FEI-sanctioned event, not requiring an FEI Passport, must present a valid USA National Passport or a valid FEI Passport. Exception: Endurance Minor Events must follow FEI General Rules regarding identification.

## **GR1309 Presidential Modifications for the Dressage Division**

In the Dressage Division, competitors will not be allowed to compete with modifications unless a copy of their Federation Presidential Modification letter is provided to the competition secretary by the beginning of the competition.

## **SUBCHAPTER 13-D COMPETITION DISPENSATIONS**

### **GR1310 Dispensations/Classification Certificate**

1. Dispensation/Classification Certificate. Any individual with a diagnosed permanent physical disability wishing to compete in a Federation licensed competition with a compensatory aid and/or adaptive equipment must obtain a Dispensation/Classification Certificate from the Adaptive Sports Committee, including those individuals with a current Federation or FEI Classification. Upon the Committee's approval, a Dispensation/Classification Certificate will be issued by the Federation. The Dispensation/Classification Certificate will list all compensatory aids and adaptive equipment allowed the individual while competing. Other compensatory aids or special equipment not specifically listed on the Dispensation/Classification Certificate are not allowed. A copy of the Dispensation/Classification Certificate must be included with the individual's entry. The competition manager or secretary shall include a copy attached to all applicable scoring sheets for the judge's reference. For instructions on how to apply for the Dispensation Certificate, please refer to GR1312. Also see GR1315 for definitions of terms used in this section. (Exception: Dispensation/Classification certificates are not required for Breed or Multi-breed restricted or Hunter competitions or classes; Equitation Division classes, Carriage Pleasure Driving Division, or the Open Western Division).
2. In circumstances that fall outside of the dispensation program, a Presidential Modification may be considered. Please refer to GR153 and Bylaw 332.1.f.

### **GR1311 Para-Equestrian Eligibility/Dispensation/Classification**

In order for an individual to compete in Federation Licensed Para-Equestrian Competitions in Para-Equestrian classes, they must have a diagnosed, permanent physical disability. The individual will need to possess a Federation or FEI Classification and a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate. See GR143 for the definition of Para-Equestrian and GR1315 for additional definitions).

### **GR1312 Applying for a Dispensation Certificate/Classification**

1. Applications for a Dispensation/Classification Certificate can be obtained from the Federation (via the Federation website or the Federation office) and are reviewed on a continuing basis throughout the year by the Adaptive Sports Committee. Only applications submitted along with supporting medical documentation will be considered. The Adaptive Sports Committee may request additional supporting evidence from the individual regarding their medical status or regarding the aid/equipment which they request dispensation for. The Adaptive Sports Committee will render an opinion (approval of all or some of the aids requested or denial of the dispensation) and the individual will be notified by the Federation in a timely manner.

- a. The Dispensation/Classification Certificate will be issued annually upon completing a Dispensation/Classification renewal form, and remains in effect until the end of the competition year or until they receive a change in status from the Federation, whichever is earlier. Any individual who wishes to make changes to their Dispensation/Classification Certificate must notify the Federation in writing and obtain written approval. Certification is revocable at any time for cause.
- b. Applications should be submitted in order to allow 30 days for the Adaptive Sports Committee to render a decision regarding the dispensation status.
- c. There is no fee for a Dispensation/Classification Certificate.
- d. The individual must be a member in good standing with the Federation.

## **GR1313 Applying for Para-Equestrian (PE) Classification**

1. The individual will request classification from the Federation. Application paperwork (Consent for Classification and Certificate of Diagnosis) may be found on the Federation website or from the Federation Director of Para-Equestrian. Once the Federation Director of Para-Equestrian receives the completed paperwork, the office will contact the Federation Classification Coordinator.
2. The Federation classification coordinator will assist in scheduling a classification with one of the Federation /FEI Classifiers. There is a non-refundable administrative fee for the classification payable to the Federation. If the individual requests a classification to be scheduled at their convenience, all expenses for the classifier will be paid for by the individual. The individual must be a member in good standing with the Federation.
3. If the individual is deemed eligible for Para-Equestrian, the classification will result in a Profile and a Grade based on the FEI Profile system. The Profile will remain with the individual for as long as their physical disability remains constant with no need for re-classification. This is considered a Confirmed Status. If the individual has a fluctuating medical condition or if their function changes, the profile may change with future re-classifications. This is considered a Review Status. The Grade will be based on the specific discipline.
4. Upon classification, the Federation will issue a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate. This Certificate will outline the individual's profile, grade, status, Classification expiration, and indicate any compensating aids/ adaptive equipment that may be used in Federation Licensed Competition in accordance with Federation rules.
5. For Federation licensed competitions, the individual will send in a copy of their Dispensation/Classification Certificate with their competition entry. The individual will also be responsible for making the Certificate available as requested by the competition officials (See also GR1310).
6. When change in status occurs (i.e. change of compensating aids/adaptive equipment), written request for a change will be submitted to the Federation office.
7. The Federation /FEI Classifier will determine the Grade, status and review period for classification. For those with disabilities with no expected change in functional status, the classification will have a status of Confirmed and have no expiration. For those with fluctuating conditions or conditions expected to change, either by deterioration or improvement there will be a status of Review indicated on the Certificate with an expiration and expected date for re-classification. It is the individual's responsibility to apply for re-classification through the Federation with time allowed prior to any upcoming competitions. It is also the individual's responsibility to apply for re-classification if a major change in function, either improvement or deterioration occurs. The individual will be required to submit objective medical information with the request for re-classification.
8. Upon receipt of an FEI Classification, necessary for Qualifying and FEI licensed competition. The individual's information will be posted on the FEI website at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org), on the FEI Classification Master List for Dressage or Driving. The list will indicate the individual's profile, grade, status and compensatory aids. The FEI Classification Master List may be found at <http://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/classification>. The individual may request a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate with the FEI Classification status and any approved compensating aids listed. The Dispensation/Classification Certificate may be used at any Federation Licensed Competition.
9. Classification status can be challenged by a Federation competition official with a written request to Federation. Medals will be suspended until such time that the Classification status is resolved.

## GR1314 Hearings

1. Any individual whose application for a Dispensation/Classification Certificate or a Para-Equestrian Classification has been denied may request a review by the Hearing Committee or by such individual or committee as it may designate to review said decision. The request must be in writing and received by the Hearing Committee within ten (10) days from receipt of the decision sought to be reviewed.
  - a. The hearing shall be after ten (10) days notice to all parties concerned. The notice shall contain a brief statement of the facts reporting the position of the Federation and shall specify the time and place at which the hearing is to be held. The person requesting said hearing may attend and bring witnesses, sworn statements or other evidence on their behalf. Upon the written request of a representative of the Federation or of the person requesting the hearing, there shall be furnished before said hearing any evidence to be introduced, the names of witnesses and the substance of their testimony.
  - b. The decision of the Hearing Committee or the person or committee designated to preside at said hearing shall be final.

## GR1315 Definition of Terms

1. Diagnosed permanent physical disability - An individual with a medical condition resulting in functional limitations affecting their ability to participate in equestrian sport and diagnosed by a medical doctor. The condition is not reasonably expected to improve and may, in fact, be one that worsens over time. The condition should be easily objectively measurable in scope, either by physical examination by a medical professional or with medical testing. An example may include a limb amputation, paralysis, weakness due to a neuromuscular condition loss of vision.
2. Compensating aid and/or adaptive equipment - Allowance for an alteration in performance, an alteration of dress or alternate piece of equipment which allows the individual with functional limitation(s) to perform the requirements of the competition. The aid or equipment assists in equalizing the functional ability of the individual and should not give the individual an undue advantage. The aid/equipment must be deemed safe for the competitor and the horse and is subject to review by the TD and/or judge at each event. Examples:
  - a. Saluting with the nod of the head only when taking a hand off of the reins would be unsafe.
  - b. Use of paddock boots and smooth leather half chaps rather than tall boots if wearing tall boots is unsafe for a rider with leg dysfunction.
  - c. Allowance to not wear gloves for the individual with impaired sensation in the hands.
  - d. Use of 1 or 2 whips to cue the horse for an individual with impaired use of their legs.
  - e. Use of a golf cart to survey a course prior to driving for the individual who is unable to walk.
  - f. Use of quick release equipment for carriage driving.

For additional examples, please see FEI Compensating Aids booklet at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

3. Dispensation
  - a. Dispensation Program - The Federation encourages competition amongst all individuals, including those with a diagnosed permanent physical disability. For those individuals wishing to compete in a Federation licensed competition and who require compensating aids and/or adaptive equipment to do so, a Dispensation/Classification Certificate may be granted. The purpose of the dispensation is to aid those with limited function by allowing the use of aids/equipment which will result in more equal function. These aids/equipment should not give the individual with a disability an advantage over their competitors.
  - b. Adaptive Sports Committee: An interdisciplinary group representing the equestrian disciplines, the medical field, competitors, and the Federation who is charged with the review and/or approval of dispensation applications.
4. Para-Equestrian (PE)
  - a. Federation Para-Equestrian (PE) Classification - The Federation has chosen to adopt the FEI Profile System for classification of individuals with disabilities for Para-Dressage and Para-Driving. This system provides a means to assess an individual's functional abilities and impairments to determine which Grade they will compete in amongst individuals with similar levels of function. There is a minimal level of impairment required in order to qualify for the FEI Profile System. In the system, an individual with a permanent measurable physical disability is assessed by a Federation or FEI approved classifier. As a result of the assessment, the classifier will determine eligibility and then assign the individual a Profile.

The Profiles are grouped into Grades based on the discipline in which the individual will be competing. For example, an individual who has minor impairment of the left arm and leg after a stroke would likely be given a Profile 15. If they compete in dressage, they would compete in Grade IV. If they choose to compete in Carriage Driving, they would compete as a Grade II.

- b. FEI Profile System - Amongst individuals with disabilities, there are many different types of impairments. To provide meaningful competition for these individuals it is necessary that those of similar levels of impairment compete together. The FEI "Profile System" fulfils this criterion. It is a System of tests administered by trained and certified Physical Therapists or Physicians. It is based on the classification systems used in other sports for individuals with disabilities and has been tested for reliability and validity in its application in equestrian sport.
5. Profile - an individual is given one of 42 profiles based on their level of function as assessed by a Federation or FEI Classifier. The Profiles are versatile but tight, easy to use and understand. The locomotor Profiles are not disability (diagnosis) specific, but are based on the ability of the functioning part(s) of the body. The Profile is considered permanent except in the case of a diagnosis that has a reasonable expectation of change, such as with progressive Multiple Sclerosis.
6. Grade - the grouping of profiles within a discipline. In Dressage, there are 5 grades (I, II, III, IV, and V). In Carriage Driving there are 2 Grades (I and II). A Grade is made up of several profiles, grouping Para-Equestrians of similar level of function. The lower number Grades (i.e. Grade I) is made up of Para-Equestrians with a more significant level of impairment, whereas the higher number Grades (i.e. IV) identify those Para-Equestrians with a lesser impairment. The Grade determines which tests a rider competes and against whom the Para-Equestrian will be competing. In National and International competition, medals/placement is awarded in each Grade.
7. An individual who has been classified by a Federation or FEI Classifier and who has been given a Profile, Grade, status and the use of compensatory aids/adaptive equipment. These individuals may compete up to the National level of Federation Licensed PE Competitions.
8. FEI Para-Equestrian (FEI PE) - a Para-Equestrian with an FEI Classification and listed on the FEI Classification Master List for Dressage or Driving on the FEI website at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org). The FEI Master List indicating the individuals's Profile, Grade, Status and compensating aids/adaptive equipment. This individual may compete nationally and in Qualifying trials. To achieve this classification, the individual will need a classification by two FEI Classifiers, at least one from outside of their home country. There is a fee to the FEI for application and renewal for the FEI PE Classification Card. Individuals must request renewals through the National Federation.
9. Federation Classifier - a Physical Therapist or Physician who has been trained and approved by the Federation to classify individuals using the FEI Profile System. A Federation Classifier may classify Para Equestrians up through a National level competition.
10. FEI Classifier - a Physical Therapist or Physician who has been trained and licensed by the FEI to classify Para-Equestrians using the FEI Profile System. An FEI classifier may classify Para-Equestrians through to the International level (i.e. CPEDIs, Paralympics, and World Games). FEI Classifiers are designated as Trainee, Level ,1 or Level 2.
11. Federation Classification Coordinator - the lead Federation Classifier responsible for assisting individuals through the classification process.
12. Dispensation/Classification Certificate - The Dispensation/Classification Certificate issued by Federation to an individual with a diagnosed permanent physical disability, indicating Compensating Aids/Adaptive equipment approved for use by the individual in Federation licensed competitions. The Certificate will list an individual's Para-Equestrian Federation or FEI Classification Profile, Grade and Status, if these have been assigned. The FEI will indicate FEI approved compensating aids on the FEI Classification Master List for Dressage or Driving on the FEI website at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org) for those individuals who hold an FEI classification. This information is referenced for all FEI qualifying and FEI Para-Equestrian competitions.

## CHAPTERS AL TO WS

WHICH DESCRIBE THE CLASSES FOR ALL DIVISIONS, TOGETHER WITH DEFINITIONS AS TO APPOINTMENTS. Entries in various classes are judged on some of the following qualifications:

Appointments (equipment)	Handiness (promptness)	Soundness
Breed Character	Manners	Speed
Brilliance	Performance	Substance (strength)

Color  
Conformation (build)

Presence (style)  
Quality (finesse)

Suitability  
Type

The particular qualifications for each class are hereinafter set forth and in each class the order of precedence indicates how the emphasis is to be placed in adjudication.

Class specifications included in division rules are mandatory.

Any class described herein may be confined to exhibitors within a desired area by prefixing "LOCAL" to the class title and clearly describing the area involved (e.g., "Open to horses owned and stabled within...miles of the competition grounds" or "Owned by residents of the Town of ...").

Entry fees, trophies or cash awards must always be indicated. If classes not included herein are offered, extreme care should be exercised in the proper wording of the specifications.

## Table of Yards, Feet and Meters

1 inch	=	0.025 m	1.00 m	=	3 ft.	3 ins.
1 foot	=	0.30 m	1.10 m	=	3 ft.	7 ins.
2 ft.	=	0.61 m	1.20 m	=	3 ft.	11 ins.
1 yard	=	0.91 m	1.30 m	=	4 ft.	3 ins.
4 ft.	=	1.22 m	1.40 m	=	4 ft.	7 ins.
4 ft. 3 ins.	=	1.30 m	1.50 m	=	4 ft.	11 ins.
4 ft. 6 ins.	=	1.37 m	1.60 m	=	5 ft.	3 ins.
4 ft. 9 ins.	=	1.45 m	1.70 m	=	5 ft.	7 ins.
5 ft.	=	1.52 m	1.80 m	=	5 ft.	11 ins.
5 ft. 3 ins.	=	1.60 m	1.90 m	=	6 ft.	3 ins.
5 ft. 6 ins.	=	1.68 m	2.00 m	=	6 ft.	7 ins.
6 ft.	=	1.83 m	3.00 m	=	9 ft.	10 ins.
6 ft. 6 ins.	=	1.91 m	4.00 m	=	13 ft.	1 ins.
7 ft.	=	2.13 m	5.00 m	=	16 ft.	5 ins.
8 ft.	=	2.44 m	6.00 m	=	19 ft.	8 ins.
9 ft.	=	2.74 m	7.00 m	=	22 ft.	11 ins.
10 ft.	=	3.05 m	8.00 m	=	26 ft.	3 ins.
15 ft.	=	4.57 m	9.00 m	=	29 ft.	6 ins.
20 ft.	=	6.10 m	10.00 m	=	32 ft.	10 ins.
10 yds.	=	9.14 m	25.00 m	=	82 ft.	
25 yds.	=	22.86 m	100.00 m	=	328 ft.	
50 yds.	=	45.72 m	1000.00 m	=	3281 ft.	
10 yds.	=	91.44 m				
1000 yds.	=	914.40 m				

## Conversion

Yards to Meters, multiply by .9144

Feet to Meters, multiply by .3048

Meters to Yards, divide by .9144

Meters to Feet, divide by .3048