



DRESSAGE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS PROPOSAL

NEW DRAFT APPROVED BY USEF DRESSAGE COMMITTEE 4/16/08

The purpose of Performance Standards is to ensure riders are properly prepared to successfully move up the levels. The system of qualification is attached to the rider, not the horse. Multiple horses may be used by a rider to earn a qualification. No time limits for earning scores are placed on the rider. Once qualified, the rider is granted that status for life.

LEVELS OF PROFICIENCY:

BRONZE Training Level through Third Level

SILVER Fourth Level and Prix St. Georges

GOLD Intermediaire I through Grand Prix

All riders may compete at the Bronze Level (Training – Third Level) without needing to qualify in any way.

To advance to the Silver Level the rider must do one of the following:

- I. Earn the USDF Bronze Medal
2. Earn a minimum of ten (10) points via their scores from USEF Third Level Tests ridden in USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions. Scores must come from at least three (3) different USEF or FEI judges. A panel of two (2) or more will count as one (1) distinct judge.

To advance to the **Gold Level** the rider must do one of the following:

1. Earn either the USDF Silver or USDF Gold Medal
2. Earn a minimum of eight (8) points with scores from the Prix St. Georges test. These rides/tests must be from USEF licensed/USDF recognized or FEI recognized competitions. Scores must come from at least two (2) different USEF or FEI judges. A panel of two (2) or more will count as one (1) distinct judge.

At all levels, freestyle scores and FEI Young Horse tests/rides do not earn points. FEI Junior, Young Rider, and Pony Tests and the USEF Developing Horse and USEF “Brentina Cup” tests may be used to accumulate points as ‘equivalent’ to national levels. These equivalent levels are shown on a chart in the USEF Rule Book DR119.2.

POINTS:

Points for rider qualification will be awarded for tests/rides with the following final scores. A score from a panel of two (2) or more judges will be considered one (1) test/ride.

58-59.99% One (1) Point

60-62.99% Two (2) Points

63-64.99% Three (3) Points

65% and Above Four (4) Points

In order for qualifying points to be recorded after December 1, 2010, the rider must be a USDF Group, Participating or Life Member and a USEF Active Member at the time the points are earned. Points may be earned ONLY at USEF licensed / USDF recognized or FEI recognized competitions.

BANKING SCORES:

Scores/points earned between 1974 and December 1, 2010 at USDF recognized/USEF licensed or FEI recognized competitions (including foreign CDI's) may be used towards the number of points required for rider qualification as follows:

1. Scores earned in any Third Level Test (except Freestyle) or equivalent may be used toward the ten (10) points needed to earn the Silver Level qualification;
2. Scores earned in any Prix St. Georges test or equivalent may be used toward the eight (8) points needed to earn the Gold Level qualification.

All scores earned before December 1, 2010 must be verified by USDF before rider designation is given, unless his/her name appears on the 'grandfather' list (see below).

EXEMPTIONS:

1. Riders may ride the following tests without previously earning any qualifying points: FEI Pony, USEF Four-Year-Old, FEI Five-Year-Old and FEI Six-Year-Old tests.
2. Juniors and Young Riders who are declared as candidates for the U.S. (USEF) National Championships or NAJYRC may enter designated qualifying classes for the USEF National Championships or the NAJYRC at designated qualifying competitions without any standards qualifying points. However, if entering any other class at either an open or qualifying competition, a Junior or Young Rider must qualify for the level they wish to ride.

3. United States Eventing Association (USEA) members (event riders) shall be exempt as follows: horse/rider combinations who have competed at the Intermediate/Two Star Level and below, or who have competed at advanced level but have not achieved a qualifying score at that level as defined by USEF rules for eventing, may show at the Bronze Level without any qualifying points in dressage tests or levels. Horse/Rider combinations who have achieved one or more qualifying scores as defined within the applicable (USEF or FEI) rules for eventing at the Advanced, CIC***,CCI*** or CCI**** levels shall be allowed to show at the Silver Level without any qualifying points in dressage. These riders will be tracked by the USEA and a qualified list will be posted on the USEA website. USEA will provide a copy of this list to be posted on the USEF and USDF websites.
4. The wording in this section will be provided by the USEF Breed Committees and the Breed Affiliate Organizations. The wording will discuss whether or not the proposed standards will apply to the USEF licensed/USDF Recognized dressage divisions in REGULAR Competitions.
5. NOTE: "BRENTINA CUP" RIDERS AND DEVELOPING HORSE RIDERS ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM QUALIFYING.

FOREIGN RIDERS:

Foreign riders may qualify using the USEF System described in this document, as long as membership requirements are met. Alternatively, they may prove competition eligibility with a letter to USEF from their National Federation verifying the level at which they are eligible to compete.

MOVING UP THE LEVELS:

Riders may move up at any time during the show season once the scores are verified by USDF. Riders may not move up in the middle of a competition.

GRANDFATHERING:

The following groups of riders will be “grandfathered” into the qualification system on November 30, 2010:

1. Riders on a USET/USEF Long List from 1999 to November 30, 2010 will be considered qualified at the GOLD Level;
2. Riders who have competed at the USEF or USET Festival of Champions from 1985 to 2010, will be considered qualified at the GOLD Level;
3. USDF Bronze Medal winners from 1974 to November 30, 2010 will be considered qualified to compete at the SILVER Level;
4. USDF Silver Medal winners from 1974 to November 30, 2010 will be considered qualified to compete at the GOLD Level;
5. USDF Gold Medal winners from 1974 to November 30, 2010 will be considered qualified to compete at the GOLD Level;
6. USEF Dressage judges have already exceeded the qualification requirements in order to apply for their licenses. Active judges will be grandfathered as follows:
 - a. ‘r’ judges may compete at the SILVER Level;
 - b. ‘R’ judges may compete at the GOLD Level;
 - c. ‘S’ judges may compete at the GOLD Level.
7. USDF Certified Instructors at Second Level and through Fourth Level have already exceeded the qualification requirements in order to test for their certification as follows: CI’s through Second Level may compete at the SILVER Level and CI’s through Fourth Level may compete at the GOLD Level.

NOTE: USEF and USDF will publish these lists. Riders do not need to send any information to either USEF or USDF, UNLESS their name is missing from the list. Please refer to the “Appeals Process” below.

APPEALS PROCESS:

In the case of an eligibility dispute with a rider, a committee will be formed from the following: three (3) members of the USEF Technical Dressage Committee and two (2) members of the USEF High Performance Dressage Committee. The members of this committee shall be appointed by the respective Chairs of both committees. There shall be two (2) members (one from each committee) appointed as alternates in the case of a conflict of interest. These members shall meet when necessary via teleconference. A member of the USEF staff shall also be on the call. Paper proof of eligibility via records (copies of tests, medal certificates, etc.) must be submitted from the rider to the USEF Dressage Department to start the appeal process.

USEF/USDF membership cards will carry the rider's designation. In the case of a rider moving up during the competition year, the NEW designation will be on the USDF or USEF website. These current designations will also be available on the USDF/USEF websites for competition management and downloading by the competitors.