



UNITED STATES *Dressage* FEDERATION
**Dressage Seat Equitation Guidelines for
Competitors**

August 2016

The purpose of the Dressage Seat Medal (DSM) Program is to promote and reward correct seat, position, and use of aids in dressage for junior riders.

USDF will administrate the qualifying system and the Semi-Finals of the USEF/USDF DSM Program. It is our intent to grow participation nationwide, both in the number of competitions offering the classes and in the number of riders competing in these classes; while at the same time, creating an effective and efficient method of qualifying for the USDF DSM Semi-Finals.

In an effort to do so, USDF is making it simple to ride and qualify for both the competitor and competition management. USDF will record results of all dressage seat equitation classes held at all USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competitions, but not all classes are eligible to be counted for qualifying purposes. Any dressage seat equitation class (except walk-trot), held at a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competition during the qualifying period may be used for qualifying for that year's USDF DSM Semi-Finals, with the exception of classes restricted by criteria other than normal dressage rider categories of open, junior, or junior/young rider. Management will not have to collect any qualifying fees; only submit the results of each class in the same manner as the rest of the results.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO COMPETE IN A DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION CLASS?

The minimum requirements for rider/owner and horse are as follows:

- Rider must have a USDF Group or Participating Membership (GM or PM) at the time of the qualifying ride.
- Owner must meet minimum competition eligibility requirements.
- The horse must have either a USDF Horse Identification Number (HID) or a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) at the time of the qualifying ride, and at the time of the USDF DSM Semi-Finals.
- Borrowed horses are permitted in all Dressage Seat Equitation classes. However, for DSM Semi-Final Classes and DSM Finals Classes, which are held during the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Dressage Championships and USEF Dressage National Championships respectively, competitors **must** comply with all Championship rules pertaining to horses entered in Championship classes, including but not limited to the rule that only the rider entered in the Championship class may ride that horse. Borrowed horses that are only entered in open (i.e. non-Championship) classes at these shows are not subject to the one-rider restriction.
- If a rider competes in the USDF DSM Semi-Final competition, a Participating Membership will be required; no USDF memberships for owner or horse beyond minimum competition requirements.
- Refer to the USEF Rule Book for all rules regarding USEF- licensed competitions.
- Refer to USEF DR133 for complete specifications of the USEF/USDF DSM program.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR THE USDF DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL SEMI-FINALS?

There are two methods that a competitor can use to qualify for the USDF DSM Semi-Finals. One method allows a competitor to earn a qualifying score in any open dressage seat equitation class. Only one score of 70% or higher will qualify a competitor to compete in the USDF DSM Semi-Finals. There is a universal qualifying period of August 1 through July 31 for this method of qualifying. The list of eligible riders who have qualified by score can be found on the USDF [website](#).

Note: The following classes would be allowed for qualifying purposes:

- Dressage Seat Equitation Jr/YR
- Dressage Seat Equitation Open
- Dressage Seat Equitation Junior
- Dressage Seat Equitation 13 years & under (refer to DR 133.2(f))
- Dressage Seat Equitation 14-18 years (refer to DR 133.2(f))

Competitors may also qualify for the USDF DSM Semi-Finals based on the fact that they are qualified for the Great American Insurance Group /USDF Regional Dressage Championships. A list of riders qualified for the regional championships is maintained and updated continuously on the [USDF website](#). Competitors who earn the necessary qualifying scores to participate in the regional championships at any level (excluding freestyles), and are otherwise eligible, are automatically qualified to participate in the USDF DSM Semi-Finals. Riders can elect to compete in any one of the nine USDF DSM Semi-Finals, but may only compete in one semi-final competition per calendar year.

Riders may compete in the region in which they qualified for regional championships, or in another region of their choosing, and are not required to ride their USDF DSM Semi-Finals class in the same region as they participate in regional championship classes. Competing on the same horse in one regional championship, and in a USDF DSM Semi-Finals class in another region, is allowed. No declaration of region is required, but riders must submit an entry for the USDF DSM Semi-Finals class at the regional championship of their choosing in order to compete. Refer to the USDF website for complete rules pertaining to the [regional championships](#).

There are two age divisions in the USDF DSM Semi-Finals: 13 and under and 14 through 18. A rider is eligible for the 13 and under Semi-Final class until the end of the calendar year in which he/she reaches the age of 13. A rider is eligible for the 14 through 18 Semi-Final class from the beginning of the calendar year in which he/she reaches 14 until the end of the calendar year in which he/she reaches the age of 18 (DR 133.2 (f)).

The top two riders in each DSM Semi-Finals class will qualify to advance to the annual USEF DSM Finals. In case one of the top two riders in either DSM Semi-Finals class does not compete in the Finals, the third placed rider in the respective class will be allowed to compete (DR 133.2 (c)).

Riders who are named Regional DSM Semi-Finals Champions and Reserve Champions at age 13 or 18 will be eligible for the next year's USEF DSM Final in the respective age group in which they qualified (DR 133.2 (d)).

Refer to DR 133 and the USEF website for complete rules regarding the USEF DSM Finals classes.