



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

USDF

Show Biz, Forward

The original edition of Show Biz was written before 1978 by the Council of Competition Management chaired by Pat Ritchie. It was then revised in 1995, 1999, 2011, 2014 and 2020.

With the need to continually update the information combined with the expansion of USDF's website services, the decision was made to publish Show Biz in an electronic format. The general principle is that the paragraphs that describe each of the sections (now Buttons) will offer information that is not subject to constant change. Each section will then offer links to documents that are updated annually. This has the added bonus of introducing managers and secretaries to those documents and forms that will be most useful to them.

We hope show managers, both experienced and inexperienced, will benefit from a review of Show Biz. Much of what is covered is universal to all shows, except for the mandatory computerization of USDF/USEF recognized shows. For those who are doing schooling/local shows, we do include information on manual entry, scheduling and reporting methods.

Note: United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) General Rules (GR) and Dressage Rules (DR) chapters and sub-chapters are mentioned throughout this document rather than the specific article number as article numbers may change from year to year, or within a year, as rules are edited.

Dressage Competition in the United States

Dressage competitions in the U.S. include everything from schooling shows where the prize is increased knowledge, to multi-ring extravaganzas and prestigious FEI competitions and national championships. Specific types of dressage competitions are:

- **Schooling:** Unrecognized, unregulated educational opportunities.
- **Locally Recognized:** Recognized and regulated by a local dressage group or Group Member Organization (GMO), with points usually counting towards a local awards program.
- **USEF-Licensed/USDF-Recognized:** Regulated by the USEF dressage rules and USDF program guidelines, with scores counting toward USDF and USEF awards and championship programs.
- **Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB):** These competitions might include or be limited to DSHB classes. Rules for DSHB classes are included in the dressage chapter of the USEF Rule Book (USEF Subchapter DR-2) and at www.usdf.org. The DSHB section of Show Biz describes the program and offers links to all pertinent procedures.
- **FEI Sanctioned:** International competitions regulated by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). Show Biz does not cover these competitions.

Show Biz is specifically written for managing USEF licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competitions and is especially useful for those who are new to show management.

Dressage competitions are a unique blend of sport, education and artistry. Each ride is a test of the horse's training and the rider's proficiency in the art of classical dressage. Horse and rider enter the arena alone to

perform the test before a judge. Following each test, the rider receives a written and numerical evaluation of the performance from the judge.

Dressage competitions are also unique because each entry must enter by a specific time and performs individually, so the show can be scheduled down to the minute. The competitors then know the exact times they must be prepared to ride.

In the U.S., dressage rules and regulations come from the United States Equestrian Federation, with development by the United States Dressage Federation. Competitions approved by the USEF must adhere to *all* USEF rules. The USEF Rule Book and its updates are available at www.usef.org. Schooling shows are most valuable to competitors when they mimic USEF rules without the insistence that those rules will be enforced.

Introduction

Show Biz is intended to instruct the newcomer as well as the experienced manager in the details of dressage competition management. The various checklists will help the managers in organization and planning.

Show Biz starts with helping make the decision to present a dressage competition and then proceeds step-by-step through final cleanup and results reporting. While Show Biz is meant to instruct and guide, other procedures may work as well for your specific competition. As long as management knows and works within USEF rules and USDF competition specifications, it may proceed in the way that works best for that competition.

At all times remember that the competitor is the customer and presenting dressage is a business of customer service. You will never be able to make everyone happy, but you should strive to do the best you can for the majority.

Show Biz is meant as a general guide to provide assistance to show management. It is **not** a substitute for reading and understanding USEF or FEI rules and/or the policies and procedures developed by USDF for running various programs and championships. It is recommended that you review the USEF Rule Book and review any changes at the beginning of planning your competition and again in the early part of the year in which you are to present the show. USEF rules and changes can be found at www.usef.org.

United States Dressage Federation (USDF)

4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511

Phone: 859-971-2277 Fax: 859-971-7722 website: www.usdf.org

United States Equestrian Federation (USEF)

4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY 40511

Phone: 859-258-2472 Fax: 859-231-6662 website: www.usef.org