



2025 ProElite/USDF Breeders Championship Series Guidelines for Management

I. AWARD CEREMONIES

A. REQUIREMENTS

1. All horses who place in a ProElite/USDFBC Series Final Championship class must be present at the appropriate award ceremonies unless other arrangements are made with show management.
2. Dress and saddlery for award ceremonies should be the same as in the competition, but dark or white leg bandages or boots are also allowed, including bell boots (DR 123.13)

II. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

A. PROELITE/USDFBCS GENERAL RULES

1. Rule changes, requirements, or contract obligations are not permitted after August 1 prior to the start of the ProElite/USDFBCS competition year, except when changed by the USEF and/or USDF Executive Board.
2. ProElite/USDFBCS rules and procedures must be listed in the official prize list for the event and must be available 30 days prior to the show.
3. DSHB competitions are not permitted to exclude horses from competing in ProElite/USDFBCS qualifying classes that have previously competed or qualified for a ProElite/USDFBCS Final. Such exclusion is not permitted by USEF rules.

B. APPLYING FOR AND SCHEDULING QUALIFIER AND FINAL EVENTS

1. The ProElite/USDFBCS is scheduled on a calendar year basis (January 1-September 30).
2. A series must have a minimum of two qualifying events to hold a series final. All shows in the series, including qualifier classes held at a series final, are qualifying events for **ANY** series final.
3. All qualified horses will be eligible to compete in **ANY** ProElite/USDFBCS Final, regardless of where qualification is earned, but may compete in only **one** series final competition per competition year.
4. ProElite/USDFBCS qualifying competition applications must be submitted with the \$75 fee to USDF at least sixty days prior to start of competition. Any ProElite/USDFBCS qualifier applications received less than sixty days prior to start of competition will be considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to a \$50 late fee.
5. A separate ProElite/USDFBCS Finals application and applicable fee must be submitted to the USDF office. Competitions may not advertise as ProElite/USDFBCS Qualifiers or Finals, including any competition name or title that would include a ProElite/USDFBCS designation, prior to approval by USDF. Failure to follow this protocol will result in a \$100 fine.
6. Fees for ProElite/USDFBCS Final Host Site Applications are as follows:
 - a. ProElite/USDFBCS Final application submitted by February 1: \$100
 - b. ProElite/USDFBCS Final application submitted after February 1: \$150
 - c. ProElite/USDFBCS Final application submitted less than 60 days prior to the start of the competition will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
7. All ProElite/USDFBCS Finals must include ProElite/USDFBCS qualifying classes prior to the series finals classes.
8. The series final must meet the minimum requirements for a series final:
 - a. minimum USEF Level 2 competition
 - b. Show manager and secretary must both be members of USEF and USDF (USDF Participating or Group Membership is required) at the time of championships.
 - c. All other requirements as stated in the ProElite/USDFBCS Final Host Site Application
 - d. all applicable rules in the USEF Rulebook
9. It is recommended that a series final be held with a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competition unless it has a proven stand-alone history.

10. An approved series final will be considered “definite” when at least two qualifiers have been approved by USDF for that ProElite/USDFBCS Final. An approved series final will be considered “tentative” until such approval. If ProElite/USDFBCS does not have at least two qualifying events by June 1, the final will not be held. Exceptions will be considered in extenuating circumstances.
11. If two or more competitions in the same series wish to host the series final, the Sport Horse Committee will select the host site of the series final. The committee may consult with the chair of the Sport Horse Committee and the regional director(s) of the region(s) with qualifying events in the series. Priority for the final will be given to:
 - a. the date of competition, which must be after all qualifying competitions are normally scheduled, and ideally, between August 1 and September 30 of the series final year.
 - b. the most prestigious DSHB show, or USDF Regional Dressage Championship in the geographical area
 - c. location and accessibility to competitors
 - d. experience of the competition management with DSHB competitions
 - e. history of rule compliance with USEF and USDF
12. Series final competitions are required to submit an initial entry file to USDF for verification at least seven days prior to the start of the series final competition. Additional entries may be submitted to USDF for verification as they are received by the show secretary.

C. ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

1. To receive full promotional benefits from USDF, qualifying and final events must be approved at least six months prior to the competition.
2. The title “ProElite/USDF Breeders Championship _____ Series Final” must be prominently listed in the final event official prize list, show program, promotional materials, and advertisements once the competition has received written approval of its status as a designated ProElite/USDFBCS Final competition. “ProElite/USDFBCS” or “ProElite/USDF Breeders Championship Series” must be used in its entirety if included as the title of an event, or if referred to anywhere within the prize list or program. (In other words, you cannot title a competition the “XYZ Breeders Competition”).
3. Series final prize lists must include a prize list insert for the ProElite/USDFBCS program as provided by USDF.

D. LICENSED OFFICIALS

1. According to DR202 a competition with a USEF-licensed DSHB division must have a USEF- licensed DSHB judge and a USEF-licensed dressage technical delegate (TD). At least two USEF DSHB judges must officiate in each series final class; one of the two judges must be a USEF ‘R’ DSHB judge. Each judge will evaluate each entry independently, and a scribe must be provided for each judge. Guest Cards to judge DSHB classes are not allowed (GR1005).
2. Apprentice judging is NOT permitted during ProElite/USDFBCS Final classes.
3. It is recommended that the USEF TD officiating at a ProElite/USDFBCS Final have significant experience officiating as a TD at DSHB shows.

E. AWARD CEREMONIES AND PRIZES

1. For all ProElite/USDFBCS Qualifiers and Finals, a USDF sponsor banner supplied by USDF must be prominently displayed. If misplaced or damaged, the event will be responsible for the cost of repair or replacement. Banners must be returned to USDF within 30 days of the competition unless other arrangements are made.
2. Award ceremonies and award presenters at each series final must be arranged in cooperation with USDF. USDF will inform show management if any sponsors or representative plan to attend the award ceremonies.
3. Award ceremony announcements must identify the sponsoring organizations. Any sponsors in attendance at these events should be provided with a complimentary copy of the competition program and be given free admission to the event.
4. Show management is responsible to have a professional photographer for all ProElite/USDFBCS Finals. Management must send USDF photos electronically of at least two in-hand champions, two materiale champions,

and the two prospect award winners, with the final results. People and horses in the photos must be identified. A photographer's release must also be submitted.

5. Public announcements crediting sponsors and promoting the program must be made throughout the event and during the award ceremonies. The name of the breeder(s) must be announced. It is also strongly recommended that breeder(s) and owners of placing horses be invited to participate in award ceremonies.
6. All unused ribbons and prizes must be returned to USDF within 30 days of the competition unless other arrangements are made. If awards are misplaced or damaged, the event will be responsible for the cost of replacement. For series qualifiers, USDF will provide twelve qualifier ribbons (two per in-hand division). For series finals, USDF will provide neck sashes and prizes for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion and ribbons for third through sixth place. Ribbons and prizes will be sent to the designated competition contact about two weeks prior to the event.
7. Prizes and/or other awards may be withheld by USDF to series winners if the following information is not provided to USDF or show management by required deadlines: name of owner; name, age, and sex of horse; and if known, the breed of horse, sire, dam, damsire, and breeder.
8. Prizes and/or other awards may be withheld by USDF if it is found that a series final award winner or owner was not in compliance with USDF series final non-member or membership, horse registration requirements, and related fees, for competition. These requirements can be seen in Chart 1 and 3 of the Program Rules.