



USA WORKING EQUITATION

Amateur Status Policy



Anyone competing in a USAWE-licensed show as an amateur must meet the requirements outlined in USEF GR 1306. USAWE does not prevent amateur riders from earning prize money.

If an inquiry is received by USAWE indicating that a professional may be competing as an amateur, the Ethics Committee will investigate the matter. A variety of sources will be used in the investigation, including social media posts, sponsorship promotions, ads for clinics, lessons, or training services, etc.

If evidence is found to indicate the competitor has been inappropriately competing as an amateur, he/she will be contacted and given 30 days to provide a written statement and supporting documentation of amateur status eligibility. If such documentation cannot be produced, then all scores and points earned by the competitor as an amateur during that competition year will be voided, and the competitor will be immediately moved to open status.

Amateur Status Requirements (summary of USEF GR1306)

1. Amateur. Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, a person is an amateur if after his 18th birthday, as defined in GR101 and GR103, he has not engaged in any of the activities identified in paragraph 4 below.
2. Remuneration. Remuneration is defined as 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. Amateurs are permitted to accept remuneration for the following activities:
 - a. 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. Teaching or training disabled riders for therapeutic purposes.
 - c. Expenses associated with conducting classroom seminars.
 - d. Serving as camp counselor when not hired in the exclusive capacity as an equestrian instructor.
 - e. Providing service in one's capacity as a clinic manager or organizer (as long as they are not performing the activities of instructor or trainer), competition manager, competition secretary, judge, steward, technical delegate, course designer, announcer, veterinarian, groom, farrier, tack shop operator, breeder, boarder, or horse transporter.
 - f. Accept reimbursement for any expenses directly related to the horse (e.g., farrier/vet bills, entries). Travel, hotel, equipment, and room and board are not considered expenses related to the horse.



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3. Other permitted activities by Amateur. 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 he is undertaking the internship to meet course or degree requirements.
 - e. Write books or articles related to horses.
 - f. Accept educational, competition, or training grant(s).
4. Professional based on one's own activities. A person is a professional if after his 18th birthday he does 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 section 2.e.
 - b. Accepts remuneration AND gives equestrian lessons, trains horses, or provides consultation services in riding, driving, showmanship, equitation, or training of horses.
 - c. Accepts remuneration AND acts as an employee in a position such as a groom, farrier, bookkeeper, veterinarian or barn manager AND instructs, rides, drives, shows, trains or schools horses that are owned, boarded or trained by his employer, any member of his employer's family, or a business in which his employer has an ownership interest.
 - d. Rides, drives or shows any horse that a cohabitant or family member or a cohabitant or family member's business receives remuneration for boarding, training, riding, driving or showing. A cohabitant or 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. Gives instruction to any person or rides, drives, or shows any horse, for which activity his cohabitant or another person in his family or business in which his cohabitant or a family member controls will receive remuneration for the activity. A cohabitant or 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.
 - f. Accepts remuneration AND acts as an agent in the sale of a horse or pony or accepts a horse or pony on consignment for the purpose of sale or training that is not owned by him, his cohabitant, or a member of his family, or a farm business business in which he, his cohabitant, or a member of his family controls.
 - g. Advertises one's equestrian services such as training or instruction.



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- h. Accepts remuneration AND acts as an intern, apprentice, or working student whose responsibilities include, but are not limited to, riding, driving, showmanship, handling, showing, training, or assisting in training, giving lessons/coaching and/or schooling horses other than horses actually owned by him.
- i. Accepts remuneration the use of commercially logoed items while on competition grounds as a sponsored rider.