

## GR1306 Professional/Amateur Status

1. Amateur. Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, a person is an amateur if after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, as defined in GR101 and GR103, he has not engaged in any of the activities identified in Section 4 below.
  - a. For Amateurs in the Dressage Division, see DR119.3.
  - b. For Amateurs in Jumper Sections, see JP118.
  - c. For Amateurs in Hunter Sections, see HU137-HU138.
  - d. For Amateurs in Eventing, see EV Appendix 3-Participation in Horse Trials.
  - e. For Amateurs in the Arabian Division, see AR110.6 and AR110.7.
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. Accept remuneration for 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. In the American Saddlebred, Saddle Seat Equitation, Morgan, Arabian, Andalusian/Lusitano, National Show Horse, Paso Fino, and Western Divisions, an amateur is permitted to accept remuneration for teaching riding lessons under the following conditions:
    - i. The amateur must register with USEF prior to performing any instruction.
    - ii. Total lesson time cannot exceed 20 hours per calendar week.
    - iii. Lessons must be given under the oversight of a USEF Competing Member in good standing who is designated as a Professional.
    - iv. Lessons cannot be conducted at a competition, including Federation Licensed Competitions and non-licensed competitions.
    - v. Student must be a beginner who has not competed and is not competing at any level of competition, and lessons must not exceed the basic beginner level.
    - vi. Teacher must maintain a log of all lessons. Log must include lesson date, lesson time and name of student.
    - vii. A USEF Competing Member designated as a Professional must review the teacher's log and verify its accuracy.
    - viii. The teacher and professional are responsible and accountable for compliance with this rule.
    - ix. USEF may request proof of compliance and refusal to provide such proof constitutes a violation of the rule.
  - c. Accept remuneration for teaching or training disabled riders for therapeutic purposes.
  - d. Accept reimbursement for expenses associated with conducting classroom seminars.
  - e. Accept remuneration for serving as a camp counselor when not hired in the exclusive capacity as an equestrian instructor
  - f. Accept remuneration as a Social Media Influencer or Social Media Brand Ambassador.
  - g. Accept remuneration for providing service in one's capacity as a: clinic manager or organizer (so long as they are not performing the activities of instructor or trainer), presenter or panelist at a Federation licensed officials' clinic, competition manager, competition secretary, judge, steward, technical delegate, course designer, announcer, TV commentator, veterinarian, groom, farrier, tack shop operator, breeder, or boarder, or horse transporter.



h. Accept reimbursement for any expenses directly related to the horse (i.e. farrier/vet bills, entries). Travel, hotel, equipment, and room and board are not considered expenses **related to the horse**.

3. Other Permitted activities by Amateurs. 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.

i. In the Hackney, Roadster, American Saddlebred, Saddle Seat Equitation, Morgan, Andalusian/Lusitano, Friesian, Arabian, and National Show Horse Divisions, college students may also accept a stipend (maximum value of the Federal minimum wage rate) and reimbursement of expenses during the internship served under the above paragraph.

ii. In the Hackney, Roadster, American Saddlebred, Saddle Seat Equitation divisions: If a college student serving as an intern exhibits a horse trained by the stable at which they are pursuing the internship, the intern shall only exhibit those horses solely owned by: the intern, the intern's family as defined by GR123, the college at which they are a student, or the stable where they are pursuing their internship. The intern shall not exhibit horses owned/leased nor co-owned by the stables' client(s).

e. Write books or articles related to horses.

f. Accept educational, competition, or training grant(s).

g. Assist in setting schooling fences without remuneration.

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 GR1306.2.g**.

b. Accepts remuneration AND gives **equestrian** lessons, trains horses, or provides consultation services in riding, driving, showmanship, equitation, or training of horses, **except as provided for in GR1306.2.b**.

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 in which he, his cohabitant, or a member of his family controls.

g. Advertises one's equestrian services such as training or instruction.

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 for **the use of commercially** logoed items while on competition grounds, **as a Sponsored Rider**.

5. Professional based on one's own activity along with another's. A person is also deemed a professional after his 18th birthday, if he accepts remuneration for his spouse, family member, or cohabitant engaging in any activity enumerated in 4 a-l above. For the purposes of this rule, the term cohabitant is defined as any individuals living together in a relationship, as would a married couple, but not legally married.

6. Violations of Amateur status. **The holding of an amateur card does not preclude the question of amateur standing being raised.** After an investigation as to proper status has been initiated, and upon request by the Federation, an Amateur **must** submit verifiable proof of Amateur status. **Failure to submit requested documentation to the Federation may be deemed a violation of this rule. Any responsible person(s) found to have violated these rules, may be subject to the penalties as set forth in GR703.**

a. Any individual found to have knowingly assisted in the violation of the Amateur rule may also be subject to proceedings in accordance with the Federation Bylaws. See GR1307.

7. Questions about whether you are an Amateur or Professional. For specific inquiries, email [amateurinquiry@usef.org](mailto:amateurinquiry@usef.org). **BOD 11/22/21 Effective 12/1/21**