



United States Rules for Working Equitation



APPENDIX G

USAWE RIDER DIVISION POLICY



USAWE Rider Division Policy

1. Division Classifications

In USAWE-licensed competitions, a rider must compete in the classification designated on their USAWE membership application, i.e.,

- **Youth:** Riders between the ages of 7 and 17 as of January 1
- **Amateur:** Non-professional riders (*see section 2*)
- **Open:** Open to all riders. Professional riders may only compete in the **Open** division (*see section 3*).

A **Youth** division rider may elect to compete in the **Amateur** or **Open** division but must designate either **Amateur** or **Open** division when they reach their 18th birthday prior to January 1 of the next membership year.

An **Amateur** division rider may elect to compete in the **Open** division but must reclassify to the **Open** division if he/she engages at any time during the year in professional activities as defined in section 3. The rider must immediately notify the Membership committee of the change in status.

A professional rider in the **Open** division rider may reclassify as an **Amateur** if he/she has not engaged in professional activities as defined in section 3 for one full year prior to the current competition year. The rider must indicate the change in division on their next USAWE membership application accompanied by a signed document that testifies that the individual has not engaged in any professional activities during that period.

If a rider elects to change division, the following conditions apply:

- a. The change must be made at the start of the next membership/competition year.
- b. The change must stay in place for the duration of the competition year.
- c. Riders are eligible for year-end awards only in their chosen division. *Exception:* Youth riders remain eligible for Youth scholarships and grants.



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2. Amateur

Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, a person is an amateur if after their 18th birthday, they are not engaged in any of the activities identified in paragraph 3.

Remuneration is defined as compensation or payment in any form such as cash, goods, sponsorships, discounts or services; reimbursement of any expenses; or 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.

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 from WE competitions.
- 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. In addition, one may accept reimbursement for expenses without profit, as prescribed by the educational institution's program, for the internship.
- e. Write books or articles related to horses.
- f. Accept educational, competition, or training grant(s).



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3. Professional

A person is considered a professional if after their 18th birthday he/she does any of the following:

- a. Accepts remuneration AND rides, exercises, drives, shows, trains, assists in training, schools, or conducts clinics or seminars.
- b. Accepts remuneration AND gives equestrian lessons, trains horses, or provides consultation services in riding, driving, showmanship, or equitation.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 that 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.
- e. Accepts remuneration AND acts as an agent in the sale of a horse or accepts a horse on consignment for the purpose of sale or training that is not owned by them, their family, or a family business.
- f. Advertises one's equestrian services such as training or instruction.
- g. 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.
- h. Accepts remuneration for the use of commercially logoed items while on competition grounds as a sponsored rider.