USDF Dressage Sport Horse Prospects (In-Hand)

No.

Individual Scoresheet

This score sheet is required for use in Young Horse and Four-Year-Old Prospect classes, and for all ages in Individual Breed (IBC) classes.

Specifications	Directive Ideas		Pts	Coef	Total	Comments
Conformation: 30% *Criteria:* The quality and correctness of overall frame and topline, balance and proportions, head, neck, shoulder, saddle position, back, forehand, hindquarters, angulation & formation of legs and joints.	Dressage type: Harmonious conformation with potential for trainability to FEI levels. Emphasis on function, not fashion. Predisposition to unsoundness, lack of correctness or limitations in quality of movement caused by weaknesses or conformation faults will be penalized. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults.	Overall Frame & Topline: Balance & Proportions		**x .75** or 7.5%		
		Head/Neck/ Shoulder		**x .75** or 7.5%		
		Back/Loin/ Croup		**x .75** or 7.5%		
		Legs/Feet		**x .75** or 7.5%		
Movement: **Walk: 30%** *Criteria:* Regular, four even beats, straight, active & even strides, with correctly aligned steps, articulation of joints, freedom of shoulders & haunches, balance, elastic & swinging back, overstep, reach, ground-covering steps with marching quality.	Purity & quality: clear rhythm, regularity & relaxation (judged mainly in profile); correctness (judged mainly coming to & going from judge).			**x 3** or 30%		
Trot: 30% *Criteria:* Regular, two even beats, straight, active & even strides, with correctly aligned steps, articulation of joints, freedom of shoulders & haunches, balance, elasticity, swinging back, natural engagement & impulsion from hindquarters, ground-covering steps, suspension, power from upward thrust & roundness.	Purity & quality: clear rhythm, regularity & relaxation (judged mainly in profile); correctness (judged mainly coming to & going from judge). Movement should be active, light & springy, with clear cadence. Should have scope & volume, maintaining an uphill balance.			**x 3** or 30%		
General Impression: 10% *Criteria:* Includes harmony (relationship of conformation to movement), athleticism (strength & mobility), development related to age & condition. Demonstrates good character, presence & temperament necessary for training.	Riding horse type. Shows potential to become competitive dressage horse, with willing temperament to progress through the levels.			**x 1** or 10%		

(Decimals may be used in scoring)

Total Adjusted Points _____ (100 points possible)

FURTHER REMARKS:

Percentage _____ **Entry No. _____**

Judge's Signature(s)_____

Dressage Sport Horse Prospects (In-Hand) Classes

Pertinent USEF Rules

1. Horses of one sex may not be judged against those of the opposite sex except in specified Group classes, Championship classes or special classes for single breeds or amateur/junior/young rider handlers.
2. A horse shall be disqualified for unsoundness. In Dressage Sport Horse Prospect In-Hand classes, unsoundness is defined as showing evidence of lameness. Refer to DR119 regarding loss of sight.
3. Following a posted or announced order, an entry will walk to the apex of the triangle, and await the judge's request to proceed on the triangle. The handler will lead the horse on the perimeter of the triangle at walk and trot, returning to the apex to stand for conformation judging. Conformation is judged before and/or after movement. Repetition of all or any part of the movement on the triangle is allowed only at the judge's request.
4. After all horses have been shown on the triangle, some or all may be recalled to be shown in groups at a walk and trot. If horses may be recalled, the prize list or program must state that this procedure will be used.
5. When two or more judges are officiating, competition management may require them to use the same score sheets and agree on each score before informing the scribe, or they may judge independently
6. The judge(s) must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger handlers, officials, other exhibitors or their entries.
7. Scores must be reported as a total based on the percentages allowed in each judging category, against a possible total of 100%, and all scores and placings must be published. Unofficial scores may be published during the class and/or final scores may be published at the end of each class. Decimals may be used in scoring.
8. Tied scores shall be broken first by referring to movement scores. If still tied, the tie may be broken at the judge's discretion, by the use of decimals, or the horses may be examined again (movement only). If a class is judged by more than one judge, the judges may consult and arrive at one agreed upon placement. [Ties in USDFBC Finals classes will remain tied.]
9. Braiding is optional. Bandages of any kind are forbidden during a class.
10. Bridles are mandatory on two-year-olds and older. Bridles are forbidden on foals and weanlings. A bridle shall consist of a snaffle type bit (see DR121.1) with two reins and headstall with throatlatch. Reins must be attached only to bits as described in DR121. Noseband is optional. A split or single chain may be used instead of or in addition to reins, however a lead shank is required if reins are placed over the horse's neck and the handler must hold the shank.
11. The handler, assistant handler and/or a whip assistant may each carry only one whip, or one standard lungeing whip (without attachments, i.e. plastic bags, etc.). In addition, disruptive noisemaking devices are not permitted in the competition ring.
12. Conservative sports attire is recommended for handlers, assistant handlers and whip assistants. Handlers, assistant handlers and whip assistants of any age must wear protective headgear as defined by USEF Rule Subchapter DR-2 while handling or assisting in the competition ring. *(Note: USDF also recommends wearing sensible athletic footwear.)*
13. Each horse, including non-competing mares accompanying foals, must have a separate handler or assistant handler at all times.
14. Assistant handlers may not show a horse at the trot (except for horses not being judged but accompanying a mare or foal that is being judged).
15. No horse that is not being judged may accompany another horse in the ring while being judged, except for a mare accompanying a foal or vice versa.
16. Unauthorized assistance by individuals outside the competition ring is not permitted.

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Effective 12/1/2026

USDF
DRESSAGE SPORT HORSE PROSPECTS (IN-HAND)
SCORESHEET

2027 Edition

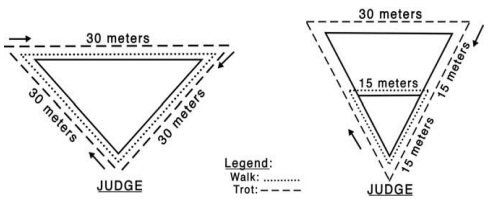
Purpose: To evaluate potential, suitability and qualities as a dressage sport horse (or performance horse).

Participation: Dressage Sport Horse Prospect In-Hand classes may be held for Young Horses: fillies, colts, and geldings in any age groups three years old and under, and Four-Year-Old Prospects: mares, stallions, and geldings at four years of age.

Recommendations: Average time: 3-4 minutes per entry.

Requirements: Horses must travel to the right on the triangle (see diagram), first at the walk and then the trot. Horses will stand in "open position" for conformation judging, before and/or after movement judging.

NOTE: *This score sheet may be designated for use in other classes per current US Equestrian Federation rules and USDF requirements.*



_____
Name of Competition

_____
Date of Competition

_____
Number and Name of Class

_____
Number and Name of Horse

_____
Name of Handler

FINAL SCORE

_____ _____
Points Percentage

_____
Name of Judge

USDF

US EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

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