



**USDF L Education Program  
Part 2 - Candidate Evaluation  
Sessions: D1, D2, (E), Final Exam**

**Session D1: May 21-22, 2022**

**Brave Horse Equestrian Park, Johnstown, OH**

**Faculty Instructor: Debbie Riehl – Rodriguez, "S"**

**Session D2: June 18-19, 2022**

**Brave Horse Equestrian Park, Johnstown, OH**

**Faculty Instructor: Joan Darnell "S"**

**Session E: (sitting and scribing)**

**This is completed outside of the program sessions and is arranged by the candidate**

**Final Exam: August 13-14, 2022**

**Brave Horse Equestrian Park, Johnstown, OH**

**\*Written exam to be held at 6 PM EDT Aug 12<sup>th</sup> at**

**Otterbein University, Westerville OH**

**Examiners: Kathy Rowse "S" & Joan Darnell "S"**

**Participant Registration:**

All applicants **MUST** be 18 years of age or older and have earned at least all of their "L" Part 2 qualifying scores prior to submitting an application.

Applicants must be current USDF Participating Members.

Part 2 of the "L" Program is open to 10 participants. Reservations will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis with preference given to the first 5 candidates that have the required scores to move forward to the "r" program (5 riding scores of 65% or higher at Fourth Level or above from four different 'R' or 'S' judges at Federation licensed/USDF recognized open Dressage Competitions. Freestyle does not count).

Applicants will be prioritized in the order in which their application is received by the organizer via email. An application will not be considered complete if score documentation and evidence of prepayment is not included in the email.

If more than one application is received on a particular day, applications from Ohio Dressage Society members will receive precedence followed by applicants participating in the 2021 Ohio Dressage Society L program Part 1. If the program is not full by December 1, 2021, the organizer may fill all remaining places with any candidates who have met the minimum requirements to participate in Part 2.

Payment due in full at the time of registration along with copies of required scores. Please use PayPal "friends and family option" and supply a screenshot of the transaction. Our PayPal account is: [Ohiodressagesociety.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Ohiodressagesociety.treasurer@gmail.com)

Payments will be pending for one week from receipt for initial screening of score and membership requirements. Those not initially accepted will be placed on a waiting list for consideration should an applicant withdraw from the program prior to the start of the D1 session.

***No refunds, once fully accepted into the program by USDF, unless a replacement is identified and approved by USDF and payment received prior to the start of the D1 session.***

**Cost:**

Participant Fee (All Sessions) -\$900  
Lunch/snacks/beverages are included all days/sessions in the cost  
for both participants and scribes.

Lodging, transportation and meals outside of the event timeframe are not included. Candidates are responsible for finding their own scribe for each session and providing shared accommodation, if necessary, as well as transportation and meals outside of the event timeframe.

**L Education Program Part 2 Participation details:**

**Prerequisites:**

**Score requirements: Scores must be earned prior to entering Part 2.**

- The minimum score requirement to enter Part 2 is three scores from three USEF-licensed dressage judges: two scores of 65% or higher at the highest test of Second Level and one score of 62% or higher at Third Level or above. Three scores of 62% or higher at Third Level or above from three different judges or any combination of these requirements would also meet the requirements to enter Part 2.
- Only scores from USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competitions will count.
- Scores from breed-restricted shows will not meet any of these score requirements.
- Scores for Freestyles or Young Horse classes are not eligible for meeting any of these score requirements.
- It is the responsibility of the candidate to submit the scores to the USDF office. This is a prerequisite to acceptance into Part 2. USDFScores.com can be used to verify the score prerequisite.

**Participant Requirements:**

- Part 2- "Candidate's Evaluation" is open to current USDF Participating Members who have completed the USDF L Education Program Part 1 and who have met the "Prerequisite" requirements (see [Participant Guide](#) for more information).
- The Candidate Evaluation is limited to 10 candidates and is intended for those candidates who are interested in judging schooling shows or entering the USEF/USDF "r" Judge Training Program.
- Part 2 consists of Sessions D1, D2, E, and the Final Exam. Sessions D1, D2, and the Final Exam must be attended in order.

**NOTE:** Candidates should be prepared to be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days of the sessions. Leaving more than one hour before the finish or arriving more than one hour late for the start of the program will negate the candidate's attendance and the session will need to be repeated before they can attend the next session. In order to make up an evaluative session (D1, D2, Final Exam), candidates must find a program that has an opening, which means a program that has less than 10 participants. The written exam will be held the evening prior to the Final Exam session.

**Part 2 Participant Application Form -**

**Complete both the Part 2 Application and Code of Conduct form, attach score documentation and evidence of prepayment and email to [cgemmel@sprynet.com](mailto:cgemmel@sprynet.com)**



# UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

## USDF L Education Program

### Part 2 Application

GMO/HOST Ohio Dressage Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ USDF Participating Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: Daytime \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

1. Goals: (check all that apply)

- I intend to become a USDF L Program Graduate.
- I intend to enter the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) “r” Judge Training Program.

2. Scribing:

- I have 12 hours of experience scribing for USEF “R” and “S” Licensed Dressage Judges.
- I will complete the scribing prior to the Final Exam.

3. Sitting:

- I will complete 10 hours sitting for USEF “R” and “S” Licensed Dressage Judges prior to the Final Exam (see Participant Guide for details).

3. Prerequisites: (attach documentation)

*Three scores from three different USEF-licensed dressage judges: two scores of 65% or higher at the highest test of Second Level and one score of 62% or higher at Third Level or above. Three scores of 62% or higher at Third level or above from three different USEF-licensed dressage judges or any combination of these requirements would meet the requirements to enter Part 2. Only scores from USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competition(s) will count. If you have question about these requirements please contact [Lprogram@usdf.org](mailto:Lprogram@usdf.org).*

*Candidates wishing to complete the L Education Program or retest that have exceeded five years from their last session, will be required to participate in or audit all Part 1 sessions and purchase access to current L Education Program material.*

4. What is the highest level at which you have competed at a USEF- licensed/USDF- recognized competition?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. If accepted as a participant, I will make a commitment to attend sessions:

D1, D2, and Final Exam \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**If you want to retest, please contact USDF L Education Program Liaison for information regarding the retesting application. The retesting application must be approved before you can be accepted into Part 2.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
*I understand and acknowledge that the study of dressage judging principles involves subjective elements, and that there is no guarantee the participants will pass the final exam. I hereby agree that I will not protest the results of any exam nor will I attempt to contact any examiner for explanation or tutoring following the exam.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Attach score documentation, and return this form by: 12/ 01/ 2022

To: *Chris Gemmel-Gnidovec/ODS, 4380 Blacklick Rd NW. Pataskala OH 43062*

*(740) 862-8640 cgemmel@sprynet.com*

# USDF L CANDIDATE/L GRADUATE CODE OF CONDUCT

*Must be signed and returned with Candidate Application*

As a member in good standing of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), I acknowledge my obligation to uphold and adhere to the highest standards of horsemanship and sportsmanship.

In my role as an L Candidate or L Graduate I will place the rider's safety and horse's welfare above all other considerations.

As a candidate or graduate of the L Program, I will know and comply with all rules of USEF and USDF and honor the principles of fair play inherent in them.

I understand that as a candidate or graduate of the L Program, I serve as a representative for our sport, USDF, and the USDF L Program. I will serve as a positive example through my conduct and behavior by maintaining a professional demeanor.

I further understand that any USDF member suspended by USEF will be considered a USDF member not in good standing during the period of suspension. During this period, such person will be ineligible to participate in USDF programs, including having his/her name removed from the list of L Graduates on the USDF Website.

I acknowledge my membership in this professional community and my responsibility to demonstrate respect for my fellow professionals at all times.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Items needed for D1 and D2 sessions:**

- 10 x 14 Self-addressed envelope with \$5.00 postage (for return of test sheets, price may change, check USPS for increases in postage)
- Completed Pre-D1 Homework and results from online homework quiz for discussion.
- United States Equestrian Federation Rules
  - General Rules (GR) and Dressage Division (DR)
  - Dressage Attire & Equipment Guide
- Diagrams, done by the candidate, along with test sheets of all tests Training through Second Levels
- Notebook, clipboard, ink pens, including red pen, and nametag.
- D1 self-evaluation and tabulation sheet
- Calculator
- An experienced scribe; **Organizers are not required to provide scribes.** If the candidate cannot bring a scribe, they should discuss the possibility of the organizer being able to assist in providing one for them. The candidate should expect to cover expenses for the scribe and possibly pay a small daily fee

**Session D1 - Judging Full Tests in Each of the Levels (12-14 hours total)** This session will be conducted on two days during a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competition. The session is taught by one instructor. Participants will be asked to judge full tests. The instructor will discuss with the participants the scores and comments, as well as summaries made at the bottom of the tests. The candidates should complete a written self-evaluation to keep and compare with the evaluation filled out by the instructor. The completed evaluations from the instructor will be sent to the USDF office and kept on file. A copy of the evaluation will be emailed by the USDF office to each candidate.

**Session D2 - Judging Full Tests in Each of the Levels (12-14 hours total)** This session will be conducted similarly to Session D1 but with a bit more emphasis on a testing situation. Candidates should bring the same items they did for the D1, including a 10 x 14 self-addressed envelope with \$5.00 postage (for return of test sheets, check USPS for increases in postage rate).

This session focuses on preparing candidates for the final testing. As in Session D1, the instructors will fill out the D2 evaluation. **Oral questioning may also be used in determining the scores on the evaluation.** The completed form will be sent to the USDF office and kept on file. A copy of each participant's evaluation will be emailed to him/her by the USDF office.

Instructor evaluations for both Session D1 and D2 are not cumulative but based upon a candidate's performance at the specific session.

## Session E - Scribing and Sitting – Self-directed

**All scribing and sitting forms must be on record at the USDF office prior to taking the Final Exam.**

### **Scribing:**

Scribing hours can be completed any time prior to the Final Exam. Candidates must have scribed for at least three (3) different USEF-licensed “R” or “S” dressage judges, for a total of 12 hours. Scribing hours may be made up of smaller increments, as long as the total is 12 hours. Scribing hours from schooling shows and breed shows will count, provided the presiding judge is an USEF-licensed “R” or “S” dressage judge. Scribing hours must be documented on the appropriate form and signed by the officiating judge. Candidates should keep a copy for their records and send a separate copy to the USDF office to be recorded.

### **Sitting:**

**Once accepted into Part 2** of the program, candidates must sit with a minimum of two USEF-licensed “R” or “S” or FEI licensed dressage judges at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competition(s). It is recommended to sit more than the minimum requirement if it can be arranged with show management and the judge. The required tests may be accumulated in smaller increments with several different judges, as long as the total is at least 20 tests per level (Training, First and Second). These hours must be spent observing the judge judging any test at these levels. **A minimum of 20 tests at each level (Training, First, and Second) is a prerequisite to taking the Final Exam. (Please make sure this is recorded on the sitting form before you give the form to the judge to send in.) Keep a copy of the form for your records and to use in case the judge’s copy does not arrive at the USDF office prior to your Final Exam.**

**Group sitting with an L Faculty member can be used to meet up to half of the required sitting hours.** Candidates may choose to hire a faculty member to sit with them at a competition. Up to 10 candidates may sit with the L Faculty member at one time. Sitting forms must be filled out by the faculty member and returned to the USDF office as with other E Sessions. The guidelines for sitting hours apply for group sitting as well. (The presiding judge does not need to be contacted for permission.) Faculty members are limited to two sessions per program. Please note: The Group Sitting is included in the guideline that an instructor cannot be used more than two times during the Part 2 sessions and group sitting should not be done with the examiner of your final exam.

**Participants must obtain permission from the competition manager and the officiating judge prior to the competition date.** First, obtain permission from the competition manager, before asking permission from the judge. If a participant wants to sit with a particular judge, he/she may ask for that judge’s schedule and then contact the appropriate competition manager(s). **Candidates should not ask a judge to promise a sitting session without prior approval from competition management.**

Participants should bring test sheets, a clipboard, and, if possible, their own chairs. The participants will sit in the judge's booth and watch the ride as the judge scores. The judge will set the pace for how much he/she wants to discuss the rides. Participants must not interrupt the judge or the competition. The judge's responsibility is focused on the competitors. However, candidates are encouraged to take notes and to begin compiling information for a notebook of judging vocabulary and comments. In accordance with USEF rules, it is strongly recommended, for the purposes of the L Education Program that participants do not sit or scribe with a judge they will be riding in front of at that competition.

There are two sitting forms: one for the candidate and one for the USDF office. The forms are marked accordingly. Participants should bring both Session E evaluation forms for the judge to fill out and sign. Candidates should also bring a stamped, letter-sized envelope addressed to USDF. The candidates will receive one form back for their own information. The judge will mail the completed "Office" form to USDF in the stamped envelope, provided by the participant. Candidates should check with the USDF office to make sure the sitting hours were sent in. **If they were not sent in by the judge, it is the responsibility of the candidate to provide the office with a copy of the completed sitting form.**

Sitting and scribing hours expire five years from the date of the D1 or for those retesting the date of the last Final Exam. If you have questions regarding hours you may already have on file, please contact the L Program Liaison at the USDF Office.

## **Final Examination**

### **Prerequisites:**

**Candidates must have completed all sessions and all scribing and sitting requirements and they must be on record in the USDF office prior to the Final Exam or they will not be allowed to take the final exam.**

**Candidates must have completed the Safe Sport Training and a certificate of completion must be on file with USDF.**

The Final Exam takes place at a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized dressage competition. The duration of the examination is approximately one and a half to two days. The examination will include a written test and a practical judging test with some oral questioning. The examiner will ask candidates questions during the rides. Please note: Candidates may be required to judge orally and will be required to judge tests consecutively as the show is scheduled as part of the evaluation process and the results may influence the final score.

The written test is a closed book exam; questions are true/false; there are no short-answer or essay questions. The questions are compiled primarily from the General Rules (GR) and Dressage Division (DR) sections of the United States Equestrian Federation Rule Book, the USDF Glossary of Judging Terms, and from the course material of the L Education Program **including questions from the freestyle presentation and online module.**



**Criteria for Passing the Examination:**

Prior to the exam, the candidates must sign a waiver with a statement that they understand and acknowledge that the judging principles of dressage involve subjective elements, and that there is no guarantee that candidates will pass the Final Exam.

***Candidates agree that they will neither protest the results of the exam, nor will they attempt to contact any examiner for explanations or tutoring following the exam. Candidates will not receive the written exam or the dressage test score sheets back after final examination.***

The USEF requires candidates to pass the L Program “with distinction” as a prerequisite to enter the USDF/USEF “r” Judges Training Program.

A passing score of 65% or higher on the practical exam and an 80% or higher on the written exam is required to become a successful graduate of the L Program and to be listed on USDF’s recommended roster to judge schooling shows. Each graduate will receive a personalized USDF certificate.

The scores required to graduate the L Program with distinction are 72% on the practical exam and an 85% on the written test. Those who meet this requirement will receive a certificate stating that they have passed the exam “With Distinction”

Candidates will receive the results of their practical examination and a Code of Conduct (must be signed and returned to the USDF office). Under normal circumstances, results will arrive within three weeks.

***Please note: After successful graduation, candidates are referred to as L Graduates. L Graduates are NOT licensed dressage judges. Therefore, they may not advertise themselves as L judges.***

**If you have any questions contact:**

Chris Gemmel-Gnidovec [cgemmel@sprynet.com](mailto:cgemmel@sprynet.com) 740-862-8640