

## **RMDS Standing Rules**

(As Amended November 4, 2017)

### **SECTION I. JUDGES**

The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society (RMDS) shall develop and maintain a list of recognized dressage judges. Two (2) categories of individuals are eligible to be recognized as judges at RMDS recognized shows

- A. Any judge recognized by US Equestrian Federation or any FEI or foreign judge holding registration for judging dressage in his/her own country is recognized by RMDS.
- B. Any USDF "L" Graduate or any judge recognized by the USDF who is in compliance with the RMDS "L" Graduate Judges recognized officials program (Section VII.) shall be recognized by RMDS

### **SECTION II. TECHNICAL DELEGATES**

The Society shall develop and maintain a list of recognized Dressage Technical Delegates. Two (2) categories of individuals are recognized as RMDS approved Technical Delegates. The duties of the RMDS Dressage Technical Delegate at RMDS approved shows are equivalent to those of the US Equestrian Federation Technical Delegate as outlined in the current US Equestrian Federation Rule Book.

- A. Any US Equestrian Federation or FEI approved Dressage or Combined Training Technical Delegate or Steward may officiate at RMDS only recognized competitions.
- B. Any approved RMDS Technical Delegate who is in compliance with the RMDS Technical Delegates program (Section VI) for continuing recognition may officiate at competitions recognized only by RMDS.

### **SECTION III. RMDS RECOGNIZED/APPROVED COMPETITIONS**

A dressage competition shall be recognized by the Society if the following requirements are met:

- A. A show may advertise as RMDS recognized after the RMDS Central Office has approved an application. RMDS recognized/sanctioned shows/events are required to carry insurance and must provide the RMDS Central Office with a certificate of insurance for each day of the competition with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 third party general liability insurance with RMDS listed as certificate holder, or the equivalent of the current RMDS insurance policy at least 2 weeks prior to the show/event date. Failure to do so will result in revocation of recognition.
- B. The competition dates must be published in the Society's newsletter (Centaur) or the Omnibus at least two weeks prior to the open date(s) of the competition. A prize list must be available to RMDS members at least 2 weeks prior to the opening date of the competition.
- C. A recognition fee, set by the Executive Board, must accompany the application for recognition of each competition. USDF Region V Championship, JR/YR Team Championships, Adult Amateur Team Championships, and the RMDS Championship Shows are exempt from this fee.
- D. All RMDS recognized competitions must be open to all members in good standing of the Society and to all equines. Exceptions to this rule are the USDF Region V Championship, JR/YR Team Championships, and Adult Amateur Team Championships, which shall be restricted to the named divisions.
- E. Applications for recognition of all previously approved competitions for the next competition year are due to the RMDS Central Office no later than November 1 of the current calendar year. Applications for recognition from previously approved competitions that are postmarked after November 1 will be assessed a late fee of \$25. All late fees will be assessed based on the postmark of the application.
- F. A previously approved competition is defined as any competition held on comparable dates, by the same organization, within the last two (2) calendar years as an established recognized competition.
- G. The show manager must be a member in good standing of RMDS.
- H. The show secretary must be a member in good standing of RMDS.
- I. Judges recognized by the Society must judge the competition.
- J. The competition must acquire the services of an RMDS or US Equestrian Federation recognized technical delegate.
- K. RMDS only recognized shows will be run in accordance to USEF Dressage Competition Level One Rules.
- L. At RMDS only recognized shows; all US Equestrian Federation rules regarding competitions shall be followed with the following exceptions:
  - 1. The telephone numbers of the nearest emergency facility and an ambulance service must be posted at the show office.
  - 2. The distance between RMDS recognized competitions held on the same date shall be a minimum of 50 miles. To determine the distance between competitions, the distance shall be measured in a straight line between the road intersections that are closest to the actual competition locations using a map drawn to scale by AAA, Rand McNally or USGS.

3. RMDS does not require the horse, owner or rider to be members of RMDS in order to show. Points for year-end awards or qualifying scores for Championships will not accrue until horse, rider and owner are current members of RMDS in good standing.
4. Pony Measurement: RMDS does not require a veterinarian be present for pony measurements. Pony measurements may be conducted at RMDS ONLY recognized competitions by the technical delegate and the presiding judge with a USEF approved and numbered measuring stick. A veterinarian may be used instead of a judge if the competition desires, but it is not required.
5. Allow Western Dressage classes, exempting USEF rule DR121.1 for those classes only and utilizing USEF Western Dressage rules for appointments, except that helmets required i.e., SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS; WD119 General; WD120 Tack; WD121 Illegal Equipment; WD122 Attire

M. RMDS Recognized Competition Approval:

1. Chapter sponsored competitions that are presented and recognized at the RMDS Fall Board of Governors meeting shall have their dates protected for one year.
2. All non-chapter competition dates including those for previously approved competitions will be assigned each year by the RMDS Central Office on a first-postmarked basis.
3. Chapter protected competitions that wish to permanently change their competition dates must send written notification of their intent to the RMDS Central Office for approval in accordance with the current Standing rules.
4. Show recognition applications, which were not recognized at the RMDS Fall Board of Governors meeting, shall be approved on a first-postmarked application basis. Additional competition recognition applications for the same date shall be approved according to US Equestrian Federation rules.
5. The Executive Board shall resolve any conflicts over competition dates.
6. RMDS shall not recognize any competition, which has indebtedness to RMDS or is not in good standing. Good standing is determined by the Recognized Official Committee based upon the Technical Delegate report.

N. The RMDS Competition Year will remain consistent with that of the United States Dressage Federation

- O. Show management must submit legible dressage scores or USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breed (DSHB) show scores for RMDS recognized competitions to the designated address within fourteen (14) days following the competition. All scores submitted must include horse name and RMDS number, rider name and RMDS number. If scores are not received within thirty (30) days of the last day of the competition, a penalty charge of \$50.00 will be assessed. All violators will be published in the Society's newsletter.

**SECTION IV. RMDS SANCTIONED EVENTS**

- A. An RMDS sanctioned event is any event other than a recognized dressage competition, which has met the requirements specified. Examples include schooling shows, workshops, seminars, clinics, etc.
- B. The RMDS Sanctioned Status allows the sponsoring group to take advantage of RMDS benefits (insurance, RMDS mailing list, etc.).
- C. Requirements:
1. Application and fees (set by the Executive Board) must be submitted to the RMDS Central Office at least 4 weeks prior to the event.
  2. Proof of insurance coverage must be submitted and verified (i.e. either applied and paid for through RMDS or a copy of the event's insurance request showing RMDS as a certificate holder to RMDS policy limits has been filed with the RMDS Central Office).

**SECTION V. AWARDS - YEAR END**

A. Eligibility:

1. Only scores from competitions recognized by the Society may be used in determining Year-End Awards.
2. Only current members of the Society in good standing shall be eligible to receive Society Year End Awards. Riders that have an Education membership are not eligible for year-end awards. Riders or their representative are required to have a minimum of 4 recorded volunteer hours earned in the current competition year in order to be eligible for year-end awards. Members who have failed to return or make restitution for missing/damaged perpetual trophies from the previous year, by Oct 20 of the current year, shall not be considered in good standing and will therefore not be eligible for Society Year End Awards.
3. Only scores earned when the rider is a current member of the Society in good standing may be used in determining Year-End Awards. Eligibility begins with the date membership renewal fee (for continuing members) or the membership application and fee (for new members) is received by the RMDS Central Office. Scores from competitions prior to that date will not be applied to Society Year-End Awards. The

burden of proof of membership status is on the rider. Acceptable proof will be a photocopy RMDS membership card, the front and back of a canceled check, the front and back of a deposited money order, or other similar document.

4. Only a horse owned or leased by and ridden by a current member of the Society in good standing shall be eligible to receive Society Year-End Awards. (The rider need not be the owner or lessee.) In the event of a horse under multiple ownership, only one owner need be a member of the Society. Proof of partial ownership by a member must be provided to the RMDS Central Office. Scores will count from the date proof of partial ownership is received by the RMDS Central Office.
  5. All horses must be registered with the RMDS Central Office for scores to be applied to any Society Year-End Award. Eligibility begins with the date the registration application and fee is received by the RMDS Central Office. Scores from competitions prior to that date will not be applied to Society Year-End Awards. The burden of proof of horse registration is on the owner/lessee of the horse. Acceptable proof will be a photocopy of the RMDS Horse Registration Card, a photocopy of the front and back of a canceled check, or other similar document. The horse registration fee is specified in Section VIII of these Standing Rules.
  6. Scores will be recorded directly from the official competition results submitted by competition management. Scores\* must be from current US Equestrian Federation, FEI, Advanced Young Rider, USDF Pas de Deux, or USDF Quadrille tests earned in RMDS Recognized Competitions. If two or more judges are scoring one ride, the average of their scores will count as one score. (\*Hors de Concours scores do not count) Scores must be from Open, Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur, or RMDS Championship classes to count for Horse of the Year, Special Awards or Horse of the Year-Freestyle awards. Scores may be from Open, Junior/Young Rider, or Adult Amateur classes to count for Rider Awards.
  7. All riders are responsible for verifying and documenting their scores with the RMDS Central Office prior to September 30 of the competition year. If scores are not checked, RMDS and/or the Awards Chairperson are not responsible for any errors that may occur.
  8. Class Definitions:
    - a. Open Class- a class, which is open to all. There are no restrictions based on the horse (e.g., age, breed, sex, size, previous performance, residence or membership of owner) or rider (e.g., age, experience, qualification, sex, residence, or membership).
    - b. Adult/Amateur classes or divisions are open to riders who have or will reach their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday of the current calendar year. A current US Equestrian Federation Amateur Card shall be required as proof of amateur status.
    - c. Junior/Young Rider classes are classes open to Junior and Young Riders as defined in the current US Equestrian Federation Rule Book.
      - i. Junior classes or divisions are open to riders who are Junior Riders as defined in DR119.3 & 119.4 of the current US Equestrian Federation Rule Book.
      - ii. Young Rider classes or divisions are open to riders who are Young Riders as defined in DR119.3 of the current US Equestrian Federation Rule Book.
      - iii. US Equestrian Federation Qualifying classes are open to riders who meet the requirements specified in DR127 of the current US Equestrian Federation Rule Book
      - iv. Quadrille classes are open to even groups of riders as defined by the USDF quadrille rules.
      - v. Pas de Deux classes are open to pairs of riders as defined by the USDF Pas de Deux rules.
- B. The Award Year will be the same as the Competition Year specified in Section III of these Standing Rules.
- C. When determining the number of scores to use, if 80% of the number of scores results in a non-integer number, standard rounding rules will be used: if the fractional part is 0.5 or greater, the number of scores used will be rounded up to the next higher integer; if the fractional part is less than 0.5, the number of scores used will be rounded down to the next lower integer.  
The median must be 55% or higher to qualify for an award. This method of computation will be used for all levels, including FEI and Freestyle.
- D. Rider Awards:
  1. An engraved plate will be awarded at the RMDS annual banquet for scores of 60% or better for Training Level and above. Scores must be earned at RMDS recognized shows. Scores must be earned from current US Equestrian Federation or FEI tests. No scores from restricted classes (e.g.: breed classes etc.) shall count towards RMDS Year-End Awards.
  2. If 5 scores or more of 60% or better are accrued in any one show year, a plaque will be awarded with engraved plates of the number of scores for each horse. In subsequent years, the engraved plate, which may be attached to the plaque, will be awarded to riders receiving one or more scores of 60% or better.

3. Plaques to which the engraved plate may be attached will be made available to 60% score award recipients at a cost to be determined by the Executive Board.
- E. Perpetual Trophies:
1. Perpetual trophies are the property of RMDS and are loaned to the recipient contingent upon the signing of a contract specifying penalties for late return, damage or loss of the trophy. Trophies must be returned by Oct. 1 to the RMDS Awards Chairperson. A keeper ribbon will be provided by RMDS.
  2. The RMDS Awards Committee shall be responsible for managing all perpetual trophies. Additional perpetual trophies may be defined by the Awards Committee and added to the list of awards. Only trophies, which are the property of RMDS (either from donation to or purchase by) may be included in the Award Program. RMDS Executive Board approval is required in order to add or drop trophies from the list. The Awards Committee shall ensure the list of perpetual trophies is published in the Omnibus.
  3. New RMDS Awards requires that there be a minimum of 5 competitors in any chosen level or division in order for the Executive Board to consider approval of said award. This policy applies to all Horse of the Year Awards and Breed Awards. As the Executive Board must approve all new awards, our policy is that any new awards must be presented to the Awards Chairman by the end of June of the competition year. In order to be presented in the current competition year, new awards must be voted on in the July Executive Board meeting. Any award proposals made after June will not be presented and voted on until the following year.
  4. Horse of the Year Perpetual Trophies will be awarded at the RMDS annual banquet to horse/rider combinations based on the median scores from at least three (3) shows, four (4) judges and five (5) rides. Two (2) of the scores must be at least 55% at the most difficult test of the level and at least two (2) of the shows must be recognized by US Equestrian Federation. The median must be 55% or higher to qualify for an award. FEI levels will be based on four (4) shows, four (4) judges and four (4) rides. The median must be at least 55% or higher to qualify for an award.
  5. Horse of the Year - Freestyle Perpetual Trophies shall be awarded at the RMDS Annual Banquet to a horse/rider combination, which have the highest median. The combination must have received a minimum of 3 scores during the current season and the median must be at least 55%.
  6. Special Perpetual Trophies have been donated by members of RMDS. Each such trophy has specific qualifications for presentation. Special Perpetual Trophy recipients will be determined on the basis that a horse/rider combination has reached the minimum of 3 shows/4 judges and 5 scores. A high median score will be the winner - no minimum median score will be required unless it is stated as such in each individual guideline.
    - a. Special Perpetual Trophies must be applied for by September 30 of the competition year. Send a letter to the Awards Chairperson indicating which special awards you wish to apply for. Exception: For some awards no application is necessary and will be stated as such.
    - b. For RMDS Special Perpetual Trophies that have age requirements not covered by US Equestrian Federation/USDF guidelines, age will be determined at the start of the competition year.
7. Special Breed Awards:
- a. Horses must register with only 1 breed affiliation for year-end Breed Awards. Horses may not cross enter breed registries.
  - b. Breed papers must be on file with RMDS central office. Grade horses do not require papers to be on file but must be stated as grade with central office.
  - c. Only one breed award per breed classification.
  - d. New breed awards may be added if there are a minimum of 5 horses of the requested breed affiliation competing and meeting minimum qualifying requirements. RMDS Executive board must also approve the addition of the new award.
- F. Sport Horse Breeding Show Year End Awards
1. Eligibility
    - a. Only scores from competitions recognized by the society may be used in determining Year End Awards.
    - b. Only current members of the Society in good standing shall be eligible to receive Society Year End Awards.
    - c. Only scores earned when the owner are current members of the Society in good standing may be used to determine Year End Awards.
    - d. Only horses owned or leased by a current member of the Society in good standing shall be eligible to receive Society Year End Awards.
    - e. All horses must be registered with RMDS prior to the earning of the scores for those scores to count toward Society Year End Awards.

- f. All owners are responsible for verifying and documenting their scores with the Awards Chairperson prior to September 30 of the competition year. If scores are not checked, RMDS and/or the Awards Chairperson are not responsible for any errors that may occur.
  - g. Scores will be recorded directly from the official competition results submitted by competition management. If two or more judges scoring the same class, the average of their scores will count as one score regardless of whether judges evaluate on the same or separate score sheets.
  - h. Only the final adjusted percentage score (after callbacks) for each class will be counted.
2. Award Year.  
The Award Year will be the same as the Competition Year specified in Section III of these Standing Rules.
3. Class Definitions  
For competition purposes, the age of a horse is considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling.
- a. A Young Horse is one who is three (3) years of age or younger.
  - b. A Mature Horse is one who is four (4) years of age or older.
4. Horse Awards
- a. Scores must be reported as a percentage using the current USDF DSHB score sheets, which are appropriate to each judging category.
  - b. All eligible scores are recorded and counted in the median, except as noted in 4c below.
  - c. All awards are based on the median score, which is the score exactly between the highest and lowest scores within a specified range of scores. If over five (5) scores are received in the same age category, only the top 80 percent of scores will be used to calculate the median score.
  - d. Horses must have a median score of 55% or higher to qualify for an award.
  - d. Scores from open and championship classes will count towards year-end awards. Classes for specific breeds will not count.
  - f. Open classes are defined as any class that is open to all horses within the specified age and sex group. There are no restrictions based on breed, size, previous performance, qualifications, residence, or membership in a particular breed association for the owner, breeder, or handler.
  - g. Hors de Concours scores do not count.
  - h. Year end Awards will be awarded to the horse with the highest median from at least three (3) scores, two (2) shows, and two (2) judges from any of the following categories:
    - i. Current Year Foal (Fillies & Colts/Geldings)
    - ii. Yearlings & Two Year Old Fillies & Colts/Geldings
    - iii. Three Year Old Fillies & Colts/Geldings
    - iv. Mares (Four Years Old & Older)
    - v. Stallions (Four Years Old & Older)
  - i. Keeper ribbons will be awarded to the Year End Award, Young Horse of the Year Award, and Mature Horse of the Year Award winners. If perpetual trophies are available, they will be awarded under the rules established in section V.E.1 and 2. The Year End Awards will be awarded at the RMDS Annual Awards Banquet.

## **SECTION VI. RMDS TECHNICAL DELEGATES PROGRAM**

RMDS has established a Technical Delegate Program to provide members with the necessary experience and training to officiate as Technical Delegates at RMDS only recognized shows. The program is administered by the RMDS Central Office.

### **A. RMDS Technical Delegates Training Program**

- 1. Enrollment and participation in the RMDS Technical Delegates Training Program is limited to candidates meeting the following requirements.
  - a. The candidate must be a RMDS member in good standing.
  - b. The candidate must be an individual member in good standing with US Equestrian Federation and 21 years of age or older.
  - c. The candidate must submit an application form to and be accepted by the RMDS Central Office.
  - c. The candidate must pay all required fees at the time of application. The RMDS Executive Board shall determine the fees.
- 2. To be initially recognized as a RMDS Technical Delegate, the following requirements must be successfully completed by the candidate within one (1) year of acceptance into the RMDS Technical Delegate Training Program:
  - a. The candidate must attend a training clinic.
  - b. The candidate must complete field apprenticeships consisting of a

minimum of three (3) shows. Each of these shows must be under a different Technical Delegate at either RMDS or US Equestrian Federation recognized competitions. Two must be at a recognized USEF Dressage recognized competition. A minimum of two (2) shows of apprenticeships must be completed under licensed US Equestrian Federation Technical Delegates. Need to pass the evaluation with a minimum of three (3) evaluation scores of 70%. The remaining apprenticeship may be completed under either a licensed US Equestrian Federation Technical Delegate or a recognized RMDS Technical Delegate.

- c. The program will be conducted when the RMDS Recognized Officials and Show Standards Committee Chairperson and the Executive Board determine that an adequate demand exists.
  - d. Pass a written exam with a minimum score of 85%.
- B. RMDS Technical Delegates Continuing Recognition Requirements RMDS Technical Delegates who meet the following conditions shall be approved to continue to officiate at competitions recognized only by RMDS.
- 1. Is a member in good standing with RMDS.
  - 2. Is an individual member in good standing with US Equestrian Federation and is 21 years of age or older.
  - 3. Has successfully completed the RMDS Technical Delegate Training Program.  
Must attend either a RMDS or a US Equestrian Federation technical delegate-training program at least once every two (2) years since becoming a recognized RMDS Technical Delegate.
  - 4. Must officiate as the TD for a RMDS recognized show at least once every two (2) years.
  - 5. An RMDS Technical Delegate must take a technical delegate's exam once every two (2) years and must receive a mark of 85% or better before their certificate is renewed. The test is to be administered in October of the odd years.
  - 7. If test is not passed, the individual must do the whole program again: as stated in Section VI, A. above.

**SECTION VII. USDF "L" Graduate Program for RMDS**

In an effort to provide quality judging RMDS has established a certification program that will allow USDF "L" Graduate to officiate at RMDS only recognized competitions. May judge through 2<sup>nd</sup> Level. The requirements are as follows:

- A. Must be certified by the USDF as having successfully passed the USDF "L" judges program.
- B. Must be a RMDS member in good standing and over 21 years of age.
- C. Must be a current member of US Equestrian Federation.
- D. Must officiate at a RMDS recognized competition, dressage schooling show or Eventing unrecognized event, which cumulatively includes a minimum of 30 dressage rides (USDF Intro-USEF 2<sup>nd</sup> Level or equivalents) once every two (2) years.
- E. Must attend a RMDS, US Equestrian Federation, or USDF recognized continuing education for judges program once every two (2) years
- F. "L" graduates must undertake 24 hours every 2 years of continuing education as approved by the RMDS Executive Board; 8 hours of which must include scribing with a "R" judge or higher,
- G. and 8 hours of sitting at a competition every 2 years which must be with an "L" faculty member or one of the approved apprentice judges from the USEF "r" program.

**SECTION VIII. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

- A. Membership classes are defined in the RMDS By-Laws. The membership application and dues should be sent to the RMDS Central Office. The Society's membership fees shall be as follows:

Individual	60.00
Additional Family member	45.00
Life	750.00
Education	45.00
Business-1 year	100.00
Business Life	1,000.00
Transfer Ownership-Business Life	100.00

- B. Fees received shall first be applied towards reducing past indebtedness by the applicant to the Society. A membership is not considered renewed until the date all such debts and current membership fees are paid in full
- C. There will be a \$50.00 charge plus bank fees if applicable on all returned checks. Section XII, B of these Standing Rules provides other penalties, which may be applied for returned checks.
- D. The lifetime horse registration fee is \$40.00. There is a \$15.00 fee for any changes to the registration (i.e., horse name change, owner change, etc.).
- E. The member is responsible for obtaining proof of membership in RMDS. Membership may be proven by submitting a copy of the current RMDS membership card or a canceled check made payable to RMDS for payment of membership dues. Without such proof, membership is declared to be invalid. Participation in club activities or RMDS recognized horse shows is not considered proof of membership.

## **SECTION IX. MEMBER BENEFITS**

RMDS members in good standing shall receive the following benefits unless otherwise indicated:

- A. General Benefits:
  - 1. General membership in the United States Dressage Federation (USDF).
  - 2. Eligibility to receive Society Year-End Awards (subject to conditions of Section V of these Standing Rules).
  - 3. A subscription to the Society newsletter Centaur (not applicable to Family Members).
  - 4. One copy of the RMDS recognized show bulletin Omnibus (not applicable to Family Members).
  - 5. A Chapter basic membership, to be determined by the RMDS Executive Committee to pay for the Directors & Officers insurance, shall be paid by RMDS to the Chapter selected by the member. (Note: Chapters may charge a supplemental membership fee at their discretion in accordance with Article V, Section C of the RMDS By-Laws).
  - 6. A card providing proof of RMDS membership shall be provided to each member at no charge. A fee will be charged to the member for additional copies of this card.
- B. Business Membership Benefits:
  - 1. Business Members shall be eligible for the following benefits:
  - 2. The business shall designate a single individual to receive the benefits specified under A (General Benefits) above. This person shall be designated upon application for Business Membership may not be re-designated during the membership year without Executive Board approval.
  - 3. Discounted advertising rates in RMDS publications in an amount to be determined by the RMDS Executive Board.
  - 4. Horses owned by a Business Member and registered with RMDS shall be eligible to participate in the RMDS Awards Program subject to the conditions of Article V of these Standing Rules.
- C. Education Members Benefits: (non-competing)
  - 1. A group member of USDF
  - 2. Education members may access Centaur online and receive e-Centaur – no Omnibus
  - 3. Will be eligible for RMDS member discounts at RMDS events.
  - 4. Scores will not count for RMDS.
  - 5. There will be chapter affiliation
  - 6. A card providing proof of RMDS education membership shall be provided to each member.

## **SECTION X. CHAPTER INITIAL FEES**

Each new RMDS Chapter will be required to pay an initial organizational fee of \$100.00 to RMDS upon application for RMDS recognition. This fee must be accompanied by (1) an approved and current copy of its procedures or By-Laws, (2) a roster of its membership and (3) a list of elected officers

## **SECTION XI. VOLUNTARY REMOVAL OF CHAPTER RECOGNITION**

- A. The Chapter Executive Board will notify, in writing, either through the Chapter newsletter or the RMDS Centaur or by special mailing, all of its current members that the members will be taking a vote on Chapter Dissolution. The notification MUST include the date, time, and location of where the vote will take place.
- B. The Chapter Executive Board vote for dissolution must be unanimous for the motion to pass. Dissolution of a Chapter must be done by a vote of the Chapter membership with a two-thirds (2/3) majority
- C. After a successful vote, the Chapter President shall write a letter to the RMDS President stating that the Chapter will be dissolved effective on a specified date. The letter should be sent certified mail with return receipt.
- D. The RMDS President shall inform the RMDS Executive Board of the Chapter's intent to dissolve and will then write an announcement to be placed in the Centaur. The announcement must include the Chapter name, effective date of the dissolution, information regarding the fact that all the members must designate a new chapter when they renew their membership, and contact for information on any inquiries. The President shall also make sure that the Centaur masthead is updated and that the next issue of the Omnibus also reflects the chapter change.
- E. The Chapter then needs to do the following on or before the effective date of dissolution:
  - 1. Settle all outstanding Chapter debts and liabilities.
  - 2. Disperse all Chapter assets to a recognized, non-profit, educational organization. (Chapter assets include, but are not limited to:
    - a. All funds in any checking, savings, scholarship, money market, or other type of account.
    - b. Any property, such as arenas, office equipment, trophies, awards etc)
  - 3. If the Chapter decides to donate all assets to RMDS, the Chapter may designate how it wants the funds/property allocated and in what amounts as either a flat sum or a percentage of the total.
  - 4. Cancellation of any business/tax licenses that the Chapter may hold.

## **SECTION XII. PROTESTS, CHARGES, HEARINGS, WARNINGS, AND COMPLAINTS**

Violations: A violation is any act by any individual member or group prejudicial to the best interests of RMDS and its Chapters as outlined in the current US Equestrian Federation Rule Book. Should a Chapter experience the need to expel members due to actions

which it may deem improper, dishonest, or unsportsmanlike, it may request that the RMDS Executive Board hold a hearing, according to the procedures set forth herein, for the purpose of warning, suspending or removing the violator(s) from all organizational benefits and, in the case of financial fraud, until all debts with RMDS and/or its Chapters are settled.

- A. A non-refundable fee of \$150 needs to be paid at the same time as a written request is submitted for regarding a hearing, protest, charge etc. Must be filed within 30 days of the event.
- B. Default to USEF Rules & Regulations
- C. Complaints which do not meet the requirements of Section A above, must be filed with the RMDS Executive Board per policy as published on the RMDS website.

### **SECTION XIII. COMPENSATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

#### **General**

- A. The RMDS Executive Board may establish contracts for the professional services necessary to provide efficient services to RMDS members and Chapters. Such contracts shall be in writing, shall clearly specify fees and conditions, shall identify the individual or company performing the services, and shall require the approval of the Executive Board. Services may be contracted from either members or non-members at the discretion of the Executive Board; however, compensation may not include membership in the Society. All solicitations for bids must be published in the Society's newsletter, at least one month prior to the awarding of the contract.
- B. Any official of RMDS who serves in a paid position may not vote on issues pertaining to that position.
- C. Contracts that the Society awards on a yearly and /or bi-yearly basis may include the following:
  - 1. The RMDS Central Office:

The RMDS Central Office Staff shall be paid a contract position that shall perform those duties as required by the current job description for this position.
  - 2. The RMDS Web Site:

RMDS shall hire an individual or company to be the Webmaster for the RMDS Web site. Duties shall be as defined in the current job description for this position.
  - 3. The RMDS *Centaur* newsletter and the *Omnibus* publications
    - a. The Chairperson of the Communications Committee shall present a contract for the *Centaur* newsletter publications artist for approval by the Executive Board.
    - b. The Chairperson of the Communications Committee shall present a contract for the *Omnibus* newsletter publications artist for approval by the Executive Board.
    - c. The Chairperson of the Communications Committee shall present a contract for the *Centaur* newsletter editor for approval by the Executive Board.
    - d. The Chairperson of the Communications Committee shall present a contract for the *Omnibus* newsletter editor for approval by the Executive Board.
    - e. The Chairperson of the Communications Committee shall present a contract for the e-*Centaur* newsletter publications contractor for approval by the Executive Board.
    - f. Duties for both of these positions shall be defined in the current job description for these publications.
  - 4. Managers for the following yearly competitions and events:
    - a. RMDS Owned Shows
    - b. RMDS Junior/Young Rider Camp
    - c. Other event(s) as approved by the RMDS Executive Board

### **SECTION XIV. RMDS CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW**

#### **A. General:**

- 1. The RMDS Championship Show shall be held in the fall of each year on a date & at a location selected by the Championship Show Committee with the concurrence of the RMDS Executive Board. Duties of the Championship Show Committee may include:
  - a. Selection of all judges, the technical delegate and the show manager for approval by the Executive Board.
  - b. Selection of a suitable venue appropriate for the competition for approval by the Executive Board.
  - c. Solicitation of trophies, awards, and other items as needed in cooperation with the Awards Committee and/or the individual designated to do the soliciting on behalf of RMDS.
  - d. Primary liaison between all of the above and the RMDS Executive Board.
  - e. Any other duties and responsibilities as out lined in the current job description for the Committee Chair.
  - f. The Championship Show Committee shall recommend the Show Manager & Show Secretary to the RMDS Executive Board
- 2. Scores from Championship Classes shall count in the RMDS Awards Program



3. Horse/rider combinations may compete in Championship Classes at a maximum of 2 levels, which must be sequential.
4. For pony championships, scores can be earned in any rider's division class (AA, Open or Junior) as long as the pony is registered with RMDS as a pony and meets the standards stated in Sec XIV, B.5.
5. For Training through Fourth Level & Training through Fourth Level Freestyle Championship Classes, horse/rider combinations are not eligible to compete in any Championship Classes if they have previously participated in any RMDS, US Equestrian Federation or USDF recognized competition at two or more levels higher. For FEI Championship Classes, horse/rider combinations may have previously competed at any FEI level.
6. Horse and rider combinations, which are champions from previous years and received an RMDS qualifying score in that championship class for Training Level through Fourth Level & Training Level through Fourth Level Freestyle, are not eligible to compete again in Championship Classes at the same level at which they were champions more than three times.
7. Except for Musical Freestyle Classes, the Annual Level Champions for Adult Amateur, JR/YR, and Open divisions will be determined by riding the highest test at the level that shall be judged by at least two (2) judges. The horse and rider combination with the highest average for each division at each level shall be the champions.
8. Musical Freestyle Level Champions shall be determined by riding a single freestyle test at the qualified level that shall be judged by at least two (2) judges. The horse/rider combination with the highest average score for the test at each level shall be the champion.
9. Only the rider that has qualified on a specific horse may ride that horse during the Championship Show (Only 1 rider per horse for the show)(groom with a loose rein excepted).
10. The championship awards shall be presented at the Championship Show in a formal awards ceremony. Failure of the horse and rider recipients to appear in costume and full tack for the ceremony (unless excused for cause by the show management) shall result in immediate disqualification. In event of disqualification, each affected award shall be presented to the next lower average score.
11. No whip may be carried by a rider in an RMDS Championship Class. (Exception: Riders riding sidesaddle may carry a whip in RMDS Championships.)
12. Championship tests must be ridden from memory.
13. Rider must submit a copy of their current US Equestrian Federation Adult Amateur card to be eligible to ride as an Adult Amateur.
14. In the event of a tie for Champion or Reserve Champion, the collective marks will determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Otherwise a tie will remain unbroken.

**B. Qualification For Dressage Championship Classes:**

Championship Classes shall be open to all Society members in good standing who meet the qualifying criteria specified below:

1. Membership requirements: The horse, owner, & rider must be current RMDS members prior to qualifying rides.
2. If open classes are held, horse/rider combinations may qualify to ride in Championship Classes by receiving a qualifying score in a US Equestrian Federation open show class at the Championship show at the level of the Championship class to be shown and by having one (1) additional qualifying score from previous shows.
3. All entries that wish to ride in the Championship Class at any level must enter the Championship class on or before the close date for entries for the Championship competition. This includes those riders who will try to earn their final qualifying score as defined above in 1. Post entries may be accepted at the discretion of show management.
4. If the horse/rider combination competes in a US Equestrian Federation open class and fails to receive the final qualifying score, the horse/rider combination will automatically be scratched from the Championship Class by show management. The rider will not be eligible to receive a refund for the championship class due to their failure to qualify.
5. Horse/rider combinations may qualify for Championship Classes by submitting scores meeting the following criteria:
  - a. Only scores meeting the acceptance criteria of the RMDS Year-End Awards Program (see Section V. of these Standing Rules) may be used to qualify for the Championship Classes. These scores may be from any test at the specified level.
  - b. Horse/rider combinations may qualify for Musical Freestyle Championship Classes by submitting two scores of 60% or higher from a recognized musical freestyle class at the same level from two shows and two judges.
  - c. The horse/rider combination must receive two (2) qualifying scores from RMDS recognized competitions at the level of the Championship Class that they wish to qualify to ride in the current RMDS show year; one of the tests must be the highest test at that level. The scores

must be from two (2) different judges at two (2) different shows. The minimum qualifying score for each level for RMDS Championships ONLY shall be (not to exceed USDF requirements):

Level	Open	Adult Amateur	Jr/YR
i. Training	62%	60%	60%
ii. First	62%	60%	60%
iii. Second	60%	58%	58%
iv. Third	60%	58%	58%
v. Fourth	60%	58%	58%
vii. PSG	58%	56%	56%
viii. INT I	58%	56%	56%
ix. INT II	57%		
x. GP	56%		

C. Qualification for Sport horse Breeding Championship Classes:

1.General

- a. The RMDS Sport horse Breeding Championship will be held in conjunction with the RMDS Championship Show.
- b. The Championship Awards shall be presented at the Breeding Championship in a formal awards ceremony. Failure of the horse to appear for the ceremony shall result in immediate disqualification. In event of disqualification, each affected award shall be presented to the next lower average score.
- c. The horse with the highest average score, to be judged by more than one judge with each judge scoring separately, in each class will be the Champion of that class.

The following Championship Divisions will be awarded through 8<sup>th</sup> place:

- i. Current Year Foal (fillies and colts/Geldings)
- ii. Yearling & Two-Year-Old Fillies and Colts/Geldings
- iii. Three-Year-Old Fillies & Colts/Geldings
- iv. Mares (4 years and older)
- v. Stallions (4 years and older)
- d. The Young Horse Champion will be determined by calling back all of the Champions in the Young Horse categories.
- e. The Mature Horse Champion will be determined by calling back all of the Champions in the Mature Horse categories.
- f. Grand Champion will determined by calling back the Champion and Reserve Champion from the Young Horse and Mature Horse Champion classes.

2.Eligibility

- a. The first and second place horse from an RMDS-recognized sport horse breeding class is eligible to attend the RMDS Sport Horse Breeding Championship Show in that class.
- b. The horse must be RMDS registered the owner must be RMDS members in good standing at the time the placing was earned.

(As Amended November 4, 2017)