

REGIONAL ADULT AMATEUR COMPETITIONS (RAAC)

A. OVERVIEW

MISSION: The mission of these competitions is to provide an opportunity for all CDS Adult Amateur riders to qualify and compete against others of similar skills and experience. The regional nature of these shows will help to provide our membership with a developmental path for gaining competitive experience, promote excellence and increase awareness of and support for the Chapters.

Goals:

1. For the Chapters: These regional level adult amateur competitions are designed to promote and enhance awareness and participation by the CDS Chapters, provide State level support in funding and advertisement, and a chance to generate funds at the chapter level.
2. For the Riders: These competitions will provide a positive introductory show experience for some, which will hopefully be a stepping stone to bigger things, while offering the other more experienced amateur riders an additional competitive experience.
3. For the Whole Organization: These competitions are designed to bridge the gap between the local chapter shows with individual year end awards programs and the top caliber competition at the Annual CDS Championship Show.

B. RAAC PROGRAM GUIDELINES

LOCATIONS: Three Regional CDS Chapter Adult Amateur Competitions will be held, one in each of the regions as defined in the CDS bylaws; north, central and south.

COMPETITOR REGISTRATION FEES:

1. Adult amateur competitors wishing to compete in the RAAC event(s) will pay a \$25.00 fee per horse and rider team for each level entered. Payments will be made to the Central Office or on the CDS website.
2. The registration fee can be paid at any time during the show year up to close of business 12 days prior to the first day of the show entered. For September RAAC shows, payments must be received 12 days prior to the competition, or by the Year End Qualifying cutoff, whichever comes first.
3. Scores earned before paying the fee will count provided the payment is received at the Central Office as specified above provided all other eligibility criteria is met when the scores are earned.
4. Registration fees are not refundable.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Participants at the RAAC shows must be current members of CDS, must have a USEF Amateur Card under Dressage Rules, and must be 22 years old or older.
2. CDS membership for both the rider and the horse owner must be current when all scores are earned in order to count as qualifying.
3. Qualification is for an amateur rider/horse team.
4. To be eligible to compete, the \$25 registration fee for each horse and rider team per level MUST BE PAID to the CDS Central Office by close of business no later than 12 days prior to the first day of competition at the regional show entered.
5. Current Year Qualifying Opens: On the closing date of the prior year.
6. Current Year Qualifying Closes: 12 days prior to the first competition day of the show entered or by the Year End Qualifying Cutoff date for September RAAC Shows, whichever comes first.
7. Scores earned at the CDS Championship Show will NOT count towards qualification for RAAC purposes. RAAC scores do count for the CDS Championship Show provided all the other requirements are met.
8. Qualified horse/rider teams can compete AT ONE of the three regional RAAC shows held during the year. Eligible horse/rider teams are permitted to compete at ANY RAAC event. For example, a competitor can qualify in the southern region and opt to enter the central RAAC.

9. Qualification scores may be earned on any test of the level TR-Int1, but must be earned at CDS recognized shows and are as follows:
 - 3 scores from 2 judges at Intro Level test C of 65% or higher at Novice Level only
 - 3 scores from 2 judges at any Training Level test of 60% or higher
 - 3 scores from 2 judges at any 1st level test of 60% or higher
 - 3 scores from 2 judges at any 2nd level test of 60% or higher
 - 3 scores from 2 judges at any 3rd level test of 60% or higher
 - 3 scores from 2 judges at any 4th level test of 60% or higher
 - 3 scores from 2 judges at PSG of 60% or higher
 - 3 scores from 2 judges at Intermediaire 1 of 60% or higher

10. Elite horse and rider teams that have won either Champion or Reserve Champion at the CDS Annual Championship Show at Training and 1st Levels are not eligible to compete in the RAAC shows at the level they have won.

11. Winners of the RAAC classes; Training through Intermediaire 1 Elite or Novice, will automatically be considered qualified for the CDS Championship Show at the same level.

C. SHOW SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED CLASSES AND SPECIFICATIONS:

1. Elite Adult Amateur Division for riders who have competed in a CDS Championship Show.
2. Novice Adult Amateur Division for riders who have never competed in a CDS Championship Show Horse of the Year class.
3. This competition will feature USDF and USEF National Level Tests from Intro Level Test C through 4th level classes and FEI classes at Prix St. George and Intermediaire 1. A total of 15 regular dressage classes will be conducted.
4. Competitors will be required to ride once at the highest test of the level entered.
5. Awards/Awards Ceremonies/Awards policies: see Appendix B.
6. Exhibitor Gifts & RAAC Banners: see Appendix B.
7. CDS Record keeping and Data Collection: see Appendix B.

RAAC SHOW REQUIREMENTS: In order that all 3 regional shows offer the adult amateur competitor the same experience no matter the location, policies and procedures for the RAAC events will NOT be modified without specific written permission from the RAAC Committee Chair..

1. Facilities: Provide a quality facility that has sufficient stabling, competition and warm-up arenas with good footing, food service, restrooms, nearby hotels and other amenities.
2. Dates: Ideally the show dates will fall from late May to mid September. RAAC shows must NOT conflict, compete or detract from the Annual CDS Championship Show. Management will agree to add additional arenas or an extra show day(s) to accommodate all RAAC entries should it be necessary.
3. Format: The show must be run in accordance with USEF, USDF and CDS rules, guidelines and policies. Since this program is designed as an introductory experience, competitors will ride for 1 judge, will be permitted the option to carry a whip and/or have a test called.
4. Scheduling: RAAC classes must be held on Saturday and Sunday, in order to accommodate and promote the maximum level of participation by adult amateurs in each region.
5. Warm-up classes: Warm-up classes will be a part of the accompanying dressage show. Warm-up classes may be scheduled on Friday or any time during the show, so long as the competitor is offered a chance to ride in one warm-up class prior to riding in the RAAC class. Show Management may opt to offer one RAAC Test of Choice Warm-up class at each level to meet this requirement.
6. Entries & Qualifications: Show management must get verification from the CDS Central Office prior to the start of the competition that all RAAC competitors are eligible to ride. This includes confirmation of: amateur status, age, payment of the registration fees for each level entered, and the proper qualifying scores.
7. Prize Lists: will list the RAAC event as a feature of the show in the main headline as a part of the competition and in all other publicity. Prior to distribution a draft Prize List will be reviewed by the Central Office and RAAC Committee Chair. Prize List and ads will feature prominently the official RAAC headline sponsor. See Appendix B for details on requirements for sponsors, qualifying, awards and award ceremonies that

must be included in Prize Lists.

8. Photo Coverage of the RAAC: The Official Show Photographer will be a designated RAAC Photographer.

a) The Central Office will be notified in writing the name, full address, phone numbers, web site and email address of the official RAAC Photographer.

b) Show Management will ensure that the RAAC show photographer contacts the CDS Central Office at least 60 days in advance to obtain guidelines/deadlines for the photos required.

c) Because photographs are an integral part our communication with the CDS membership through our newsletter, and because they will also be used as a marketing and promotional tool, it is critical that photos be in the proper format, identify the competitor by name, entry number and class numbers.

d) A stipend of \$250 will be paid to the official RAAC Photographer. Payment will be made by the CDS Treasurer, at the conclusion of the RAAC show, upon confirmation by the Central Office that all the required photographs were received and properly identified.

e) The Show Photographer will submit to the Central Office photos of the 1st and 2nd place winners in each division and each level. "Win" photos will include with neck ribbon and cooler for 1st place, with the 2nd place winner displaying their neck ribbon and receiving their halter. Also required will be six (6) each "Roses Award" winners photographs and two (2) each High Percentage Score winners all "win" photos will display the appropriate award either a large bridle ribbon or neck ribbon. Other featured type photos of staff, volunteers, chapter representatives, dignitaries, sponsors or special events/activities of the show are encouraged as well.

D. CHAPTER HOST BID APPLICATIONS

ELIGIBILITY: All Chapter(s) are eligible to submit an application to host a RAAC show within their region. To apply as a RAAC host requires that the Chapter have either:

1. An existing Chapter Dressage Show that is either a CDS only or a USEF/USDF/CDS recognized show.

OR

2. Combined resources in a joint effort between one or more Host Chapter(s) and private show management.

3. This arrangement would feature the CDS REGIONAL ADULT AMATEUR COMPETITION sponsored by name of the Chapter of CDS as a part of the specific title of the private show.

a) An official cooperative agreement between the parties will be negotiated outlining the role of the host chapter and the role of show management. This agreement, signed by both parties, MUST be submitted with the "host chapter" application materials.

b) A written letter of intent by private show management that they have read and will comply with and conduct the RAAC portion of the event in accordance with all Policies and Guidelines as outlined in this document. This signed letter MUST be submitted with the host chapter application materials.

BIDS TO BE A HOST CHAPTER(S): Applications & budget forms are available from the CDS Central Office.

1. Deadline for applications: Host Chapter bids must be received at the Central Office by close of business on July 31st of each year.

2. Only complete bids will be accepted for consideration. A complete bid must include:

a) A signed and complete application form that identifies any other association, GMO or breed approvals that will a part of the Host show.

b) A budget, using CDS chart of accounts format. In those cases of a joint RAAC effort, the Host Chapter(s) will submit the budget identifying the \$500 stipend as income, what other projected sources of income they will solicit (such as silent auction money, class sponsorships paid to the Chapter, etc) along with the anticipated expenses (such as hospitality for competitors and/or volunteers, decoration, etc.).

c) CDS does not require private show management to provide a financial declaration. However, CDS will have final approval on what competitors will be charged for RAAC class entry fees.

d) A copy of the previous years' premium/prize list with the class specifications, stabling costs, entry fees and other related information will be included with the application materials.

e) Plus (optional) any additional information about the activities, festivities, facilities or "perks" that will be offered or other details pertinent to the application that might be unique to that show, location, etc.

f) If a joint event the application packet MUST include the signed cooperative agreement signed by the Host Chapter Chair(s) and the private show representative and the letter of intent signed by the private show representative.

3. Host Chapters are encouraged coordinate applications with the RAAC Committee "Regional Liaisons" to assist in the bid process and ensure that the paperwork is complete, accurate, on time.

E. MARKETING, ADVERTISING AND DATA COLLECTION

CENTRAL OFFICE SUPPORT: The CDS Central Office will

1. Provide ads for the 3 Regional Chapter Adult Amateur Competitions through the year at no charge to the hosting chapters. (Note: this equals 1/3 page ad for each show). Each "host" chapter will provide ongoing updates on details to the Central Office for inclusion in these ads.

2. Feature the host shows in the CDS Omnibus.

3. Ensure that RAAC information is on the CDS Web Site. Premium lists and other updates will be posted as available.

4. Prominently include rider/horse team qualifications and show results in Dressage Letters along with photos.

5. Provide application/budget forms. Assist members with the application process, answer questions, and clarify rules and guidelines, and review qualifications for riders as outlined herein.

6. Develop a membership application form that has a section that identifies the fee and the elite/novice divisions.

7. Develop a data base that tracks the status and provides the payment information to the CDS Treasurer.

8. Assist with email blasts and other advertising to provide greatest possible distribution of materials and information regarding these shows to CDS members and the general public.

F. ADMINISTRATION

CDS EXECUTIVE BOARD: will retain the ultimate authority in all matters and decisions pertaining to this program.

1. Will review/approve the RAAC Committee recommendations for changes, additions and modifications to the RAAC program and shows.

2. Reserves the right to modify/amend/alter the Host Chapter bid and selection process should such action be in the best interest of the organization and its members.

3. Will approve the Host Chapter selections for all three regions no later than the September CDS Board of Directors meeting.

4. Will in each region, provide a \$500 cash stipend to the Host Chapters to be awarded at the CDS Annual Meeting. This stipend is designed to help defray expenses for the conduct of each RAAC show.

5. Will provide for a stipend of \$250 to be paid to the official RAAC Photographer at the conclusion of the RAAC show, when the Central Office has received all the required photographs as outlined in Show Requirements for Host Chapters.

6. Provide, at no cost to the Host Chapters coolers, halters, neck and bridle ribbons, plus high percentage elite/novice, and Roses Award neck ribbons, exhibitor gifts and regional RAAC Banner as outlined in Appendix B.