



USDF

UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

Objective: To evaluate USDF's current state regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, and make suggestions that could be implemented to improve its position.

BEST PRACTICES FOR HOSTING PARA CLASSES

In researching this topic, it became apparent, even to the most knowledgeable individuals, why show organizers can shy away from hosting Para classes, as it can be quite difficult to figure everything out. As many of our recognized shows take place at private facilities and properties, ADA compliance is not required or in place at many of the venues. However, in our discussions with Para riders and staff, it was determined that the following are recommended standards for a competition to successfully host Para classes.



Other Resources:

[USDF Management Guide to Hosting Para-Equestrian Dressage Classes](#)

[USEF Guide to Hosting Para Dressage Qualifying Classes](#)

[USEF Rulebook – Dressage Rules – Subchapter 3](#)

THINGS TO CONSIDER



- **Parking** – As most private venues may or may not have designated parking, show organizers making it a point to provide parking for its para riders close to the stalls and arenas. This simple consideration can make a world of difference in a Para rider's experience.

- **Flat/Easy Terrain** – When determining parking, it is also important to take into account the terrain around the parking. Show management should do its best to assign parking that is not only near the stalls/arenas, but that also has a fairly flat and smooth terrain for wheelchairs and powerchairs to easily navigate.

- **Bathroom Access** – While it isn't always feasible to have accessible bathrooms, or to bring in accessible porta-potties the competition should identify one facility onsite that can be accessed easily without stairs, etc., and that has a door wide enough for a wheelchair or power chair to get through. However, Para riders have

become quite adept at adapting to what is available, so they can and will make most scenarios work for themselves.

- **Volunteers** – Many times, the biggest task at hand when hosting a Para class is the shortening and lengthening of the arena. Show management should plan, as part of their volunteer schedule, individuals tasked with these jobs when needed. However, if there aren't volunteers available, many of the Para riders have grooms and family members who are willing to help, so management should work with the para riders for additional support.