

How to get started to show your Quarter Horse at Recognized USDF/USEF Dressage Shows

You will need to be a member of USEF, AQHA, and USDF. Your horse will need to be listed yearly or have a life time certificate and/or number from AQHA, USEF, and USDF. Plus be registered with AQHA.

To get started go through the 5 points below, do this at least several weeks before your first show to be sure AQHA has time to put you in the system to gather your scores.

1. Your horse needs to be registered with the American Quarter Horse Association to earn AQHA points , you need to be a member with AQHA in the year you are showing

Note: if he/she is in the AQHA incentive fund, this enables your horse to earn money for each point earned. Money is figured each year by participants and points earned. Each Feb AQHA will mail the incentive fund checks to you in the amount you earned the year before.

Horses must be signed up by 7 months old in the incentive fund then they will be eligible their whole life to earn money , they can be signed up older but the cost is much more,

Up to 7 months =\$100, 7 mo to 12 mo = \$200, 12 mo to 18mo =\$1000, 18 mo to 24 mo =\$2500

Cannot nominate after 24 months of age

Your horse will have a stamp on his registration papers if he/she is in the AQHA incentive fund.

2. Sign up with USEF(United States Equestrian Federation)
<http://www.usef.org/IFrames/memberServices/membership/joinRenew.aspx>
Once you are a member you must sign up your horse

3. Once you are a member then you will find the link to enroll your horse, you can enroll him for one season or a life enrolment. The younger you do this the less expensive it is
<http://www.usef.org/IFrames/pointsAwards/hoty/Default.aspx>
the bottom of this page has links to the forms to enroll your horse

AQHA will get their scores from USEF to award your AQHA points and incentive fund money; there is no need for you or the show secretary to do anything extra to have your scores turned into AQHA.

4. Sign up with USDF (United States Dressage Federation) <http://www.usdf.org/join/>

This page has where to join for you

Note the differences in the different types of memberships, The group memberships are often part of the benefits of joining a local dressage club , you become both a group USDF member and a member of the club you joined.

The bottom of this page has where to sign your horse up for his/her lifetime number

You will need this number to sign up with AQHA

5. Sign up with AQHA to record your dressage scores, you have to fill out this Dressage Competition License form
<http://www.aqha.com/~media/28203D1353A242189F51D60D2A7B1CDB.ashx> and mail in the fee , this is a once in a life time fee for the horse.

If you can't open the about link to the competition license go to
<http://www.aqha.com/Resources.aspx> scroll down to showing and click on the form Dressage Competition License.

6. Note: there is other awards programs offered by USEF where they keep track of the horses you win over. Once you are a member, go to the web site, log in, then scroll down to find horse and click on the word horse, then you will have the opportunity to see how you are against all the other horses of the nation, you can also print out your results from each show and or year to help keep track of the points you earned
7. Another program is the USDF all Breeds Awards Program Quarter Horse Division there is no fee to sign your horse up, they take the top 8 scores and average them and the highest average for each level is awarded up to 5 places All-Breeds Awards Declaration Form:
<http://www.usdf.org/docs/awards/all-breeds/DeclarationForm.pdf>
8. USDF has many other awards for both rider and horse. Go to
[http://magazine.usdf.org/wps/portal/usdf/c1/fy3LDolwFEQ_6V5qBbYFwzMitgWBDSlgCChgJDHGrxd2usCZ5ZmTgQLmjurZterRTaO6QgaFXpgSe9TxCKLBSRplBzDUGhuQGeer3JM9B_74Dgm-hS54HsyjzU4LX_YXjShhC5E3DGXlojK8fVxjo-5atxSJFtAllyJCWosfp_q4vgey2oaw3sqcv3DVV3KQ8sRhriVnncBsy7KliH_XTDKg!/?](http://magazine.usdf.org/wps/portal/usdf/c1/fy3LDolwFEQ_6V5qBbYFwzMitgWBDSlgCChgJDHGrxd2usCZ5ZmTgQLmjurZterRTaO6QgaFXpgSe9TxCKLBSRplBzDUGhuQGeer3JM9B_74Dgm-hS54HsyjzU4LX_YXjShhC5E3DGXlojK8fVxjo-5atxSJFtAllyJCWosfp_q4vgey2oaw3sqcv3DVV3KQ8sRhriVnncBsy7KliH_XTDKg!/)
to learn all what they offer to both horse and rider.