

# SCDCTA Update: a Safe Return to Competition

May 25, 2020



In accordance with guidelines issued by the USEF, USDF, and USEA, the SCDCTA will resume recognition of shows and points awarded to competitors on June 1, 2020. As we approach the re-opening of dressage and combined training competitions, the general sentiment is one of cautious optimism.

On one hand, it's exciting to imagine the joys of returning to the competitions we love. On the other hand, it's sobering to imagine the extensive precautions that will be needed to foster the health and well-being of competitors, officials, volunteers, and all the other show participants. The last thing anyone wants is to return to quarantine conditions if outbreaks of COVID-19 resume.

On a positive note, it is the stated intention of USEF and USDF to hold the 2020 Regional Dressage Championships and the National Dressage Championships on schedule. Modifications to the rules for qualifying are in place to adjust for the shorter competition season. In addition, the 2020 USEA Area Championships and the American Eventing Championships also remain on the calendar for eventers.

It's clear that a "one size fits all" COVID-19 plan is not feasible when it comes to the rules for re-opening equestrian competition. The re-opening procedures of federal, state and county authorities for dealing with the COVID-19 threat will take precedence over guidelines provided by our national sport governing bodies. Links to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) are provided for your reference at the end of this update.

To bring greater clarity to the specific issues for re-opening shows, the USEF, USDF, USEA and SCDCTA have provided recommendations to support show organizers as they develop specific rules for protecting participants. Show organizers will need to adapt their individual plans because the circumstances from one competition to another can vary greatly. Schooling show organizers will need to apply some of the rigor of recognized competition managers in order to comply with the COVID-19 guidelines. It is expected that show organizers will use social media and other electronic outreach to help their constituents stay informed about the most up-to-date protective procedures.

Competitors will have the responsibility to stay informed about specific show plans, to sign appropriate waivers, and to comply with those plans. Some of the over-arching guidance is familiar to us all:

- ◇ stay home if you do not feel well or have had contact with someone who has COVID-19,
- ◇ maintain social distancing of at least six feet,
- ◇ wear masks as much as possible, especially in situations when social distancing is difficult,
- ◇ monitor your temperature on a daily basis, and
- ◇ make a report immediately to show management if you develop COVID-19 symptoms.

Here are current links from the CDC and SCDHEC regarding general re-opening procedures:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>  
[https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/DHEC-Employer-Return-to-Work-Guidance-05.05.2020\\_1.pdf](https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/DHEC-Employer-Return-to-Work-Guidance-05.05.2020_1.pdf)

Here are links from USEF, USDF, and USEA and SCDCTA with recommendations for and information about re-opening competitions:

<https://www.usef.org/media/coronavirus-resources>  
<https://www.usdf.org/docs/announcements/BestPractices051920.pdf>  
<https://www.useventing.com/news-media/eventing-tv/usef-usea-joint-webinar-for-eventing-a-safe-return-to-competition>  
<https://www.scdcta.com> Events