

# Opportunity Classes 101

## **Q...Just what are Opportunity Classes???**

A...A “division” developed by USEF to bring non members (horses, riders, owners) into recognized dressage shows. USDF and USEF memberships are not required and some show administrative fees are waived. Opportunity Classes have been around for several years, but have not received much notice in the Houston area.

## **Q...Why?**

A...Because non USDF/USEF members compete mostly in schooling shows where they don't have the expense of all the memberships and fees associated with recognized shows.

## **Q...What's different now?**

A...In 2014, HDS is now permitting scores obtained in Opportunity Classes at recognized shows to be used in HDS Year End Awards for Schooling Shows, PLUS scores can be used to qualify for the HDS Schooling Show Championships. The Recognized Shows offering year-end score qualifying opportunity classes must register their show with the HDS Schooling Show Chair to be counted towards these awards. Be sure to ask each Show Manager about this before entering. The opportunity classes at the 2014 HDS Level 2 and Level 3 shows held at Great SW Equestrian Center will be part of this program.

## **Q.....What's the advantage over attending schooling shows??**

A....You get scores and comments by USEF licensed officials. The judges will be “r”, “R”, or “S” judges. This gives the competitor feedback from more experienced judges and more “variety” of judges. Schooling shows typically have more limited budgets, and can't bring judges from far distances around the country. Recognized shows can.

## **Q.....Where can you find these classes?**

A....Check the Prize Lists for recognized shows. Any Level 1, 2 or 3 Recognized Show can offer opportunity classes. Level 3 shows can offer Training level only. Level 2 shows can offer Training and First level. And Level 1 can offer Training, First and Second levels.