

Changes Coming for SLADS Recognized Shows in 2019

By Lindsey Culver, SLADS Vice President and Horse Show Committee Chair

The National Equestrian Center has recently changed ownership and they have given the new management team quotas to meet in order to keep the facility going. Therefore, rates for 2019, have greatly increased, leaving the SLADS Horse Show Committee with decisions to make in order to keep our GMO and its members' best interest at heart. We felt it was important to keep our membership informed about these increases as well as other costs that are required for SLADS to put on a USDF/USEF Recognized Dressage Show.

NEC Increases/Changes

- **Stabling Requirements-** Instead of only paying for the stalls that we use, we are now required to pay for a minimum of 125 stalls if using both indoor arenas (75 stalls for Arena A and 50 stalls for Arena B). Going with recent years, it is likely we will only fill 50-60% of those stalls.
- **Stabling Changes-** The cost to SLADS for stalls in 2018 was \$50/weekend and did not include shavings. SLADS will now pay \$67/weekend for a stall (minimum of 125 stalls if using Arenas A and B whether we fill them or not). It does include 2 bags of shavings per stall. For stalls that are not used, and stalls that are used only as tack stalls, we are allowed to use the excess shavings towards the extra shavings that competitors would pay for.
- **Arena Rental Fee Increase-** This varies depending how many stalls we agree to pay for.
 - In June 2018, for the SLADS Summer Festival I & II, we rented out Arena A with a 25 stall minimum for \$900/day and Arena B with a 25 stall minimum for \$500/day. 0-24 stalls per Arena was an option at a higher price but we were able to fill 71 stalls that weekend.
 - For all 2019 shows, we will have to pay \$1800/day to rent out Arena A with a 75 stall minimum and \$1200/day for Arena B with a 50 stall minimum.

Other Costs (based on the 2018 June Summer Festival I & II)-

- USEF Fees- \$2,708.10
- USDF Fees- \$1,140
- Judge #1- Judging Fee \$1,050
- Judge #2- \$1,000
- Judge #3- \$1,100
(This judge was cancelled after the cancellation date due to low entries so we owed a fee but saved on airfare and hotel)
- TD- \$540
- Show Manager- \$2,207
- Show Secretary- \$750
- Head Scorer- \$200
- Lodging for Judges, TD, Show Manager and Show Secretary- \$1,280.64
- Travel and Personal Expenses for Judges and TD- \$2,784.05
- Driver for Judges and TD- \$427
- Concessions- \$287
- Farrier Fees- \$600
- Veterinary Fees- \$105

- On Site Paramedic- \$550
- Overnight Security- \$600
- Volunteer Expenses- \$347.42
- Radio Rentals- \$229.14
- Competitors Party- \$611.68
- Ribbons and Awards- \$393.89

For this particular show, even with raising \$900 in sponsorships and donations, we had a loss of \$435.44. While this is much better than the previous year, where we had a loss of \$2,500 for the 2017 SLADS Summer Festival I & II and a loss of \$7,700 for the 2017 SLADS Fall Classic I & II, our goal is to at least break even so that we can continue to host these shows as well as afford to offer multiple educational events each year to our members. With this in mind, we have decided to move the recognized shows to the outdoor arena.

Benefits to the Outdoor Arena-

- Rental fee for the full outdoor arena is \$1,200/day vs. \$3,000/day if we used both indoor arenas.
- Stall rental minimum is 75 vs 125.
- There is enough room for 3 show rings and adequate warm up. If indoors, the maximum number of competition rings would be 2.
- With multiple drags and frequent watering, the outdoor footing is very stable and safe. The big Grand Prix Jumper classes are held in the outdoor arena with great results.
- Having the competition rings and warm up areas together, in an open area, typically creates a less stressful environment for horses and riders as they can see one another.

Additionally, The NEC has decided to not renew our SLADS October Fall Classic I & II. Their reason being that they have more lucrative opportunities for the weekend that will better help them meet their business goals. dressage shows tend to bring in fewer horses, especially with only one horse in the show ring at a time, every several minutes. We don't want to give up offering a SLADS Fall Classic Show in 2019, so we took the last available weekend, August 31st to September 1st. We actually find this date to be quite favorable this year as it will be the last weekend to qualify for the USDF Region 4 Regionals. In previous years, we had one of our schooling shows on that weekend but we were able to move that to July 13th.

We, the SLADS Horse Show Committee, feel confident we can organize wonderful recognized shows with good, well maintained footing in the outdoor arena. We hope that our members and competitors will trust in us to put on beautifully run shows for all to enjoy in 2019. We want to thank everyone for your continued support and confidence in us because, after all, each of you are the reason we work so hard to make these shows happen! Please feel free to email us with any questions or concerns at horseshows@slads.org . We would love to hear how we can better serve our community!