



## **\$10,000 Houston Dressage Society Dressage Derby**

Houston Dressage Society (HDS) would like to host a Dressage Derby in conjunction with its CDI1\* and Spring Classic II. The CDI is April 27 – 29, 2012 (USEF Competition Number 310016) and the Spring Classic II is April 29, 2012 (USEF Competition Number 317697). HDS is outlining its concept for the Dressage Derby in order to ensure that all of the rules of the FEI and the USEF are followed.

There are two components to the structure of the Dressage Derby. The first component consists of Small Tour riders that have entered the Intermediate I Class in the CDI on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and that have **not** entered the Intermediate I Freestyle on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. As a result of not entering the Intermediate I Freestyle in the CDI on Sunday, participation in the CDI will be complete after the awards ceremony on Saturday evening, thus freeing them up to enter the Open Show on Sunday. Passports will be returned to those competitors immediately following the awards ceremony for the Intermediate I Class on Saturday. The second component of the Dressage Derby consists of the riders from the Intermediate I Class on Saturday that have also entered the "Derby Classes" in the Spring Classic II on Sunday.

Following are the logistics:

- The scores of the top three CDI riders from the Intermediate I class that also submitted their entry for the Derby Classes on Sunday would be the finalists for the Dressage Derby. Riders that entered the Derby Classes on Sunday and did not make the top three will have their entry fees refunded to them.
- The winner of the \$10,000 prize will be calculated as follows:
  - The score of the horse/rider combination in the Intermediate I class would be the first score used to calculate the overall champion.
  - Two additional scores would be obtained by each of the competitors riding their opponent's horses on Sunday in the "Derby Classes" which would be the Prix St. Georges test; i.e. each rider would ride two horses, for a total of six rides. By using the Intermediate I score from the CDI means that each horse only has to be ridden twice on Sunday (keeping in line with the USEF rules).
- The rider with the highest average computed by taking the average of the scores from the Intermediate I in the CDI on Saturday and the two "Derby Classes" in the Open Show on Sunday would take the entire purse of \$10,000.

Following are the specific details for the derby:

- The horse with the lowest score from the CDI will be the first in the order of go.
- The horse with the second highest score from the CDI will be the second in the order of go.
- The horse with the highest score from the CDI will be the third in the order of go.
- There will be approximate four hour break between the first and second sets of rides.
- The order of go for the horses from the first set of rides will be repeated.
- The rider with the highest score in the CDI will pick which horse to ride first.
- Prior to both set of rides, each rider will have a minimum of 10 minutes of warm-up. The trainers of the horses will dictate the minimum and maximum amount of warm-up prior to each set of rides. The goal of this rule is to prevent injury to the horses.
- The winning rider will be expected to appear mounted in the main arena for the award ceremony and presentation of the ceremonial \$10,000 check at the conclusion of the rides.
- Once entries have been submitted for the Derby, attendance by the top three riders is compulsory unless a vet provides a written release that the horse is unable to compete.

In order to build spectator interest and encourage attendance, a reasonably priced champagne brunch will be offered during the second Derby Class. HDS will work to solicit sponsors for consolation prizes to second and third place.