



UNITED STATES *Dressage* FEDERATION

JUDGES' CHECKLIST

(Revised, 2013)

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JUDGES' CHECKLIST

Responsibilities of a Judge: *It is a dressage judge's duty to strive for excellence, committing to preserving the highest standards for the sport while acting as an advocate for the horse and the guardian of good sportsmanship in competition. As the standard-bearer for the sport, a dressage judge is always seeking to become more knowledgeable and insightful.*

In accepting a contract, a dressage judge is accepting an obligation to act responsibly toward the USEF, to the show committee, to the horses, and to the competitor. Use the Judges' Checklist to help ensure you do the best job possible.

General Responsibilities:

1. Technical Responsibilities:

- a. Observe the USDF and USEF Codes of Conduct.
- b. Comply with all pertinent rules of the USEF and USDF, honoring the principles of fair play inherent in them. Interpret rules fairly and thoughtfully.
- c. Keep up to date on all rule changes.

2. Personal Responsibilities:

- a. Be an advocate for the horse. Through your comments, try to give advice that will encourage harmony and correct training.
- b. Respect, cooperate with and be courteous to show management, other officials, exhibitors, and spectators. Be helpful in unforeseen circumstances and difficult conditions.
- c. Give every competitor your full attention, and judge the class fairly.
- d. Be punctual.
- e. Be discreet.
- f. Dress professionally.
- g. Be humble and strive for improvement. Learning is a never-ending task. Keep up-to-date on dressage philosophies.
- h. Be charitable when presented with ineptitude.
- i. Throughout the day, show your appreciation for all volunteers. They are the ones that make the show work! A smile and a thank you go a long way in a long, thankless day.

The Specifics of Judging:

The Contract

Being asked to judge a show is an honor, so whether you are available or not, be sure to thank the show committee and respond as soon as possible. Should you accept the contract, use the following checklist to avoid any miscommunications:

1. _____ Reply promptly (less than a week).
2. _____ Provide all information—including fees and expenses—as requested by the show committee.
3. _____ Provide any necessary details including emergency contact, cell number, and any special needs such as food allergies.
4. _____ Alert the show committee if /when you are judging in the same area during the same show season because, for a variety of reasons, it may be necessary for the show committee to reconsider your contract. (for instance, riders who are trying to accumulate points for year-end awards need signatures from several different judges.)
5. _____ Clarify with the show committee who will make the travel and lodging arrangements.
6. _____ Alert the show committee if there are any classes (such as Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes) that you are either unqualified to judge or are uncomfortable judging.

*Once the contract has been signed by both parties, it is a **legally binding** document. Should you have a real emergency that requires your needing to be released from the contract, contact the show committee as soon as possible—be sure to speak to a person and not just text or email a message—to let them know of your emergency and to request that your contract be*

voided. As a professional, it is important to make every effort to find a judge to replace you. Confirm in writing (email), thanking the show for their consideration in releasing you from the contract. (This also provides documentation, in case there is a question later.)

The Show

Things to have in your brief case or judge tote:

1. _____ Whistle (and bell if possible)
2. _____ Personal copies of tests and diagrams
3. _____ Packet of post-it-notes
4. _____ USEF Rule Book
5. _____ USDF Judges' Checklist
6. _____ Ink Pens (black or blue and red)
7. _____ A towel or a couple of sheets of paper towels
8. _____ Personal Items (make a master list to check) such as: sun block, bug spray, seat cushion, visor, eye wear, tissues, snacks, bottled water, etc.
9. _____ A time piece with a second hand (if you don't wear a watch)

Things to know before the show:

1. _____ Directions to the show grounds
2. _____ Start time of the show
3. _____ Expected end time (*Generally, you should not expect a show to end before 5:00 PM, and you should plan to allow an additional 30 minutes to ensure all classes are pinned and to clear up any questions or disputes as well as to fill in any necessary paperwork and to settle your account.*)
4. _____ Cell phone numbers for the secretary and show manager and if possible for the show grounds
5. _____ Hotel name, address, and phone number
6. _____ Name and phone number of person picking you up from the airport
7. _____ Name and phone number of person picking you up from the hotel to take to the show grounds

Things to review before the show:

1. _____ The USEF Rule Book, especially the chapter on Dressage
2. _____ The USDF Glossary of Judging Terms
3. _____ The biomechanics of the exercises
4. _____ The biomechanics of the rider
5. _____ The written requirements for each level
6. _____ The Criteria of the Movements
7. _____ The meaning/verbal interpretation of each mark
8. _____ The conditions for elimination
9. _____ The methodology for noting errors of the test, errors of the course, and voice faults
10. _____ Any changes or relevant information on the current USEF Website

Things to find out at the show:

1. _____ Meet the TD, the show manager, and the show secretary, but remember to be polite and realize that show management needs to focus on a myriad of details right before a show. Once you have arrived on the show grounds, management probably will not be concerned with meeting any of your needs until the show is underway—so make your inquiries as short and as few as possible.
2. _____ Get a copy of your schedule. Check that your breaks are scheduled. Look for any ambiguities or confusion in the times or overall schedule.
3. _____ Ask whether there are any Dispensation Certificates, and make sure they are attached to the appropriate tests.
4. _____ Get a copy of the emergency procedures designed for the show.
5. _____ Locate the ring where you will be judging.
6. _____ Determine whether you will be using a whistle or a bell.
7. _____ Check the start time for your ring.

8. _____ Check your booth to be sure it is situated correctly, that it contains two chairs, that it is unlocked—in other words, make sure it is ready for you!
9. _____ Make sure your ring is set up correctly, especially the letters. Check that A and C are lined up.
10. _____ Check the ring for any special conditions such as inadequate space to ride around the outside of the ring.
11. _____ Locate the ring steward. Review any special instructions that you may have.
12. _____ Locate the restroom facility.

Things to attend to before the start of judging:

1. Housekeeping Details

- Turn cell phone onto “airplane mode.” *Do not have your phone set to alert you to calls as this may distract you. However, you need to be able to use it quickly should it be necessary to call the TD, the office, or to get emergency help.*
- Check that the tests to be used are for the correct year.
- Organize your “desk” (test sheet or diagram, pens, whistle or bell, timepiece, cell phone, etc.) so that everything is easily accessible.
- Chat with your scribe to put him/her at ease and to find out his or her experience in dressage.
- Assure him or her that you look forward to working together as a team, and that you will depend on each other to avoid making mistakes.

2. Prepping your scribe

a. Review General Procedures:

- The test identified on the score sheet coincides with the schedule.
- The order of the tests coincides with the “order of go.”
- The bridle number of the horse in the ring is the number that is written on the test. (The number written on the test sheet must not be taken from the day sheet.)
- Ensure that all scores and comments are written in ink.
- Make sure abbreviations are “decipherable.”
- Ditto marks are discouraged.
- When applicable, *Elimination* is written in place of “final score” on the front of the test sheet.

b. Review USEF Requirements:

- All scores and comments must be written in ink.
- All scores must be recorded with a decimal (e.g. 6.0 instead of 6).
- Errors should be noted by the scribe, but deducted (- 2 or - 4) by the judge at end of test.
- “Use of Voice” should be noted with a line through the original score. The final score (lowered by at least two points) is recorded and initialed by the judge. “Use of Voice” should be written in parentheses.
- A change of a score should be noted with a line through the original score, and the final score written in the box and initialed by the judge. The originally written number should not be altered to reflect the new number.

c. Discuss Your Personal Style:

- Whether you give the score or the comment first.
- What to do in case he or she doesn’t hear you or gets “lost” (*You may ask your scribe to make a note on the test sheet so he/she can ask you after the test is over—you may find it disruptive to be interrupted as you are judging—or you may want your scribe to tell you as soon as there is some confusion.*)
- Whether you or the scribe fills in the general impressions and further remarks (*You may want to do this to allow your scribe a bit of a break as well as to get the next test ready.*)

General Procedures:

1. Stay on time! It is the responsibility of the judge to stay on time throughout the show. You must make your final remarks quickly and go on to the next competitor. If you find that the schedule is so tight that it is not possible to stay on time, contact the ring steward and management to tell them to tell the competitors that they are to begin to circle the ring to come in as soon as the previous competitor completes the final salute. Try to continue judging through your breaks. At an opportune time, in a friendly way, try to explain to the manager what was over-looked to cause the schedule to break down.
2. The salute: It is good to stand before blowing the whistle or ringing the bell to give your rider warning that it is time to proceed to A. After the halt, smile and bow, then be seated.
3. Blowing the whistle or ringing the bell:
 - a. Avoid blowing the whistle or ringing the bell when it might startle the horse.
 - b. Try to blow the whistle when the rider has a fair chance to get into the ring on time.
 - c. Check your watch to time the entry as soon as you have blown the whistle. If the rider is late getting into the ring, it is best to inform him or her that he is eliminated. Time permitting and with the judges' approval, he or she can then opt to ride the test but scores will not count.
 - d. When it is time for a ride but no rider has presented him/herself, blow the whistle or ring the bell loudly for a protracted period of time to give fair warning to the errant rider. This will avoid a possible dispute as to whether or not the rider was a "no show." Write "no show" on the test and then sign it.
4. The final salute:
 - a. It is unnecessary to stand for the final salute, but as a courtesy, be sure to acknowledge your rider.
 - b. At a licensed show, the Judge may not discuss a ride with a competitor before the bell or after the final salute. At a schooling show, however, if time permits, you may be expected to discuss the ride.
5. Judging the test: Generally, the movements are judged by evaluating the basics along with the criteria (B + C) and then factoring in the modifier(s) so the end formula becomes: $B + C \pm m = \text{Score}$. (See appendix for further details.)
6. Errors: An error is marked when a horse does a movement or a rider does something other than that which is prescribed by the test.
 - a. Errors of the Course: An error of course has to do with not following the prescribed course, such as taking a wrong turn or omitting a movement. At the end, two points are deducted for the first error, four points for the second, and the third requires elimination. When the judge rings the bell, he must explain the mistake and redirect the rider. However, should the rider make another mistake on the same exercise, although the whistle is blown again and the same procedure is followed, no additional penalty points are given. If the error involves a minor deviation of the course, the judge has the option to not disrupt the flow of the test. However, if the whistle was not blown for the original mistake and the same mistake is made in the "mirrored image" of the movement, no further penalty points may be deducted for the second mistake.
 - b. Errors of Test: When the competitor makes an "error of the test" (rises the trot instead of sitting; at the salute does not take the reins in one hand, etc.) he must be penalized as for an "error of the course". If a rider performs sitting trot where rising trot is prescribed or rising trot where sitting is prescribed, the bell must be sounded and the rider warned that this is an error that accumulates if repeated, leading to elimination at the third occurrence.
 - c. Repetition of movements: In principle, a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the President of the Jury decided on an error of course (rings the bell). If, however, the rider has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the judge(s) must consider the first movement shown only and, at the same time penalize for an error of course.

7. Use of Voice: Each time it is clear to the judge that the rider is using his or her voice—clucking, talking to the horse, or making any sound to communicate with the horse—during the course of the test, at least two points are deducted from the score the movement would have received if the rider had not made any sounds.

Note: Points deducted for “use of voice” are *not* listed as errors.

Methodology of Judging:

The Current USEF Rules State:

1. The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.
2. These qualities are demonstrated by:
 - a. The freedom and regularity of the gaits;
 - b. The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements;
 - c. The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion;
 - d. The acceptance of the bit, with submissiveness/throughness (Durchlässigkeit) without any tension or resistance.

METHODOLOGY is the standardized system by which a judge determines the initial score and the effect of the modifiers in order to arrive at an appropriate final score and justifies or defends his score and how he arrived at that score. *Methodology* allows the judge to arrive at the relatively appropriate score in the same way for different horses under differing conditions, and ensures the same treatment in every instance for the same performance, problems, and modifiers.

Methodology should not be a strict formula when judging a subjectively judged activity and cannot be reduced to strict 'rules.' The value of this training approach is in the development of systematic thinking during the judging process. Personal Methodology, based on systematic thought process, finally gives the judge his or her best way of coming to the most appropriate score and relationship between scores and placings.

A convenient and reliable formula for dealing with judging methodology involves three elements:

"B" = Basics/Biomechanics (Quality of the Basics/Biomechanics)

"C" = Criteria of the exercise (was it recognizable, and performed as described in the USEF rule book)

"m" = Modifiers (minor incidents or occurrences that may adjust the score)

The formula is expressed as: $(B + C) +/- m = \text{Score}$

(B + C) provides a first impression or initial score; “m” expresses minor modifiers that adjust the first impression to determine a Final Score.



DEFINITIONS

PURPOSE of the Test/Level:

To evaluate/confirm the expected stage of training for each specific dressage level as stated on the top of the score sheet.

CRITERIA:

Standard by which a movement is judged as stated in the USEF Rule Book.

TEST MOVEMENT:

A section of a dressage test that must be evaluated with a single score.

ESSENCE of the Test Movement:

The most important part of a specific box on the score sheet.

MODIFIER:

Other elements in the box that might add to or deduct from the score.

DIRECTIVE IDEAS:

Explanations on the score sheet in the column after each test movement.

In summary the *Final Score*, then, is the **Quality of Basics** (Gaits, Impulsion & Submission) **plus** the **Criteria of the Movement** (configuration or mechanic of the movement in the correct gait and pace, focus/purpose/intent) **+/- Modifiers** (accuracy, minor incidents or occurrences).

Use of Half Points

Dressage is now allowed to be judged in half points. Previously, "6" could mean nearly "5", or nearly "7". Using half points widens the scoring range.

A "6" is still a "6," and a "7" is still a "7." A half point is intended to be used for a score that is solidly in the middle – not teetering on the edge of another score. Judge talk (big "6" or little "7") cannot be conveyed to a rider but half points indicate where they stand within the range. They are also useful to the judge in making a distinction between two performances which are not a full point apart, but are clearly different in quality.

The fact that one "may" use half points does not mean he "must" use half points. On the other hand, accuracy and decisiveness are not determined by sticking to a whole point score – quite the opposite. It takes time to implement a wider scoring range. With practice, most judges find half points increasingly useful, but each should proceed within his or her own comfort zone.

To further widen the score range decimal (tenths) points can be used in the Riders Tests, Artistic portion of USDF Freestyles, Dressage Seat Equitation and Young Horse classes.



DIRECTIVES FOR RIDER'S POSITION AND SEAT SCORE

Posture and alignment

At all gaits when sitting, the rider's ear, shoulder, hip and heel are vertically aligned. The rider does not lean ahead of or behind the vertical. The rider is slightly in front of the vertical when posting the trot. The rider's spine is aligned with the horse's spine, the back is neither rounded nor hollow, the shoulders and hips are level.

Stability

As a result of having a stable core, the rider sits securely in the saddle. The rider does not rock from side to side, as is sometimes seen in the walk and extended trot.

Elasticity

The rider has a positive, mobile tension without being rigid.

Weight placement

The rider sits vertically with the weight distributed equally on both seat bones whenever the horse's body is straight and does not slip to the outside when riding a circle, a lateral movement or any movement in which the horse is bent. The rider's body does not lean inward or outward.

Follow mechanics of gaits

The rider demonstrates the ability to ride in harmony with the mechanics of each gait, including the medium and extended paces. The hands act independently to maintain a steady, elastic connection with the horse's mouth.

DIRECTIVES FOR RIDER'S CORRECT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE AIDS

Subtle but effective aids

The rider prepares for and performs the movements using aids that are subtle, tactful and effective giving the impression of clear communication between rider and horse.

Correct basics

The training of the horse appears to be following the principles established by the Pyramid of Training.

Accuracy of the exercises

The geometry of the movements is correct; e.g. size and shape of circles, riding through corners, geometry of serpentine, etc. In lateral movements the angle and bend are correct.

DIRECTIVES FOR HARMONY BETWEEN RIDER AND HORSE

Ease and fluency of execution

Both horse and rider appear competent at the level and are pleasant to watch.

Calmness

Both horse and rider appear calm, focused and confident.

Willingness and trust in rider

The horse complies willingly.

Overall presentation of test

Both the basics and criteria of the level are well presented.

USDF PROGRAMS

FREESTYLE

Please refer to USDF for most current and complete rules, guidelines and definitions:

<http://www.usdf.org/docs/education/other/FSRGD.pdf>

If you are not familiar with freestyles as a competitor yourself, or you don't judge them often, it would be wise to review the rules and guidelines, as well other ancillary educational material provided by the USDF beforehand. There are allowed movements, forbidden movements that are "above the level," use of half points on technical but tenth (.1) points on artistic, timing rules and deductions, and rules specific to music failure.

Technical

Judging freestyle is complex because the order of the elements is unspecified, their placement is not stipulated, and there may be movements that are difficult to determine, mostly because of poor execution. If it is questionable whether or not a compulsory element was performed, you should give the benefit of the doubt to the competitor.

It is not uncommon for riders to repeat a movement. In that case, there may be several scores in the box for "Preliminary Notes." The judge must take *all* preliminary marks into account when determining the "Judge's Mark" for that element.

A main challenge of judging freestyle is "dividing your brain" so that while you are scoring the technical, you are also noting the artistic components. You may begin with a methodology you were taught, but over time, you may develop a system of your own. If you do, be sure to brief your scribe on your personal expectations. They may be different from a previous judge.

Artistic

USDF Artistic Impression scores include Harmony between Horse and Rider, Choreography, Degree of Difficulty, Music and Interpretation. The use of .1 (tenth) points is encouraged for two reasons: the artistic coefficients are large and so have a great influence on the score, and also because they can help refine difference between the artistic choices the various riders have chosen and executed.

Degree of Difficulty must be assessed not only in terms of configurations that go beyond the minimum for the level (e.g., a steeper angle in half pass or a more difficult line in counter canter), but also for demanding transitions. The choice of configurations should be within the capabilities of the horse to perform correctly and harmoniously. High difficulty should not be rewarded when the configuration or demand goes beyond the horse's scope, and indeed may have a negative influence. When only the basis for the level has been met, the approximate score for Degree of Difficulty is 6.0; when the difficulty is equal to the highest standard test of the level, the score is 7.0; for each movement that goes beyond, there should be a subsequent rise in score.

Choreography is assessed on the full and balanced use of the arena, balance in work on both reins (directional balance), a cohesive and understandable design, and creativity. The Music score relates to the actual music selection and preparation. It is judged not by the likes or dislikes of the judge, but whether or not it is suitable for the horse, is seamless in nature (no jarring edits), and has a unifying theme or instrumentation. Interpretation is evaluated on how the music expresses the gaits as well as the rider's ability to use the phrasing and dynamics of the music to express the choreography.

A good freestyle takes a lot of forethought and preparation. Respect that and have a meaningful summary statement for the rider, e.g. "music beautifully supported the dance," or "choreography showcases the abilities of the horse," or "trot choreography was interesting, but canter needs some work."

Briefing the Freestyle Scribe

- _____ For general issues, see “Prepping your scribe” on page 4.
- _____ Point out Technical Execution, Artistic Impression and what categories are included in each.
- _____ Explain that scores only go in the column labeled “Preliminary Notes.” Because of limited space on some tests, scores can alternatively be written under the wording of the required movement.
- _____ Suggest a line can be drawn in the margin or under the last element of the gait to more quickly find the various movements.
- _____ Point out where you want them to place additional comments.
- _____ Point out that some boxes have dotted lines indicating right and left.
- _____ Instruct scribe to write small in case there is more than one entry per box.
- _____ Explain how you specify right and left, i.e. “I’ll say half-pass right” as opposed to “right half pass.”
- _____ Specify what you will do at the end of the performance, i.e. the Judges Marks for Technical Execution and all, part, or none of the Artistic Impression scores.

QUADRILLE/ PAS DE DEUX

Please refer to USDF for most current and complete rules, guidelines and definitions:

Quadrille <http://www.usdf.org/docs/education/other/QuadallRGD.pdf>

Pas de Deux <http://www.usdf.org/education/other-programs/pasdedeux/index.asp>

Quadrille has two types of tests: the four-rider standard test and the freestyle. In both types, judging quadrille focuses on the total picture of the team as it executes each movement. The bases for evaluating each are Spacing, Alignment and Synchrony (SAS). In the standard tests, the SAS criteria appear again in the Collective Marks along with Impulsion, Submission, and Performance as a Group. Before any show, you should become familiar with the tests you will be judging.

Spacing: Both longitudinal (one behind the other) and lateral (side-by-side) spacing are judged. There is no set, “correct” spacing for any particular maneuver or transition, since horses may be closer together or further apart depending on the experience of the group and the nature of the movement performed. However, the same spacing should be maintained throughout the individual movement.

Alignment: Longitudinal alignment refers to how well the riders stay one behind the other when in a column and lateral alignment is how they remain when side-by-side. Because alignment is very dependent upon synchrony, these two factors are scored together in the Collective Marks.

Synchrony: Synchrony is the uniformity with which the horses initiate and complete movement. Figures, turns, transitions and dressage movements such as leg-yield should be commenced and ended altogether as one. Be aware that some maneuvers may be structured to initiate *successively* (one then the next).

Modifiers (lesser considerations) and Collective Marks

Impulsion: A half (.5) to one point can be deducted for each movement affected by lack of impulsion. When the whole ride is sluggish, then it will be reflected in the Collective Marks as well. When the impulsion is outstanding, it can enhance the score for the movement, depending on what else happens, and it certainly should be reflected in the Collectives.

Submission: All horses do not need to be perfectly on the bit. Of course, if all horses were well connected, it would add to the score for the individual maneuver, and also result in a good score for Submission in the Collectives.

When acceptance of the aids for the team as a whole is not acceptable, it could result in loss of a point in the movement, plus the Submission score must be low. When acceptance of the aids is what you would expect for the level, then it would have no impact on the score for the individual movement, and the Collective score would be 6 or better depending on consistency.

Disobedience, if pervasive with one or more horses, will disrupt a number of movements. This should be reflected not only in the lowered scores for each of those movements, but also in the Collective mark for Submission. However, an

isolated incidence of shying, with quick recovery and no affect to ensuing movements, would be addressed only in the particular movement concerned and not in the Collectives.

Performance As A Group: This Collective Mark addresses the ability of the entire team to perform the required movements. If some could and some could not perform a specific movement, then the score for that individual movement would be affected. Depending on the frequency of the inconsistencies, Performance as a Group also would be influenced.

Trots can be ridden either rising or sitting, but whichever is elected, the entire team must perform in that manner.

QUADRILLE FREESTYLE

Quadrille Freestyle is not restricted to four horse/rider combinations. While it is not common, teams of six, eight or more are permitted. The score sheet is divided into Technical Execution and Artistic Impression. Compulsory elements are consistent with the standard test of the same level and are listed on the score sheet; however they are assessed collectively, not individually. Because of this, and because there are no FEI quadrille tests, the USDF Quadrille Freestyle score sheet is the same from Basic through Grand Prix.

The Artistic scores are: Choreography (includes difficulty), Choice of Music and Interpretation, Harmony of Presentation, and Team Appearance. With the exception of the last, these categories are in keeping with individual musical rides. Refer to “Judging the Freestyle,” especially the general comments and the section on Artistic Impression.

PAS DE DEUX

There are no compulsory Pas de Deux tests; they are ridden strictly as freestyles. In an international championship, FEI individual musical freestyle score sheets would be used for the equivalent level, however for all other shows in the United States, the USDF Pas de Deux score sheets are legal for Training through Grand Prix.

The score sheet is divided into Technical Execution and Artistic Impression. Technical requirements are the same as the individual freestyle and are listed on the score sheet, however they are judged collectively. Pas de Deux judging is similar to quadrille, as the two primary aspects of the riding are alignment and synchrony.

The Artistic scores include Harmony between Horses and Riders, Choreography (including difficulty), and Musicality, which is similar Music and Interpretation on the USDF individual freestyle score sheet. Refer to “Judging the Freestyle,” especially the general comments and the section on Artistic Impression.

USEF PROGRAMS

PARA-EQUESTRIAN

RULES FOR EXECUTION OF TESTS

The rules of the USEF Dressage Division are used in adjudication of these tests at a USEF Competition. Please refer to USEF for most current and complete guidelines and rules. In addition to these, please refer to the current rules which govern Para-Equestrian at National Level Competitions:

http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/allpara.aspx

PARA EQUESTRIAN DEFINITION

USEF defines Para-Equestrian (GR 141) as a competition, division or section that provides equestrian competition opportunities for eligible individuals with a diagnosed permanent, physical disability as determined by the USEF Para-Equestrian Classification System (see GR1311). In essence it offers these riders an equal or parallel (“Para”) venue of competition compared to the able-bodied riders.

PARTICIPATION IN CLASSES

Dressage is one such venue open to these riders and is the area addressed here. Para-Equestrian riders may enter regular classes in the horse show to be judged along with and by the same standard as able-bodied riders. Para-Equestrians can enter both Para-Equestrian classes and the regular dressage classes at the equivalent level at a dressage show.

Riders need to have either an FEI Classification card or a USEF Classification Card to describe the specific equipment each rider is entitled to use. These are required at all USEF competitions in which riders wish to use special equipment. These act as 'compensating aids' which allow Para riders to perform. Rules about these dispensation certificates can be found in the USEF GR 1310.

JUDGING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Judges are still guided by the FEI objective that Dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. Judges need to be mindful that these FEI Guidelines and definitions of gaits, paces and Movements are in full force. Para riders are to be judged using the same criteria as able-bodied riders without exception. Utilization of the Training Pyramid in judging is to be strictly followed. However, since riders with physical disabilities do not have full use of their entire body, all references to aids must be interpreted to include the use of other parts of their body and/or appropriate and declared compensating aids. Other than these accommodations the judging criteria must remain the same for any dressage test, with the horse's performance as what is evaluated. The judge must keep in mind:

- Safety
- Impartiality to the particular disability
- Testing the riding skill and effectiveness of aids

GRADES OF PARAEQUESTRIAN COMPETITION

There are four grades of Para-Equestrian competition as recognized by FEI. These grades can be summarized with the following general descriptions:

- GRADE Ia/Ib:** Mainly wheelchair users with poor trunk balance and/or impairment of all four limbs, or no trunk balance and good limb function, or moderate trunk balance with severe impairment of four limbs.
- GRADE II:** Mainly wheelchair users, or those with severe locomotor impairment involving the trunk and with good to mild upper limb functions, those with severe arm impairment and slight leg impairment or severe unilateral impairment.
- GRADE III:** Usually able to walk without support. Moderate unilateral impairment or moderate impairment in four limbs, severe arm impairment. May need a wheelchair for longer distances due to lack of stamina. Total loss of sight in both eyes, or intellectually (special non-recognition) impaired. Blacked out glasses or blindfold must be worn by such riders.
- GRADE IV:** Impairment in one or two limbs, or some visual impairment. Specific categories of disabilities may be found in the FEI division rules following the classifiers profiles. These determine through review by designated classifiers the Grade to which each rider will be allowed to compete. Such documentation is required from each rider at the equestrian competition.

TESTS USED IN COMPETITONS

Current tests are available from the FEI website and may be used in any national competition as well as FEI approved events. Please go to:

<http://www.horsesport.org/disciplines/officials-organisers/organisers/para-equestrian-dressage/dressage-tests>

WHO MAY JUDGE THESE CLASSES

There are also special FEI tests for Para-Equestrians at five (5) different levels, which can be judged by USEF 'r' judges through Level 3, and R and S judges through Level IV. USEF Rules show the equivalency chart for entries (USEF GR 1009.2).

USEF NATIONAL PROGRAMS

JUNIORS

Please refer to USEF for most current and complete guidelines and rules:

http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/alldressage/juniorInfo.aspx

YOUNG RIDERS

Please refer to USEF for most current and complete guidelines and rules:

http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/alldressage/youngRiderInfo.aspx

YOUNG ADULT "BRENTINA CUP"

Please refer to USEF for most current and complete guidelines and rules:

http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/alldressage/youngAdultInfo.aspx

DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION ("DSE") & DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL PROGRAM ("DSM")

Please refer to USEF for most current and complete guidelines and rules:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/disciplines/dressage/EquitationGuidelines.pdf>

Regular DSE classes may use any USEF Judge "r" "R" or "S"

DSM Semi Final Classes require two USEF "R" or "S" Judges

DSM Finals Classes require three USEF "R" or "S" Judges (Finals class judges must be approved by the Federation Dressage Committee).

Dressage judges often do not get much experience judging group classes such as DSE. Thus, it is important to familiarize yourself with the applicable USEF Rules (DR 117 and DR 133 in particular). You may also want to download the following documents for review: (These documents can all be found on the USEF web site)

1. _____ DSE Score Sheet (or, if applicable, the DSM Semi Finals and Finals Score Sheet)
2. _____ Guidelines for Judging Dressage Seat Equitation
3. _____ "Patterns" document that suggests a variety of additional tests that may be used for placing classes

Remember that it is now required that the judge give a final percentage score for each rider in a DSE class. Preliminary scores are permitted but not required and the judge may develop and use his or her own methodology for placing the class and determining scores. Decimal (tenth) points can be used.

Conducting a Class

DSE classes should be held in an enclosed ring that is larger than a standard dressage arena. If such a space is not available, an open schooling area is permitted. Classes may also be held in a 20x60m arena and in that case, no more than 6 horses may be required to canter at one time.

Specific Things to Remember:

- _____ Safety of horses and riders is paramount.
- _____ Classes are limited to 25 riders, and large classes may be further divided by the judge(s) as appropriate.
- _____ In any class, judges may limit the number of horses cantering at one time in their discretion.

- _____ Medium walk, working trot (sitting and rising) and canter both directions must be performed.
- _____ Judges may require additional tests of some or all of the riders to help place the class. All individual tests must comply with applicable rules.
- _____ These tests should use movements and exercises from the Training and First Level tests. (see the "Patterns" document and related pattern diagrams for suggestions).
- _____ Change of horses not required (not allowed).
- _____ Any additional tests should be clearly explained to the riders, preferably using a microphone.
- _____ If stirrups are required to be dropped, the riders should be instructed to cross them.
- _____ The judge(s) should stand where they have the best view of the class. It is desirable to "work" the class, but judges should also be cognizant of the time constraints of the show and the endurance of horses and riders and not let classes run too long.
- _____ When multiple judges are officiating, they should consult with each other before arriving at the final scores and placings.
- _____ Back numbers and the appropriate DSE Score Sheets are required.
- _____ Snaffle bridles and approved head gear meeting USEF specifications are required.
- _____ No junior rider in a DSE class may ride a stallion.

Placing and Scoring the Class:

- _____ The judge's first job is to compare all riders in a class for overall placings. In placing the class, each rider must receive a final score which will be recorded by USEF and USDF.
- _____ Score sheets will not be posted, but judges are encouraged to provide verbal comments to the riders at the end of the class.
- _____ In judging correct position, keep in mind the directives of DR 117 as well as the suggestions of the Guidelines for Judging Dressage Seat Equitation Classes.
- _____ Remember that it is the rider being judged not the horse; however lameness of horses must be penalized per DR122.6.
- _____ The quality of the horse should have no influence if seat and aids are not seen as having a detrimental effect on the horse's movement.

Unlike a Dressage test, it is impossible to see every rider constantly during the class. Look for the overall picture and effectiveness and do not dwell on one detail of position or on personal "pet peeves." The Guidelines provide good descriptions of both good and undesirable position characteristics as well as suggestions for arriving at numerical scores.

The DSE Scribe

- _____ Your scribe should stand with you as you view the class.
- _____ Explain to the scribe how you like to record preliminary scores and/or comments, if given, as well as how you will arrive at final scores and placings.
- _____ The scribe should help you identify each rider's number (perhaps with a brief description of the horse – small grey, tall bay etc.) as the class starts.

There are USEF judges continuing education clinics geared toward the correct judging of Dressage Seat Equitation. Once you have attended one of these forums, you will receive an * by your name in the USEF Roster of Judges, noting your Dressage Seat Equitation education.

Markel/USEF YOUNG HORSE DRESSAGE PROGRAM

Please refer to USEF for most current and complete guidelines and rules:

http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/alldressage/NatIYHProgram.aspx

Qualifying classes require two (2) FEI or USEF "S" Judges. It is required that at least one (1) judge have completed and received credit from a USEF or FEI -recognized Young Horse training session. This Young Horse designation is noted in the Licensed Official roster on the USEF and FEI web sites.

Championship classes require two (2) FEI judges. The panel must have either USEF or FEI Young Horse Designation. The panel shall sit together at C.

The USEF website will have all of the material you will need to judge a Young Horse Class. You will need to download and place in your judges' notebook the following material:

- _____ The scoring grid; this grid will allow you to keep track of the scores you give for the entire class.
- _____ The guidelines regarding the scores; (decimal/tenth points can be used) and what you should be looking for regarding quality and the training of the Young Horse.
- _____ A complete list of comments for the written test as well as guidelines for the oral commentary.

There are USEF continuing education clinics for judges geared toward the correct judging of the FEI Young Horse Tests. Once you have attended one of these forums, you will receive an * by your name in the USEF Roster of Judges, noting your Young Horse education.

DEVELOPING HORSE DRESSAGE PROGRAM

Please refer to USEF for most current and complete guidelines and rules:

http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/alldressage/developingHorseInfo.aspx

Qualifying Classes require two (2) FEI or USEF "S" Judges

For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per panel.

Championship Competition:

Day 1 – Qualifying Class: These tests will be judged by either three (3) FEI Judges or Two (2) FEI Judges and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge, all of whom must have USEF or FEI Young Horse Designation.

Day 2- Championship Class: These Tests will be judged by either three (3) FEI Judges or two (2) FEI Judges and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge (at least one (1) of which must differ from those judging the "Qualifying Class"), all of whom must have USEF or FEI Young Horse Designation.

The Developing Horse Prix St George and the Developing Horse Grand Prix competitions are judged exactly as you would a regular FEI class.

- _____ There are two tests designed specifically for each age group and you should download these two tests from the USEF Website and keep them in your judges notebook.
- _____ The Developing Horse Prix St. George uses the current FEI Prix St. George as well as the USEF Developing Horse Prix St George. They are both judged as you would judge a regular FEI test.
- _____ The **Developing Horse Grand Prix uses the current FEI Intermediare II** and the **USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix**. They are both judged as you would judge an FEI Intermediare II test.

PONIES

Please refer to USEF for most current and complete guidelines and rules:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/international/dressage/Pony-Booklet-Info.pdf>

RIDER TESTS

Please refer to USEF for most current and complete guidelines and rules:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2013/08-DR.pdf> (page 25-26)

The Rider Tests, introduced in the 2013 competition year, are designed to evaluate the proficiency of the rider relative to the requirements of the given level, with the gaits and natural abilities of the horse given much less weight than in regular dressage tests. Riders should receive constructive evaluations that they can put to use in improving their abilities as a rider. The principles of correct application of the aids, correct riding biomechanics, ability to influence the performance of the horse in both basics and movement criteria, and the accurate geometry of the figures are accessed. Five scores evaluating the rider's position, correct and effective use of aids, horse's response and performance, accuracy of the exercises and harmony between rider and horse. As with any test, written commentary should accompany the five scores.

Purpose of the tests (excerpt from 2013 USEF Rule Book)

Training Level:

To confirm that the rider sits in the correct posture and alignment and shows correct mechanics in walk, rising trot and canter. The seat is sufficiently independent for the rider to maintain a steady, elastic rein contact and encourage the horse to stretch into that contact. The horse is ridden actively forward showing impulsion and balance required for the level, bends equally to the left and right sides on turns and circles, and makes smooth, willing transitions.

First Level:

To confirm that the rider, in addition to the requirements of training level, shows correct alignment, posture and mechanics in sitting trot, including maintaining a steady, elastic rein contact. In turns on forehand and leg yields the rider remains centered and the horse responds willingly to the aids. The transitions are ridden in a better balance and with more throughness than at training level. In response to the correct application of the rider's aids, the horse moves actively forward showing a consistent tempo and correct rhythm in each gait, shows appropriate bending, lengthens and shortens the stride in trot and responds willingly to both longitudinal and lateral aids.

Second Level:

Please note that this test is done at the sitting trot. The 'Directive Ideas' in Movement 3 has been updated to reflect this requirement.

To confirm that the rider, having achieved the requirements of first level, is able to ride the horse reliably on the bit with an uphill tendency. The rider lengthens and shortens the horse's stride in trot and canter while maintaining correct alignment, posture and mechanics. In lateral movements the rider stays centered and demonstrates an appropriate angle and bending of the horse. As a result of the correct application of the rider's aids, the horse shows a greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, throughness, balance and self-carriage than at first level.

Rider Test Scoring Scale

RIDER'S POSITION

10 – Exemplary seat and position viewed from all directions, with correct alignment, posture and symmetry. Sits in complete harmony with the mechanics of all three gaits, while keeping a steady, light, elastic contact. Seat is balanced in such a way as to allow complete independence of the aids.

9 – Exemplary seat and position viewed from all directions, with nearly correct alignment, posture and symmetry. Sits in harmony with the mechanics of all three gaits most of the time, while keeping a steady, light, elastic contact. Seat is balanced to allow most aids to be independent.

8 – Position shows basically correct posture, alignment, and symmetry with only minor flaws. Shows the ability to follow the mechanics of the gaits correctly most of the time, with a steady contact. Seat is balanced, with only moments of lapse in independence.

7 – Loss of leg or upper body position may occur at times, but basic position is correct, or slightly less than correct. May be in harmony with the mechanics of two of the three gaits, or fairly close to correct in all three, with minor issues. Contact is fairly steady and elastic. Balance is fairly consistent, with most aids independent.

6 – Several minor faults or one major fault in the position, alignment, posture or symmetry. Some difficulty with following the mechanics of the gaits, but has only minor impact on horse's ability to perform. Contact basically correct, but may be somewhat unsteady, slightly strong, or rigid. Rider has not quite achieved an independent seat, but is on the right track.

5 – Incorrect alignment, posture or symmetry keep the rider from an independent balance and/or impair the ability to give clear aids. Difficulty following the mechanics of the gaits has some negative impact on the horse's ability to perform. Inability to maintain steady, elastic contact impairs the correctness of the connection.

4 – More than one serious position flaw. Cannot maintain a steady connection to the bit and horse cannot take a correct contact. The quality of the performance is directly and adversely affected by the rider's faulty position.

3, 2, 1 – Position, alignment, and symmetry flaws create poor balance, to the point of causing distress to the horse. Lack of balance makes aids very unclear and ineffective.

RIDER'S CORRECT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE AIDS

10 – The aids are subtle and refined, the test very accurate and nearly flawless. The impulsion and balance are appropriate to the level. The movements and transitions are correct and accurate, conveying the rider's understanding of correct basics and the essence of the exercises. The horse shows appropriate bending and straightness. Correct aids produce a correct response at all times, producing an effortless and artistic test.

9 – Prepares for and performs the movements using well-timed, tactful, nearly invisible aids. Impulsion and balance are appropriate to the level. The movements and transitions are correct and nearly accurate, with appropriate bending and straightness. A slight miscommunication may occur on occasion, but overall the test shows very good basics and is pleasant to watch.

8 – The aids are correct but may be visible at times. Impulsion and balance are mostly appropriate to the level, with occasional lapses, quickly corrected. The horse shows appropriate bending and straightness, with only minor inconsistencies. Overall, the rider appears to understand and be able to produce correct basics, while riding most movements correctly. The rider is attentive to details like using corners and turns to prepare the next movement.

7 – The rider is able to direct the horse with aids that are subtle, but often visible. The horse is obedient and shows only minor tension. Most of the time the horse is in front of the rider's aids, but may occasionally lack the impulsion and balance ideal for the level. In one or two exercises a slight misunderstanding between horse and rider may be noted. The rider's aids may show some lack of effectiveness on occasion, and there may be some inconsistency in preparation for the movements.

6 – Many aids are clearly visible, and vary in their correctness. The impulsion may be limited and balance may be more on the forehand than the level requires. The rider shows an effort to bend and straighten the horse correctly, but is not always successful. The aids are not always understood by the horse. There is an occasional lack of submission. One or more exercises are not performed correctly due to incorrect aids. The horse cuts some corners.

5 – The rider is not able to influence the horse in an effective way. Aids are given in an exaggerated manner or the rider is passive and ineffective. The horse shows weak basics, especially with regard to bend, straightness, contact and impulsion. Several exercises are incorrectly performed.

4 – The aids are crude or conflicting. The movements and figures are incorrect and inaccurate due to the rider's lack of understanding of what is expected. The rider does not show correct understanding of dressage basics, as evidenced by consistently incorrect bend, resistant or incorrect contact, many poorly performed movements. There is little control of speed.

3, 2, 1 – Deliberately rough or abusive aids. The horse runs forward, or is painfully slow. Nothing in the performance demonstrates familiarity with the concepts of dressage.

HORSE'S RESPONSE AND PERFORMANCE

10 – The horse's training appears to be clearly following the principles established by the Pyramid of Training, producing an effortless, artistic test without tension or resistance. The horse moves actively forward with a consistent tempo in each gait and reaches confidently to the bit. The transitions and movements are performed

willingly, smoothly and accurately in the balance required by the level. The horse reacts clearly to invisible lateral and longitudinal aids.

9 – The horse's training follows the principles established by the Pyramid of Training, producing a smooth, correct test. Tempo is well maintained at each gait and horse moves actively forward, reaching confidently to the bit. The transitions and movements are performed willingly, smoothly, and accurately in the balance required by the level. The horse is clearly reactive to lateral and longitudinal aids.

8 – The horse's training appears to be progressing properly in most of the test, which is smooth and mostly correct. The horse moves actively forward with a nearly consistent tempo in each gait, and reaches confidently to the bit for most of the test. Nearly all test movements are technically correct and performed in the balance required by the level. The horse consistently responds to lateral and longitudinal aids.

7 – The training shows a clear attempt to follow the Pyramid of Training, with occasional or minor shortcomings. Some deficit in the impulsion may be present, or lengthenings or medium paces may be correct but a bit weak. The test movements are fairly correct and accurate. The horse reacts fairly obediently to the lateral and longitudinal aids, but may require a strong aid at times.

6 – The horse's performance is slightly impaired by the rider, the horse is overly tense and reactive to its surroundings, or the horse is dull and ignores the rider at times. The horse needs to more clearly show correct basics. It needs to more consistently demonstrate ease of movements and show better impulsion and more correct balance for the level. The horse appears to be confused or ignoring the lateral and longitudinal aids at times.

5 – One or more of the basics outlined in the Pyramid of Training are incorrect or missing. Frequent loss of connection, inconsistent bend and straightness, lack of response to driving aids, unclear rhythm or resistance in transitions, breaks in gait or wrong leads are among the problems in evidence. Several movements are incorrectly performed or very inaccurate.

4 – Correct basics are missing and/or the horse is extremely tense or resistant. There are several mistakes and much inaccuracy of figures and transitions.

3, 2, 1 – The horse shows very incorrect basics, extreme resistances, and/or is out of control.

ACCURACY OF THE EXERCISES

10 – Figures show excellent geometry. Transitions and movements are precisely placed in the arena in exact accordance with the test. Corners are always ridden as one quarter of a 10-meter circle. Criteria of lateral exercises are met and test is ridden with exemplary impulsion.

9 – Figures show good geometry, with rider in control of the line of travel. Transitions are in the required place. Movements start and end where required. Most corners are one quarter of a 10-meter circle. Criteria of lateral exercises is met and test is ridden with good impulsion.

8 – Most figures show good geometry. Transitions are nearly accurate. Most movements start and end where required. Most corners are one quarter of a 10-meter circle. Criteria of lateral exercises is nearly met and test is ridden with fairly good impulsion.

7 – Figures show fairly good shape and size, with a few inconsistencies. Transitions are nearly accurate. The rider attempts to ride clear corners, with some success. Criteria of lateral exercises are nearly met. Start and finish of some exercises may not always be as clear as desirable. Test may be quite accurate because less than ideal impulsion is risked.

6 – Rider shows some understanding of the geometry of the test movements, but drifts off the required line frequently. Circles are rather oval and some corners are cut. Some transitions are early, late, crooked, or sticky. Start and finish of some exercises not clear. Some lateral exercises do not meet criteria.

5 – Figures show poor geometry in shape and placement. Transitions are inaccurate and/or lack definition. Horse falls around corners, cutting into the arena. Criteria of lateral exercises not met.

4 – Rider appears to misunderstand the geometry of the figures in the test. Transitions are highly inaccurate or never happen at times. Short sides of arena are ridden as an oval, with no attempt to acknowledge corners.

3,2,1 – Horse fearful of entering one section of arena, so whole test done in a limited portion of the rectangle. Horse never performs one of the gaits or one of the leads.

HARMONY BETWEEN HORSE AND RIDER

10 – Rider has excellent understanding of technique, training goals, and riding skills. Horse shows it clearly understands and is eager to comply with all requests from the rider. Both appear calm, focused and confident. The performance gives the impression of cheerful cooperation, good teamwork, and a solid partnership, and is a pleasure to watch.

9 – Rider has clear understanding of technique, training goals, and riding skills. Horse shows it understands and is willing to comply with all requests from the rider. Both are calm, focused and confident. They show clear cooperation and a solid partnership, and are a pleasure to watch.

8 – Rider understands the technique, training goals and riding skills needed to produce a correct performance. The horse understands and complies with the requests from the rider. Both are more or less calm, focused, and confident and work well together. If the horse makes a small mistake or loses attention, the rider calmly helps the horse to focus, without punishment. They present a nice picture as they perform competently at the level.

7 – The rider has some understanding of dressage training goals and riding skills. The horse is mostly attentive, and makes an effort to understand the requests of the rider. There may be a bit of tension or loss of focus at times on the part of either the horse or the rider. Small mistakes can result from misinterpretations of the aids. A few exercises may seem to be a struggle to perform correctly.

6 – The rider's aids are not always clearly or competently given, so the horse is sometimes confused or aggravated. The partnership is not equal, with the rider dominating the horse or the horse dominating the rider. The performance does not always meet the requirements of the test. There is tension or lack of confidence at times, on the part of either the horse or the rider, or perhaps the horse is quite content with the situation because it is not being asked to exert itself to produce a correct performance.

5 – The horse and rider are struggling with the demands of the test. The horse might be somewhat willing, but the criteria and basics of the test are lacking. Alternatively, the horse might be tense and unhappy to be in the arena. The horse could be failing to understand what is being asked of it.

4 – Horse and rider appear to be at odds throughout the test, resulting in a tense, uncooperative, frantic, resistant performance. Basics are seriously lacking.

3, 2, 1 – Rider punishes a horse which clearly has no idea what is expected of it. Basics are seriously lacking throughout.

Appendix I. New USEF Rules Pertaining to Judging (changes in red)

(Rule references current as of 7/1/2013. Please refer to USEF online rulebook for the most complete and current rules.)

DR103 The Walk

e. Stretching on a long rein. This exercise gives a clear impression of the “throughness” of the horse and proves its balance, suppleness, obedience and relaxation. In order to execute the exercise “stretching on a long rein” correctly, the rider allows the horse to take the reins gradually and smoothly as he stretches his neck forward and downward. As the neck stretches forwards and downwards, the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder. An elastic and consistent contact with the rider's hands must be maintained. The gait must maintain its rhythm, and the horse should remain light in the shoulders with the

hindlegs well engaged. During the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll. *BOD 1/19/13 Effective 4/1/13 (This movement is currently is only in the FEI Junior test)*

DR106 The Rein Back

1. Rein back is a rearward diagonal movement with a two-beat rhythm but without a moment of suspension. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternatively, with the forelegs aligned on the same track as the hindlegs. *A four-beat rein back, if done without resistance, can also be scored sufficient or better. BOD 1/19/13 Effective 4/1/13.*

DR110 The Figures and The Exercises

3. The exercises.

a. Stretching the Frame. *This exercise gives a clear impression of the “throughness” of the horse and proves its balance, suppleness, obedience, and relaxation. In order to execute the exercise “stretching on a long rein” correctly, the athlete must lengthen the reins as the horse stretches gradually forward and downward. As the neck stretches forward and downward, the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder or lower. An elastic and consistent contact with the athlete’s hands must be maintained. The gait must maintain its rhythm and tempo, and the horse should remain light in the shoulders with a swinging back and with the hindlegs well- engaged. During the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll. EC 3/18/13 Effective Immediately.*

DR111 Work on Two Tracks and the Lateral Movements

c. Turn on the Forehand. *The purpose of this exercise is to supple the horse and teach him obedience to the aids. In this exercise, the inside of the horse is the side from which the horse yields, i.e. the horse is flexed at the poll to the right, which is the inside, when the haunches move to the left. The horse moves around the inside front leg. The outside front foot steps forward and around the inside forefoot, which remains active in the sequence of footfalls. The hind feet move on a curved line, with the inside hind foot striking the ground in front of the outside hind foot. EC 9/17/12 Effective 12/1/12*

DR112 The Pirouette, The Half-pirouette, The Quarter-pirouette, The Working Pirouette, The Working Half-pirouette, The Turn on the Haunches

4. At whatever gait the pirouette (half-pirouette) is executed the horse, slightly bent in the direction in which he is turning should remain on the bit with light contact, turn smoothly and maintain the *appropriate sequence and timing of footfalls* of that gait. The poll stays the highest point during the entire movement. *BOD 1/19/13 Effective 4/1/13.*

DR117.7 The Position and Aids of the Rider

7. When rising trot is permitted in a test or class, the rider should change the diagonal when changing directions, except during a lengthening. The correct diagonal is considered to be when the rider is sitting when the outside front foot and inside hind foot are on the ground. *BOD 1/19/13 Effective 4/1/13.*

The following directives were published by USEF to clarify this rule change:

‘Rising Trot’

The new section of DR 117.7 regarding “rising trot” was meant to serve as a reminder that, in general, rising on the outside diagonal correctly influences the horse’s balance in movements other than straight lines. This was always recommended and the added section requires no change in judging methodology.

A change of direction in rising trot implies a change of diagonal, but it is up to the rider to determine where that change should occur. If no change is made, there is no error and no deduction is made unless the balance of the horse is adversely affected, as it might be, for example, in a turn, circle or leg yield. In that case, the movement is judged accordingly and the collective marks for “Submission” and “Effective Use of the Aids” could be negatively impacted.

DR118 Tests for Dressage Competitions

6. Tests for Para Equestrians may be ridden only in classes, including Test of Choice classes that are limited to Para Equestrians. Young Horse tests may be ridden only in classes, including Test of Choice classes that are limited to Young Horses. Freestyle tests may be ridden only in classes, including Test of Choice classes that are limited to Freestyles. Rider tests may be ridden only in classes, including Test of Choice classes, that are limited to Rider tests. *Effective 3/18/13.*

DR120 Dress

5. Riders in classes and tests at all levels in Level 1 Competitions, and riders in Opportunity classes in Level 2 and Level 3 Competitions, may compete wearing breeches and shirts of any color as permitted in DR120.8. Jackets or vests of any type are allowed but not required and neckwear may be worn only if the rider chooses to compete in a riding jacket. Boots and protective headgear are required as specified in DR120.1-6.

6. From the time horses are officially admitted to the competition grounds by competition management, anyone mounted on a horse at any time on the competition grounds, including non-competing riders, riders on non-competing horses, and those competing in all classes and tests, including Para-Equestrian tests, must wear protective headgear as defined by this rule and otherwise in compliance with GR801. *BOD 1/19/13 Effective 4/1/13.*

8. In locations with high average heat and humidity on the date of a competition, management can publish in their prize list that jackets will be waived for the duration of the competition. Alternatively, management can announce prior to or during a competition that competitors can show without jackets when extreme heat and/or humidity is forecast. This waiver applies to all classes including FEI classes at National Competitions. However, competitors must wear protective headgear and a shirt with sleeves and collar, without neckwear, and without decoration except as described under .14 below. T-shirts are not permitted. Members of the Armed Services or police units may wear summer uniforms. *BOD 1/19/13 Effective 4/1/13.*

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment

7. Fly hoods (ear covers) are permitted for competitions held outdoors in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet and should not cover the horse's eyes. After completion of the test, the rider or his representative is responsible for removing the fly hood to present to the designated ring steward for inspection. *BOD 1/19/13 Effective 4/1/13.*

DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving

4. Electronic scoreboards are permitted; however, when multiple judges officiate in a class, scores from other judges must not be visible to the judges of the same class. Scoreboards that show a running score (total average percentage) and open scoring (average marks per movement for all judges) to the audience are encouraged.

5. Printed provisional scores from previous tests should not be provided to the judges during an ongoing class. *EC 3/18/13 Effective Immediately.*

DR125 Competition Licensing and Officials

6. The competition Technical Delegate is required to designate one Dressage judge and one Competitor for each separate competition to complete USEF competition evaluation forms as described in the Dressage Levels Chart in DR126.3. The Technical Delegate must supply the Designated Judge and Designated Competitor with a copy of the required evaluation form(s) along with an envelope to return the forms. The sealed evaluation forms must be submitted to USEF by the TD along with the Technical Delegate Report or may be sent directly to USEF by the Designated Judge and/or Designated Competitor within fourteen days of the competition. The Technical Delegate should designate experienced judges and competitors, if available, and in the case of multiple competition numbers for the show days, different judges (if possible) and competitors must be designated to complete the forms. It is mandatory for designated judges and competitors to return completed evaluation forms to USEF either with the Technical Delegate or directly to USEF within fourteen days of the competition. *Effective 3/18/13.*

DR129 Musical Freestyle Ride

9. Except for USEF/USDF Championship classes and for FEI Pony Riders, FEI Junior, FEI Young Rider and FEI Para-Equestrian Freestyles, in order to enter a freestyle class at any level, a horse/rider combination must have received a minimum score of 60% in the highest test of the declared freestyle level or any test of a higher level at a Federation Licensed or FEI recognized Dressage Competition or "open" Dressage class (i.e. open to all breeds) at a

Federation Licensed Competition held prior to the competition where the horse/rider combination is entered to ride a freestyle class. A photocopy of the test verifying eligibility must be submitted with the entry for a freestyle class. **BOD 1/19/13 Effective 4/1/13.**

GR801 Dress. [CHAPTER Subchapter 8-A ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT.]

4. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear (ASTM/SEI) and/or a protective safety vest, specifically designed for use in equestrian sport in any division or class without penalty from the judge. The Federation recommends that the vest pass/ meet or surpass the current ASTM standard F1937 or be certified by the Safety Equipment Institute. **Inflatable vests are permitted only when worn over a body-protecting vest; however, Inflatable vests may be worn alone in Dressage Competitions. BOD 1/19/13 Effective 4/1/13.**

Appendix II. FAQs for Dressage Judges:

Reference to United States Equestrian Federation Rules

(Rule references current as of 5/15/2013. Please refer to USEF online rule book for the most complete and current rules.) http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/RuleBook/rulebooks.aspx

Family

How do I know if a relative is considered “family” according to the USEF rules?

Reference: GR123

Clients

Who is considered a “client” of a judge or TD?

Reference: GR107

Conduct of Recognized Competitions: General Rules

Are riders in USDF tests required to follow the USEF rules? Can unrecognized dressage classes be held at a USEF show? Do I have to follow the local show rules if they are not in the USEF Rule Book? Are grooms, family members and/or coaches of competitors required to follow the rules? How is the show/judge protected in these cases?

Reference: GR821 & GR138

Cruelty and Abuse

What should a judge do if he/she observes cruelty to a horse?

Reference: GR839

What is considered to be cruelty or abuse?

Reference: GR 839, DR124.1.i

Scheduling: Length of Competition; Time Schedules; Interruption & Delay Procedures

What is a show required to do if they want to move a class, or require riders to ride before their scheduled time? When a show is stopped because of bad weather, is the judge’s permission required if management wants to reschedule the rest of the rides on the next day?

Reference: GR830 – GR832.7

Attire and Equipment

Must a judge eliminate a rider if he/she does not have (or has the wrong) bridle number?

Reference: GR801.10, DR 121.11, DR124.1o, DR133.1h

Is the show required to provide a number for each competitor (horse/rider combination)?

Reference: GR1213.11, GR801.10

D & M: Testing

Can horses be drug tested if they did not actually show?

Reference: GR402.1

Protests, Charges, etc.

What is the difference between a “Protest” and a “Charge”?

Reference: GR602 - GR604

What recourse does a judge have when management or the TD does not follow the rules?

Reference: GR604

When can the show or a competitor file a protest or charge against a judge?

Reference: GR602- GR603

What actions by a judge are non-protestable?

Reference: GR602.6, DR122.6, DR124.b

Violations & Penalties: Individuals

How is a judge protected by the USEF rules against rude or abusive competitors?

Reference: GR 702.1.e

Violations & Penalties: Licensed Competitions

How is a judge protected by the USEF rules against shows that do not honor their contracts or assign judges to classes when they are not eligible?

Reference: GR 706.1

Regulations Governing Showing Under Judges, Stewards and TDs

How does a judge determine if there is a conflict of interest in judging former clients, horses or clients of family members? Is it the responsibility of the judge or the competitor to report conflict of interest situations?

Reference: GR1038, GR107 and GR1304

Licensed Judges Classification Rules

Is a USEF – licensed Arabian (etc.) judge eligible to judge Dressage classes if the classes are ONLY open to horses of that breed? Is a Guest Card required for a Dressage judge officiating at breed-restricted shows?

Reference: GR1010

Guest Judge

How many times can a Dressage judge get a Guest Card to judge DSHB classes?

Reference: GR1011. 10

Regulations Governing Judging: Adjudicating, Restrictions

Can a show house a judge in a private home without the judge’s permission?

Reference: GR 1033.3, DR126.1d.3

Must a judge eliminate an unsafe horse from a class?

Reference: GR1034.11 DR124.k

May a judge discuss the potential sale of a horse with a competitor during a break from judging?

Reference: GR1038.3

Cellular Phones

May a judge use a cellular phone while adjudicating during a competition?

Reference: GR1034.3

Technical Delegate Duties

Is a TD required to investigate possible rule violations if requested to do so by a judge?

Reference: GR1035.4

Comp. Officials: Manager

Can a relative of the show manager officiate as a judge or TD?

Reference: GR1039

Rules and Appointments of Officials and Employees

At what point before the show are the USEF rules effective?

Reference: GR1217

If an "r" or "R" judge is substituted for an "S" due to an emergency, is he or she eligible to judge at a higher level than he/she is licensed, or can he judge a client?

Reference: GR1211.2

Prize Lists

Are shows required to send the judge a copy of the prize list?

Reference: GR 1212.1

Is a show required to list special class specifications and rules in the prize list, if they are not already in the USEF Rule Book?

Reference: GR 902.2

Facilities

Is a show allowed to schedule classes when natural or artificial light is not sufficient for the judge to officiate?

Reference: GR 1216.10

Is a show required to provide reasonably clean restrooms?

Reference: GR 1216.2

Must food be provided?

Reference: GR 1216.4

Entries: General Conditions

Who can show Hors de Concours? Can a rider ask the judge's permission to show "HC"?

Reference: GR827, DR119.5

Leaving the Arena Without the Judge's Permission

Is there a penalty for a rider who leaves the arena without the judge's permission? (this does not include a horse jumping out of the arena)

Reference: GR1305.2

Score Sheets

Must score sheets *and comments* be written in ink?

Reference: DR 123.1

Must corrections on the score sheets be initialed by the judge?

Reference: DR123.1

Special Dispensations to use Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment

Do riders with a physical disability need to provide a special dispensation certificate?

Reference: GR1311, GR1313-1314, DR 119.11

Appendix III: Sample Contract for Competition Officials

Name of competition/show: _____

Address: _____

Contact person: _____

Phone(s): _____

Confirming our prior correspondence, this contract confirms that (name of official) _____ is licensed and in good standing with _____ with a rating of _____ and is available and willing to officiate (name of competition): _____ which is a _____ (CDI, USEF/USDF recognized, USEF National, rated or schooling show) in _____ (location) on _____, 20__ (show dates).

Compensation:

The agreed-upon fee is \$_____ for eight hours of judging time per day. If you choose to leave early, or to work overtime, compensation may be altered. If you choose to work overtime, please indicate that your rate per hour is \$_____ up to a maximum of _____ hours of overtime. If you choose not to work overtime, please strike through the previous sentence and indicate No Overtime.

Travel and Miscellaneous Expense:

The following expenses will be paid by the competition:

1. Economy Advanced Purchase Airfare from (home airport) _____ to (show airport) _____ and return, or if driving, \$_____ (IRS business rate) per mile.
2. Reimbursement for travel expenses to and from airport, shuttle or mileage and airport parking.
3. Hotel/motel lodging for _____ nights (non-smoking unless indicated otherwise).
4. All meals while traveling and at the competition, or a meal per diem of \$_____ per day.
5. Transportation from the airport to the hotel/motel and to the show grounds and return will be supplied by the show, or reimbursed to the official.
6. Compensation and expenses reimbursement will be paid to the official at the conclusion of the competition.

Cancellation:

Should this show be cancelled for any reason after this contract has been signed by both parties, the competition agrees to pay the official as follows: If competition cancels this contract two months or more prior to the competitions, official shall receive no compensation other than expenses incurred, including but not limited to change fee for airline ticket if purchased by official.

If competition cancels this contract less than two months prior to the competition, official shall receive _____ plus expenses incurred including but not limited to change fee for airline ticket, if purchased by official.

If the official must cancel at any time, the official shall forfeit all compensation for the competition, and shall reimburse the show for any non-recoupable expense incurred. The official shall assist in finding a suitable substitute acceptable to the competition committee.

Other:

To be filled out by competition:

Phone number to the competition grounds: _____

Motel/hotel phone number: _____

Additional classes to be offered:

Dressage Sport Breeding (requires special license)

Dressage suitability

Dressage seat equitation

Musical freestyle

Quadrille

Pas de deux

Prix Caprilli

Materiale

Young Horse

Other _____

To be filled out by official:

Smoke? _____

Allergies? _____

Particular diet requirements: _____

Preferred beverages & snacks:

In morning: _____

In afternoon: _____

Emergency Contact during competition:

Name _____ Phone _____

Assignment: This agreement may not be transferred, assigned or reassigned by either party without the prior written consent of the other party.

I agree to the terms of this contract:

_____ Date _____

Competition Organizer/Manager/Secretary (circle title)

_____ Date _____

Official

(Official should sign both copies, and return one copy to the competition.)

Suggested outline only – please tailor contract to your specific situation.

Appendix IV: Where to Get Information or Printed Material

United States Dressage Federation:

4051 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, KY 40511
Tel: 859/971-2277
Fax: 859/971-7722
Email: usdressage@usdf.org
Website: www.usdf.org

USDF Resources:

Glossary of Dressage Judging Terms:

http://www.usdf.org/EduDocs/Competition/2011_Glossary_of_Judging_Terms.pdf

Dressage Protocol:

http://www.usdf.org/EduDocs/Competition/Dressage_Protocol.pdf

Score Sheets: <http://www.usdf.org/downloads/forms/index.asp?TypePass=Tests>

- USDF Introductory Level score sheets
- USDF Quadrille score sheets
- USDF Musical Freestyle score sheets (First through Fourth Level)
- USDF Pas de Deux score sheets
- USDF Sport Horse Tests
 - **Individual Classes:** Prospect; Breeding Stock; Group Class; Prospect under Saddle
 - **Master Classes:** Prospect; Breeding Stock; Group Class; Prospect under Saddle
 - **Championship**
 - **Materiale**
 - **Amateur Handler**

Dressage Sport Horse:

<http://www.usdf.org/education/other-programs/sport-horse-seminars/index.asp>

USDF Sport Horse Breeding Class Guidelines: (includes a complete set of Sport Horse score sheets)

<http://www.usdf.org/docs/ShowFlash/web/Tests/InstructionsforDSHBscoresheets.pdf>

USEF Main Office

4074 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, KY 40511
Tel: 859/258-2472
Fax: 859/231-6662

Website: www.usef.org

Hallye Griffin- USEF National Director of Dressage- (859) 225 – 6918

USEF Weekend Emergency Number: 859-312-5186

**This number is only to be used by licensed competition officials and management and only on weekends and holidays.*

Reminder: Judges need to promptly inform USEF and USDF of any e-mail or address changes. These changes and clarifications are sent, by the Dressage Dept., to the list of dressage e-mail addresses on file at USEF.

USEF Regulation Department:

USEF Rule Books: http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/RuleBook/rulebooks.aspx

Official Form for Proposed USEF Rule Changes: http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/RuleBook/ruleChanges.aspx

FEI Rule Books: <http://www.fei.org/fei/regulations/dressage>

Member's Confidential Evaluation Form for Judges, Stewards, TDs, etc.:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/competitions/LicOffEvaluation.pdf>

Competition Footing Evaluation Form:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/competitions/CompFootEval.pdf>

USEF Tests, Booklets and General Information: Training through Fourth Level Test

http://www.usef.org/_iframes/breedsdisciplines/discipline/alldressage/2011dressageTests.aspx

FEI Tests: <https://next.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/dressage/tests>

Licensed Officials Committee:

<http://www.usef.org/IFrames/AboutUs/Committee/CommitteeDisplay.aspx>

USEF Judges Evaluation of Steward/Technical Delegate Form:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/competitions/CompEvalForm.pdf>

USEF Clinics:

http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/LicensedOfficials/clinics.aspx

Requirements & Procedures for obtaining “r”, “R”, and “S” status:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/licensedOfficials/LicenseForms/Dressage-Recorded.pdf>

<http://www.usef.org/documents/licensedOfficials/LicenseForms/Dressage-Registered.pdf>

<http://www.usef.org/documents/licensedOfficials/LicenseForms/Dressage-Senior.pdf>

Guidelines for Apprentice Judging by Candidate Judges:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/licensedOfficials/DressageGuidesApprenticeJudging.pdf>

Guidelines for “R” and “S” Judges Accepting Candidates for Apprentice Judging:

http://www.usef.org/_IFrames/LicensedOfficials/natLicInfo.aspx

Apprentice Judging Requirements for Candidate Judges that must be met outside the structured program:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/licensedOfficials/LicenseForms/Dressage-Recorded.pdf>

Form to be used for verification of Apprentice Judging/Sitting with Judge:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/FormsPubs/LicensedOfficials/LJAppBreed.pdf>

USEF Reports Division

Guidelines for Dealing with Suspected Acts of Cruelty:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/competitions/2005/GuidelineCruelty.pdf>

Eyewitness Report form for Act of Alleged Abuse:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/competitions/EyewitnessAbusRpt.pdf>

International Dressage Officials Club (IDOC):

<http://www.dressage-officials.org/>

Information and Membership:

Cara Whitham

27 Park Manor Dr

Stoney Creek, On L8e 5L2, Canada

(905) 864-5137 caraw@allstream.net

International (FEI)

<https://next.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage>

Sanctioning of FEI Competitions

All questions pertaining to the FEI Draft Schedule

- FEI Clinics
- FEI Bulletin and Calendar Subscription
- FEI Rules Questions

Appendix V: A Comparison of Dressage Rules

A COMPARISON OF DRESSAGE RULES

	*USEF Dressage : Training-Fourth Level Tests	*USEF Dressage: FEI Level Tests	FEI Dressage: Rules for Dressage Events 24 th Ed. Incl. 2013 modifications	USEF Eventing: All Levels
D E R S S	<p>Test: All 4th: Short conservative color coat w/tie, choker or stock tie, white or light colored breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhp boots. Cutaway coat w/short tails permitted. Half-chaps, gaiters & leggings not allowed Ex: Riders thru First Level may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, w/o fringe, matching color of their boots & made of smooth leather or leather-like material. Conserv color gloves rec. Current & retired mbrs of Armed Serv/police may ride in their service uniform at any lvl.(DR120). Jackets or vests & any color breeches & shirts perm for riders in Lvl 1 shows & Opportun cl. Nckwear only perm w/jacket. PasdeDeux/ Quadrille: Must follow USDF reqs ex. headgear & boots req as in DR120. Cooling vests may be worn underneath a riding jacket (DR120). USEF 4 yo Test same as FEI YH tests. At all test levels, riders may wear jackets in other colors w/in the internat'l HSV color scale, as describ in FEI Dres Regs, Art. 427.1. Contrast coloring/ piping allowed. Prot headgear, stocks, ties, gloves & boots may be same color as coat. When spnsrshp is permit by GR1306, name &/or logo of individual's sponsor(s) may appear on both sides of jackets or top garmnts at hgt of breast pockts not excd 80 cm2 in size. Logos described under DR121.1 are also permit as above. Dress code req, but elim. at judge's discret, ex. for headgear. (DR124.) Protect headgear as def. in DR120.5 & GR801 req. for all riders while mounted on comp grnds (GR801 & DR120). Earphones/other electronic communicat devices prohib while competing but permit in warmup. Warmup: Upon arrival on grnds: Boots/ shoes must have disting. heel. Protect headgr req for anyone mounted. Riders w/safety concerns encour. to wear orange vest.</p>	<p>Test: Dark tailcoat wwhite or light color breeches, stock or tie, gloves, blk riding boots & spurs. FEI Jr & 4/5/6 yo Tests: Conserv. color short jacket, stock or tie, breeches & spurs optional. A dark tailcoat permit for FEI Jr Tests. Pony Riders: Drk coat/club uniform coat, breeches or jodhpurs, white shirt w/ite or stock, gloves & boots. Protective headgear req, for all tests & may be worn w/dark tailcoat or short, dark jacket, dark hatcover, or Armed Serv/police uniform (if eligible) & otherwise conform as above. Military/ police, Quadrille/Pas de Deux: See Tr-4th. Dress in colors w/in internat'l HSV color scale, sponsorships & logos permit as described for Tr-4th level dress code. For GPF only, any single color tailcoat permit. Striped or multi-color coats not permit. Tasteful, discreet accents (collar of dif. hue, modest piping or crystal decoration) permit. Dress code elim. at judges discret. ex. for headgear. Warmup: Upon arrival on grnds: Boots/shoes must have disting heel. Protective headgear req. for anyone mounted. (GR801 & DR120).</p>	<p>Civilians: At CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDI-W, CDI/Os, Chmps, Reg& Olympic Games: Black or drk blue tail coat or other drk colors w/in internat HSV color scale (other colors may be approved by appl to FEI), contrst color & piping permit, white or off-white breeches, stock or tie, gloves, black riding boots & spurs or hat, neckwear, gloves & boots may be same color as coat. For GPF only, any single color tailcoat permit. Stripe or multicolor coats not permit. Tasteful, discreet accents (collar of dif. hue, modest piping or crystal décor.) permit. CDI* & CDI**: Same or black or drk blue jkt (as above). This dress desir for all othr internat evnts unless otherwise in rules. Military (incl studnts & employes), police, other state, nat. studs/schls/ insititutes etc: Same, civil or serv dress. Earph/other electron dev prohib while compet but permit in wrmup. (Art. 427). YRs: Same as Srs. Jrs: Same as Srs ex drk coat, hunt cap or bowler permit. Pony Ridrs & Childrn: Same ex drk jkt, wh or fawn brches or jods, wh shirt w/ite or stck. Prot headgr req for all riders, ex may wear tophat/bowler in comp & prior wrmup if 18/ older on horses 7/older.</p>	<p>Test: Beg. Novice-Prelim HTs: Black or dark blue protective headgear; dark or tweed coat (tails not permitted); white or light color shirt w/stock & pin, choker or tie; light or white jodhpurs or britches; black or brown field or jodhpur boots or a black or brown full grain smooth leather leg piece and matching leather boots. Optional: dark, tan, beige or white gloves. Chaps &/or half-chaps not allowed. HTs (Intermed-Advan) & 3-days: Same ex. no tweed coat, tail coats permit, protective headgear, shirt, stock w/pin, white or dark gloves req., pref. black dress boots or black full grain leather leg piece & matching leather boot. Chaps & half-chaps not allowed. Armed & police force members: Service dress w/gloves, protect headgear & spurs. (EV114.5) Eventing Tests or 1-day Horse Trials: See EV114.8 for options. All levels (BN-Adv) must wear protect headgear ex. as otherwise mandated by local law. Warmup: Upon arrival, anyone riding must wear properly fitting protect headgear which passes or surpasses ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use & carries SEI tag. Harness must be secured & properly fitted. (EV114.1) Boots/ shoes must have a disting. heel. (GR 318)</p>
S A D L E R Y	<p>Test: *English saddle w/stirrups req. for all tests & classes ex. FEI tests. *May be constructed w/w/o tree but cannot have horn, D swell gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles (or modified versions) not permitted ex. w/USEF Disp. Certif. Tr-2nd: Snaffle w/ cavesson & both parts of flash (not too tightly fixed & adj. to allow 2 fingers underneath), drop, flash, crescent or cross. noseband. Headstall & cavesson/noseband must be all leather or leather-like ex. for buckles, crescent & sm. sheepskin disk on crossed noseband. Padded cavesson/ nseband, crwnpiece & chinpad w/cavesson allowed. Browband req & ex for parts that attach to crwnp/ headstl, is not req. to be made of leather/ leath-like material. Comb nseband w/no throat latch permit; when used w/dbl bridle, lower strap of nseband (flash attach) not permit. Micklem bridle permit at any lvl where snaffles permit; not permit w/ dbl bridle. Bit clips prohib w/Micklm. Multicolored brwbnd w/gems, beads, etc. permit. 3rd-4th: Same as above or simple dbl bridle (bridoon, bit & curb chain, caves. nseband only; curb chain may be cov. or made of metal, leather, rubber or combin. Lipstrp & rubber or leather cvr for chain opt) w/caves nseband. English-style stirrups w/o attachmnts or safety stirrups compuls. Saddle pads opt, but shld be white or consrv color. When sponshp is permit per GR1306, logos no more than 200 cm² allowd on eah side of sad pad. Warmup: Tr-2nd: Same as in Test (snaffle). 3rd-4th: May use snaffle or dbl bridle. (DR121) USEF 4 yo Test same as FEI YH tests. Caves, drop, cross or flash nseband permit when snaffle used in wrmup or comp, ex as prohib for some tests. Para riders in both PE & USDF or USEF tests mst use snaffle at Grades1a-Grade III. Dbl bridle allow. in warmup & compet only at Grade IV.</p>	<p>Test: Dressage saddle which must be close to horse & have long near-vertical flaps & stirrups. FEI tests at national competitions (exclude. HP, Yng Adult, FEI Jr & FEI YR qual cl.) , a plain snaffle may be used, or a simple dbl. bridle (bridoon, bit & curb chain ; curb chain may be metal, leather or combination; lip strap & rubber or leather cover for chain optional) w/ cavesson noseband (not too tightly fixed). Snaffle w/ cavesson & both parts of flash must not be too tightly fixed & adj. to allow 2 fingers underneath. Cavesson may have chin pad. Multi-colored browband w/gems, beads, etc. permitted. FEI Pony & 4/5/6 yo Horses: plain snaffle req. Crescent noseband not permit. w/snaffle (DR121.1-4) Cross noseband not permitted for 4/5/6 yo Horses. Combined noseband w/no throat latch permitted; when used w/dbl bridle, lower strap of noseband (flash attachm) not permitted. Micklem bridle permit only where snaffles permit. Not permit w/ dbl bridle. Bit clips not permit w/Micklem. Saddle pads, stirrups, sponsorship, bridle padding & logos same as Tr-4th Levels. FEI Para-Eq riders may use plain snaffle or simple dbl bridle. Warmup: Same or may use snaffle . DR121.7. Note: Dbl bridle req for USEF HP cl; Yng Adult, JR and YR qual & champ cl; and NAJYRC qual cl.</p>	<p>Test: Dressage saddle which must be close to horse & have long near-vertical flaps. Double bridle (curb, bridoon & curb chain) w/cavesson noseband not too tightly fixed. Optional: lipstrap & rubber or leather chain cover. Curb chain may be metal, leather, rubber or a combination. Padding is allowed on bridles. Combined noseband w/no throat lash permitted; when used w/dbl bridle, lower strap of noseband not allowed. Micklem bridle allowed only w/snaffle. YRs: Same as for Seniors. Jrs: Same as for Seniors ex. either snaffle or dbl bridle permitted for Prelim test. Warmup: Same or may use snaffle w/cavesson, dropped, Mexican (crossed, figure-8) or flash noseband. (Art. 428) 4/5/6 yo Horses: Mexican noseband not permitted & snaffle required.</p>	<p>Test: English saddle & permitted bridle. Double bridle w/cavesson noseband & w/bridoon & curb bits w/curb chain made of metal or leather (optional: lipstrap & rubber or leather chain cover) when permitted by test. W/double bridle, cavesson noseband may never be so tight as to harm horse. W/snaffle may use cavesson, dropped, crossed or flash noseband. Micklem bridle permitted as pictured. (See Appendix 4) Noseband must all leather or leather-like, ex. sheepskin disc of crossed noseband. Breastplate allowed. (EV115.2) Warmup: English saddle & any bridle, inc. double, snaffle, gag or hackamore. (EV115.1)</p>
B I T S	<p>Pictured in USEF Rule Book. All must be smooth w/ solid surface; no twisted, wire or roller bits. Snaffle mouthpc w/more than one rolling part prohib. Bits may be made w/ rubber or plastic cover, but may not be modified by adding latex, etc. Metal or rigid plastic, synthetic or flexible mouthpc snaffles (incl. flex. rubber or synthetic) permit, prov. contours conform to a pictured bit. Flexible mouthpc bits not allowed in FEI tests or w/dbl bridle. A dbl jointed snaffle w/rotating mouthpc may be shaped to allow tongue relief; max height of deviation is 30mm frm lower part of tongue side to highest part of deviation; widest part of deviation must be where mouthpc contacts tongue & must have a min width of 30 mm. Mouthpc of jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve, but other ported snaffles prohib. Mouthpc of snaffle may have up to 2 joints. A bushing or coupling 2permit. as center link in dbl jointed snaffle ex. surf of centerpc must be solid w/no movable parts, ex as pict; Cntr link may be tilted in dif orientat frm mouthpc but mst have rnd edges (no Dr. Bristol). Snaffle or bridoon mouthpc must</p>	<p>Pictured in USEF Rule Book. Same restrictions as Tr-4th Levels, ex. bits (incl. curb and/or bridoon of dbl bridle) must be metal or rigid plastic & may be covered w/rubber (in manufactured state); flexible rubber bits not permitted. For FEI tests and warm up must use dbl bridle or snaffle of metal or rigid plastic pict. under Fig.1, B1 or B2. (In both cases may be cov. w/rubber (in manufactured state) but flexible rubber not permitted) Dbl-jointed bridoon must have rounded middle piece. (Dr. Bristol not permitted.) Permitted: Snaffle w/rotating mouthpiece, curb bit w/rotating lever arm & straight bar snaffle w/mullen mouth & w/eggbutt rings. Snaffle or bridoon w/rotating middle piece or rotary bit with rotating middle piece permitted. Snaffles in YH classes must have min 14 mm diam</p>	<p>Pictured in FEI Dres. Regs and USEF Fig. 1B. Same as USEF rules for FEI Levels, ex. bridoon & curb may be covered w/rubber/latex. Note wording for size of mouthpiece: Diameter of mouthpce of the bridoon &/or curb must be such so as not to hurt horse. Min. diameter (at rings or cheeks of mouthpiece) is 12 mm for curb, 10 mm for bridoon; 14 mm for snaffle used in Young Horse cl & 10 mm for Pony cl. (1) D-ring may be used as snaffle but not as bridoon (i.e., w/dbl bridle); (2) Snaffle w/rotating mouthpce permitted; (3) Strght bar snaffle permit w/mullen mouth & w/eggbutt rings; (4) Snaffle or bridoon w/rotating middle piece permit; (5) Snaffle or bridoon rotary bit w/ rotating middle piece permit; (6)</p>	<p>Test: Pictured in USEF Rule Book (Appendix 4) & spec. on each test. A snaffle made of metal, leather, rubber or plastic is permit for all tests. Curb lever arm must not ex. 10 cm length bel mouthpc.If curb has slid mouthpc, curb lever arm bel. mouthpiece must not ex. 10 cm when mouthpce is in uppermost posit. Bridoon & curb must be made of metal or rigid plastic & may be cov. w/rubber (flexible rubber bridoons &/or curbs not allowed). Diam. of bridoon ring must be such as not to hurt horse. (EV115.2) An ord. snaffle has str. bar or center joint. Ord. snaffle w/rotating mouthpiece permit'd. Snaffle w/rotat middle piece permitted. If 2 joints, all parts must be rounded & smooth. All bridoons illustrated in App. 4 may be used as snaffle or bridoon.. A dbl bridle should consist of a broken & a straight bit. Bits can be plastic or metal. Any</p>

	be min 10mm diam at mouthpc rings or cheeks, ex. Ponies: diam. may be less than 10mm. Type of bit may not vary, must be attach only as pict. Any bit combin any mouthpc pictured in Fig.1A w/any cheekpc in 1A is permit. Lever arm of curb (length bel. mouthpc) must not exceed 10cm; upper cheek mst not be lngr than lower cheek; if slid mouthpc, lngth mst not ex. 10 cm when mouthpc is at upermst posit. Curb bit w/rotat lever arm perm (DR121. Fig. 1B) Plain snaffle req. for Equitation. (DR132)	mouthpiece. Curb chain hooks can be fixed or not fixed.	Fixed curb chain hooks permitted; (7) No limit to diam. of bridoon ring. (Art. 428) (8) Snaffles are permitted as marked on test sheets.	illustrated rings or cheeks permit w/any bit. (App. 4) Warmup: No restrictions.(EV115)
W H I P	Mounted rider may carry one whip no longer than 47.2" (120 cm) incl. lash, in all classes ex. in USEF/USDF Champs & USEF National Dres. Champs. (Except: Sidesaddle riders may carry whip not over 47.2" in USEF/USDF Champ.) Whips permitted in all qual. classes (incl. NAYRC & NAJC) unless otherwise prohib. by USEF or FEI rules or class selection procedures. Warmup: One lungeing whip only when lungeing & one whip not over 47.2" (incl. lash) permitted. Adjustable length whip prohib. while mounted. No restriction on whip length permitted for working a horse in hand. (DR120.5 & 121.9) Optional for Equitation. (DR132).	Same as Tr-4 th Levels, ex one whip no longer than 100 cm allowed in FEI Pony Rider Tests & no whip in (1) USEF/USDF Champs; (2) USEF HP Champs, Qual. & Select. Trials & Observ. classes; (3) USEF Nat Dres Champs (DR120.5 & 121.9). HP classes: Upon arrival, only rider when riding, walking, leading or lungeing(lunge whip allowed) may carry whip (max 120 cm). Groom may walk, lead & lunge w/whip. Whip must be drop. before entering space around arena or will receive an error.	Test: Forbidden. Warmup: One whip with a total max. length of 120 cm is permitted (100 cm for Pony cl & 1.2 m for Children). Upon arrival on grounds, only rider when riding, walking in hand, leading or lungeing (lunge whip permit) may carry a whip (max. 120 cm & 100 cm for ponies). Groom may walk, lead & lunge w/whip. Whip must be dropped before entering space arnd arena or rider will rec. an error. (Art. 428 & 430)	Test: One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2") incl. lash permit. ex. in USEF/USEA Champs & USEA Champ divisions. Riders competing sidesaddle may carry whip at all competitions, incl. champs. Warmup: One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2") (incl. lash) permitted. Standard lunge whip permit when lungeing. (EV 114.3) Adjustable length whip prohibited while mounted. Whip must be used only to encourage or reprimand; whip use regulated; excessive use prohib. (EV111.3)
S P U R S	Optional at Tr-4 th Levels. Must be metal. Shank must be curved or straight, pointing directly back from center of spur when on boot. If curved shank, must be worn only directed down. Swan-necked spurs allowed. Inside arm must be smooth & one or both arms may have rubber covers. If w/rowels, must be blunt/smooth & free to rotate. Metal spurs w/round, hard plastic knobs on shank are allowed ("Impuls" spur). "Dummy" spurs w/no shank permitted. Restriction also applies to warmup & training areas. USEF 4 yo Test same as FEI YH tests. (DR120.8) Optional for Equitation. (DR132)	Mandatory, ex. spurs optional in FEI Junior Tests and FEI Tests for 4, 5 & 6 yo horses. FEI Pony Riders: only blunt metal spurs (i.e., w/no rowels) no longer than 3.5 cm permitted. Otherwise same as Tr-4 th Levels. HP classes: Same as FEI, i.e. if w/rowels, must be blunt/smooth & free to rotate. (DR 120.8)	Required ex. for CDI-P and CDI-Ch events. Must be metal. Shank must be either curved or straight pointing dir back frm center of spur when on boot. Arms must be smooth & blunt. If w/rowels, must be blunt/ smooth & free to rotate. Metal spurs w/round, hard plastic knobs on shnk allowed (Impuls spur). Dummy spurs w/no shank allow. (Art 427) Pony Riders & Childrn: Spurs opt but if usd, only blunt metal spurs no longer than 3.5 cm allowed. Rowels on spurs not allowed.	May be worn any time. Not req @ Beg Novice -Prelim. Req at Int & Adv lvls. Forbid if capable of wounding horse. Must be smooth metal. If w/shank it must not ex 4 cm (1 9/16") meas from boot to end of spur & must pt only to rear. If shank curved, it must direct down; metal or plast spurs w/rnd hard plast or metal knobs(Impuls spur), dummy spurs w/no shank & swan-neck spurs perm. Rowels permit in all comp lvls & in Dres pract/ wrmup. If rowels used, mst be free to rotate; mst be round & smooth w/no tines. (EV114.4 & 5) Can't be usd to reprimd. (EV111.4)
E O U T R I P M E N T	Test: Forbidden: Martingales, bit guards, gadgets(bearing, side, running or balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc), boots (incl. Easy Boots), bandages (incl. tail bndg), blinkers, ear muffs/ plugs, nose & seat cvrs, hoods & rein additions/ attachm ex. leg bandages allowed in PDD & Quadriple; breastplate &/or crupper allow. Each bit must be attach. to a separ rein. Reins may only be attach. to bits. Decor of horse forbid. ex. braiding of mane & tail. False tails w/o metal parts permit. Shoes w/ or w/o cuffs attach w/nails or glue& that don't extend past hair line of hoof permit. Discreet fly hoods not cover eyes permit in outdoor competit. Wrmup: Same ex run martingales (only w/ snaffle rein of pl. snaffle bridle & connect to rein on same side & free to slide; rings thr which reins slide may not connect to a neck strap), boots, bndages (w/o magnets) permit. Single direct side reins (attach frm bit to girth,saddle or surcing on side of horse (not bet. legs) or dbl slid side reins(triangle reins) used only when lungeing (mnted/unmntd) are permit. Dbl slid. side reins may be attach. to saddle or surc &/girth or both ends of ea rein may be attach to saddle, surc &/or girth. Only 1 lnge line perm only while lungeing. Driving & long lining prohib. Lunge line mst attach only to snaffle bit of bridle, haltr or caves & go direct to longeur's hand. Fly hoods/ear covrs that don't cvr eyes permit & can't mask w/ear plugs. Nmbrs req. at all times when horse is exercisd or ridden. Equitation: Back #'s req.	Same as Tr-4 th Levels, ex. breastplate &/or crupper not permitted in USEF HP Champs, USEF HP Qualifying & Selection Trials & Observation Classes. Warmup: Running martingales not permitted for horses entered in USEF HP qualifying & selection trials & observation classes. Noise canceling ear muffs/plugs permitted at prize-giving ceremonies for horses competing at any level, including HP classes. (DR121.6-7 & .10)	Test: Forbidden: Martingales, breast plates, bit guards, any gadgets (bearing, side, running or balancing reins, etc.), any kind of boots or bandages, any form of blinkers, inc. ear muffs & any others. Noise cancelling ear muffs permitted at prize-giving ceremonies. No saddle covers or decoration of the horse w/extravagant items, such as ribbons, flowers, etc. in tail, etc. Normal plaiting of mane & tail allowed. False tails may not have metal parts (ex. hooks & eyelets). False tails & tail extensions are permitted only w/prior permission of FEI. Discreet fly hoods not covering eyes permitted only in outdoor events. Warmup: Same ex. boots, bandages, single direct side reins or double slid. side reins (only when lungeing w/one lunge line only) perm. Run martingales & ear muffs not permitted. (Art 428) Nmbrs req when working. (Art 428)	Test: Forbidden: Martingales, bit guards, gadgets (bearing, side, running or balancing reins, etc.), reins w/any loops or hand attachments, boots, leg bandages, blinkers, incl. earmuffs, earplugs, hoods, fly shields, nose & seat covers. Exception: Ground Jury may allow fly shields in except. circumstances. Breastplates permitted. Warmup: Irish & running martingales (w/rein stops), bit guards, boots, bandages, fly shields, nose & seat covers permitted. Side reins permitted only while lungeing unmounted horse, as are running reins and chambons. Forbidden: Other martingales, gadgets (as bearing, running or balancing reins, etc) & blinkers. (EV115.1-2) All horses (competing & non-competing) must wear numbers at all times when horse is exercised or ridden under penalty of warning for 1 st offense and \$50 fine if repeated. (EV108.1)
W E A T H E R	In local w/high average heat/humidity, mgmt. can waive jackets before or during show. Riders must wear prot headgear & any color shirt w/sleeves & collar, w/o neckwear & w/o decor ex. permit. logos. T-shirts not permit. Mmbers of Armd Services/ police may wear summer uniforms. In inclement weather: May wear hat cover & transp or conserv color raincoat. (DR120.6-7) If coats are waived, a solid-colored cooling or lightwt vest may be worn over a riding shirt as specified in DR120.6.	Same as Tr-4 th Levels. (DR120.6-7)	Waiving coats is not addressed; therefore is not permitted under normal circumstances. However, the Ground Jury is permitted to make decisions in all circumstances not specifically addressed by the rules. (Art. 453) Therefore, the jury could waive coats if it deemed appropriate.	At temps above 85° F, a heat index above 85, or at discret of the GJ or Organizr, comps will be permit to compete w/o jkts. Riders mst wear either long or short sleeved shirt of conserv color w/o neckwear. Mmbers of Armd Serv/police may wear summer uniforms. Inclem weather: May wear windbrkr or rain coat ovr clothes: # mst be visible. (EV114.9)
E R O R	1 st 2 pts; 2 nd 4 pts; 3 rd Elim. (but, at judge's discretion, may finish test unless finishing would make next ride late). For YH R tests, deduction for an error shall be: 1 st error: - .5% of possible total score; 2 nd error: -1% of possible total score; 3 rd error: Elim. For Rider Tests, deduction for an error is: 1 st error: Score reduced by 0.5 pts; 2 nd error: Score reduced by an addit 1.0 pts; 3 rd error: Elim. Judge at C decides if error is made & other judges' scores are adapted accordingly (penalty points deducted) w/approval of C judge. (DR 122.5b-f).	Same as Tr-4 th ex: FEI Freesty: 2 pts deduct for ea. error, but they are not cumulative & will not result in elim. Ex: For USEF HP cl, the following are errors & 2 pts deduct for ea but they are not cumul & will not result in elim: (1) Enter space arnd arena w/whip; (2) Enter. arena w/ whip ex. carrying whip for +3 mvmnts entails elim; (3) Not enter. arena w/in 45 sec but before 90 sec after bell; (4) Enter arena bef bell; (5) In Freest, enter arena after 20+sec of music but w/in 90 sec; (6) If Freest is lngr/shrttr thn time on test, .5% deduct frm art scre.(DR 122.5)	1 st 2 pts; 2 nd 4 pts; 3 rd Elim. For YH tests, deduction for an error shall be: 1 st error: - .5% of possible total score; 2 nd error: -1% of possible total score; 3 rd error: Elim. For FEI Freestyles, 2 pts will be deduct for ea. error, but they are not cumulative & will not result in elim. Judge at C decides if error is made & other judges' scores are adapted accordingly. List of possible errors same as for USEF HP classes. (Art. 430)	1 st 2 pts; 2 nd 4 pts; 3 rd Elim. After elim. may finish test. (EV136.1) If there is more than one judge, unless all judges are in agreement on an error, the competitor receives the benefit of the doubt. (EV134.14)

*See Dispensation Certificate for Para-Eq Riders

** See FEI Rules for Dres Events for Pony Riders & Children
Compiled by Janine W. Malone

(PINK text in Chart valid as of 4/1/13; FEI rules valid as of 1/1/13)
(RED text in Chart valid as of 4/1/12; FEI rules valid as of 1/1/12)

(GREEN text in Chart valid as of 4/1/11; FEI rules valid as of 1/1/11)
(BLUE text in Chart valid as of 4/1/10; FEI rules valid as of 1/1/10)
(BROWN text in Chart valid as of 4/1/09; FEI rules valid as of 1/1/09)