



# UNITED STATES *Dressage* FEDERATION

## Guide to Hosting Para-Equestrian Dressage Classes

---

For the current show season, many shows want to offer the Para-Equestrian (PE) classes and asked for some ideas on how to do so. The easiest format is to offer these standard tests as Test of Choice (TOC) classes. All of these tests can be ridden in a standard arena (20m x 60m) so there is not the issue of shortening and lengthening the arenas.

Competitions can also offer the Freestyles as a separate Test of Choice (TOC) class – but there are some fine points that need to be kept in mind when offering this class. First point - Grades I, II, and III must be ridden in a shortened arena (20m x 40m) while Grade IV is in a standard size arena. While most of your entries in the competition will probably be Grades I through III, if you do offer the Freestyle class as a single FEI Para-Equestrian Freestyle TOC in your prize list, you will have to split it after you review your entries and determine that you have some athletes that need one size arena and others another size. If you find that you need both the small and standard-size arenas for riders in the same class, you can deal with it in one of two ways: change your prize list to offer two separate FEI PE Freestyle TOC classes or create two separate divisions of the class for awards purposes. The reason you have to split to two different divisions or offer two separate classes is that by the issue of changing the arena size - you have created two different ring conditions and that is not allowed by USEF rules (USEF DR126.1) during a single class or division. Remember, if you choose to offer two separate classes – this will require a change to your prize list and the following procedures must be followed:

**GR904 Changes in Prize List.** - If the prize list must be changed after it has been distributed to potential exhibitors the following procedures must be followed. Notification of specific changes to a prize list must be made to the Federation and exhibitors via email or mail as well as being posted on a competition's website. This will serve as notification for the requirements of this rule. In the cases where electronic communication is not available, then notification must be made as specified under this rule.

1. If errors are discovered or changes made up to 10 days prior to the closing of entries, notify potential exhibitors in writing of the specific changes.
2. If errors are discovered or changes made after that date, notify exhibitors on receipt of entries, and in writing when they arrive at the competition of the specific changes.
3. If classes are omitted or premiums decreased, notify only affected exhibitors 5 days prior to the competition in writing, by e-mail or by wire, thereafter these classes cannot be reinstated. In this instance, entry fee refunds must be given in all cases.
4. If classes are added or premiums increased, unless required under division rules, notify potential exhibitors in writing, by e-mail or by wire at least 5 days prior to the competition. Post entries must be accepted in such classes.

The USEF/USDF Joint Application for License Agreement contains a check box asking show management if they are willing to offer Para-Equestrian classes. If show management denotes they are offering Para-Equestrian classes this information will be published on the USDF website. This helps riders in finding shows in their area that are willing to offer these classes. If the show is offering the classes after the approval is made, please contact the USDF competitions department to add this to your show approval. This will give the riders the chance to search the approval page on the USDF website for the designation of "PE" next to the show name.

When the riders enter the show, their entry must include a copy of their USEF dispensation certificates and a copy of the test(s) they wish to ride. Copies of these certificates must be attached to the judge's copy of the tests. Copies should also be provided to the technical delegate. It will be up to the technical delegate or their designee to do an equipment check to verify that the items listed on the Dispensation Certificate are being correctly used and no additional items are being used.

**DR119.11** Individuals with disabilities that require use of compensatory aids or adaptive equipment and holding Federation Dispensation Certificates are eligible to participate. A copy of a rider's Dispensation Certificate which lists all of his or her allowed compensating aids and adaptive equipment must be included with the rider's entry, with a copy then attached to each of their Dressage sheets for the Judge's reference. Additional copies of the tests can be downloaded from the FEI website at [www.FEI.org](http://www.FEI.org).

### **The Technical Side of the Rules**

The technical delegates should apply the practical interpretation of the USEF rules as they currently exist. **Always remember that the Division or Discipline rules take precedence over the General rules.**

The equivalency of Grades and Levels are:

Effective 6/1/11:

*FEI PE Grade 1a is equivalent to **Introductory Level**.*

*FEI PE Grade 1b is equivalent to **Training Level**.*

*FEI PE Grade II is equivalent to **First Level**.*

*FEI PE Grade III is equivalent to **Second Level**.*

*FEI PE Grade IV is equivalent to **Third Level**.*

Riders may only use the saddlery and tack that are permitted for use at the current USEF Levels that their grading is equivalent to unless exceptions have been listed on the USEF Dispensation certificate.

Riders must follow current USEF Dressage Division dressage codes as outlined in DR120 unless exceptions are noted on their USEF Dispensation Certificate.

All PE tests must be executed from memory unless stated on their dispensation certificate.

Horses can only be entered in the maximum number of tests per days that is allowed by the equivalent USEF level. Riders may cross enter between the FEI Para Classes and the USEF National tests but must follow the "two level rule", according to the equivalent levels listed above and published on the USEF website, and must use only the bits permitted for USEF tests at that level. Since Grades I through II are equivalent to First Level or below, horses at that level cannot be ridden with a double bridle at any time on the show grounds. Riders in Grades I-II who wish to use a double bridle in their PE tests should not enter a USEF test at the same competition.

Classifiers establish riders grading. Not all riders will have classification cards and are not required to have one in their possession, but can choose to ride in national shows at grades lower or higher than their grading if one is presented.