



# **Important Information for** **New USEF Dressage** **"Opportunity" Classes**

**1. *When do the new rules take effect for dressage "opportunity" classes?***

December 1, 2009, which is the official start of the 2010 USEF competition year. This date coincides with the effective date of the new "Levels" required for Dressage Competitions.

**2. *What types of competitions may offer these classes?***

Licensed Dressage Competitions and Regular/Local Competitions which are licensed to include an Open Dressage Division (open to all breeds) may offer a limited number of dressage "opportunity" classes, as described in Rule GR821. (See #4 below for the list of classes and tests that may be offered.)

**3. *So may a breed-restricted competition offers these classes?***

No, unless the competition is licensed to hold an open dressage division which is open to all breeds. This is because breed-restricted competitions are not required to meet any of the new dressage competition levels standards.

**4. *How do I know what type and how many dressage "opportunity" classes I can offer at my competition?***

The type and number of classes which may be offered is dependent upon the "level" of your competition. Only Level 1, 2, or 3 competitions may offer these classes (please refer to the published Dressage Levels chart on the USEF website and GR821).

- A Level 1 Competition may offer two (2) tests, per level, per day, at Second Level and below. For instance, in a single day, a show could offer Training Level Test 1, Training Level Test 2, First Level Test 1, First Level Test 2, Second Level Test 1, and Second Level Test 2 as "opportunity" classes.
- A Level 2 Competition may offer two (2) tests, per level, per day, at FIRST Level and below. For instance, in a single day, this show could offer Training Level Test 1, Training Level Test 2, First Level Test 1, and First Level Test 2 as "opportunity" classes.
- A Level 3 Competition may offer two (2) tests per day at Training Level ONLY. For instance, in a single day, this show could offer Training Level Test 1 and Training Level Test 2 as "opportunity" classes.
- A Level 4 or Level 5 Competition may not offer "opportunity" classes.

**5. *How do I list these classes in my prize list?***

Per Rule GR821.8, the list of "opportunity" classes offered must include "Opportunity" in the class name.

**6. *Can I offer Eventing Dressage Tests or other types of tests as "opportunity" classes?***

No, as indicated above and in the Dressage Levels Chart, only specific USEF Second Level, First Level, and Training Level Tests may be offered as "opportunity" classes.

**7. *Can I have an Opportunity Test of Choice class?***

No. Please see #5 & #6 above. Only specific tests may be offered.

**8. *What about Freestyles?***

Per Rule GR821.2e(3), Freestyles may not be offered as "opportunity" classes.

**9. Can I offer one of these "opportunity" classes as restricted to Adult Amateurs?**

Yes, but per Rule GR821.5, if an "opportunity" class is restricted to Amateurs, then the rider must have an amateur status on file with USEF or pay the \$30 non-member amateur card fee.

**10. Who can judge these classes?**

USEF Rule GR821 states that any judge officiating at the competition may judge the "opportunity" classes. Since these classes may only be offered at Licensed Dressage Competitions and Regular/Local Competitions with Open Dressage Divisions, the judges would be USEF-Licensed "r", "R", "S" or FEI Dressage Judges.

**11. What rules apply for these classes?**

Since these classes may only be offered at Licensed Dressage Competitions and Regular/Local Competitions with Open Dressage Divisions, all USEF Dressage Division (DR) rules apply, including dress and saddlery requirements, in addition to all applicable General Rules, such as Drugs & Medications (see #14, below).

**12. What memberships are required for these classes?**

Per Rule GR821.2e(5), horses and riders competing in "opportunity" classes are exempt from USEF and USDF membership requirements, and do not have to pay nonmember or HID fees. *(In addition, USEF is working on a rule clarification to also specify that owners, trainers, and coaches are exempt from membership requirements.)*

**13. Can a horse and rider cross-enter into other dressage classes?**

Yes. Your prize list must state if "opportunity" riders/horses will be allowed to cross enter into other recognized classes at your show. Please note, however, if a horse or rider enters other non-opportunity classes at your competition in which membership by participants is required, all USEF and USDF membership requirements apply for horse, rider, owner, trainer, etc. (See GR901.9 for more information.)

**14. What about the USEF Drugs & Medications fee?**

Per Rule GR821.3 & .4, horses entered only in "opportunity" classes are exempt from the Federation fee, including the Drugs & Medications fee. However, horses entered in these classes are still subject to and must comply with all D&M rules and are subject to testing at your competition.

**15. Do I submit results for these classes to USEF?**

As per Rule GR821.1, competitions must submit full results of all "opportunity" classes as required in Rule GR1214:

- "Opportunity" must be listed in the class name in the results.
- Full results are required -names of horses, riders, owners, and trainers are to be listed including addresses, placings and scores, eliminations, etc.
- If they have them, horses and members with USEF numbers should be listed in the results. If membership or HID information is missing, please leave the USEF number field blank.
- Section codes for submission of e-Results are as follows: Open Opportunity 5702; Amateur Opportunity -5703.

**16. What about the USEF Post-Competition Report?**

Since "opportunity" classes are exempt from membership, non-member fees, Drugs & Med Fee and the Federation Fee, these classes are not reported on the Post Competition Report.

**17. Can "opportunity" class results count towards USEF or USDF awards?**

No. Scores earned in dressage "opportunity" classes may not be used towards USEF or USDF awards or programs.