



# RULES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR AMHA DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL CLASS

Exhibitors must be AMHA Youth Members in good standing and must not have reached their 22nd birthday as of December 1 of the competition year.

## POSITION AND AIDS OF THE RIDER

**THE RIDER'S POSITION, SEAT, AND USE AND EFFECT OF THE AIDS WILL BE JUDGED AS FOLLOWS:**

All the movements should be obtained without apparent effort of the rider. He should be well balanced with his loins and hips supple, thighs and legs steady and well stretched downward. The upper part of the body easy, free and erect with the hands low and close together without, however, touching either each other or the horse and with the thumb as the highest point; the elbows and arms close to the body enabling the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely and to apply his aids imperceptibly. This is the only position making it possible for the rider to school his horse progressively and correctly.

Not only are the aids of the hands and the legs but also the seat are of great importance in dressage. Only the rider who understands how to contract and relax his loin muscles at the right moment is able to influence his horse correctly.

Riding with both hands is obligatory.

The use of the voice in any way whatsoever or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least 2 marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.

## APPOINTMENTS

The dress code is a short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker or stock tie, white or light-colored breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots, a hunt cap or riding hat with a hard shell, derby or top hat. A cutaway coat (modified tailcoat) with short tails is permitted.

Half chaps, gaiters and/or leggings are not allowed. Gloves of conservative color are recommended.

One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash may be carried in all classes.

Spurs must be made of metal. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directly downwards. However, swan necked spurs are allowed. The inside arm of the spur must be smooth. If rowels are used, they must be free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs on the shank are allowed ("Impuls" spur). "Dummy" spurs with no shank are also allowed. This restriction also applies to warmup and training areas, as well as during competition. Back numbers must be displayed.

## SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

An English type saddle with stirrups is compulsory. An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles. Saddle pads are optional, but should be white or of conservative color.

A plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of cavesson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment) or a crossed noseband. The noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. A padded noseband is allowed. For required snaffle bits, refer to DR121 Figure 1A.

## CLASS ROUTINE

The number of horses to be worked simultaneously will not exceed 25. In the finals, it is required that all riders perform independent tests, selected from the tests below.

Horses to enter the ring at a medium walk. To be judged at a medium walk, working trot (sitting and rising) and working canter both ways of the ring. The judge may ask any and/or all riders to perform movements and exercises as required at Training and First Level. These may be performed singly or as a group:

- Free Walk
- Transitions from one gait to the next in both directions
- Transitions from walk to halt and vice versa
- Change of direction across the diagonal, down the centerline, across the arena, and/or by making a halfcircle at the walk or trot

Additional Tests to be ridden only in small groups or individually include:

- Transitions
- Leg yield
- Changes of lead through trot
- Serpentine at the trot
- Shallow loop serpentine with counter canter
- Trot lengthening and/or canter lengthening
- Riding without stirrups

No change of horses may be asked for by the judge. Although the rider is being judged, lameness of the horse will be penalized (Refer to DR122.6)

Eliminating Penalties

- Illegal saddler
- Improper attire
- Unauthorized assistance
- Tongue ties
- Cruelty
- Marked lameness
- Evidence of blood on horse while competing

**Scoring:** Rider scores and placing will be determined by averaging the total scores from the judge. Placings to the number of ribbons awarded plus two reserves. Tied scores will be broken by requiring the riders to perform an additional independent test; the higher score receives the higher placing. Morgan Dressage Seat Medal score sheets must be used.

