

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2021	3/1/2021	

Rule Change Intent

This Rule Change Proposal (RCP) is a complete rewrite of DR 120 – the Dress Code for licensed dressage competitions. This purpose of the rewrite is to better organize, simplify, and clarify the dress rules. The rewrite also significantly modernizes many of the rules, giving riders more choices and flexibility, and making the dress code more welcoming to many riders, including those new to the sport. This rule change proposal follows the model of the recently revised DR 121, by organizing all rules related to a particular topic, such as weather conditions and spurs, in a single paragraph with subparagraphs covering each point. This organizational approach makes each topic easier to find and had been extremely well received in the recently adopted rewrite of DR 121. Initial feedback from USDF members to this proposal has been overwhelmingly positive.

Proponent Details

Dressage

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Linked Rules

Comments

Committee Actions

1. **Dress.** The Dress Code provisions of this section apply to all classes and levels, including Championships, at USEF Licensed-USDF recognized dressage competitions. FEI Dress rules apply only to FEI recognized dressage events (CDIs).
- 1.1 **Protective Headgear.** Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet, which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. 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, mounted participants in exhibition classes and those competing in all classes and tests, including Para Dressage tests, must wear protective headgear as defined by this rule and otherwise in compliance with GR801. The harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until the headgear is properly in place. Protective headgear may be the same as or a coordinating color with the coat, and may include contrast coloring, accent, and crystal decoration. See DR136 for dress code rules for exhibitions.
- 1.2 **Coats and Jackets.** A short riding jacket or cutaway coat (modified tailcoat) with short tails is permitted at any level of competition. A tailcoat is permitted in all classes above Fourth level. Any single color jacket or tailcoat is permitted and may have subtle pin striping, checks or tweeds. Striped or multi-colored jackets or coats are not permitted. Tasteful and discreet accents, such as a collar of a different hue, modest piping, or crystal decorations, are acceptable. Riders competing in Level 1 dressage competitions or in Opportunity classes are not required to wear a riding jacket or coat.
- 1.3 **Vests.** Vests of any type are permitted but not required. Vests, including cooling vests, may be worn underneath a riding jacket or when jackets are waived.
 - 1.3.1. Per GR801, a body protecting or inflatable vest, specifically designed for use in equestrian sport, may be worn in any division or class without penalty from the judge.
 - 1.3.2. When the only warm-up available is open to all horses and riders, riders with safety concerns are encouraged to wear an orange vest.
- 1.4 **Breeches and Jodhpurs.** White, light, or dark colored breeches or jodhpurs are permitted in competition. Bright colors or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.
- 1.5 **Shirts and Neckwear.** Shirts with tie, choker, stock tie, or integrated stand-up collar are required. Ties, chokers, or stock ties may be any color. If jackets or coats are not worn per DR120.1.2 and DR120.2.1, shirts must be without bold pattern.
- 1.6 **Boots & Half Chaps.** For tests or classes at Fourth level or below, riders may wear tall boots or paddock/jodhpur boots with half-chaps or garters, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material. Tall English-style riding boots, including dress or field boots or variations thereof, are required above Fourth Level. Boots of coordinating color(s), with or without accents, are permitted. Boots/shoes worn while riding anywhere on the competition grounds must have a distinguishable heel. (GR801.9)
- 1.7 **Gloves.** White or light colored gloves are recommended and any solid color is permitted at Fourth Level and below. Black, brown, or white gloves are required in FEI tests or levels.
- 1.8 **Military.** Current and retired members of the Armed Services and police units may ride in the uniform of their service. All riders who choose to wear Armed Services or police uniform must wear protective headgear as defined in DR120.1.1 and in compliance with GR801. Members of the Armed Services or police units may wear summer uniforms if jackets are waived.
- 1.9 **Pas de Deux and Quadrille Attire.** Riders in Pas de Deux and Quadrille classes are exempt from the dress code requirements of DR120.1.2, 1.4, 1.5, and 1.7. However, headgear and boots as required in DR120.1.1 and 1.6 must be worn. Riders must follow the dress requirements outlined in the USDF Rules and Guidelines for Quadrille Competitions and for Pas de Deux.
2. **Weather Conditions.** In locations with high average heat and humidity on the date of a competition, competition management may publish in its prize list that jackets will be waived for the duration of the competition. Alternatively, management may announce prior to or during a competition that competitors may show without jackets when extreme heat and/or humidity is forecasted. This waiver applies to national classes at a USEF licensed-USDF recognized dressage competition.
 - 2.1 Competitors must wear protective headgear and a shirt with sleeves and collar, without neckwear. T-shirts are not permitted.
 - 2.2 Competitors are permitted to wear a hat cover and a rain coat, with or without a riding jacket, in inclement weather.
3. **Sponsor logo and Non-Sponsor Logo or Brand Marks.** When sponsorship is permitted in accordance with GR1306, the name and/or logo of the individual's sponsor(s) may appear on each of the two sides of jackets and top garments at the height of breast pockets not exceeding 80 cm² in size. Logos described under DR121 are also permitted. No other sponsor logos are permitted on any garments (including jackets or coats, vests, shirts, or stock ties).
 - 3.1 Dress may include non-sponsor logos or brand marks of any size. Refer to GR1306.
 - 3.2 The name and/or logo of an individual's sponsor may also appear on the rider's protective headgear if permitted in accordance with GR1306 and DR121.2.
4. **Spurs.** Spurs must be made of metal. Only English-style spurs are permitted, as described below.
 - 4.1 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 directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are permitted. [insert spur photo]. The inside arm of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have rubber covers. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs on the shank are permitted ("Impuls" spur). "Dummy" spurs (without shank) are permitted. Armless spurs are permitted.*
- 4.2** *Spurs are mandatory during competition in FEI Tests. However, spurs are optional for all of the FEI Children tests, FEI Pony Tests, and the FEI and USEF test for 4-year old horses.*
 - 4.3** *The maximum length for spurs in all classes except the FEI Children test and the FEI Pony tests is 5.08 cm (2 inches) including rowels. Only blunt metal spurs (i.e., with no rowels), no longer than 3.5 cm are permitted for FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI Tests for Children. Except for FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI Tests for Children, the length of the spur is measured from the base to the end of the shank. For FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI Tests for Children, spur length is measured from the boot to the tip of the spur.*
 - 4.4** *Offset spurs without rowels are permitted for riders having an appropriate Federation Dispensation/ Classification Certificate.*
 - 5.** *Electronic Communication Devices. Earphones and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited while competing and such usage is penalized by elimination. Electronic devices that transmit and/or receive information may be used in the stabling area and in warm up areas. The unsafe use of electronic devices, as determined by the competition Technical Delegate in their sole discretion, including cell phones, with or without earphones/buds, while mounted is prohibited in all areas designated for schooling and exercise, and while lunging horses on competition grounds. Exception: medical devices, such as hearing aids are allowed to be used for the medical condition for which they are prescribed.*
 - 5.1** *Electronic devices are permitted for Para Dressage riders if stated on their Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate.*
 - 6.** *Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificates. Individuals holding Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificates may be allowed. See DR307. All exceptions to required dress must be listed on the rider's Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate.*

DR120

Dress 1. The dress code for all Dressage tests and classes through Fourth Level (see .5 below) is a short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker, stock tie or integrated stand-up collar, white or light-colored breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots, and protective headgear as defined in DR120.6 and in compliance with GR801. 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. Exception: Riders through First Level may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material. The dress code for the USEF test for 4-year old horses is a short riding coat of conservative color, with stock or tie, breeches, and protective headgear as defined in DR120.6 and in compliance with GR801. The dress code for FEI Pony Riders and FEI Tests for Children is dark coat or club uniform coat, breeches or jodhpurs, white shirt with tie or hunting stock, gloves, boots and protective headgear as defined in DR120.6 and in compliance with GR801. Spurs are optional for all of the FEI Tests for Children, FEI Pony Tests, and the USEF test for 4-year old horses. (See DR120.10)

2. For all tests above Fourth Level, and FEI Junior Tests, and FEI Dressage Tests for 5-, 6-, and 7-year old horses, the dress code is: a dark tailcoat or a dark jacket with protective headgear, as defined in DR120.6 and in compliance with GR801, and white or light colored breeches, stock or tie or integrated stand-up collar, gloves, and black riding boots. Spurs are mandatory for FEI tests (except as noted above under DR120.1). (See DR120.8)

3. At all test levels, riders may wear jackets in other colors within the international HSV color scale, as described in FEI Dressage Regulations, Art. 427.1. Contrast coloring and piping is allowed. Protective headgear, stocks, ties, gloves and riding boots may be the same color as the coat. For Grand Prix Freestyle only: any single color tailcoat or jacket will be allowed; striped or multi-colored coats are not permitted, and tasteful and discreet accents, such as a collar of a different hue or modest piping or crystal decorations, are acceptable.

4. Current and retired members of the Armed Services and police units may ride in the uniform of their service. All riders who choose to wear Armed Services or police uniform, must wear protective headgear as defined in DR120.6 and in compliance with GR801.

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, mounted participants in exhibition classes 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. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. The harness must be secured and properly fitted. Unless jackets are waived, while in the competition ring, exhibitors wearing protective headgear must wear a short, dark jacket, dark tailcoat (only permitted for tests above Fourth Level), or Armed Services or police uniform (if eligible), dark hatcovers (where applicable) and must otherwise conform to DR120 (see GR801).

7. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash may be carried in all classes except, under penalty of elimination, USEF/USDF Championships, USEF National Dressage Championships, USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. (Exception: Competitors riding sidesaddle may carry a whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, in USEF/USDF Championships.) One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash may be

carried in all qualifying classes (including NAYRC and NAJC) unless such use is otherwise prohibited by FEI or Federation rules or selection procedures for the classes. However, when a whip is permitted for FEI Pony Tests, the maximum length is 100 cm (1 meter). An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider.

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 15 below. T-shirts are not permitted. Members of the Armed Services or police units may wear summer uniforms.

9. Competitors will be allowed to wear a hat cover and a transparent or conservative color rain coat in inclement weather.

10. Spurs must be made of metal. Only English-style spurs are permitted, as described below. 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 directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are allowed. The inside arm of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have rubber covers. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. Only blunt/smooth rowels are permitted in USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs on the shank are allowed ("Impuls" spur). "Dummy" spurs with no shank are also allowed. Only blunt metal spurs (i.e., with no rowels), no longer than 3.5 cm are permitted for FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI Tests for children. The maximum length for spurs used in other classes and tests is 5.08 cm (2 inches) including rowels. This restriction also applies to warm-up and training areas, as well as during competition. Offset spurs without rowels are permitted for riders having an appropriate Dispensation Certificate. Except for FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI Tests for Children the length of the spur is measured from the base to the end of the shank. For FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI Tests for Children spur length is measured from the boot to the tip of the spur.

11. Riders in USDF Pas de Deux and Quadrille classes are exempt from the dress code requirements of DR120.1-4, except that headgear and boots as required in DR120.1-4 must be worn. Riders must follow the dress requirements outlined in the USDF Rules and Guidelines for Quadrille Competitions and for Pas de Deux.

12. Individuals holding Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificates may be allowed exceptions, i.e., gloves not required if unable to wear them, half-chaps and black or brown riding shoes with heels. If dispensation for modified shoes or boots is given, safety stirrups are required. Riders may also be given dispensation for modified gloves, hand weights and arm belts. All exceptions to required dress must be listed on the rider's Dispensation/Classification Certificate.

13. When the only warm-up available is open to all horses and riders, riders with safety concerns are encouraged to wear an orange vest.

14. Cooling vests may be worn underneath a riding jacket. If coats are waived, a solid-colored cooling or lightweight vest may be worn over a riding shirt as specified in DR120.8.

15. When sponsorship is permitted in accordance with GR1306, the name and/or logo of the individual's sponsor(s) may appear on each of the two sides of jackets or top garments at the height of breast pockets not exceeded 80 cm² in size. Logos described under DR121.1.2 are also permitted as above. The name and/or logo of an individual's sponsor may also appear on the rider's protective headgear if permitted in accordance with GR1306 and DR121.1.2.

16. Earphones and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited while competing and such usage is penalized by elimination. Electronic devices that transmit and/or receive information may be used in the stabling area and in warm-up areas.

Electronic devices shall not be used to receive information in the competition arena. Exceptions: medical devices, such as hearing aids are allowed to be used for the medical condition for which they are prescribed. Electronic devices are allowed for Para riders if stated on their Dispensation/Classification Certificate. Riders shall not receive input about the performance of the horse or rider while in the competition arena.