DR117 Tracking #182-20 Draft #1 Active

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**Rule Change Intent**

These proposed rules are intended to make all references in Subchapter 1 to Para Dressage consistent. For example, references in the rules to “PE”, “PE Dressage”, “Para”, or “para dressage” have been changed to “Para Dressage”. Similarly, references to dispensation certificates and variations thereof are now referred to as Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificates. Additionally, the changes are intended to ensure consistency between the provisions relating to Para Dressage in Subchapter 1 and the provisions of Subchapter 3. Finally, the proposed changes are intended to eliminate unnecessary duplication between the two subchapters. For example, in DR 121.20, rather than detailing equipment permitted for a Para Dressage athlete, reference is simply made to Subchapter 3. (Note – while Chapter 1 generally uses the term rider, the FEI regulations utilize the term Para Dressage athlete and so for the sake of consistency with the FEI, that terminology is used in this proposal.)

**Proponent Details**

**Contact Information**

Dressage

Hallye Griffin

HGriffin@usef.org

**Linked Rules**

**Comments**

**Committee Actions**

ParaEquestrian
DR117 The Position and Aids of the Rider

4. Riding with both hands is obligatory at all national and International Dressage Events. However, riding with one hand is permitted in the Freestyle Tests and when leaving the arena. Individuals holding a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate may use bridged or special adaptive rears for use with one or no hand(s), if their physical limitations require such and the equipment is listed on the Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate. Apart from the halt and salute, where the athlete must take the reins in one hand, riding with the reins in both hands is obligatory in Dressage classes, but a discreet ‘pat on the neck’ for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of an athlete needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc). However, if the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand in order to use either the reins or the other hand to produce more impulsion from the horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark for ‘Rider’.

5. Unless indicated on a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate or Presidential Modification letter, the use of stirrups is required.

DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions.

1. Horses in any under saddle class must be at least thirty-six months of age (from foaling date) at the time of competition. Horses competing in the following tests and levels must meet the following minimum age requirements per FEI rules: FEI Children/Pony/Junior and Fourth level tests: minimum six (6) years; Young Riders/Prix St. Georges/Intermediate I: minimum seven (7) years; tests above Intermediate I: minimum eight (8) years. Horses must be a minimum of six (6) years of age to compete in an FEI Para Dressage class. The horse’s age is to be counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year. Horses may compete in more than one Licensed Competition on the same day and are prohibited from competing in any non-licensed competition(s) held on the same day(s) as they compete in a Licensed Dressage Competition. Horses are limited to a maximum of three Dressage rides per day at Fourth Level and below or two Dressage rides per day above Fourth Level. Horses competing at both Fourth Level and Prix St. Georges, or their equivalents, are limited to two Dressage rides per day. Horses competing in FEI Para Dressage Para Equestrian tests are limited to a maximum of two Dressage rides per day including non-Para Dressage Para Equestrian FEI, USEF, or USDF tests. FEI Para Dressage Para Equestrian tests may be ridden at non-consecutive levels to USDF, USEF, and other FEI tests. Horses may enter no more than two consecutive levels, Freestyle levels included, at any one competition (refer to the following chart). FEI Medium Tour Freestyles are permitted only for horses competing at Intermediate A, Intermediate B, or Intermediate II levels. Dressage Seat Equitation, Quadrille, Pas de Deux and Materiale classes are excluded from the maximum limit of rides per day and horses in these classes may compete at any level for which they are otherwise eligible during the same competition.

The equivalency chart does not apply to FEI Para Dressage Para Equestrian tests.

11. Riders with a diagnosed permanent disability who require the use of compensatory aids or adaptive equipment must hold a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate indicating their International (FEI) or their National (USEF) classification status. A copy of an athlete’s Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate listing 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. A copy must remain with the entry records for review by the Technical Delegate.

12. Athletes in FEI Para Dressage Para Equestrian tests must have a current Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate which indicates their Classification status to be eligible to participate.

13. Riders who do not submit a current Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate or USEF Presidential Modification letter to the competition secretary cannot compete with any modifications, compensatory aids, or dispensations to the rules in DR Chapter 1. USEF affidavits cannot be used to compete with modifications or compensatory aids when either the Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate or Presidential Modification is not available.

DR120 Dress

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. See DR307. All exceptions to required dress must be listed on the rider’s Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate.

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment.

The provisions of DR121 apply to both competing and non-competing dressage horses from the time horses are admitted to the grounds, which are designated for the Dressage Competition. The responsibility for the correct attire and equipment rests with the competitor. All saddlery and equipment must be attached, worn, and used in a conventional manner.

1. Saddle. An English type saddle, with or without a tree, with flaps and stirrups is compulsory for all tests and classes other than FEI tests. For FEI tests it is compulsory to use a dressage saddle that is close to the horse with long, near-vertical flaps and stirrups (except for FEI Para Dressage tests). The use of a saddle with a horn, swell, galerie, or open gullet, or the use of an original or modified Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddle is prohibited. See DR308.4 for Para Dressage requirements.
3.10.6 Para-Equestrian *Dressage* athletes. Riders competing only in FEI Para-Equestrian *Dressage* tests may use either a snaffle bridle or double bridle. Riders competing in both FEI Para-Equestrian *Dressage* tests and USDF or USEF tests at the same competition, must use a plain snaffle bridle at second level and below, *must use a plain snaffle bridle in all tests and warmup for those tests*. A double bridle may be used in warm-up and while competing only at third level or above. *When competing only at third level or above, a snaffle bridle or double bridle may be used in warm-up and in competition.*

20. Dispensation/Classification Certificates. Athletes holding a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate may use special saddlery and equipment as specifically listed on their Certificate. Refer to DR307-308 for a list of compensating aids and saddlery permitted for Para Dressage athletes.

The following equipment is permitted if listed on the Certificate:

a. Any well-fitted saddle that is adapted to the needs of the rider.
b. Devonshire, western, or oxbow stirrups, tethers from stirrups to girth; seat covers; velcro and rubber bands (provided the equipment allows the rider to fall from the horse).
c. Break away safety stirrups are allowed for all riders and are required if the rider's feet are secured into the stirrups and shoes with distinguishable heels must be worn.
d. Except for sidesaddle, either two stirrups or no stirrups must be used, unless rider has one leg and no prosthesis on the other leg.
e. Adapted or bridged reins. If the rein is not to be used in a conventional manner, it must be in as straight a line as possible from the normal hand position (as described in DR117) to the horse's mouth.
f. One or two whips, not to exceed 123 cm (48 inches) in length.

**DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests.**

1. Calling Tests. All Federation Tests may be called during the competition except, under penalty of elimination, at any Final or Championship Event at which time all tests must be ridden from memory. …..FEI Para Dressage Para-Equestrian tests must be ridden from memory unless an exemption is listed on the rider's Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate. In all tests, all movements must follow the order laid down in the test.

2. **See DR310 for specific rules for individuals holding a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate.** Individuals holding a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate are allowed the following exceptions, provided these exceptions are clearly listed on the Certificate:

a. Visually impaired and blind riders may use callers as “living letters.” These callers (a maximum of 9) may be stationed around the exterior of the arena and will call out letters at the appropriate time. No more than one caller may be stationed within the arena.

b. Callers may not give any other direction to the rider other than identifying the letters, center line and quarter lines of the dressage arena. Callers must position themselves as to not obscure the judge's line of vision. Riders may enter the arena prior to the start of their test and make one pass of the arena, once in each direction in order to familiarize themselves with the callers and the arena.

After completion of this familiarization, the rider may leave the arena and await the judge's signal to re-enter and begin his or her test OR may halt and stand quietly just within the arena at A to be given the signal to begin their test from inside the arena. Blind and visually impaired riders are required to wear a red arm band at all times while mounted and in areas where other riders are present. They may remove this armband during execution of their dressage test.

b. Riders may salute with a nod of the head only. Physical contact must remain on the reins at all times.

c. As necessitated by the rider's individual physical limitations, trot work may be performed either entirely sitting or posting.

d. Riders with intellectual impairment or head injury may have a reader to call their tests, including freestyles. If the freestyle is being read, it is required that the caller use radio communication.

e. Riders with hearing impairment may have a reader using sign language or use radio communication.

f. If radio-communication is used, a copy of the written choreography must be given to the Technical Delegate or their designee who will monitor the reader and report to the judge if unauthorized assistance is given to the rider.

5. Errors.

c. In FEI tests (except those listed under “c.3” and “d” below), every “error of the course” whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalized, except as noted above:
   1. the first time by 2 percentage points from the total score received;
   2. the second time by elimination; However, at the discretion of the judge, the rider may continue to finish the test. If the competitor's continued presence in the ring is about to interfere with the start of the next scheduled ride, then the judge must excuse him/her from the ring.
   3. for FEI *Para Dressage* Para-Equestrian tests, refer to the test sheets for the calculation of errors. See also DR309.2.

**DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management.**

1.f 14. At the discretion of competition management, all tests for *Para Dressage* Para-Equestrian may be ridden in a Standard arena. (Exception: Grade I - III freestyle tests must be held in a small arena. Grade IV - V freestyle tests must be held in a standard arena.) The arena sizes to be used must be indicated in the prize list. For the USEF National *Para Dressage* Para-Equestrian Championships and *Para Dressage* Para-Equestrian Selection Trials, all tests for Grades I - III must be ridden in a small arena and Grades IV - V must be ridden in a standard size arena.

j. Miscellaneous. Management must provide judges, and technical delegates, *and ring stewards* with copies of Federation Presidential Modification letters or Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificates they have received, prior to the classes where those riders compete under those judges. Competitors will not be allowed to compete with modifications unless a copy of their
2. Specific requirements for Dressage Competition Levels.
   a. Categories and Criteria. Dressage Competitions or Regular or Local Competitions with open dressage classes must be categorized into one of five levels based on classes offered and mandatory criteria for each level: a. Level 5 - required for CDIs/CPEDIs, USEF High Performance Selection Trials (Intermediaire I-Grand Prix, Para Dressage Para Equestrian) and USEF National Championships.

3. Dressage Levels Chart.
   Para Dressage Para Equestrian

DR129 Musical Freestyle Ride
9. Except for USEF/USDF Championship classes and for FEI Pony Riders, FEI Junior, and 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 63% for Training through Fourth levels and 60% for FEI levels, in the highest test of the declared freestyle level or any test of a higher level at a USEF/USDF licensed Dressage Competition 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. To enter an FEI Para Dressage Freestyle class, a horse/rider combination must have received a minimum score of 60% in any FEI Para Dressage test (Introductory, Novice, Team, Individual) at the rider’s classified Grade. This score may be earned at a USEF/USDF licensed Dressage Competition 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, or copy of the USDF score verification, must be submitted with the entry for a freestyle class.

SUBCHAPTER DR-3 PARA DRESSAGE
Change all references from “USEF Dispensation/Classification Certificate” to “Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate”.

Except in DR305, change all references from “PE”, “PE Dressage”, “Para”, or “para-dressage”, to “Para Dressage”.

DR302 Position of the Athlete.
2. Wherever possible, Athletes will ride with both hands at all PE Dressage Events, not only when executing any of the Official PE Para Dressage Tests published by the FEI but also when executing any other FEI, or USEF, or USDF Test that might be ridden at the same event. However, when leaving the arena at a walk on a long rein, after having finished his performance, the Athlete may, at his own discretion, ride with only one (1) hand.

4. It is recommended wherever possible, that Grades I-III compete in a small (20m x 40m) arena. Grades IV and V must compete in a standard (20m x 60m) arena. At the discretion of competition management, all Para Dressage Tests may be ridden in a Standard arena. (Exception: Grade I - III freestyle tests must be held in a small arena. Grade IV - V freestyle tests must be held in a standard arena.) The arena sizes to be used must be indicated in the prize list. For designated national qualifying competitions, the USEF National Para-Equestrian Championships and Para Dressage Para Equestrian Selection Trials, all tests for Grades I – III must be ridden in a small arena and Grades IV - V must be ridden in a standard size arena. See DR126.1f.14.

5. Horses competing in FEI Para Dressage tests are limited to a maximum of two Dressage rides per day including non-Para Dressage FEI, USEF, or USDF tests. Athletes may compete in a maximum of two (2) Tests per day per Horse, in accordance with DR119.2 that horses can be ridden in two FEI tests per day. See DR119.2.

6. Collective Marks are awarded, after the Athlete has finished his performance for:
   a. Paces.
   b. Activity.
   c. Submission
   d. Equestrian feel and skill of the Athlete. Athlete’s position is NOT taken into account as it is for USEF and USDF tests, and other FEI tests.
   e. Accuracy. Rider’s position is NOT taken into account as it is for USEF tests, and other FEI tests.

DR304 The Para Dressage Freestyle Tests
1. The Freestyle to Music Tests are Competitions that can be used by all Grades at all levels. Each Grade has its own Test. All Athlete/Horse combinations must show proof of earning a minimum score of sixty percent (60%) in either the Team or Individual test at their grade at a previous USEF recognized competition in order to enter the freestyle test at their grade. See DR129.9.

DR305 Conditions of participation. –
2. Horses
   a. Horses must be a minimum of six (6) years of age to compete in an FEI Para Dressage class. The age is counted from the 1st January of the year of birth. Horses should be schooled to the standard required.
   b. In the interest of safety, Horses must not behave in a manner deemed dangerous when in the vicinity of other Horses. It is the responsibility of the Athlete that the horse is safe for the Athlete, other horses and people at the competition.

DR306 Dress See DR120.12.
1. Military, police, etc. may wear civil or service dress at all USEF licensed recognized competitions.
8. See DR120.12 for additional information pertaining to Dress.

**DR307 Compensating Aids**
   a. Athletes in Grades I, II and III may use their voice as an aid during their test in their allocated Grade, provided they do so in moderation. Grade I, II, III Athletes may not use their voice in other FEI, USEF, or USDF USEF or FEI tests unless stated on their Federation/Dispensation/Classification Certificate.

4. Compensating Aids and FEI Rule Reference (and chart below)
   Any compensating aid or allowance that is permitted for use by “all athletes” is allowed for any Para Dressage Athlete riding an FEI Para Dressage test or other FEI, USEF, or USDF test.

**DR308 Saddlery**
1. Athletes must use snaffle or double bridles. Double bridles must have a caveon noseband, a bridoon and curb bit with a curb chain. Cover for curb “chain” can be made of leather, rubber or sheep skin. The caveon noseband may never be so tightly fixed as to harm the Horse. Lip strap and rubber or leather covers for the curb chain are optional. Athletes whose riding appears to near the level of abuse to the Horse, whether intentionally or not, will be asked to make changes by the Technical Delegate in consultation with Competition Management, or Judge. See DR121.2-3.

2. See DR121.2 for information on bits that are permitted for Para Dressage. Exception to DR121.2: Bits may be covered with latex for Para Dressage tests but not for other dressage tests or classes. The bridoon, snaffle and curb must be made of metal and/or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber/latex (manufactured state). Wrapping of bits with any kind of material and flexible rubber bits are not permitted. The lever arm of the curb bit is limited to ten centimeters (10 cm) (length below the mouthpiece), and never be shorter than the upper arm. If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouthpiece should not measure more than ten centimeters (10 cm) when the mouthpiece is at the uppermost position. The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon and/or curb must be such as not to hurt the Horse. Minimum diameter of mouthpiece to be twelve millimeters (12 mm) for curb bit and ten millimeters (10 mm) for bridoon bit. The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece.

3. Nosebands. It is obligatory to use a noseband. A caveon, drop or flash noseband must be used with a snaffle bridle. A double bridle must only be used with a caveon noseband. Normal dropped nosebands and flash straps must lie in the chin groove. A Horse may be equipped with no more than one (1) noseband (a Flash noseband strap is considered to be one part of the noseband). Nosebands, including their adjustment, must be in compliance with DR121.3-4.

... 7. Other FEI Para Dressage Saddlery Aids Allowed/Not Allowed
   a. Breast plates, neck straps, handholds (see 5.b. 5.2 above) allowed. Martingales, blinkers, side, balancing, running, bearing and similar reins are forbidden. Any rein adaptation that produces a similar effect to these forbidden reins is not permitted. Any rein from any bit in the Horse’s mouth must be in direct contact with the Athlete. This means that if riding in a double bridle the two (2) reins on one (1) side must either both go to the Athlete’s hand(s) or be connected into one (1) rein before reaching the Athlete (split reins). Elastic insert reins are allowed. Foot reins are only allowed when no other reins are going to be controlled by arm(s) or hand(s)/fingers from the upper part of the body of the Athlete. See DR117.4-5.

**DR309 Execution of the Tests. Change to read:**
12. If radio communication is used, a copy of the written choreography must be given to the Technical Delegate or their designee who will monitor the reader and report to the judge if unauthorized assistance is given to the athlete.

**DR310 Athletes who are Blind or Have Visual Impairment, Commanders ( Readers) and Callers ( Living Letters) See DR122.4.**
1. Definitions: Para dressage has slightly different definitions for Commanders (Readers) and Callers (Living Letters). The Commander (Reader) is the individual that reads the Test during the ride. Callers (Living Letters) call out the letters to those Athletes with visual impairment who need this assistance during their ride.

2. Athletes who wish to have a commander (reader) must apply to the USEF or FEI for permission, clearly stating the reason for the need and providing supporting documentation. Permission to use a commander must be stated on the Athlete’s USEF Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate. Tests must be commanded in English or in the Athlete’s own language. The commander is only allowed to read the test and is not allowed to give other instructions or comments. However, the Commander is allowed to repeat each movement once. Athletes shall have no more than one (1) commander (reader) who shall stand in a fixed position outside the arena at E or B, or if this is not possible, stand as directed by the Judge at C. Commanders (readers) may not carry a whip.

3. Radio communication may not be used during the Test. Exceptions: A Commander (reader) may use sign language or a radio head set with the Athlete during all tests for those Athletes (qualified as above to use a Commander (reader)), who are also deaf or hearing impaired. The sign language or radio head set must be listed as a compensating aid on the Athlete’s USEF Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate. During Freestyle tests, all Athletes who have been allowed a commander or caller(s) as a compensating aid on their USEF Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate are permitted to use headsets.

4. All Athletes who have been allowed a commander or caller(s) as a compensating aid on the USEF Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate are permitted to use a headset during Freestyle tests.

5. In the above, it is the responsibility of the Athlete to provide a fully functioning headset with an extra receiver to enable the Technical Delegate or his designated representative to listen to all communication going from the Commander (reader) to the Athlete. If this is not the case, the Athlete will not be permitted to use the equipment and must ride the test without it.

6. Callers (living letters) may only call the name of the letter(s). Only the lead caller (who may also Command (read) where approved)
may be in the center of the arena. All other Callers must be positioned outside the arena, and may move from one marker to another, provided they do not obscure the judge’s line of vision, restrict the vision of any of the Judges. There shall be no more than thirteen (13) Callers in a 20 x 60 meter arena and nine (9) Callers in a 20 x 40 meter arena, but Athletes with visual impairment are encouraged to use as few Callers as possible. The Caller at C may be exchanged for a beacon or beeper which is to be provided by the Athlete.

7. **Callers may not give any other direction to the athlete other than identifying the letters, center line, and quarter lines of the dressage arena.** Athletes may enter the arena prior to the start of their test and make one pass of the arena, once in each direction, in order to familiarize themselves with the callers and the arena. After completion of this familiarization, the Athlete may leave the arena and await the judge’s signal to re-enter and begin his or her test OR may halt and stand quietly just within the arena at A to be given the signal to begin their test from inside the arena.

8. **Blind and visually impaired Athletes are required to wear a distinctive color arm band (supplied by the athlete) at all times while mounted and in areas where other Athletes are present.** They may remove this armband during execution of their dressage test.