

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2022	10/21/2021	

Rule Change Intent

Updating terminology used in Dressage rules to current standards improving consistency.

Introductory Level: The 2019 USDF Introductory Level Purpose (not included in the USEF Rule Book) was more difficult than Training Level. These changes were made to make the purpose of the levels progressive and consistent in terminology used throughout the rule.

Training Level: The reference to geometry was added since it is introduced in the Introductory Level and there should be a higher expectation at Training Level. Adding "longitudinally" to the suppleness requirement is very important at this level, as it is an important factor in the free walk and the stretch circle.

First Level: Revised to clarify that the horse should be on the bit.

Second Level: This language had been intended to explain the difference between the trot and canter lengthenings in First Level and the medium gaits required on Second Level, but was not clearly understood. Therefore, the wording was revised to focus on the increased acceptance weight on the hindquarters.

Third Level: This Level was revised to place the emphasis on developing increased engagement. In addition, a statement was added that movements should be shown with harmony and ease due to the increased balance and collection

Fourth Level The phrase "reliably on the bit" was removed, as that requirement is stated at lower levels, and is fundamental to the other requirements of this level. Language was added to emphasize the focus of this level – consistent self-carriage through improved connection, engagement, and collection.

Proponent Details

USDF

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Linked Rules

Comments

Committee Actions

Dressage

DR 118.2 Tests for Dressage Competitions

2. Objectives, purpose, and standards of Federation levels of competition.

INTRODUCTORY LEVEL. *To introduce the rider and/or horse to the sport of dressage, confirming that they are beginning to develop an understanding of correct dressage basics. The horse should be ridden freely forward in a steady tempo and clear rhythm, accepting contact with the bit. An understanding of test accuracy and geometry should be demonstrated.*

TRAINING LEVEL. *To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, is supple and moves freely forward in a clear rhythm with a steady tempo, accepting contact with the bit. **by showing suppleness both laterally and longitudinally, moving freely forward in a clear rhythm with a steady tempo, and readily accepting contact with the bit. Correct geometry and lines of travel should be shown.***

FIRST LEVEL: *To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and in addition to the requirements of Training Level, has developed the thrust to achieve improved balance and throughness and maintains a more consistent contact with the bit. **improved balance, lateral suppleness and throughness, as well as the thrust to perform lengthenings of steps-stride. The horse should be on the bit.***

SECOND LEVEL: *To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and having achieved the thrust required in First Level, now accepts more weight on the hindquarters (collection); moves with an uphill tendency, especially in the medium gaits; and is reliably on the bit. A greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, throughness, balance and self-carriage is required than at First Level **and now begins to accept more weight on the hindquarters as the collected and medium gaits develop. A greater degree of straightness, suppleness, throughness, and balance are required to perform the movements with ease and self-carriage.***

THIRD LEVEL: *To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics and having begun to develop an uphill balance at Second Level, now demonstrates increased engagement, especially in the extended gaits. Transitions between collected, medium and extended gaits should be well defined and performed with engagement. The horse should be reliably on the bit and show a greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, throughness, balance and self-carriage than at Second Level. **while maintaining consistent uphill balance and self-carriage. Increased engagement facilitates clear differences in collected, medium, and extended gaits with well-defined, balanced transitions. Movements should be accomplished with harmony and ease due to the increased balance and collection. The horse must demonstrate a greater degree of throughness, suppleness, straightness, and bending.***

FOURTH LEVEL: *To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and has developed sufficient suppleness, impulsion and throughness to perform the Fourth Level tests which have a medium degree of difficulty. The horse remains reliably on the bit, showing a clear uphill balance and lightness as a result of improved engagement and collection. The movements are performed with greater straightness, energy and cadence than at Third Level. **throughness, suppleness, balance, and impulsion to perform with ease the exercises at this medium level of difficulty. The horse has established consistent self-carriage and lightness through improved connection, engagement, and collection. The movements and transitions are performed with greater straightness, impulsion, and cadence.***