



USEF COVID-19 Rule Modifications for Dressage
Approved for the 2022 Competition Year
Effective December 15, 2021 through November 30, 2022

Rule Modification language appears in bold italics; waived language appears in strikethrough

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Dressage Rule Modifications Applicable to Competition Management

Food and Beverage - Dressage Licensed Competitions

Modifies the requirement regarding food and water availability at competitions.

DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management - Dressage

[...]

3. Dressage Levels Chart.

(for USEF Dressage Competitions or Regular or Local Competitions with Open Dressage Classes per USEF GR314.2c)

(DSHB classes can be held with any Level. Shows offering only DSHB can choose Level 1 or Level 2 criteria.) Criteria at competition Levels 3-5 are highlighted in gray below that can be held at a lower level, if competition advertises classes held at a lower level.

Food Vendors/Concessions ***optional (Level 1-3) Competitions, and may be offered for Levels 4 & 5 (must be clearly designated in the prize list) with the exceptions:***

- ***Level 4 & 5: Food service is based on local health requirements. At a minimum, pre-packaged food and water must be available; however, hours may be limited.***
- ***Level 3: Bottled water must be available to participants 1 hour prior to competition start until the end.***
- ***Level 2: Bottled water must be available to participants – limited hours permitted.***
- ***Level 1: Bottled water is recommended.***

Refer to the DR charts on pages 8 - 12 of this document.

Time Schedules & Ride Times - Dressage

The time schedule must be posted in electronic format and/or in an area where social distancing can be adhered to by noon the day before the competition (the posting/distribution method must be included in the prize list).

DR126.2.b.3 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management

2. The following requirements apply to all Levels 1-5 of Dressage Competitions, except where noted. Specific requirements for specific levels of competitions are listed under .2, below.

a. Competition Levels, Divisions and Classes.

[...]

b. Competition Schedule

[...]

3. The time schedule must be posted in ***electronic format and/or in an area where social distancing can be adhered to*** ~~a conspicuous place~~ by noon the day before the competition. ***(The method to be utilized for posting the time schedule must be printed in the prize list).***

Ride times may not be changed after noon the day before the start of the entire competition, except in compliance with GR830.5. Competitions may reserve the right to fill a competitor's subsequent ride times if that competitor fails to notify the competition secretary of his/her intention to scratch (i.e. is a "no show").

[...]

Arena Fence at Letter 'A' – Dressage

This rule was modified to remove the requirement for the fence at Letter 'A' to be closed for Federation/USEF Championship Classes (competition Levels 4 & 5).

DR126.2.f.5 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management

[...]

2. The following requirements apply to all Levels 1-5 of Dressage Competitions, except where noted. Specific requirements for specific levels of competitions are listed under .2, below.

[...]

f. Arena Specifications.

[...]

5. The part of the fence at A should be easy to remove to let the competitors in and out of the arena in a suitable way. The part of the fence at A can remain open ~~except~~ at Federation/USDF Championship classes.

Rule Modifications Applicable to Licensed Officials

Equipment Inspections –Dressage

Added language to clarify that all tack and equipment inspections must be performed visually.

DR121.3.d.2 & DR121.8.c. Saddlery and Equipment – (Dressage)

[...]

3. Bridle

[...]

d. Noseband.

[...]

2. Nosebands shall not be adjusted so tightly that it causes skin irritation. It must be possible to insert two fingers under the noseband on the side of the face below the cheekbone. During a tack check, noseband tightness must be checked at the location shown in Figure 121.10 and not on the bony area of the cheekbone or bridge of the nose. ***Saddlery and equipment checks will be visual for Level 1-3 Competitions. The Technical Delegate may follow the competitor to a designated area if necessary.***

[...]

8. Fly hoods.

[...]

c. If a tack inspection is performed after completion of the test, the rider or his/her representative is responsible for removing the fly hood and presenting it for ***visual*** inspection to the designated ring steward who will ensure that nothing prohibited has been added, such as ear plugs.

DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management- (Dressage)

[...]

2. The following requirements apply to all Levels 1-5 of Dressage Competitions, except where noted. Specific requirements for specific levels of competitions are listed under .2, below.

[...]

i. Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas.

1. Tack Inspections. Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. Ring stewards appointed by competition management are required to inspect the saddlery, dress and equipment worn by at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena. In championship classes, saddlery, dress and equipment inspections are required for each horse. When an inspection is conducted, all equipment including fly hoods, nosebands, whips, bits, and spurs on both sides must be inspected. ***All inspections must be visual for Level 1-3 Competitions. The Technical Delegate may follow the competitor to a designated area if necessary.***

4. Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. Gloves must be provided by competition management. The bridle must be checked with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths. ***All inspections must be visual for Level 1-3 Competitions. The Technical Delegate may follow the competitor to a designated area if necessary.***

5. When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition.

DR206 Equipment and Turn Out – (Dressage)

[...]

8. Bit and saddlery inspections, as described in DR121.10, are not required nor are advised for DSHB classes. When close inspection of saddlery, equipment or bits is required in order to determine compliance with these rules, a steward or TD must **conduct a visual inspection and if necessary, follow the horse to a designated area.** ~~accompany a horse to its stall to inspect such items when they are removed from the horse.~~

Scores & Scoresheets – Dressage

Rules have been modified to allow for score submission and scoresheet distribution to occur electronically and/or posted via the internet. Privacy must still be maintained.

DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving - Dressage

[...]

2. [...] Scores must be posted on a public scoreboard as soon as possible after each ride. The public scoreboard may be in either paper or electronic format. **Scores may be sent electronically (e.g. via text) to competitors and/or posted via the internet.** The name of each judge must be posted along with the position where he/she is sitting...

3. [...] Final results for each class must be posted as soon as possible after the class is completed and all results must include total points and percentages with numbers to three places after the decimal point, eliminated horses, and the placing of each horse that receives an award.... The published final results may be in paper or electronic format and must remain posted throughout the entire competition. **Scores may be sent electronically (e.g. via text) to competitors and/or posted via the internet.** The name of each judge must be posted along with the position where he/she is sitting...

[...]

11. If a mathematical error on the scoresheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of competition management within 1 hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of that competition day. Competition Management must announce said posting, and must make test sheets available to competitors immediately. **If scoresheets are only made available after the competition day by electronic methods, management must extend the deadline for reporting of mathematical errors to 24 hours from time of distribution. Scores will be corrected but class placements will not change.**

12. After the awards for a class have been presented, the judge's score sheet should be given to the competitor. The score sheet must be **provided** ~~handed~~ directly to the competitor or his representative. Privacy must be maintained. Score sheets may be provided electronically to the competitor, but they shall, upon request, also be provided with a printed copy.

Designated Judge/Rider Evaluation Forms – Dressage

Evaluations by Designated Judges and Designated Riders is suspended. USEF will contact competitors at random after each competition and request completion of the USEF Evaluation form online through their USEF membership account.

DR125.8: Competition Licensing and Officials

[...]

~~8. The competition Technical Delegate is required to designate one Dressage judge and one Competitor to complete USEF competition evaluation forms. The Technical Delegate must supply the Designated Judge and Designated Competitor with a copy of the required evaluation form(s). It is mandatory for designated judges and competitors to return completed evaluation forms to USEF either with the Technical Delegate or directly to USEF within fourteen days of the competition.~~

Eligibility and Verification of Entries – Dressage

Waives the requirement for Technical Delegates to check entries and verify competitor eligibility. Competitors are still required to adhere to eligibility rules and competition secretaries are responsible for ensuring that horses in qualifying and championship classes are properly recorded and that riders and owners are current members.

DR127.2 USEF/USDF Qualifying and Championship Classes and USEF/USDF National Championships for Dressage

[...]

2. Unless specified otherwise in published selection procedures, all qualifying competitions for USEF/USDF Championships are open only to horses that have been recorded with the Federation, ridden by Junior Active, Senior Active, or Life Members. Annual or lifetime Horse Recording is required and horses with only HID numbers are not eligible. Horse owners must also be Junior Active, Senior Active or Life Members. If the horse has more than one owner, at least one owner must have both active USEF Junior Active, Senior Active or Life membership and active USDF Participating or Business Membership...Copies of documents submitted by competitors to verify Federation and USDF membership and horse recording must be available ~~to the Technical Delegate~~ in the competition office. Information on USDF membership and horse registration requirements is available through the USDF office. Affidavits will not be accepted for Federation or USDF membership or horse recording verification purposes for entry in Championship classes.

GR1035 Special Duties of a Technical Delegate

[...]

2. General Duties for Dressage Technical Delegates

[...]

c. At Dressage Competitions, to observe and report that management and competitors are in compliance with all Dressage Division regulations regarding USEF/USDF Qualifying and Championship classes, Federation Junior Team Championships, and the USEF Championships and qualifying classes.

Rule Modifications Applicable to Dressage Participants

Musical Freestyles – *Dressage*

Competitors are required to provide their music to the announcer in the format/method specified within the prize list. Furthermore, competitors are not allowed to have a representative in the sound system booth in observation of social distancing requirements.

DR129.6a&c Musical Freestyle Ride

[...]

6. Music

a. Music is mandatory. It is the responsibility of the competitor to select the appropriate music for the ride and ~~present~~ **provide the music in formats/methods specified within the prize list** a compact disc (CD) recording, to be given to the announcer at least two (2) hours prior to the start of the class.

[...]

~~c. Each rider will be permitted one representative in the sound system booth to supervise the handling of the CD if so desired by the competitor.~~

Criteria for Existing or New Competitions	Criteria	Level 5 CDIs/CPEDIs USEF HP Selection Trials (I1– GP, Para Dressage) National Championship	Level 4 Regional Championships, HP (I1) and other competitions as required or as approved the by Federation (and USDF when required), upon application	Level 3 Developing Program Qualifiers (JR/YR/YA, YH & DH) and other competitions as required or as approved by the Federation (and USDF when required), upon application	Level 2 Other licensed Dressage shows	Level 1 “Introduction” to Licensed Competitions
	Classes of a lower level	Optional national classes – standards for national classes must be at Level 3 or higher. Prize list must list classes conducted under lower level criteria and list specific modifications.	Required for HP and RC classes – lower level classes optional. Standards for any other classes must be at Level 3 or higher. Prize list must list classes conducted under lower level criteria and list specific modifications.	Required for Developing prog qualifiers – lower level classes optional. Standards for other classes must be at Level 2 or higher. Prize list must list classes conducted under lower level criteria and list specific modifications.	n/a	n/a
	Opportunity Classes *no freestyles & all Federation rules apply	n/a (cannot offer)	n/a (cannot offer)	Three tests and only three classes per level per day at Second Level and below	Three tests and only three classes per level per day at Third Level and below.	Three tests and only three classes per level per day at Fourth Level and below.
	Length of Competition	Three or more days minimum – may be two or more consecutive competitions. All competitions days on or before the start of the Level 5 classes must be Level 5, except that a lower level competition may be held on the day(s) after the Level 5 classes end.	Three or more days minimum – may be two or more consecutive competitions. All competitions days on or before the start of the Level 4 classes must be Level 4, except that a lower level competition may be held on the day(s) after the Level 4 classes end.	Two or more days minimum – each day may be a separate competition. All competitions days on or before the start of the Level 3 classes must be Level 3, except that a lower level competition may be held on the day(s) after the Level 3 classes end.	One or more days.	One day only.
	Number of horses	No limit.	No limit.	No limit.	No limit, except must offer stabling if 150 or more horses.	Limited to 75 horses.
	Footing and arena type	Per FEI/National Championship rules. Minimum of one ‘main’ arena. All rings must have safe fencing with no plastic chains in any ring. Good all-weather footing that stands up to climate and inclement weather: good depth, consistent quality – no grass rings permitted at any dressage class.	Minimum of one ‘main’ arena. All rings must have safe fencing with no plastic chains in any ring. Good all-weather footing that stands up to climate: good depth, consistent quality – no grass rings permitted at any dressage class.	Minimum of one ‘main’ arena. All rings must have safe fencing with no plastic chains in any ring. Good all-weather footing that stands up to climate – no grass rings permitted at any dressage class.	Plastic chain rings and grass competition rings permitted for any class.	Plastic chain rings and grass competition rings permitted for any class.
	Arena Modifications (Competition arena that is less than	Not permitted for FEI-recognized classes. Not permitted for national classes.	Not permitted for classes at any dressage level.	Not permitted for classes at any dressage level.	Permitted except for Regional Championships qualifying classes	Permitted except for Regional Championships qualifying classes

	20x60 or 20x40 meters)				and freestyles per DR126.	and freestyles per DR126.
	Warmup: size, number, footing	Per FEI rules/ Nat'l Championship rules. No designated grass warmup for classes at any dressage level.	Minimum size of standard arena, similar footing to main arena. No designated grass warmup for classes at any dressage level.	Minimum size of standard arena, similar footing to main arena – no grass competition rings at any level and no designated grass warmup for Level 3 classes.	Warmup must be provided but no minimum specs.	Warmup must be provided but no minimum specs.
	Lungeing and Exercise areas	Must have separate designated exercise areas if three or more rings. Must have separate designated lungeing area.	Must have separate designated lungeing area. Separate warmup required for championship entries.	Must have separate designated lungeing area or lungeing not permitted in area with riders.	Lungeing not permitted in area with riders.	Lungeing not permitted in area with riders.
	Footing maintenance	History of good footing maintenance esp in inclement weather; maintenance once/hour. Maintenance required at least twice daily for lower level classes.	History of good footing maintenance esp in inclement weather; maintenance minimum three times/daily. Maintenance required at least twice daily for lower level classes.	History of good footing maintenance, maintenance required at least twice daily.	Ring maintenance required minimum once daily.	No minimum requirements.
	Equipment for maintenance: dragging/ watering	Must have appropriate maintenance equipment for all types of footing at the competition. Watering equipment strongly recommended.	Must have appropriate maintenance equipment for all types of footing at the competition. Watering equipment strongly recommended.	Equipment for ring maintenance required.	Equipment for ring maintenance required.	No minimum requirements.
	Stabling (Minimum specifications apply to both on-site and off-site stabling)	Required on grounds. Minimum 3m x 3m (9.8' square). Safe, accommodate stallions. No trailer in for CDI, Selection, or Championship classes.	Required on grounds. Minimum 3mx3m rec; 9'x9' req. Safe, accommodate stallions. No trailer in for Champ. Entries.	Required on grounds. Minimum 3mx3m rec; 9'x9' req. Safe, accommodate stallions.	Stabling required if more than 150 horses. If offered must be per Federation rules.	Stabling optional. If offered must be per Federation rules.
	Show office	Adequate space, internet access onsite or offsite and phone access.	Adequate space, internet access onsite or offsite and phone access.	Adequate space, internet access onsite or offsite and phone access.	No minimum requirements except phone access required.	No minimum requirements except phone access required.
	Facilities (electric, water, manure disposal, restrooms)	Water availability, lighting, electric plugs convenient to stalls, stall doors provided. Sufficient number of rest rooms.	Water availability, lighting, electric plugs convenient to stalls, stall doors provided. Sufficient number of rest rooms.	Water availability, lighting, electric plugs convenient to stalls, stall doors provided. Sufficient number of restrooms.	Min per current Federation rules. Min one restroom required.	No min ex. per current Federation rules. Min one restroom required.

Criteria for Existing or New Competitions	Criteria	Level 5 CDIs/CPEDIs USEF HP Selection Trials (I1– GP, ParaEquestrian) National Championship	Level 4 Regional Championships, HP (I1) and other competitions as required or as approved by Federation (and USDF when required), upon application	Level 3 Developing Program Qualifiers (JR/YR/YA, YH & DH) and other competitions as required or as approved by Federation (and USDF when required), upon application	Level 2 Other licensed Dressage shows	Level 1 “Introduction” to Licensed Competitions
	Communication	Announcer & good quality sound system req. for announcements and freestyles. Announcements heard through facility (incl stabling, warmup & arena/office area) Radio/cell communication with all staff required.	Announcer & sound system req. for announcements and freestyles. Announcements heard through facility (including stabling, warmup & arena/office area) Radio/cell communication with all staff required.	Sound system for announcements and freestyles, and radio/cell communication with all staff required.	Sound system if freestyles are offered. Radio/cell communication with all staff required.	No minimum requirements.
	Staff	Announcer, stable mgr, awards coordinator, official’s hospitality, vol coordinator req. + history of adequate staffing. Vet, EMT and farrier must be on grounds designated for the Dressage Competition; photographer req & videographer recommended.	Announcer, stable mgr, awards coordinator, official’s hospitality, vol coordinator req. + history of adequate staffing. Vet, EMT and farrier must be on grounds designated for the Dressage Competition; photographer req & videographer recommended.	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.
	Feed, hay, bedding availability	Adequate supply and availability required. On-site availability required for bedding only.	Adequate supply and availability required. On-site availability required for bedding only.	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.	N/A
	Security – nightwatch	Required.	Required.	Recommended.	Optional.	N/A
	Parking for competitors, trailers and spectators	Available and organized.	Available and organized.	Available.	Available.	Available.
	Judges, rating and number per class	Per FEI rules/ Nat’l Championship rules.	3 FEI judges required per HP rules. RC classes per Regional Championships rules.	Minimum of 2 “S” Judges.	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.
	TD	One or more “R” TD required per DR125 and FEI Steward (CI’s only).	At least one “R” TD required per DR125 Additional TDs can be “R” or “r”.	One or more per DR125.	One or more per DR125.	“R” or “r” DTD.
	Awards and ceremonies	Prizes req. per FEI rules.	Prizes req. per USDF rules.	No minimum requirements.	No minimum requirements.	No minimum requirements.
	Concessions	*Complete service required from 1 hour before competition until end. *Selection of hot/cold items & beverages all meals during show hours.	*Complete service required from 1 hour before competition until end. *Selection of hot/cold items & beverages all meals during show hours.	Food/ beverages required from 1 hour before competition until end.	Food and beverages required—limited hours permitted.	Optional.

- Concessions: Food/Beverage optional for Level 1-3 Competitions and may be offered for Levels 4 & 5 (must be clearly designated in the Prize List) with the exceptions:**
- **Level 4 & 5: Food service is based on local health requirements. At a minimum, pre-packaged food and water must be available; however, hours may be limited.**
 - **Level 3: Bottled water must be available to participants 1 hour prior to competition start until the end.**
 - **Level 2: Bottled water must be available to participants – limited hours permitted.**
 - **Level 1: Bottled water is recommended.**

Criteria for Existing or New Competitions	Criteria	Level 5 CDIs/CPEDIs USEF HP Selection Trials (I1– GP, ParaEquestrian) National Championship	Level 4 Regional Championships, HP (I1) and other competitions as required or as approved by Federation (and USDF when required), upon application	Level 3 Developing Program Qualifiers (JR/YR/YA, YH & DH) and other competitions as required or as approved by Federation (and USDF when required), upon application	Level 2 Other licensed Dressage shows	Level 1 "Introduction" to Licensed Competitions
	Prize money	Per FEI rules/ Nat'l Championship rules.	Required for Championship classes.	Optional.	Optional.	Not permitted.
	Prize list and entry process	Online – complete listing of officials	Online – complete listing of officials	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.	No minimum requirements except per current Federation rules.
	Management	Minimum 5 years experience of both manager and secretary at Federation /USDF Dressage Competitions must be eligible as Level 3 mgr or sec'y and have managed or secretaried at least one Level 3 or 4 competition for min. two years + apprentice at CDI prior to application for Level 5 status.	Minimum 3 years experience of both manager and secretary at Federation /USDF Dressage Competitions w/three or more rings or 200 or more horses, or must be eligible as Level 3 mgr or sec'y and have managed or secretaried a Level 3 competition with 125 or more horses for min. two years prior to application for Level 4 status.	Minimum of 2 years experience or 4 shows for both manager and secretary at Federation /USDF Dressage Comps prior to application for Level 3 status.	Experience not required.	Experience not required.
	Manager and Secretary	Separate individuals during competition. One or more full-time asst secretaries required. The competition manager and secretary must be current USDF Participating or Group members in good standing at the time competition recognition is granted and on the date of the competition.	Separate individuals during competition. One or more full-time asst secretaries required. Manager and secretary must be current USDF Participating or Group members in good standing at the time competition recognition is granted and on the date of the competition.	Separate individuals during competition. Manager and secretary must be current USDF Participating or Group members in good standing at the time competition recognition is granted and on the date of the competition.	No req. One person may do both during comp. Manager and secretary must be current USDF Participating or Group members in good standing at the time competition recognition is granted and on the date of the competition.	No req. One person may do both during comp. Manager and secretary must be current USDF Participating or Group members in good standing at the time competition recognition is granted and on the date of the competition.
	Scoring	Per FEI rules/ Nat'l Championship rules. Electronic scoreboard/ scoring recommended. Announcement of provisional scores required.	Class results must be posted within one hour of final ride in class.	Class results of qualifying classes must be posted within one hour of final ride in class	Prompt posting but no minimum requirements.	Prompt posting but no minimum requirements.
	RC qualifying classes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
	Year-end awards scores	yes	yes	Yes – except for Opportunity classes.	Yes – except for Opportunity classes.	Yes – except for Opportunity classes.
	Drug rules	FEI/ Per Nat'l Championship rules.	Federation	Federation	Federation	Federation
	Spectator services	Required: seating at main rings, other services.	Required: seating at main rings.	Recommended but not required.	Optional	optional
Designated Competitors and Officials Feedback	From designated Rider and Judge.	From designated Rider and Judge.	From designated Rider and Judge.	From designated Rider and Judge.	From designated Rider and Judge.	
Application Approval Process	Federation	USDF regions and USDF Oversight Committee; Federation committees for HP.	USDF and Federation.	Jointly USDF recognized and Federation licensed.	Jointly USDF recognized and Federation licensed.	

	Computer software	Proven to produce all required FEI, Federation and USDF reports and track competition entries.	Proven to produce all required Federation and USDF reports and track competition entries.	Proven to produce all required Federation and USDF reports and track competition entries.	No minimum requirements. Electronic results required per Federation /USDF rules.	Optional. Electronic results optional.
	Competitor amenities	Special events and trade fair strongly recommended.	Special events and trade fair strongly recommended.	Optional	Optional	Optional
	Show program	Required	Required	Required	Optional	Optional

BOD 6/28/21 Effective 12/1/21