

DR119.1 Tracking #177-24 Draft #2 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions.**

1. Dressage classes are open to riders on horses, mules and/or ponies of any origin. **Qualifying criteria for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, or selection trials and classes designated as qualifying classes for international competition, available on the Federation’s website, may limit participation of mules and ponies.** ~~except that ponies or mules may not be ridden in USEF High Performance National Championships and USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. Mules and/or ponies are also ineligible to compete in (1) any other classes designated as qualifying or selection classes for international or international high performance competition (except championships for FEI Pony Riders), and (2) championships where such participation is prohibited in the championship selection procedures.~~

DR119.5 Tracking #178-24 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions**

5. Only with the permission of competition management may a horse/rider combination enter a class Hors de Concours. Such entries must pay the full entry fee but scores for these entries will not be published or recorded, nor shall they count towards any prizes, placings or year-end awards. Said permission must be granted prior to the start of the class(es) involved. Hors de Concours entries must follow all Federation General and Dressage Division rules that apply to other entries in the same class, except as described below. Having competed Hors de Concours at a competition, a horse is no longer eligible for further prizes, awards or placings at that competition except in situations of emergency substitutions of judges. Hors de Concours entries are not permitted in Federation/USDF Championship **or NAYC qualifying and championship** classes.

DR119.11 Tracking #180-24 Draft #2 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions**

11. **Qualifying criteria or selection procedures for U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, and USDF Championships, as published on the Federation’s website, may include exceptions to Federation rules.** Definitions for the USEF High Performance Program, USEF Development Dressage Program and USEF Emerging

Program:

a. ~~USEF HIGH PERFORMANCE DRESSAGE PROGRAM: The purpose of this classification is to develop and implement the USOPC Strategic High Performance Plan (HPP) with the goal of selecting athletes and/or teams and maximizing the performance of these athletes and/or teams at Olympic, Pan American and World Championship competition and other designated international events. The USEF High Performance (HP) Dressage Program includes the USEF High Performance Dressage National Championships at the Intermediaire I and Grand Prix Levels, as well as qualifying and selection trials for those events. Published qualifying criteria for these championships take precedence over other published rules.~~

b. ~~USEF DEVELOPMENT DRESSAGE PROGRAM: The purpose of this classification is to identify and recognize developing athlete and equine talent for the discipline of dressage. The USEF Development Dressage Program includes the USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship, USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship USEF Young Adult National Dressage Championship, and the USEF Developing Horse National Dressage Championships. These Championships and classes designated as qualifying for these Championships are not considered High Performance and therefore are not subject to rules applicable to High Performance classes unless otherwise specifically stated in the qualifying or selection procedures for these Championships. Published qualifying criteria for these championships take precedent over other published rules.~~

c. ~~USEF EMERGING DRESSAGE PROGRAMS:~~

~~The purpose of this classification is to identify and recognize emerging athlete and equine talent for the discipline of dressage. The USEF Emerging Dressage Programs includes the USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championships, USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship, USEF Children Dressage National Championship, USEF Junior Dressage National Championship, and USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship. These Championships and classes designated as qualifying for these Championships are not considered High Performance or Development programs and therefore are not subject to rules applicable to these classes unless otherwise specifically stated in the qualifying or selection procedures for these Championships. Published qualifying criteria for these championships take precedence over other published rules.~~

DR121 Tracking #196-24 Draft #2 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR121 Saddlery and Equipment.**

Figure 121.7: Bridle with jowl strap and throat latch (left). Bit snaps may not be used with this bridle. Combined noseband (no throatlatch) permitted for use in at any level (including USEF High Performance classes) and in warm-up with either a snaffle (middle left) or double bridle (middle right) as appropriate for the level. When used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the noseband (flash attachment pictured with the snaffle on left), is prohibited. Limits for placement of jowl strap (right).

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j. Bridles allowed in Federation (national) competitions:

4. Qualifying and championship classes. Either a snaffle bridle or double bridle **is permitted (as shown in Figure 121.11)** ~~is permitted for USEF High Performance and USEF Young Adult~~ **for U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions and its respective** qualifying classes held at national competitions. A double bridle is required for USEF Grand Prix and Young Adult championship classes at the USEF Festival of Champions. Snaffle bridles are permitted for NAYC qualifying and championship classes, USEF Young Rider qualifying and championship classes, and USEF Junior qualifying and championship classes.

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18. Whips. The length of the lash is included in measurements of the length of the whip. For schooling the rider while mounted is permitted to carry one whip that is no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) or 100 cm (39.4 inches) for FEI Pony Riders. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) may be carried in all classes except, under penalty of elimination, **in** USEF/USDF Championships. **Please review the championship format for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, available on the Federation's website, for specific rules for that competition.** USEF National Dressage Championships, USEF High Performance Championships, and USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. Exception: Competitors riding side-saddle may carry a whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) in USEF/USDF Championships. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) may be carried in all qualifying classes

(including ~~NAYRC and NAJC~~ **NAYC**) 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 (39.4 inches). An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider. The use of one lungeing whip is permitted only when lungeing. There is no restriction on the length of whip permitted for working a horse in hand or on the lunge.

~~Rules regarding whip use at USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. The following rules (17.1 and 17.2) apply exclusively to use of a whip at USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials:~~

- a. ~~Upon arrival on the showground, only the rider while riding, walking, leading or lungeing a horse (lunge whip allowed) is allowed to use a whip (maximum 120 cm) in connection with the training of the horse. The groom may also walk, lead and lunge a horse as above.~~
- b. ~~The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the rider will be penalized for an error (see DR122.5.j).~~

DR121.4 Tracking #194-24 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR121 Saddlery and Equipment**

4. Martingales. Martingales are, under penalty of elimination, prohibited in competition. In warm-up and other training areas, a running martingale may be used only with the rein of a snaffle bridle. Exception: running martingales are prohibited for horses entered in USEF High Performance **U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, their respective** qualifying **classes** and selection trials. A running martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth or breastplate at the front of the horse's chest and with the extension of each strap connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side. The reins must slide freely through the rings. The rings may not be incorporated into a neck strap.

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6. Breastplates and cruppers. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used. Exception: a breastplate is prohibited in USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance **U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC and their respective** Qualifying **classes**, and Selection Trials.

9. Ear plugs. Ear plugs and ear muffs are, under penalty of elimination, prohibited. Exception: Ear plugs are permitted at prize-giving ceremonies for horses competing at any level. ~~including High Performance classes.~~

DR121.13 Tracking #193-24 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR121 Saddlery and Equipment**

13. Nose net. A nose net may be used in the warm up and in competition provided the entry is accompanied by a signed letter from the horse's veterinarian. A copy of this letter must be attached to each test or class sheet. The letter must be written on the veterinarian's stationery and clearly state that the horse has been diagnosed with head shaking syndrome and the syndrome is improved with the use of a nose net. ~~The letter must also state the brand of nose net to~~

be used. The Federation's website has a list of nose net brands that are approved for dressage. **A nose net is made of fine mesh material. It covers the horse's nostrils extending no higher than the noseband, no further to the sides than the cheekpieces and covers the nostrils but not the lips. No part of the nose net should encircle the horse's face.**

DR121.19 Tracking #192-24 Draft #2 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR121 Saddlery and Equipment**

19. Numbers. All competitors must complete check-in at the show office and receive a show number, before schooling or riding on the show grounds. Failure to check in at the show office prior to schooling will result in the issuance of a Warning Card. Competition-assigned numbers, or the same number in a personal numbering format, must be worn and visible at all times when a horse is being hand-walked, exercised or ridden, under penalty of elimination. **Each digit of a number must be a minimum of 1.5 inches in height and a minimum of 3/8 inches in width and cannot be obscured by the encasement/holder.**

DR122.3 Tracking #191-24 Draft #3 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests.**

3. Voice. The use of the voice or other intentional audio aids in any way whatsoever or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of two marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred. In movements with a coefficient, judges must deduct only one mark so that the final mark, after the coefficient is applied, is deducted by two versus four points.

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5.j. Other Penalties (Technical Faults).

1. For **all national tests and levels**, designated USEF High Performance classes all of the following are considered (technical faults), and 0.5% (zero point five percentage points) will be deducted per (fault) by each judge. These deductions are not cumulative and will not result in elimination (including for Freestyle tests) except as noted below. It is the responsibility of the Judge at C to decide whether a penalty should be applied and the other judges' sheets should be marked accordingly to ensure consistency.

- ~~1. Entering the space around the arena with a whip or with boots/bandages on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves);~~
- ~~2. Entering the dressage arena with whip or with boots/bandages on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves). will entail elimination;~~
- ~~3. Not entering the arena within forty-five 45 seconds; entering more than ninety (90) seconds after the bell entails elimination;~~
- ~~4. Entering the arena before the sound of the bell;~~

*i.* 5. For Freestyle classes, entering the arena after more than thirty (30) seconds of music but within ninety (90) seconds;

*ii.* 6. If the Freestyle test is longer or shorter than stipulated on the test sheet, zero point five percentage points (0.5%) will be deducted from the total artistic score; for other technical faults 0.5% (zero point five percentage points) will be deducted per fault from the technical score.

*iii.* 7. Using voice or clicking the tongue repeatedly;

*iv.* 8. Athletes not taking the reins in one (1) hand at the salute.

**2. Please review the championship format for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, available on the Federation's website, for specific rules for that competition.**

k. Judges may not mark or deduct points for an error for any reason other than as described in DR122.5; i.e. dress code violations (DR120) cannot be penalized by an error.

l. For USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, if ~~if~~ the Freestyle test is longer or shorter than the stipulated time on the test sheet, zero point five percent (0.5%) will be deducted from the total artistic score.

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7. l. After the sound of the bell, the competitor should enter the arena at A as soon as possible. Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination. In the Freestyle, the rider has 45 seconds to signal to start the music; however, exceeding 75 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination. Exception: For USEF High Performance **U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC** qualifying **classes** and selection trials, entering the arena over 45 seconds but within 90 seconds after the bell has sounded be penalized for an error as specified under DR122.5. Exceeding 90 seconds will entail elimination except where a valid reason is accepted by the Judge at "C" (losing a shoe, etc.). No competitor can be required to ride prior to their scheduled time except as required in GR830.

DR124.6 Tracking #181-24 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR124 Elimination**

~~6. For USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials only: If the Judge at "C" suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, they will stop the horse to check for blood. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the Judge through examination clarifies that the horse has no fresh blood, the horse may resume and finish its test. If the Equipment Check Steward, working at the direction of the Technical Delegate discovers fresh blood in the horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs during the equipment check at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at "C", who will eliminate the competitor. If there is blood elsewhere on the horse, the Technical Delegate will inform the Judge at "C". The majority of the veterinary panel is to be called to recommend if the horse is fit to continue in subsequent classes for which it is eligible. The Judge at "C" will make a decision on the horse's fitness to continue, based on the veterinary panel's advice. If the Judge at "C" decides the horse is not fit to continue, the horse will not be permitted to take part in any further competition(s) or tests at the Event, but the result(s) obtained by the athlete/horse combination in any competition(s) or tests already completed shall stand. Refer to Selection Procedures for the current championship year requirements.~~

DR125.4 Tracking #189-24 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR125 Competition Licensing and Officials**

3. Ground Jury. The invited judges compose the Ground Jury and must be selected from the current Roster of Recognized Dressage judges.

4. A Technical Delegate must be selected from the current Roster of Dressage Technical Delegates to officiate at all Dressage competitions, and Regular and Local Competitions offering “open” Dressage Division classes (i.e., classes which are not limited to certain breeds), or **and breed restricted** classes above ~~Third~~ **Fourth Level at Breed Restricted Competitions**. (Exception: A C2 Steward may officiate through Fourth Level of breed restricted Dressage classes at Licensed Breed Restricted Competitions and a dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate may officiate for any level Dressage class,) Open or breed restricted, at Licensed Breed Restricted Competition. All Open Dressage classes must be completed prior to the start of any other classes. When a dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate is officiating, the Open Dressage classes must be their sole responsibility until those classes are complete. At breed and multi-breed competitions, if there are additional non-Open Dressage classes occurring at the same time as the Open Dressage classes, a separate Dressage Technical Delegate must officiate for the Open Dressage classes. Horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of competition day. A Registered Dressage Technical Delegate must officiate at Level 4 and Level 5 Dressage Competitions. A Recorded Dressage Technical Delegate may officiate as the assistant to the Registered Technical Delegate(s) at Level 4 and Level 5 Dressage Competitions, and may officiate alone at Levels 1-3 Dressage Competitions. **At least one Dressage Technical Delegate, who is officiating at the competition as a Dressage Technical Delegate, must be present on the show grounds for the Jog at an FEI licensed Dressage Event.**

5. Veterinarians.

- a. Every Dressage Competition must have a qualified veterinarian present throughout the competition if the number of horses competing the previous year is 250 horses or higher. Exception: All USEF/USDF Regional Championships must have a veterinarian present on the grounds throughout the competition regardless of the number of horses competing. In the year after a competition has hosted a USEF/USDF Regional Championship, a veterinarian will be required to be present only if 250 or more horses competed the year prior to hosting the championship.
- b. Level 4 and Level 5 Dressage Competitions must have a veterinarian present on the grounds throughout the competition regardless of the number of horses competing.
- c. For purposes of this rule, the veterinarian must be present on the grounds designated for the Dressage Competition per DR126.1.

DR126.2 Tracking #182-24 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management**

2.a.4. Where more than 25 entries are accepted for a particular class the class must be divided into separate divisions for awards purposes. USEF/USDF and other regional or local championship classes and USEF High Performance Championships **U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, their respective qualifying classes** and selection trials cannot be split.

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 2.f.10. A modified arena is one that is not exactly 20x60 meters or 20x40 meters, as required for the particular level and test. Use of a modified arena is permitted only for Level 1-2 competitions and only when the dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list. When a modified arena is used, it must not be shortened more than five meters in length or more than two meters in width. However, for all competition levels, **USEF/USDF Qualifying classes and Championships, USEF Festival of Champions High Performance classes and their qualifiers, Championships, qualifying and selection trials, and Freestyle classes** must be held in an unmodified standard size arena

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 3.a.1. 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) and USEF National Championships **and other designated competitions**.

- b. Level 4 - required for USEF/USDF Regional Championships, ~~High Performance~~ qualifying competitions held separately from CDIs, and other competitions as required or as approved by the Federation (and USDF when required), upon application.
- c. Level 3 - required for USEF ~~Developing Program~~ **national** qualifying competitions and other competitions as required or as .....
2. Holding classes of a lower level is optional at competition Levels 3-5.
- a. Standards for all non-CDI/CPEDI classes at a Level 5 competition must be Level 3 or higher.
- b. At a Level 4 competition, Level 4 standards are required for ~~High Performance~~ **Federation** and Regional Championship classes; standards for all other classes must be at Level 3 or higher.

DR126.2 Tracking #190-24 Draft #2 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

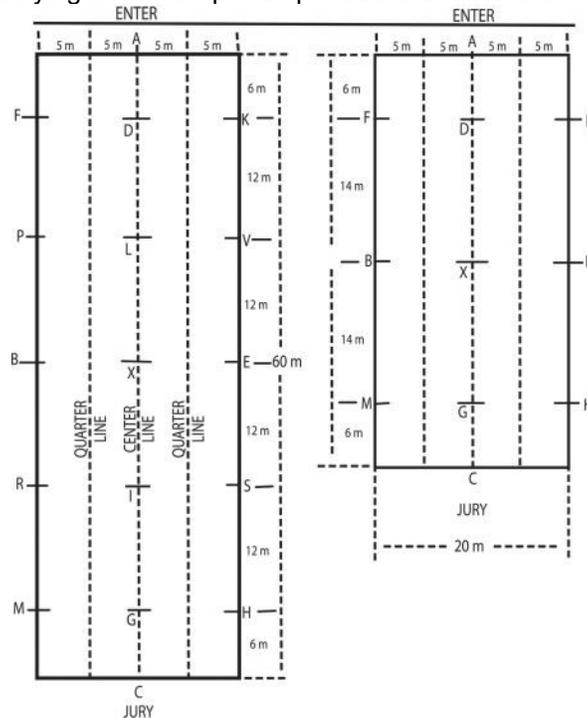
**DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management**

1. Designated competition grounds, exercise, and training areas. Horses may only be exercised and ridden in management-designated areas on the competition grounds. Management must post a map in the show office outlining the “designated competition grounds” where horses may be ridden and exercised. Any restricted areas must also be noted. Under no circumstance is it allowed to school horses in the stables.
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.
    1. The competition Level and all classes must be listed in the prize list.
    2. When permitted by the rules or special criteria, classes may be divided into separate divisions or sections based on qualifications, age or other eligibility of horses or riders.
    3. Divisions or sections of a class are considered to be a separate “class” only if listed as such in the prize list. Divisions or sections of a class may be held in different rings and judged by different judges. When divisions or sections are held under different conditions (i.e, different ring or judges), separate awards must be given.
    4. Where more than 25 entries are accepted for a particular class the class must be divided into separate divisions for awards purposes. USEF/USDF and other regional or local championship classes and USEF High Performance Championships, qualifying and selection trials cannot be split.
    5. When entries warrant competitions are encouraged to split classes into separate divisions, and to provide separate awards, for Open riders, Adult Amateurs, and Junior/Young Riders **or other divisions**, Horses may be ridden only once in any class, including separate divisions or sections of the same class. See DR119.1.
  - b. Competition Schedule.
    1. A tentative class schedule must be included in the prize list.
    2. Organizers must prepare a time schedule including all rides. If possible, competitors should be notified of their riding times prior to arrival at the competition.
    3. 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 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 their intention to scratch (i.e. is a “no show”).
    4. Dressage classes must be run in their entirety and rides may only be scheduled out of sequence

- to allow a reasonable interval between two or more horses entered by the same rider in the same class or in different classes. Also, when preparing a time schedule consideration must be given to riders entered in more than one class or riding more than one horse. At least 50 minutes must be scheduled between start times for a rider's tests on different horses **and at least 25 minutes scheduled between start times for a rider on the same horse** unless they have agreed, in writing, to a shorter interval between tests. Time intervals should be allowed between rides for judge's breaks and awards presentations.
5. If Grand Prix Freestyle and/or Grand Prix Special classes are offered at a competition, at least one Grand Prix class must be offered and scheduled prior to the Freestyle and the Special (i.e., only one Grand Prix is required to be offered and scheduled prior to the Freestyle and Special in a multi-day competition).
  6. If a competitor cannot show due to a change in the day a competitor must ride, their entry fees must be refunded.
- c. Arena Specifications.
1. The arena should be on as flat and as level ground as possible. It is recommended that the difference in elevation across the diagonal or along the length of the arena shall not exceed 0.60 meters. It is recommended that the difference in elevation along the short side of the arena shall not exceed 0.20 meters.
  2. The Standard Arena is 60 meters long and 20 meters wide. The Small Arena is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide. Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure.
  3. The enclosure itself must consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high and must be completely enclosed, except for the entrance at "A". The width of the entrance must be at least two meters **and no greater than four meters**.
  4. The fence should be such to prevent the horse's hooves from becoming entangled and arena stakes, if used, must be covered with a ball or similar object so as to prevent injury. Rope, concrete or unbreakable chain fencing is not allowed.
  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 each Federation/USDF Regional Championship may elect to close the gate for championship classes. Decisions to either close the gate or leave it open must be consistent for all championship classes in that competition. Each Federation/USDF Regional Championship competition management must publish in its official prize list if the gate will be closed in championship classes. The gate must be closed for Federation/USDF National Championship and Federation National Championship classes.
  6. Except for the letter "A", the letters outside the enclosure should be placed about 0.5 meters from the fence and clearly marked. So that the judges can note the exact point on the track opposite each letter, it is compulsory to place a marker on the fence itself, level with and in addition to the letter concerned. It is not permitted to place the letters on the arena fence, however, one-sided (flat) letters may be placed on the wall of an indoor arena when such an arena is permitted under (7) through (9) below. The letter A should be placed at least five meters away from the arena.
  7. No publicity is permitted anywhere on the **dressage** arena fence **except in Level 5 classes at Level 5 competitions**. It is permissible to decorate the letters with flowers or greenery to enhance the appearance of the arena, however, letters must be visible from all sides at Level 3-5 competitions.
  8. It is recommended that arenas be separated from the public (people, horses and other activities) by a distance of not less than 15 meters, with a minimum allowed distance at any point around the arena of 3 meters. For indoor competitions, the recommended minimum distance from the public is 3 meters, with a minimum allowed distance at any point around the arena of 1.5 meters. For Level 1 and Level 2 competitions, where tall solid walls preclude public access or visibility, arenas are exempt from this requirement. Indoor and outdoor arenas must be separated by a minimum of 5 meters at Level 3-5 competitions and 2 meters at Level 1-2 competitions.
  9. Where severe inclement weather threatens to disrupt participation in the competition due to concerns for footing or safety, Level 3-5 competitions are permitted to follow the same arena specifications as **for Level 1-2 competitions as in #8, above**.
  10. A modified arena is one that is not exactly 20x60 meters or 20x40 meters, as required for the particular level and test. Use of a modified arena is permitted only for Level 1-2 competitions and only when the

dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list. When a modified arena is used, it must not be shortened more than five meters in length or more than two meters in width. **Arenas must never be shortened between M, F, H and K, and their respective corners.** However, for all competition levels, Qualifying, Championship, USEF High Performance Championships, qualifying and selection trials and Freestyle classes must be held in an unmodified standard size arena.

11. Entry and exit must be at "A" for Level 3, 4 and 5 competitions. For Level 1-3 2 competitions: If competitors enter and exit at any location other than "A", the arena fence must be completely closed for the duration of the ride.
12. For all classes or tests, **excluding Materiale and Equitation**, where the arena size is optional or may be modified, the size must be stated in the prize list.
13. The following tests and classes must be held in a Standard Arena:
  - a. First Level Dressage tests and above, FEI Dressage tests; and musical freestyles, except those tests written for a small arena.
  - b. USEF/USDF Qualifying and Championship Classes at all levels.



14. At the discretion of competition management, all tests for Para Dressage 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 Championships and Para Dressage 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.
- d. Footing Maintenance.
    1. Competition management must make every effort to provide the best possible footing in competition and schooling areas.
    2. Provisions should be made (by having on hand proper equipment and scheduling sufficient breaks in the schedule) to maintain throughout the competition the footing in all riding areas by dragging, watering and, if necessary, raking.
  - e. Location of Judges.
    1. If there is only one judge, they are preferably placed a maximum of five meters and minimum of three meters from the end of the arena and must be opposite the letter C. Except in Young Horse Tests, when two judges are used one is placed at C and the other at B or E, preferably a maximum of five meters and minimum of three meters opposite the letter. When three judges are used, one is placed at C, the second at B or E, and the third must be placed at the end of the arena on a line with the judge at C and 2.5 meters in from the edge of the long side of the arena at H or M (If the second judge is at B, the third should be at H and vice versa). If this is not possible, judges should be placed at the end of the

arena, one at C, one 2.5 meters in from the long side of the arena at M, and the other 2.5 meters from the long side of the arena at H.

2. At indoor competitions, judges must be placed a minimum of 3 meters from the arena, unless modifications are permitted by application to the Federation Dressage Sport Committee.
3. Except in Young Horse tests a separate enclosure (booth, tent, trailer) or platform for indoor classes must be provided for each judge.
4. Each judges booth or platform must be raised at least 0.5 meters (20 inches), for Freestyle Tests possibly a little higher above the ground to give the Judge(s) a good view of the ring.
5. The booth/hut/platform must be large enough to accommodate three people except that the booth at C must accommodate four people for Young Horse Championship classes.
6. Judges' booths placed at E and B must be equipped with side windows.
7. **Judge booths or platforms must be separated from other arenas by a minimum distance of 3 meters.**
8. The jury for the FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses and USEF Dressage Test for 4-year old horses must be seated together at "C" and may comprise a maximum of three judges. (Exception: See Selection Procedures for the USEF National Championships for Young Horses for the number and placement of judges in the Young Horse championship competition.) The number

and placement of judges in classes and championships for FEI 7-year-old horses must be as described in DR122.13 .14-.15 or, if applicable, the Selection Procedures for the World Breeding Championships for 7-year-old horses. **See DR122.17 for placement of Judges for the FEI Children Classes.** ~~Judge booths or platforms must be separated from other arenas by a minimum distance of 3 meters.~~

f. Judges and Technical Delegates.

1. No judge shall be required to officiate longer than 8 hours (**actual judging time**) in one day, unless the judge has agreed in writing, and cannot be required to be on the competition grounds longer than 10 hours.
2. Judges must be given at least a 45-minute lunch break and at least a 10 minute break every 2 hours.
3. Judges and technical delegates are not to be housed in private homes unless the judge or technical delegate has agreed to it prior to the competition.
4. Judges' comments, while judging, may not be audio-recorded without prior written permission of the judge(s), the specific competitor(s) and management.
5. Judges and Technical Delegates are required to provide email addresses to management for communication of officiating agreements, prize lists and other information related to the competition.

g. Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas.

1. Tack Inspections. Inspection of saddlery and equipment (except 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 using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. In championship classes, saddlery, dress and equipment inspections are required for each horse. When an inspection is conducted, all equipment including fly hoods, nosebands, curb chains, whips, bits, and spurs on both sides must be inspected. The ring steward must also inspect the horse for evidence of blood.
  - 1.a. Exhibitors must present bridles and bits, if and when requested, to the technical delegate for inspection utilizing the methods, timeframe(s) and location(s) identified by competition management with the agreement of the technical delegate. These methods must be communicated to the competitors prior to the start of the competition. The technical delegate must inspect at least 50% of the bits and bridles of horses entered in the competition. Technical Delegates must also conduct random ringside bit checks immediately after rides are completed, some of which can be included in the 50%, using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse.
  - 1.b. Inspection of saddlery and equipment is not required nor advised for group classes such as Dressage Seat Equitation and Materiale. When close inspection of saddlery, bits and equipment is required in order to determine compliance with DR 121 or other equipment provisions, a TD shall accompany the horse to its stall, trailer or other designated area to conduct such equipment inspections.
  - 1.c. In Breed restricted classes at Regular competitions, a ring steward, at the direction of the technical

- delegate or C2 Steward (if eligible for the classes held), will do a hands-on inspection of saddlery and equipment including bits of at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena. New disposable protective gloves must be utilized with one on each hand for each horse.
- 1.d. When non-permitted bits, saddlery, or equipment are identified prior to the horse having worn the non-permitted items, there will be no elimination. Elimination will occur only when the horse is wearing non-permitted items or they are identified immediately after use.
2. When a competition operates two or more rings or warmup areas, the competition must have a sufficient number of stewards to adequately monitor all schooling and warmup areas, as well as competition rings.
  3. Schooling and warmup areas must be monitored by stewards starting at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled ride.
  4. **Bit Equipment** 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 **heads and** mouths.
  5. When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the Federation Dressage Department prior to the competition.
  6. In USEF/USDF Championship classes, a steward must be appointed to check the saddlery and bits of each horse immediately after it has completed its test and has left the arena, and any discrepancy to the saddlery rules will entail immediate elimination. (See DR126.2.i.1)
- h. Scribes.
1. Scribes should have a knowledge of the tests being ridden.
  2. **At Level 1 and 2 competitions, scribes (including electronic scribes) must *should* not be an owner, coach, trainer or family member of a competitor/horse in the class(es) in which they are scribing. At Level 3 and above competitions, scribes (including electronic scribes) must not be an owner, coach, trainer or family member of a competitor/horse in the class(es) in which they are scribing.**
  3. Scribe changes should not be made more than once per day for each judge.
  4. It is strongly recommended that scribes not compete before judges with whom they have worked at the same competition. Apprentices are prohibited from competing before judges with whom they apprentice at the same competition.
  5. First-time scribes must not be assigned to foreign judges or judges for FEI level classes.
  6. Scribes. Only one scribe to be provided for the judging panel for the FEI Dressage Tests for 4-year old, 5-year old and 6-year old horses and the USEF Dressage Test for 4-year old horses.
- i. Schooling and Lungeing.
1. One or more schooling areas must be provided far enough away from the arena(s) so as not to disturb the competitors during their tests. Schooling areas must be of sufficient size for several competitors to prepare their horses at the same time. For competition Levels 3-5, the sum of the warmup space, excluding the perimeter around competition arenas, must be at least 80% of the sum of the areas of all competition arenas (20x60 and/or 20x40 m). Lungeing areas are included in the calculation of the warmup space.
  2. If possible, at least one practice arena with perimeters and letters should be provided.
  3. It is strongly recommended that a lungeing area be provided separate from and in addition to *mounted schooling areas and that it be available throughout the competition. If the fence between lungeing and mounted horses is not a minimum of 3' feet high, then lungeing horses must be separated by a minimum distance of 10 meters from mounted horses.*
  4. If a separate lungeing area is not provided, lungeing is not permitted at any time within the same area at the same time as mounted schooling. See Dressage Levels chart for requirements for specific competition levels.
  5. **Daily schooling and lungeing hours must be provided to competitors and posted at the show office by noon prior to the first day of competition.**
  6. Competitors will not be allowed in or around the arena while a class is in progress or inside the arena at other times except under the following conditions:
    - a. Management must post and announce, in advance, designated times that competitors may school inside the arena(s);



chart indicates which criteria may be at a lower level for eligible classes at a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 competition.

b. Management, Officials and Staff.

1. The manager of a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 Dressage Competition must be eligible according to the criteria listed in DR126 and listed in the Dressage Levels chart (see DR126.4). During competition hours, at least one manager or co-manager of each Level 3, 4 or 5 Dressage Competition must be physically present on the competition grounds throughout each licensed day.
2. The secretary of a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 Dressage Competition must be eligible according to the criteria listed in DR126 and listed in the Dressage Levels chart. Specific duties of Dressage Competition Management are listed in the Dressage Levels chart (see DR126.4). During competition hours, at least one secretary or co-secretary of each Level 3, 4 or 5 Dressage Competition must be physically present on the competition grounds throughout each licensed day.
3. Specific requirements for staff and officials for Dressage Competitions are listed in the Dressage Levels chart (see DR126.3).

c. Facilities, Equipment, Services and Amenities.

1. Additional requirements for Dressage Competitions regarding facilities, services and amenities are listed in the Dressage Levels chart (see DR126.4).

4. Dressage Levels Chart.

(for Federation Dressage Competitions or Regular or Local Competitions with Open Dressage Classes per Federation 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.

DR128.2 Tracking #183-24 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

Proposed Change

**DR128 USEF National Championships**

**2.24 Hour Rule - For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds.**

**a.** For Federation **and NAYC** qualifying for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders **Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, Developing Horse** and ~~Brentina Cup (Young Adults)~~ **U25**: within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF Qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF championship qualifying purposes. **Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein.**

**b.** For USEF **and NAYC** championships for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders, **Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, Developing Horse, Young Horse** and **U25**: ~~Brentina Cup (Young Adults)~~ within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF **or NAYC** Championship class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse under penalty of elimination from the USEF championships. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. ~~For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds. This rule also applies for NAYC and USEF High Performance (HP) qualifying competitions and classes.~~

.....  
4. Qualifying scores for USEF National Championships **and NAYC**, including Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders, **U25** ~~Brentina Cup (Young Adults)~~, Young and Developing Horse, ~~and High Performance (Intermediate Intermediaire I and Grand Prix)~~, **and Para Dressage**, must be submitted by Competition Management to the Federation Dressage Department within 48 hours after the competition. Exception: Competitions held at the end of the qualifying period require submission of results within 24 hours after the competition. ~~This rule also applies to NAYC qualifying classes.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

## Proposed Change

**DR129 Musical Freestyle Ride**

6.e. Under penalty of elimination at the discretion of the judge at "C", a rider must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the music starting. ~~Exception: For USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, see DR122.5.~~ The music must cease at the final salute.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

## Proposed Change

**DR133 Dressage Seat Equitation**

1. Dressage Seat Equitation classes. May be offered for Juniors, Young Riders, Adult Amateurs and/or Open riders according to the following specifications:

- a. Medium walk, working trot (**sitting and rising**) and **working** canter both ways of the ring must be performed. Equitation classes may also be offered that are limited to medium walk and working trot (**rising**). Dressage Seat Equitation classes may be held as Opportunity classes as specified in GR 821.2e. The rider's position, seat and specifically the correct use and effect of the aids required by the Training and First Level Dressage tests are to be judged as outlined in DR117.1.
- b. The movements shall be performed by the exhibitors simultaneously; however, the judge may ask for independent tests as listed below in DR133.2.i(4)-2.i(5).
- c. No change of horses shall be required.

**d. Dressage Division rules will apply, in particular:**

- i. Saddlery, Equipment and Dress as required for First Level.**
- ii. Unauthorized Assistance as defined in DR122.10 is prohibited.**
- iii. Use of voice will be penalized.**
- iv. Horses may be eliminated for lameness, as defined in DR122.6.**
- v. Elimination, as defined in DR124.2, except for .e, .h and .m.**

- e. Whips and spurs are allowed. Horses shall be shown in plain snaffle. **Tailcoats are not permitted.**
- f. The size of a group shall be limited to no more than 25 riders. Groups may be divided into smaller sections, at the discretion of the judges, for safety and convenience. Judges may limit the number of horses required to canter at the same time, at their discretion, **however no more than six horses shall be asked to canter at the same time if classes are held in a dressage arena.**

**g.** Only the rider is judged, ~~however, lameness of horses will be penalized per DR122.6.~~

**h.** Prizes are awarded to the rider, not the horse owner.

**i.** Two numbers (min. 3"x5") must be provided to Equitation riders and they must be positioned on each side of the saddle pad to be clearly visible at all times.

**j.** Judges are required to give a final percentage score to all riders competing in the class.

**k.** USEF Dressage Seat Equitation scoresheets must be used.

**l.** Stallions may not be ridden in Dressage Seat Equitation classes. **Exception: classes limited to riders ages 19 and older.**

**m.** Classes should be held in an enclosed ring that is larger than a standard dressage arena, if available. If such a

space is not available, an open schooling area is permitted. If classes must be held in a dressage arena, it must be at least 20m x 60m, and no more than 6 horses shall be asked to canter at the same time.

**n.** Judges are encouraged to provide verbal comments to riders after the class, but scoresheets must not be posted.

**2. Dressage Seat Medal Program**

a. The purpose of the program is to promote and reward correct seat, position and use of aids in dressage for Junior riders.

b. Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Final Classes will be offered for Juniors in each of the nine USEF/USDF Regional Championships. One Semi-Finals class will be offered for Juniors ages thirteen and under and a second Semi-Finals class will be offered for Juniors ages fourteen through eighteen. A Regional Champion and Regional Reserve Champion will be named from each Semi-Finals class in each USDF region.

c. The top two riders in each Semi-Finals class will qualify to advance to the annual Federation Dressage Seat Medal Finals, which will be held in conjunction with the Federation Junior Dressage Team Championship or other designated competition. In case one of the top two riders in either Semi-Finals class does not compete in the Finals, the third placed rider in the respective class will be allowed to compete. Two finals classes will be held; one for Juniors age thirteen and under, and the other for Juniors age fourteen through eighteen. A National Champion and National Reserve Champion will be named from each Finals class.

d. Juniors who are named Regional Champions and Reserve Champions at age 13 or 18 will be eligible for the next year's final in the respective age group in which they qualified.

e. Federation Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals and Finals classes must be held on a weekend.

f. Qualification.

1. ~~Prior to 2012, Semi-Finals riders must have qualified to compete in the Semi-Finals according to the criteria approved by the Federation Board of Directors. Effective August 1, 2011 for 2012 Semi-Finals and thereafter, R Riders must qualify for the Semi-Finals according to criteria established by USDF and approved by the Federation Board of Directors. The criteria listed below in 2.f.(2)-2.f(4) apply under both qualifying methods.~~

**DR135.4 Tracking #186-24 Draft #1 Approved**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

**Proposed Change**

**DR135 Pony Measurement**

4.a.3. 3. Only one total maximum fee of ~~\$150~~ \$400 per measurement can be charged when measurements are conducted during a time when the competition veterinarian is on call and only one total maximum fee of ~~\$50~~ \$25 per measurement can be charged when the competition veterinarian is on the grounds. If the maximum fee is paid to the veterinarian, neither management nor the veterinarian may charge an additional fee amount. The competition veterinarian shall agree not to charge more than the maximum fees stated above. The total fee paid to the veterinarian and the competition shall not exceed ~~\$150~~ \$400 /animal when the veterinarian is on call and shall not exceed ~~\$50~~ \$25 animal when the veterinarian is on the grounds.

**DR209.3 Tracking #187-24 Draft #2 Approved**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage

**Proposed Change**

**DR209 Conduct of Classes**

2. Horses being shown in-hand in groups.

a. Groups will be examined one group at a time, but not necessarily on the triangle. The judge must require all horses in the group to move at the walk and trot, either in line or moving around the arena. Horses shall stand for conformation judging before and/or after completion of the horse's movement.

**3. Horses being shown individually in hand or in groups may be asked to stand for conformation judging either by standing for the judge to move around the horse or by the judge remaining stationary (~~standing or seated~~ at a safe distance) and the handler turning the horse as instructed by the judge so that the horse can be judged on each side, from the front and from the back.**

**4. b.** The Judging Triangle: Two basic triangle designs are acceptable for presenting horses to the judge. Competition management may choose the triangle best suited for local conditions. Triangle corners should be well defined. Footing must be firm. Decorative fencing, plants or flowers are allowed. (Horses must travel to the right. The following diagram shows suggested use of triangle). The size of either triangle may be adjusted to meet local conditions, however, the back side of the triangle must be at least 25 meters in length and the other two sides must be at least 20 meters in length. **The triangle must be located within an enclosed area that can be accessed by one or more gates at least one entrance.**

**5. 3.** Under Saddle and Materiale classes. Depending on local conditions, these classes may be divided at the judge's discretion. See DR202.10 and DR204.2d.