



## USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship Competition Format

The USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship (“Championship”) Competition Format (“Championship Format”) is effective February 22, 2022, unless stated otherwise. The information published herein is subject to additions or revisions. This Championship will be conducted under FEI Rules, except as outlined herein. Any questions concerning this Championship Format, please contact the US Equestrian Dressage Department at [kbrett@usef.org](mailto:kbrett@usef.org).

USEF reserves the right to cancel or relocate the Championship if its occurrence is prevented by weather conditions; changes in the management; insufficient entries; outbreaks or threatened outbreaks of equine illnesses; or any alterations of plans whether within or beyond USEF’s or management’s control. USEF reserves the right to relocate the Championship should USEF deem the facility and competition management did not adequately meet the standards set forth for a National Championship.

For all Dressage Championship classes, tests must be ridden from memory, and the following are considered technical faults and zero-point five percentage points (0.5%) will be deducted per fault by each Judge, but these deductions are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination (including Freestyle tests). 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:

Description of Technical Fault	Comments
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)	It is not permitted to carry a whip while competing in the arena. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the Competition arena or the Athlete will be penalized per the technical faults.
Entering the Dressage arena with a whip or with boots/bandages on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves).	If the test has already started before the discrepancy has been noticed, the Judge at C stops the Athlete and if needed and possible, an assistant may enter the arena to remove the item(s). The Athlete then continues the test from the movement where they were stopped. The marks given before they were stopped are not changed.
Entering the arena before the sound of the bell.	
Not entering the arena within forty-five (45) seconds after the bell, but within ninety (90) seconds.	Exceeding 90 seconds will entail elimination except where a valid reason is accepted by the Judge at C (losing a shoe, etc.).
For Freestyle tests, entering the arena after more than thirty (30) seconds of music.	
Using voice or clicking the tongue repeatedly.	
Athletes not taking the reins in one (1) hand at the salute.	

**One Athlete Rule:** No one other than the Athlete may ride the horse they are entered with, as of the official opening of the stables according to the official Prize List as well as for the duration of the whole Championship under penalty of disqualification. This means, for instance, that a groom mounted in the saddle may walk the horse on a long, safe rein and that lunging and verbal assistance from the ground from the trainer or their representative is permitted. An exception to this rule may only be granted under extraordinary circumstances in writing by the President of the Ground Jury in consultation with the USEF Dressage Department.

**Horse Inspection (Jog):** All horses entered in this Championship will be examined for soundness. A horse inspection will be scheduled prior to the start of the Championship classes, at which time horses must be presented to an FEI Veterinarian and at least one (1) member of the judging panel for examination. Horses shall be evaluated from the side and following consultation with the FEI Veterinarian, the decision of the judges(s) is final and not subject to further protest. If a horse does not pass the horse inspection, the Athlete may request to re-present the horse to the judge(s) and FEI Veterinarian. The judge(s) must give an option for reinspection in consultation with Competition Management at any time up to one (1) hour prior to the start of the class. The FEI Veterinarian and the judge(s) from the original panel must be present. All individuals aged 25 and under must wear protective headgear during the horse inspection.

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The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) with a Level 3 or 4 and a maximum of one (1) FEI Judge (active or retired) with Level 2 may be used.

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Test. This test will count towards 45% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: ~~All entries will~~ **Combinations must have achieved a minimum of 60% in the FEI Grand Prix Test to** compete in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Special Test. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) conducted in reverse order of placing from Day 1's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e., for twenty-three (23) Athletes: Group 1= three (3) Athletes, Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group 4 = five (5) Athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes.
- C. DAY 3: ~~All entries will~~ **Combinations must have achieved a minimum of 60% in the FEI Grand Prix Special Test to** compete in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test utilizing the FEI Freestyle System (Degree of Difficulty / DoD). Information regarding the FEI Freestyle System will be published in the official prize list and in the invitation to this Championship. This test will count towards 15% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) conducted in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e., for twenty-three (23) Athletes: Group 1= three (3) Athletes, Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group 4 = five (5) Athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes.
- D. Placing including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Grand Prix – 45%, Grand Prix Special – 40%, Grand Prix Freestyle – 15%.
- E. TIES: Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the FEI Grand Prix Special Test only.
- F. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply ~~which includes protective headgear.~~ **A double bridle is required for this Championship.** FEI Drug Rules will be followed.