

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The proposed changes to the Dressage Seat Equitation chapter clarify that some rules apply both to standard Dressage Seat Equitation classes as well as Semi-Finals and Finals classes. It also clarifies that the sitting trot may be required in a Dressage Seat Equitation class, removes some outdated language, and updates other rules.

Proponent Details

Dressage

Contact Information

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules

Comments

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.~~