



Summary of Dressage Rule Modifications and Additional Information

Published May 21, 2020

Updated July 15, 2020

- You may access a complete listing of Rule Modifications to the USEF General and Discipline Rules found [here](#).
- Please also be aware of the US Equestrian COVID-19 Action plan which can be found [here](#).
- [USDF Best Practices: Considerations for Dressage Competitions](#) is a resource for ideas and suggestions for the conduct of Dressage competitions.

Equipment Inspections

Including any Federation/USDF Championship classes, all equipment inspections conducted after rides will be visual and completed at random (removed requirement for 1/3 of horses in a class). Additionally, TDs may follow the horse to a designated area for the inspection in order to provide for a safe and socially-distanced inspection. Gloves are not required as the inspections will be visual. The above applies to Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Classes as well. Further information can be found in the [USDF Best Practices: Considerations for Dressage Competitions](#).

Judge Placement

Judges will not be required to sit together for classes which previously required this (i.e. Young Horse classes) and placement must allow for social distancing. See the USDF Best Practices Considerations for recommendations how to adhere to social distancing measures for Judges and/or scribes found [here](#). Additionally, USEF General Rule 1033.3 has been modified in order to allow Judges to use their cell phones or other electronic devices when instructed to do so by competition management.

Scores & Scoresheets

Rules have been modified so that scores may be sent electronically (e.g. via email or text) to competitors and/or posted via the internet. Scoresheets must still be provided to the competitor or his representative but these may be provided electronically after the class is concluded. Privacy must still be maintained.

Additionally, if a scoresheet is only made *available after the competition day by electronic methods*, competition management must allow for mathematical errors to be reported for 24 hours from the time of distribution. Scores will be corrected but class placements will not change.



Time Schedule & Ride Times

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). Ride times may not be changed after noon the day before the start of the entire competition, except in compliance with GR830.5.

Flexibility with ride schedules must be allowed. Classes will not be required to run in their entirety and rides may be scheduled out of sequence, **except for Federation/USDF Championship Classes**. Consideration must still be given to riders entered in more than one class or riding more than one horse. Additionally, at least 50 minutes must still be scheduled between start times for a rider's tests on different horses unless he/she has agreed, in writing, to a shorter interval between tests. Time intervals should be allowed between rides for judge's breaks and awards presentations.

All horses in the same age-group in Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Classes must be shown consecutively. Classes must be run in their entirety.

Musical Freestyles

The competitor must provide the music in formats/methods specified within the prize list to the announcer at least two (2) hours prior to the start of the class. Please note that CDs are no longer required if the competition management wishes to use a different format. Riders may not be permitted to have a representative in the sound system booth.

Awards Ceremonies

Combinations cannot be required to participate in awards ceremonies. Awards ceremonies should be conducted to allow for social distancing. Rosettes will not be required to be placed on bridles.

DR 126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management and Levels Chart:

Food & Beverages Spectator Services

See modifications made to the chart. Food/beverages services are optional for Level 1-3 competitions with the exception that bottled water must be available for Level 2 & 3 competitions (see Levels Chart) and recommended for Level 1 competitions. Additionally, spectator services are not required (per USEF Action Plan).

For Federation/USDF Championship classes (Competition Levels 4 & 5), food service is based on local health department requirements. At a minimum, pre-packaged food and water must be available; however, hours may be limited. Information must be included in the prize list and/or competition management must inform competitors prior to their arrival regarding the status of food availability on the grounds.



Designated Judge/Rider Forms

The Designated Judge/Rider Evaluation forms will be suspended. USEF will contact competitors at random directly following a competition and request that the competitor complete the USEF Evaluation form via their My USEF Account found [here](#).

Eligibility and Verification of Entries

Technical Delegates are not required to check entries to verify competitor eligibility. Competitors are still required to be eligible and follow all rules for their Championship and/or Championship qualifying purposes. Per DR127.2, Competition secretaries of Federation Dressage Competitions are responsible to the Federation to ensure that horses in qualifying and championship classes are recorded in compliance with GR1102 and riders and owners are current members of the Federation and meet other requirements as set forth in the description of the Championship Classes, including that USDF membership and horse registration requirements are current.

Pony Measurement

Please see the USEF guidance on this topic here: [Licensed Officials FAQ - COVID-19 Action Plan](#).

Arena Fence at Letter 'A'

For Federation/USEF Championship Classes (competition Levels 4 & 5), the arena gate at the letter 'A' is allowed to be open. Please make sure to review additional recommendations for this found in the USDF Best Practices: Considerations for Dressage Competitions for USEF/USDF Regional Championships and U.S. Dressage Finals and the USEF Dressage FAQs for U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.