Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
DR 119.1	137-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)

DR119.1 Tracking #137-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/12/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Reorganize, clarify and add important content to DR119. Also, correct conflict between wording of DR119.2 and DR129. DR129 requires qualification to ride a freestyle to have occurred at a previous competition.

Proponent Details

Dressage

Contact Information

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules

Comments

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/13/2026

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/27/2026

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/15/2026

Draft 1: No additional comment

Member Comments

DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions. Change to read:

1. ***Eligibility.***

a. Dressage classes are open to riders on horses, mules and/or ponies of any ***breed or*** origin. ***However,*** Dressage Competitions and classes may be limited to ponies of any breed or origin. ~~However,~~ Dressage Competitions and open dressage divisions of other Federation licensed competitions may not offer breed-restricted tests or classes. ***See DR Subchapter 2 (DR204.2e) for information on breed-restricted DSHB classes.***

b. Participation of mules and ponies may be limited in the qQualifying criteria for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC or selection trials and classes designated as qualifying classes for international competition~~, may limit participation of mules and ponies (except championships for FEI Pony Riders)~~.

c. In the Dressage Division, a horse is an animal over 148 cm without shoes, and 149 cm with shoes. A pony is an animal that does not exceed 148 cm without shoes, and 149 cm with shoes. Unless otherwise noted, the term "horse" in these rules denotes either a horse or pony (see DR135).

d. Stallions are permitted in all classes, ***with the exception of*** Dressage Seat Equitation classes ***limited to riders ages 18 and under.*** (see DR133.1.*l*). Mares may not compete after their eighth month of pregnancy or within three months after foaling.

e. No horse may be ridden more than once in any Dressage class (including separate divisions or sections of the same class).

f. Horses showing evidence of broken wind or complete loss of sight in either or both eyes are permitted to compete. Horses with complete loss of sight in both eyes may only participate in classes in which they are shown individually.

g. Horse's age. The horse's age is to be counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year. ***However,*** horses in any under saddle class must be at least thirty-six months of age (from foaling date) at the time of competition. Horses competing in the following tests and levels must meet the following minimum age requirements per FEI rules:

i. FEI Children/Pony/Junior and Fourth level tests: minimum six (6) years;
ii. Young Riders/Prix St. Georges/Intermediate I: minimum seven (7) years;
iii. Ttests above Intermediate I: minimum eight (8) years.
iv. Horses must be a minimum of six (6) years of age to compete in an FEI Para Dressage Class.

2. ***Competition Restrictions.***

a. Horses may compete in no more than one Licensed Competition on the same day and are prohibited from competing in any non-licensed competition(s) held on the same day(s) as ~~they compete in a~~ ***the*** Licensed Dressage Competition ***in which they are competing.***

b. Horses competing in ***Federation licensed Regular or Local competitions (including Breed restricted) that are holding*** Open dressage divisions or classes ~~which must be offered prior to any other classes, at a Regular or Local Competition~~ are not permitted to participate or compete in other divisions or classes on the same day(s)***.*** ~~and~~ ***The Open dressage division or classes must be offered prior to any other classes. All Open dressage competitors*** are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival.

c. Horses are limited to a maximum of three Dressage rides per day at Fourth Level and below or two Dressage rides per day above Fourth Level. Horses competing at both Fourth Level and Prix St. Georges~~,~~ ***(***or their equivalents***)***~~,~~ are limited to two Dressage rides per day. Horses competing in FEI Para Dressage tests are limited to a maximum of two Dressage rides per day including non-Para Dressage FEI, USEF, or USDF tests.

d. Dressage Seat Equitation, Quadrille, Pas de Deux and Materiale classes are excluded from the maximum limit of rides per day and horses in these classes may compete at any level for which they are otherwise eligible during the same competition.

e. Horses may enter no more than two consecutive levels, Freestyle levels included, at any one competition (refer to the following chart). ***The*** FEI ***Intermediate B (***Medium Tour***)*** Freestyles ~~are~~ ***is open only to*** ~~permitted only for~~ horses ***that have competed*** ~~competing~~ at Intermediate A, ~~Intermediate B, or Intermediate II levels~~***, or higher at a previous competition.***

f. FEI Para Dressage tests may be ridden at non-consecutive levels to USDF, USEF, and other FEI tests. ***The Consecutive Levels chart does not apply to FEI Para Dressage tests.***

g. Consecutive Levels and Equivalencies.

Intro									
Tr.	Tr.								
	1st	1st							
		2nd	2nd						
			3rd	3rd					
				4th	4th				
					PSG &	PSG &			

					PSG	PSG			
						Int I	Int I		
							Int A&B	Int A&B	
								Int II & Devel GP	Int II & Devel GP
									GP

- All FEI Pony Rider and FEI Childrens Tests are equivalent to Second Level.
- All FEI Junior Rider Tests are equivalent to Third Level.
- All FEI Young Rider Tests are equivalent to PSG.
- The USEF Brentina Cup (Young Adult) Test and FEI Grand Prix ***U25*** ~~16-25~~ Test are equivalent to Intermediate II and the Developing Grand Prix.
- The USEF Four-Year-Old Test is equivalent to First Level.
- The FEI Four-Year-Old Test is equivalent to First Level.
- The FEI Five-Year-Old Tests are equivalent to Second Level
- The FEI Six-Year-Old Tests are equivalent to Third Level.
- The FEI Seven-Year-Old Tests are equivalent to Fourth Level.
- ~~The equivalency chart does not apply to FEI Para Dressage tests.~~
- Cross entry in Eventing tests and other Dressage tests is permitted as listed below:
  - Eventing ***Starter,*** Beginner Novice and Novice tests are equivalent to Training Level.
  - Eventing Training Level, Modified Level, and Preliminary Level tests are equivalent to First Level.
  - Eventing Intermediate Level tests are equivalent to Second Level.
  - Eventing Advanced Level tests are equivalent to Third Level.
- Except for Young Horse tests, all dressage tests listed above shall be considered equivalent to the highest test of the level (e.g. the FEI Pony Rider Team Test is considered equivalent to Second Level Test 3).

3. ***Rider Age Divisions and Eligibility.***

a. Junior/Young Riders: For purposes of competition in the Dressage Division, individuals are eligible as Junior/Young Riders until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21.

b. Juniors: For purposes of competition in the Dressage Division***, except for FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider tests and classes, i***ndividuals are eligible as Juniors until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

~~4. For purposes of qualification for and participation in competitions conducted under FEI rules, age groups are as follows:~~
~~a. Young Riders: Same as in DR119.3;~~

c. FEI Juniors:

i. Individuals are eligible as ***FEI*** Juniors from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 14 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

ii. FEI Junior Tests***, including freestyle,*** are open only to FEI Juniors. ***Ponies may not be ridden in FEI Junior tests or classes.***

d. Young Riders:

i. Individuals are eligible as Young Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21.

ii. FEI Young Rider Tests***, including freestyle,*** are open only to Young Riders. ***Ponies may not be ridden in FEI Young Rider tests or classes.***

e. Individuals who are eligible as ***FEI*** Juniors and ***FEI*** Young Riders may not enter both FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider tests on the same horse in the same competition; however, they may enter both ***FEI*** Junior and ***FEI*** Young Rider tests in the same competition on different horses.

f. FEI Pony Riders: Individuals are eligible as Pony Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 12 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16. FEI Pony ***Rider*** Tests***, including freestyle,*** are open only to FEI Pony Riders.

g. FEI Children: Individuals are eligible to participate in competitions and championships for Children from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 12 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 14. FEI Tests for Children are open only to riders in this age group.

h. U25 Riders: ~~A person~~ ***Individuals*** may compete as a U25 Rider from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of twenty five (25).

i. Seniors: Individuals are eligible as Seniors from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

j. Adult and Adult Amateur: Competitors shall compete as Adults from the beginning of the calendar year in which they

beginning of the calendar year in which they reach age 22.
k. Open: For purposes of competition in the Dressage Division, riders of any age are eligible to compete in an "open" class or division of a class. Riders age 22 and older who do not have current Federation amateur status are only eligible to compete in "open" classes or divisions, or classes with specific restrictions, i.e. by horse's age, etc.
l. Other Divisions based on rider or horse age or experience. Competitions may offer other classes or divisions within classes at any national test level for riders or horses as long as the class or division is clearly defined in the Prize List. Examples:

i. Maiden, Novice or Limit Divisions (see DR137)
ii. Horses or riders of specific ages (e.g., Training Level Test of Choice for riders 55 or older)
iii. Riders who have never shown above a certain level (e.g., First Level Test 3 for riders who have never shown above Third Level)
iv. Horses of certain ages or experience levels (e.g., Training Level TOC for horses age 20 or older)

~~7. The FEI Young Rider Freestyle test is open only to Young Riders.~~

4. Young Horse Tests.
a. Horses competing in the ***USEF Dressage Test for 4-year-old horses and the*** FEI Dressage Tests for 4-year-old horses ~~and USEF Dressage Test for 4-year-old horses~~ must be four years old. ***These tests are comparable to First Level.***
b. Horses competing in the FEI Dressage Tests for 5-year-old horses must be five years old ~~The FEI Dressage Tests for 5-year-old horses.~~ ***These tests*** are comparable to Second Level.
c. Horses competing in the FEI Dressage Tests for 6-year-old horses must be six years old ~~The FEI Dressage Tests for 6-year-old horses~~. ***These tests*** are comparable to Third Level.
d. Horses competing in the FEI Dressage Tests for 7-year-old horses must be seven years old. ***These*** tests are comparable to Fourth Level.
e. ~~The horse's age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year.~~

5. Hors de Concours.
a. An Hors de Concours (H.C.) entry is "outside the competition". Horse/rider combinations may only participate in a class Hors de Concours with the permission of competition management ~~may a horse/rider combination enter a class Hors de Concours~~. ***Said permission must be granted prior to the start of the class(es) involved.*** 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.~~
b. Hors de Concours entries must follow all Federation General and Dressage Division rules that apply to other entries in the same class, except ***GR1034*** ~~as described below~~.
c. 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.
d. Hors de Concours entries are not permitted in Federation/USDF Championship and NAYC qualifying and championship classes. ***See also DR119.6 below.***

6. Conflicts of Interest.
a. A Dressage competition manager or secretary may not serve as judge or compete at their own competition. However, a Dressage competition manager or secretary may ride Hors de Concours if they designate an assistant in charge while they are riding. This does not absolve the manager's or secretary's duties and responsibilities.
b. A judge may not be an owner of any competing horse, except that horses may be shown Hors de Concours in classes where the owner is not officiating (see GR1304 and GR1039).

7. Annex B. Minimum entry requirements for athletes of USA FEI sport nationality entering CDIs can be found in Annex B, which is posted on the USEF website. Athletes of foreign FEI sport nationality (other than USA) should refer to the rules of their National Federation for minimum CDI entry requirements.

8. Championships Qualifying Criteria. Published qualifying criteria or selection procedures for U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, and USDF Championships take precedence over other published rules:

9. Para Dressage Athletes and Riders with a Presidential Modification.
a. ~~Riders~~ ***Athletes*** with a diagnosed permanent disability who require the use of compensatory aids or adaptive equipment must hold a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate indicating their International (FEI) or their National (Federation) classification status.
~~13-b.~~ Athletes in FEI Para Dressage tests must have a current Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate which indicates their Classification status to be eligible to participate.
c. A copy of an athlete's Dispensation/Classification Certificate listing all of their allowed compensating aids and adaptive equipment must be included with the rider's entry, with a copy then attached to each of their Dressage test sheets for the

Judge's reference. ~~A copy must remain with the entry records for review by the Technical Delegate~~. ***A copy must also be given to the Technical Delegate and ring steward(s).***

~~14~~ *d.* Riders who do not submit a current Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate or a Federation Presidential Modification letter to the competition secretary cannot compete with any modifications, compensatory aids, or dispensations to the rules in DR Chapter 1. Federation affidavits cannot be used to compete with modifications or compensatory aids when either the Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate or Presidential Modification is not available.

e. See GR154, GR1309 and GR1310 for information on Federation Presidential Modification requirements.