

Dressage Levels

(for USEF Dressage Competitions or Regular or Local Competitions with Open Dressage Classes per USEF GR308.2e)

(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 **yellow** below that can be held at a lower level, if competition advertises classes held at a lower level.

Criteria	<u>Level 5</u> CDIs/CPEDIs USEF HP Selection Trials (I1– GP, ParaEquestrian) National Championship	<u>Level 4</u> Regional Championships, HP (I1) and other competitions as required or as approved by USEF (and USDF when required), upon application	<u>Level 3</u> Developing Program Qualifiers (JR/YR/YA, YH & DH) and other competitions as required or as approved by USEF (and USDF when required), upon application	<u>Level 2</u> Other licensed Dressage shows	<u>Level 1</u> “Introduction” to Licensed Competitions
Classes of a lower level	Optional national classes – standards for national classes must be at Level 3 or higher. Prize list must list classes conducted under lower level criteria and list specific modifications.	Required for HP and RC classes – lower level classes optional. Standards for any other classes must be at Level 3 or higher. Prize list must list classes conducted under lower level criteria and list specific modifications.	Required for Developing prog qualifiers– lower level classes optional. Standards for other classes must be at Level 2 or higher. Prize list must list classes conducted under lower level criteria and list specific modifications.	n/a	n/a
Opportunity Classes *no freestyles & all USEF rules apply	N/A (Cannot offer)	N/A (Cannot offer)	Two tests and only two classes per day at Training Level	Two tests and only two classes per level per day at First Level and below.	Two tests and only two classes per level per day at 2ndLevel/below
Length of competition	Three or more days minimum – may be two or more consecutive competitions. All competition days on or before the start of Level 5 classes must be Level 5, except that a lower level competition may be held on the day(s) after the Level 5 classes end.	Three or more days minimum– may be two or more consecutive competitions. All competition days on or before the start of Level 4 classes must be Level 4, except that a lower level competition may be held on the day(s) after the Level 4 classes end.	Two or more days minimum – each day may be separate competition. All competition days on or before the start of Level 3 classes must be Level 3, except that a lower level competition may be held on the day(s) after the Level 3 classes end.	One or more days	One day only.
Number of horses	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit, except must offer stabling if 150 or more horses	Limited to 75 horses.
Footing and arena type	Per FEI rules/ Nat'l Championship rules. Minimum of one “main” arena. All rings must have safe fencing with no plastic chains in any ring. Good all weather footing that stands up to climate and inclement weather: good depth, consistent quality- no grass rings permitted at any dressage class	Minimum of one “main” arena. All rings must have safe fencing with no plastic chains in any ring. Good all weather footing that stands up to climate; good depth, consistent quality – no grass rings permitted at any dressage class.	Minimum of one “main” arena. All rings must have safe fencing with no plastic chains in any ring. Good footing that can stand up to climate – no grass rings permitted at any dressage class.	Plastic chain rings and grass competition rings permitted for any class.	Plastic chain rings and grass competition rings permitted for any class.
Arena Modifications (Competition arena that is less than 20x60 or 20x40 meters)	Not permitted for FEI-recognized classes. Not permitted for national classes.	Not permitted for classes at any dressage level.	Not permitted for classes at any dressage level.	Permitted except for Regional Championships qualifying classes and freestyles per DR126.	Permitted except for Regional Championships qualifying classes and freestyles per DR126.
Warmup: size, number, footing	Per FEI rules/ Nat'l Championship rules. No designated grass warmup for classes at any dressage level.	Minimum size of standard arena, similar footing to main arena . No designated grass warmup for classes at any dressage level.	Minimum size of standard arena, similar footing to main arena – no grass competition rings at any level and no designated grass warmup for Level 3 classes.	Warmup must be provided but no minimum specs	Warmup must be provided but no minimum specs

Criteria for Existing or New Competitions

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Lungeing and Exercise areas	Must have separate designated exercise areas if three or more rings. Must have sep designated lungeing area	Must have separate designated lungeing area. Separate warmup required for championship entries	Must have sep designated lungeing area or lungeing not permitted in area with riders	Lungeing not permitted in area with riders	Lungeing not permitted in area with riders
Footing maintenance	History of good footing maintenance esp in inclement weather; maintenance once/hour . Maintenance required at least twice daily for lower level classes	History of good footing maintenance esp in inclement weather; maintenance minimum three times/daily . Maintenance required at least twice daily for lower level classes	History of good footing maintenance. Maintenance required at least twice daily.	Ring maintenance required minimum once daily.	No min requirements
Equipment for maintenance: dragging/watering	Must have appropriate maintenance equipment for all types of footing at the competition. Watering equipment strongly recommended	Must have appropriate maintenance equipment for all types of footing at the competition. Watering equipment strongly recommended	Equipment for ring maintenance required.	Equipment for ring maintenance required.	No min requirements
Stabling (Minimum specifications apply to both on-site and off-site stabling)	Required on grounds . Minimum 3m x 3m (9.8' square). Safe, accommodate stallions. No trailer in for CDI, Selection or Championship classes.	Required on grounds . Minimum 3mx3m rec; 9'x9' req. Safe, accommodate stallions. No trailer in for Champ. entries	Required on grounds . Minimum 3mx3m rec; 9'x9' req. Safe, accommodate stallions	Stabling required if more than 150 horses. If offered must be per USEF rules	Stabling optional. If offered must be per USEF rules
Show office	Adequate space, internet access onsite or offsite and phone access	Adequate space, internet access onsite or offsite and phone access	Adequate space, internet access onsite or offsite and phone access	No min requirements except phone access required	No min requirements ex phone access required
Facilities (electric, water, manure disposal, restrooms)	Water availability, lighting, electric plugs convenient to stalls, stall doors provided. Sufficient number of restrooms	Water availability, lighting, electric plugs convenient to stalls, stall doors provided. Sufficient number of restrooms	Water availability, lighting, electric plugs convenient to stalls, stall doors provided. Sufficient number of restrooms	Min per current USEF rules. Min one restroom required	No min ex. per current USEF rules. Min one restroom required.
Communication	Announcer & good quality sound system req. Announcements heard through facility (incl stabling, warmup & arena/office area) Radio/cell communication w/all staff req	Announcer & sound system req. Announcements heard through facility (including stabling, warmup & arena/office area) Radio/cell communication w/all staff req	Sound system and radio/cell communication w/all staff req	Radio/cell communication w/all staff req	No min requirements
Staff	Announcer, stable mgr, awards coordinator, official's hospitality, vol coordinator req. + history of adequate staffing. Vet, EMT and farrier must be on grounds, photographer req & videographer recommended.	Announcer, stable mgr, awards coordinator, official's hospitality, vol coordinator req. + history of adequate staffing. Vet, EMT and farrier must be on grounds, photographer req & videographer recommended.	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.
Feed, hay, bedding availability	Adequate supply and availability required. On-site availability req for bedding only.	Adequate supply and availability required. On-site availability req for bedding only.	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.	N/A

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Security – nightwatch	Required	Required	Recommended	Optional	N/A
Parking for competitors, trailers and spectators	Available and organized	Available and organized	Available	Available	Available
Judges, rating and number per class	Per FEI rules/ Nat'l Championship rules	3 FEI judges required per HP rules. RC classes per Regional Championships rules	Minimum of 2 “S” Judges	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.
TD	One or more “R” TD required per DR125 and FEI Steward (CI's only)	One or more “R” TD required per DR125	One or more per DR125	One or more per DR125	“R” or “r” DTD
Awards and ceremonies	Prizes req. per FEI rules	Prizes req per USDF rules	No min requirements	No min requirements	No min requirements
Concessions	*Complete service required from 1 hour before competition until end *Selection of hot/cold items & beverages all meals during show hours	*Complete service required from 1 hour before competition until end *Selection of hot/cold items & beverages all meals during show hours	Food/ beverages required from 1 hour before competition until end	Food and beverages required – limited hours permitted	optional
Prize money	Per FEI rules/ Nat'l Championship rules	Required for Championship classes	optional	optional	Not permitted
Prize list and entry process	Online – complete listing of officials	Online – complete listing of officials	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.	No min requirements except per current USEF rules.
Management	Minimum 5 years experience of both mgr and secy at USEF/USDF Dressage Competitions + apprentice at CDI prior to application for Level 5 status	Minimum 3 years experience of both mgr and secy at USEF/USDF Dressage Competitions w/three or more rings or 200 or more horses prior to application for Level 4 status	Minimum of 2 years experience or 4 shows for both mgr and secy at USEF/USDF Dressage Comps prior to application for Level 3 status	Experience not required	Experience not required
Manager and Secretary	separate individuals during competition. One or more full-time asst secretaries required	separate individuals during competition. One or more full-time asst secretaries required	separate individuals during competition	No req. One person may do both during comp.	No req. One person may do both during comp.
Scoring	Per FEI rules/ Nat'l Championship rules. Electronic scoreboard/ scoring rec. Announcement of provisional scores required	Class results must be posted within one hour of final ride in class	Class results of qualifying classes must be posted within one hour of final ride in class	Prompt posting but no min. requirements	Prompt posting but no min. requirements
RC qualifying classes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year end awards scores	Yes	Yes	Yes – except for Opportunity classes	Yes – except for Opportunity classes	Yes – except for Opportunity classes

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Drug rules	FEI/ Per Nat'l Championship rules	USEF	USEF	USEF	USEF
Spectator services	Required: seating at main rings, other services	required: seating at main rings	Recommended but not required	Optional	optional
Designated Competitors and Officials Feedback	Required from designated Rider and Judge	Required from designated Rider and Judge	Required from designated Rider and Judge	Required from designated Rider and Judge	Required from designated Rider and Judge
Application Approval Process	USEF	USDF regions and USDF Oversight Committee; USEF committees for HP	USDF and USEF	Jointly USDF recognized and USEF licensed	Jointly USDF recognized and USEF licensed
Computer software	Proven to produce all required FEI, USEF and USDF reports and track competition entries	Proven to produce all required USEF and USDF reports and track competition entries	Proven to produce all required USEF and USDF reports and track competition entries	No min requirements. Electronic results req. per USEF/USDF rules.	Optional. Electronic results optional.
Competitor amenities	Special events and trade fair strongly recommended	Special events and trade fair strongly recommended	Optional	Optional	optional
Show program	required	required	required	Optional	optional