

A COMPARISON OF DRESSAGE RULES

	*USEF Dressage: Intro-Fourth Level Tests	*USEF Dressage: FEI Level Tests (incl. Jr and 5, 6, & 7 yo)	FEI Dressage: Rules for Dressage Events 25 th Ed. Including updates effective January 1, 2020
D R E S S A G E	<p>Test: Short conservative color riding coat w/ tie, choker, stock tie or integrated stand-up collar, white or light-colored breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots, and protective headgear as defined in DR120.6. A cutaway coat (modified tailcoat) with short tails is permitted. Half chaps, gaiters and/or leggings are not allowed. Gloves of conservative color are recommended. Ex: Riders through First Level may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, w/o fringe, matching the color of boots, made of smooth leather or leather-like material. For the USEF test for 4-year old horses: a short conservative color riding coat w/stock or tie, breeches, and protective headgear. Current and retired members of the Armed Services and police units may ride in the uniform of their service w/protective headgear. Riders in classes and tests at all levels in Level 1 Comps, and riders in Opportunity classes in Level 2 and Level 3 Competitions, may compete wearing breeches and shirts of any color as permitted in DR120.8. Jackets or vests of any type are allowed but not required and neckwear may be worn only if the rider chooses to compete in a riding jacket. Boots and protective headgear are required. Warmup: Upon arrival on grnds: Boots/shoes must have distinguish heel. Protective headgear req. for anyone mounted. (GR801 & DR120). When the only warm-up available is open to all horses and riders, riders with safety concerns are encouraged to wear an orange vest. When sponsorship is permitted in accordance with GR1306, the name and/or logo of the individual's sponsor(s) may appear on each of the two sides of jackets or top garments at the height of breast pockets not exceeded 80 cm2 in size. Logos described under DR121 are also permitted as above. Name and/or logo of individual's sponsor may also appear on rider's protective headgear if permit by GR1306 and DR121. Earph/other electron devices prohib while compet but perm in wrmup.</p>	<p>Test: Dark tailcoat or dark jacket w/protect headgear, white or light colored breeches, stock or tie or integrated stand-up collar, gloves, and black riding boots. At all test levels, riders may wear jackets in other colors within the international HSV color scale, as described in FEI DR Reg Art. 427.1. Contrast coloring and piping is allowed. Protective headgear, stocks, ties, gloves and riding boots may be the same color as the coat. For Grand Prix Freestyle only: any single color tailcoat or jacket will be allowed; striped or multi-colored coats are not permitted, and tasteful and discreet accents, such as a collar of a different hue or modest piping or crystal decorations, are acceptable. For FEI Pony Riders and FEI Tests for Children: dark coat or club uniform coat, breeches or jodhpurs, white shirt w/tie or hunting stock, gloves, boots & protective headgear. Dark hatcover, Military/ police, Quadrille/Pas de Deux: See Tr-4th. Sponsorships & logos permit as described for Tr-4th level dress code. Dress code elim at judges discreet ex for headgear. Earph/ othr electron dev prohib while compet but perm in wrmup. Sponsorship: Same as 4th and below. Warmup: Same as 4th & below.</p>	<p>Civilians. Compulsory @CDI3*/CDI4*/CDI5*/CDI-W & CDIOS, FEI Champs, Reg. and OG: black or dark blue tail coat or jacket, or other dark colors may be worn w/in in internat HSV colour scale. Colours having a value for "V" smaller than 32%, according to the HSV model, may be approved thru applicat. to FEI. Contrast colouring & piping allowed. Protec. Headgear or top hat/bowler: black or same colour as coat; Breeches: white or off white; Stock or tie: white, off white or same colour as coat; Gloves: white, off white or same colour as coat; Riding boots: black or same colour as coat; Spurs: see below. GPF only: any single colour tailcoat or jacket will be allowed. Striped or multi-coloured coats or jackets not permit. Tasteful & discreet accents, such as a collar of different hue or modest piping or crystal decorations allowed. CDI1*/CDI2*/CDIAm: black or dark blue jacket (colors as above) w/top hat/bowler permit. Military, Police, members and employees/students of other State/ Military Establishments and Nat. Studs/schools/institutes may wear civil or service dress at all internat. Events. They must comply with all Prot. Headgear req. Prot Headgear req of Athletes (+ any others) at all times when mounted & by Children, Pony riders, JR, YR & U25 for the Horse inspect. Athletes 26 & older, riding horses 7 years & older, may wear a top hat/bowler instead of Prot Headgear in comp & warmup directly prior. Athletes permit remove hat/bowler (not prot. headgear) for saluting & prize giving. Earph/other electron devices prohib while compet but perm in wrmup.</p>
S A D D L E R Y	<p>Test: *English saddle w/flaps & stirrups req. for all tests & classes ex. FEI tests. Stirrups must have closed branches. *May be const w/w/o tree but cannot have horn, swell gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endur, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or West saddles (or mod vers) not perm ex. w/USEF Disp Certif. Tr-2nd: Snaffle w/ cavesson & both parts of flash (not too tightly fixed & adj. to allow 2 fingers under), drop, flash, or cross noseband. Headstall & caves/ noseband must be all leather or leather-like ex buckles, crescent & sm sheepskin disk on crossed noseband. No crescent nsbnd. Pad cavess/ noseband, crownpiece & chinpad w/cavesson allowed. Elastic inserts perm on crownpiece & cheekpieces only. Browbnd req & ex for parts that att to crownpiece/ headstall, not req to be leather/ leather-like material. Wear tabs on chk pieces & reins may be non-leather or othr material. Bridle crownpc mst lie immed beh poll & may ext fwd on poll; may not lie beh skull. Nylon or other non-metal material may be used to reinforce leather in headstall but must not come in direct contact with the horse. Thrtltch req ex with comb nseband or Micklem. A jowl strap is considered a throat latch and can be used to replace, or be used in addition to, a traditional throat latch. In order to meet req of this rule jowl strap must be fitted around or immed below horse's jowl. Nosebands with 1-2 lower (chin) straps must also have a throat latch, as described above. The back strap (or chin strap) of a noseband cannot also be considered a jowl strap. Comb noseband w/no throat latch perm; when used w/double bridle, lower strap of nseband (flash attach) nt permit. Micklem bridle perm at any level where snaffle permit; not perm w/ dbl bridle. Bit clips prohib w/Micklem. Multicolor browbnd w/gems, beads, etc permit. Non-metal decor on surf of nsbnd perm. Reins must not be rope or rope-like mat. 3rd-4th: Same as above or simple double bridle (bridoon, bit & curb chain, caves nsbnd only; curb chain may be metal, leather or combin. Lipstrap & rubber, leather or sheepskin cvr for chain opt) w/caves nseband. Engl style stirrups w/o attachments or safety stirrups compuls. Foot must not be fully or partially enclosed & must in no way be attached to stirrups (for example with magnets). Safety stirrups must have closed branch of metal or other breakaway mat. Saddle pads opt, but shld be white or consrv clr. Contrast color & piping allowed. Striped or multi colored pads not permitted. Logos, monogrms or names no more than 200 cm² allowed on ea side of sad pad. Warmup: Tr-2nd: Same as in Tst (snaffle). 3rd-4th: May use snaf or dbl bridle. 4 yo Test same as FEI YH ts. Caves, drop, cros or flsh nsbnd perm w/snaf usd in wrmup or comp ex as prohib for some ts. Parariders in PE & USDF/USEF ts. mst use snaf at Grades I-IV. Dbl perm in only @Grade V.</p>	<p>Test: Dressage saddle which must be close to horse & have long near-vertical flaps & stirrups. FEI tests at national competitions (exclude. HP, Yng Adult, FEI Jr & FEI YR qual cl.), a plain snaffle may be used, or a simple dbl. bridle (bridoon, bit & curb chain; curb chain may be metal, leather or combination; lip strap & rubber, leather or sheepskin cover for chain optional) w/ cavesson noseband (not too tightly fixed). Snaffle w/ cavesson & both parts of flash must not be too tightly fixed & adj. to allow 2 fingers underneath. Cavesson may have chin pad. Multi-colored browband w/gems, beads, etc. permitted. FEI Pony, Children & 4/5/6 yo Horses: plain snaffle req. A cavesson, dropped, crossed or flash noseband is allowed when a snaffle bridle is used in warmup or competition, ex as prohibited for some tests. Cross noseband not permitted for 4/5/6/7 yo Horses. Either a snaffle or double bridle may be used in the FEI tests for 7-yo horses. Combined noseband w/no throat latch permitted; when used w/dbl bridle, lower strap of noseband (flash attach) not permitted. Micklem bridle permit only where snaffles permit. Not permit w/ dbl bridle. Bit clips not permit w/Micklem. Saddle pads, stirrups, sponsorship, bridle padding & logos same as Tr-4th Levels. FEI Para-Eq riders may use plain snaffle or simple dbl bridle. Warmup: Same or may use snaffle. DR121.7. Note: Dbl bridle req for USEF HP cl; Yng Adult qual & champ cl. Snaffle bridles are permit for NAJC qual cl, USEF JR qual & YR qual cl. Dbl bridles mandatory for NAJC and USEF JR & YR champs.</p>	<p>Test: Same as USEF FEI levels except less specific and some exceptions: Safety stirrups may have an opening on the outside branch. Saddle pads are optional, but should be white. Plain colour saddle pads may be used. Elastic inserts are permitted in crownpiece and cheek pieces only and must not be in direct contact with the horse or the bit. At any level of competition a noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes harm to horse, and must be checked as per the Stewards Manual noseband protocol. For CDI/CDIO3*/4*/5*/U25, CDI-Ws and Championships/Games (ex. Ponies, Children, Juniors and Young Riders), a double bridle with cavesson noseband is mandatory i.e. bridoon and curb with curb chain. A combined noseband may be used without the lower "flash" strap. The curb chain can be made of metal, leather or a combination. Lip strap and rubber, leather or sheepskin cover for curb chain are optional. Neither a cavesson noseband nor a curb chain may ever be as tightly fixed so as to harm the Horse. A snaffle bridle or double bridle is allowed in CDI1* and 2*, CDIO2*, CDU, CDIOJ, CDIY, CDIOY, CDIAm and CDIYH for seven (7) year old Horses and Junior and Young Rider Championships. For CDIP/Ch, CDIO/Ch, Ponies and Children Championships, CDIYH for five (5) and six (6) year old Horses, and as marked on test sheets, a snaffle bridle is to be used. Warmup: Same or may use snaffle w/cavesson, dropped, Mexican (crossed, figure-8) or flash noseband. NOTE: FEI rules do not mention fit of jowl strap.</p>
B I T S	<p>Pictured in USEF Rule Book & Annex A. All mst be smooth w/ solid surfce; no twisted, wire or roller bits. Snaffle mouthpc w/more than one rolling prt prohib. Bits may be made w/rubber or plastic cvr, but may not be modif by adding latex, etc. Metal or rigid plastic, synthetic or flexible mouthpc snaffles (incl. flex. rubber or synthetic) permit, providing contours conform to pictured bit. Bits must not place mechanical restraint upon the tongue. Flex mouthpc bits not allow in FEI ts or w/dbl bridle. A dbl jnted snaf w/rotat. mouthpc may be shaped to allow tongue relief; max ht of deviation is 30mm frm lower prt of tongue side to highest pt of deviat; widest part of deviat must be where mouthpc contacts tongue & mst have min width of 30mm. Mouthpc of joint or unjoint snaffle may be shapd in sl curve, but other ported snaffles prohib. Mouthpc of snaffle may have up to 2 joints. A bushing, barrel, coupling or ball jointed permit as center link in dbl joint snaffle ex. surf of cnterpc mst be solid w/no movab prts other than a roller and ex as pict; Center link may be tilt in different orient o mouthpiece but must hve rounded edges (no Dr Bristol) and may not have the effect of a tongue plate. Snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece</p>	<p>Pictured in USEF Rule Book & Annex A. Same as Tr-4th ex: A bridoon is defined as a snaffle bit used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle. Bridoon bits where center link(s) of bits can lock, and have effect of a mullen-mouth snaffle, are not permitted. Curb and/or bridoon bits of a double bridle must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber (in manufact state); flexible rubber or synthetic curb or bridoon bits not permitted; A bridoon must have one or two joints. A bushing, barrel, coupling or ball joint is permitted as center link in a double jointed snaffle or bridoon, however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts, other than a roller. Bridoon mouthpiece must have rounded edges. Lever arm of curb bit is limit to 10 cm. (length below mouth piece). Upper cheek must not be longer than lower cheek. Curbs may have straight or S-shaped cheeks and rotating lever arms. The snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece must be minimum 10 mm diameter at rings or cheeks of mouthpiece. Curb</p>	<p>Pictured in FEI Dres. Regs. Same as USEF FEI Levels, ex. snaffle, bridoon and curb bits must have a smooth surface and bits may be covered with rubber/latex. Note wording for size of mouthpiece: Min diameter of mouthpiece is 12 mm for curb bit, and 10 mm for bridoon bit. Snaffles must have a min diameter of 12 mm for horses and 10mm for Ponies. Snaffle bits are permitted when the use of a double bridle is not required. Snaffle bits may be used with loose ring, D-Ring, Eggbutt and hanging cheeks. Single or double jointed snaffles may also be used with upper or lower cheeks, full cheeks or Fulmer cheeks. Loose rings may have a sleeve fitted around part of the ring.</p>

	must be min 10mm diam at mouthp rings or cheeks, ex. Ponies: diameter may be less than 10mm. Type of bit may not vary, mst be attach only as pict. Any bit combining any mouthpiece pictured in Fig.1A w/any cheekpiece in 1A is permit. Curb lever arm (length below mouthpiece) must not ex 10cm; upper cheek mst not be longer than lower chk; if sliding mouthpc, length must not ex 10 cm when mouthpiece is at uppermost posit. Curb mouthpiece must be min 12 mm diam at cheeks. Curb bit w/rotating lever arm permitted (DR121) Plain snaffle required for Equitation.	mouthpiece diam must be min 12 mm at cheeks. Snaffles used in YH and Children classes must have a min diameter of 12 mm . Tongue relief same as Tr-4 th Levels. FEI Level horses may be warmed up only in a double bridle (with both bit and/or bridoon made of metal or rigid plastic) or permitted metal or rigid plastic snaffle pictured. Curb chain hooks are required and can be fixed or not fixed. Curb chain may never be so tightly fixed as to harm horse. For FEI tests ridden at national competitions, a plain snaffle bridle or simple double bridle may be used. For USEF HP qual & champs classes, USEF Young Adult qual & champs classes, a double bridle is mandatory.	
W H I P	Mounted rider may carry one whip no longer than 47.2" (120 cm) incl. lash, in all classes ex. <u>elimination</u> in USEF/USDF Champs & USEF National Dres. Champs. (Except: Sidesaddle riders may carry whip not over 47.2" in USEF/USDF Champ.) Whips permitted in all qual. classes (incl. NAYRC & NAJC) unless otherwise prohib by USEF or FEI rules or class selection procedures. Warmup: One lungeing whip only when lungeing & one whip not over 47.2" (incl. lash) permitted. Adjustable length whip prohib. while mounted. No restriction on whip length for working horse in hand. Optional for Equitation.	Same as Tr-4 th Levels, ex one whip no longer than 100 cm perm in FEI Pony Rider Tests & no whip in (1) USEF/USDF Chmps; (2) USEF HP Champs, Qual & Select Trials; (3) USEF Nat Dres Chmps (DR120.5 & 121.9). HP classes: Upon arrival, only rider when riding, walking, leading or lungeing (lunge whip allowed) may carry whip (max 120 cm). Groom may walk, lead & lunge w/whip. Whip must be drop before entering space around arena or will receive an error.	Test: Forbidden. Warmup: One whip with a total max. length of 120 cm is permitted (100 cm for Pony cl). Upon arrival on grounds, only Athlete when riding, walking in hand, leading or lungeing (lunge whip permit) may carry a whip (max. 120 cm & 100 cm for ponies). Groom may walk, lead & lunge w/whip. Whip must be dropped before entering space arnd arena or rider will rec. an error. Whips in prize giving allowed.
S P U R S	Optional through-4 th Level and for all FEI Tests for Children, FEI Pony Tests, and USEF test for 4-yo horses. Must be metal & English-style. Shank must be curved or straight, pointing directly back from center of spur when on boot. If curved shank, must be worn only directed down. Swan-necked spurs allowed. Inside arm must be smooth & one or both arms may have rubber covers. If w/rowels, must be blunt/smooth & free to rotate. Metal spurs w/round, hard plastic knobs on shank are allowed ("Impuls" spur). "Dummy" spurs w/no shank permit. Max length for spurs used in all ex FEI Pony classes/tests is 5.08 cm (2") incl rowels. Spur length meas from base to end of shank. Restrict also applies to wrmup & training areas. Opt for Equitation.	Mandatory, ex. spurs optional in FEI Junior Tests and FEI Tests for 4, 5 & 6 yo horses. FEI Pony Riders & Children. Only blunt metal spurs (i.e., w/no rowels) no longer than 3.5 cm permitted for FEI Pony Riders & Children. Otherwise same as Tr-4 th Levels. HP classes: Same as FEI, i.e. if w/rowels, must be blunt/smooth & free to rotate.	Req ex. for CDIP and CDICH events. Must be metal. Shank must be curved or straight point directly back frm center of spur when on boot. Arms must be smooth & blunt (no sharp edges). If w/rowels, must be blunt/ smooth/free to rotate. Metal spurs w/rnd, hrd plastic knobs on shnk allowd (Impuls spur). Dummy spurs w/no shank allow. (Art 427) Pony Ridrs & Child: Spurs optional but if used, only blunt metal spurs max 3.5 cm. Spur length measured from boot to tip. Rowels not allowed.
E Q U I P M E N T	Test: Forbidden: Marting, bit grds, gadgets(bearing, side, run or balanc reins, neck straps, nasal strps, tongue tied dwn, etc), boots (incl Easy Boots), bndgs (inc tail bndg), blinkers, ear muffs/ plugs, nose & seat cvrs, hoods, equine body tape/bands & rein addit/ attachm ex leg bndg allow in PDD & Quadrille; breastpl &/or crupper allow. One small ID tag, max 1.5" (Ver Tag) may be attach to mane. Ea bit mst be attach to a sep rein. Reins may only attach to bits. Decoration of horse forbid ex braiding mane/tail. (Exception: A red ribbon in horse's tail is permit. to identify horse that kicks). False tails w/ metal parts permit. Shoes w/or w/o cuffs attach w/nails or glue, or wraps, & don't ext past hair line of hoof permit. Fly hoods, discreet in color & design, permit for all cl but mst not cover horse's eyes & may not be attached to nose band. Blinkers & fly masks that cover horse's eyes are permit. in warmup but forbidden in competition. Cooling caps (hoods) are forbidden in competition & warmup. Fly hoods may have manufact or other permit logo. Warmup: Same ex run martingale (only w/snaffle rein of pl snaf bridle & connect to rein on same side & free to slide; rings thr which reins slide may not connect to neck strap); boots, bndg (w/o magnets) permit. Single dir side reins (attach frm bit to girth, saddle or surcingle on side of hrse (not bet legs) or double sliding (triangle) side reins perm only when lung (mounted or unmounted). Dbl slid side reins may attach to saddle or surcingle & girth or both ends of ea rein may attach to saddle, surcingle &/or girth. Only 1 lnge line perm only while lungeing. Drivng & long lining prohib. Lunge line must attach only to snaf bit of bridle, (on ins. or across head, or under/ around chin, to snaffle ring on opposite side of handler), halter or cavesson & go direct to longeur's hand. Dbl bridle not perm while lungeing. Fly hoods/ear covrs that don't cvr eyes permit & can't use ear plugs. Numbers req when horse is exercised or ridden. Equitation: Back #'s req. Nose net may be permitted.	Same as Tr-4 th Levels, ex. breastplate &/or crupper not permitted in USEF HP Champs, USEF HP Qualifying & Selection Trials. Warmup: Running martingales not permitted for horses entered in USEF HP qualifying & selection trials. Noise canceling ear muffs/plugs permitted at prize-giving ceremonies for horses competing at any level, including HP classes. (DR121)	Test: Generally same as USEF FEI levels but less specific. Forbidden: Gadgets. Martingales, breast plates, bit guards, boots, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins, nasal strips etc.) and any form of blinkers. False tails/tail extensions are permitted only with prior permission of the FEI. Requests for such permission should be directed to the FEI Dressage dept accompanied by photos and vet. certificate. False tails may not contain any metal parts, (ex. for hooks and eyelets), or extra added weight. Ear hoods: Same as USEF all levels. Ear plugs only allowed in prize giving. If enter space around or in arena w/boots or bndg will incur penalty. Warmup: Snaffles w/cavesson or a normal dropped noseband, Mexican noseband or Flash noseband, boots, bandages are allowed. Lungeing cavessons, single direct side reins or double sliding side reins permitted when lungeing. Lungeing is allowed with one (1) lunge line only, attached to either a lungeing cavesson or a snaffle bridle/bridoon. Lungeing with lunge line attached to the curb is not allowed (USEF does not allow lungeing w/double bridle on horse). Each Horse keeps the same identification number provided by the Athlete throughout event. It is compulsory that this number is worn by horse while actively competing and at any time while working in exercise and schooling areas or being hand walked (from the time of their arrival until the end of the event). The identification numbers shall be discreet on white background; the color of numbers may vary.
W E A T H E R	In locat w/high average heat/humidity, mgmt. can waive jackets before or during show. Riders must wear prot headgear & any color shirt w/sleeves & collar, w/o neckwear & w/o decor ex. permit. logos. T-shirts not permit. Mmbers of Armd Services/ police may wear summer uniforms. In inclement weather: May wear hat cover & transp or conserv color raincoat. If coats are waived, a solid-color cooling or lightwt vest may be worn over riding shirt as specified in DR120.	Same as Tr-4 th Levels. (DR120)	In bad weather, the Ground Jury may allow the wearing of light waterproof coat. In very warm weather, the Ground Jury may allow Athletes to ride without a jacket.
E R O R	National Tests: 1 st 2 pts; 2 nd 4 pts; 3 rd Elim. (but, at judge's discretion, may finish test unless would make next ride late). For USEF and FEI YH tests, & FEI Children, Pony Rider & JR tests deduction for an error shall be: 1st error: -.5% pts of total score rec'd; 2 nd error: -1% pts of total score rec'd; 3 rd error: Elim. For FEI & USDF Freestyle tests, 2 pts will be deducted for each error, but they are not cumulative and will not result in elim. Judge at C decides if error is made & other judges' scores are adapted accordingly (penalty points deducted) w/approval of C judge. (DR 122).	Same as FEI ex if elim at judge's discretion, may finish test unless would make next ride late. For HP cl, the following are errors & 2 pts deducted per error by each judge but are not cumulative & won't result in elim: (1) Entering space arnd arena or entering arena w/whip, horse leg boots, discrep in dress (e.g.no gloves) Ex: whip for +3 mvm =elim; (2) Not enter arena w/in 45 sec but before 90 sec after bell; (3) Enter arena before bell; (4) In FS, entering arena after +20 sec of music but w/in 90 sec; (5) If FS is longer or shorter than time allowed, 0.5% will be deducted from artistic score; (6) Using voice or clicking tongue repeatedly; (7) Athletes not taking reins in one hand @salute (DR 122)	1 st 2% pts from total score. 2 nd Elim; For YH, Child,Pny Ridr &JR tests: 1st err: -0.5% pts from total score per judge; 2 nd : -1% pts frm total score per judge; 3 rd : Elim. For FEI FS, 2 pts deducted for each error by ea judge, but not cumulative & will not result in elim. Judge @ C decides if error is made & other judges' scores are adapted. List of possible errors/penalties same as for USEF HP ex (1) for Freestyle tests, entering the arena after more than 30 seconds of music; (2) if test started before discrepancy noticed Jdg @C allows an asst to remove item/s. Athlete continues test & marks given before interrupt not changed.

*See USEF Dispensation/Classification Certificate for Para Athletes

(RED text in Chart valid as of 4/1/20; FEI rules valid as of 1/1/20)

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