



SECTION E: DRESSAGE AND PARA-DRESSAGE AMENDMENT SUMMARY EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2024

The following rules have been added or revised in the 2024 edition of the Equestrian Canada rules. All editions of Section E have been updated to include all of the changes in this document.

ARTICLE E 2.2 SITTING AND RISING TROT

In all levels the working, medium, extended trots and trot with lengthened stride are all executed sitting unless otherwise instructed. When rising trot is permitted in a test or class, the ~~rider~~ athlete should change the rising diagonal when changing directions, except during a lengthening. The correct rising diagonal is considered to be when the rider is sitting when the outside front foot and inside hind foot are on the ground. In general, riding on the outside diagonal correctly influences the horse's balance in movements other than straight lines. A change of direction in rising trot implies a change of rising diagonal, but it is up to the rider to determine where the change should occur. If no change is made, there is no error and no deduction is made unless the balance of the horse is adversely affected, as it might be, for example, in a turn, circle or leg yield. In that case, the movement is judged accordingly and the ~~collective~~ collective marks for Submission and Effective Use of the Aids could be negatively impacted.

At a transition from a rising trot to a canter, walk, or halt, the last few steps of the trot should be executed sitting. See test sheet for rising or sitting instructions.

Note: Sidesaddle: Ladies riding sidesaddle execute all trot movements sitting.

ARTICLE E 3.0 EC PROGRESSIVE COMPETITION AND SPORT LICENCE SYSTEM CHART FOR COMPETITION LEVELS

COMPETITION ORGANIZATION	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
<i>Prize Money</i>	Max. \$2500	Max. \$10,000 OR Max. \$15,000 for Championships	No Limit
<i>Days of Operation</i>	Maximum 3 days	Maximum 3 days	No Limit
<i>Approved By</i>	PTSO/EC	PTSO/EC	EC
<i>Equine Medication Control</i>	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
COMPETITION ORGANIZATION	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
<i>EC Rules (General Regs)</i>	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
<i>Drug Fees</i>	YES	YES	YES
<i>Dressage Rules (Sec. E)</i>	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
<i>Dressage Test User Fee</i>	Refer to <i>Schedule of Fees</i> on the Equestrian Canada website www.equestrian .ca	Refer to <i>Schedule of Fees</i> on the Equestrian Canada website www.equestrian.ca	Refer to <i>Schedule of Fees</i> on the Equestrian Canada website www.equestrian.ca
<i>Insurance</i>	YES	YES	YES
<i>On Site Medical/ Emergency Plan</i>	YES	YES	YES
<i>Veterinarian</i>	Recommended or ON CALL	Recommended or ON CALL	Recommended or ON CALL



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COMPETITION ORGANIZATION	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
<i>Permitted Classes</i>	All EC tests, Rising Stars Equitation, Developing Horse PSG/Grand Prix, FEI Materiale, and FEI tests. Exception: for FEI Young Horse tests, in Bronze, only the FEI 4-Year-Old test may not be offered.	All EC tests, Rising Stars Equitation, Developing Horse PSG/Grand Prix, FEI Materiale, FEI tests including Intermediate A and B, Intermediate 2. Grand Prix is not permitted. Exception: for FEI Young Horse tests, in Silver, only the FEI 4-Year-Old test may be offered. Only qualifying scores from Silver competitions may be used for Silver Championships.	All EC tests, Rising Stars Equitation, Developing Horse PSG/Grand Prix, as well as all FEI tests. Only qualifying scores from Gold competitions may be used for Provincial, Regional and National Gold Championships and stated criteria as posted by EC.
<i>Miscellaneous Classes</i>	As per General Regulations	As per General Regulations	As per General Regulations
<i>Championships</i>	None	Silver Championships	Provincial, Regional and National Championships
<i>Ring Size</i>	20 x 40* or 20 x 60 Only Introductory & Training Level may use 20 x 40 arena	20 x 40* or 20 x 60 *Introductory & Training Level may use 20 x 40 arena. In Championships all tests must be in 20 x 60 arena	20 x 40* or 20 x 60 *Introductory & Training Level may use 20 x 40 arena. In Championships all tests must be in 20 x 60 arena
<i>OFFICIALS: Judges</i>	recorded, Basic, Medium, Senior, FEI	recorded, Basic, Medium, Senior, FEI	recorded, Basic, Medium, Senior, FEI

ARTICLE E 4.1.1 FEI TESTS FROM ~~JUNIOR YOUNG RIDER~~ TO GRAND PRIX IN ALL EC SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS INCLUDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

[...]

ARTICLE E 4.1.2 FEI CHILDREN ~~AND~~ FEI PONY ~~AND FEI JUNIOR~~ TESTS IN ALL EC SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS

[...]

ARTICLE E 4.1.13 CET CREST

1. The CET Team Crest is an award of distinction and recognition. The CET Team Crest is awarded to an athlete who has earned the privilege of being selected to an International Team* representing Canada. Currently there are ~~three~~four levels of crests; Junior, Young Rider, U25 and Senior.

[...]



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3. Once awarded, the athlete while in good standing with EC, may continue to wear the patch with the following exceptions:

Exception: Juniors, ~~and~~ Young Riders ~~and~~ U25 may only wear Junior, ~~and~~ Young Rider ~~and~~ U25 CET Crests while age eligible. When no longer age eligible, the crest must be removed.

Exception: Only one CET Crest level to be worn on a given riding jacket [i.e. a Junior could have a Junior and ~~Y/R~~ Young Rider crest, but can only wear one per riding jacket]

[...]

ARTICLE E 4.2.1 SNAFFLE BRIDLE

[...]

5. Optional at Third Level through Grand Prix at EC competitions.

~~**Exception:** A horse/rider combination may not use a score earned in a snaffle bridle for Team qualification for FEI competition in FEI Junior (team or individual test), all FEI Young Rider tests, Prix St. Georges, Intermediate 1, Intermediate A and B, Intermediate 2 and Grand Prix. Judge must note use of snaffle on the test sheet in FEI levels.~~

[...]

ARTICLE E 4.2.2 DOUBLE BRIDLE

~~1. Required only if using the test score to obtain Team qualification for FEI competition in Junior (Team or Individual test), all FEI Young Rider tests, Prix St. Georges, Intermediate 1, Intermediate A, B, Intermediate 2 as well as Grand Prix.~~

~~2.~~ 1. Double bridles are ~~otherwise~~ optional in all tests and warm-up for Third Level through Grand Prix at EC competitions including EC Championships.

~~3.~~ 2. U25 competitors may use either a snaffle or double bridle at Intermediate II but must use a double bridle at Grand Prix 16-25 and Grand Prix Freestyle.

~~4.~~ 3. A double bridle must have a cavesson or comfort noseband with throatlatch and bridoon and curb with curb chain. All other versions of a cavesson noseband, e.g. crescent nosebands, are not permitted with a double bridle. Neither a cavesson noseband or curb chain may ever be as tightly fixed as to harm the horse.

~~5.~~ 4. For permitted bits, see 4.3 and 4.4.1 diagrams.

~~6.~~ 5. For permitted nosebands, see 4.2.3 diagrams.

[...]

ARTICLE E 7.4 TESTS

[...]

3. The EC tests are “Copyright ~~2019~~2022 United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and United States Equestrian Federation (USEF)” for use only in Canada and are reprinted through the courtesy and with permission of the USDF and USEF.

[...]

ARTICLE E 9.1 CALLING TESTS

[...]

8. All FEI tests and all freestyle tests must be ridden from memory. **Exception** see E 14.9 Masters Test of Choice.

ARTICLE E 9.9 SCORES AND PLACINGS

[...]

10. When there is only one horse in a class, ribbons and prizes shall be awarded in accordance with the following chart of percentages:

- ☐ 1st.....~~60%~~ 63% or higher
- ☐ 2nd~~57% to 59.9%~~ 60% to 62.9%
- ☐ 3rd~~54% to 56.9%~~ 58% to 59.9%
- ☐ 4th~~51% to 53.9%~~
- ☐ No ribbons or prizes shall be awarded below ~~3rd~~ 4th position.

[...]

ARTICLE E 10.0 FREESTYLE COMPETITION

~~The freestyle test is a competition of artistic equitation to music.~~ Dressage musical freestyle is an exciting and creative combination of the technical and artistic aspects of classical dressage. Recorded music is mandatory. It includes all the ~~school~~ paces and the fundamental movements as required in the technical test of the same level. The athlete is, however, absolutely free to choose the choreography within the stated time allowed. The test should clearly show the unity between the athlete and horse as well as harmony in all the movements and transitions.

ARTICLE E 10.1 FREESTYLE MOVEMENTS

[...]

2. Organizers are reminded that EC/USDF or FEI freestyle sheets must be used at EC competitions (Bronze, Silver, Gold) offering freestyles. Sheets may be obtained from EC at www.equestrian.ca/sport/dressage or the FEI at www.fei.org websites.

[...]

4. Compulsory, additionally allowed and forbidden technical movements for each level of freestyle can be found on the freestyle ~~score~~ test sheets which may be obtained from the EC website www.equestrian.ca.
5. The test time will start as the athlete moves forward from the halt and ends with the final halt and salute.

[...]

ARTICLE E 10.2 ~~FREESTYLE PENALTIES~~ REQUIREMENTS, LIMITATIONS & PENALTIES

1. Athletes are not required to submit a written copy of their freestyle ~~and since the ride is judged as a whole, no errors can occur program.~~

2. All compulsory technical elements listed on the test sheet must be incorporated into the freestyle program.

~~2.~~ 3. An athlete must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the music starting or they may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge. ~~Exceeding 30 seconds will entail elimination.~~

~~3.~~ 4. The music must cease at the final salute. If the music does not cease, a penalty of 0.5 of a mark is applied to the mark for the music. Each athlete may have a representative in the sound system booth to supervise the handling of the music.

4. ~~5.~~ At the beginning and end of a freestyle test a halt for the salute is compulsory. The initial and final salutes must be made inside the arena and with the horse and athlete on the centreline facing the judge at C.

~~5. A gentleman may not remove his protective headgear at the salutes.~~

6. Movements performed before the initial halt and salute are not scored but they are considered.

7. Movements performed after the maximum time allowed in a freestyle will not be considered by the judges. ~~Furthermore, and~~ the ride will be penalized by 1 point from the total after the multiplication of the coefficient for the Artistic Impression for exceeding the time limit. A 10 second grace period should be given before a deduction is taken by the deduction of 1 point.

8. An athlete performing higher movements than the level called for (clearly forbidden movements) will be penalized by 4 points from the Total Technical Execution for each illegal movement, but not for any recurrences of the same illegal movement. Judges must be fair by taking into consideration whether the movement was accidental or intentional. Athletes should read their level tests carefully to be certain that they are not including higher-level ~~forbidden~~ movements. All EC level test sheets state which movements are compulsory, additionally allowed or forbidden. (E.10.1.4) For athletes competing in FEI freestyles at EC competitions, the FEI test sheets state which movements are compulsory, additionally allowed or forbidden. (FEI Dressage Rules at <https://inside.fei.org>.) directives for FEI freestyles may be found at:

https://inside.fei.org/system/files/FEI%20Freestyle%20Directives%20for%20Judges_draft%20%20NEW_20.01.2021.pdf

9. ERRORS: The bell is not rung for errors occurring in Freestyle tests. Errors occur for failure to salute at the halt or rising at trot in Second level and above. Two points will be deducted for each error, however they are not cumulative and will not result in elimination.

ARTICLE E 10.3 MUSIC

[...]

4. The athlete must provide their music to the show organizer in the format(s), method(s), and time frame specified in the prize list at least two hours prior to the start of the class, with a functioning copy of their freestyle music in a format compatible with that stated in the competition prize list.

[...]

7. If music is on a CD, the athlete should have a back-up copy of their freestyle music available in a different media format ~~in case the competition management does not have matching equipment. If the athlete is providing their own sound playing device, they should also provide an adaptor to plug the device into sound system RCA connectors. It is recommended that the athlete check with the competition secretary prior to arriving at the competition as to what system will be available.~~

~~8. Organizers are encouraged to list their sound system requirements and acceptable media formats in their prize lists.~~

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~~9.~~ 8. In the case of an athlete's music failing during the freestyle test and in cases where there is no back-up system, the athlete ~~should leave the arena immediately~~ can, with the permission of the judge at 'C', leave the arena to re-start or start at a later time.

There should be a minimum of interference with the starting times of the other athletes and the affected athlete should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition.

~~The judge at C will confer with the athlete and determine when the athlete should return to the arena.~~ The athlete may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or from the point where the music failed. The marks will continue from the point where the music failed. Marks already given will not be changed.

ARTICLE E 10.4 FREESTYLE SCORING

[...]

2. Scoring of EC freestyle tests is out of a total of the maximum possible points at each level, the same as for scoring of all EC technical tests. ~~Scoring of FEI freestyle tests is out of a total of 200.~~ There is a technical component/section, (compulsory movements on the left side of test sheet) and ~~an~~ artistic impression (on the right side of test sheet), each are scored separately then added together for the final scoring as shown on each test sheet.

3. Scorers must apply the relevant coefficients to each movement as marked by the judge, in both the technical and artistic sections. These coefficients are clearly marked in the column titled Coefficient (Co-eff) in both the technical and artistic sections. Once the coefficients have been calculated, scorers must total the technical section and the artistic sections separately.. **Note:** ~~Competition secretaries are encouraged to instruct the judges' scribes, prior to the judging of the freestyle tests, whether or not to calculate the technical coefficients.~~

4. Once the technical and artistic totals are prepared, scorers must then add the total of the technical and artistic scores together and divide by the total possible score to calculate the final percentage to three decimal points. ~~A similar calculation using 100 and 200 for FEI freestyle tests will result in a final percentage score for each judge's technical and artistic plus overall percentage score up to three decimals.~~

[...]

8. In the case of a tie, the higher score for artistic presentation will determine the winner. Should the artistic mark be the same, the higher mark for harmony will decide. If still tied the higher mark for choreography will decide. Should the artistic mark be the same, the higher mark for harmony will decide. If still tied the higher mark for choreography will decide.

ARTICLE E 10.5 LOCATION OF JUDGES IN FREESTYLE TESTS

In EC competitions, when two or three judges officiate in a freestyle class, they may be located at the short end of the arena (e.g. M/C, C/H or M/C/H) but it is strongly recommended that one of these judges be placed on the long side at either B or E. ~~In FEI sanctioned competitions two judges must be on the short side and one must be on the long side (e.g. C/M/E or C/H/B).~~ It is recommended that at EC competitions where there is a judging panel for freestyles, that an uneven number of judges (3 or 5) ensures appropriate symmetry of judging.



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ARTICLE E 10.6 FREESTYLE ELIGIBILITY

1. Freestyle eligibility for athletes in Gold and Silver competitions (all EC levels and FEI freestyle levels): A horse/~~rider~~ athlete combination must have obtained ~~the following prior to competing in a freestyle:~~ a minimum score of 60% in a dressage test at the same technical level, or higher, as the freestyle they wish to enter (e.g. 60% in First or Second technical Level to compete in ~~the either~~ First ~~and/or~~ Second Llevel Freestyle or both First and Second level Freestyles. Proof of eligibility may be requested with the entry).
 2. The dressage score may have been obtained at an EC Gold/Silver dressage competition prior to the competition, or may be obtained at the same competition in which they wish to enter the freestyle. **Note:** Bronze competitions require no prior minimum technical score to enter. Furthermore, an athlete in a Bronze competition may enter a freestyle without having ridden the technical test at the level of freestyle entered (e.g. competes in first level technical and second level freestyle).
- [...]

CHAPTER 14

MASTERS TEST OF CHOICE

The Masters Test of Choice is an Equestrian Canada (EC) dressage class that provides senior riders, 60 years and older, the opportunity to participate in a dressage class that is exclusively their own in an environment that provides a fair playing field for senior riders wherein each will compete against their peers at all levels of skill, from beginners to advanced.

DETAILS:

[...]

6. The class will feature ~~one test~~ up to two tests per day and may have a class championship.
 7. [...]
 8. Masters riders may also compete in non-Masters dressage classes but will not be able to use the accommodations listed in E14.9.
 9. [...]
- f) May use a caller for all test levels except freestyle tests.

CHAPTER 20

EC AWARDS AND NATIONAL RANKINGS

ARTICLE 20.1

These rules must be used in conjunction with Section A, General Regulations, Chapter 15, EC Awards & National Rankings.

ARTICLE 20.2 ENTRIES

1. Any owner and/or rider whose horse competes in a class for which the horse is not eligible to compete will not be awarded points toward National Rankings and will be subject to disciplinary action by EC.
2. National Rankings points will be tabulated only from the date that payments and applications are received. These include but are not limited to: PTISO membership; EC Sport Licence; Amateur Status. Horses must hold valid EC Horse Recording (see General Regulations Article A402) Points are not retroactive in any case.



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3. All riders/owners must have a valid EC Sport Licence in good standing.
4. All trainers/coaches must carry the memberships and Sports Licence equivalent to the level of competition where they are training/coaching.

ARTICLE 20.3

The dressage/para dressage divisions have been grouped as per below chart:

Dressage	Para Dressage
Introductory (includes TOC)	Walk Test (Includes 1, 2, 3)
Training (includes TOC & Freestyle)	Walk/Trot Test (Includes 1, 2, 3)
First (includes TOC & Freestyle)	Walk/Trot/Canter Test (Includes 1, 2, 3)
Second (includes TOC & Freestyle)	FEI Grade I Novice (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
Third (includes TOC & Freestyle)	FEI Grade II Novice (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
Fourth (includes TOC & Freestyle)	FEI Grade III Novice (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
Masters (includes TOC)	FEI Grade IV Novice (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
	FEI Grade V Novice (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI Young Horse 5 Year Old (Prelim and Final)	FEI Grade I Intermediate (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI Young Horse 6 Year Old (Prelim and Final)	FEI Grade II Intermediate (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI Young Horse 8 Year Old (Prelim and Final)	FEI Grade III Intermediate (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI Pony (includes Prelim, Team, Ind & Freestyle)	FEI Grade IV Intermediate (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)



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FEI Children (includes Prelim A, B, Team & Ind)	FEI Grade V Intermediate (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI Junior (includes Prelim, Team, Ind & Freestyle)	
FEI Young Rider (includes Prelim, Team, Ind & Freestyle)	FEI Grade I Grand Prix (includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI Small Tour (includes PSG, I1 & Freestyle)	FEI Grade II Grand Prix (includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI Medium Tour (includes I2, A & B & A/B Freestyle)	FEI Grade III Grand Prix (includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI U25 (includes I2, GPU25, GP Freestyle)	FEI Grade IV Grand Prix (includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI Big Tour (includes GP, GPS & GP Freestyle)	FEI Grade V Grand Prix (includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)

ARTICLE 20.4

Points are applied using the final judge / judging panel percentage score:

- 51 - 55% - 2 points
- 55 - 60% - 4 points
- 61 – 62% - 6 points
- 63 – 64% - 8 points
- 65 – 66% - 10 points
- 67 – 68% - 12 points
- 69 – 70% - 14 points
- 71 - 72% - 16 points
- 73 - 74% - 18 points
- 75 - 76% - 20 points
- 77 - 78% - 22 points
- 79 - 80% - 24 points
- 81 - 82% - 26 points
- 83 - 84% - 28 points
- 85 - 86% - 30 points
- 87 - 88% - 32 points
- 89 - 90% - 34 points
- 91 - 92% - 36 points



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- 93 - 94% - 38 points
- 95 - 96% - 40 points
- 97 - 98% - 42 points
- 99 - 100% - 44 points

ARTICLE 20.5

Bonus points will be applied based on the following:

Bonus points for Championship Events i.e.

- Provincial Championship – 5 points
- Regional Championship – 10 points
- National Championship – 15 points