



**EQUESTRIAN  
CANADA  
ÉQUESTRE**

**SECTION E  
DRESSAGE AND PARA DRESSAGE**

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Rules of Equestrian Canada  
2026

# **CLEAN COPY EDITION**

This document contains the final text effective January 1, 2026.

## **EQUESTRIAN CANADA RULEBOOK**

The rules published herein are effective on January 1, 2026, and remain in effect for one year except as superseded by rule changes or clarifications published in subsequent editions of this section. Section E as printed herein is the official version of The Equestrian Canada Rules for Dressage and Para Dressage for 2026.

The Rule Book comprises the following sections:

- A General Regulations
- B Breeds
- C Driving and Para-Driving
- D Eventing
- E Dressage and Para Dressage
- F General Performance, Western, Equitation
- G Hunter, Jumper, Equitation and Hack
- J Endurance
- K Reining and Para-Reining
- L Vaulting

### **Section E: DRESSAGE AND PARA DRESSAGE**

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# EQUESTRIAN CANADA RULE BOOK

## SECTION E – DRESSAGE AND PARA DRESSAGE

These Rules are to be used in conjunction with the General Regulations of Equestrian Canada.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Equestrian Canada Rulebook.....	iii
Introduction .....	1
Chapter 1 Objects & Principles .....	2
Chapter 2 National Movements & Requirements .....	20
Chapter 3 Competitions .....	22
Chapter 4 Dress, Saddlery And Equipment .....	41
Chapter 5 Sidesaddle .....	59
Chapter 6 Para Dressage .....	61
Chapter 7 Championships.....	74
Chapter 8 Rising Stars Equitation Program Guidelines .....	82
Chapter 9 Execution Of Tests, Penalties, Judging, Scores And Placings ...	85
Chapter 10 Freestyle Tests.....	93
Chapter 11 Dressage Sport Horse/Pony Breeding Classes .....	101
Chapter 12 Materiale Classes .....	107
Chapter 13 FEI Young Horse Classes At EC Competitions .....	108
Chapter 14 Masters Test Of Choice.....	113
Chapter 15 Officials.....	114
Chapter 16 Advertising And Sponsor Logos .....	120
Chapter 17 National Rankings.....	121
Glossary .....	123
Metric Conversion .....	140
Index.....	141

## **EQUESTRIAN CANADA**

Equestrian Canada (EC) represents, promotes and serves Canada's equine community and industry. Its core areas of activity involve sport, equine health and welfare, education and safety, governance and marketing, lobbying and communication. Equestrian Canada is recognized by Sport Canada., Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) and the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) as the national organization representing equestrian sport and equine interests in Canada.

### **PATRON**

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Jeannie May Simon CC., CMM., COM., OQ., CD., FRCGS., Governor General of Canada

## **THE EQUESTRIAN CANADA RULEBOOK**

Knowledge of the rules of any sport is required of each participant, and the competitor at an EC-sanctioned competition must accept this responsibility. Both a complete knowledge of and compliance with the rules are essential, and all participants must be fully cognizant of all rules as well as particular class specifications in the discipline/breed sport in which they compete.

It is not possible to provide for every conceivable eventuality in these rules. If there is no rule to deal specifically with a particular circumstance, or if the nearest interpretation of the pertinent rule would result in an obvious injustice, it is the duty of those responsible to make a decision based on common sense and fair play, thus reflecting as closely as possible the intention of the rules and regulations of Equestrian Canada.

### **Organization of the Rulebook**

The EC Rulebook is divided into multiple sections, grouped by disciplines and breed sports. Section A covers general regulations that apply to all EC members, competitors, officials, owners, equines, organizers and persons responsible unless superseded in other sections of the Rulebook.

### **Evergreen Rules Process**

The Equestrian Canada rulebooks are updated annually, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. The official rulebook will be as published on the EC website and may be amended as follows.

### **Amendment of the Rules**

It is the right of every sport licence holder of Equestrian Canada to propose amendments to the rules, subject to the current policies, procedures and schedules. The deadline for Rule Change Suggestions (RCS) shall be May 31 each year in accordance with the procedures outlined on the EC Rule Change page. Suggestions will be reviewed by the appropriate discipline/breed sport EC committees who will consider all suggestions and put forward those they recommend as Rule Change Proposals (RCPs). RCPs will be posted on the EC

website to allow for a 30-day review period. The EC committees will consider all comments and make any necessary revisions. Rule changes will be posted on the EC website in December to be effective January 1 the following year.

The amendment process will be strictly followed. Extraordinary rule amendments will be permitted only for FEI rule changes, safety, monetary, clarification, ethical and equine welfare reasons at the discretion of the National Rules Committee using the following protocol. Extraordinary rule amendments will be effective when published by EC on its official website. FEI Rules, applicable to EC-sanctioned competitions, are effective upon publication by the FEI.

### **Extraordinary Amendment Process**

1. **Proposal** – An Extraordinary Rule Amendment (ERA) is composed by the EC discipline/breed committee, EC staff or National Rules Committee (NRC) with supporting rationale.
2. **Authorization** – The applicable discipline or breed committee must authorize each ERA, note it in their minutes and forward it to the NRC.
3. **Approval** – The NRC is responsible for confirming the ERA criteria (FEI rule change, safety, monetary, clarification, ethical or equine welfare) have been satisfied
4. **Posting** – EC will translate and post the amendment and show changes to both change visible and clean copy online Rulebooks. The amendments display the date of the NRC approval for consistency.
5. **Effective** – An ERA is effective when published on the EC website. The file reference shall retain the original approval date.

### **Interpretation of the Rules**

Please read all cross-references carefully and refer to the EC website for rule changes and/or clarifications. Should the English and French versions differ, the English version shall prevail. In the case of conflict between General Regulations and the regulations of the disciplines/breed sports, the discipline/breed sport rules will prevail.

## SECTION E – DRESSAGE AND PARA DRESSAGE

### INTRODUCTION

For any circumstances not specifically covered in these rules, reference should be made to the publications listed below. EC General Regulations can be purchased through the EC e-store or downloaded for free from the EC website at [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca). FEI rules can be obtained from the FEI website at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

- EC General Regulations
- FEI General Regulations (FEI Sanctioned Events)
- FEI Rules for Dressage Events (FEI Sanctioned Dressage Events)
- FEI Rules for Para Dressage Events (FEI Sanctioned Para Dressage Events)
- FEI Rules for Children, Ponies, Juniors, Young Riders, U25 and Young Horse (FEI Sanctioned Dressage Events)
- FEI Veterinary Regulations (FEI Sanctioned Events)

Since every eventuality cannot be provided for in the EC rules, for any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the officials and the competition management to make a decision in a sporting spirit and approaching as nearly as possible the intention of these rules.

**Note:** An Equestrian Canada rule amendment that alters the Dressage or Para Dressage rules will be effective when published and can be found on the EC website [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca). The FEI rules for Dressage can be found on the FEI website [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **OBJECTS & PRINCIPLES**

#### **ARTICLE E 1.1 OBJECTS & PRINCIPLES**

1. EC adheres strictly to the FEI dressage and para dressage terminology. Riders therefore can study the description of the paces, movements and figures and be sure that they are on the correct path to international competition, which is governed by the FEI.

#### **ARTICLE E 1.2 OBJECT AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF DRESSAGE**

1. The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy rider in a positive mental and physical state, through harmonious education, allowing the horse to be calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.

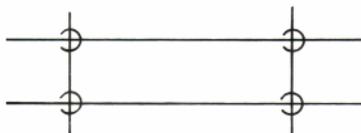
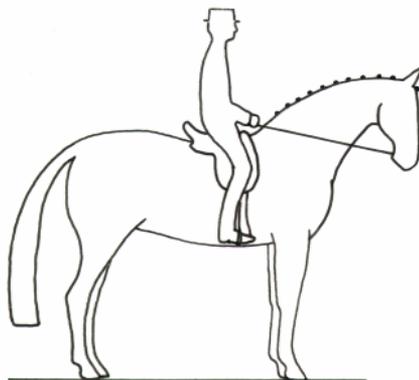
These qualities are demonstrated by:

- the freedom and regularity of the paces;
  - the harmony, lightness and ease of the movements;
  - the lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion;
  - the acceptance of the bridle, with throughness without any tension or resistance.
2. The horse thus gives the impression of doing, of its own accord, what is required. Confident and attentive, submitting generously to the control of the rider, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.
  3. The walk is regular, free and unconstrained. The trot is free, supple, regular, and active. The canter is united, light and balanced. The hindquarters are never inactive or sluggish. The horse responds to the slightest indication of the rider and thereby gives life and spirit to all the rest of its body.
  4. By virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of the joints, free from the paralyzing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.
  5. In all the work, even at the halt, the horse must be in front of the rider's aids, "on the bit", but it also has to accept the bit. A horse is said to be 'on the bit' when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and to the extension or collection of the pace, and when it accepts the bridle with a light and consistent soft submissive contact, thereby chewing the bit with a quiet, sensitive mouth. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule with the nose line slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the rider.
  6. Cadence is shown in trot and canter. It is the proof of well-developed impulsion and the ability to carry weight that enables a horse to move with proper harmony, well-marked regularity and balance. Cadence must be maintained in all the different trot or canter exercises.
  7. In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it should be done at the moment when the rider's body is above this point, except in transitions where the Horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular to the point where the letters are positioned. In this case, the

transitions must be done when the Horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that the Horse is straight in the transition. This includes the execution of flying changes.

### **ARTICLE E 1.3 THE HALT**

1. At the halt the horse should stand attentive, engaged, motionless, straight and square with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs. The neck should be raised with the poll as the highest point and the nose line slightly in front of the vertical. While remaining "on the bit" and maintaining a light and soft contact with the rider's hand, the horse may quietly chew the bit and should be ready to move off at the slightest indication of the rider. The halt must be shown for at least three seconds. The halt should be shown throughout the salute.
2. The halt is obtained by the displacement of the horse's weight to the hindquarters by a properly increased action of the seat and legs of the rider, driving the horse towards a softly closed hand, causing an almost instantaneous but not abrupt halt at a previously fixed place. The halt is prepared by a series of half-halts (see transitions).
3. The quality of the paces before and after the halt is an integral part of the assessment.



### **ARTICLE E 1.4 THE WALK**

1. The walk is a marching pace in a regular well-marked four beat with equal intervals between each beat. This regularity combined with full relaxation must be maintained throughout all walk movements.
2. When the foreleg and the hind leg on the same side move almost on the same beat, the walk tends to become an almost lateral movement. This irregularity, which might become an ambling movement, is a serious deterioration of the pace.

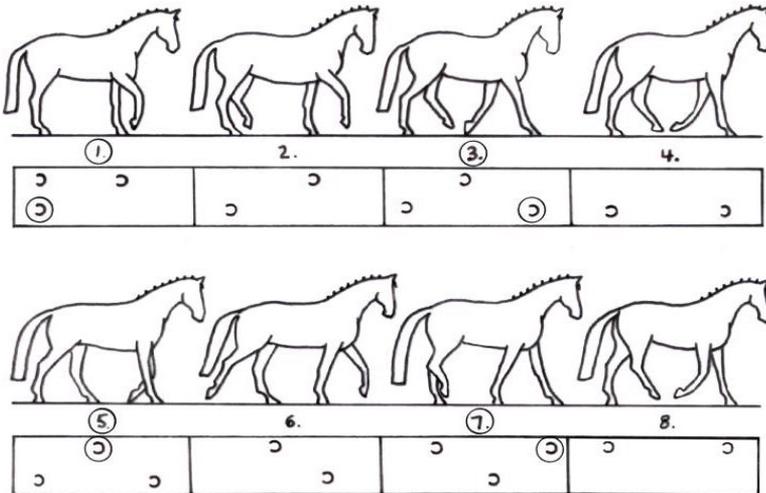
3. The following walks are recognized: Medium walk, Collected walk, Extended walk and Free walk. There should always be a clear difference in the attitude and over-tracking in these variations.

**3.1 Medium walk:** A clear, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate lengthening. The horse, remaining "on the bit", walks energetically but relaxed with even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the hoof prints of the forefeet. The rider maintains a light, soft and steady contact with the mouth, allowing the natural movement of the horse's head and neck.

**3.2 Collected walk:** The horse, remains "on the bit", moves resolutely forward, with its neck raised and arched and showing clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The pace should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. The steps cover less ground and are higher than at the medium walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The collected walk is shorter than the medium walk, although showing greater activity.

**3.3 Extended walk:** The horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of the steps, the hind feet touch the ground clearly in front of the footprints of the forefeet. The rider allows the horse to stretch out the head and neck (forward and downwards) without losing contact with the mouth and control of the poll. The nose must be clearly in front of the vertical.

**3.4 Free walk:** The free walk is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out his head and neck. The degree of ground cover and length of strides, with hind feet stepping clearly in front of the footprints of the front feet, are essential to the quality of the free walk.

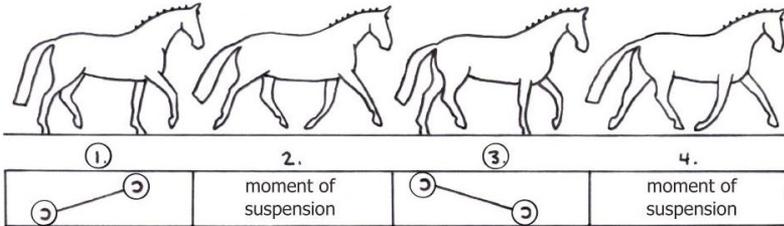


*The walk is a pace in four beat rhythm with eight phases (numbers in circles indicate the beat).*

## ARTICLE E 1.5 THE TROT

1. The trot is a two-beat pace of alternate diagonal legs (left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.
2. The trot should show free, active and regular steps.
3. The quality of the trot is judged by general impression, i.e. the regularity and elasticity of the steps, the cadence and impulsion in both collection and extension. This quality originates from a supple back and well engaged hindquarters, and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance, with all variations of the trot.
4. The following trots are recognized: Working trot, Lengthening of Steps, Collected trot, Medium trot and Extended trot.
  - 4.1 **Working trot:** This is a pace between the collected and the medium trot, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows proper balance and remaining "on the bit", goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.
  - 4.2 **Lengthening of steps:** In the test for four-year-old horses "lengthening of steps" is required. This is a variation between the working and medium trot in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium trot.
  - 4.3 **Collected trot:** The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward with the neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well engaged and flexed, must maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility, thus demonstrating complete self-carriage. Although the horse's steps are shorter than in the other trots, elasticity and cadence are not lessened.
  - 4.4 **Medium trot:** This is a pace of moderate lengthening compared to the extended trot, but "rounder" than the latter without hurrying. The horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps and with impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot, and to lower the head and neck slightly. The steps should be even, and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.
  - 4.5 **Extended trot:** The horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying, the steps are lengthened to the utmost as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to lengthen the frame and to gain ground whilst controlling the poll. The forefeet should touch the ground on the spot towards which they are pointing. The movement of the fore and hind legs should reach equally forward in the moment of extension. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition to collected trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.
5. All trot-work is executed "sitting", unless otherwise indicated in the test.
6. **Stretching on a long rein.** This exercise gives a clear impression of the "throughness" of the horse and proves its balance, suppleness, obedience and relaxation. To execute the exercise "stretching on a long rein" correctly, the rider must lengthen the reins as the horse stretches gradually forward and downward. As the neck stretches forward and downwards, the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder. An elastic and consistent contact with the rider's hands must be

maintained. The pace must maintain its rhythm, and the horse should remain light in the shoulders with the hindlegs well- engaged. During the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll.



*The trot is a pace in two beat rhythm with four phases  
(Numbers in circles indicate the beat)*

### ARTICLE E 1.6 THE CANTER

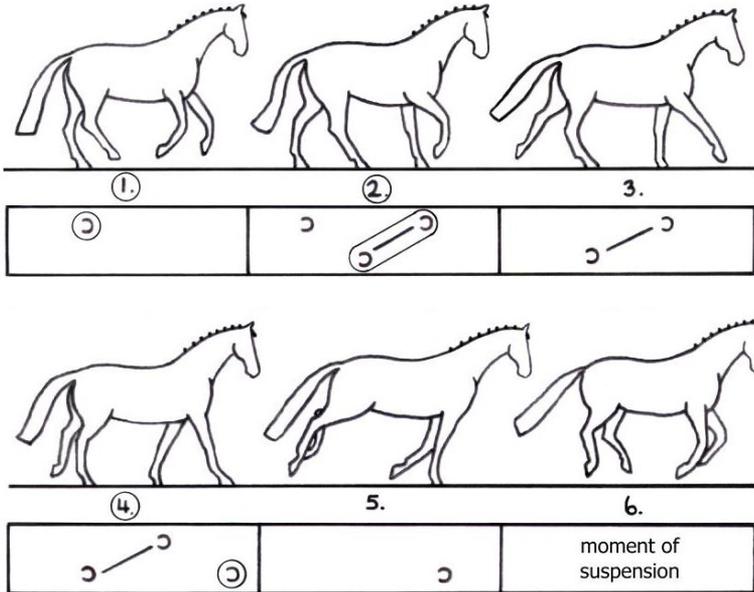
1. The canter is a three beat pace where in canter to the right, for example, the footfall is as follows: left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet in the air before the next stride begins.
2. The canter, always with light, cadenced and regular strides, should be moved into without hesitation.
3. The quality of the canter is judged by the general impression, i.e. the regularity and lightness of the steps and the uphill tendency and cadence originating from the acceptance of the bridle with a supple poll and in the engagement of the hindquarters with an active hock action – and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and a natural balance, even after a transition from one canter to another. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines and correctly bent on curved lines.
4. The following canters are recognized: Working canter, Lengthening of strides, Collected canter, Medium canter and Extended canter.

**4.1 Working canter:** This is a pace between the collected and the medium canter, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows natural balance while remaining "on the bit", and goes forward with even, light and active strides and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

**4.2 Lengthening of strides:** In the test for four-year-old horses "lengthening of strides" is required. This is a variation between the working and medium canter in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium canter.

**4.3 Collected canter:** The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward with the neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well engaged, maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility thus demonstrating self-carriage and an uphill tendency. The horse's strides are shorter than in the other canters, without losing elasticity and cadence.

- 4.4 Medium canter:** This is a pace between the working and the extended canter. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened strides and impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than in the collected and working canter, and at the same time allows the horse, to lower the head and neck slightly. The strides should be balanced and unconstrained.
- 4.5 Extended canter:** The horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying, the strides are lengthened to the utmost. The horse remains calm, light and straight as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to lengthen the frame with a controlled poll and to gain ground. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition to collected canter should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.
- 4.6 Counter-Canter:** The counter canter is a balancing and straightening movement that must be executed in collection. The horse canters in correct sequence with the outside foreleg leading with positioning to the side of the leading leg. The foreleg should be aligned to the same track as the hind leg.
- 4.7 Simple change of leg at the canter:** This is a movement in which, after a direct transition out of the canter into a walk, with three to five clearly defined steps, an immediate transition is made onto the other canter lead.
- 4.8 Flying change of leg:** The flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension. The aids should be precise and unobtrusive.
- Flying changes of leg can also be executed in series, at every 4th, 3rd, 2nd or at every stride. The horse, even in the series, remains light, calm and straight with lively impulsion, maintaining the same rhythm and balance throughout the series concerned. In order not to restrict or restrain the lightness, fluency and ground cover of the flying changes in series, enough impulsion must be maintained.
- Aims of flying changes: To show the reaction, sensitivity and obedience of the horse to the aids for the change of leg.



*The canter is a pace in three beat rhythm with six phases*

#### **ARTICLE E 1.7 REINBACK**

1. The reinback is a rearward diagonal movement with a two beat rhythm but without a moment of suspension. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternatively, with the forelegs aligned on the same track as the hind legs.
2. During the entire exercise, the horse should remain "on the bit", maintaining its desire to move forward.
3. Anticipation or precipitation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the contact, deviation of the hindquarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging forefeet are serious faults.
4. The steps are counted as each foreleg moves back. After completing the required number of steps backward, the horse:
  1. should show a square halt or
  2. move forward in the required pace immediately. In tests where a reinback of one horse's length is required, it should be executed with three or four steps.
5. Reinback series (Schaukel) is a combination of two reinbacks with walk steps in between. It should be executed with fluent transitions and the required number of steps.

### **ARTICLE E 1.8 THE TRANSITIONS**

The changes of pace and variations within the paces should be exactly performed at the prescribed marker. The cadence (except in walk) should be maintained up to the moment when the pace or movement is changed or the horse halts. The transitions within the paces must be clearly defined whilst maintaining the same rhythm and cadence throughout. The horse should remain light in hand, calm, and maintain a correct position.

The same applies to transitions from one movement to another, for instance from passage to piaffe or vice-versa.

### **ARTICLE E 1.9 THE HALF-HALTS**

Every movement or transition should be invisibly prepared by barely perceptible half-halts. The half-halt is an almost simultaneous, coordinated action of the seat, the legs and the hands of the rider, with the object of increasing the attention and balance of the horse before the execution of the movements or transitions to lower and higher paces. By shifting slightly more weight onto the horse's hindquarters, the engagement of the hind legs and the balance on the haunches are improved for the benefit of the lightness of the forehand and the horse's balance as a whole.

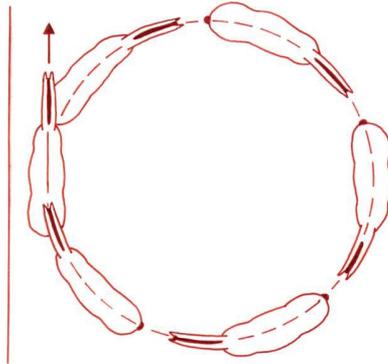
### **ARTICLE E 1.10 THE CHANGES OF DIRECTION**

1. At changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of his body to the curvature of the line it follows, remaining supple and following the indications of the rider, without any resistance or change of pace, rhythm or speed.
2. Changes of directions can be executed in the following ways:
  1. Right angled turn including riding through the corner (one quarter of a volte of approximately six metres)
  2. Short and long diagonal.
  3. Half voltes and half circles, with change of rein
  4. Half pirouettes and turns on the haunches
  5. Serpentine loops
  6. Counter changes of hand in zig-zag\*. The horse should be straight for a moment before changing direction.  
\*Zig-zag: A movement containing more than two half passes with changes of direction.

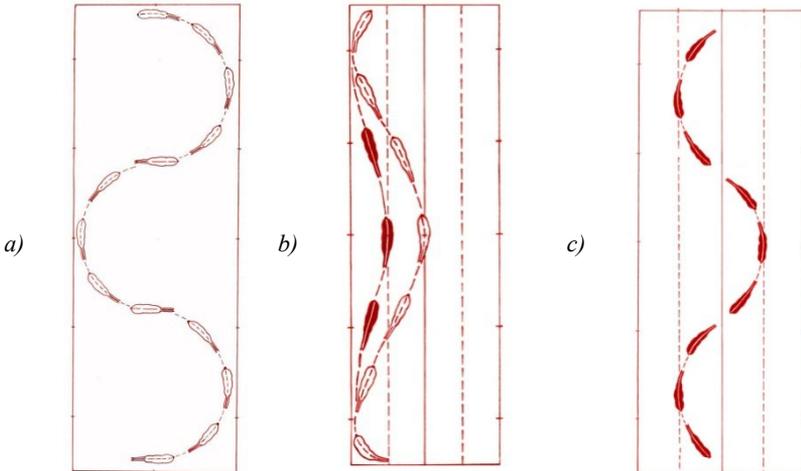
## ARTICLE E 1.11 THE FIGURES

The figures asked for in dressage tests are the voltes, the serpentine and the figures of eight.

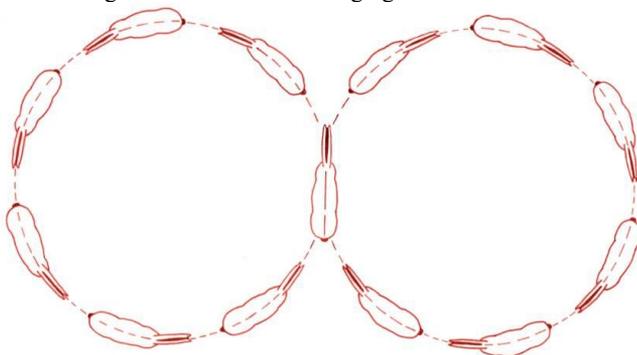
1. **Volte:** The volte is a circle of six, eight, or 10 metres in diameter. If larger than 10 metres it is a circle.



2. **Serpentine:** The serpentine with several loops touching the long side of the arena consists of half circles connected by a straight line. When crossing the centerline the horse should be parallel to the short side (a). Depending on the size of the half-circles the straight connection varies in length. Serpentine with one loop on the long side of the arena are executed with five metres or 10 metres distance from the track (b). Serpentine around the centerline are executed between the quarter lines (c).



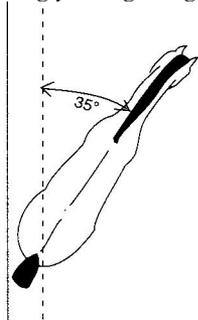
3. **Figure of Eight:** This figure consists of two voltes or circles of equal size as prescribed in the test, joined at the centre of the eight. The rider should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction at the centre of the figure.



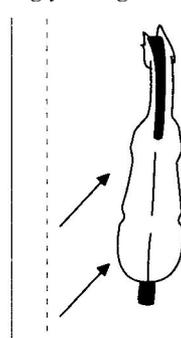
#### ARTICLE E 1.12 LEG-YIELDING

1. The aim of leg-yielding: to demonstrate the suppleness and lateral responsiveness of the horse.
2. The exercise Leg-yielding is performed in working trot in FEI Competitions. The horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which it moves, so that the rider is just able to see the eyebrow and nostril on the inside. The inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs.
3. Leg-yielding should be included in the training of the horse before it is ready for collected work. Later on, together with the more advanced shoulder-in movement, it is the best means of making a horse supple, loose and unconstrained for the benefit of the freedom, elasticity and regularity of its paces and the harmony, lightness and ease of its movements
4. Leg yielding can be performed “on the diagonal” in which case the horse should be as nearly as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena, although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the hindquarters. It can also be performed “along the wall” in which case the horse should be at an angle of about 35 degrees to the direction in which he is moving.

*Leg-yielding along the wall*



*Leg-yielding on the diagonal*



## ARTICLE E 1.13 LATERAL MOVEMENTS

1. The main aim of lateral movements – except leg-yielding - is to develop and increase the engagement of the hindquarters and thereby also the collection.
2. In all lateral movements shoulder-in, travers, renvers, and half-pass, the horse is slightly bent and moves on different tracks.
3. The bend or flexion must never be exaggerated so that it does not impair the rhythm, the balance and fluency of the movement.
4. In the lateral movements, the pace should remain free and regular, maintaining a constant impulsion, yet it must be supple, cadenced and balanced. The impulsion is often lost because of the rider's preoccupation with bending the horse and pushing it sideways.
5. **Shoulder-in:** Shoulder-in is performed in collected trot. The horse is ridden with a slight but uniform bend around the inside leg of the rider maintaining engagement and cadence and a constant angle of approx. 30 degrees. The outside shoulder of the Horse is brought into alignment in front of its inside hip; from the front and from behind one sees three (3) lines. The horse's inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside foreleg; the inside hind leg does not cross but steps forward under the horse's body weight following the same track of the outside foreleg, with the lowering of the inside hip. At the end of the shoulder-in, the forehand is brought back to the track and aligned with the hindquarters unless the shoulder-in is followed by a circle or a consecutive exercise on the diagonal line.
6. **Travers:** Travers can be performed in collected trot or collected canter. The horse is slightly bent round the inside leg of the rider, but with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. A constant angle of approximately 35 degrees should be (shown from the front and from behind one sees four tracks). The forehand remains on the track and the quarters are moved inwards. The horse's outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is bent in the direction in which it is moving.  
To start the travers, the quarters must leave the track or, after a corner or circle are not brought back onto the track. At the end of the travers, the quarters are brought back on the track (without any counter-flexion of the poll/neck) as one would finish a circle.  
Aims of travers: to show a fluent collected trot movement on a straight line and a correct bend. Front and hind legs are crossing, balance and cadence are maintained.
7. **Renvers:** Renvers is the inverse movement in relation to travers. The hindquarters remain on the track while the forehand is moved inward. To finish the renvers the forehand is aligned with the quarters on the track. Otherwise, the same principles and conditions that apply to the travers are applicable to the renvers.  
The horse is slightly bent around the inside leg of the rider. The horse's outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is bent in the direction in which it is moving.  
Aims of renvers: To show a fluent collected trot movement on a straight line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. Fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained.
8. **Half-pass:** Half-pass is a variation of travers, executed on a diagonal line instead of along the wall. It can be performed in collected trot (and in passage in a freestyle) or collected canter. The horse should be slightly bent around the

inside leg of the rider and in the direction in which it is moving. The horse should maintain the same cadence and balance throughout the whole movement. To give more freedom and mobility to the shoulders it is of great importance that the impulsion be maintained, especially the engagement of the inside hind leg. The horse's body is nearly parallel to the long side of the arena with the forehand slightly in advance of the hindquarters.

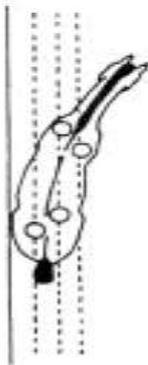
In the trot, the outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. In the canter, the movement is performed in a series of forward sideways strides.

Aims of half-pass in trot: to show a fluent collected trot movement on a diagonal line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. Fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained.

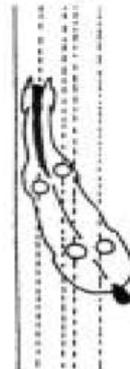
Aims of the half-pass in canter: to both demonstrate and develop the collection and suppleness of the canter by moving fluently forwards and sideways without any loss of rhythm, balance or softness and submission to the bend.

#### ARTICLE E 1.14 DIAGRAMS OF LATERAL MOVEMENTS

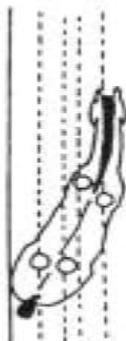
1) Shoulder in  
Epaule en dedans



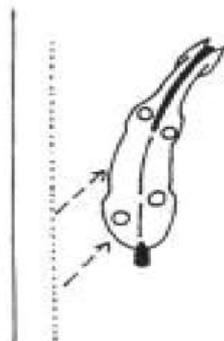
2) Travers  
Tête au mur



3) Renvers  
Croupe au mur



4) Half-Pass  
Appuyer

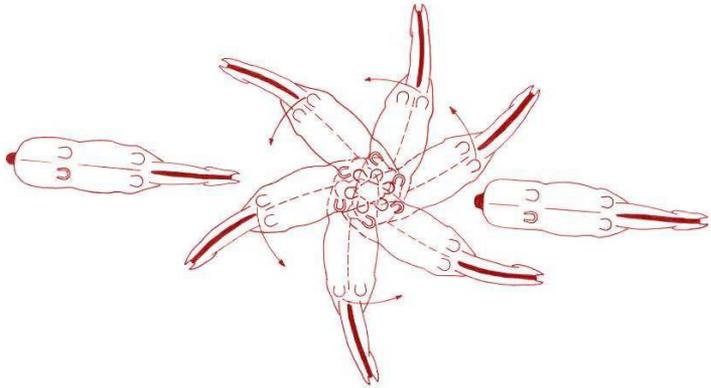


## ARTICLE E 1.15 THE PIROUETTE, THE HALF PIROUETTE AND TURN ON THE HAUNCHES

1. **The pirouette (half-pirouette):** is a turn of 360 degrees (180 degrees) executed on two tracks, with a radius equal to the length of the horse and the forehand moving around the haunches.
2. Pirouettes (half-pirouettes) are usually carried out at collected walk or canter but can also be executed at piaffe.
3. At the pirouette (half-pirouette) the forefeet and the outside hind foot move around the inside hind foot. The inside hind leg describes a circle as small as possible.
4. At whatever pace the pirouette (half-pirouette) is executed, the horse, slightly bent in the direction in which it is turning, remains "on the bit" with a light contact, turning smoothly around, and maintaining sequence and timing of footfalls of that pace. The poll remains the highest point during the entire movement.
5. During the pirouettes (half-pirouettes) the horse should maintain its activity (walk also included) and never move backwards or sideways.
6. In executing the pirouette or the half-pirouette in canter, the rider should maintain lightness of the horse while accentuating the collection. The horse's hindquarters are well engaged and lowered and show a good flexion of the joints. An integral part of the movement is the quality of the canter strides before and after the pirouette. The strides should show an increased activity and collection before the pirouette and the balance should be maintained at the end of the pirouette.

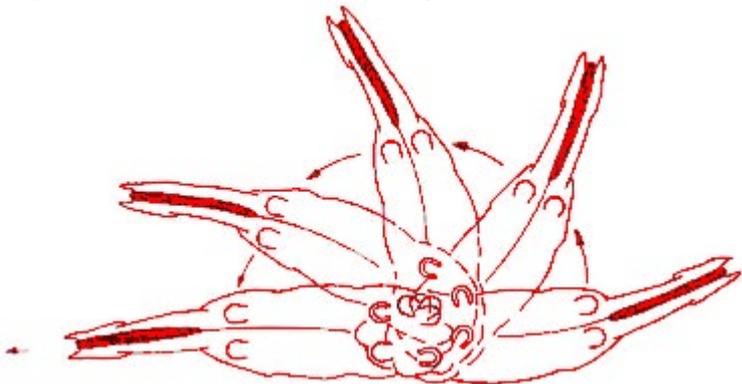
Aims of the pirouette and half- pirouette in canter: to demonstrate the willingness of the horse to turn around the inside hind leg on a small radius, slightly bent in the direction of the turn while maintaining the activity and the clarity of the canter, the straightness and the balance before and after the figure and clear canter strides during the turn. In the pirouette or half-pirouette in canter, the judges should be able to recognize a real canter stride although the feet of the diagonal – inside hind leg, outside front leg – are not touching the ground simultaneously.

7. The quality of the pirouette (half pirouette) is judged according to the suppleness, lightness and regularity, and the precision and smoothness of the entrance and exit. Pirouettes (half-pirouettes) in canter should be executed in six to eight strides – full pirouettes – and three to four strides – half-pirouette.
8. Half-pirouettes in walk (180 degrees) are executed out of collected walk with the collection being maintained throughout the exercise. When the horse exits the half-pirouette, it returns to the initial track without crossing the hind legs.



*Pirouette and half-pirouette in canter*

9. Turn on the haunches from walk. For younger horses that are still not able to show collected walk, the “turn on the haunches” is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. The “turn on the haunches” is executed out of medium walk, prepared by half halts to shorten the steps a little and to improve the ability to bend the joints of the hindquarters. The horse does not halt before or after the turn. The “turn on the haunches” can be executed on a larger radius than the pirouette in walk, at approximately one metre (Note: FEI rules state a radius of 1/2 meter. The larger radius quoted in this EC rule is due to the rules governing the USEF dressage tests in use), but the demands of the training scale concerning rhythm, contact, activity and straightness are the same. A turn on the haunches is to be judged like a regular half pirouette except that full credit must also be given for a well performed but larger (one meter) turn on the haunches. Full credit should also be given for a well performed regular sized half pirouette. A significant deduction should be made if a rider attempts a regular half pirouette but performs it poorly.



*Half-pirouette in walk*

## **ARTICLE E 1.16 THE PASSAGE**

1. **The passage** is a measured, very collected, elevated and cadenced trot. It is characterized by a pronounced engagement of the hindquarters, a more accentuated flexion of the knees and hocks, and the graceful elasticity of the movement. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with cadence and a prolonged suspension.
2. In principle, the height of the toe of the raised forefoot should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other supporting foreleg. The toe of the raised hind foot should be slightly above the fetlock joint of the other supporting hind leg.
3. The neck should be raised and gracefully arched with the poll as the highest point and the nose line close to the vertical. The horse should remain light and soft "on the bit" without apparent effort and without altering the cadence. The impulsion remains lively and pronounced.
4. Irregular steps with the hind or front legs, swinging the forehand or the hindquarters from one side to the other, as well as jerky movements of the forelegs or the hind legs, dragging the hind legs or double beat in the moment of suspension are serious faults.

The aim of passage is to demonstrate the highest degree of collection, cadence and suspension in the trot.

## **ARTICLE E 1.17 THE PIAFFE**

1. **Piaffe** is a highly collected, rhythmical, elevated diagonal movement giving the impression of remaining in place. The horse's back is supple and elastic. The hindquarters are lowered; the haunches with active hocks are well engaged, giving great freedom, lightness and mobility to the shoulders and forehand. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with spring and regularity.

**1.1** In principle, the height of the toe of the raised forefoot should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other supporting foreleg. The toe of the raised hind foot should reach just above the fetlock joint of the other supporting hind leg.

**1.2** The neck should be raised and gracefully arched, with the poll as the highest point. The horse should remain "on the bit" with a supple poll, maintaining soft contact. The body of the horse should move in a supple, cadenced and harmonious movement.

**1.3** Piaffe should show true commitment and must always be animated by a lively activity and characterized by perfect balance. While giving the impression of remaining in place, there may be a visible inclination to advance, this being displayed by the horse's eager acceptance to move forward as soon as it is asked.

**1.4** Moving even slightly backwards, irregular or jerky steps with the hind or front legs, no clear diagonal steps, crossing either the fore or hind legs, or swinging either the forehand or the hindquarters from one side to the other, getting wide behind or in front, moving too much forward or double beat rhythm are all serious faults.

The aim of piaffe is to demonstrate the highest degree of collection while giving the impression of remaining in place

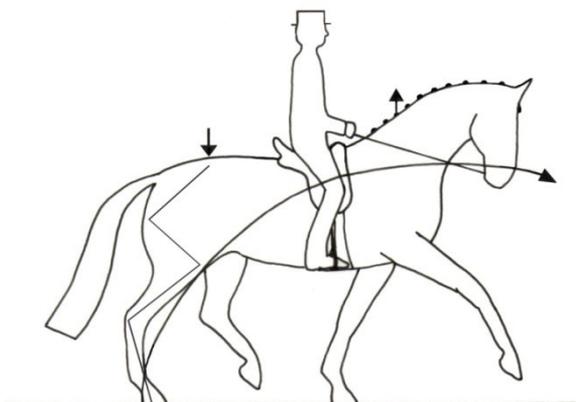
## ARTICLE E 1.18 THE IMPULSION/THE SUBMISSION (WILLING CO-OPERATION)

1. **Impulsion** is the term used to describe the transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled, propulsive energy generated from the hindquarters into the athletic movement of the horse. Its ultimate expression can be shown only through the horse's soft and swinging back guided by gentle contact with the rider's hand.
    - 1.1 Speed of itself, has little to do with impulsion; the result is more often a flattening of the paces. A visible characteristic is a more pronounced articulation of the hind leg, in a continuous rather than staccato action. The hock, as the hind foot leaves the ground, should first move forward rather than being pulled upwards, but certainly not backwards. A prime ingredient of impulsion is the time the horse spends in the air rather than on the ground. Impulsion is, therefore, seen only in those paces that have a period of suspension.
    - 1.2 Impulsion is a precondition for a good collection in trot and canter. If there is no impulsion, then there is nothing to collect.
  2. **Submission** (willing co-operation) does not mean subordination, but an obedience revealing its presence by a constant attention, willingness and confidence in the whole behavior of the horse as well as by the harmony, lightness and ease it is displaying in the execution of the different movements. The degree of the submission (willing co-operation) is also demonstrated by the way the horse accepts the bit, with light and soft contact and a supple poll. Resistance to or evasion of the rider's hand, being either "above the bit" or "behind the bit" demonstrate the lack of submission. The main contact with the horse's mouth must be through the snaffle bit
    - 2.1 Putting out the tongue, keeping it above the bit or drawing it up altogether, as well as grinding the teeth or agitation of the tail are mostly signs of nervousness, tension or resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the judges in their marks for every movement concerned as well as in the collective mark for "submission" (willing co-operation).
    - 2.2 The first thought when considering submission is willingness, that the horse understands what is being asked of it and is confident enough in the rider to react to the aids without fear or tension.
    - 2.3 The horse's straightness, uphill tendency and balance enable it to stay in front of the rider's legs and go forward into an accepting and self-carrying contact with the bit. This is what really produces the picture of harmony and lightness.
- The fulfilling of the main requirements/movements of a dressage test is the main criterion for submission (willing co-operation).

## ARTICLE E 1.19 THE COLLECTION

1. The aim of the collection of the horse is:
  1. To further develop and improve the balance and equilibrium of the horse, which has been more or less displaced by the additional weight of the rider.
  2. To develop and increase the horse's ability to lower and engage its hindquarters for the benefit of the lightness and mobility of its forehand.
  3. To add to the "ease and carriage" of the horse and to make it more pleasurable to ride.

2. Collection is developed through the use of half-halts and the use of lateral movements shoulder-in, travers, renvers and half pass.
3. Collection is improved by the use of the seat and legs and containing hands to engage the hind legs. The joints bend and are supple so that the hind legs can step forward under the horse's body.
4. However, the hind legs should not be engaged so far forward under the horse, that they shorten the base of support excessively, thereby impeding the movement. In such a case, the line of the back would be lengthened and raised too much in relation to the supporting base of the legs, the stability would be impaired, and the horse would have difficulty in finding a harmonious and correct balance.
5. On the other hand, a horse with an over-long base of support, which is unable or unwilling to engage its hind legs forward under its body, will never achieve acceptable collection, characterized by "ease and carriage" as well as a lively impulsion, originating from the activity of the hindquarters.
6. The position of the head and neck of a horse at the collected paces is naturally dependent on the stage of training and, to some degree, on its conformation. It is distinguished by the neck being raised without restraint, forming a harmonious curve from the withers to the poll, which is the highest point, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical. At the moment the rider applies his aids to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may become more or less vertical. The arch of the neck is directly related to the degree of collection.



## **ARTICLE E 1.20 THE POSITION AND AIDS OF THE RIDER**

1. All the movements should be obtained with imperceptible aids and without apparent effort of the rider. The rider should be well balanced, elastic, sitting deep in the centre of the saddle, smoothly absorbing the movement of the horse with his loins and hips, supple thighs with the legs steady and stretched well down. The heels should be the lowest point. The upper part of the body should be tall and supple. The contact should be independent from the rider's seat. The hands should be carried close together, with the thumb as the highest point and a straight line from the supple elbow through the hand to the horse's mouth. The elbows should be close to the body. All of these criteria enable the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely.
2. The effectiveness of the rider's aids determines the precise fulfillment of the required movements of the tests. There shall always be the impression of a harmonious co-operation between horse and rider.
3. Riding with both hands is obligatory. When leaving the arena at a walk on long rein, after having finished the test the rider may, at his/her discretion, ride with only one hand. For Freestyle tests, see also Directives for Judges – Freestyle tests and Directives for assessing the degree of difficulty in a Freestyle test available at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).
4. The use of the voice or clicking the tongue repeatedly is a serious fault, which should be considered in the mark for the movement.

## **ARTICLE E 1.21 PARA DRESSAGE - THE POSITIONS AND AIDS OF THE RIDER**

1. The rider will be as well balanced and steady in the saddle as possible, conforming to the FEI definition of the rider position. This position makes it possible for the rider to show progressive riding and /or training and to show all the movements and transitions with as little effort of the rider as possible. The aids with which the rider communicates with the horse are of great importance in para dressage.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **NATIONAL MOVEMENTS & REQUIREMENTS**

EC governs and designs the easier grades, which build up to the international standard. The following is a description of some of the movements and requirements which are used as a foundation for the more difficult movements of advanced dressage and which are not included in the objects and general principles of dressage above.

#### **ARTICLE E 2.1 LENGTHENED STRIDE**

The horse is asked to lengthen its stride while engaging its hocks. A quickening of pace is to be strictly penalized. This is preparation for the medium and extended paces of the more advanced levels. The transition between lengthened stride and ordinary stride helps to create balance and impulsion.

#### **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 should change the rising diagonal when changing directions, except during a lengthening. The correct rising diagonal is 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 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 riders to execute all trot movements sitting.

#### **ARTICLE E 2.3 CHANGE OF LEG THROUGH TROT**

The change of leg when performed through the trot must not include more than three or four steps of trot.

#### **ARTICLE E 2.4 TROT AND CANTER, ROUND AND LOW**

The trot and canter, round and low, will be developed on the 20m circle. The horse, by smoothly taking the rein, will stretch its head and neck forward and down, stretching over its back in a round frame, while maintaining a rhythmic gait and contact with the bit.

#### **ARTICLE E 2.5 EXECUTION OF MOVEMENTS**

In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it should be done at the moment when the rider's body is above this point, except in transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular to the point where the letters are positioned. In this case, the transitions must be done when the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that the horse is straight in the transition.

## **ARTICLE E 2.6 THE TRANSITIONS**

The changes of pace and variations within the paces should be performed exactly at the prescribed marker. The cadence/rhythm of a pace should be maintained up to the moment when the pace or movement is changed or the horse halts. Transitions within the paces must be clearly defined while maintaining the same rhythm and cadence throughout. The horse should remain light in hand, calm, and maintain a correct position. The same applies to transitions from one movement to another, for instance from passage to piaffe or vice versa.

## **ARTICLE E 2.7. THE QUARTER PIROUETTE**

As a preparatory exercise, the quarter-pirouette is usually executed on the track at a given letter or from a diagonal, the horse being highly collected for one or two strides before and then through the execution of a 90 degree turn around the haunches in two-three strides, maintaining a correct canter footfall.

## **ARTICLE 2.8 THE WORKING PIROUETTE**

The pirouette (half-pirouette) is a turn of 360 degrees (180 degrees) executed on two tracks, with the forehand moving around the haunches. The working pirouette should be approximately three meters. The requirements for a working half-pirouette are identical to those of a regular half-pirouette, except that the allowable diameter is increased to approximately three meters. A working half-pirouette is to be judged like a regular half-pirouette except that full credit must be given for a well-performed, but larger (three meter) half-pirouette. Full credit should also be given for a well-performed regular-sized half-pirouette. A significant deduction should be made if a rider attempts a regular half pirouette but performs it poorly.

## CHAPTER 3 COMPETITIONS

### ARTICLE E 3.0 COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS, LEVELS & OFFICIALS

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
<i>Competition Organization</i>	Bronze	Silver	Gold
<i>EC Rules (General Regs)</i>	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
<i>Drug Fees</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Dressage &amp; Para Dressage Rules (Section. E)</i>	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
<i>Test User Fee</i>	Refer to <i>Schedule of Fees</i> on the EC website <a href="http://www.equestrian.ca">www.equestrian.ca</a>	Refer to <i>Schedule of Fees</i> on the EC website <a href="http://www.equestrian.ca">www.equestrian.ca</a>	Refer to <i>Schedule of Fees</i> on the EC website <a href="http://www.equestrian.ca">www.equestrian.ca</a>
<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
<i>Permitted Classes</i>	All EC National Dressage tests (including - Materiale, Equitation, Rising Stars Equitation, Sport Horse Breeding & Introductory to Fourth Level)  All EC National Para Dressage tests (Walk to Walk, Trot, Canter).  Plus miscellaneous classes, see Section A A503 (Western Dressage, Eventing	All EC National Dressage tests (including - Materiale, Equitation, Rising Stars Equitation, Sport Horse Breeding & Introductory to Fourth Level)  All EC National Para Dressage tests (Walk to Walk, Trot, Canter).  Plus miscellaneous classes see Section A A503 (Western Dressage, Eventing	All EC National Dressage tests (including - Materiale, Equitation, Rising Stars Equitation, Sport Horse Breeding & Introductory to Fourth Level)  All EC National Para Dressage tests (Walk to Walk, Trot Canter).  Plus miscellaneous classes see Section A A503 (Western Dressage, Eventing

COMPETITION ORGANIZATION	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
	/ Horse Trials Dressage tests)	/ Horse Trials Dressage tests)  All FEI Dressage and Para Dressage tests.  <b>Exception:</b> for FEI Young Horse tests, in Silver, only the FEI 4-Year-Old test may be offered.	/ Horse Trials Dressage tests)  All FEI Dressage and Para Dressage tests.
Miscellaneous Classes	As per General Regulations	As per General Regulations	As per General Regulations
Championships	None	Silver	Provincial, Regional and National
Ring Size	<p><u>20m x 40m or 20m x 60m</u></p> <p><b>Dressage</b> <b>Introductory &amp; Training level tests may be ridden in a 20m x 40m ring.</b></p> <p><u>All other dressage tests must be ridden in a 20m x 60m ring.</u></p> <p><b>Para Dressage</b> <b>National tests may be ridden in a 20m x 40m ring.</b></p>	<p><u>20m x 40m or 20m x 60m</u></p> <p><b>Dressage</b> <b>Introductory &amp; Training level tests may be ridden in a 20 m x 40 m ring. All other dressage tests must be ridden in a 20m x 60m ring.</b></p> <p><b>Para Dressage</b> <b>National tests may be ridden in a 20m x 40m ring.</b></p> <p>FEI Para Dressage tests for Grades I, II, III must use the 20m x 40m ring. FEI Para Dressage tests for Grades IV and V must be ridden in a 20m x 60m ring</p>	<p><u>20m x 40m or 20m x 60m</u></p> <p><b>Dressage</b> <b>Introductory &amp; Training level tests may be ridden in a 20m x 40m ring. All other dressage tests must be ridden in a 20m x 60m ring.</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> All dressage tests at Gold Championships must be ridden in a <u>20m x 60m ring.</u></p> <p><b>Para Dressage</b> <b>National tests may be ridden in a 20m x 40m ring</b></p> <p>FEI Para Dressage tests for Grades I, II, III must use the 20m x 40m ring. FEI Para Dressage tests for Grades IV and V must be ridden in a 20m x 60m ring.</p>

COMPETITION ORGANIZATION	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
<i>Officials: Judges</i>	recorded, Basic, Medium, Senior/FEI	recorded, Basic, Medium, Senior/FEI	recorded, Basic, Medium, Senior/FEI
<i>Judges Restrictions</i>	<p><b>Recorded Judge:</b> May judge up to and including Third level plus all Para Dressage National tests</p> <p><b>Basic Judge:</b> No restrictions</p> <p><b>Medium Judge:</b> No restrictions</p> <p><b>Senior/FEI Judge:</b> No restrictions</p>	<p><b>Recorded Judge:</b> May judge up to and including Second level plus all Para Dressage tests Guest Card at Third level Co-Judge at Fourth level with Medium or higher level judge</p> <p><b>Basic Judge:</b> May judge up to and including Prix St. Georges, FEI Children plus all Para Dressage tests Guest Card at Intermediate I Co-Judge at Intermediate A/B/II with higher level judge</p> <p><b>Medium Judge:</b> May judge up to and including Intermediate I, FEI Children plus all Para Dressage tests Guest Card at Intermediate A/B/II Co-Judge Grand Prix with Senior or FEI judge</p> <p><b>Senior/FEI Judge:</b> No restrictions</p>	<p><b>Recorded Judge:</b> May judge up to and including First level No Guest Card. Co-Judge at Second level with Medium or higher level Judge</p> <p><b>Basic Judge:</b> May judge up to <u>and including Third level plus all Para Dressage tests</u> <u>Guest Card at Fourth level.</u> <u>Co-Judge Prix St Georges/Intermedia te I with higher level judge</u></p> <p><b>Medium Judge:</b> May judge up to and including Fourth level, FEI Pony, FEI Children, FEI Junior and all Para Dressage tests (not permitted to judge FEI Young Horse tests). Guest Card at Prix St Georges/Intermedia te I. Co-Judge all levels with Senior or FEI Judge</p> <p><b>Senior/FEI Judge:</b> <b>No restrictions</b></p>

COMPETITION ORGANIZATION	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
<i>Results Reporting</i>	Optional to Provincial Organization	Compulsory to EC	Compulsory to EC
<i>Stewards</i>	Basic, Medium, Senior, FEI	Basic, Medium, Senior, FEI	Basic, Medium, Senior, FEI
<i>Steward Restrictions</i>	<p><b>Basic Stewards:</b> In their probationary year (Their first year with status) may officiate alone in cases where a single competition ring is used or may officiate with a Senior Steward when more than one competition ring is in use.</p> <p>After completion of their probationary year Basic Stewards may officiate alone.</p> <p><b>Medium and Senior Stewards:</b> No restrictions</p>	<p><b>Basic Stewards:</b> In their probationary year (Their first year with status) may officiate alone in cases where a single competition ring is used or may officiate with a Senior Steward when more than one competition ring is in use.</p> <p>After completion of their probationary year Basic Stewards may officiate alone.</p> <p><b>Medium and Senior Stewards:</b> No restrictions</p>	<p><b>Basic Stewards:</b> In their probationary year (Their first year with status) may officiate with a Senior Steward</p> <p>After completion of their probationary year Basic Stewards may officiate alone.</p> <p><b>Medium and Senior Stewards:</b> No restrictions</p>
<i>Riders / Horse Owner Requirements</i>	PTSO membership is required		
<i>EC Sport Licence</i>	Bronze	Silver	Gold
<i>Dressage Levy</i>	Refer to <i>Schedule of Fees</i> on the EC website <a href="http://www.equestrian.ca">www.equestrian.ca</a>	Refer to <i>Schedule of Fees</i> on the EC website <a href="http://www.equestrian.ca">www.equestrian.ca</a>	Refer to <i>Schedule of Fees</i> on the EC website <a href="http://www.equestrian.ca">www.equestrian.ca</a>
<i>Insurance</i>	Yes Available through PTSO	Yes Available through PTSO	Yes Available through PTSO
<i>Horse Requirements Horse Identification Document, as outlined in EC General Regulations</i>	No	Yes	Yes

COMPETITION ORGANIZATION	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
<i>Horse Recording</i>	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Award Programs Provincial Awards</i>	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Dressage National Awards</i>	No	No	Yes

### ARTICLE E 3.1 EC SPORT LICENCE

An EC sport licence is required for all EC sanctioned competitions (Bronze, Silver Gold and Platinum). The fees for each level vary. Riders, owners and officials should refer to the *Schedule of Fees* on the EC website [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca) and the Equestrian Canada General Regulations, Section A, Chapter 2.

1. Both the rider and owner of the competing horse must hold a current EC sport licence for their competition level.
2. Owners of horses declared for Canadian team selection must be members in good standing of their respective national federations (NF). Canadian owners must be Platinum Sport Licence holders with EC.
3. Certified dressage officials (Judges, Stewards and Classifiers) and Operational Committee members must hold an EC Sport Licence as per the General Regulations.

### ARTICLE E 3.2 HORSE RECORDINGS AND IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTATION

EC horse recordings are required for Silver and Gold competitions. Riders should refer to the *Schedule of Fees* on the Equestrian Canada website [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca) and the Equestrian Canada General Regulations, Section A, Chapter 4 Horse Recordings. For Platinum competitions, refer to the FEI General Regulations at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

## ARTICLE E 3.3 CATEGORIES AND ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

Category	Eligibility to Compete
Open	All riders (regardless of age and, or amateur/professional status)
Amateur	All riders who are no longer Juniors under ART E 3.3.3 (except as outlined in ART E 3.3.2)
Junior	Open to all riders until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

**Note:** The categories may be abbreviated in prize lists as follows: Open (O), Amateur (Am), Junior (Jr).

1. At all EC competitions (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) the Open category must be offered. The other categories are optional.
2. For all EC competitions, riders wishing to compete in two categories of a division (e.g. Junior/Open or Amateur/Open) will pay two entry fees but may ride one test; their score will count for both categories.
3. The organizing committee has the option of holding individual classes for each category or holding one class and allowing entries in more than one category.
4. Junior and Amateur categories may not be combined.
5. If there are fewer than six entries per category, the organizing committee has the option to hold only an open category at that level or division. Organizing committees must state this condition in the prize list.

### ARTICLE E 3.3.1 OPEN

The open category is open to all riders regardless of age or status.

### ARTICLE E 3.3.2 AMATEUR

Just as juniors have a protected category, the amateur category offers a protected category for riders who are no longer juniors and who do not wish to compete in the open category.

1. The Amateur category is for riders competing at any EC sanctioned competition over the age of 18 who are not earning remuneration from teaching or training horses or riders in the horse industry.
2. Riders in FEI-sanctioned competitions (EC Platinum competitions) must comply with the FEI definition of amateur. See the FEI Regulations at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).
3. Amateur status is issued by EC and included on the EC sport licence card. All individuals wishing EC amateur status must complete and sign the amateur declaration, which is on the sport licence application/renewal form, affirming their eligibility.
4. The amateur classes at all EC sanctioned dressage and para dressage competitions are NOT open to:
  1. Riders who accept remuneration for training or schooling a horse.
  2. Riders who accept remuneration for showing or schooling a horse at any EC-sanctioned competition in any discipline.

3. Riders who accept remuneration for coaching or instructing a person to ride whether they are private contractors or receive remuneration for teaching as an employee of a farm or business by which they are employed.
4. Riders who accept remuneration for coaching or instructing a person to ride or drive a horse at any EC sanctioned competition.  
**Exception:** Riders may show as an EC amateur if they:
  - a) hold and maintain a current EC NCCP Instructor Certificate
  - b) coach only beginner para dressage riders
  - c) do not engage in any activities listed in ART E 3.3.2, point 1, 2 or 4.
5. Riders who act as an agent or accept commissions for the sale, purchase and, or lease of a horse.
6. Riders who accept remuneration for giving clinics and seminars.
7. Riders who train or show a horse, or instruct a rider or driver, when remuneration for this activity will be given to a corporation or farm which they or their family, owns or controls.
8. Juniors.
9. Current or former National Team Program Squad A or Squad B riders.
10. Anyone who has represented Canada internationally in Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, World Championships, World Cup Final and Pan American Games is excluded from the amateur category.
11. A rider entered in FEI competitions other than those listed above are not excluded from the amateur category unless they are deemed to be an open rider because of rules 1 to 10 above.

**Note:** Any coach or instructor who has not been teaching for two years or more may compete in the amateur category providing they apply to EC for reinstatement of their amateur status.

**Note:** Holding an amateur card for the purposes of competing internationally does not allow a rider to compete in the amateur category at EC competitions if they can be classified as any of the above.

### **ARTICLE E 3.3.3 JUNIOR**

1. The junior (Jr) category in EC classes at Bronze, Silver and Gold competitions is open to all riders until the end of the calendar year, in which they reach the age of 18.
2. Juniors are not eligible to compete in the amateur category but may compete in the open classes.

### **ARTICLE E 3.3.4 FEI AGE LIMITATIONS**

The following age limits **only** apply to riders competing in FEI Children, FEI Pony, FEI Junior, FEI Young Rider, FEI U25 and FEI Para Dressage classes at EC sanctioned dressage and para dressage Silver and Gold competitions for Platinum competitions see the FEI Regulations found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

1. **FEI Children:** A rider may compete in FEI Children's classes 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.
2. **FEI Pony:** A rider may compete in FEI Pony classes from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 12, until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.

3. **FEI Junior:** A rider may compete in FEI Junior classes from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 14, until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 18.
4. **FEI Young Rider:** A rider may compete in FEI Young Rider classes 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.  
No Young Rider up to the age of 18 may be classified as a professional.
5. **FEI U25:** A rider may compete in FEI U25 classes from the beginning of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of 16, until the end of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of 25.
6. **FEI Para Dressage Riders:** A rider may compete in the FEI para dressage classes from the year in which they reach their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

1. No rider may compete in a class before a judge by whom they have received instruction or coaching from, with or without pay, within a 30 day period preceding the date of competition.
2. It is the responsibility of the rider not to enter a class in front of a judge from whom they have received instruction or coaching from in the 30 day period preceding the competition.
3. No rider may compete in a class where the judge officiating or the steward responsible for checking tack is a member of their immediate family.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.5 CONCURRENT COMPETITIONS**

1. An organizer may run concurrent competitions using one competition licence for the highest level of competition offered. **Example:** an organizer running concurrent Bronze and Gold competitions would require only a Gold competition licence. See the EC Schedule of Fees posted on the EC website [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca) for competition licence fees.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.6 TESTS**

1. Tests used at EC sanctioned Bronze, Silver and Gold sanctioned competitions must be EC and, or FEI tests.
2. All EC and FEI tests are copyrighted.
3. The EC tests are “Copyright 2022 United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and United States Equestrian (USE)” for use only in Canada and are reprinted through the courtesy and with permission of the USDF and USE.
4. All rights under US and International Copyright laws are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited by law. **Exception:** CADORA, Pony Club and 4H.
5. The US Equestrian is not responsible for any errors in publication or for the use of its copyrighted materials in any unauthorized manner.
6. The EC tests up to and including Fourth Level may be used at provincially/territorially (PTSO) sanctioned competitions provided these competitions meet minimum national safety standards (as outlined in the EC / PTSO Service Agreement) and do not compete with EC sanctioning criteria for Bronze, Silver and Gold competitions. The test user fee is payable to EC in accordance with the *Schedule of Fees* on the EC website [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca)
7. Under no circumstances may the EC tests be used at non-EC-/PTSO-sanctioned competitions. Any non-EC-/PTSO-sanctioned competition found to use the EC tests will face legal action from EC.

## ARTICLE E 3.7 PURPOSE OF TESTS FOR DRESSAGE/ PARA DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS

1. Objectives and standards for national tests:

1. **Para Dressage:** Para dressage tests provide riders with a physical or visual impairment the opportunity to compete against other riders with similar abilities. Riders are classified and given a “Grade” based on their functional ability and are then judged on their riding skill against other riders of the same Grade.
2. **Introductory:** To introduce the rider and, or horse to the sport of dressage. To show understanding of riding the horse forward with a steady tempo into an elastic contact with independent, steady hands and a correctly balanced seat. To show proper geometry of figures in the arena with correct bend (circles and corners).
3. **Training Level:** To confirm that the horse demonstrates the correct basics, it is supple and moves freely forward in a clear rhythm with a steady tempo, accepting contact with the bit.
4. **First Level:** To confirm that the horse demonstrates the correct basics, and in addition to the requirements of Training Level, has developed the thrust to achieve improved balance and a degree of throughness and is reliably on the bit and accepts the contact without any tension or resistance.
5. **Second Level:** To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and having achieved the thrust required in First Level, now accepts more weight on the hindquarters (collection); moves with an uphill tendency, especially in the medium gaits; and is reliably on the bit. A greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, throughness, balance and self-carriage is required than at First Level.
6. **Third Level:** To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics and having begun to develop an uphill balance at Second Level, it now demonstrates increased engagement, especially in the extended gaits. Transitions between collected, medium and extended gaits should be well defined and performed with engagement. The horse should be reliably on the bit and show a greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, throughness, balance and self-carriage than at Second Level.
7. **Fourth Level:** To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and has developed sufficient suppleness, impulsion and throughness to perform the Fourth Level tests which have a medium degree of difficulty. The horse remains reliably on the bit, showing a clear uphill balance and lightness as a result of improved engagement and collection. The movements are performed with greater straightness, energy and cadence than at Third Level.

## ARTICLE E 3.8 MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES

1. These classes may be offered by any EC dressage competition using ART A503 Miscellaneous Classes. Miscellaneous Western Dressage, Pony Club or Eventing/Horse Trials Dressage Tests should refer to those specific discipline rules.

## ARTICLE E 3.9 EQUIVALENCIES – EC/FEI TESTS

1. All FEI Pony Rider and FEI Children's Tests are similar to Second Level
2. All FEI Junior Rider Tests are similar to Third Level
3. All FEI Young Rider Tests are similar to Prix St. Georges
4. The FEI 4-Year-Old Test is similar to First Level
5. The FEI 5-Year-Old Test is similar to Second Level
6. The FEI 6-Year-Old Test is similar to Third Level
7. The FEI 7-Year-Old Tests are similar to Fourth Level

**Note:** There are no comparisons between para dressage tests and dressage tests.

Para dressage tests are based on the classification grading system. EC dressage tests are based on the training scale of the horse

## **ARTICLE E 3.10 COMPETITION MANAGEMENT**

1. Background music, of a suitable composition so as not to disturb the horse, may be played during all classes, except when freestyle music is being played. It is strongly recommended that organizers avoid running freestyle classes at the same time as technical classes.
2. Videographers/photographers may NOT enter any warmup arena or competition arena including the space around the competition arena within the overall enclosure. To avoid distracting horses, riders, officials, and spectators, they may only operate from the outside of any warmup or field of play (FOP). No non-accredited photographer or videographer is allowed within the identified space.

**Exception:** competitions that have approved a stationary videographer/photographer that has also been present for an officially scheduled familiarization for all riders. This also applies to the connecting area between warmup and FOP.

3. There is no time limit for the execution of dressage or para dressage technical tests. The time shown on the test is for information only. There are time limits on all freestyle tests.
4. Scheduling: No rider may ride back to back tests at any level without at least one test ride time in between rides.
5. Posted ride times may change due to weather or other factors within reason. It is the responsibility of the rider to confirm their ride times. Additional classes may be offered provided due notice (i.e. at least 2 hours prior to the start of a class) is issued to riders. A copy of such changes must be included in the steward's report. See General Regulations ART A601.5 and ART A601.6.
6. No rider can be required to ride prior to their scheduled time, however, as a matter of courtesy and to aid in the efficient running of the competition, riders should be aware that they may be asked, with due notice, to advance their showing times.

## **ARTICLE E 3.11 CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

### **ARTICLE E 3.11.1 HORSE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTATION**

1. Horse recording documentation is required for EC Silver and Gold competitions. For complete rules on horse identification requirements see the EC General Regulations, Section A, Chapter 4 Horse Recordings.

### **ARTICLE E 3.11.2 COMPETITION NUMBER**

1. Competition numbers are assigned by the organizer and must be worn at all times when the horse/pony is outside the stall. Failure to display the assigned competition number will incur a recorded warning for the first offence and, in the case of second or subsequent offences, possible elimination or disqualification at the discretion of the ground jury.
2. Each rider/horse combination must have a unique number for the competition. Horses/ponies being shared by more than one rider will require separate numbers for each combination.
3. In the event that a rider/horse combination is entered in a multi-sanctioned competition (i.e. Bronze/Gold competition) they will require a separate number for each competition sanctioning level (i.e. number for the Bronze competition and a separate number for the Gold competition etc.) This is to assist the officials in correctly identifying the combination and the competition.
4. Horses/ponies stabled permanently on the competition site are exempt unless competing. Riders must present themselves to stewards before riding in competition designated areas and they will be subject to all EC competition rules in competition designated areas.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.3 NON-COMPETING HORSES**

1. Any horse arriving on the competition grounds but not competing will be subject to all EC competition rules and must be assigned a competition number that must be worn when the horse is outside the stall.  
**Exception:** Horses stabled permanently on the competition site are exempt unless competing.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.4 HORSES**

1. To be eligible to compete in under saddle dressage and para dressage classes, horses must be a minimum of 3 years old.
2. The minimum age at which a horse may compete in FEI Junior tests is 6 years old.
3. The minimum age at which a horse may compete at Prix St. Georges and Intermediate I is 7 years old.
4. The minimum age at which a horse may compete above Intermediate I is 8 years old.
5. The horse's height at the withers must exceed 1.48m without shoes and 1.49m with shoes.
6. Completely blind horses are not eligible to enter EC sanctioned dressage or para dressage competitions.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.5 PONIES**

1. A pony is a small horse whose height at the withers, having been measured on a smooth level surface, does not exceed 1.48m without shoes and 1.49m with shoes. Refer to Section A General Regulations Chapter 11 for measuring information.
2. All ponies competing in pony restricted classes, must have a permanent measurement card or, in the case of a horse or pony under eight years of age, a temporary measurement form. See Section A, Chapter 11.
3. Ponies may be ridden by adults in any class that is not age restricted.
4. To be eligible to compete, all ponies must be a minimum of four years old.
5. The minimum age at which a pony may compete at Prix St. Georges and Intermediate I is 7 years old.

6. The minimum age at which a pony may compete above Intermediate I is 8 years old.
7. Completely blind ponies are not eligible to enter EC sanctioned dressage or para dressage competitions.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.6 STALLIONS**

1. Decisions as to the manageability of stallions are at the discretion of the judge or steward. Unmanageable stallions must be excused from the ring and/or warmup arena.
2. Juniors are allowed to ride stallions in all classes in which the junior is eligible to compete.
3. A competent adult handler/person(s) responsible must accompany any junior riding or handling a stallion at a competition.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.7 DANGEROUS/UNRULY HORSES**

1. Judges are required to eliminate from the arena any unruly horse whose actions threaten riders, officials or spectators.
2. The steward at the competition is required to order from the warmup area any rider, horse, or handler who exhibits inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of others in the immediate area. In extreme cases where the safety of others is a concern, the steward may eliminate any rider, horse or handler from the showground.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.8 CROSS ENTERING AND NUMBER OF RIDERS ALLOWED**

1. More than one rider may ride the same horse in a competition providing the horse is not entered by two riders in the same class.
2. The riders can both be juniors or amateur/open or any mixture of these providing they are not in the same class unless the class is divided into separate categories for the purpose of ribbons.
3. The horse/pony must not compete against itself.
4. A rider may enter classes run under different licences at one competition providing the rider has the requisite sport licence and horse recording.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.9 MAXIMUM NUMBER OF LEVELS/TESTS/CLASSES PER HORSE PER DAY**

##### **1. Rider/Horse combinations:**

1. For classes at Equitation, Rising Stars Equitation, Materiale, Introductory, Training, First, Second levels and all para dressage national tests plus FEI Grade I and II tests and FEI Children, FEI Pony and FEI 4 and 5 year old tests - a rider/horse combination may compete in any 2, but only 2, consecutive levels/divisions and may compete up to a maximum of 3 tests per day including the freestyle. In-hand classes are exempt from this rule.
2. For classes at the Third, Fourth and FEI Junior levels plus FEI Grade III, IV, V and FEI 6 and 7 year old tests - a rider/horse combination may compete in any 2, but only 2, consecutive levels/divisions and up to a maximum of 2 tests per day including the freestyle. In-hand classes are exempt from this rule.

**Exception:** Rider/horse combinations may in addition to the above compete in an Equitation or Rising Stars Equitation class.

3. For classes at the FEI Young Rider, FEI Prix St. George, FEI Intermediate I, FEI Intermediate II, FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, FEI Grand Prix U25, FEI Grand Prix levels - a rider/horse combination may compete in a maximum of 1 test per day including the freestyle. In-hand classes are exempt from this rule.

**Exception:** Rider/horse combinations competing in the FEI Young Rider division may compete in an FEI Young Rider Freestyle test in addition to one FEI Young Rider technical test per day.

## 2. Horse or pony:

1. For classes at Equitation, Rising Stars Equitation, Materiale, Introductory, Training, First, Second levels and all para dressage national tests plus FEI Grade I and II tests and FEI Children, FEI Pony and FEI 4 and 5 year old tests - a horse may compete in a maximum of 3 tests per day.
2. For classes at the Third, Fourth and FEI Junior levels plus FEI Grade III, IV, V and FEI 6 and 7 year old tests - a horse may compete a maximum of 2 tests per day. Exceptions: Apply in situations where the horse is shared between a dressage and para dressage Grade I or II rider. In these cases, a horse may compete in up to 3 tests per day.

**Exception:** Horses or ponies may in addition to the above compete in an Equitation or Rising Stars Equitation class.

3. For classes at the FEI Young Rider, FEI Prix St. George, FEI Intermediate I, FEI Intermediate II, FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, FEI Grand Prix U25, FEI Grand Prix levels - a horse may compete in a maximum of 1 test per day. Exceptions: Apply in situations where the horse is shared between a dressage and para dressage Grade I or II rider. In these cases a horse may compete in up to 2 tests per day.

**Note:** The maximum test per day restrictions also applies when competitions are running different levels of sanctioning at the same competition i.e. Bronze and Gold competition or Bronze, Silver, Gold competition etc.

**Exception:** Horses or ponies competing in the FEI Young Rider division may compete in an FEI Young Rider Freestyle test in addition to one FEI Young Rider technical test per day.

## ARTICLE E 3.11.10 SUBSTITUTIONS

1. A horse may compete with a substitute rider and a rider may compete with a substitute horse providing the rider is eligible to enter the class and pays any substitution fee required by the show organizer.
2. Organizers must assign a new number to a substitute horse/rider if the substitution takes place after the original entry has been assigned a number.

**Note:** Show organizers are not obliged to allow substitute entries.

**Note:** When qualifying criteria apply to a rider/horse combination entered in a class, no substitution of horse or rider may be made.

## ARTICLE E 3.11.11 HORS CONCOURS

1. With permission of the organizing committee, horses may be entered hors concours (non-competitive).
2. Hors concours entries are not eligible for prizes, placings or awards.
3. Such entries must pay the full entry fee and are subject to all EC rules, including having an EC horse recording where required.

4. A horse may be ridden both as an hors concours entry and a competitive entry at the same competition. The maximum number of tests ridden whether competitive or not is subject to ART E 3.11.9.
5. An hors concours entry in a freestyle must have qualified to ride the freestyle (see ART E 10.2).
6. It does not matter in what order the hors concours and competitive tests are ridden provided the horse/rider combination only competes in one category. Cross entering between Amateur/Junior and Open is not permitted with hors concours entries.
7. Hors concours entries are not permitted in championship competitions (See ART E 7.1).

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.12 SCHOOLING OF HORSES/PONIES**

1. At least one warmup or schooling arena, the same size as the competition arena, must be available for the riders at least 60 minutes before the first ride of the competition. If possible, the footing in this warmup /schooling arena should be of the same consistency as that of the competition arena. Where space permits, it would be ideal if a separate 20 x 60 m marked warmup / schooling arena can be provided for riders and /or for the final warmup before entering the competition arena.
2. Where it is not feasible to provide a warmup / schooling arena of 20 x 60 m, the riders must be permitted to exercise their horses in the competition arena. A schedule of practice times must be clearly posted.
3. Schooling of horses/ponies at EC sanctioned competitions may only be done by EC Sport Licence holders. For Championships see ART E 7.3. The rider must provide the show office with the name and EC sport licence number for anyone designated to school their horse in competition designated areas.
4. It is not permitted to lunge a mounted horse or work a horse in-hand at any competition.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.13 RETIREMENT CEREMONIES**

1. If a retirement ceremony is to be held at an EC sanctioned competition, it is the duty of the organizing committee and the owner to notify the EC Dressage Department, of the name and horse recording number of the horse being retired.
2. Horses officially retired at a retirement ceremony may only be permitted to enter further EC sanctioned competitions if, at the request of the owner written approval is provided by the EC Dressage Department. The owner must outline clearly in writing the rationale for the horse to be entered in further EC sanctioned competition following retirement e.g. to provide a schoolmaster to develop future riding talent for Canada.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.11.14 COMPETITION ARENA**

1. The competition area includes the arena (the FOP) plus surrounding area which riders use just prior to their test. On no account and under penalty of disqualification, may a rider/horse use the competition arena or area immediately surrounding the arena, other than during their performance in the competition unless it is a competition rule to allow such access, and the areas

are available to all riders. Exceptions may be made by the EC steward or president of the ground jury.

2. Arena fence conditions must be the same for all riders in a class.
3. Judges and stewards must check the correctness of the arenas.
4. Stewards must supervise the warmup areas.
5. If there is more than one competition ring, signage should be posted at all rings as to what the judge's signal will be.
6. The arena must be flat and level and be predominantly sand.
7. The difference in elevation across the diagonal or along the length of the arena must not exceed 0.50 meters. The difference in elevation along the short side must not exceed 0.20 meters.
8. The competition arena must consist of a low fence, about 0.30 meters in height with the only opening being at the entrance at A. The gate at A must be easy to remove and replace
9. The entrance at A must be 1.5 to 4 m wide.
10. The section of fence at A can remain open. If left open, it must be left open for every rider in the class. **Exception:** see ART E 7.1.
11. The construction of the fence should be such that a horse's hooves cannot get caught. Rope fence is not allowed.
12. Where a chain fence is used, it must be plastic and it must have separate pieces at the corners; stakes may only be used at the corners and such stakes must be covered. The chain must be able to fall free of all other supports.
13. Whenever possible, at outdoor competitions, the arena must be separated from the public by a distance of 15 m.
14. Indoor competitions should separate the arena from the public by a distance of 3 m and whenever possible 2 m from the wall.
15. The letters outside the competition arena should be placed about 0.50m from the fence and clearly marked. It is desirable to place a special mark on the inside of the fence itself, level with and in addition to the letter concerned.
16. The letter A must be placed at least 5 m away from the arena and may be placed up to 15 m away.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.12 CLASS BREAKS/FOOTING MAINTENANCE**

1. It is desirable to provide for a break of about 15 minutes every 2 hours, as the schedule permits, to reconstitute the surface of the arena.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.13 INDOOR/OUTDOOR ARENAS - LIMITED SPACE**

1. At an indoor/outdoor competition where space and, or footing conditions do not permit riding around the outside of the arena, the rider is allowed into the arena and is free to use the whole arena prior to the start signal. The rider must start the test within 45 seconds of the start signal.
2. After the bell has sounded, the rider has the option to exit and re-enter the arena from the outside or to commence the test from within the arena.

#### **ARTICLE E 3.14 LUNGEING**

1. Show organizers are not obliged to provide a lungeing area.
2. Lungeing is permitted only in designated areas if space permits.
3. Lungeing is not permitted in an area where horses are being ridden.
4. Lungeing (unmounted) may only be done by the rider, owner, coach, groom or person(s) responsible.

5. It is not permitted to lunge a mounted horse at any competition site whether or not, the horse is entered in the competition.
6. Only unmounted horses may be lunged. One lunge line only is allowed and may be attached to a snaffle bridle/bridoon or lungeing cavesson. Single direct side reins or double side reins (triangle) are permitted. No other lunging devices may be used. Attaching the lunge line to a curb bit is not permitted.
7. A standard lunging whip is permitted when lunging an unmounted horse.

### **ARTICLE E 3.15 OFFICIALS REQUIRED**

1. The invited judges compose the ground jury and must be selected from a current roster of licensed dressage judges of a National Federation (NF).
2. The steward must be selected from the current EC roster of licensed stewards..

### **ARTICLE E 3.16 JUDGES' POSITIONS**

#### **A. Technical Classes**

1. If there is only one judge, they must be positioned at C.
2. If there are two judges, one must be at C and the second judge can be at E, B, H, or M, whichever is most convenient for the competition.
3. When three judges are officiating on the same ring, one must be positioned at C and the other two should be at M and E or H and B.
4. When there are five judges, the president of the jury is at C, one judge must be at M and H and the remaining two are to be positioned at E and B. The judges at M and H are to be positioned 2.5 m closer to the centerline than the long wall of the arena.
5. All judges must be on the outside of the arena. They should be a minimum of 3 m and maximum of 5 m from the arena at outdoor competitions and preferably a minimum of 3 m from the arena at indoor competitions.
6. In Children's tests if there are two or three judges, one judge must be at "C" to judge the technical portion of the test while the other judge(s) are placed at E or B to judge the quality portion of the test. In the event there is only one judge, the judge must be placed at "C" and can only judge the technical portion of the test.
7. In the 7-Year-Old Young Horse Test, one judge must be placed at "C" to judge the technical portion of the test and the other judge(s) placed at either E or B to judge the quality portion of the test.

#### **B. Freestyles Classes**

1. When one judge officiates in a freestyle class that judge must be placed at C.
2. When two judges officiate in a freestyle class, one judge must be placed at C and the other judge placed on the long side at E or B, space permitting.
3. When three judges officiate in a freestyle class, one judge must be placed at C, one judge must be placed at either H or M and one judge must be placed on the long side at E or B, space permitting.

### **ARTICLE E 3.17 JUDGES' BOOTHS**

1. A separate booth must be provided for each judge. The booth must be raised at least 0.50 m to give the judges a good view of the arena.
2. Judges booths placed at E and B must be equipped with side windows.

## **ARTICLE E 3.18 SCORING AND MARKING OF TEST SHEETS**

### **A. Paper Scoring**

1. All test sheets must be filled in using pen..
2. All marked tests sheets must contain the rider's name and entry number, the competition name, competition date and judge's name and signature.
3. The judge must initial any changes in the marks given prior to being submitted for scoring.
4. Before the judge's scores are handed over for totaling, all movements must be marked and the sheets must be signed by the judge, otherwise the sheet must be returned to the judge for further verification.
5. Marked sheets must be treated as confidential until given to the rider, when they become their private property.
6. Each judge must be assisted by a scribe fluent in English or French as required by the judge.
7. Scribes must have knowledge of the tests being ridden.
8. A scribe must not be an owner, coach/trainer or family member of a rider/horse in the class in which they are scribing.
9. Every effort should be made to assign one scribe only to each judge for the duration of the competition. In special circumstances, a maximum of one change of scribe per judge per day may be made.
10. EC dressage/para dressage judges may act as scribes.

### **B. Paperless Scoring**

1. The use of a paperless judging system is subject to EC approval and must be stated in the event prize list.
2. Only EC approved paperless judging systems may be used.
3. Using a system that has not been approved by EC may lead to EC invalidating the results and EC may sanction the OC.
4. In any event, a paper version of the tests must be available to the judges during competition as a backup.
5. The electronic judges' sheets will be made available to the riders in an electronic format after the competition.

## **ARTICLE E 3.19 PROTOCOL**

1. All officials (Judges, Stewards, Scribes etc.) must be professionally and appropriately dressed.
2. Judges must be on the grounds 20 minutes before their first class.
3. Stewards must be on the grounds 1 hour before the first ride.
4. Scribes must be on the grounds 30 minutes before their first class.
5. It is the responsibility of a competition committee using a foreign judge to forward to that judge, well in advance of the competition, a copy of the EC Section A and Section E rules.
6. All judges must receive, well in advance of the competition, copies of the tests they will judge and a prize list of the show.

## **ARTICLE E 3.20 TEST OF CHOICE**

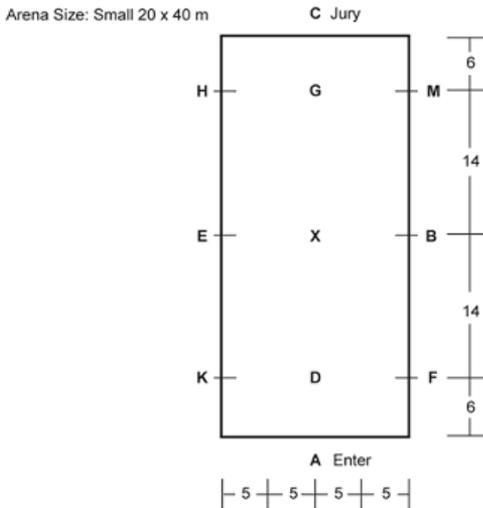
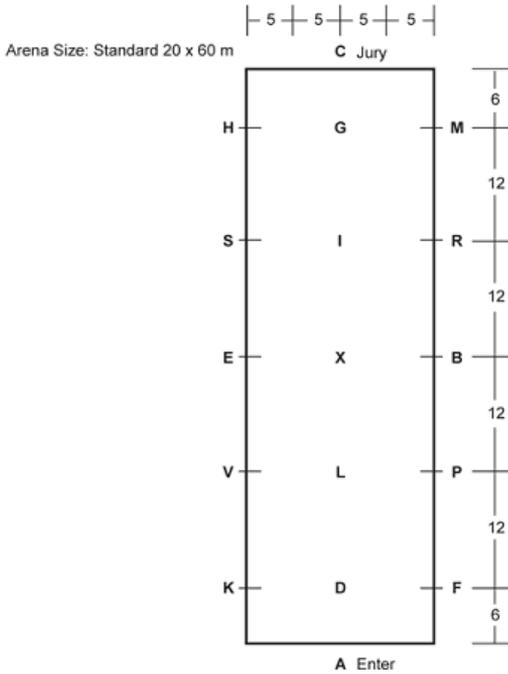
1. Dressage tests ridden in Test of Choice (TOC) classes cannot be used as qualifiers for Gold National Championship or for National Rankings
2. Dressage tests ridden in Test of Choice (TOC) classes may be used as qualifiers for Gold Provincial or Regional Championships as well as for Silver Championships and team qualification, if permitted in the team qualification

criteria. Dressage tests ridden in TOC classes may also be used to qualify for Silver sanctioned show championships.

3. Para dressage tests ridden in TOC classes may be used as qualifiers for Gold Provincial, Regional and National Championships as well as for Silver Championships and team qualification, if permitted in the team qualification criteria. Para dressage tests ridden in TOC classes may also be used to qualify for Gold or Silver sanctioned show championships.
4. Organizing committees may offer TOC classes in any division where it is beneficial for the competition and riders, i.e. where it is expected that there will be several one entry classes such as FEI classes.

**ARTICLE E 3.21 ARENA DIAGRAMS**

All measurements in metres. 1 m equals 3.3 feet



## **CHAPTER 4 DRESS, SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT**

### **ARTICLE E 4.0 SAFETY HEADGEAR**

All riders, regardless of age or level of competition, must wear properly fitted and fastened safety approved protective headgear including a chin strap (specified for equestrian sports) at all times when mounted at any EC-sanctioned dressage or para dressage competition at the event location.

**Note:** At the tack check that follows the test, the steward may ask the rider to dismount so that the headgear can be inspected for safety standard labelling.

### **ARTICLE E 4.1 SAFETY VESTS**

Any rider competing in an EC sanctioned dressage or para dressage competition is permitted to wear a safety vest including an inflatable safety vest which is tethered to the saddle. The vest must conform to the rules governing jacket colours.

### **ARTICLE E 4.2 DRESS – FOR EC SANCTIONED, BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD, COMPETITIONS**

1. At all test levels, riders may wear jackets or vests in any single colour with subtle pin striping, checks or tweeds. Striped or multi-coloured coats or jackets are not permitted. Tasteful and discreet accents, such as a collar or a different hue or modest piping or crystal decorations, are acceptable. Protective headgear, stocks, chokers, ties, gloves, breeches and riding boots may be of a matching colour to the coat.
2. Failure to comply with the listed dress regulations may result in a recorded warning.

### **ARTICLE E 4.2.1 FEI TESTS FROM JUNIOR TO GRAND PRIX INCLUDING FEI PARA DRESSAGE TESTS PLUS DEVELOPING HORSE PRIX ST GEORGES / GRAND PRIX; INCLUDING FEI 7 YEAR OLD YOUNG HORSE IN ALL EC SILVER AND GOLD SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS INCLUDING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. Any single coloured jacket; short; cutaway with short tails or tailcoat; or tailored dressage vest with subtle pin striping, checks or tweeds with a long or short sleeved shirt. Contrasting collars, points, modest piping or crystal decorations are allowed.
2. Safety approved protective headgear.
3. White, light or dark coloured breeches; bright colours or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.
4. Tie, bow tie, choker or hunting stock of any colour.
5. Gloves, black, brown, white or colour matching the jacket.  
**Note:** Velcro gloves and Velcro reins are prohibited.
6. Dark or colour coordinated riding boots (plain, laced or with zippers)
7. Spurs are optional, see ART E 4.2.8
8. Exceptions to the dress rules for para dressage riders can be found in ART E 6.7.

**ARTICLE E 4.2.2 FEI CHILDREN AND FEI PONY TESTS IN ALL EC SILVER AND GOLD SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS INCLUDING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. Any single coloured short jacket, cutaway with short tails, club uniform coat or tailored dressage vest with subtle pin striping, checks or tweeds with a long or short sleeved shirt. Contrasting collars, points, modest piping or crystal decorations are allowed.
2. Safety approved protective headgear.
3. White, light or dark coloured breeches or jodhpurs with jodhpur boots; bright colours or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.
4. Tie, bow tie, hunting stock or choker of any colour
5. Gloves; black, brown, white, or colour matching the jacket. Note: Velcro gloves and Velcro reins are prohibited.
6. Dark or colour coordinated riding boots (plain, laced or with zippers)
7. Spurs are optional, see ART E 4.2.8. If spurs are used, only blunt metal spurs no longer than 3.5 cm measured from boot to tip of spur are allowed. Rowels on spurs are not allowed.
8. Exceptions to the dress rules for para dressage riders can be found in ART E 6.7.

**ARTICLE E 4.2.3 INTRODUCTORY THROUGH FOURTH LEVEL, PARA DRESSAGE NATIONAL TESTS, RISING STARS EQUITATION; INCLUDING FEI 4, 5 AND 6 YEAR OLD YOUNG HORSE AND MATERIALE IN ALL EC SANCTIONED SILVER AND GOLD COMPETITIONS INCLUDING CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

1. Any single coloured or short jacket; cutaway with short tails or tailored dressage vest with subtle pin-striping, checks or tweeds with a long or short sleeved shirt with a collar. Contrasting collars, points, modest piping or crystal decorations are allowed. (tailcoats are permitted only in classes above Fourth level). Long or short-sleeved shirts may be of one or two complementary solid colours or pin striped.
2. Safety approved protective head gear
3. White, light or dark coloured breeches; bright colours or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.
4. Juniors are permitted to wear jodhpurs and jodhpur boots
5. Tie, bow tie, hunting stock or choker of any colour
6. Gloves, black, brown, white or colour matching the jacket.  
**Note:** Velcro gloves and Velcro reins are prohibited
7. Dark or colour coordinated riding boots (plain with or without boot crowns, laced or with zippers). Half chaps/boots are forbidden at Silver and Gold competitions.
8. Spurs are optional, see ART E 4.2.8.
9. Exceptions to the dress rules for para dressage riders can be found in ART E 6.7

**ARTICLE E 4.2.4 INTRODUCTORY THROUGH FOURTH LEVEL, PARA DRESSAGE NATIONAL TESTS, RISING STARS EQUITATION AND MATERIALE IN ALL EC SANCTIONED BRONZE COMPETITIONS:**

1. Any single coloured short jacket; cutaway with short tails or tailored dressage vest with subtle pin-stripping, checks or tweeds with a long or short sleeved shirt with a collar. Contrasting collars, points, modest piping or crystal decorations are allowed. (tailcoats are permitted only in classes above Fourth level.). Long or short-sleeved shirts may be of one or two complementary solid colours or pin striped.
2. Safety approved protective headgear
3. White, light or dark coloured breeches; bright colours or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.
4. Juniors are permitted to wear jodhpurs and jodhpur boots.
5. Tie, bow tie, hunting stock, or choker of any colour
6. Gloves, black, brown, white or colour matching the jacket.  
**Note:** Velcro gloves and Velcro reins are prohibited
7. Dark or colour coordinated riding boots (plain with or without boot crowns, laced or with zippers)
8. Dark or colour coordinated half chaps or half boots zipped over short boots may be worn.
9. Spurs are optional, see ART E 4.2.8.
10. Exceptions to the dress rules for para dressage riders can be found in ART E 6.7

**ARTICLE E 4.2.5 MILITARY UNIFORMS**

1. Riders who are members of the police or other armed forces may wear civil or service dress.
2. Safety approved headgear must be worn instead of military caps.

**ARTICLE E4.2.6 RIDERS WITH PHYSICAL AND, OR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS COMPETING IN DRESSAGE CLASSES**

1. Reference Section A – ART A214 and ART E 6.6

**ARTICLE E 4.2.7 EXTREME OR INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS**

1. Refer to Equestrian Canada's *Guidelines For Equine Competition And Training During Extreme Environmental Conditions*:  
[https://equestrian.ca/wp-content/uploads/Extreme-Weather-Guidelines\\_2025-18-15\\_EN.pdf](https://equestrian.ca/wp-content/uploads/Extreme-Weather-Guidelines_2025-18-15_EN.pdf)
2. In the case of inclement weather, riders may wear a suitable protective hat cover and a warm or waterproof overcoat that is transparent or conservative in colour.
3. When jackets are excused due to excessive heat, riders must wear:
  1. Safety approved protective headgear.
  2. One or two complementary solid colours, pin striped, without bold pattern, long, short sleeved or sleeveless riding shirt with a collar.
  3. Shirt collar may be opened
  4. Stock ties must be removed unless pinned to the rider's shirt
  5. T-shirts are not permitted
  6. A cooling or tailored dressage vest may be worn over a long or short sleeved riding shirt.
  7. The vest colour must conform to the rules for jacket colours.

## ARTICLE E 4.2.8 SPURS

1. Spurs are optional at all levels including FEI Young Horse classes.
2. Spurs must be made of metal and be of a conservative colour.
3. The shank must be either curved downward or straight pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the rider's boot.
4. Swan neck spurs are allowed.
5. The arms of the spur must be smooth.
6. If rowels are used, they must point directly back from the centre of the spur and be mounted vertically. The contact area of a roweled spur must be blunt/smooth (no sharp edges) and free to rotate.
7. Metal spurs with round hard plastic, metal knobs or rotating balls are allowed. Rotating balls may be mounted either vertically or horizontally.
8. Spurs with flat disks of any thickness with smooth rounded edges are allowed. Such spurs are not considered to be rowels and may be mounted vertically or horizontally.
9. "Dummy" spurs with smooth arms and no shank are also allowed.
10. Spurs must be worn in matching pairs.
11. Spur covers are permitted provided they are worn as matching pairs.
12. No spurs other than those listed here are allowed anywhere on the show grounds.
13. Protective bands that keep spurs in place are permitted.
14. FEI Children, FEI Pony and FEI Junior riders mounted on ponies may not use spurs with rowels.
15. Click on spurs with rowels must have the rowel positioned vertically to the ground.



*Swan neck spur*

**Note:** The maximum allowable spur length is 5 cm measured from boot to tip of spur.

**Note:** See ART E4.2.2 for FEI Children and Pony.

**Exception:** Sidesaddle - A single spur may be worn..

**Note:** Riders abusing the horse whether intentionally or not, may be asked by the steward or judge to remove their spurs.

## ARTICLE E 4.2.9 RIDERS WITH LONG HAIR

1. Long hair must be secured with a hair net or tied back in a braid or a bun.

## ARTICLE E 4.2.10 BRAIDING MANES AND DECORATIONS

1. Manes may be braided.
2. White or black braiding tape is permitted.
3. White, black or coloured thread/wool/elastic bands are permitted.
4. Braiding wire is permitted.
5. Braiding bands are permitted, including decorated bands that have a smooth base and do not have any sharp edges.
6. Any decoration of the horse with extravagant items, such as glitter, ribbons, flowers, charms, etc. in the mane and tail or on the body, is strictly forbidden.

**Exception:** Simple red ribbon may be used in the tail for safety reasons for caution or kicking etc.

## **ARTICLE E 4.2.11 MEDICAL DISPENSATION FOR SHORT TERM INJURIES OF RIDER**

If a rider has a temporary injury or medical condition that prevents them from complying with the EC dress or equipment rules, they must present a letter drafted and signed by a certified medical professional indicating the nature of the injury and the prescribed temporary adaptation of dress or equipment (i.e. braces etc.) to the competition organizer. The letter is valid for 6 months.

The competition organizer must provide a copy of the letter to the steward. The steward must review the piece of equipment to ensure that it ensures the welfare of the horse, safety of the rider and does not create an advantage for the rider. If the steward or judge feels that the dress or equipment is unsafe it will not be permitted for use on the competition grounds.

## **ARTICLE E 4.2.12 RIBBON & AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

1. During ribbon & award presentations all parties must dress neatly and in accordance with the dignity of the ceremony. (No shorts, tank tops, jeans, etc.). Riders should refer to the prize list for information regarding prize giving ceremonies.
2. Un-mounted presentations are permitted.

## **ARTICLE E 4.2.13 CANADIAN EQUESTRIAN TEAM CREST**

1. The Canadian Equestrian Team (CET) Team Crest is an award of distinction and recognition. The CET Crest is awarded to a rider who has earned the privilege of being selected to an International Team \* representing Canada. Currently there are five levels of crests: Children, Junior, Young Rider, U25 and Senior.
2. The CET Crest is to be worn only by the rider who has earned the distinction and must be worn on the left shoulder of a riding jacket used in competition. A crest is only awarded to team members who travel to the competition and compete in the competition.
3. Once awarded, the rider while in good standing with EC, may continue to wear the crest with the following exceptions:

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

**Exception:** Only one CET Crest may be worn on a given riding jacket [i.e. a Junior could have a Junior and Young Rider crest, but can only wear one per riding jacket]

**Please note:** Crests may not be worn by a non-rider, nor can a crest be worn on a non-riding jacket i.e. blazer breast pocket without specific EC approval for a specified event.

\* International Team references the following events:

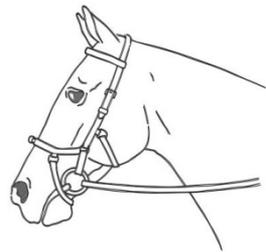
- Olympic Games/Paralympic Games
- World Championships
- World Cup Final
- Pan American Games
- North American Youth Championships

## ARTICLE E 4.3 BRIDLES, SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

*For additional information on allowable tack and equipment see US Equestrian Federation Annex A.*

<https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/dressage/rules--equipment>

1. Bridle, saddlery and equipment rules apply in the warmup area as well as the competition arena.
2. A bridle must consist of a bit or bits, reins, crownpiece, cheek pieces, noseband, browband and throatlatch.
3. A throatlatch/jowl strap is required except when a combined noseband or Micklem bridle is used.
4. The crownpiece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll but must not be fitted to lie behind the skull.
5. Elastic inserts are permitted in the crownpiece and cheekpieces.
6. All bridles must be correctly fitted.
7. A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand connected to the bit by buckle or stud. Rein additions or attachments are prohibited. Reins may not be attached to the bit by clips, nor may clips be attached from bit to the noseband. Each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to bits. Reins may be made of leather, leather-like material, or webbing. Rubber reins are allowed provided the length is fixed and cannot be stretched. Reins must not be made of rope or rope-like material. Only one rein stop may be present on each rein. The rein stop should not be confused with the stops sown into the reins. Gadgets such as hand loops, Velcro reins, running or balancing reins are strictly forbidden.  
**Exception:** see Para Dressage Chapter 6.
8. Bitless bridles are not permitted.
9. Padding is allowed on bridles.
10. No decorative covers are allowed over bridle buckles or where browband meets the headstall.
11. Chain browbands are not permitted unless the chain is a decoration that adheres to a solid band of material.
12. Decorated or coloured browbands are permitted if the decoration adheres to a solid band of material and does not have anything hanging from it.  
**Exception:** A small name tag is permitted.
13. Micklem bridles may be used at any level where snaffles are permitted. They are not permitted for use as a double bridle. Bit clips or lungeing rings are not permitted.
14. Metal clips are permitted on the throatlatch or cheek attachments of anatomical bridles but are not permitted on bits or bit rings.
15. Poll relief bridles are permitted.



### ARTICLE E 4.3.1 SNAFFLE BRIDLE

1. Required in Introductory Training, First and Second Level.
2. Required in FEI Children, FEI Pony and FEI 4-, 5- and 6-year-old classes. The minimum snaffle dimension is 12 mm. Exception for ponies: the diameter may be 10 mm.
3. Required in Materiale classes.

4. Optional at Third Level through Grand Prix and FEI 7 year old Young Horse tests at EC competitions.
5. For permitted bits, see ART E 4.4 and ART E 4.5 diagrams.
6. For permitted nosebands, see ART E 4.3.3.

**Note:** For bridle rules at Platinum/FEI competitions, see FEI Regulations [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

#### **ARTICLE E 4.3.2 DOUBLE BRIDLE**

1. Double bridles are optional in all tests and warmup for Third Level through FEI Grand Prix including all FEI para dressage tests at EC competitions including championships.
2. A double bridle must have a cavesson or comfort noseband with throatlatch and bridoon and curb with curb chain which may be covered or padded. All other versions of a cavesson noseband, e.g. crescent nosebands, are not permitted with a double bridle. Neither a cavesson noseband nor curb chain may be as tightly fixed as to harm the horse.
3. For permitted bits, see ART E 4.4 and ART E 4.5.1 diagrams.
4. For permitted nosebands, see ART E 4.3.3.

#### **ARTICLE E 4.3.3 PERMITTED NOSEBANDS**

1. As per EC General Regulations, Section A ART A517, a noseband must never be used in such a way that they interfere with the horse's breathing or be tight enough to cause pain or discomfort.

**Effective January 1, 2026**, the following provisions apply **at all national competitions** regarding permitted noseband tightness: The noseband must be adjusted with sufficient laxity, as determined by an EC approved Measuring Device. The rule applies to all types of nosebands and to both the upper and lower noseband.

Please refer to the [FEI General and Discipline Specific Protocols](#) for Assessing the Tightness of Nosebands for additional information.

2. The images below are examples only, and similar nosebands which produce the same effect on the horse are also allowed.



1. Dropped noseband



2. Cavesson noseband



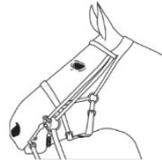
3. Flash noseband



4. Crossed noseband/  
Figure of 8 noseband/  
Mexican noseband



5. Comfort noseband with snaffle bridle (with or without flash)



6. Comfort noseband with double bridle



7. Crescent Cavesson

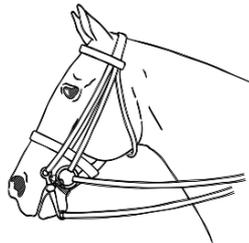
**Note:** Will be removed in 2027

**Note:** Diagrams 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7 are not permitted when a double bridle is used.

**Note:** Crescent cavessons and figure eight nosebands are not permitted in FEI Young Horse classes.

#### ARTICLE E 4.3.4 EXAMPLE OF DOUBLE BRIDLE

Example of double bridle with cavesson noseband, bridoon bit and curb with curb chain

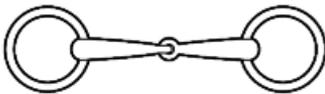


#### ARTICLE E 4.4 BITS AND DIAGRAMS

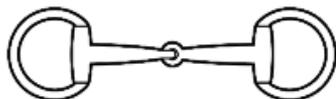
1. Only those bits pictured in this rulebook are approved for use in EC dressage and para dressage competitions. The diagrams shown are examples of approved bits, they do not include every bit available. Bits of a similar design, with similar effect on the horse, are allowable if they conform to ART E 4.5 and ART E4.5.1. This can include the combining of parts of bits i.e. hanging cheek snaffle with rotating mouthpiece. See also ART E 4.3 reference to US Equestrian Federation Annex A.
2. A Dr. Bristol snaffle, defined as a snaffle with a flat centre link that does not lie in the same plane as the rest of the bit, is not permitted.
3. Locking snaffles are not permitted.
4. All bits must be smooth with a solid surface and no sharp edges on center links. Snaffles and curbs bits with smooth ridges are permitted.
5. Bits must not place mechanical restraint on the tongue.

6. All bits are made of metal (they may contain more than one metal), durable plastic, synthetic material or flexible rubber and are usually coloured silver, gold or white. Modern bits include blue and other colours which are permitted. Also permitted are bits with manufactured rubber covered centre links. Bridoons and cub bits may be covered with latex /rubber.
7. Corkscrew or twisted bits are not permitted.
8. The mouthpiece of a bridoon must have one or two joints only.
9. Curved snaffles and bridoons are permitted.
10. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may have up to two joints. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link in a double-jointed snaffle, however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller.
11. Snaffle bits may be used with loose ring, D-Ring and Eggbutt cheeks. Single or double-jointed snaffles may also be used with upper or lower cheeks, hanging cheeks, full cheeks or Fulmer cheeks. Upper cheeks may be used with or without “keepers”. Loose rings may have a sleeve fitted around part of the ring.
12. Bits must not place mechanical restraint upon the tongue. The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon/snaffle and/or curb must be such so as not to hurt the horse.
13. Bit Dimensions:
  1. The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon/snaffle and, or curb must not hurt the horse.
  2. Snaffle and bridoon rings: the inside dimensions must be between 3.5 cm and 10.16 cm
  3. Minimum bit diameters where the bit connects to the cheek or ring:  
Ponies: 10 mm for snaffles  
Horses: 10 mm for snaffles, and 10 mm for bridoons, 12 mm for curbs.  
Exception: Young Horse & FEI Children (on horses) - 12 mm for snaffles, FEI Children (on ponies) 10 mm for snaffles.
  4. The upper cheekpieces must not exceed 5 cm or be longer than the curb lever arms measured below the mouthpiece which must not be more than 10 cm when the mouthpiece is in the uppermost position.
  5. The upper cheek of a hanging cheek (Baucher) snaffle (measured from the top of the mouthpiece to the top of the upper cheek) may not exceed 7 cm.

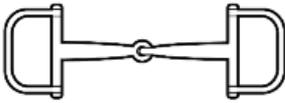
#### ARTICLE E 4.5APPROVED SNAFFLE BITS



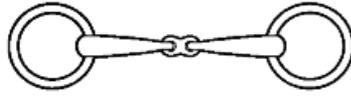
1. Loose ring snaffle



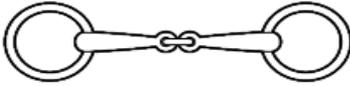
2. Egg-butt snaffle



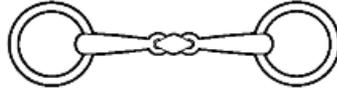
3. Racing snaffle D-ring



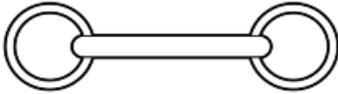
4a. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece should be rounded.



4b. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece should be rounded.



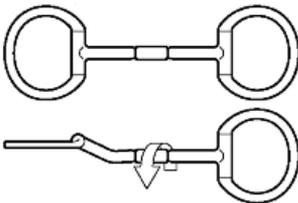
4c. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece should be rounded.



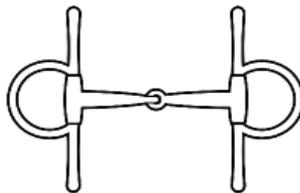
5. Straight bar snaffle permitted also with mullen mouth and with egg-butt rings.



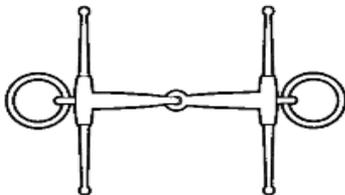
6. Double jointed snaffle with centrepiece with a roller



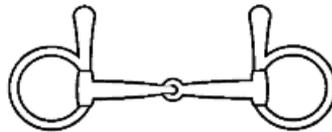
7. Snaffle with rotating mouth piece



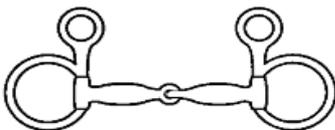
8. Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks (with or without "keepers")



9. Loose ring snaffle with cheeks (with or without "keepers")



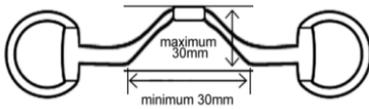
10. Snaffle with upper cheeks only (with or without "keepers")



11. Hanging cheek snaffle



12. Baucher hanging cheek snaffle



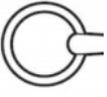
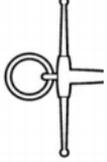
13. Tongue relief snaffle with rotating mouthpiece or rotating coupling as shown in diagram #7



14. NS Verbindend

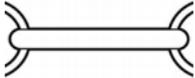
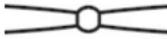
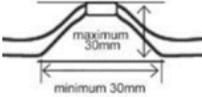
The following cheekpieces and mouthpieces may be used interchangeably with the allowable bits shown.

**Cheek Pieces:**

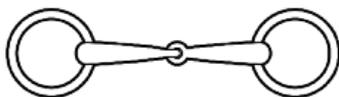
		
Ex. of Loose Ring cheek	Ex. of Eggbutt cheek	Ex. of D-Ring cheek
		
Ex. of upper cheek	Ex. of full cheek	Ex. of hanging cheek
		
Ex. of Fulmer cheek		

**Mouthpieces:**

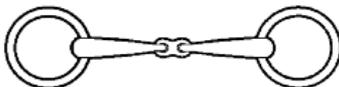
		
Ex. of single jointed mouthpiece	Ex. of double jointed mouthpiece	Ex. of double jointed mouthpiece

		
<p>Ex. of unjointed mouthpiece</p>	<p>Ex. of barrel joint</p>	<p>Ex. of ball joint</p>
		
<p>Ex. of double ball joint</p>	<p>Ex. of centrepiece with a roller</p>	<p>Port deviation measurements</p>

**ARTICLE E 4.5.1 APPROVED DOUBLE BRIDLE BITS**



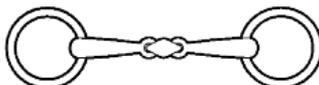
1. Loose ring bridoon bit



2.a Bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded.



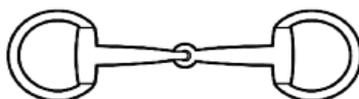
2b. Bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded.



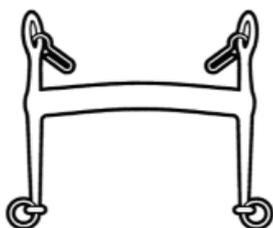
2c. Bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded.



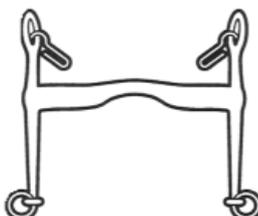
2d. Bridoon bit with rotating middle piece.



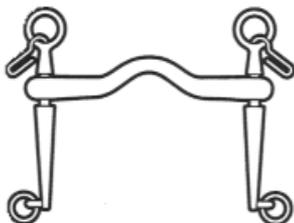
3. Egg-butt bridoon bit.



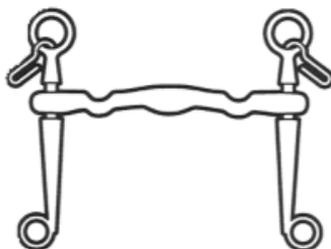
4. Half-moon curb bit



5. Curb bit with straight cheeks & port



6. Curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth)



7. Variations of bits 5 and 6



8. Curb bit with S-Curved cheeks.  
A curb bit with rotating lever arms is also allowed.



9. Curb chain  
(metal or leather or a combination)



10. Lip Strap



11. Leather cover for curb chain



12. Sheepskin or synthetic sheepskin cover for curb chain

### ARTICLE E 4.6 TONGUE TIE

A horse's tongue tied down will result in disqualification from the competition.

### ARTICLE E 4.7 SADDLES

1. A dark coloured English saddle with a girth and stirrups is compulsory at Introductory through Fourth Level.

**Exception:** Para dressage see ART E 6.8.

2. An English-type saddle may be assembled with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet.

3. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles.

4. Leather or fabric/synthetic saddles are permitted.

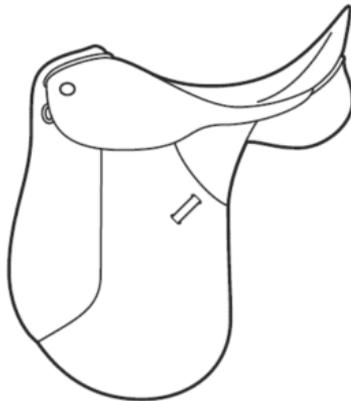
5. Saddle covers are not allowed at any level.

**Exception:** See ART E 14.1.10 and ART E 6.9

6. If a saddle pad is used, it must be a plain conservative colour, may have rhinestones and may match the coat. It may have piping of a different colour to the pad. Striped, multi-coloured, patterned pads or pads with glitter are not permitted.

7. Soft hand hold (pommel strap) is allowed.

Example of permitted Dressage saddle



## ARTICLE E 4.8 STIRRUPS

1. Stirrups in any colour must be used in matching pairs.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.8.
2. Stirrups must hang loose from straps on the stirrup bars on the saddle and have no other attachments.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.8.
3. Stirrups may have a release mechanism or open outer branch for increased safety during a fall.
4. The foot or boot of the rider must not be fully or partially enclosed and must in no way be attached to the stirrups (for example with Velcro, magnets or any other mechanism.)  
**Exception:** Riders competing with approved dispensation from a certified medical professional, see ART E 4.2.11 or para dressage riders, see ART A 6.8 and 6.9, may have a stirrup specifically identified as “quick release” safety stirrup and it may have an open branch.



## ARTICLE E 4.9 WHIPS

1. A whip may be carried in all levels at Bronze, Silver and Gold competitions.  
**Exception:** see Chapter 13 for FEI Young Horse Classes  
Whips may not be carried championships or national team selection trials, outside the warmup/schooling ring, see ART E 7.4. .  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.9.  
**Exception:** Riders riding sidesaddle may always carry a whip, see Chapter 5 Sidesaddle.
2. The total length of the whip (including lash), used while mounted on a horse at any EC sanctioned dressage or para dressage competition, must not exceed 120 cm.
3. The total length of a whip (including lash), used while mounted on a pony at any EC-sanctioned Dressage competition, must not exceed 100 cm.
4. Telescoping whips are not permitted.
5. The use of a whip with any attachment other than the originally manufactured lash, is not permitted in the competition or schooling areas.

## ARTICLE E 4.10 MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

For Young Horse classes, see Chapter 13 ART E 13.6

### A. Allowed in warmup area only – forbidden in competition

1. Leg boots and bandages  
**Exception:** Leg boots and bandages are permitted in EC sanctioned Bronze competitions.
2. Seat covers  
**Exception:** See ART E14.1.10 and ART E 6.9

3. Running martingales must have stoppers.
4. Equine nasal strips
5. Two way communication devices provided that the rider uses only one ear piece to enable them to hear any directions from the steward.

**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.10.

6. Neck Strap

**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.9

#### **B. Approved for competition but requiring permission**

1. Net relief masks are permitted for documented head shakers providing the rider submits a written letter, along with a veterinary recommendation/certificate to the competition organizer with their entries prior to competing. A copy must also be provided to the steward. The net relief mask must be properly fitted at all times.
2. Goggles are permitted providing the rider submits a written letter, along with a veterinary recommendation/certificate to the competition organizer with their entries. A copy must also be provided to the steward. The goggles must be properly adjusted at all times.
3. Riders with documented hearing impairment may use headsets only if the competition organizer is able to appoint a supervisor to stand with the caller. An audiologist's or doctor's certificate indicating the rider's hearing impairment must be submitted with the competition entry and the steward and judge must be advised. Para dressage riders see ART E 6.9 and 6.10. Master Class riders see Chapter 14.

#### **C. Approved for competition – no permission required**

1. Breastplates, foregirths, soft handhold, girth covers, sternum relief girths, sternum relief pads, ergonomic girths and cruppers.
2. Ear hoods are permitted and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods should be discreet in colour and design, and must not cover the eyes. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband.
3. Fly Armor fly protection bands are permitted only on the crown piece or nosebands.

**Note:** The steward may ask to have the Fly Armor removed at the tack check.

4. Non-restrictive nose fly guards.
5. **Note:** After completion of the test, the rider or their representative is responsible for removing the ear net (fly hood), fly guard, and ear covers if requested by the steward to allow a thorough inspection to ensure that nothing prohibited has been added (e.g. ear plugs). If glue-on shoes are used, they must be of a neutral or black colour.

**Note:** Tack which is designed to facilitate the comfort of the horse or the safety of the rider in the competition arena or warmup area is permitted if it does not contravene EC tack rules. Gadgets/training tools designed to affect the performance of the horse (i.e. bit burrs) are not permitted.

6. Hoof boots are allowed provided they are black.

**Note:** The rider may be asked to remove the hoof boots during the tack check by the steward.

#### **D. Para Dressage Approved Equipment**

1. See ART E 6.8, 6.9 and 6.10

#### **E. Equipment forbidden from being used on the show grounds**

1. Martingales (other than running), bit guards, bit burrs, tongue tie, any kind of gadgets or training tools, such as bearing, side, running or balancing or draw reins and any form of blinkers, ear plugs, illegal spurs are strictly forbidden from being used on the show grounds at any time during the competition. Contravention of this rule will incur elimination or disqualification at the discretion of the ground jury.
2. The use of “belly bands” is forbidden.
3. Any piece of tack that impairs the ears to move freely is forbidden.

**Exception:** Any equipment which is designated to facilitate the comfort of the horse is permitted in the stable. i.e. ear plugs would be allowed in the stable but never in the warmup or competition arena.

**Exception:** As per Section A ART A520 Supportive Therapies, kinesiology taping is only permitted in the stabling area. Its use outside the stabling area is prohibited.

#### **ARTICLE E 4.11 BOOTS AND BANDAGES**

1. A horse or pony may wear leg boots (including bell boots) or bandages anywhere on the competition grounds except in the competition arena.  
**Exception:** Leg boots (including bell boots) and bandages are permitted in EC sanctioned Bronze competitions, non-EC classes and at prize giving ceremonies.
2. Hoof boots are allowed provided they are black

#### **ARTICLE E 4.12 MUDDY FOOTING CONDITIONS**

1. In the event of extreme, wet, muddy and slick conditions, permission may be given for horses to wear boots and, or bandages in the competition arena. It is up to the judge in consultation with the organizing committee and senior steward to make this decision.
2. Permission to use boots and, or bandages must be announced frequently and may not be given after the start of a class.
3. Stewards may but are not obligated to inform riders of this option prior to entering the competition arena.
4. The organizing committee must post signs indicating this option in the stabling area. It is entirely the rider’s decision whether to use or not to use boots and, or bandages and it is the rider’s responsibility to decide whether to compete or not in unstable footing.
5. Stewards may have any boots or bandages removed as part of the tack check.

#### **ARTICLE E 4.13 FALSE TAILS AND EXTENSIONS**

1. If a rider wishes to compete on a horse with a false tail, they may do so but must inform the steward at the tack check so that an inspection can be made.
2. No weights may be used in a false tail. It must be made from horse hair or the equivalent in synthetic fabric and must be the same as the horse’s natural tail colour.

#### **ARTICLE E 4.14 PULLED SHOE / BROKEN EQUIPMENT**

1. In the event of equipment breaking or a horse casting a shoe during judging of a class, no time out is permitted.
2. In the event of equipment breaking or a horse casting a shoe during the warmup a judge may permit re-scheduling.

#### **ARTICLE E 4.15 TACK CHECK**

1. Organizing committees in agreement with their steward(s) may hold random or compulsory tack checks at all EC sanctioned Bronze, Silver and Gold competitions.

**Exception:** Tack checks are mandatory at all Gold Provincial, Regional and National Championships, see ART E 7.5.

2. Any classes that have the possibility of being used as a qualifier for an identified event, team or program as set out in criteria e.g. North American Youth Championships (NAYC) must have mandatory tack checks.
3. Noseband Tightness Protocol will take place prior to the remainder of the tack and equipment check see ART E 4.3.3.
4. Riders identified for a tack check must report, still mounted, to the steward or their representative for a tack check immediately upon leaving the competition arena. The rider may not remove any equipment or clothing before the steward has conducted their inspection.

**Exception:** A rider may, of course, dismount and remove their hat and jacket in case of illness or feeling faint.

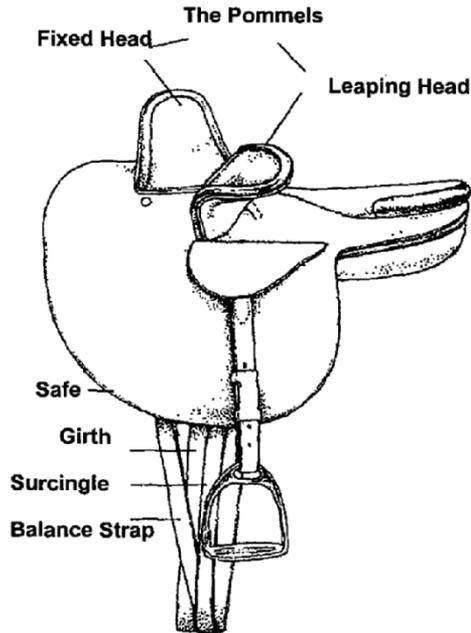
5. The steward or their representative is responsible for ensuring that saddlery and dress regulations are followed. The steward may ask for ear covers, nose nets, fly armor and boots or bandages, if used, to be removed to allow for inspection.
6. At the tack check, the rider may be asked to dismount to allow inspection of their headgear.
7. Riders are welcome to approach the steward and ask for saddlery/dress rule clarifications at any time prior to riding their test.
8. A rider who is eliminated or retires during a test must still report to the steward for a possible tack check.
9. Competitions that decide to offer random tack checks must, at minimum check the tack on 30% of riders. This can be completed by identifying specific classes to check or it may be completed by checking 30% of riders from each class. This decision is at the discretion of the competition in collaboration with their stewards.
10. Riders are encouraged to request a tack check if they have questions on tack requirements.
11. Stewards may check any dubious equipment (especially the tightness of nosebands) anywhere on the competition grounds, including the warmup and schooling areas.

## CHAPTER 5 SIDESADDLE

### ARTICLE E 5.1 SIDESADDLE

For all dressage classes, a black or brown English type sidesaddle must be used.

#### ARTICLE E 5.1.1 PARTS OF THE SIDESADDLE



### ARTICLE E 5.2 STIRRUPS/STIRRUP BAR

Side saddles must be equipped with one or more of the following:

1. Break away safety stirrup bar
2. Traditional side saddle safety stirrup
3. Breakaway safety stirrup leather

### ARTICLE E 5.3 WHIPS

1. Sidesaddle riders may always carry a whip including at championships, see ART E 7.4.
2. A sidesaddle cane may be carried to provide aids in place of the leg astride. It must not exceed 92 cm (excluding any L shaped handle) in length and must be black or brown in colour.

#### ARTICLE E 5.3.1 SIDESADDLE CANE



### **ARTICLE E 5.4 RIDER POSITION**

Sidesaddle riders should sit so that their spine is directly over the horse's backbone. The rider's body should be erect and supple; shoulders level and square with the horse and the hips square. The right thigh should lay comfortably along the saddle with the lower leg resting relaxed against the side of the saddle, perpendicular to the ground, the ankle against the horse's shoulder. The left leg should be positioned with a hand width between thigh and leaping pommel. Emergency grip is obtained when the left heel is raised and the thigh contacts the leaping pommel. The rider applying pressure against the shoulder with their right calf / ankle and right thigh against the top pommel will obtain "Purchase".

The position of the hands should be the same as astride, however allowance must be made for the height of the two pommels.

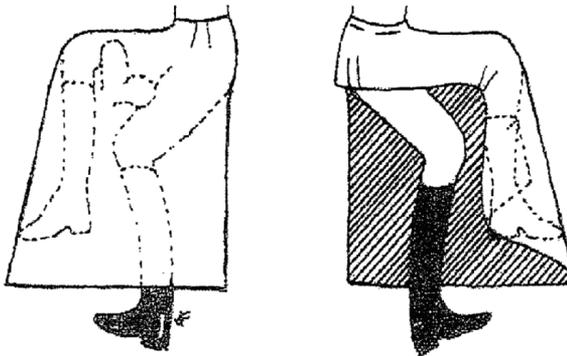
### **ARTICLE E 5.5 TROT**

All trot movements are to be executed sitting. The rider should keep the saddle steady with no sideways motion.

### **ARTICLE E 5.6 DRESS**

1. All riders, regardless of age or level of competition, must wear safety approved protective headgear at all times when mounted at any EC sanctioned dressage or para dressage competition. At the tack check, the rider may be asked to dismount to allow inspection of their headgear.
2. The sidesaddle habit must consist of conservative colours, black, brown, navy, green or maroon with dark coloured breeches. An informal habit consisting of a dark coloured jacket and solid coloured apron of conservative dark colours will also be accepted. The outfit jacket should consist of a fitted jacket, falling just below the hips and a sidesaddle safety apron. The length of the apron should lie between 1-3" above the ankle seam of the left boot. The apron hem should be parallel to the ground and should completely cover the right foot.
3. Gloves, brown, black, white or colour matching the jacket must be worn.
4. A long or short-sleeved riding shirt must be worn with a stock tie or tie.

#### **Sidesaddle Safety Apron**



### **ARTICLE E 5.7 RIBBONS AND AWARDS**

1. Separate sidesaddle ribbons may be awarded at the discretion of the competition management.

## **CHAPTER 6 PARA DRESSAGE**

### **ARTICLE E 6.1 OBJECTIVE OF PARA DRESSAGE**

1. To provide and develop competition opportunities for equestrian riders with either a physical and, or visual impairment.

### **ARTICLE E 6.2 CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

1. It is a condition of participation that the rider has a permanent, verifiable and measurable physical or visual impairment that is supported by medical evidence that satisfies the minimum impairment criteria.
2. Riders wishing to compete in para dressage classes at EC Sanctioned silver and gold competitions must undergo a rider classification session with two nationally or FEI accredited para dressage classifiers before they can take part in a competition.
  1. A rider will be allocated a Grade for competition based on their functional profile as described in the FEI Para Equestrian Classification Manual: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/classification>.
  2. A rider's profile may need to be reviewed periodically. Classifiers determine the frequency of the review (reclassification schedule). A rider with supporting medical documentation can ask to undergo a medical review for reclassification if their condition deteriorates or improves.
3. Riders not yet officially classified may compete in para dressage classes at EC sanctioned Bronze competitions. Riders must complete an EC Para Dressage Dispensation request and submit it to the EC Para Dressage Department for approval. Once approved the rider can access a copy of their Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate by logging into their MyEC account. This dispensation certificate must be submitted to the show organizing committee when entering the competition. Riders who do not appear on the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate or the EC Classification Master list are not eligible to compete in Bronze competitions.
4. Riders with a physical or visual impairment who use compensating aids or adaptive equipment and compete at EC sanctioned competitions must have either an EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate or be listed on the EC Classification Master list. The EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate and, or the EC Classification Master list must identify the compensating aids or adaptive equipment that the rider is permitted to use.

Refer to FEI Para Dressage rules and FEI Classification documentation for FEI standard and profile specific compensating aids (<https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/classification/documentation>).
5. All other compensating aids MUST be listed on the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate and / or EC Classification Master List.
6. Classified and non classified riders must complete an EC request for non-standard compensating aids they are considering using a non-standard compensating aid. The request will be reviewed by the non-standard compensating aids panel. If the request is accepted by the panel the non-standard compensating aid will be added to the riders EC Classification Master list of the EC Medical Dispensation list. If the non-standard compensating aid does not appear on the list, the rider may not use it. If the request is not accepted, the non-standard compensating aids panel will state why the request

was not accepted.

7. Riders must submit copies of their EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate and, or a copy of the EC Classification Master List with their entries and always carry copies with them while on the competition grounds.
8. Competition organizers must notify official(s) before the start of the competition that there is a rider who will be competing with compensating aids or adaptive equipment and provide them with a copy of the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate and / or a copy of the EC Classification Master List.
9. The competition steward(s)/official(s) have the right and responsibility to inspect the compensating aid or adaptive equipment and declare whether a compensating aid or adaptive equipment is unsafe for the horse and, or rider. The rider must be able to always fall free from the horse.
10. Individual riders are required to provide their own necessary personal support staff to enable them to compete, including callers and commanders.

### **ARTICLE 6.3 GRADES**

1. **Grade I:** Rider has a severe impairment affecting all limbs and trunk. Grade I riders usually require the use of a wheelchair. They may be able to walk with an unsteady gait. Trunk and balance are severely impaired.
2. **Grade II:** Rider has either a severe impairment of the trunk or minimal impairment of the upper limbs or moderate impairment of the trunk, upper and lower limbs. Most riders in Grade II use a wheelchair in daily life.
3. **Grade III:** Rider has severe impairment in both lower limbs with minimal or no impairment of the trunk or moderate impairment of the upper and lower limbs and trunk. Some riders in Grade III may use a wheelchair in daily life.
4. **Grade IV:** Rider has a severe impairment or deficiency of both upper limbs or a moderate impairment of all four limbs or short stature. Riders in Grade IV can walk and generally do not require a wheelchair in daily life. Grade IV also includes riders having a visual impairment equivalent to B1 with very low visual acuity and, or no light perception.
5. **Grade V:** Rider has a mild impairment of movement or muscle strength or a deficiency of one limb or mild deficiency of two limbs. Grade V also includes Riders with visual impairment equivalent to B2 with a higher visual acuity than visually impaired riders competing in Grade IV and, or a visual field of less than 5 degrees radius.
6. **Grade VI:** Rider is deemed “Not Eligible” as a result of the classification process. Rider has a minor impairment and can compete in dressage classes with an approved compensating aid or adaptive equipment.

### **ARTICLE E 6.4 COMPETING IN A DIFFERENT GRADE**

1. Riders must compete in their assigned national or international grade.
2. If a rider’s grade changes as a result of classification evaluation at a competition in which they are competing, that rider may choose to compete in the Grade they have entered or choose to rider at their newly assigned Grade. If they choose to compete in their newly assigned Grade they may have a Commander for this competition only.
3. Where the entered grade is lower than the newly allocated grade, each of the rider’s test result will be reduced by 10 percentage points. Where the entered Grade is higher than the newly assigned Grade the final percentage score will remain the same. Such a decision must be reported to the ground jury.

4. The rider may only compete in a Championship in their newly assigned grade, providing that they meet the qualification requirements.

#### **ARTICLE E 6.5 PARA DRESSAGE TESTS**

1. Each grade has its own series of Technical and Freestyle to Music tests. Tests are graded according to suitability for the riders in the five grades (I, II, III, IV and V). If possible, competition organizers should offer all Grades. TOC class may be offered by the competition organizer.
2. **Arena size:** All EC para dressage national tests and FEI para dressage tests for Grades I-III are held in a 20 x 40 m arena. FEI para dressage tests for Grade IV-V compete in a 20m x 60m arena.
3. Only the current Para Dressage tests may be used in official competitions.
  1. **Grade I tests** - riders compete at walk. Rider numbers in this grade should begin with a 1.
  2. **Grade II tests** - riders compete at walk and trot. Rider numbers in this grade should begin with a 2.
  3. **Grade III Tests** - riders compete at walk and trot. Rider numbers in this grade should begin with a 3.
  4. **Grade IV Tests** - riders compete at walk, trot, with lateral work, and canter. Rider numbers in this grade should begin with a 4.
  5. **Grade V Tests** - riders compete at walk, trot and canter with lateral work. Rider numbers in this grade should begin with a 5.
4. **EC Sanctioned Bronze Competition Tests:** The following EC para dressage national tests may be used in EC sanctioned Bronze competitions:
  1. Walk Tests (Test 1, Test 2, Test 3) - For riders who wish to compete at the walk.
  2. Walk/Trot Tests (Test 1, Test 2, Test 3) - For riders who wish to compete at the walk and trot.
  3. Walk/Trot/Canter Tests (Test 1, Test 2, Test 3) – For riders who wish to compete at the walk, trot and canter.
5. **EC Sanctioned Silver and Gold Competition Tests:** The following EC para dressage national and, or FEI tests may be used in EC sanctioned Silver and Gold competitions:
  1. Walk Tests (Test 1, Test 2, Test 3) - For riders who wish to compete at the walk
  2. Walk/Trot Tests (Test 1, Test 2, Test 3) - For riders who wish to compete at the walk and trot
  3. Walk/Trot/Canter Tests (Test 1, Test 2, Test 3) – For riders who wish to compete at the walk, trot and canter
  4. FEI Para Novice Test A, Para Novice Test B and Para Novice Freestyle (Grade I-V).
  5. FEI Para Intermediate Test A, Para Intermediate Test B and Para Intermediate Freestyle (Grade I-V).
  6. FEI Para Grand Prix Test A, Para Grand Prix Test B and Para Grand Prix Freestyle (Grade I-V)

## **ARTICLE E 6.6 RIDERS WITH PHYSICAL AND, OR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS COMPETING IN DRESSAGE CLASSES**

1. Para dressage riders competing in dressage classes must conform to the appropriate dress rules. **Exceptions:** see ART E 6.7, E 6.8 and ART E 6.9.
2. Riders must submit copies of their EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate and / or a copy of the EC Classification Master List with their entries. Copies shall be submitted as follows:
  - One to the steward, and
  - One copy must be attached to each test with a notation on the front of the test sheet.
3. Competition organizers must notify official(s) before the start of the competition that there is a rider who will be competing with compensating aids or adaptive equipment and provide the officials with a copy of the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate and / or a copy of the EC Classification Master List. A copy must be provided to the steward(s), and a copy must be attached to each test with a notation on the front of the test sheet.

## **ARTICLE E 6.7 DRESS**

1. For complete dress rules see Chapter 4. Para dressage has the following exceptions:
  1. **Boots:** Half-chaps or gaiters to the knee may be used.
  2. **Arm bands for visually impaired riders:** A white arm band, provided by the rider, must be worn at all times by riders with classified visual impairment, while mounted outside the competition arena or space surrounding the competition arena.
  3. **Arm band for hearing impaired riders:** A light blue arm band, provided by the rider must be worn at all times by riders with classified hearing impairment, when mounted outside the competition arena or space surrounding the competition arena.

## **ARTICLE E 6.8 TACK AND EQUIPMENT**

1. For complete saddlery and equipment rules see Chapter 4. Para dressage has the following exceptions:

### **ARTICLE E 6.8.1 SADDLES**

1. Any type of well-fitting, well-maintained saddle and girth, suitable to the horse and rider shall be used.
2. At the halt there must be a clear 3 cm between any means of support and the rider's trunk.
3. Any adaptations to a saddle must allow the rider to fall free of the horse.
4. No saddle may be deeper in the seat than 12 cm with the seat pressed down. This is measured from the seat to the middle of a line from top of pommel to top of cantle.
5. Any modification or adaptation to the saddle must be listed on EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate or the EC Classification Master List.
6. To assist the rider to balance, a soft (flexible) handhold, not more than 30 cm wide, may be attached to the saddle, in front of or above the pommel. Such a handhold may not be more than 10 cm above the top of the pommel when held. If a hard (fixed/rigid) handhold is essential, this requirement must be stated on the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate or the EC Classification Master

List. The hard handhold must comply with the same measurement criteria as the soft handhold. EC reserves the right to allow these dispensations according to the specific impairment of a rider.

#### **ARTICLE E 6.8.2 STIRRUPS**

1. Stirrups must be used, unless “no stirrups” or “one” stirrup appears on the rider’s EC Classification Master List or Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate. Riders with 1leg may ride with 1 stirrup. If the rider rides with a prosthesis 2stirrups must be used.
2. Stirrups must have closed branches and no attachments, unless they are safety or magnetic stirrups. Safety stirrups and magnetic stirrups may have an opening on the outside branch.
3. The stirrup leathers must have a release mechanism where they are attached to the saddle. Unless stated on the EC Classification Master List or EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate, the stirrup leathers must be on the outside of the saddle flap and hang freely from the safety bar of the saddle.
4. If riders are using a strap from the stirrup iron or leather to girth, they must use safety stirrups as these straps prevent the stirrup leather releasing from the saddle.

#### **ARTICLE E 6.8.3 SPURS**

1. Spurs: Spurs are optional for para dressage riders. Offset spurs may only be used if they appear on the rider’s EC Classification Master List or FEI Master List.

#### **ARTICLE E 6.9 COMPENSATING AIDSOR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT**

1. **Standard Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment** are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery or equipment as outlined in Chapter 4, which may be used by para dressage riders across all functional profiles. Standard compensating aids or adaptive equipment are allowed to be used by all para dressage riders and do not need to be noted on the EC Classification Master list or EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate.

##### **Standard Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment:**

1. **Salute with head only**
2. **Sitting or rising trot**
3. **Gloves** - optional
4. **Spurs** - optional
5. **Saddle** - any type of well fitting, well maintained saddle and girth suitable to horse and rider to be used. At the halt there must be a clear 3 cm between any means of support and the rider’s trunk. Any adaptation to the saddle must allow the rider to fall free from the horse.
6. **Deep saddle** - No saddle may be deeper in the seat than 12 cm with the seat pressed down. This is measured from the seat to the middle of a line from top of pommel to top of cantle.
7. **Soft (flexible) hand hold** - must not be more than 10 cm above the top of the pommel when held. It may be attached to the front of the saddle, in front of or above the pommel.
8. **Elastic rubber bands on stirrups** - such elastic must be of a width and strength to allow the rider to fall free of the horse.
9. **Enclosed stirrups**
10. **Magnetic stirrups**

11. **1 Whip** - The whip can be curved. The whip can be a total maximum length of 120 cm (100 cm when mounted on a pony). The measurement should be from the tip to the point of the whip, not along the curve.
12. **Breast plate and, or neck strap**
13. **Joined reins on double bridle** - Joined reins must have a minimum of 30 cm from the curb bit to the join in the rein. It must be formed into a single rein in the rider's hand.
14. **Elastic inserts in reins**
15. **Safety vest** (including inflatable)
16. **Knotted Reins/Rein stops (one knot per rein)** - any larger knots, or more knots in each rein, will be considered a non-standard compensating aid or adaptive equipment. Rein stops must be the same size and number as a knot in the rein.
17. **Voice** – Riders in Grades I, II and III may use their voice as an aid, provided they do so in moderation. Riders in Grades IV and V may not use their voice at any time during the execution of their test.

## 2. **Profile Specific Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment**

1. **Compensating Aids** or Adaptive Equipment are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery or equipment as outlined in Chapter 4, which may be used by nominated profiles and must be noted on the EC Classification Master List or the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate. Refer to the FEI Para Dressage Rules Annex IV Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment Summary Chart on the FEI website for a list of profile-specific Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment.

### **Examples of Profile-Specific Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment:**

1. **Hard (fixed/rigid) handhold** – must not be more than 10 cm high and 30 cm wide. Any deviation from these measurements will be considered as a non-standard compensating aid or adaptive equipment.
2. **2 whips** – any alteration to a conventional whip must be approved as a non-standard compensating aid or adaptive equipment.
3. **Ring attachment** - a ring attached to the D-ring of the saddle or breastplate that the rein runs through. This must allow a direct line from the bit to the rider's hand or upper limb and must not alter the angle to produce leverage on the rein. Where the rein passes through the ring, when measured vertically from the attachment must be no less than 10 cm and no more than 12 cm from the horse's wither. These rings must not be in a fixed position.
4. **Looped reins** – Maximum of four loops per rein. Each loop measuring not more than 30 cm in length, measured inside the loops. These can be attached to the rein by a fixed attachment or by a loop that is clipped to attachments on the rein to allow for adjustment. There can be up to eight attachments on each rein. A maximum of six fixed finger loops can be stitched to the rein. Each finger loop measuring no more than 10 cm in length
5. **Ladder reins** – maximum of three soft rungs between the reins. All ladders must be on a single rein.
6. **Foot reins** – if the rein is not used in a conventional manner, it must be in as straight a line as possible from the rider's point of contact on the reins to the horse's mouth.

7. **Connecting rein bar** – this is a smooth, rounded, rigid bar connecting the two reins. The bar must be within the reins and must not extend wider than the reins. The bar should be a maximum of 30 cm.
8. **Strapping attached to saddlery**- riders must not be held in position by any mechanism that does not automatically release in the event of an accident. Any strapping used, such as Velcro, leather or elastic, must allow the rider to fall free from the horse. Velcro may be used on the lower limbs, and must be above the knee, to assist the rider in the saddle where there is an identified need as determined by the rider’s functional profile. The total amount of overlapping Velcro, or similar material, used must not exceed 50 sq. cm. Each overlap contact must not exceed the dimensions of 3 cm x 6 cm. The total area of overlapping Velcro or similar material per leg must not exceed 3 cm x 6 cm of overlap contact. For safety reasons it is recommended that it is fastened in a “V” shape. Velcro cannot be passed through a ring or strap and folded back onto itself.
9. **Strap attached to the stirrup leather or stirrup iron to the girth** – the strap must measure no less than 5 cm from the girth to the stirrup leather or iron and may include Velcro to release. If a strap is used the rider must also use safety stirrups. When safety stirrups are used, the rider can not use enclosed stirrups as this may prevent the safety arm from opening. Rubber bands and magnetic stirrups may be used.
10. **Stirrups** – riders with 1 leg may ride with 1 stirrup. If the rider rides with a prosthesis 2 stirrups must be used. Riders may ride without stirrups if required.
11. **Use of sign language**
12. **Commanders and Callers** – see ART E 6.10

### 3. **Non-Standard Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment**

1. Non-Standard compensating aids or adaptive equipment are aids or equipment, other than those above, required by an individual rider and not described specifically in these rules. The need for these aids must be supported through the Classification process and the aid must be approved by the EC Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment Panel. These aids are approved specifically for the rider to enable them to ride the horse without an advantage over other riders within the same profile or Grade. These aids may include modifications to a standard or profile specific compensating aid or adaptive equipment or a piece of non-standard equipment custom made for the rider.
2. Any requests for non-standard compensating aids or adaptive equipment must be made to EC Para Dressage Department who will forward the request to the Compensating Aids or Adaptive Equipment panel. The panel will review the request and if approved the item will be added to the rider’s EC Classification Master List or EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate. Equipment cannot be used, until it appears on the EC Classification Master list or the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate.
3. It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure that all non-standard compensating aids or adaptive equipment they use in competition meet the requirements under these rules.

## ARTICLE E 6.10 COMMANDERS AND CALLERS

### COMMANDERS

1. Commanders read a test – The Canadian term ‘called’ is understood.
2. At EC sanctioned Bronze, Silver and Gold competitions, all EC para dressage national tests may be commanded, but FEI para dressage tests may only be commanded if a commander is listed as an approved compensating aid or adaptive equipment on the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate or the EC Classification Master List.
3. Commanders are permitted at championship shows if the rider has this compensating aid or adaptive equipment listed on the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate or the EC Classification Master List.
4. An electronic communication device may be used by the Commander if it is listed on the rider’s EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate or the EC Classification Master List.
5. The person communicating to a rider in the ring must stand next to a steward or an organizing committee appointed supervisor.
6. Riders shall have no more than one commander who shall stand in a fixed position outside the arena at E or B, or if this is not possible, stand as directed by the judge at C.
7. The commander may read each movement once or twice only, from the official printed text version of the test or extracts from it (without any augmentation).
8. The commander may inform the rider that the bell has rung.
9. Commanders may not carry a whip.
10. Headset use during test:
  1. All riders who have been allowed a commander or caller(s) as a compensating aid or adaptive equipment on the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate or the EC Classification Master List are permitted to use a headset during freestyle tests only.
  2. Riders who qualify to use a commander, and who are also deaf, or hearing impaired as identified through the classification process, may use sign language and, or may use a radio headset during all tests. This will be stated as a compensating aid or adaptive equipment on the EC Para Dressage Dispensation Certificate or the EC Classification Master List.
  3. It is the responsibility of the rider to provide a fully functioning headset with a receiver to enable the steward to listen to all communication going from the Commander to the rider. If a headset is not provided for the steward, the rider will not be permitted to use the equipment and must ride the test without it. **Exception:** If lack of a headset for the steward is noted during warmup, a judge may permit rescheduling until a suitable headset is provided.

### CALLERS

1. Callers call out the letters to those riders with visual impairments.
2. Callers may only call the name of the letter(s).
3. Only the lead caller (who may also be the commander where approved) may be in the center of the arena and may not move around except for a safe distance to avoid the path of the horse. All other callers must be positioned outside the arena, and may move from one marker to another, provided they do not restrict the vision of any of the judges.
4. There shall be no more than 4 human callers placed around the arena and 1

- caller at X, but riders with classified visual impairment are encouraged to use as few callers as possible.
5. Electronic callers can be placed at every letter. The caller at C may be exchanged for a beacon beeper which is to be provided by the rider. The organizing committee must be notified if electronic callers are being used and the set-up of such devices must not affect the running of the competition, nor cause any disturbance to other riders.
  6. Callers may not carry a whip.

#### **ARTICLE E 6.11 THE POSITION AND AIDS OF THE RIDER**

1. Wherever possible the rider should follow the objective and general principles of dressage. However, as riders with impairments do not have the use of the entire body, all references to the aids must be interpreted to include the use of other parts of the body and, or appropriate and approved compensating aids or adaptive equipment.
2. The rider will try to be well balanced and steady in the saddle, conforming as far as possible to the FEI definition of a rider's position. This position makes it possible for the rider to show progressive riding and, or training and to show all the movements and transitions with as little effort of the rider as possible. The aids that communicate the wishes of the rider to the horse are of great importance in dressage.
3. Where possible, riders will ride with both hands. If foot reins are used, neither the hands nor arms may be used,
  1. A discreet "pat on the neck" for a well performed exercise or for reassurance is perfectly acceptable or is the situation of a rider needing to wipe a fly from their eye or other situations such as adjusting clothing etc. However, if the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand to use either the reins of the other hand to produce more impulsion from the horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark for "rider".
  2. When leaving the arena at a walk on a long rein, after having finished their performance, the rider may, at their own discretion, ride with only one hand.

#### **ARTICLE E 6.12 EXECUTION OF TESTS**

1. All FEI para dressage tests must be carried out entirely from memory.  
**Exception:** Riders who have a commander and, or caller listed as a compensating aid or adaptive equipment on their EC Para Dressage Disposition Certificate or EC Classification Master List.
2. All riders with visual impairment may start the test from within the arena.
3. At EC para dressage competition riders in Grade I, II, III and Profile 36 (totally blind) riders, may be accompanied around the outside arena by the trainer, or their representative, before the test starts. They may be led but must not be schooled from the ground. During this test, this person may stand outside the competition arena in the space surrounding the competition arena within the overall enclosure.
4. For Grade I, II and III riders, if circumstances allow, a companion horse may stand adjacent to the arena. The area where a companion horse may stand must be designated by the judge at C prior to the start of the class.

5. Grade I, II and III riders may use their voice during the test.
6. In the event that the horse starts to defecate or urinate, the clock will be stopped until the horse is ready to continue at which point the clock will be restarted.
7. A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the salute at the end of the tests as soon as the horse moves forward.

## **ARTICLE E 6.13 COLLECTIVE MARKS**

### **1. National Tests**

1. Paces
2. Submission (way of going, attention and confidence, ease of movements, acceptance of bridle)
3. Skill and accuracy of rider
4. Equestrian feel and skill of rider

### **2. FEI Tests**

1. General Impression (harmonious presentation of the rider/horse combination, equestrian feel and skill of the rider, discreet and effective influence of the aids, accuracy)

## **ARTICLE E 6.14 ERROR OF TEST/ELIMINATION/PENALTIES**

*The following replaces or is in addition to the information stated in Chapter 9.*

### **1. Error of Test:**

Each of these errors incur 2 technical penalties in EC para dressage test and 0.5% in FEI tests ridden at EC sanctioned competitions. The technical penalties will be deducted per fault by each judge but these deductions are not cumulative and will not result in elimination (including the freestyle tests):

1. **Sound of the Bell:** Not entering the arena within 60 seconds after the bell, but within 120 seconds. For freestyle tests, entering the arena after more than 30 seconds of music, but within 60 seconds.
2. **Resistance** - Resistance may last no longer than 60 seconds. However, resistance that may endanger riders, horses, officials or members of the public may result in immediate elimination for safety reasons.
3. **Horse Leaving the Arena:** Rider directing the horse to the outside of the arena. In the case of a horse being unintentionally directed to leave the arena with all four feet where the boards are continuous, the steward or other suitable person will remove one or more boards to allow the rider to re-enter the arena safely.

### **2. Elimination from a Class**

*Each of the below situations will result in elimination:*

1. **Entering Arena:** Entering the arena after 120 seconds for technical tests and after 90 seconds for freestyle tests.
2. **Horse Leaving Arena:** A horse leaving the arena completely, with all four feet and in a willful manner, causing the rider to lose control. However, if the rider directs the horse to the outside of the arena or the arena is not fully boarded, the horse is not automatically eliminated see ART E 6.14. The decision is that of the judge at C.
3. **Resistance:** Resistance which lasts over 60 seconds. Resistance that endangers the rider, horse, officials or members of the public will result in immediate elimination for safety reasons

## **ARTICLE E 6.15 OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

1. Any outside assistance or intervention, including coaching by voice, signs etc., may result in elimination, at the discretion of the president of the ground jury or the judge at C.
2. In cases where a rider stops the test and receives outside assistance to turn a temporarily unsafe situation back into a safe situation (e.g. in case of a lost stirrup, broken equipment or broken compensating aid or adaptive equipment), each judge should give zero (0) for the particular movement, but allow the rider to continue their test when the unsafe situation is resolved. However, if the dangerous situation persists, it shall remain the discretion of the judge at C to eliminate the combination. The rider's trainer or representative may stand near the competition arena to relay the judges' instructions, if necessary.
3. For Grade I, II and III, helpers (maximum 4 in total including the trainer or other personnel as described above) may be placed in corners outside the arena for safety reasons. Each helper must stand as directed by the steward to ensure they do not impede the view of the judges. In an emergency, they may give physical assistance. Penalties will be at the discretion of the judge at C, who may eliminate the rider either at the time, or at the conclusion of the test. Any outside assistance other than in case of emergency, will be considered as unauthorized assistance and must result in elimination, see ART E 9.4.

## **ARTICLE E 6.16 THE FEI FREESTYLE TEST**

1. The FEI freestyle tests are offered for all Grades at all levels (Novice, Intermediate and Grand Prix). Each Grade has its own freestyle test. See FEI tests at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/p-e-dressage/tests>.
2. Grade I - III freestyle tests are performed in a 20 m x 40 m arena.
3. Grade IV - V freestyle tests are ridden in a 20 m x 60 m arena.

### **ARTICLE E 6.16.1 TIME LIMIT**

1. The minimum and maximum time limit for all FEI freestyle tests can be found at the top of each freestyle test sheet.
2. The test is timed from the horse's move-off after the initial halt and salute and ceases at the final salute.
3. In the case of a freestyle test being clearly above or below the required time limit there will be a deduction of 0.5% (time penalty) from the total of the artistic score. Slight failure to perform within the given time (approx. 10 seconds) should be treated generously without a deduction of marks, especially if unusual circumstances occur.
4. The rider has 60 seconds to signal the music and 30 seconds to enter the arena after the start of the music. Exceeding 30 seconds after the start of the music will incur a penalty see ART E 6.14.1 Exceeding 90 seconds before entering the arena will entail elimination see ART E 6.14.2.

### **ARTICLE E 6.16.2 COMPULSORY OR FORBIDDEN ELEMENTS**

1. Compulsory elements are listed on each freestyle test sheet
2. Forbidden elements are movements of a higher class (a movement that is not mentioned in the test sheet) examples include:
  1. Grade I and II riders: Canter, piaffe, passage
  2. Grade III riders: Canter lateral work, flying changes, half or full pirouettes, piaffe, passage

3. Grade IV riders: In canter: sequence changes and half or full pirouettes, piaffe, passage
4. Grade V riders: More than a half pirouette in canter, two (2) time and one (1) time changes, piaffe and passage

### **ARTICLE E 6.16.3 SCORING, JUDGING, TECHNICAL EXECUTION**

1. **Technical Execution:** The mark for the technical execution depends on the quality of performing the compulsory movements of the test. Scoring is as in standard tests. The Judge gives a mark (full and half marks are allowed) for each single movement shown. If the rider performs a movement several times, the Judge has to give several single marks, which then will be averaged by the Judge to a final mark for this movement at the end of the performance. The total for the Technical Execution is found by adding the final marks for each movement multiplied by their coefficients.
2. **Artistic Marks:** The six artistic marks are scored by full, half or decimal marks and multiplied by their coefficients:
  1. Rhythm, energy, elasticity
  2. Harmony
  3. Riding skills
  4. Choreography
  5. Music
  6. Interpretation of musicThe total of the artistic marks is found by adding the six final marks multiplied by their coefficients.
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 in both the technical and artistic sections. Once the coefficients have been calculated, scorers must total the technical section and the artistic sections separately.
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.
5. When there is more than one judge, each judge's final total shall be added together and divided by the number of judges. This number will then be calculated as a percentage.
6. All scores in both technical and freestyle tests must be calculated to the third decimal point.
7. 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 there is still a tie the higher mark for choreography will decide.
8. **Omission:** If a compulsory movement has been left out completely and deliberately the judge has to give a zero (0) for the movement. The score for both, choreography and rider skill cannot be higher than 5.5. It is up to the judge to go further down with these two marks if more than one movement has been left out.
9. **Movements of higher class:** If a rider deliberately shows a movement of a higher class there is no mark possible for that movement and there will be a deduction of eight (8) points each time the not allowed movement is deliberately shown. The score for both, choreography and rider skill cannot be

higher than 5.5. The judge should always pay attention to whether the requirements were exceeded intentionally or due to a mistake.

10. **Performing additionally allowed movements:** Additionally allowed movements cannot be judged in the technical marks. Therefore, showing them can only be reflected in the artistic marks. If they are performed well, it enhances the artistic mark and confirms the marks already given or makes them slightly higher. If they are not performed well they will be penalized and every mark could be affected. If they are executed in a way not according to the principles or riding as described in the FEI Dressage Handbook and or not considering the welfare of the horse then there will be a one (1) point deduction on the rider skill mark and the choreography mark cannot be higher than 5.5.
11. **Execution not according to the freestyle rules:** If a required movement has been shown deliberately not according to the rules the mark for the technical execution of the movement has to be below 5, there will be a one (1) point deduction on the rider skill mark and the choreography mark cannot be higher than 5.5.
12. **Exceeding the requirements deliberately:** If a compulsory movement has been shown deliberately (not as the result of a mistake) above the requirements, the mark for the technical execution of the movement has to be below 5, there will be a one (1) point deduction on the rider skill mark and the choreography mark cannot be higher than 5.5.
13. **Execution below the requirements:** If a compulsory movement has been shown deliberately (not as the result of a mistake) and significantly below the requirements and without having been shown correctly at least once, the mark for the technical execution of that movement has to be below 5, there will be a one (1) point deduction on the rider skill mark and the choreography mark cannot be higher than 5.5.

For additional information on FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Tests please see the FEI Para Dressage Judging Manual on the FEI website

<https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/rules>

#### **ARTICLE E 6.17 PRIZE GIVING**

1. If prize giving ceremonies are offered, it is recommended to do all prize giving dismounted. Participation in the prize-giving ceremony of placed riders is compulsory. Failure to participate entails loss of the placing and prize.
2. Dress and saddlery must be the same as in the competition; however, bandages are allowed. A rider may seek the permission of the organizing committee to enter the prize giving on a horse other than the one they competed on. All horses may be led or accompanied by a responsible person walking beside them. Sponsors must also be involved wherever and whenever possible. Headgears may not be removed at mounted prize giving.
3. At all times when horses are grouped together - prize-giving, horse inspections etc. - riders and, or grooms must act in a responsible way.

## CHAPTER 7 CHAMPIONSHIPS

### ARTICLE E 7.1 GENERAL

1. Hors concours entries are not permitted in championship competitions.
2. The gate at A must be closed while the rider is in the arena. A designated person must be provided for each championship ring. This person opens the gate at A as soon as the judge has rung the bell and closes the gate as soon as the rider halts at X. The gate is opened again when the rider leaves the ring and is immediately closed to wait for the judges to signal for the next rider.
3. All championship competitions must offer championship awards in junior, amateur and open categories.
4. Dress rules for championship competitions can be found in Chapter 4 and exceptions for para dressage riders can be found in Chapter 6.

### ARTICLE E 7.2 OFFICIALS

#### 1. **Gold National Championships:**

1. All officials (see Chapter 15) must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
2. The judging panel for all FEI tests should be made up of 3 EC senior judges
3. The judging panel for all national tests should be made up of 2 EC judges (ideally 1 senior and 1 medium)

#### 2. **Gold Regional and Provincial Championships:**

1. All officials (see Chapter 15) must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
2. If possible, the competition organizer is encouraged to use 2 EC judges for all tests.
3. The judges must be EC Medium or Senior judges.

#### 3. **Silver Provincial Championships:**

1. All officials (see Chapter 15) must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
2. One judge per ring is permitted.
3. The judges must be EC Medium or Senior judges. Basic judges may be guest carded for the appropriate levels.
4. First time scribes are not permitted at championship competitions. Scribes for championship competitions must have in-depth experience and proven competence as a scribe.
5. Guest cards for officials are not permitted at Gold championship competitions. Exception: ART E 7.2. 3.3 above.

### ARTICLE E 7.3 SCHOOLING OF HORSES

1. Schooling horses/ponies at all championship competitions may only be done by the competing rider - from their arrival on the show grounds until their last class ridden. A groom mounted in the saddle may walk the horse on a long rein. Para dressage riders see **Exception** ART E 7.3. 2 below.
2. Horses/ponies for Grade I, II and III para dressage riders may be ridden and or schooled at championships for up to 30 minutes per day by the rider's trainer, coach or groom. The trainer, coach or groom must wear an arm band of distinctive colour to identify themselves. Arm bands are to be provided by the rider. Horses/Ponies may not be ridden and or schooled unless a steward is

present to observe and regulate the time allowed. Training times can be supervised by an organizing committee appointed supervisor if a steward is not available.

3. Horses/ponies being competed by Grade I, II and III para dressage riders may not be ridden or schooled by anyone other than the rider for the 15 minutes before they enter the competition arena to perform their test. Horses/ponies may, however, be led around with or without the rider during the 15 minutes prior to this but may not be schooled from the ground.
4. When a horse/pony is shared by 2 para dressage riders (1 lower and 1 higher Grade):
  1. If the lower Grade rider competes first - the 30 minutes schooling applies prior to the test.
  2. If the higher Grade rider competes first - this is considered the 30 minutes schooling time, and therefore no further allocation of time will be allowed for the lower Grade rider. This is on the grounds of horse welfare.

#### **ARTICLE E 7.4 WHIPS**

1. Whips may not be carried at championships or national team selection trials outside the warmup / schooling ring.
2. Whips are not permitted upon entering the space surrounding the competition arena. **Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.9. **Exception:** Sidesaddle riders may always carry a whip, see Chapter 5.

#### **ARTICLE E 7.5 TACK CHECK**

1. Tack checks are mandatory for all championship competitions.

#### **ARTICLE E 7.6 CALLING / COMMANDING TESTS**

1. All tests at championship competitions must be ridden from memory. **Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.10.

#### **ARTICLE E 7.7 RIBBONS, PRIZES AND CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES**

1. Any rider/horse combination receiving less than 50% of the total points obtainable in a test shall not be eligible for championship awards, ribbons, prizes or titles.

#### **ARTICLE E 7.8 ARENA SIZE FOR SPECIFIC TESTS**

All dressage tests must be ridden in a 20 x 60 m arena at all championship competitions. For para dressage tests see arena size found in ART E 3.0 (chart).

#### **ARTICLE E 7.9 GOLD PROVINCIAL / REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. When a competition is designated by EC to be a Gold Provincial or Gold Regional Championship, it must be held as one competition in one location.
2. A Gold Provincial and Gold Regional Championship may not be held on the same weekend in a given province without approval from EC.
3. EC Gold Provincial and Gold Regional Championships should, if possible, be held as stand-alone competitions.
4. EC Gold Provincial or Gold Regional championships should not be held on the same dates as another EC Gold Provincial or Gold Regional Championship or another EC Platinum competition, however, an EC Gold Provincial or Gold

Regional Championship may be held in conjunction with another EC Gold competition.

5. Riders at a Gold Provincial or Gold Regional Championships will be decided by taking a specified number of the highest ranked Canadian owned horses ridden by Canadian citizens or permanent residents, from each of the levels/divisions offered at the Gold Provincial or Gold Regional Championships in the current year.
6. Only one Gold Provincial Championship per province and one Gold Regional Championship per region may be held each year.
7. When a competition is designated by EC to be a Gold Regional Championship, the regions will be as follows:
  - **Pacific:** British Columbia and Yukon
  - **West:** Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Nunavut
  - **East:** Ontario and Quebec
  - **Atlantic:** New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland & Labrador
8. Organizers of Gold Provincial or Gold Regional Championships must include all levels/divisions and categories and may include the relevant freestyles. Miscellaneous classes may be held but must be separate from the Championship.
9. Scores earned at Silver competitions do not count as qualifying scores for Gold Provincial or Gold Regional championships.

#### **ARTICLE E 7.10 GOLD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. When the Gold National Championships is designated by EC it may be held in one or more locations i.e. Regional divisions.
2. The Gold National Championships MUST hold the technical tests for each division and may hold the relevant freestyle tests. To confirm all details please refer to the EC information sheet specific to the Gold National Championships for the season.
3. The Gold National Championships may be held in conjunction with another Gold competition.
4. The Gold National Championships are open to riders who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
5. Rider/horse combinations qualified in more than 1 level or division may enter if qualified and invited. Riders, however, may only compete in ONE category of each level/division. **Note:** If the rider/horse combination changes the new combination must also qualify.
6. The qualification process for the Gold National Championships can be found on the EC website [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca) under Dressage or Para Dressage - National Championships.
7. **Officials**  
Officials in their first year (probationary year) may not officiate at Gold National Championships  
All judges and stewards for the Gold National Championships must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.  
**Judges:**
  1. All judges for the Gold National Championships are selected and agreed upon by organizers and are approved by EC.

2. In the event the Gold National Championship is conducted across multiple locations, the judging panel must be identical at all locations. Judges may change positions between classes; however, for any given class, judges must occupy the same positions at every location.
3. The panel for all FEI tests will be made up of 3 EC senior judges.
4. The panel for all national tests will be made up of 2 EC judges (ideally 1 senior and 1 medium).

**Stewards:**

1. All stewards for the Gold National Championships must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
2. Steward requirements – Minimum of 1 EC Senior steward plus 1 additional Basic, Medium or Senior steward – this is in addition to any steward requirements for a Gold competition that may be running concurrently.
3. The Lead steward for the Gold National Championships is selected and agreed upon by the organizers and are approved by EC.
4. In the event of multi-location(s) the Gold National Championships Lead steward must be the same for both locations.

**ARTICLE E 7.11 SILVER PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP  
COMPETITIONS**

1. Silver Championships shall be approved through the relevant province, and through EC.
2. Only scores earned at Silver competitions count as qualifying scores for Silver Championships.
3. Silver Championships may be split into two competitions in order to allow riders easier access to the Championships. The same judges must be used in each location. Each division of the Championships may establish champions on the day. To establish overall Provincial Champions the scores must be combined. The two divisions should be held not more than one week apart. Riders must choose which division of the championship they wish to compete in.
4. All Silver Championships must include all levels/divisions and may include relevant freestyles. Miscellaneous classes may be held but must be separate from the Championship.

**ARTICLE E 7.12 SILVER AND GOLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS  
CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND ESTABLISHING CHAMPIONS**

1. Some form of qualification for entering a Championship show is recommended (e.g. classes can be filled by descending order of submitted scores).
2. If qualifying criteria is met, the rider/horse combination (not one or the other) qualifies to enter the Championship. If a new rider wishes to compete with the horse at the championship, they must re-qualify with that horse as a combination.
3. Prize lists for all Championships must be sent out at least two months prior to the competition.
4. One entry fee shall cover both technical classes per level/division/category. (eg. one entry fee for Amateur, one entry fee for Open). Freestyle class entry fees are separate.
5. Each rider shall enter and compete in two tests of their specific level/division (e.g. Junior or Amateur, etc.), The percentages obtained by each rider in both

classes shall be totaled. The rider with the highest total will be named champion. The rider with the second highest total shall be declared the reserve champion.

6. In the event of a tie, the rider with the highest single percentage score is declared the winner.
7. Freestyle champions will be determined by totaling the higher percentage from the two technical classes (of the levels/divisions) plus the percentage from the freestyle. Only one freestyle championship will be awarded at each level/division (e.g. the freestyle score will be added to the rider's best technical score from the same level/division.) Freestyle Championships will not be awarded by category. If a rider has only one technical score, due to elimination or other reasons, then the mark from the completed technical test plus the freestyle mark will be used to determine the rider's placing when competing for a Freestyle Championship.
8. Only a Canadian Citizen or permanent resident may be awarded a Gold (National, Regional, Provincial) or Silver (Provincial) Championship or Reserve Championship.  
**Note:** Split-level or division championships are not permitted (e.g. Training/First, First/Second etc.)

#### **ARTICLE E 7.13 REFERENCE CHART FOR TESTS OFFERED AT GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. No horse/rider combination may compete in more than one division.  
**Exception:** Riders competing in FEI Young Horse division may also enter any one other level or division. No horse is to be ridden in more than 4 classes (including freestyles) in one day.
2. In all championship competitions, riders wishing to compete in two categories of a level or division (e.g. Junior/Open or Amateur/Open) will pay two entry fees but may ride one test; their score will count for both categories. The organizing committee has the option of holding individual classes for each category or holding one class and allowing entries in more than one category.

Dressage Division	Dressage Category	Dressage Tests	Para Dressage Division	Para Dressage Category	Para Dressage Tests
Training	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	Walk Tests	Open	2 & 3
First	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	Walk Trot Tests	Open	2 & 3
Second	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	Walk Trot Canter Tests	Open	2 & 3
Third	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	FEI Novice – Grade I	Open	A & B
Fourth	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	FEI Novice – Grade II	Open	A & B
FEI Children		Team & Ind.	FEI Novice – Grade III	Open	A & B
FEI Pony		Team & Ind.	FEI Novice – Grade IV	Open	A & B
FEI Junior		Team & Ind.	FEI Novice – Grade V	Open	A & B
FEI Young Rider		Team & Ind.	FEI Inter – Grade I	Open	A & B
FEI U25		Inter II & GPU25	FEI Inter – Grade II	Open	A & B
FEI Small	Am/Open	PSG / Inter I	FEI Inter – Grade III	Open	A & B
FEI Medium	Am/Open	Inter A & Inter II	FEI Inter – Grade IV	Open	A & B
FEI Big	Am/Open	GP & GPS	FEI Inter – Grade V	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix – Grade I	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix – Grade II	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix – Grade III	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix – Grade IV	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix – Grade V	Open	A & B

**Note:** Freestyles are optional.

**ARTICLE E 7.14 REFERENCE CHART FOR TESTS OFFERED AT SILVER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. In all Championship competitions, riders wishing to compete in two categories of a level or division (e.g. Junior/Open or Amateur/Open) will pay two entry fees but may ride one test; their score will count for both categories. The organizing committee has the option of holding individual classes for each category or holding one class and allowing entries in more than one category

<b>Dressage Division</b>	<b>Dressage Category</b>	<b>Dressage Tests</b>	<b>Para Dressage Division</b>	<b>Para Dressage Category</b>	<b>Para Dressage Tests</b>
Training	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	Walk Tests	Open	2 & 3
First	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	Walk Trot Tests	Open	2 & 3
Second	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	Walk Trot Canter Tests	Open	2 & 3
Third	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	FEI Novice – Grade I	Open	A & B
Fourth	Jr/Am/Open	2 & 3	FEI Novice – Grade II	Open	A & B
FEI Children		Team & Ind.	FEI Novice – Grade III	Open	A & B
FEI Pony		Team & Ind.	FEI Novice – Grade IV	Open	A & B
FEI Junior		Team & Ind.	FEI Novice – Grade V	Open	A & B
FEI Young Rider		Team & Ind.	FEI Inter – Grade I	Open	A & B
FEI U25		Inter II & GPU25	FEI Inter – Grade II	Open	A & B
FEI Small	Am/Open	PSG / Inter 1	FEI Inter – Grade III	Open	A & B
FEI Medium	Am/Open	Inter A & Inter II	FEI Inter – Grade IV	Open	A & B
FEI Big	Am/Open	GP & GPS	FEI Inter – Grade V	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix – Grade I	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix - Grade II	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix - Grade III	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix - Grade IV	Open	A & B
			FEI Grand Prix - Grade V	Open	A & B

**ARTICLE E 7.15 TEST OF CHOICE**

1. Dressage tests ridden in Test of Choice (TOC) classes may be used as qualifiers for Gold Provincial or Gold Regional Championships but not for Gold National Championships.
2. Para Dressage tests ridden in TOC classes may be used as qualifiers for Gold Provincial, Gold Regional and Gold National Championships as well as for Silver Championships.

## CHAPTER 8

### RISING STARS EQUITATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Rising Stars Equitation Program was developed and continues to be overseen by the Rising Stars Youth Dressage Committee established in 2004 in Chilliwack, BC. In 2019 the Rising Stars Equitation program was recognized by EC as a dressage youth development program.

#### **Mission Statement:**

‘To provide youth riders, up to and including 25 years, the opportunity to participate in a dressage competition that is exclusively their own, in an environment that provides a fair playing field for youth riders of different age groups wherein each will compete against their peer group at all levels of skill, from beginners to advanced.’

#### **ARTICLE E 8.0 OBJECTIVES**

To develop and improve the equitation of youth dressage riders by providing ongoing evaluation of their equitation skills during the performance of technical dressage tests. The improvement of equitation skills is the best pathway forward to develop youth dressage riders toward higher levels.

#### **ARTICLE E 8.1 CATEGORIES**

- A) Foundation level: those competing at: Introductory; Training; First and Second, or
- B) Progressive level: those competing at: Third; Fourth and FEI

**Note:** A competition may offer the Foundation level only or both Foundation and Progressive levels. The decision is at the discretion of the competition organizing committee.

#### **ARTICLE E 8.2 LICENCE LEVELS**

1. Bronze, Silver, and Gold sanctioned EC dressage competitions may offer Rising Stars Equitation classes.

**Note:** For other competition opportunities, including Rising Stars Equitation classes being offered at PTSO sanctioned competitions under PTSO rules visit: [www.risingstarsdressage.com](http://www.risingstarsdressage.com)

2. Rising Stars Equitation classes in each division will be designated in the competition prize list by the competition organizing committee. (i.e. Foundation Level Test 2 in Training; First or Second and Progressive Level; Third through FEI)
3. Any youth rider up to and including 25 years may compete in the Rising Stars Equitation Program by entering a designated technical dressage test at their level of proficiency from Introductory through to FEI. The technical test will be judged in the usual technical manner by the judge at C with a second judge, judging only the rider’s equitation during the technical test using the Rising Stars Equitation score sheet.

**Note:** The organizing committee may use other options to offer the Equitation judging during a technical test: eg. a class designated as the RS Equitation class. The rider rides their technical test but is only judged on their equitation using the RS Equitation score sheet. For more options, visit [www.risingstarsdressage.com](http://www.risingstarsdressage.com)

4. If using the two-judge system, with the judge at C judging the technical test, the

second judge, the Equitation judge may sit at E, H, M, B or any marked letter (at the discretion of the competition organizing committee), and judge solely on the equitation skills of the rider.

5. Amateur riders, 18 years and older may compete in the Rising Stars Equitation Program in classes designated for amateurs at either the Foundation or Progressive level. There will however be no 'Ride Off' at either level for amateur riders. The amateur Champion and Reserve Champion will be determined by the highest and second highest equitation score of 60% or over in each of the Foundation or Progressive levels.
6. There may be no cross entry between Rising Stars Youth Dressage Equitation classes and Rising Stars Equitation classes for amateurs.

### **ARTICLE E 8.3 AWARDS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. The judged score from the designated technical test will be included with all other technical tests in the same class for class and competition awards. The equitation score and technical score are not combined to determine equitation placings.
2. Based only on the equitation scores of the riders, all riders achieving 60% or over, will be eligible to compete in one of two Equitation Championships:
  1. **Foundation level:** those competing at: Introductory; Training; First and Second, or
  2. **Progressive level:** those competing at: Third; Fourth and FEI

**Note:** A competition may offer the Foundation level only or both Foundation and Progressive levels. The decision is at the discretion of the competition organizing committee.

For eligible riders in:

1. Foundation Level Championship 'Ride Off' will be based solely on equitation skills judged by the 'equitation judge'.

The 'Ride Off' will be a group class including all riders who achieved 60% or over in their Equitation test in Introductory, Training, First or Second level. Individual patterns may be requested by the 'Equitation judge' to establish the Champion and Reserve.

**Note:** If for any reason, a show committee is not able to offer the "ride off", for the Champion and Reserve Equitation Foundation Level, the Champion and Reserve will be determined by the overall highest and second highest score (from the equitation score sheet).
2. Progressive Level the Champion and Reserve will be determined by the highest and second highest equitation scores achieved by those riders who achieved 60% or over on their equitation score at Third, Fourth or FEI level.

**Note:** Where a competition offers Rising Stars Equitation classes under more than one licence, all eligible riders from ALL licenses will participate in 1. or 2. to determine the overall competition Equitation Champion and Reserve in 1. and 2.

If offered, Champion and Reserve Champions in both 1. Foundation and 2. Progressive, established at each competition, will be qualified to compete in their Provincial or Regional Championship for a Provincial or Regional 'Ride Off'. Once Provincial or Regional 'Ride Off' Equitation Championships have been held, the intent is that an annual National Equitation 'Ride Off' be established at an appropriate venue.

If a PTSO competition is being held at the same venue, on the same dates, as an EC competition and both competitions offer Rising Stars Equitation Classes, then the Equitation Championships will include ALL riders from BOTH competitions to establish an overall Equitation Champion and Reserve for the whole competition.

#### **ARTICLE E 8.4 RIDER/HORSE/PONY**

1. Rider: Must hold at minimum, a current EC Bronze sport licence or equivalent to the EC competition licence level entered. If the rider is competing in Rising Stars Equitation classes at a PTSO competition, a current PTSO membership is required.
2. A youth rider up to and including 25 years is eligible for the Rising Stars Equitation Program until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 25.
3. Amateur riders include anyone who is age 18 years at the beginning of the calendar year and who is classified as an Amateur, see ART E 3.3.2.
4. Horse/pony: Bronze competitions: There are no qualification, ownership, or registration requirements for horses or ponies that compete in Rising Stars Equitation classes. In Silver or Gold competitions, an EC Horse Identification documentation is required.
5. An eligible rider may compete on any horse or pony of any level, subject to any limitations stated by the competition in their prize list, see ART A805.
6. Horses and ponies may be ridden by only one rider in each category but may compete in both categories.

#### **ARTICLE E 8.5 CLASS SPECIFICATIONS**

1. The rider's position, seat, and use and effect of aids will be judged as described in Chapter 1 and 2.
2. In the 'Ride Off' the riders will be evaluated in a group class, based solely on their equitation skills. At the discretion of the 'equitation judge', individual patterns may be requested but it is not a requirement that all riders in a class perform individual patterns
3. Riders will be evaluated in accordance with the purpose and directives stated on the Rising Stars Equitation Evaluation Sheet.
4. The number of horses required to work at the same time shall be dependent on the size of arena available and at the discretion of the judge. Judges may limit the number of horses required to canter at the same time.

#### **ARTICLE E 8.6 COMPETITION RING**

1. Equitation classes may be held in an enclosed ring that is larger than a standard dressage arena, if available. If such a space is not available, an open schooling area is permitted. If classes must be held in a dressage arena, it must be at least 20m x 60m, and no more than 6 horses shall be asked to canter at the same time.

#### **ARTICLE E 8.7 SCORING**

1. Rising Stars Equitation score sheets and Directives & Equitation Guidelines are available from [www.risingstarsdressage.com](http://www.risingstarsdressage.com).

#### **ARTICLE E 8.8 JUDGES**

1. At Bronze, Silver or Gold shows the judge(s) may be r, B, M or S.

## CHAPTER 9

### EXECUTION OF TESTS, PENALTIES, JUDGING, SCORES AND PLACINGS

#### ARTICLE E 9.1 CALLING TESTS

All EC national tests may be called at EC sanctioned Bronze, Silver and Gold competitions.

**Exception:** Championships, see ART E 7.6

**Exception:** Para Dressage see ART E 6.10

1. If tests are called, it is the responsibility of the rider to arrange for a person to call the test. Lateness and errors in announcing the test will not relieve the rider from "error penalties".
2. Calling the tests is limited to reading the movement a maximum of two times, without providing any additional assistance to the rider. Failure to comply with this ruling will involve elimination of the rider. It is the responsibility of the judge to monitor this.
3. **Caller's dress code:** Smart casual. Jeans, slacks and mid length shorts are permitted. Tank tops, flip flops or sandals are not allowed. Inappropriately dressed callers may not be allowed to call a test.
4. Callers may not wear two-way personal electronic communication devices, e.g. Bluetooth, headphones etc. while calling tests. However, they may read the tests from any form of media device.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders, see ART E 6.10.  
**Exception:** Riders with hearing impairments, see ART E 4.10.B.3  
**Exception:** Masters Test of Choice, see ART E 14.1
5. Callers must position themselves in such a manner to not obstruct a judge's view.
6. Tests may be called in the rider's own language.
7. All FEI tests and all freestyle tests must be ridden from memory.  
**Exception:** Master Test of Choice, see ART E 14.10.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders, see ART E 6.10.

#### ARTICLE E 9.2 SALUTE

1. Riders must take the reins in one hand (either left or right) at the salute, let the other arm drop loosely along the body and incline the head in a slight bow.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders, see ART E 6.9
2. Riders may not remove their protective headgear at the salute.
3. The military salute is only permissible when riding in uniform.
4. In freestyle classes, the initial and final salutes must be made inside the arena on the centreline with the horse and rider facing the judge at C.
5. Failure to salute will incur two technical penalties.

#### ARTICLE E 9.3 EXECUTION OF THE TESTS, DEDUCTIONS FOR ERRORS OF TEST AND TECHNICAL PENALTIES

1. **Error of test** - When a rider makes an "error of test" (takes a wrong turn, omits a movement, performs rising trot when sitting trot is required or sitting trot when rising trot is required, etc.) the judge at C rings the bell. The judge at C shows the rider, if necessary, the point at which they must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed and then leaves the rider to continue by

themselves. If ringing the bell impedes the fluency of the performance, it is up to the judge at C to decide whether to do so or not. In principle, a rider is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the judge at C decides on an error of test (rings the bell). If, however, the rider has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the judge(s) must consider only the first movement shown and, at the same time, penalize for an error of test.

1. If the bell is not rung and the same error occurs again because the same movement is required to be repeated in the test, only one error is recorded.

The decision as to whether an error of test has been made will be that of the judge at C. The other judges' scores will be adapted accordingly.

## 2. **Deductions for Errors of Test**

1. In all national tests ridden at EC sanctioned competitions, every "error of test", whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalized. the first time by - 2 points,
2. the second time by - 4 points,
3. the third time the rider is eliminated.

In FEI Children, Pony, Junior, Young Horse and Para Dressage tests ridden at EC sanctioned competitions, every 'error of test', whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalized except as noted in ART E 9.3.1 above: .

1. the first time by - 0.5%,
2. the second time by - 1%,
3. the third time the rider is eliminated.
4. If the judge has not noted an error the rider gets the benefit of the doubt.

In FEI Young Rider through Grand Prix tests ridden at EC competitions, every "error of test", whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalized, except as noted in ART E 9.3.1 above:

1. the first time by - 2%,
2. the second time the rider is eliminated.
3. If the judge has not noted an error the rider gets the benefit of the doubt.

3. **Technical Penalties** - The following are considered technical penalties which incur a deduction of 2 technical penalty points in national tests and 0.5% in FEI tests each time. Technical penalties will be deducted per fault by each judge but these deductions are not cumulative and will not result in elimination. Technical penalties will be deducted from the total technical score at the end of the test with a comment explaining the penalty.

1. **Salute:** Riders not taking the reins in one hand at the salute.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.9.
2. **Equipment:** Entering the competition arena with boots/bandages on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves). If the test has already started before the discrepancy has been noticed, the judge at C stops the rider and if needed, and possible, an assistant may enter the arena to remove the item(s). Marks given before they were stopped are not changed.  
**Note:** Entering the arena with a whip in a Championship class will entail elimination.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.8 and 6.9.

3. **Entering before the signal:** A rider who enters the arena before the starting signal is sounded may be advised by the judge to exit and commence the test again.
4. **Late Entry Technical Test:** Not entering the arena with 45 seconds after the signal, but within 90 seconds.  
**FEI Freestyles:** Exceeding 30 seconds to enter the arena after the start of the music.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.1.
5. **Competition Number (first offence):** Entering the competition arena including the space around the competition arena without wearing the assigned competition number, or with the wrong competition number.

#### **ARTICLE E 9.4 ELIMINATION FROM A CLASS**

1. An entry shall be eliminated under the following circumstances:  
 Para dressage riders should also refer to ART E 6.14 for additional information:
  1. **Dismounting:** dismounting after entering the arena
  2. **Blood:** Evidence of blood on the horse (environmental causes such as insect bites shall not normally be cause for elimination). If a rider is eliminated for this reason, they must report directly to the steward for a tack check.  
 If the judge at C suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, they will stop the horse to check for blood. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. If the steward discovers fresh blood in the horse's mouth or in the area of the mouth or in the spur area during the equipment check at the end of the test, they must inform the judge at C, who will eliminate the horse and the rider. If there is blood on the horse, the onsite veterinarian is to be called to decide if the horse is fit to continue in additional classes at the event. If there is no vet onsite then it's at the discretion of the judge at C. If the horse is eliminated pursuant to the above, or if the horse is injured during the test and starts bleeding after finishing the test, it should be examined by an onsite veterinarian (if available) prior to the next class to determine if it is fit to continue in the event. The steward to provide the judge at C with a blood evidence kit (plastic bag with tissue, glove and label to record the horse's number and the test details)
3. **Illegal Equipment:** Use of illegal equipment see Chapter 4. Para dressage riders see Chapter 6 for additional information.
4. **Tack Check:** Failure to present for tack check as required.. This also applies to riders identified for a tack check if the competition is holding random tack checks.
5. **Dress:** Failure to wear safety headgear as outlined in ART E 4.0.
6. **Too Many Errors of Test:** see ART E 9.3.2
7. **Low Scoring:** Scoring less than 40% of the total marks obtainable in the test.
8. **Whip:** Carrying a whip into the competition arena or the space surrounding the competition arena at any EC Championship, see ART E 7.4.  
**Exception:** side-saddle riders may carry a whip see Chapter 5.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.9.

9. **Competition Number (second offence):** Second offence at a given competition for not wearing assigned number, or wearing the wrong competition number, see ART E 3.11.2.
10. **Late Entry:**  
**Technical Test:** Taking more than 90 seconds to enter the arena at A after the start signal.  
**National Freestyle Test:** exceeding 30 seconds to enter the arena after the start of the music.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.14.
11. **Lameness:** In the case of lameness which shall include marked unevenness and, or irregularity, the judge at C informs the rider that they are eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision. Upon elimination the rider must report directly to the steward for a tack check. Tack checks for riders eliminated for lameness are mandatory, even if random tack checks are being used at the competition. In the event that the rider does not immediately leave the arena the judge may be warranted to give a yellow card or ask the steward to do so based on Section A516.  
In the event that the horse is eliminated a second time at the same competition by a judge for lameness the horse will be eliminated, given a recorded warning (A517) and disqualified from competition.  
Results and awards from any previous classes may be kept. If the horse is disqualified from the competition the horse may not be ridden, schooled, lunged or shown while on the competition grounds for the remainder of the competition.
12. **Fall:** In the case of a fall of horse and, or rider in the competition arena or the space around the competition arena, the rider will be eliminated and is not permitted to remount and continue the test. A rider is considered to have fallen when there is a separation from the horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle. A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched the ground.
13. **Leaving arena during the Dressage test:** A horse leaving the arena completely, with all four feet between the entry and the final salute will be eliminated. Leaving the arena at the end of the test at any place other than A will be penalized by elimination, except in cases where the conditions don't allow the exit at A or where the rider loses control while on a loose rein.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.14.
14. **Resistance:** Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test for longer than 20 seconds will result in elimination. However, resistance that may endanger the rider, horse, officials or the public will be cause for immediate elimination for safety reasons earlier than 20 seconds. This also applies to any resistance in the space surrounding the competition arena before entering the competition arena.  
**Exception:** Para dressage riders see ART E 6.14
15. **Outside assistance:**  
**1. Space Around the Competition Arena**  
**1. All Competitions**
- A groom or helper may remove polos, boots, a whip or any other item deemed non-compliant with the dress rules.

- A member of the jury may not discuss a ride with a rider before the bell or after the final salute. The rider may, however, ask the steward's permission to approach the judge at the judge's discretion. The steward must be present at this meeting.

#### 1. Bronze Competitions

- The designated caller may give the rider help in difficult situations through moderate coaching and or leading the combination past a difficult area.

#### 2. Silver and Gold Competitions

- At Introductory and Training level the designated caller may give the rider help in difficult situations through moderate coaching and or leading the combination past a difficult area.
- At all other levels outside assistance is prohibited and will result in elimination.

**Exception:** Para Dressage see Chapter 6

#### 3. Championship Competitions

- Any outside coaching assistance by voice, signs or equipment (earphone and, or electronic communication devices etc.), from the moment the rider enters the space around the arena until the test has concluded, is considered unauthorized outside assistance to a rider and will result in elimination.

### 2. Competition Arena

Once a rider has entered the competition arena at A, any outside coaching assistance by voice, signs or equipment (earphone and, or electronic communication devices etc.) will result in elimination. A caller is only allowed to read the movement from the test sheet.

**Exception:** Para Dressage see Chapter 6.10.

**Exception:** If the judge stops the rider, a groom or designated assistant may remove polos, boots, a whip, or any other item deemed non-compliant with the dress rules

16. **Welfare:** The performance is against the welfare of the horse and or shows abusive riding. Situations where the rider/horse combination are not able to fulfill the requirements of the test level may result in elimination if the judge feels there is a welfare concern.
17. **Foaming substance:** It is strictly forbidden to use any type of substance/product inside or around the horse's mouth and, or tongue that may:
  1. imitate, induce or cause foaming; and, or
  2. coat or otherwise cover or partially cover the bit

See ART A 517

## ARTICLE E 9.5 DISQUALIFICATION FROM A COMPETITION

1. A rider shall be disqualified under the following circumstances:
  1. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry.
  2. Cruelty, abuse or inhumane treatment of horses, see General Regulations ART A517.
  3. The horse's tongue has been tied down.

4. Possible disqualification, at the discretion of the ground jury, for second offence of horse/handler not wearing assigned competition number when outside the stall.
5. A rider may be disqualified for use of illegal equipment at any time on the show grounds at the discretion of the ground jury.

#### ARTICLE E 9.6 JUDGING A TEST

1. Judges are personally responsible for their decisions and marks. They may not consider any advice or observations from individuals who are not members of the ground jury or anything that they know beforehand about the riders or their horses.
2. **Beginning/End of Test:** A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the salute at the end of the test. Any incidents before the beginning or after the end of the test have no effect on the marks.
3. The mark for each movement should establish whether the movement is performed sufficiently (5 or above) or insufficiently (4 or below).
4. In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point in the arena, it should be done at the moment when the rider's body is above this point, except in transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular to the point where the letters are positioned. In this case, the transitions must be done when the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that the horse is straight in the transition.
5. **Test Interruption / Re-riding a Test:** The judge may stop a test and or allow a rider to restart a test from the beginning or from any appropriate point in the test if, in their opinion, some unusual circumstance has occurred to interrupt a test.
6. If a problem appears once, it may be treated lightly by the judge; if it appears successively, it will be scored more harshly each time, i.e. nodding, stumbling, shying, etc.
7. In the event the horse starts to defecate or urinate, after the judge rang the bell, but before the start of the test, the clock will be stopped until the horse is ready to continue, at which point the clock will be restarted.
8. Grinding teeth: If a horse is content and happy to work, then it is not a resistance and does not need to be penalized. If the grinding is caused by tension (stiff back, swishing tail, etc.), one must go down 1 point on the quality of the movements and in the mark for submission.
9. **Tongue:** Horses that get their tongues over the bit or perform with an open mouth shall be marked down (up to 2 points) in the movement with the comment tongue or mouth open.
10. **Voice:** The use of voice or clicking the tongue shall be marked down (up to 2 points) in the movement with the comment voice. **Exception:** see ART E 14.1 10 Masters Test of Choice and ART E 6.9 for para dressage riders.
11. All movements and certain transitions which must be marked by the judge(s) are numbered on the judge's sheets.

The scale of marks is as follows:

10	Excellent	4	Insufficient
9	Very Good	3	Fairly Bad
8	Good	2	Bad
7	Fairly Good	1	Very Bad
6	Satisfactory	0	Not Executed*
5	Sufficient	Practically nothing of the required movement performed.	

12. Half marks from 0.5-10 may be used for movements and collective marks.
13. Decimal points 0.1 may be used in Materiale classes, FEI 4, 5 and 6 year old FEI Young Horse Classes, quality marks in FEI 7 year old FEI Young Horse classes, quality marks in FEI Children classes, Equitation classes and artistic scores in Freestyles.

**Note:** For FEI Young Horse and FEI Children tests, competitions with only one judge will have that judge sit at C. The judge will judge the technical test. Test results from one judge cannot be used for any qualification.

For qualification two judges are required. One judge will judge the technical marks from 1-10; and one judge will judge the quality of riding marking sheet.

## **ARTICLE E 9.7 SCORES AND PLACINGS**

1. For paperless scoring see ART E 3.18 B.
2. After each performance and after each judge has given their collective marks, the judge's sheets are given to the scorers. The marks are multiplied by the corresponding coefficient where applicable then totaled. Technical penalties incurred for errors in the execution of the test are then deducted on each judge's sheet.

**Note:** All scores in both technical and freestyle tests MUST be calculated to the third decimal point.

3. The score is the total of the points awarded on the test sheet. With more than one judge, the sum total determines the placing. If there are two or more judges, the total points awarded by each judge will be published separately in addition to the total score.
4. As there are no duplicate score sheets, scorers must record the total points for movements and the collective marks, as well as technical penalties for each test on a master sheet prior to posting scores, as a record for protests, ties and championships.
5. If a mathematical error on a score sheet is noted, it must be brought to the attention of competition management within 2 hours of the officially posted scores at which time the tests are available for pick-up. Any adjustments to scores and corrections to placings/awards/prize monies must be posted and announced within 30 days.
6. Individual placings and ties: in all competitions the winner is the rider having the highest total points, the second is the one with the next highest total points and so on. In the case of equality of points the rider with the highest total of collective marks shall be declared the winner. When collective marks are tied, the horses shall remain tied.

**Note:** For ties in freestyle tests see Chapter 10.

7. Ties in classes which involve prize money shall remain tied for the purpose of dividing prize money and then broken for awarding ribbons according to ART E 9.7.6.
8. **Ties:** In the case of an unbreakable tie each horse will remain tied, see ART E 9.7.6. For example, if three horses were tied for second place, each would receive second place. The next placed horse would receive fifth place.
9. Any horse receiving less than 50% of the total points obtainable in a test shall not be eligible for awards, ribbons, prizes or championship titles.

10. Competition organizers should post scores as soon as possible after each test.
11. The organizers of a competition are not obliged to make public any figures other than the total scores of each judge and the final placings.

#### **ARTICLE E 9.8 SHOW CHAMPIONS AT NON-CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS**

1. Competition organizers may award championships or high point awards at each level.
2. On no account may a competition division or level championship be determined by the results of one class.
3. For a level championship (i.e. First Level Champion) to be offered there must be two or more classes in the level held (i.e. First Level tests 1 & 2, or 2 & 3 etc.).
4. Champion and reserve champion must be established by totaling the horse/rider combination percentages achieved in the designated classes which must have been identified in the prize list (e.g. First Level 1, 2 & 3, top two scores to count OR all scores to count). The rider with the highest total will be named champion. The rider with the second highest total will be named reserve champion.
5. In the event of a tie, the rider with the highest single percentage score is declared the winner.
6. In the event that category (Jr/Am/Open) classes are not offered, a category championship may be offered, based on results obtained in the open classes. Eligible riders in each category (Jr/Am/Open) will qualify for the category championship through their results in the open classes.

## **CHAPTER 10 FREESTYLE TESTS**

### **ARTICLE E 10.1 FREESTYLES**

1. Musical freestyle tests are an exciting and creative combination of the technical and artistic aspects of classical dressage and para dressage. Recorded music is mandatory. It includes all the paces and the fundamental movements as required in the technical test of the same level. The rider is, however, absolutely free to choose the choreography within the stated time allowed. The test should clearly show the unity between the rider and horse as well as harmony in all the movements and transitions.

### **ARTICLE E 10.2 FREESTYLE ELIGIBILITY**

1. Rider/horse combinations must have obtained a minimum score of 60% in a technical test at the same technical level, or a higher technical level, as the freestyle they wish to enter.
2. The score may have been obtained at prior competition or may be obtained at the same competition in which they wish to enter the freestyle.
3. Technical scores earned at Silver competitions count toward being allowed to enter a freestyle in a Gold competition and vice versa.

### **ARTICLE E 10.3 REQUIREMENTS**

1. Musical freestyles are choreographed by the rider. The pattern including music selection is designed to highlight the rider/horse combination in their best light.
2. The freestyle is judged according to technical execution (execution of compulsory movements) and artistic impression (rhythm, energy, elasticity, harmony, choreography, degree of difficulty, music, and interpretation).
3. The freestyle is performed in a dressage arena (20 x 40 m or 20 x 60 m depending on level).
4. A copy of the freestyle pattern is not submitted to the judges in advance.
5. In the freestyle, the timing and judging of the test begins in the first stride after the salute – which must be made inside the arena on the centerline and facing the judge at C – and ends after the final salute. The final salute must also be on the centerline facing the judge at C.
6. If a rider must restart a freestyle test, due to music failure or due to an extraordinary situation, at the discretion of the judge, the rider can choose to start from the beginning, or from where they stopped. Any scores given before the interruption remain.
7. The music must cease at the final salute. Each rider may have a representative in the sound system booth to supervise the handling of the music. If the music is too short or too long there will be a penalty. A 10 second grace period will be given before the deduction is taken.
8. Time begins when the horse moves forward after the rider's halt and salute and ends with the final halt and salute. Movements performed before the initial halt and salute are not scored but they are considered.
9. All compulsory elements must be incorporated into the freestyle program. These are listed on the scoresheet under technical execution. Of these, some must be demonstrated on both hands (in both directions).
10. Riders should avoid receiving an error by making sure the salutes are clear to the judge(s).

11. Reins in one hand are allowed.
12. Freestyles may include all dressage movements found in tests of the declared level entered or below.
13. Permitted movements, figures, and transitions may be constructed into any combination or pattern of the rider's choosing

#### **ARTICLE E 10.4 MUSIC**

1. Music is mandatory and must be recorded.
2. Entry music is optional but must not be longer than 30 seconds. Exit music is not allowed
3. Live music is not permitted.
4. It is the responsibility of the rider to select appropriate music for their freestyle.
5. It is the responsibility of the rider to secure the music rights clearance for all pieces of music used in their freestyle.
6. The rider must provide their music to the show organizer in the format(s), method(s), and time frame specified in the prize list.
7. The rider is responsible for making sure they do a sound check at a time convenient to the show organizer.
8. Each rider may have a representative in the sound system booth to supervise the handling of the music.
9. The rider should always have a back-up copy of their freestyle music available in a different media format.
10. It is the rider's responsibility to notify the judge if there is an issue with the music once the test starts. This includes the wrong music, music that cuts out or music that is corrupted in some way. The rider should stop riding the test and let the judge at C know about the issue with the music. With permission of the judge at 'C', the rider may restart the test immediately or leave the arena to restart or start at a later time.

There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders and the affected rider should return to complete or restart their test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The rider may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or commence from the point where the music failed. The marks will continue from the point where the music failed. Judging must restart at the point of interruption. In any case, marks already given will not be changed.

#### **ARTICLE E 10.5 LOCATION OF JUDGES IN FREESTYLE TESTS**

1. When one judge officiates in a freestyle class that judge must be placed at C.
2. When two judges officiate in a freestyle class, one judge must be placed at C and the other judge placed on the long side at E or B, space permitting.
3. When three judges officiate in a freestyle class, one judge must be placed at C, one judge must be placed at either H or M and one judge must be placed on the long side at E or B, space permitting

## **ARTICLE E 10.6 NATIONAL FREESTYLE TESTS (TRAINING – FOURTH LEVEL)**

1. It is strongly recommended that riders obtain and carefully study the current scoresheets from EC/USDF. Additional information can be found regarding the degree of difficult for national freestyle tests through the USDF <https://www.usdf.org/docs/ledpro/includes/pdf/flash/DegreeOfDifficulty.pdf?t=7/28/2025%209:43:49%20AM>

### **ARTICLE E 10.6.1 TIME LIMIT**

1. The maximum time limit for all national freestyle tests is five minutes. There is no minimum time requirement.
2. Movements performed after the time limit has elapsed will not be scored. One (1) point will be deducted from the total for artistic impression for exceeding the time limit.
3. The program is timed from the horse's move-off after the initial halt and salute and ceases at the final salute.
4. The rider must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the start of the music, or face penalty see ART E 9.3.3.

### **ARTICLE E 10.6.2 COMPULSORY, FORBIDDEN, ADDITIONALLY ALLOWED ELEMENTS**

1. The following is a list of movements (and some combinations and transitions) specifically permitted at each level.
2. For all levels - Forbidden- Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under Additionally Allowed.

#### **ARTICLE E 10.6.2.1 TRAINING LEVEL**

1. **Compulsory Elements:** Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; medium walk (20m continuous); free walk (20m continuous); 20m circle in working trot (right and left); serpentine in working trot with loops no smaller than 15m; stretch forward & downward on a 20m circle
2. **Forbidden Elements:** Using hands to influence the audience. Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under Additionally Allowed.
3. **Additionally Allowed Elements:** Trot-halt-trot, trot-walk-trot, trot-canter-trot (minimum of 20m of trot)

#### **ARTICLE E 10.6.2.2 FIRST LEVEL**

1. **Compulsory Elements:** Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; medium walk (20m continuous); free walk (20m continuous); 10m circle in working trot (right and left); leg-yield in working trot (right and left); lengthen stride in trot on a straight line; 15m circle in working canter (right and left); (must be done in true canter to fulfill the compulsory requirement); change of lead through trot, (right and left); lengthen stride in canter on a straight line.
2. **Forbidden Elements:** Using hands to influence the audience. Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under Additionally Allowed.
3. **Additionally Allowed Elements:** Turn on forehand (no more than 180 degrees); lengthen trot and/or canter on a curved line; canter serpentine;

counter-canter; (Please note: lengthening in trot and/or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement.)

#### **ARTICLE E 10.6.2.3 SECOND LEVEL**

1. **Compulsory Elements:** Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; medium walk (20m continuous); free walk (20m continuous); shoulder-in (12m min.) at collected trot right and left; travers in collected trot (12m min.), (right and left); medium trot on a straight line; simple change of lead (right and left); counter-canter in collected canter, (right and left); medium canter on straight line.
2. **Forbidden Elements:** Using hands to influence the audience. Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under Additionally Allowed
3. **Additionally Allowed Elements:** Half turn on haunches (no more than 180 degrees); renvers; medium canter and/or trot, on a curved line. (Please note: medium trot and/or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement.)

#### **ARTICLE E 10.6.2.4 THIRD LEVEL**

1. **Compulsory Elements:** Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; medium walk (20m continuous); extended walk (20m continuous); shoulder-in (12m min.) in collected trot, (right and left); trot half-pass in collected trot, (right and left); extended trot on straight line; canter half-pass in collected canter, (right and left); flying changes of lead, (right and left); extended canter on straight line
2. **Forbidden Elements:** Using hands to influence the audience. Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under Additionally Allowed.
3. **Additionally Allowed Elements:** Half walk pirouettes (no more than 180 degrees); half-pass zig-zag in trot; canter to halt; counter-change of hand in canter (only one change of direction); medium trot and/or canter on a curved line; (Please note: medium trot and/or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement); flying changes shown in sequence of every five strides or more.

#### **ARTICLE E 10.6.2.5 FOURTH LEVEL**

1. **Compulsory Elements:** Halt with salute on centerline, first and final; collected walk (20m continuous); extended walk (20m continuous); shoulder-in (12m min.) in collected trot (right and left); trot half-pass in collected trot (right and left); extended trot on a straight line; canter half-pass in collected canter (right and left); flying changes of lead every third stride (3 min.); canter working half-pirouette (right and left); extended canter on straight line
2. **Forbidden Elements:** Using hands to influence the audience. Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under Additionally Allowed.
3. **Additionally Allowed Elements:** Medium trot and/or canter on a curved line; (Please note: medium trot and/or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement); half-pirouettes in canter; half-pass zig-zag in

trot, and counter-change of hand in canter (only one change of direction); halt to canter.

### **ARTICLE E 10.6.3 SCORING, JUDGING, TECHNICAL EXECUTION**

1. Two (2) sets of marks are given—one for technical execution and one for artistic impression. Half and full marks are used for technical execution; half, full and one tenth marks may be used for artistic impression. Each set of marks is totaled separately with relevant coefficients applied, and then those totals are added together and converted to the final percentage score to three (3) decimal points. In the case of two or more judges, scores will be averaged and these averages will comprise the rider's final score.
2. Preliminary marks will be given for each execution, of the compulsory elements. For compulsory elements that must be shown on both hands, preliminary marks will be given for each direction separately, all attempts will be considered for the judge's marks.
3. If a required element is not performed, it will receive a score of zero (0) under final score.
4. If a required element that must be shown on both hands is not shown at all, it will receive a score of zero (0) under final score.
5. If a required element that must be shown on both hands is shown on only one hand, it will receive a zero (0) for the direction that was not shown.
6. In addition, omission of a required element or direction will affect the artistic impression under degree of difficulty and choreography depending on what was omitted.
7. Movements above the level (found ONLY in a higher-level test) receive a deduction of four (4) points from the total for technical execution for each illegal movement, but not for each recurrence of the same movement.
8. Preliminary marks, judge's mark, and final score are columns which appear on the scoresheet.

#### **ARTICLE E 10.6.3.1 ARTISTIC IMPRESSION**

1. In scoring artistic impression, judge's marks may be given in tenths (0.1) increments.
2. Elements performed after the five-minute time limit has elapsed will not be scored, and a penalty of one (1) point will be deducted from the total artistic impression.
3. **Tie:** In the case of a tie, the higher total for artistic impression will break the tie.
4. **Understanding the artistic impression:**
  1. **Rhythm, energy and elasticity** - Correctness of the gaits, desire to move forward, elasticity of the steps, suppleness of the back and engagement of the hind quarters.
  2. **Harmony between horse and rider** - The partners' positive connection showing rapport, trust, and confidence in one another; a sense of synchrony, contentment, and unity; the ability to accomplish the choreographic patterns with ease
  3. **Choreography** – Design cohesiveness, use of arena, balance, creativity Complete and balanced use of space; logical development and clarity of construction; balanced use of rein; construction of combinations and patterns

4. **Degree of difficulty** - Well-calculated risks; the rider/horse team performs a single element or a combination of elements in a way that exceeds the expectation of the level. There is a detailed Degree of Difficulty Guideline available on the USDF website
5. **Music** – Suitability, cohesiveness, seamless. Appropriateness of the music to the type and character of horse; music selections are from one genre, style, or theme; cuts and transitions are smooth and create an overall flow of the music
6. **Interpretation** – Music expresses gaits, use of phrasing & dynamics. Appropriateness of the rhythm and tempo of the music to the gaits of the horse; choreography reflects changes in the music

## **ARTICLE E 10.7 FEI DRESSAGE AND PARA DRESSAGE FREESTYLE TESTS**

1. For information on para dressage freestyle tests see Chapter 6, ART E 6.16

### **ARTICLE E 10.7.1 TIME LIMIT**

1. The minimum and maximum time limit for all FEI freestyle tests can be found at the top of each freestyle test sheet 2.  
<https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/dressage/tests>
2. The test is timed from the horse's move-off after the initial halt and salute and ceases at the final salute.
3. In the case of a freestyle test being clearly above or below the required time limit there will be a deduction of 0.5% from the total of the artistic score. Slight failure to perform within the given time (approx. 10 seconds) should be treated generously without a deduction of marks, especially if unusual circumstances occur.
4. The rider must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the start of the music or face penalty see ART E 9.3.3

### **ARTICLE E 10.7.2 COMPULSORY OR FORBIDDEN ELEMENTS OR EXCEEDING THE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Compulsory elements are listed on each freestyle test sheet
2. Forbidden elements are movements of a higher class (a movement that is not mentioned in the test sheet) examples include:
  1. Pony riders: Flying changes, canter half passes, canter pirouettes, piaffe, passage
  2. Junior riders: Canter pirouettes, piaffe, passage
  3. Young riders: Flying changes in sequences of two tempi or one tempi, piaffe, passage
  4. Intermediate I riders: Flying changes shown as a one tempi changes, piaffe, passage
  5. Grand Prix riders: Airs above the ground
3. Examples of exceeding the test requirements:
  1. Pony riders: Clearly more than a half-pirouette in walk
  2. Junior riders: Clearly more than a half-pirouette in walk, flying changes in a sequence of 4 strides or less, more than one counter change of hand in canter
  3. Young riders: Clearly more than ½ pirouette in canter
4. Intermediate I riders: Clearly more than a full pirouette in canter

5. Intermediate A/B riders: Clearly more than a full pirouette in canter, piaffe pirouette in addition to a straight piaffe, passage half pass in addition to a straight passage
6. Grand Prix riders: Clearly more than a double pirouette in canter

#### **ARTICLE E 10.7.3 SCORING, SCORING, JUDGING, TECHNICAL EXECUTION**

1. Half and full marks are used for technical execution; half, full and one tenth marks may be used for artistic impression.
2. 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 in both the technical and artistic sections. Once the coefficients have been calculated, scorers must total the technical section and the artistic sections separately.
3. 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.
4. When there is more than one judge, each judge's final total shall be added together and divided by the number of judges. This number will then be calculated as a percentage.
5. All scores in both technical and freestyle tests must be calculated to the third decimal point.
6. 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..
7. **Omissions:** If a compulsory movement has been left out completely and deliberately the judge has to give a zero (0) for the movement. The score for both, choreography and degree of difficulty cannot be higher than 5.5. It is up to the judge to go further down with these two marks if more than one movement has been left out.
8. **Movements of higher class:** If a rider deliberately shows a movement of a higher class, no mark for the technical execution of that movement is possible. The scores for both, choreography and degree of difficulty, cannot be higher than 5.5. It is up to the judge to go further down with these two marks if more than one movement of a higher class has deliberately been shown. The judge should always pay attention to whether the requirements were exceeded intentionally or due to a mistake.
9. **Execution not according to the freestyle rules:** A movement required in the test sheet has been shown, but in the wrong way, which means a mark for the technical execution is possible, but has to be very low (max5), if the movement is executed incorrectly.
10. **Exceeding the requirements deliberately:** If a compulsory movement has been shown deliberately (not as the result of a mistake) above the requirements, the mark for the technical execution of the movement has to be below 5, regardless of this movement having also been shown correctly. No averaged marks are permitted. Scores for both, choreography and degree of difficulty cannot be higher than 5.5.
11. **Execution not as required in the rules:** If a compulsory movement has been shown deliberately (not as a result of a mistake) other than required without having been shown correctly at least once, the mark for the technical execution

of that movement has to be below 5. The scores for both, choreography and degree of difficulty, cannot be higher than 5.5.

12. **Execution below the requirements:** If a compulsory movement has been shown deliberately (not as the result of a mistake) and significantly below the requirements and without having been shown correctly at least once, the mark for the technical execution of that movement has to be below 5. The score for both, choreography and degree of difficulty, have to be appropriately diminished.
13. **Mistakes of the rider:** If the rider tries to influence the audience with their hands the harmony mark should be reduced by 0.5 points. The judge has to deduct 1 point in cases where the rider tries to influence the audience with their hands more frequently. The movement concerned should be technically judged as usual unless the rider influences the horse with his hands. This should lead in addition to an insufficient technical score for the respective movement(s).

For additional information on FEI Freestyle Tests (FEI Children – FEI Grand Prix) please see the FEI Dressage Judging Manual on the FEI website <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/rules>

## CHAPTER 11 DRESSAGE SPORT HORSE/PONY BREEDING CLASSES

### ARTICLE E 11.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. A competition with an EC approved Dressage Sport Horse Breeding division, which could include Materiale classes, must have either an EC licensed dressage judge and, or an approved USEF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding judge plus an EC licensed steward experienced in dressage.
2. A breeding division for dressage may be held separately or in conjunction with any EC sanctioned competition.
3. Classes shall be open to any horse without regard to size, breed or origin.
4. Separate classes for ponies or specific breeds may also be included and must be clearly specified in the prize list.
5. The horse's quality shall be evaluated as to potential for dressage/sport horses or breeding stock.
6. Current EC Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Score sheets are required. For the classes listed, see ART E 11.3. Score sheets can be found on the EC website [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca).

### ARTICLE E 11.2 DEFINITIONS

1. **Stallion:** Definition for the purposes of this division only, an ungelded male horse, 4 years old or older.
2. **Broodmare:** A female horse, four years old or older which is in foal, or is currently nursing.
3. **Yeld:** A female horse, 4 years old or older, which has never been bred (maiden), or which is not currently bred or nursing.
4. **Breeder:** The owner or lessee of the mare at the time of conception.
5. **Maiden:** A female horse, 4 years old or older, which has never been bred.
6. **Age:** For competition purposes, all horses are recognised as having a January 1<sup>st</sup> foaling date or August 1<sup>st</sup> if born in the Southern Hemisphere.  
**Exception:** To compete in any under saddle class, a horse must be at least 36 months of age at the time of competition.
7. **Handler:** Any person who holds walks or trots a horse while it is being judged in the competition area or ring for any in-hand or group championship class, except as noted below.
8. **Assistant handler:** Any person, other than the handler, who holds or walks a horse in the competition area or ring during a class, whether or not it is being judged. An assistant handler is permitted only for callbacks after in-hand or group classes, for championships and for handling non-competing mares or foals, which accompany another entry in the competition ring. Assistant handlers may not show a horse at the trot, and if not EC Sport Licence holder, are exempt from the EC non-sport licence holder fee, but are otherwise subject to all rules regarding handlers. See Section A, General Regulations, Chapter 2.

### ARTICLE E 11.3 CLASSES

1. Dressage Sport Horse In Hand classes may be held for mares and stallions in any age group and for geldings in any age groups 3 years old and under.
2. Dressage Breeding In Hand classes may be held for mares and stallions, age groups 2 years old and older. Any of the following classes may be included or combined at the discretion of competition management with the exception that

in sport horse or breeding classes (in-hand), horses of one sex shall not be judged against those of the opposite sex except in specified group classes, championship classes or special classes for single breeds or amateur handlers. Colts and geldings may be shown together.

3. The following in-hand classes may be offered and may vary at the discretion of competition management: in-hand classes (The prize list must specify Sport Horse or Breeding): Fillies of current calendar year with or without dam (fillies only to be judged); Colts of current calendar year with or without dam (Colts only to be judged); yearling fillies; yearling colts; yearling geldings; two-year-old fillies; two-year-old colts; two-year-old geldings; three-year-old fillies; three-year-old colts; three-year-old geldings. The following may be divided by age, except suitable to become a broodmare: Four-year-old and older maiden mares; Four-year-old and older broodmares (yeld) without foals; Four year old and older broodmares with foals at foot (Mare only to be judged); Suitable to become a broodmare; Four-year-old and older stallions.
  1. Group Classes (where multiple ownership is permitted, owners must be listed): Broodmare and foal (Entered under dam's name. To be judged 50% mare and 50% offspring); Dam and produce (dam and two or three of her offspring; prize list will specify two or three. Entered under dam's name, multiple ownership permitted. To be judged 50% dam and 50% offspring); Produce of Dam (with or without dam, two or three offspring. Entered under dam's name; multiple ownership permitted. Offspring only to be judged); Sire and Get (sire and two or three of his get. Entered under sire's name, multiple ownership permitted. To be judged 50% stallion and 50% get); Get of sire (without sire, two or three of his get. Entered under sire's name, multiple ownership permitted. Get only to be judged); Breeder's group (group of no more than three horses of any age or sex, all bred by the rider and entered under the rider's name. All horses must have been judged in their individual in-hand classes). Colts and geldings may be shown together; Family Class (Three mares related in one of three ways: mother and two daughters; mother, daughter and granddaughters; three daughters mother deceased. To be judged 50% overall family quality and 50% improvement in successive breedings).
  2. Championship classes may be offered at the discretion of management. Details must be included in prize list.
  3. Dressage/Sport Horse Under Saddle Classes. Horses entered in the following classes must also have been entered and judged in at least one of the in-hand or group classes.

**Exception:** Classes for the same sex may be combined at the discretion of the management: Three-year-old fillies; Three-year-old colts and geldings; Four-year-old and older mares; Four-year-old and older stallions.

#### **ARTICLE E 11.4 ENTRIES**

1. Entries in produce of dam and get of sire classes must be made by the owner of the dam or sire, or with written permission from the owner, in the name of that dam or sire.
2. All offspring entered in produce of dam and get of sire classes must be named on the entry form. Multiple ownership is permitted and owners must be listed.
3. If both Dressage Sport Horse and Dressage Breeding classes are offered in each age/sex group, eligible horses may enter both classes.

4. Any and all handlers (including assistant handlers) of horses in the competition ring are required to sign an entry blank, see Section A, General Regulations, Chapter 9, Riders. Handlers must be EC members or pay a non-member fee. Assistant Handlers need not be EC members and are exempt from the non-member fee.

#### **ARTICLE E 11.5 EQUIPMENT AND TURNOUT**

1. Braiding is optional.
2. Bridles are mandatory on two-year-olds and older. A bridle shall consist of a snaffle bit with two reins and headstall with throatlatch. Noseband is optional. A split or single chain may be used instead of reins. Horses under the age of two may be shown in halters.
3. Bandages of any kind are forbidden during a class.
4. The handler and, or their assistant may each carry only one whip, or one standard lungeing whip (without attachments, i.e. plastic bags, etc.).
5. Conservative sports attire is recommended for the handler, see Section A, General Regulations, Chapter 9 ART A 904.
6. In under saddle classes, Dress and Saddlery and Equipment must conform to Chapter 4, except that all horses are required to compete in a snaffle.

#### **ARTICLE E 11.6 GENERAL**

1. A judge must order from the ring any horse, rider or handler who exhibits inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of any rider, their entries or the safety of class officials.
2. A scribe shall be provided for each judge whose sole duty shall be to record the judge's scores and comments on the horse's individual score card.
3. When possible, the announcement of awards will include the breeding of the horses pinned: sire, dam, dam's sire; as well as the name of the owner and the breeder.
4. Refer to USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Guidelines for additional information relating to Dressage/Sport Horse Breeding.
5. If the schedule permits, management may allow time for questions from riders to judges at the end of the show.
6. Each horse must have a separate handler or assistant handler at all times.

#### **ARTICLE E 11.7 COMPETITION VETERINARIAN**

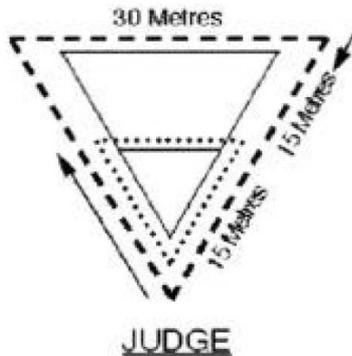
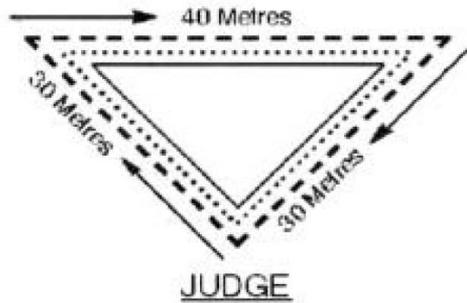
If the competition veterinarian is on the premises, they must be available to the judge. The handler must give permission to the judge and/or veterinarian before either touches the horse. If the veterinarian is not immediately available, or not called upon, the judge's decision as to the serviceable soundness of a horse must be final. For further regulations governing competition veterinarian, refer to the Section A, General Regulations, Article A508, Emergencies.

#### **ARTICLE E 11.8 CONDUCT OF CLASSES**

1. In-Hand Classes: Horses being shown individually on the triangle.
  1. Following a posted or announced order, or on request from the judge, entries in each class will approach the judging area one at a time, walk to the apex of the triangle, and await the judge's request to proceed on the triangle. The handler will lead the horse on the perimeter of the triangle at walk and trot, returning to the apex to stand the horse for conformation

judging or to repeat any movement at the judge's request. Handlers are permitted to have one assistant if necessary. Repetition of all or any part of the movement on the triangle may be allowed at the judge's request only. At the completion of the judging, the handler will lead the horse away from the judging area. The next horse will enter the judging area promptly. The judge may elect to judge conformation either before and, or after judging the horse's movement on the triangle.

2. The horse is to be shown in an "open position," i.e. with all four legs of the horse visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse. After all horses have been shown on the triangle, some or all may be recalled (depending on size, format and schedule of the competition) to be shown in groups at a walk and trot. If horses are to be recalled, the prize list or program must state that this procedure will be used.
2. Horses being shown in-hand in groups:
  1. Groups will be examined one group at a time, but not necessarily on the triangle. At the discretion of the judge, they may be asked to move at the trot and then at the walk, either in line or moving around the arena. Horses shall stand for conformation judging before and, or after completion of the horse's movement.
  2. The Judging Triangle: Two basic triangle designs are acceptable for presenting horses to the judge. Competition management may choose the triangle best suited for local conditions. Triangle corners should be well defined. Footing must be firm. Decorative fencing, plants or flowers are allowed horses must travel to the right. The following diagram shows the suggested use of the triangle. The size of either triangle may be adjusted to meet local conditions.
3. Under Saddle Classes: Depending on local conditions, these classes may be divided at the judge's discretion.
4. Foals may not be shown loose, unless specifically allowed by management in the prize list, in which case, provisions must be made to separate each entry, while being shown, from others in the class. These entries must be shown in a completely enclosed area. This enclosed area must be substantial enough in height and in construction to prevent injury to horses and, or handlers and, or spectators, and to prevent foals from leaving the area.



#### ARTICLE E 11.9 JUDGING SPECIFICATIONS

1. **In Hand Classes Dressage Sport Horse and Dressage Breeding Stock:** Horses shall be judged at the walk and trot on the triangle and standing for conformation.
2. **Dressage Under Saddle Classes:** Horses shall be judged at the walk, trot and canter in both directions.
3. **Group Classes:** Transmissible weakness or predisposition to unsoundness shall be penalized, commensurate with severity.
4. **Scoring Categories:** Score sheets for the following classes can be obtained from EC.
  1. Dressage Breeding and Group Classes: 50% Movement, 40% Conformation, 10% General Impression (including masculinity (stallion) and femininity (mare); development and harmony)
  2. Dressage Sport Horse Classes: 60% Movement, 30% Conformation, 10% General Impression (including impulsion, balance and temperament.
  3. Dressage Under Saddle Classes: 60% Movement, 30% Conformation, 10% General Impression (including impulsion, balance and rideability), or horses may be placed with no actual scores awarded.
5. **Championship Classes:** More than one judge may officiate. The judge(s) will re-evaluate the entries, with or without awarding scores. All horses must be re-evaluated in the same manner, and all horses must be shown at the walk and trot.

6. Conformation is to be evaluated in terms of potential trainability, potential performance and predisposition to unsoundness. Function, not fashion, is to be emphasized. Weakness or conformation faults with a predisposition to unsoundness or to difficulties in training shall be penalized. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults.
7. Gaits are to be evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness. Purity and correctness are more important than brilliance at this level. Correct gaits, contributing to ease of training and the horse remaining sound and usable, are more important than gaits which are merely superficially flashy. Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile. Correctness is judged mainly while the horse is coming to and going away from the judge's position.
8. Unsoundness. A horse shall be disqualified for unsoundness at the judge's discretion in Dressage Breeding and Group classes.
  1. In Dressage Sport Horse In Hand and Under Saddle classes, unsoundness is defined as showing evidence of lameness
  2. In Dressage Breeding In Hand and Group classes, unsoundness is defined as showing evidence of lameness or broken wind.

#### **ARTICLE E 11.10 JUDGING PROCEDURE**

1. A judge shall have the option of using individual score cards or class sheets, or in the case of a large under saddle class, placing horses in order of ranking in line up.
2. When two or more judges are officiating, they may agree to use only individual score cards or class cards and agree on each score before informing the scribe.
3. Decimals may be used in scoring.
4. Tied scores shall be broken first by referring to the totals of the movement scores. If still tied, the tie may be broken at the judge's discretion, by the use of decimals, or the horses may be examined again (movement only). If a class is judged by more than one judge, the judges may consult and arrive at one agreed upon placement.
5. Scores must be reported as a total based on the above percentages against a possible total of 100%, and all scores (if given) and placings must be published. Unofficial scores may be published during the class and, or final scores may be published at the end of each class.

## **CHAPTER 12 MATERIALE CLASSES**

### **ARTICLE E 12.1 CLASSES**

#### **Horse Classes:**

1. Limited to three and four-year-old fillies.
2. Limited to three and four-year-old colts and geldings.

#### **Horse or Pony Classes:**

3. Limited to four- and five-year-old mares,
4. Limited to four- and five-year-old stallions and geldings.
5. Classes #1 and #3 for fillies and mares may be combined.
6. Classes #2 and #4 for colts, geldings and stallions may be combined but fillies and mares may not be combined with classes for colts, geldings and stallions except in Championship classes.

### **ARTICLE E 12.2 CLASS ROUTINE**

1. Horses/ponies enter the ring at a walk in clockwise direction at the discretion of the ringmaster and officiating judge(s). Entries are to be shown in both directions in the ring at a walk, trot and canter. It is recommended that groups of no more than six horses/ponies canter at one time. Horses/ponies will not be asked to gallop but four and five year olds may be asked to lengthen the stride at trot. However, when three year olds are shown together with four and five year olds, horses/ponies may not be asked to lengthen stride at trot or canter.

### **ARTICLE E 12.3 JUDGING**

1. Scores will be evaluated according to the criteria listed on the Materiale Scoresheet using the following percentage points:
  - 30% each for walk, trot and canter for a total of 90%;
  - 10% General Impression (including impulsion, balance, rideability, presence and suitability to dressage as described on the class score sheet. Movement should demonstrate purity and quality, and correctness.).
2. Available ribbons and prizes may not necessarily be awarded if the entries do not warrant them in the opinion of the judge(s).

### **ARTICLE E 12.4 COMPETITION MANAGEMENT AND CLASS ORGANIZATION**

1. Competitions which include Materiale classes must have either an EC licensed dressage judge or an approved USEF Dressage Sport Horse Breed judge plus an EC licensed steward.
2. Class score sheets will be available for printing from the EC website at [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca).

## **CHAPTER 13**

### **FEI YOUNG HORSE CLASSES AT EC COMPETITIONS**

These rules apply to horses who are eligible for and competing in the FEI Young Horse Classes for 5, 6 and 7 year olds.

For any other classes where age is a factor refer to the regular Section E EC rules.

For those trying to qualify for the World Breeding Championships, please refer to the criteria document

#### **ARTICLE E 13.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

1. The basic idea of young horse competitions is to introduce 5, 6 and 7 year old horses to dressage competitions to help them gain experience in the dressage arena and to give them the opportunity to compete against each other in the same level of test.
2. The rider's seat and the influence of the rider's aids are of minor importance when judging young horse classes.
3. A primary concern is to evaluate the correct training of young horses, enhancing the reputation of national breeds and encouraging interest in international competition involving young horses.

#### **ARTICLE E 13.2 DIRECTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS FOR 5, 6 and 7YEAR-OLD HORSES**

1. These classes at EC competitions will be run in accordance with FEI rules regardless of competition sanctioning.

#### **ARTICLE E 13.3 AGE AND HEIGHT**

1. Age and height are the only requirements for horses participating in the FEI Young Horse classes for 5, 6 and 7 year olds. The age will be counted from January 1st of the year of their birth or August 1st if born in the Southern Hemisphere. The height at the withers must exceed 149 cm including shoes.
2. Participation will not affect the status for technical eligibility to enter other National or FEI classes except where age is a factor.

#### **ARTICLE E 13.4 COMPETITION SANCTIONING LEVEL**

1. EC Gold sanctioned competitions may hold classes for FEI Young Horse in the 5, 6 and 7 year old categories. These classes will be run in accordance with FEI rules regardless of competition sanctioning.

#### **ARTICLE E 13.5 DRESSAGE TESTS**

1. 5-year-old horses – Preliminary and Final Tests
2. 6-year-old horses – Preliminary and Final Tests
3. 7-year-old horses – Preliminary and Final Tests

**Note:** The preliminary test must be used as the qualifier for the final test.

**Note:** All tests are to be held in the 20 x 60-metre arena

## **ARTICLE E 13.6 DRESS AND SADDLERY**

1. All 5 and 6 year old tests must be ridden in a snaffle bridle. Seven year old tests may be ridden in a snaffle or double bridle.
2. Spurs are optional.
3. Running martingales are not permitted.
4. Gadgets are not allowed in the warmup / schooling rings, this includes martingales, breast plates, bit guards and any kind of gadget such as bearing, running or balancing reins, and any form of blinker that interferes with the horse's vision.

## **ARTICLE E 13.7 PRINCIPLES OF JUDGING YOUNG HORSE CLASSES**

1. Three aspects are most important in judging young horse classes:
  1. The paces
  2. The standard of training
  3. The general impression including conformation, temperament and the natural talent to become a high-level dressage horse.
2. Basic ideas:
  1. The basic paces, handiness and general impression of the horse as a dressage horse will be judged. Judges should ask:
    1. whether or not the performance of the horse corresponds to the general idea of a dressage horse;
    2. whether the horse is on the correct training path; and
    3. whether the horse has the ability to perform dressage at a high level.
  2. Special emphasis must be made on soft and constant contact, the satisfactory activity of the mouth, an elastic poll in the three basic paces and in the transitions. The steps and strides must be in rhythm and without tension. Flexion and bending, the harmonious development on both hands and suppleness are important. There must be impulsion, which must be developed through the hindquarters, leading into a swinging back and soft steady contact.
  3. Fundamental training errors will generally lead to lower marks being awarded. Examples of such errors are: obviously unlevel rhythm, tension, lasting contact failure, insufficiently swinging back, serious crookedness and insufficient engagement of the hind legs.
  4. Minor mistakes should be judged leniently, if, in principle, the horse is demonstrating correct training with well-developed paces. Horses which at the beginning of the test show tension and some concentration lapses or which may even be a bit spooky, should be judged more benevolently than in other international dressage competitions.
3. **Minor mistakes for 5-year-old horses**
  1. Moments of tension at the beginning of the test with slight concentration lapses but improving throughout the test
  2. Halt not completely attentive or straight
  3. Transitions not exactly at the markers
  4. Slight and momentary crookedness
  5. Canter wrong lead, but immediately corrected
  6. Short break of pace e.g. falling into trot during canter work but immediately corrected
  7. Simple change of leg with 2 or 6 steps of walk in between instead of 3-5 steps

**4. Minor mistakes for 6-year-old horses**

1. Starting/ending the lateral movement not exactly at the required marker, slightly losing the bend for a short moment
2. Losing the bend at the end of the lateral movement
3. Flying change not exactly at the required marker, slightly swaying, not totally balanced

**5. Minor mistakes for 7-year-old horses**

1. Slightly swaying, not totally balanced in series of changes, must be straight in single change
2. Momentary loss of balance in canter pirouettes

**ARTICLE E 13.8 FUNDAMENTAL MISTAKES**

1. Fundamental mistakes will generally lead to lower marks being awarded.

Examples of such errors are:

1. Obviously uneven rhythm
2. Tension
3. Consistent contact failure
4. Insufficiently swinging back
5. Serious crookedness
6. Insufficient engagement of the hind legs

**2. Fundamental Mistakes for 5 year old horses**

1. Uneven rhythm in trot movements
2. Lack of clear 3-beat canter including in the counter canter. Uneven or pacing steps in the walk including the turn on the haunches (in 6 year old in walk pirouettes)
3. Clear resistance or loss of diagonal steps in the rein back
4. Simple changes of leg without any walk steps shown
5. Tension throughout
6. Repeated contact, tilting/mouth problems
7. Lack of suppleness in the back
8. Obvious crookedness
9. Stiff hind legs, lacking energy and engagement

**3. Fundamental mistakes for 6 year old horses (all of the above, including)**

1. Lack of clear bend in lateral movements
2. Mostly incorrect flying changes
3. Tension throughout
4. Repeated contact/mouth problems
5. Lack of suppleness in the back

**4. Fundamental mistakes for 7 year old horses**

1. Uneven or pacing steps in walk
2. Uneven trot rhythm
3. Lack of clear 3-beat canter including the same, clear tendency in canter pirouettes
4. Lack of clear bend in lateral movements
5. Incorrect flying changes
6. Tension throughout
7. Repeated contact issues, tilting and open mouth
8. Lack of suppleness in the back
9. Obvious crookedness
10. Stiff hind legs, lacking energy and engagement
11. Repeated resistance (inability) in collected work

### **ARTICLE E 13.9 BASIC PACES**

1. The paces must be judged uncompromisingly as they are vitally important for the quality of a dressage horse. They must be of absolute regularity without tension. The impulsion of the paces should be developed from the hindquarters through a swinging back with active hind legs. The steps and strides must be elastic with the horse showing a natural self-carriage and freedom of the shoulder.
2. The quality of the paces is judged by assessing the overall impression, the regularity and elasticity of the steps and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance, even after a transition within the paces or from one pace to another.

### **ARTICLE E 13.10 STANDARD OF TRAINING**

1. Equally important as the paces are the correct training according to the age of the horse. Judges should assess whether or not the horse's training corresponds to the principles of the training scale. Special emphasis must be made regarding soft and steady contact with a gentle chewing mouth and an elastic poll which should be the highest point; and the neck should be without any restriction. Lateral flexion and bend must be equally developed on both sides. The horse must be supple and obedient.
2. Natural ability to self-carry is asked for but is relative to the age of the horse. In classes for 5 year old horses only the beginning of collection, the "willingness to collect" is required.
3. For 6 year old horses, a more clearly defined collection, the "ability to collect" is necessary.
4. For 7 year old horses, they need to show collection inherent to this level, ability to carry weight and lightness of the forehand. A 7 year old horse needs to be through the back and in self carriage with a steady contact, showing good balance and correct bend.
5. The most important criteria for lateral movements and flying changes in young horse tests is the fluency and correct execution.
6. When judging 5, 6 and 7 year old horses judges have to differentiate between minor mistakes, which are not a significant factor in the score and fundamental mistakes which should lead to lower marks.
7. Judges' positioning in the 7 year old test for qualification scores for National Rankings and Championships (Provincial, Regional and National) will include one at C who will judge the technical test and one at B or E who will judge the quality of the test.
8. Competitions with only one judge for the 7 year old test will have the judge sit a C and the judge will judge the technical test. Test results from one judge cannot be used for any qualification or ranking.

### **ARTICLE E 13.11 GENERAL IMPRESSION**

1. The emphasis here is on the three basic paces, the type and quality of the horse's conformation, the charisma and presence of the horse, suppleness and the degree of effortlessness with which the horse is able to perform the movements.
2. Besides the paces and standard of training, the judge must decide whether or not the horse shows enough natural talent to develop into a high-level Dressage horse.

3. The general impression is based on:
  1. Quality of paces (including the degree of effortlessness with which the horse is able to perform the movements)
  2. The standard of training according to the training scale
  3. The potential and suitability as a Dressage horse including temperament, attentiveness and willingness to work, natural forward-going attitude, mental suppleness, conformation, expression (appearance, charisma, presence, natural charm).
  4. A horse with the potential to become a high-level Dressage horse always has to be preferred to a horse that only executes the tests in an obedient manner but without showing any further scope.
  5. The rider - The judging of the seat, aids, and influence of the rider plays a secondary role.

#### **ARTICLE E 13.12 YOUNG HORSE JUDGES APPROVED FOR EC COMPETITIONS**

Only EC senior or other NF's senior and FEI Dressage judges may officiate in the FEI Young Horse classes. For scores to count for selection to compete in the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses, there must be a panel of three FEI Dressage judges or two FEI judges and one senior judge.

## **CHAPTER 14**

### **MASTERS TEST OF CHOICE**

#### **ARTICLE E 14.1 DETAILS**

1. The Masters Test of Choice (TOC) is a class that provides senior riders the opportunity to participate in a dressage class that is exclusively their own in an environment that provides a fair playing field wherein each will compete against their peers at all levels of skill, from beginners to advanced.
2. Masters TOC classes are open to riders 60 years of age and over.
3. Any EC sanctioned dressage competition may offer the Masters TOC.
4. The class will be offered as a Miscellaneous TOC class as per the EC Rules, Section A: General Regulations, A503 and will include all levels, national to FEI.
5. In the event of many entries, the class may be divided into two – lower and upper dressage levels – with separate sets of ribbons.
6. The class will be included in the competition prize list with the appropriate entry fee.
7. The class will feature up to two tests per day and may have a class championship.
8. Scores from Masters TOC classes will not count towards EC Championships or awards programs.
9. Masters TOC riders may also compete in non-Masters classes but will not be able to use the accommodations listed in ART E 14.1.10 below.
10. To facilitate ease of riding, the following accommodations are available in the Masters TOC:
  1. Rising trot is optional in all trot work.
  2. Callers/riders may use headsets (someone, e.g., a competition appointed steward or supervisor stand beside the caller to ensure no coaching takes place.
  3. Entry bell/whistle can have a secondary indicator (e.g., the caller can raise an arm once the bell rings).
  4. Use of voice
  5. Equipment accommodations may include any or all of the following:
    1. Looped reins;
    2. Converters on double bridle to create single rein;
    3. Gel or fluffy seat covers; and, or,
    4. Two whips.
11. Judges for the Masters TOC must be EC certified at the Basic, Medium or Senior level.

## CHAPTER 15 OFFICIALS

### ARTICLE E 15.1 CONDUCT

1. Designation as an EC licensed official is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by EC according to the procedures set forth in this chapter, to individuals whose equine expertise and personal character merit the honour. The individual's conduct, as an EC member and official, must be exemplary and is subject to continual committee review. Officials shall exhibit the highest standard of integrity at all times and decisions are not to be made upon improper influence. Officials are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, respect and compassion and that they are never subjected to mistreatment or caused undue stress. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a person informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures, would determine not to be cruel, abusive or inhumane. Where an official has to exercise their discretion in an EC show allowing a rider to compete, such discretion shall be exercised for the benefit of the rider if and when possible provided the organizers are in agreement.
2. The officials included under this chapter include judges, stewards, classifiers and equine medication control technicians (see ART A1317)
3. To access resource documents for officials, visit <https://equestrian.ca/coaches-officials/officials/>

### ARTICLE E 15.2 JUDGE - CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. The purpose of conflict of interest provisions in this rulebook is to ensure a level playing field for all riders and to maintain integrity and impartiality of licensed officials.
2. No child or adult may compete in a class in which horsemanship is a factor before a judge by whom said child or adult has been instructed, coached, or tutored with, or without pay, in the preceding 30 days of the date of competition.
3. It is the responsibility of the rider not to enter a class or ride in front of a judge whom they have received instruction or coaching from, within the previous 30 days.
4. Any coach/trainer may not be judged by their student or owner of a horse they are training within 30 days of the coaching/training taking place.
5. A judge may not, during a competition at which they are judging, be the houseguest of a person who is exhibiting at such competition or whose family is exhibiting at such competition.
6. A judge may not discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of any horse during a competition at which they are officiating.
7. Judges shall not officiate in any level/division in which a member of their family or a horse owned by the immediate family is competing.
8. Judges are permitted to both compete and officiate at the same competition, provided they do not judge any test or class within the same division in which they compete or are entered.

**Emergency Exception:** In the event of an emergency (e.g. a judge becomes ill), a competing judge may officiate in their own division only if they formally withdraw from that division. If the judge has already competed, their scores must be withdrawn.

### **ARTICLE E 15.3 JUDGE GUEST CARDS**

1. Guest cards are to be applied for by the competition, not the individual judge.
2. Guest card applications for competitions held in New Brunswick must be processed through the Competitions Department at the EC office.
3. Guest card applications for all other provinces and territories, are processed through the PTSO.
4. Guest cards are not permitted at Gold Championships see ART E 7.2.
5. Guest cards are not required for foreign FEI licensed judges officiating at EC sanctioned competitions.
6. Guest cards are not required when co-judging with a more senior judge.

### **ARTICLE E 15.6 JUDGING HOURS - BREAKS**

When scheduling Dressage tests, it is the competition organizer's responsibility to ensure that breaks are provided for judges according to the following rules:

1. No judge shall be required to officiate longer than eight hours in one day and cannot be required to be on the competition grounds longer than ten hours.
2. Judges must be given 45 minutes (minimum) for a lunch break. A 10-minute break should be given to judges once every hour. If this is not possible, a 15-minute break should be given every two hours.

### **ARTICLE E 15.7 ARRIVAL TIME**

Judges must be on the grounds 20 minutes (minimum) before their first class.

### **ARTICLE E 15.8 DRESS CODE**

All officials (Judges, Stewards, Scribes etc.) must be professionally and appropriately dressed.

### **ARTICLE E 15.9 PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Personal communication devices (cellular phones, Blackberrys etc.) may not be used by anyone in the judges' booth while the competition is underway in their arena.

### **ARTICLE E 15.10 STEWARD CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

1. The purpose of conflict of interest provisions in this rulebook is to ensure a level playing field for all riders and to maintain integrity and impartiality of licensed officials.
2. No child or adult may compete in a class if the steward responsible for checking their tack is a member of their immediate family.
3. A steward should not, the day preceding and during a competition at which they are officiating, be the houseguest of a person who is exhibiting at such competition or whose family is exhibiting at such competition.
4. A steward may not discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of any horse/pony during a competition at which they are officiating.
5. Stewards shall not officiate in any level/division in which a member of their family or a horse owned by the immediate family is competing.
6. In addition, the following individuals are ineligible to serve as stewards at a competition: the president, chairman, manager, secretary, other officers or committee members of said competition.

### **ARTICLE E 15.11 MANDATORY USE OF STEWARDS**

1. All Bronze, Silver and Gold Dressage competitions must use EC licensed stewards.
2. The current list of licensed stewards can be found in the Officials Directory on the EC website: <https://equestrian.ca/coaches-officials/officials/>

### **ARTICLE E 15.12 GOALS OF STEWARDING**

1. **HELP**, to **PREVENT**, and to **INTERVENE**. Stewards should always keep in mind that while they are in effect representing EC, they also work for the competition, the riders, the coaches and the horses, as well as the officials (judges, classifiers, veterinarians, Equine Medication Control Technicians) and also spectators.

### **ARTICLE E 15.13 PURPOSE OF STEWARDING**

The aim of stewarding is to provide fair sport for all by ensuring that:

1. Upholding the statement of Principles and the Welfare of the horse
2. Ensuring that the sport is equally fair for all riders
3. Respecting and upholding the principles of good sportsmanship
4. Providing assistance to the Organizing Committee and Management in the successful running of the event in line with EC rules and policies

### **ARTICLE E 15.9 PROCESS OF STEWARDING**

1. Stewards **HELP** prior to the competition by checking prize lists, thus:
  1. protecting the interests of riders, horses, officials and competition management;
  2. monitoring of stables and related ground and overseeing warmup / schooling rings and lungeing at the competition;
  3. ensuring a veterinarian and a farrier will either be on the grounds or on call throughout the competition;
  4. ensuring that emergency medical plans are in place, such as EMT on grounds whenever MOUNTED exercises are taking place;
  5. ensuring that an ambulance will be present or on call;
  6. checking the prize list and entry form prior to the competition to ensure they conform to EC rules and completing the prize list approval form. Should there be an error, this **MUST** be reported to the competition organizer immediately for correction.
2. Stewards **HELP** at the competition by:
  1. submitting suggestions to the organizing committee during the competition if there are situations that are not in accordance with EC rules; as well as following the competition for improvements in the future. These comments should be mentioned during the show and, if necessary, dealt with but must be written up in the steward's report after the competition;
  2. ensuring that results and championships are correctly tabulated by the scorers as well as posted in a timely fashion after each ride;
  3. supervising, with the assistance of apprentice stewards, the schooling and warmup areas and reporting any infractions to the organizing committee, or, if applicable, to the ground jury;
  4. checking, with the assistance of apprentice stewards, after each ride that legal and proper tack and dress have been used in the competition arena.
  5. arriving at the competition daily at minimum 60 minutes before the first ride time.

3. Stewards **PREVENT** problems by:
  1. ensuring that all officials are recognized in the divisions to which they are assigned and that guest cards have been obtained if required;
  2. assist the competition management team with ensuring that all entry forms are properly completed and signed; that entries are eligible, checking height where required, checking horse identification documentation (if necessary, with the help of an apprentice steward), and reporting any ineligibility to the organizing committee immediately (see General Regulations ART A 407 for handling of invalid horse identification documentation), thus assuring the legality of the entry;
  3. ensuring that the rules for measurement of ponies is followed as set out in EC General Regulations, Section A, Chapter 11 and division rules.
  4. ensuring that all schooling areas meet EC requirements.
  5. Monitoring of stables and related grounds and overseeing lungeing if allowed at the competition.
  6. Stewards are permitted to issue recorded warnings and yellow warning cards (see General Regulations ART A 516).
4. Stewards **INTERVENE** in response to problems by:
  1. arranging a meeting between a judge or official veterinarian and a rider, at the request of the rider, if the official agrees. The steward will attend said meeting or can send an appointee at their discretion;
  2. reporting any offence or rule infraction to the organizing committee or the judge as required. These infractions must also be detailed on the Steward's Report Form;
  3. acting on all reports of equine abuse as per EC rules;
  4. being proactive enough to help/prevent/intervene independently (to investigate and act upon any alleged rule violations without waiting for an official protest) and to do so with the fairness of the sport to all and the levelness of the playing field foremost in mind;
  5. ensuring that all stewards be on the grounds at least 60 minutes before the competition begins.

#### **ARTICLE E 15.10 RESTRICTIONS**

1. An EC steward may not officiate at an unsanctioned competition or at a competition not in good standing.
2. An EC steward may not act in any other capacity at a competition.

#### **ARTICLE E 15.11 STEWARD'S REPORT**

1. Every steward at each competition must submit the steward's report digitally to the EC Competitions Department within ten days of each competition at which they officiate. Failure to do so constitutes grounds for removal of steward status upon review by EC.

#### **ARTICLE E 15.12 TACK CHECK AND GLOVES**

1. Riders, or identified riders under the random tack checking protocol, must be prepared to report, still mounted, to the steward for a tack check immediately upon leaving the competition arena.

**Exception:** A rider may, of course, dismount and remove their hat and jacket in case of illness or feeling faint.

2. The steward is responsible for ensuring that saddlery and dress regulations are followed including, where necessary, asking for ear covers, nose nets and if used, boots or bandages to be removed to allow an inspection.
3. All riders must wear approved protective headgear at all times while mounted. At the tack check, a rider may be asked to dismount to allow an inspection of their headgear.
4. Riders are welcome to approach the steward and ask for saddlery/dress rule clarification prior to riding their test.
5. The steward responsible for checking the bits must use disposable surgical gloves. A new disposable pair of surgical gloves must be used for each horse. The competition is responsible for supplying gloves to stewards for the purpose of checking equipment. If this is not done, the steward must be reimbursed by the organizing committee for the cost of gloves used.
6. Any deviation from the saddlery rules found by the steward after the test may result (after consultation with the judge and, or organizing committee) in elimination or further penalty.
7. The checking of the bridle and bit must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their head and mouth.
8. If a rider is found to have contravened the dress or tack rules, the steward must show the rider the relevant rule before recommending to the judge that the rider be eliminated. No rider can be eliminated without having been shown the printed rule.

#### **ARTICLE E 15.13 TACK/DRESS CHECK PRIOR TO RIDE**

1. A rider may approach the steward prior to each test to ensure that dress and equipment are in accordance with the rules.

#### **ARTICLE E 15.14 CHECKING THE COMPETITION ARENA AND SUPERVISING THE WARMUP AREA**

1. Judges and stewards must check the correctness of the arenas. Stewards must supervise the warmup areas. During the arena check determine if ring changes will be needed and if so confirm that the appropriate time has been allowed.

#### **ARTICLE E 15.15 TWO RINGS**

1. When a competition operates with two or more rings running simultaneously, the competition must have sufficient stewards in attendance to adequately monitor all warmup/schooling rings. When warmup/schooling rings cannot be seen from one vantage point by one steward, additional stewards are required and may include apprentice stewards under supervision.

#### **ARTICLE 15.16 EC PARA DRESSAGE CLASSIFIERS**

1. An EC Para Dressage Classifier (Classifier) is a physiotherapist or medical doctor who is accredited by EC to conduct rider evaluations on behalf of EC for the discipline of para dressage and para driving.
2. The classification sessions may be held in conjunction with an EC sanctioned competition.
3. A classifier must have a current authority to practice within a nominated health profession in their home province and hold professional liability insurance.

4. A classifier must have experience in working with people with physical impairments and have a clear understanding and ability to conduct classifications as described in the current FEI classification rules/FEI manual for Classifiers.
5. EC will appoint a classifier panel to conduct classifications. The panel will consist of 2 accredited EC classifiers.
6. Riders with eligible impairments as described by FEI Classification rules must undergo an EC classification in order to compete in EC sanctioned Gold and Silver competitions. It is recommended riders with an eligible physical / visual impairment undergo an EC classification for Bronze level competitions.

## **CHAPTER 16**

### **ADVERTISING AND SPONSOR LOGOS**

#### **ARTICLE E 16.1 ARENA ADVERTISING**

1. The short side of the arena at MCH must be completely free of advertising. There should be at least 1.2 m free of advertising on either side of the arena letters except for B and E where there should be 3 m free of advertising.
2. The advertising must be firmly affixed to the fence line or wall which should be a minimum of 2 m from the indoor competition arena enclosure or 10 m away outdoors.
3. The advertising should be positioned in a regular manner and each long side should reflect the other.
4. The height of the sponsor brand/logo should not exceed 20 cm and the advertising must be fixed level with the top of the competition arena fence.
5. At all EC competitions, the placement of any publicity applied to the competition arena and surrounding fence must be approved by the EC steward and presiding judge.
6. Arena fence conditions must be the same for all riders in the class.

**Note:** These measurements are for the actual competition arena and should not affect advertising on fence lines around the whole area.

#### **ARTICLE E 16.2 EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING**

1. Riders may have logos on their shirts, jackets, saddle pads and ear hoods.
2. The maximum area of the logo is as follows:
  1. 200 square centimeters on each side of a saddle pad (maximum one sponsor's logo per side).
  2. Riders may have the Canadian flag on their saddle pad, providing the size limits conform to ART E 16.2.2.1 above.
  3. One logo no bigger than 75 square centimetres on ear hoods.
  4. 80 square centimeters only once on shirts and jackets at the height of the breast pocket. No sponsorship logo, other than a manufacturer's logo, may appear anywhere else on the rider's shirt or jacket.

## CHAPTER 17 NATIONAL RANKINGS

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

### ARTICLE 17.1 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 scores toward National Rankings and will be subject to disciplinary action by EC.
2. National Ranking scores will be tabulated only from the date that payments are received and processed. Payments include but are not limited to: PTSO membership; EC Sport Licence; Amateur Status. Horses must hold valid EC Horse Recording (see General Regulations ART A 402). Scores are not retroactive in any case.
3. All riders/owners must have a valid EC Sport Licence in good standing.
4. All individuals holding Coach Status must hold a valid Sport Licence (SL) in good standing at a minimum of the Bronze Level.
  1. For individuals engaged solely in coaching activities, the Bronze level Sport Licence shall constitute the minimum requirement.
  2. Where a Coach Status holder also participates in competition in any capacity (e.g., as an owner, rider, or handler), they are required to hold a Sport Licence at the highest level of competition in which they or their horse are entered or competing

### ARTICLE 17.2 LEVELS/DIVISIONS

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

<b>Dressage (excludes TOC scores)</b>	<b>Para Dressage (includes TOC scores)</b>
Introductory	Walk Test
Training	Walk/Trot Test
First	Walk/Trot/Canter Test
Second	FEI Grade I Novice
Third	FEI Grade II Novice
Fourth	FEI Grade III Novice
	FEI Grade IV Novice
FEI Young Horse 5 Year Old	FEI Grade V Novice (Includes A, B, TOC & Freestyle)
FEI Young Horse 6 Year Old	FEI Grade I Intermediate

FEI Young Horse 8 Year Old	FEI Grade II Intermediate
FEI Pony	FEI Grade III Intermediate
FEI Children	FEI Grade IV Intermediate
FEI Junior	FEI Grade V Intermediate
FEI Young Rider	FEI Grade I Grand Prix
FEI Small Tour	FEI Grade II Grand Prix
FEI Medium Tour	FEI Grade III Grand Prix
FEI U25 Tour	FEI Grade IV Grand Prix
FEI Big Tour	FEI Grade V Grand Prix

## GLOSSARY

### **AD**

Advanced

### **ADULT**

Individuals are adults from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of nineteen. For exceptions, see discipline/breed sport rules.

### **AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**

Canadian equine or equestrian organizations with aims and objectives of national scope may apply to become affiliate members of EC. See Article A211, Affiliate Membership.

### **AGE OF A HORSE**

A horse is considered to be one year old on January 1 following the actual foaling date.

### **AGE OF A PARTICIPANT**

Except as modified by discipline/breed sport rules, a participant is considered to be a certain age until the end of the calendar year in which they turn that age. For example, riders remain Junior A until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18.

### **AGENT**

Any adult or group of adults acting on behalf of an owner or lessee.

### **AM**

Amateur

### **AMATEUR**

For the purposes of these rules, an amateur is an adult Sport Licence holder who is eligible to compete in EC amateur classes as per EC regulations. See Article A902, Amateur Competitors, and specific discipline/breed sport rules.

### **APPEALS**

An appeal may be made against the decision of a competition organizing committee or against the decision of a hearing panel, provincial, territorial or national, regarding a protest or complaint. See Articles A1211 and A1212.

### **“B”**

Basic (Judge or Steward)

### **BOARD/BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of Equestrian Canada.

### **BORROWED HORSE**

A horse not owned by the rider competing in a Para Dressage Canada class.

### **CALENDAR YEAR**

The calendar year starts on January 1 and ends on December 31.

**CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (COC)**

The Canadian Olympic Committee, the governing body for all Olympic disciplines in Canada. EC is a member of the COC.

**CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (CPC)**

The Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) National Paralympic Committee for Canada and is a member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Equestrian Canada is a member of the CPC.

**CAP**

See “Competition Administration Policy”.

**CARDED ATHLETES**

Carded Athletes refers to athletes who are approved for funding and are directly financially support by Sport Canada through the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP). AAP support is referred to as CARDING.

**CATEGORY**

Refers to the eligibility of the athlete defined by age, amateur status, open, etc.

**CDI**

Concours Dressage Internationale

**CDN**

Canadian

**CERTIFIED COACH**

Equestrian Coaches who have completed an evaluation and are certified by EC in partnership with the Coaching Association of Canada. The following designations are available: Instructor, Competition Coach, Competition Coach Specialist, High Performance 1.

**CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR**

Equestrian Instructors who have completed an evaluation and are certified by EC in partnership with the Coaching Association of Canada.

**CET**

Canadian Equestrian Team

**CHILDREN**

Juniors competing in classes designated as children’s classes. See discipline/breed sport rules for cross-entry restrictions.

**CLASSES**

1. Amateur/Amateur-Owner Class. For adult riders/drivers who hold a valid Sport Licence and EC amateur card or, when competing in their own breed divisions or classes, a valid amateur card from their breed or discipline affiliate organization. Riders/drivers from other countries must have a valid amateur card from their national federation. In amateur-owner

classes, riders/drivers or members of their immediate family must own the horse. See also 13. Owner Classes

2. Canadian-Bred Class. A Canadian-bred class is limited to entries of horses bred and foaled in Canada.
3. EC Point Classes. Classes in which competitors accumulate points at EC competitions towards annual EC awards.
4. Family Class. A class for two or more members of a family.
5. Gentlemen's Class. A class for gentlemen which may be restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as juniors, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules.
6. Ladies' Class. Class for ladies which may be restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as juniors, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules.
7. Limit Class. Limit classes are for horses or competitors that have not won six first place ribbons at EC Gold competitions or at USEF competitions in the particular performance classes in which they are being shown excepting winnings in four-in-hands, tandems, teams, unicorns, and pairs, and winnings in combined driving, local, model and breeding classes, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules. A limit entry is such from the closing date of entries.
8. Local Class. A class held at an EC-sanctioned competition, which is restricted by geographic area but which is run according to all other EC rules. Local classes are not eligible for national or regional championships nor shall they count towards EC awards. See EC Competition Administration Policy, Local and Miscellaneous/Additional Classes.
9. Maiden Class. A class open to horses or competitors that have not received one first place ribbon at EC Platinum, Gold or Silver competitions or USEF competitions in the particular performance classes in which they are shown. A maiden entry is such until the closing date of entries.
10. Miscellaneous Class. A class which meets the particular requirements of a competition and is beneficial to the area but does not conform to the specifications for any class or division included in these rules. Entries in these classes will not accumulate points towards EC awards. Such classes or divisions must be identified in the prize list as "not rated for EC awards".
11. Novice Class. A novice class is open to horses or competitors that have not won three first place ribbons at EC Platinum, Gold or Silver competitions or USEF competitions in the particular performance classes in which they are shown, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules. A novice entry is such until the closing date of entries.
12. Open Class. A class that is open to all horses of any age or breed, irrespective of ribbons previously won, and in which there is no qualification for the rider or driver.
13. Owner Classes. Open to adult riders/drivers who are owners or members of the owner's immediate family. Leased horses are not eligible and

multiple ownership is not permitted unless all owners are members of the same immediate family and members of EC. See discipline/breed sport rules for specific restrictions.

14. Parent and Child Class. For a parent and child. The age of the child may be specified. To be judged as a Family or Pair class using specifications in the discipline/breed sport rules.
15. Restricted Class. A class in which entries are restricted or limited in any way (i.e. according to money or ribbons won, years of competition, age, etc.)

Note: Classes restricted by geographic area are Local Classes.

**CLASSIFIER** A Para Dressage Classifier is an individual trained and qualified to administer athlete classification nationally and/or internationally.

### **CLASSIFICATION**

Classification is undertaken to ensure that an Athlete's impairment is relevant to performance on the horse. Classification aims to place athletes into classes or Grades according to how much their impairment impacts on the core determinants of success in the sport. Classification ensures the Competition within each Grade can then be judged on the functional skill of the rider regardless of impairment.

### **CLIENT**

Any person who pays a fee for equestrian and/or equine-related services.

### **COACH**

An adult who instructs and educates riders or drivers. See also CERTIFIED COACH

### **COC**

See "Canadian Olympic Committee".

### **COMPETITION**

1. For the purposes of these rules, the term competition includes all shows, events, horse trials and any other form of equestrian competition that is covered by these rules.
2. Platinum Competition. A term for a competition that is operating a Gold EC-sanctioned competition and an FEI sanctioned competition at the same time and venue.
3. Gold Competition. This category of competition formerly called a National Competition is subject to the rules set out in the Rules of Equestrian Canada. Points accumulated at EC Gold sanctioned competitions apply towards the EC awards programs.
4. Silver Competition. A category of competition sanctioned by Equestrian Canada, organized and named by the province subject to the rules set out in the Rule Book. Competitors in this category of competition are not eligible to accumulate points for annual EC championship awards. Provinces may establish their own awards program for these competitions.

5. **Bronze Competition.** A grass-roots category competition (similar to the former Primary Competition) sanctioned by EC and subject to the rules set out in the Rules of Equestrian Canada, subject to discipline-specific restrictions. Competitors in this category of competition are not eligible to accumulate points for annual EC championship awards. Provinces may establish their own awards program for these competitions.
6. **Sanctioned Competitions.** Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum competitions are all sanctioned by Equestrian Canada and are subject to the rules set out in the Rules of Equestrian Canada.

### **COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION POLICY (CAP)**

This policy outlines the three-stage process for obtaining an EC-sanctioned competition sanction/licence, and the responsibilities of the competition organizing committee, the Participating Provincial or Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO) and Equestrian Canada regarding sanctioned competitions.

### **COMPETITION EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS**

All persons directly employed by the competition, and all individuals officiating at a competition including but not limited to judges, stewards, course designers, technical delegates, veterinarians, timekeepers, announcers and ringmasters.  
See also Licensed Officials.

### **COMPETITION MANAGER**

A person designated to manage a competition (see Competition Administration Policy 5.1.2). This person must hold a valid EC Sport Licence at or above the level of the competition, and must be in good standing.

### **COMPETITION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OR MANAGEMENT**

All persons who are responsible for all or part of the management and organization of a sanctioned competition including but not limited to members of a competition's Board of Directors, the officers, competition committee chairperson or president, manager and secretary.

### **COMPULSORY TURNING FLAG (CTF)**

*In driving*, a pair of markers used to define the required track of the Marathon course. Each CTF must be numbered consecutively within the section and placed so they are clearly visible to be passed with the red marker on the right and white on the left. Numbering shall be affixed to the right hand marker using the shapes and colours defined for each division (Article C960.5)

### **COMPETITION YEAR**

The competition year is the calendar year.

### **COMPETITOR**

The person entered in a competition as a rider, driver, vaulter or handler.

1. **Rider** – directs the movement of or controls the horse from a saddle.
2. **Driver** – directs the movement of or controls the horse from either the ground or on a vehicle using a lead, lunge or reins augmented by whip and voice as the primary aids.

3. Vaultler – performs gymnastic and dance exercises on the back of a moving horse. A vaultler is not a rider, as the horse's movement is directed and controlled by a lunger using a lunge line, a lunge whip, and static side reins.
4. Handler – directs and controls the movement of the horse other than as specified above.

### **COMPLAINT**

A formal submission in writing on the required form stipulated within the EC Discipline, Complaints and Appeal Policy setting out the details of an alleged complaint, violation, breach, or grievance.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

A substantial appearance of a conflict of interest exists whenever others may reasonably infer from the given circumstances that a conflict exists. A conflict of interest is defined as any personal, professional or financial relationship, including, but not limited to, relationships of family members that could influence or be perceived to influence objectivity when representing or conducting business or other dealings for, or on behalf of EC. For example, a person is considered to be in conflict of interest if that person or that person's family stands to benefit from a decision or from information obtained in the course of official duties and responsibilities which is not generally available to the membership or the public. See Chapter A14, Conflict of Interest Provisions.

### **CPC**

Canadian Pony Club

### **DISMOUNTING**

The deliberate departure of a person from the horse/carriage or the accidental leaving (falling off) of the horse/carriage .

### **DISQUALIFICATION**

Disciplinary action, prohibiting a competitor and/or entry from any further participation for the duration of a competition, and usually requiring the forfeiture of all winnings and the loss of entry fees.

### **DIVISION**

A grouping of entry based on competition criteria. Example: Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Intermediate II, Advanced.

Blocks of FEI tests written by FEI and used by EC. Always prefaced by the abbreviation "FEI ...".

### **DRP**

Dispute Resolution Path/Process

### **DRR**

Dispute Resolution Request

### **EC DRESSAGE COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of Dressage in Canada.

## **EC DRIVING COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of driving in Canada.

## **EC EVENTING COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of Eventing in Canada.

## **EC JUMPING COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of the hunter, jumper and equitation divisions of equestrian sport in Canada.

## **EC NATIONAL PASSPORT**

The EC national passport is for use in FEI CIM-level competitions within Canada by Canadian owned horses. Please note that Canadian owned horses competing outside of Canada will require an FEI Passport or FEI Recognition Card. Horses competing with the EC National Passport in FEI competitions must also have an annual FEI Registration. Horses competing in CI-level competitions or FEI competitions outside of Canada, must upgrade to an FEI Recognition Card.

## **EC PARA DRESSAGE COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of Para Dressage in Canada.

## **EC**

Equestrian Canada

## **EC/USEF RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT**

An agreement between EC and USEF on the recognition and suspension of officials, amateur certification and jointly recognized competitions.

## **ELIMINATION**

Exclusion from any further participation in the class in which the elimination occurs.

## **ENTRY**

Horse or pony entered in competition, or, in equitation, horsemanship or reinsmanship classes, the rider or driver respectively.

## **ENTRIES**

1. Applications to compete in an EC-sanctioned competition, which must be signed by an individual who holds a valid EC Sport Licence or member of the national federation of another country, excepting parents or guardians signing an entry for a junior. See Chapter A9, Entries.
2. Late entry. An entry made and accepted after the closing date of entries and before the commencement date of the competition.
3. Post-entry. An entry made after the commencement of the competition or after the closing of entries, depending upon the rules of each competition.
4. Regular entry. An entry made before the closing date for regular entries.

## **EQUESTRIAN CANADA (EC)**

Equestrian Canada is the national governing body for all equine and equestrian sporting and recreational activities and interest (except racing) in Canada. If the name of EC changes at any time, any reference to EC will refer to its replacement name or organization.

## **EVENT**

The entirety of activities, classes, competitions or combinations thereof, commencing and concluding as defined by the Organizer in the Prize List and which is covered by these rules. Also see “Competition”.

## **EVENT LOCATION**

All lands used by the competitions comprising the event. The competition rings, arenas, warm-up areas, stabling, parking and all grounds available or used for an event or competition owned, leased or rented by the Organizing Committee for the purposes of holding an EC-sanctioned event.

## **EVENTING**

EC rules for the discipline of Eventing, formerly called Combined Training, cover Horse Trials, Two-Day Events and Three-Day Events.

## **FALLS**

Competitors are considered to have fallen when, either voluntarily or involuntarily, they are separated from their horse, which has not fallen, in such a way that they touch the ground or find it necessary, in order to get back into the saddle, to use some form of support or outside assistance.

1. A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground.
2. See also discipline/breed sport rules.

## **FEDERATION**

For the purposes of these rules, the “Federation” means Equestrian Canada or the replacement organization should its name change.

## **FÉDÉRATION EQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE (FEI)**

The Fédération Equestre Internationale is the international equestrian sport governing body, of which EC is a member.

## **FEES, NOMINATION AND START**

1. **Nomination Fee.** A fee, usually non-refundable, which is levied by the competitions and, in some cases, organizations sponsoring special competitions such as futurities, to establish eligibility and intent to enter classes or divisions or special events. The fee constitutes a part of the total entry fee and allows the competitor the option to compete, usually upon payment of an additional fee, in the classes or divisions or special events for which the nomination fee was paid.
2. **Start Fee.** An additional fee levied by the competition applied to previously nominated entries and paid before commencement of a class. Payment of

the fee allows the entries to compete in the class for which they have been nominated.

## **FEI**

See Fédération Equestre Internationale

## **FEI SCHEDULE**

An official document approved by the FEI outlining relevant information of an Event, including but not limited to the dates and location of the Event, the dates by which entries must be received, the Disciplines in which Competitions will be held, the programme of Competitions, the categories, nationalities and other relevant details of invited Athletes and Horses, the stabling and accommodation available, the value of the prizes and their distribution, and any other relevant details.

## **FEI 1\*2\*3\* 4\* 5\***

Categories of FEI sanctioned competition and certification classification of FEI Officials.

## **GATE**

*In driving:* A pair of lettered or unlettered markers used in an obstacle to define the route.

## **GENERAL PERFORMANCE DIVISION**

A multi-performance division open to all horses, with classes conducted according to the General Performance rules. See Section F, General Performance.

## **GOOD STANDING**

Participants in good standing are individuals who hold sport licences with Equestrian Canada who have paid their current licence dues, are not currently suspended and/or are not subject to any form of disciplinary action as described in these rules.

## **GP**

Grand Prix

## **GPS**

*In Dressage;* Grand Prix Special

## **GPF**

*In Dressage;* Grand Prix Freestyle

## **GROOM, ATTENDANT OR ASSISTANT**

A person who assists a competitor.

## **GUEST CARD**

A guest card is a temporary licence issued by EC for officials not listed in the current EC Officials Roster or not listed in the capacity or with the qualifications which the competition requires.

**HAND**

A hand is a unit of measurement that may be used to determine the height of a horse or pony. A hand measures four inches. Equines may also be measured in centimetres.

**HANDLER**

See “Competitor”.

**HEADER**

*In driving*; A groom or passenger, who “heads” a horse in a lineup in a driving class.

**HEADGEAR STANDARDS**

Protective headgear must be certified under one of the following standards: ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.); BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards); or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are BSI Kitemarked).

**HORS CONCOURS**

Non-competitive entry, entered in a competition with the permission of the organizing committee. Not eligible for any winnings at that competition from the time it performs hors concours. See discipline/breed sport rules.

**HORSE**

The term “horse” in this Rule Book, unless otherwise stated, denotes a horse, pony, mule, donkey, zebra or Very Small Equine (VSE). For competition purposes, a horse is over 14.2 hands high. For exceptions, see discipline/breed sport rules.

**HORSE RECORDING**

A Horse Recording is a digital identification document for horses competing at EC Silver, Gold and Platinum competitions. The purpose of a Horse Recording is to enable EC to create a database profile for every horse competing at EC-sanctioned competitions. This allows EC to:

- Track the number of competitions, and classes per competition, that a horse is entered in to protect horse welfare.
- Record competition results to aid owners in the marketing and sale of horses, and to identify successful bloodlines.
- Assist in horse identification and safeguard against horse misrepresentation.
- Track eligibility of all horses and ponies, and record official pony measurements, to ensure fair play.
- Accurately track horses throughout their lifetime, regardless of ownership and/or horse name changes.

**I1**

*In Dressage*; abbreviation for the Intermediate 1test

**I2**

*In Dressage*; abbreviation for the Intermediate 2 test

## **IMMEDIATE FAMILY / FAMILY**

The words “immediate family” and “family” include the following: husband, wife, spouse, common law, same- or opposite-gender partner, parent, child, step-child, brother, sister, half-brother and sister, step-brother and sister, in-laws of the same relation stated above, grand-parents and grand-children, unless otherwise stipulated in discipline/breed sport rules.

## **JR**

Junior

## **JUDGING PANEL**

Two or more judges on the ring at the same time

## **JUNIOR/YOUTH**

1. Except as modified by discipline/breed sport rules, individuals are juniors until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.
2. Junior “A”. Riders/drivers are classified as Junior “A” from the beginning of the calendar year in which they turn 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18.
3. Junior “B”. Riders/drivers are classified as Junior “B” from the beginning of the calendar year in which they turn 13 until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 15.
4. Junior “C”. Riders/drivers are classified as Junior “C” such until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 12.

In Western classes, individuals are youths until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 19. See also discipline/breed sport rules.

## **JURY**

For the purposes of these rules, a jury is deemed to be one judge or any number of judges as required by the class or event rules.

## **LAMENESS CATEGORIES**

**Grade I:** is defined as lameness difficult to observe. Not consistently apparent regardless of whether the horse is circling, going up or down a hill, trotting on a hard surface, etc.

**Grade II:** is defined as lameness difficult to observe at a walk or trot on a straight line.

**Grade III:** is defined as a consistently observable lameness at a trot.

**Grade IV:** is defined as an obvious lameness with marked nodding.

**Grade V:** is defined as minimal weight bearing on one leg, or inability to move.

*In endurance;* Grades III to V are automatically excused from BC judging; Grades I and II usually are not. The "soundness" score should reflect the significance of the gait impairment as well as the degree of impairment at

that moment. A horse that merely has a peculiar way of going may appear slightly "off" so it is very important for the vet to have made notes, whether mental or otherwise, about how each horse moved at the pre-ride exam.

### **LESSEE**

An individual or group of individuals leasing a horse; to be official the lease must be registered with EC.

### **LEVEL**

Blocks of EC national Dressage tests written by the USEF and used by EC. Refers to Training through Fourth Level and all Freestyles.

### **"M"**

Medium (Judge or Steward)

### **MEMBER**

Members of Equestrian Canada, including Category A, Category B and Category C members; see Equestrian Canada Bylaws, Article 3 – Membership. The term “member” may also be used in these rules to refer to a member of an organization such as FEI / USEF. See also Registered Participant

### **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Any national competition may apply for National Championships through the EC National Office and pay the required fees.

### **NATIONAL FEDERATION (NF)**

The national sport governing body of a country, which is a member of the FEI.

### **NATIONAL OFFICE (EC)**

The administrative office of EC.

### **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

A Canadian equine or equestrian society or organization, which has objectives and aims with Canadian scope, is registered in Canada, has a Canadian head office and a Canadian Board of Directors.

### **NF**

See National Federation

### **O**

Open

### **OFFICIALS**

Officials, including judges, stewards, course designers and technical delegates, who are recognized and certified by Equestrian Canada to officiate at EC-sanctioned competitions.

### **PARTICIPANT**

Any person involved with, competing in, taking part in, in any capacity with regards to the said event. Said “event” is not restricted to competition and could include but is not limited to clinics, shows, competitions, demonstrations and training sessions. See also Registered Participant.

### **PARTICIPATING PTSO**

A Provincial or Territorial Sport Organization that has a current Affiliation Agreement with Equestrian Canada to provide various services and products and represents the aims and objectives of the national federation in its region.

### **PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**

The Person(s) responsible (PR) for a horse must be an adult who has, or shares responsibility for the care, training, custody, and performance of the horse and who has official responsibility for that horse under EC Rules. The PR is liable under the penalty provisions of the applicable EC Rules for any rule violations.

Every entry form for an EC sanctioned competition must identify the PR and be signed by the PR.

The Person(s) responsible is ultimately responsible for the condition, fitness and management of the horse and is alone responsible for any act performed by themselves or by any other person with authorized access to the horse in the stables, elsewhere on the grounds, or while the horse is being ridden, driven or exercised.

**A:** For adult entries into EC sanctioned competitions the PR shall be either the trainer, the owner of the horse or the competitor who rides or drives the horse during the EC sanctioned competition.

**B:** For Junior entries into EC sanctioned competitions the Junior competitor cannot be the PR. For Junior entries the PR may be either the trainer, the owner of the horse, or a parent/guardian of the Junior competitor.

### **PONY**

1. Ponies are animals that do not exceed 14.2 hands, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules.
2. “A” ponies exceed 13.2 hands but do not exceed 14.2 hands
3. “B” ponies exceed 12.2 hands but do not exceed 13.2 hands
4. “C” ponies do not exceed 12.2 hands

### **PRIZE LIST**

Required for all EC-sanctioned competitions. A publication which serves as an invitation to compete and provides all information required by the officials and the competitors in the competition. See Chapter A6, Prize Lists and Entry Forms.

### **PRIZE MONEY**

Includes bonus money, cash, or gift cards/certificates, and exhibition class prize money.

### **PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR**

1. Protective headgear must be:
  - a) approved by an accredited certification organization (HEADGEAR STANDARDS).
  - b) properly fitted; and
  - c) securely fastened by a permanently affixed safety harness.
2. Any competitor may wear approved protective headgear in any division or class without penalty from the judge.
3. Equestrian Canada makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any approved protective headgear. Equestrian Canada cautions riders and Athletes that serious injury or death may result despite wearing such headgear, as all equestrian sports involve inherent risk, and no protective headgear can protect against all foreseeable injury.

### **PROTECTIVE VEST (BACK PROTECTORS)**

1. Protective vest must be:
  - a) properly fitted; and
  - b) securely fastened.
2. Any competitor may wear a protective vest in any division or class without penalty from the judge.
3. Equestrian Canada makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective vest and does not imply protective vests may protect against all foreseeable injury.

### **PROTEST**

A formal process, expressed in writing, to the Competition Organizing Committee (OC) to lodge a dispute, disagreement or grievance regarding the conduct of the EC-sanctioned competition or an alleged rule or policy violation on the part of the OC or official(s) at an EC-sanctioned competition. See Article A1204 – Filing a Protest.

### **PROVINCE (PARTICIPATING PTSO)**

For the purposes of these rules, the term “Province” refers to the Provincial or Territorial Equestrian Sport Organization,

### **PSG**

*In Dressage; Prix St. Georges*

### **PTSO**

Provincial/Territorial Sports Organization (provincial or territorial organization overseeing equestrian activities)

### **“R”**

Recorded (Judge)

### **RAPPING**

The term “rapping” is construed to include all of the artificial techniques intended to induce a horse to jump higher or more carefully in competition. It is not practical to list every possible means of rapping, but in general it consists of the competitor — and/or dismounted assistants, for whose behavior the competitor is responsible — either hitting the horse’s legs manually with something (no matter with what or by whom) or deliberately causing the horse to hit something itself, whether by building fences too large and/or too wide, setting false ground lines, placing trot poles or elements of a combination at a false distance, intentionally pushing the horse into a fence or otherwise making it difficult or impossible for the horse to negotiate the practice obstacle without hitting it.

### **RECORDED WARNING**

An alternative to other options in the EC legal system, (eg. Fines or disqualification) and is for cases of minor offenses, including behaviour that should not be repeated and that does not warrant a more severe penalty, including a Yellow Warning Card.

### **REGISTERED LEASE**

A lease registered with EC or the FEI. See Article A818, Registered Leases.

### **REGISTERED PARTICIPANT**

Any Person registered with Equestrian Canada, including Sport Licence Holders, and paying dues to obtain some benefit from Equestrian Canada. Registered Participant status is included with a PTSO membership.

### **REMUNERATION**

For the purposes of these rules, remuneration is defined as any payment, either in cash or in kind, with the exception of gifts of token value. Remuneration does NOT include:

- a) payment made to any competition official
- b) reimbursement for expenses without profit
- c) winnings paid to a horse’s owner

### **RULE BOOK/RULES**

“Rule Book” refers to the Rules of Equestrian Canada and all its parts. “Rules” refer to the rules and regulations of EC contained in the Rule Book.

### **“S”**

Senior (Judge or Steward)

### **SCHOOLING**

The act of preparing or exercising a horse prior to or between competition rounds, which may include flatwork, jumping, or other permitted training activities. Schooling may take place in designated schooling areas, competition rings (when authorized), or other approved spaces under the supervision of competition officials. All schooling must be conducted in accordance with Equestrian Canada rules, with attention to horse welfare, safety, and fair sport.

### **SCHOOLING AREA**

A designated space provided at a competition venue for the purpose of allowing competitors to warm up and prepare their horses prior to entering the competition ring.

Schooling areas must be safe, clearly marked, and managed in accordance with the discipline-specific rules. They may include warm-up rings, lungeing areas, and any other spaces explicitly permitted by the Organizing Committee for horse preparation. All schooling areas fall under the jurisdiction of the competition and must comply with Equestrian Canada safety standards and horse welfare policies.

## **SENIOR**

Individuals are adults or seniors from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of nineteen. For FEI rules visit [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)

## **SHOWN AND JUDGED**

To be “shown and judged” in a class, an animal must perform the prescribed routine and must remain in the ring until excused by the judge.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA BRAND AMBASSADOR**

A Social Media Brand Ambassador is a social media user who spreads the word about a company/brand or its products by posting about them on social media and promoting them to their unique social audience.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER**

A Social Media Influencer is an individual who has built a reputation for their knowledge and content creation on a specific topic. They make regular posts about that topic on their preferred social media channels and generate large followings of enthusiastic, engaged people who pay close attention to their content.

## **SOUNDNESS**

Must be serviceably sound. See also Unsoundness.

## **SPORT LICENCE**

EC Sport Licences are required by competitors, owners or lessees, and individuals/corporations accepting responsibility for entries in EC-sanctioned competitions.

## **START OF A COMPETITION**

The official start of a competition relates to the same day that officials are required to be on duty. For exceptions, see discipline/breed sport rules.

## **SUITABILITY**

### **Suitability (rider-to-horse combination):**

The appropriateness of a competitor’s size, weight, balance, and ability relative to the horse or pony, such that it does not compromise the animal’s welfare, soundness, safety, or performance. Officials may consider factors such as the competitor’s height and weight in proportion to the horse, competitor skill level, and the horse’s build, fitness, and observable reaction under saddle.

## **SUSPENSION**

Disciplinary action resulting in the suspension of a horse and/or owner, lessee, rider, driver, handler or any other responsible party from further participation in EC-sanctioned competition until the term of the suspension has expired.

### **TRAINER**

An adult who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody and performance of the horse.

### **TROPHY**

1. Challenge Trophy - A challenge trophy has to be won a specified number of times for outright possession.
2. Perpetual Trophy - A perpetual trophy remains in the possession of the winner for a period of 11 months, at the end of which time it is to be returned to the competition organizing committee. A replica may be given instead of a perpetual trophy.

### **TURNOUT**

*In driving*; The assemblage including the Athlete (Athlete), required groom(s), horse(s) with harness and carriage appropriate to the competition. Description includes configuration – single, pair, tandem, unicorn or four-in-hand. Examples: Horse single; pony pair; VSE unicorn; Small pony tandem

### **UNSOUNDNESS**

Unsoundness is:

- a) consistently observable at any gait under all circumstances;
- b) marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride; or
- c) minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or rest and inability to move.
- d) Any manifestation of pain, inability, disability or deformity in the act of motion is considered an unsoundness.

### **UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION (USEF)**

The equestrian sport governing body of the United States.

### **USDF**

United States Dressage Federation.

### **USEF**

United States Equestrian Federation

### **VALID SPORT LICENCE**

A Sport Licence is considered valid when it is current and the holder is in good standing.

### **VETERINARIAN**

Veterinarian: the veterinarian must be licensed to practice in the province/territory in which the competition is being held or in the home province/territory of the horse that is in competition and owner of or employed by a practice that is approved by its province/territory to participate in equine practice.

### **VIOLATION**

For the purpose of these rules, a violation is deemed to be any act prejudicial to the interests of EC. See Article A1207 – Violations.

**WINNINGS**

All ribbons, prizes, prize money, trophies and points won by a horse.

**YELLOW WARNING CARD**

An alternative to other options in the EC legal system, (eg. Recorded warning, fines or disqualification) and is for cases of misconduct that is not a minor offense but not severe enough to warrant formal disciplinary action by EC.

**YR**

Young Rider

**YOUNG RIDER/DRIVER**

Young riders/drivers are such from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21.

**METRIC CONVERSION**

<u>WHEN YOU KNOW</u> .....	<u>MULTIPLY BY</u> .....	<u>TO FIND</u>
Hands.....	4.....	inches
Inches.....	2.54.....	Centimeters
Centimeters.....	0.3937.....	Inches
Yards.....	0.9.....	Meters
Meters.....	3.281.....	Feet
Feet.....	0.3048.....	Meters
Miles.....	1.609.....	Kilometers
Kilometers.....	0.6214.....	Miles
Pounds.....	0.4536.....	Kilograms
Kilograms.....	2.205.....	Pounds

**INDEX**  
**(BY ARTICLE)**

<b>Advertising and Sponsors Logos .....</b>	<b>Chapter 16</b>
Arena Advertising .....	ART E 16.1
Equipment and Clothing.....	ART E 16.2
Aids & Position of the rider .....	ART E 1.20
Amateur Category .....	ART E 3.3, E 3.3.2
Approved Headgear .....	ART E 4.0
Arena .....	ART E 3.12, E 3.22
Arena Advertising .....	ART E 16.1
Footing .....	ART E 3.13, E 3.14, E 4.12
Fence/Enclosure .....	ART E 3.12
Gate .....	ART E 3.12, E 7.1
Judges Positions .....	ART E 3.17
Letters .....	ART E 3.12
Limited Space.....	ART E 3.14
Size .....	ART E 3.22
Warmup.....	ART E 3.11.12, E 3.12
Background Music .....	ART E 3.10
Bandages/Boots.....	ART E 4.10, E 4.11, E 4.12
Bits .....	ART E 4.4, E 4.5
Braided Manes.....	ART E 4.2.10
Breastplates .....	ART E 4.10 C
Bridles .....	ART E 4.3, E 4.3.1, E 4.3.2
Broken Equipment (Time Out) .....	ART E 4.14
Bronze Competitions.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Calling Tests .....	ART E 9.1, E 6.10, E 7.6
Canter.....	ART E 1.6
Categories of Rider .....	ART E 3.3
Amateur.....	ART E 3.3.2
Junior .....	ART E 3.3.3
Open.....	ART E 3.3.1
Canadian Equestrian Team Crest .....	ART E 4.2.13
<b>Championships.....</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b>
General.....	ART E 7.1
Officials.....	ART E 7.2
Schooling of Horses .....	ART E 7.3
Whips.....	ART E 7.4
Tack Check .....	ART E 7.5
Calling / Commanding Tests.....	ART E 7.6
Ribbons, Prizes and Championship Titles.....	ART E 7.7
Arena Size for Specific Tests.....	ART E 7.8
Gold Provincial / Gold Regional Championships .....	ART E 7.9
Gold National Championships .....	ART E 7.10
Silver Provincial Championships .....	ART E 7.11
Silver and Gold Championships Competitions Conditions of Entry .....	ART E 7.12

Reference Chart for Tests Offered at Gold Championships.....	ART E 7.13
Reference Chart for Tests Offered at Silver Championships.....	ART E 7.14
Test of Choice.....	ART E 7.15

Change of Leg

Flying Change .....	ART E 1.6.4.8
Simple Change.....	ART E 1.6.4.7
Through Trot .....	ART E 2.3

Changes of Direction.....

.....	ART E 1.10
-------	------------

Class Breaks/Footing Maintenance .....

.....	ART E 3.13
-------	------------

Classification - Para Dressage.....

.....	ART E 6.2
-------	-----------

Collection .....

.....	ART E 1.19
-------	------------

Collective Marks .....

.....	ART E 6.13, 9.6, E 9.7
-------	------------------------

Commanders and Callers - Para Dressage.....

.....	ART E 6.10
-------	------------

**Competitions .....Chapter 3**

Competition Requirements, Levels & Officials.....	ART E 3.0
---	-----------

EC Sport Licence.....	ART E 3.1
-----------------------	-----------

Horse Recordings and Identification Documentation .....	ART E 3.2
---	-----------

Categories and Eligibility to Compete.....	ART E 3.3
--	-----------

Open .....	ART E 3.3.1
------------	-------------

Amateur .....	ART E 3.3.2
---------------	-------------

Junior.....	ART E 3.3.3
-------------	-------------

FEI Age Limitations .....	ART E 3.3.4
---------------------------	-------------

Conflict of Interest.....	ART E 3.4
---------------------------	-----------

Concurrent Competitions.....	ART E 3.5
------------------------------	-----------

Tests .....	ART E 3.6
-------------	-----------

Purpose of Tests .....	ART E 3.7
------------------------	-----------

Miscellaneous Classes .....	ART E 3.8
-----------------------------	-----------

Equivalencies – EC/FEI Tests .....	ART E 3.9
------------------------------------	-----------

Competition Management .....	ART E 3.10
------------------------------	------------

Conditions of Participation.....	ART E 3.11
----------------------------------	------------

Horse Recordings Documentation .....	ART E 3.11.1
--------------------------------------	--------------

Competition Number .....	ART E 3.11.2
--------------------------	--------------

Non-Competing Horses .....	ART E 3.11.3
----------------------------	--------------

Horses .....	ART E 3.11.4
--------------	--------------

Ponies .....	ART E 3.11.5
--------------	--------------

Stallions.....	ART E 3.11.6
----------------	--------------

Dangerous / Unfuly Horses.....	ART E 3.11.7
--------------------------------	--------------

Cross Entering and Number of Riders Allowed.....	ART E 3.11.8
--	--------------

Maximum Number of Levels/Tests/Classes Per Horse Per Day..	ART E 3.11.9
--	--------------

Substitutions .....	ART E 3.11.10
---------------------	---------------

Hors Concours .....	ART E 3.11.11
---------------------	---------------

Warmup/Schooling or Horses/Ponies .....	ART E 3.11.12
---	---------------

Retirement Ceremonies .....	ART E 3.11.13
-----------------------------	---------------

Competition Arena .....	ART E 3.11.14
-------------------------	---------------

Class Breaks/Footing Maintenance.....	ART E 3.12
---------------------------------------	------------

Indoor/Outdoor Arenas – Limited Space.....	ART E 3.13
--	------------

Lungeing.....	ART E 3.14
---------------	------------

Officials Required.....	ART E 3.15
-------------------------	------------

Judges' Position .....	ART E 3.16
Judges' Booths .....	ART E 3.17
Paper Scoring, Judges' Scribe, Paperless Scoring and Marking.....	ART E 3.18
Protocol.....	ART E 3.19
Test of Choice .....	ART E 3.20
Arena Diagrams .....	ART E 3.21
Competing in a Different Grade - Para Dressage.....	ART E 6.4
Competition Arena.....	ART E 3.12, E 3.22
Competition Sanctioning Level and Requirements & Officials ...	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Competition Management .....	Chapter 3, ART E 3.10, Chapter 7
EC Sport Licence Requirements .....	ART E 3.1
Background Music .....	ART E 3.10
Conflict of Interest .....	ART E 3.4, E 15.2, E 15.5
Cross Entering.....	ART E 3.11.8
Number of Rides / Tests Per Day .....	ART E 3.11.8, E 3.11.9
Competition Number.....	ART E 3.11.2
Non-Competing Horse .....	ART E 3.11.3
Competitions (Non-Championship)	
Champion & Reserve .....	ART E 9.8
Cross Entering.....	ART E 3.11.8
Freestyle Scoring.....	Chapter 10, ART E 10.4
Hors Concours.....	ART E 3.11.11
Maximum Levels/Tests/Classes Per Horse Per Day .....	ART E 3.11.9
Minimum Percentage .....	ART E 9.7
Officials Required .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), ART E 3.16
One Horse Class.....	ART E 3.21
Permitted Classes .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Scoring and Placing.....	Chapter 9
Substitutions.....	ART E 3.11.10
Ties.....	ART E 6.16, E 9.7, E 10.4, E 11.10
Competition Organization Chart .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Championships.....	Chapter 7, ART 3.0 (Chart)
Days of operation.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Bronze, Silver, Gold .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Drug Fees .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
EC Medication Control .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
EC Rules .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
EC Sport Licence .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.1
Horse I.D.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.2
Insurance.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Miscellaneous Classes.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), ART 3.8
Officials.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), ART E 3.16, Chapter 15, Chapter 16
On Site Medical/Emergency Plan .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), ART E 4.2.7
Permitted Classes .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Provincial Sport Organization membership .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Results Reporting.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Ring Size.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.22
Test User Fees.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.6
Veterinarian.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 11.7

Concurrent Competitions.....	ART E 3.5
Conditions of Participation.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), ART E 3.11
Conditions of Participation - Para Dressage.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), ART E 6.2
Conflict of Interest	
Riders.....	ART E 3.4
Judges.....	ART E 15.2
Stewards.....	ART E 15.5
Copyright - Dressage Tests.....	ART E 3.6
Counter Canter.....	ART E 1.6
Cross Entering.....	ART E 3.11.8
Cruppers.....	ART E 4.10 C
Curb Bits.....	ART E 4.4, E 4.5.1
Curb Chains.....	ART E 4.3.2, E 4.3.4
Dangerous/Unruly Horses.....	ART E 3.11.7
Diagrams	
Arena letters.....	ART E 3.22
Breed Classes Triangle.....	ART E 11.8
Double Bridle.....	ART E 4.3.4
Double Bridle Bits.....	ART E 4.5.1
Dressage Saddle.....	ART E 4.6
Nosebands.....	ART E 4.3.3
Saddle.....	ART E 4.7
Side Saddle Dress.....	ART E 5.1.1
Snaffle Bits.....	ART E 4.5
Dismounting.....	ART E 9.4
Disqualification.....	ART E 9.5, E 3.11.2
Distance Around and Between Arenas.....	ART E 3.22
Double Bridle.....	ART E 4.3.4
<b>Dress, Saddlery and Equipment.....</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>
Safety Headgear.....	ART E 4.0
Safety Vests.....	ART E 4.1
Dress for EC Sanctioned Competitions.....	ART E 4.2
FEI Tests Junior to Grand Prix (Silver and Gold).....	ART E 4.2.1
FEI Tests Children and Pony (Silver and Gold).....	ART E 4.2.2
FEI Para Dressage Tests.....	ART E 4.2.1
National Para Dressage Tests.....	ART E 4.2.3
Introductory to Fourth Level, Plus Para, Young Horse, Mis.....	ART E 4.2.3
Introductory to Fourth, Para, Misc.....	ART E 4.2.4
Military Uniforms.....	ART E 4.2.5
Riders with Physical and or Visual Impairments.....	ART E 4.2.6
Extreme or Inclement Weather.....	ART E 4.2.7
Spurs.....	ART E 4.2.8
Riders with Long Hair.....	ART E 4.2.9
Braiding Manes and Decorations.....	ART E 4.2.10
Medical Dispensation for Short Term Injury.....	ART E 4.2.11
Ribbon & Award Presentations.....	ART E 4.2.12
Canadian Equestrian Team Crest.....	ART E 4.2.13
Bridles, Saddlery and Equipment.....	ART E 4.3
Snaffle Bridle.....	ART E 4.3.1

Double Bridle.....	ART E 4.3.2
Permitted Nosebands.....	ART E 4.3.3
Example of Double Bridle (Diagram) .....	ART E 4.3.4
Bits and Diagrams.....	ART E 4.4
Approved Saffle Bits.....	ART E 4.5
Approved Double Bridle Bits.....	ART E 4.5.1
Tongue Tie.....	ART E 4.6
Saddles.....	ART E 4.7
Stirrups.....	ART E 4.8
Whips.....	ART E 4.9
Miscellaneous Equipment.....	ART E 4.10
Boots and Bandages.....	ART E 4.11
Muddy Footing Conditions.....	ART E 4.12
False Tails and Extensions.....	ART E 4.13
Pulled Shoe/Broken Equipment.....	ART E 4.14
Tack Check.....	ART E 4.15

**Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Classes..... Chapter 11**

General Regulations.....	ART E 11.1
Definitions.....	ART E 11.2
Handlers, Asst. Handler.....	ART E 11.2.7, E 11.2.8
Classes.....	ART E 11.3
Group.....	ART E 11.3, E 11.8.2
In Hand.....	ART E 11.3, E 11.8
Under Saddle.....	ART E 11.3.3, E 11.5.6, E 11.8.3
Entries.....	ART E 11.4
Memberships.....	ART E 11.4.4
Equipment and Turnout.....	ART E 11.5
Bandages.....	ART E 11.5.3
Braiding.....	ART E 11.5.1
Bridles.....	ART E 11.5.2
Dress.....	ART E 11.5.5, E 11.5.6, Chapter 4
Saddlery.....	ART E 11.5.6, Chapter 4
Whips.....	ART E 11.5.4
General.....	ART E 11.6
Scribes.....	ART E 11.6.2
Competition Veterinarian.....	ART E 11.7
Conduct of Class.....	ART E 11.8
Foals.....	ART E 11.8.4
Judging Specifications.....	ART E 11.9
Conformation.....	ART E 11.9.6
Gaits.....	ART E 11.9.7
Group.....	ART E 11.9.3, E 11.8.2
In Hand.....	ART E 11.9.1, E 11.8.1
Under Saddle.....	ART E 11.9.2
Unsoundness.....	ART E 11.9.8
Judging Procedure.....	ART E 11.10
Ties.....	ART E 11.10.4
Scoring.....	ART E 11.10.3, E 11.10.4, E 11.10.5
Score Cards.....	ART E 11.10.1, E 11.10.2

Dressage Tests

Access & Ordering .....	ART E 3.6
Beginning & End of Tests .....	ART E 9.6
Calling Tests .....	ART E 9.1, E 6.10, E 7.6
Copyright.....	ART E 3.6
Purpose of Tests .....	ART E 3.7
Dismounting .....	ART E 9.4
Elimination from a Class .....	ART E 6.14, E 9.4
Entering Before Signal .....	ART E 9.3.3.3
Error of test.....	ART E 9.3
Technical Penalties .....	ART E 9.3
Freestyle Tests .....	Chapter 10
Falls .....	ART E 9.4.12
Lameness .....	ART E 9.4.11
Late Entry .....	ART E 9.4.10
Leaving Arena During Test .....	ART E 9.3.11
National Movements.....	Chapter 2
Resistance.....	ART E 9.4.14
Score under 50%.....	ART E 9.7
Para Dressage Tests & Grades.....	ART E 3.7, E 6.3, E 6.5
Drug Testing.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
EC Recording and Identification .....	ART E 3.2
EC Gold National, Regional, Provincial Championship.....	Chapter 7
EC Sport Licence.....	ART E 3.1
Eligibility to Compete .....	ART E 3.3
Elimination from a Class .....	ART E 9.4
Equipment (Miscellaneous).....	ART E 4.10
Allowed only in Warmup- forbidden in competition.....	ART E 4.10A
Approved For Competition – no permission required .....	ART E 4.10C
Approved for Competition – permission required .....	ART E 4.10B
Bit Guards.....	ART E 4.10E
Blinkers .....	ART E 4.10E
Bell Boots, Boots, Bandages.....	ART E 4.10.1 A, E 4.11, E 4.12
Breastplates .....	ART E 4.10C.1
Bucking Straps (soft hand hold) .....	ART E 4.10C.1
Cruppers .....	ART E 4.10C.1
Ear Plugs.....	ART E 4.10E
Equine Nasal Strips .....	ART E 4.10A.5
Equipment forbidden from being used on show grounds.....	ART E 410E
False Tails.....	ART E 4.13
Fly Armor .....	ART E 4.10C.3
Fly Hoods (Ear Nets).....	ART E 4.10C.2
Forbidden use .....	ART E 4.10E
Foregirths.....	ART E 4.10C.1
Girth Covers .....	ART E 4.10C.1
Hearing Impaired riders.....	ART E 4.10B.3, E 6.10
Hoof Boots .....	ART E 4.10C.6
Illegal Spurs.....	ART E 4.10E.1
Martingales.....	ART E 4.10A.3, E 4.10E.1, E 13.6

Net Relief For Head Shakers.....	ART E 4.10B.1
Nose Fly Guards.....	ART E 4.10C.4
Reins (Bearing, Running, Balancing).....	ART E 4.10E
Seat Covers .....	ART E 4.10A.2, E 14.1
Side Reins .....	ART E 4.10A.4
Tongue Tie.....	ART E 4.10E, E 9.5
Two Way Communication Devices.....	ART E 4.10A.6, E 9.1
Equivalencies – EC/ FEI.....	ART E 3.9
Error of Test, Para Dressage .....	ART E 6.14
Errors & Penalties .....	ART E 9.3, E 6.14
Eventing/Horse Trial Dressage Tests.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.8

### **Execution of Tests, Penalties, Judging, Scores and Placings ..... Chapter 9**

Calling Tests .....	ART E 9.1
Salute .....	ART E 9.2
Execution of the Tests, Deductions for Errors / Technical Penalties...ART E 9.3	
Elimination From a Class.....	ART E 9.4
Disqualification From a Competition.....	ART E 9.5
Judging a Test.....	ART E 9.6
Scores and Placings.....	ART E 9.7
Show Champions at Non-Championship Competitions .....	ART E 9.8

Execution of Movements .....	Chapter 1, Chapter 2
Extreme and Inclement Weather .....	ART E 4.2.7
Falls .....	ART E 9.4.12
FEI Age Limitations.....	ART E 3.3.4
FEI Children.....	ART E 3.3.4
Bridle/Bits.....	ART E 4.3, E 4.3.1, E 4.5.1
Dress .....	ART E 4.2.2
Execution of Test.....	ART E 9.3
Spurs .....	ART E 4.2.8
FEI Junior .....	ART E 3.3.4
Bridle/Bits.....	ART E 4.3, E 4.3.1, E 4.5.1
Dress .....	ART E 4.2.1
Execution of Test.....	ART E 9.3
Spurs .....	ART E 4.2.8
FEI Pony rider.....	ART E 3.3.4
Bridle/Bits.....	ART E 4.3, E 4.3.1, E 4.5.1
Dress .....	ART E 4.2.2
Spurs .....	ART E 4.2.8
FEI Tests.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.6

### **FEI Young Horse Classes ..... Chapter 13**

General Principles.....	ART E 13.1
Directives for International Dressage Competitions for 4,5,6 and 7..ART E 13.2	
Age and Height .....	ART E 13.3
Competition Sanctioning Level.....	ART E 13.4
Dressage Tests.....	ART E 13.5
Dress and Saddlery.....	ART E 13.6
Principles of Judging Young Horse Classes.....	ART E 13.7

Fundamental Mistakes.....	ART E 13.8
Basic Paces.....	ART E 13.9
Standard of Training.....	ART E 13.10
General Impression.....	ART E 13.11
Young Horse Judges Approved by EC.....	ART E 13.12
<b>FEI Young Rider.....</b>	<b>ART E 3.3.4</b>
Bridle/Bits.....	ART E 4.3, E 4.3.1, E 4.3.2, E 4.5, E 4.5.1
Dress.....	ART E 4.2.1
Figure of Eight.....	ART E 1.11.3
Figure eight noseband.....	ART E 4.3.3.4
Figures.....	ART E 1.11
First Level.....	ART E 3.7
<b>Footing</b>	
Maintenance.....	ART E 3.13
Muddy Footing Conditions.....	ART E 4.12
Fourth Level.....	ART E 3.7
<b>Freestyles..... Chapter 10</b>	
Freestyles.....	ART E 10.1
Freestyle Eligibility.....	ART E 10.2
Requirements.....	ART E 10.3
Music.....	ART E 10.4
Location of Judges in Freestyle Tests.....	ART E 10.5
National Freestyle Tests.....	ART E 10.6
Time Limit.....	ART E 10.6.1
Compulsory, Forbidden, Additionally Allowed Elements.....	ART E 10.6.2
Training Level.....	ART E 10.6.2.1
First Level.....	ART E 10.6.2.2
Second Level.....	ART E 10.6.2.3
Third Level.....	ART E 10.6.2.4
Fourth Level.....	ART E 10.6.2.5
Scoring, Judging, Technical Execution.....	ART E 10.6.3
Artistic Impression.....	ART E 10.6.4
FEI Freestyle Tests.....	ART E 10.7
Time Limit.....	ART E 10.7.1
Compulsory, Forbidden Elements, Exceeding Requirements.....	ART E 10.7.2
Scoring, Judging, Technical Execution.....	ART E 10.7.3
<b>Gaits</b>	
Walk.....	ART E 1.4
Trot.....	ART E 1.5
Canter.....	ART E 1.6
Gold Competitions.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Glossary.....	Annex 1
Grinding Teeth.....	ART E 9.6.6
Ground Jury.....	ART E 3.16
Championships.....	ART E 7.2
FEI Young Horse Classes.....	ART E 13.12
Guest Cards.....	ART E 15.3

Half Halts .....	ART E 1.9
Half Pass .....	ART E 1.13.8
Halt .....	ART E 1.3
Headgear .....	ART E 4.0, E 4.2, E 5.6
Hearing Impairment .....	ART E 4.10.B.3, E 6.10
Hors Concours .....	ART E 3.11.11, E 7.1.1
Horse Identification.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.11.1
Horse Licence .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Horse/Pony, Minimum Age and Measurement .....	ART E 3.11.4, E 3.11.5
Illegal Equipment.....	ART E 4.10, E 9.4.3
Impulsion .....	ART E 1.18.1
Introduction.....	Page 5
Judging a Test .....	ART E 9.6
Judges.....	Chapter 15
Booths .....	ART E 3.18
Championships.....	ART E 7.2
Conflict of Interest .....	ART E 15.2
Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Classes .....	Chapter 11
FEI Young Horse Classes .....	Chapter 13
Guest Cards .....	ART E 15.3
Maximum hours/Breaks .....	ART E 3.13
Personal Communications.....	ART E 15.4
Restrictions .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 15.10
Junior Category .....	ART E 3.3, E 3.3.3
Cross Entering.....	ART E 3.11.8
Protective Headgear .....	ART E 4.0
Lameness .....	ART E 9.4.11
Late Entry into Test.....	ART E 9.4.10
Lateral Movements .....	ART E 1.13
Leaving Arena During Test.....	ART E 6.14.2.2, E 9.4.13
Leg Yielding .....	ART E 1.12
Lengthened Stride .....	ART E 2.1
Levels of National Tests.....	ART E 3.7
Levy .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Logos .....	Chapter 16
Long Hair.....	ART E 4.2.9
Lungeing .....	ART E 3.15
Marking Test Sheets.....	ART E 3.19
Collective .....	ART E 6.13, E 9.7
Freestyles .....	ART E 6.14, Chapter 10
Scores and Placings.....	ART E 9.6, E 9.7, E 10.4
Martingales .....	ART E 4.10A, E 4.10E
<b>Masters Test of Choice.....</b>	<b>Chapter 14</b>
Details .....	ART E 14.1
<b>Materiale Classes.....</b>	<b>Chapter 12</b>
Classes .....	ART E 12.1
Class Routine .....	ART E 12.2
Judging.....	ART E 12.3

Competition Management and Class Organization.....	ART E 12.4
Maximum Levels/Tests per horse per Day .....	ART E 3.11.9
Measurement Horse.....	ART E 3.11.4
Measurement Pony .....	ART E 3.11.5
Medical Dispensation, Short Term Injury.....	ART E 4.2.11
Medium Judges.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), Chapter 15
Medium Stewards.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), Chapter 15
Membership (Sport Licence).....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.1
Metric Conversion Table/Chart.....	Pg 134
Muddy Footing Conditions.....	ART E 4.12
Music	
Background .....	ART E 3.10.1
Freestyle .....	ART E 10.3
Music Failure.....	ART E 10.3.9
National Championships.....	Chapter 7
National Movements & Requirements.....	Chapter 2
Lengthened Stride.....	ART E 2.1
Sitting and Rising Trot .....	ART E 2.2
Change of Leg Through Trot.....	ART E 2.3
Trot and Canter, Round and Low .....	ART E 2.4
Execution of Movements.....	ART E 2.5
Transitions .....	ART E 2.6
Quarter Pirouette.....	ART E 2.7
Working Pirouette.....	ART E 2.8
<b>National Rankings .....</b>	<b>Chapter 17</b>
Entries.....	ART E 17.1
Divisions.....	ART E 17.2
Ranking Calculations.....	ART E 17.3
Net Relief .....	ART E 4.10. B.1
Nose Fly Guards.....	ART E 4.10 C.4
Non-Competing Horses .....	ART E 3.11.3
Nosebands .....	ART E 4.3.3
<b>Objects &amp; Principles.....</b>	<b>Chapter 1</b>
Objects & Principles (EC) .....	ART E 1.1
Object and General Principles (FEI).....	ART E 1.2
Halt.....	ART E 1.3
Walk .....	ART E 1.4
Trot.....	ART E 1.5
Canter .....	ART E 1.6
Reinback.....	ART E 1.7
Transitions .....	ART E 1.8
Half-Halts .....	ART E 1.9
Change of Direction.....	ART E 1.10
Figures.....	ART E 1.11
Leg Yielding.....	ART E 1.12
Lateral Movements.....	ART E 1.13

Diagrams of Lateral Movements.....	ART E 1.14
Pirouette, Half Pirouette and Turn on the Haunches .....	ART E 1.15
Passage.....	ART E 1.16
Piaffe.....	ART E 1.17
Impulsion/Submission.....	ART E 1.18
Collection.....	ART E 1.19
Position and Aids of the Rider .....	ART E 1.20
Para Dressage Position and Aids of the Rider.....	ART E 1.21

**Officials..... Chapter 15**

Conduct.....	ART E 15.1
Judge – Conflict of Interest .....	ART E 15.2
Judge Guest Cards.....	ART E 15.3
Personal Communication Devices.....	ART E 15.4
Steward Conflict of Interest .....	ART E 15.5
Mandatory Use of Stewards .....	ART E 15.6
Goals of Stewarding.....	ART E 15.7
Purpose of Stewarding .....	ART E 15.8
Process of Stewarding.....	ART E 15.9
Restrictions .....	ART E 15.10
Stewards’ Report.....	ART E 15.11
Tack Check and Gloves .....	ART E 15.12
Tack/Dress Check Prior to Ride.....	ART E 15.13
Checking the Competition Arena and Supervising the Warmup.....	ART E 15.14
Two Rings.....	ART E 15.15
Para Dressage Classifiers .....	ART E 15.16

Officials Required..... ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.16, E 7.2

Open Category .....

Cross Entering.....	ART E 3.3, E 3.3.1
ART E 3.11.8	

Outside Assistance, Para Dressage .....

ART E 6.15, E 9.4.15	
----------------------	--

Paces

Walk.....	ART E 1.4
Trot .....	ART E 1.5
Canter.....	ART E 1.6

Paper/Paperless Scoring..... ART E 3.19

**Para Dressage..... Chapter 6**

Objectives of Para Dressage.....	ART E 6.1
Conditions of Participation.....	ART E 6.2
Grades .....	ART E 6.3
Competing in a Different Grade.....	ART E 6.4
Para Dressage Tests.....	ART E 6.5
Riders With Physical and or Visual Impairment .....	ART E 6.6
Dress .....	ART E 6.7
Tack and Equipment .....	ART E 6.8
Compensatory or Adaptive Aids.....	ART E 6.9
Commanders and Callers .....	ART E 6.10
The Position and Aids of the Rider .....	ART E 6.11
Execution of Tests.....	ART E 6.12

Collective Marks .....	ART E 6.13
Errors or Test / Elimination / Penalties.....	ART E 6.14
Outside Assistance.....	ART E 6.15
FEI Freestyle Tests.....	ART E 6.16
Time Limit.....	ART E 6.16.1
Compulsory or Forbidden Elements .....	ART E 6.16.2
Scoring, Judging, Technical Execution.....	ART E 6.16.3
Prize Giving.....	ART E 6.17
Passage .....	ART E 1.16
Penalties	
Freestyle .....	ART E 6.14, E 9.3, E 10.6, E 10.7
Technical Tests.....	ART E 6.14, E 9.3
Piaffe .....	ART E 1.17
Pirouette and Half Pirouette.....	ART E 1.15
Placings and Scores .....	ART E 3.19, E 9.7, E 10.6, E 10.7
Ponies.....	ART 3.11.5
Pony Club Classes .....	ART E 3.8
Position and Aids of rider.....	ART E 1.20, E 6.11
Prix Caprilli.....	ART E 3.8
Prize Giving, Para Dressage .....	ART E 6.17
Protective Headgear.....	ART E 4.0
Provincial Championships.....	Chapter 7
Publicity and Advertising .....	Chapter 16
Pulled Shoe.....	ART E 4.14
Regional Championships (Gold) .....	Chapter 7
Reinback.....	ART E 1.7
Renvers.....	ART E 1.13.7
Resistance.....	ART E 6.14.2, E 9.4.14
Restrictions	
Judging .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Stewards .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Results Reporting .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
<b>Rising Stars Equitation Program Guidelines .....</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>
Objectives .....	ART E 8.0
Categories.....	ART E 8.1
Licence Levels.....	ART E 8.2
Awards and Championships .....	ART E 8.3
Rider/Horse/Pony .....	ART E 8.4
Class Specifications.....	ART E 8.5
Competition Ring .....	ART E 8.6
Scoring.....	ART E 8.7
Judges.....	ART E 8.8
Rising and Sitting Trot .....	ART E 2.2
Round and Low Trot and Canter .....	ART E 2.4
Saddle pad.....	ART E 4.7.7
Saddlery & Equipment .....	Chapter 4
Boots and Bandages.....	ART E 4.10 A.1, E 4.11

Forbidden Equipment.....	ART E 4.10 A, E 4.10 E
Miscellaneous Equipment.....	ART E 4.10
Nosebands.....	ART E 4.3.3
Para Dressage comAids (other).....	ART E 6.7, E 6.8, E 6.9
Saddles.....	ART E 4.7, E 6.8
Spurs.....	ART E 4.2.8
Stirrups.....	ART E 4.8
Whips.....	ART E 4.9
Safety Headgear.....	ART E 4.0
Safety Vests.....	ART E 4.1
Salute.....	ART E 9.2
Schooling of Horses.....	ART E 3.11.12, E 7.3
Allowed (Non-Championships).....	ART E 3.11.12
Competition Number.....	ART E 3.11.2
Not Allowed (Championships).....	ART E 7.3
Scores & Placings.....	ART E 3.19, E 6.16, E 9.7, E 10.6, E 10.7
Collective Marks.....	ART E 6.13, E 9.6, E 9.7
Freestyle Marks.....	ART E 6.16, E 10.6, E 10.7
Marking Sheets.....	ART E 3.19
Results Reporting.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Scores under 50%.....	ART E 7.7, E 9.9.6
Scores under 40%.....	ART E 9.4.7
Ties.....	ART E 9.7.4, E 9.7.5
Scribes.....	ART E 3.19, E 7.2
Second Level.....	ART E 3.7
Senior Stewards.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Serpentine.....	ART E 1.11.2
Shoulder-in.....	ART E 1.13.5
<b>Sidesaddle.....</b>	<b>Chapter 5</b>
Sidesaddle.....	ART E 5.1
Parts of the Sidesaddle.....	ART E 5.1.1
Stirrups.....	ART E 5.2
Whips.....	ART E 5.3
Sidesaddle Cane.....	ART E 5.3.1
Rider Position.....	ART E 5.4
Trot.....	ART E 5.5
Dress.....	ART E 5.6
Ribbons and Awards.....	ART E 5.7
Silver Competitions.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart)
Simple Change of Leg.....	ART E 1.6.4.7
Sitting Trot.....	ART E 2.2
Snaffle bits.....	ART E 4.4, E 4.5
Snaffle Bridle.....	ART E 4.3.1
Sponsor Logos on Saddle Pads & Clothing.....	Chapter 16
Sport Horse Breeding.....	Chapter 11
Sport Licence (EC).....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.1
Spurs.....	ART E 4.2.8
Stallions.....	ART E 3.11.6

Dangerous/Unruly .....	ART E 7.11.7
Stewards .....	Chapter 15
Checking Competition Arena .....	ART E 15.14
Conflict of Interest.....	ART E 15.5
Goals of Stewarding .....	ART E 15.7
Mandatory Use .....	ART E 15.6
Process of Stewarding .....	ART E 15.9
Purpose of Stewarding.....	ART E 15.8
Restrictions.....	ART E 15.10
Stewards' Reports.....	ART E 15.11
Tack/dress check prior to ride.....	ART E 15.13
Tack Check.....	ART E 15.12
Two Rings .....	ART E 15.15
Stretching on a Long Rein.....	ART E 1.5.6
Submission .....	ART E 1.18.2
Substitutions.....	ART E 3.11.10
Tack Check.....	ART E 4.15
Tests .....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.6, E 6.5
Third Level.....	ART E 3.7
Ties .....	ART E 9.7.4, E 9.7.5
Time Limits on Tests.....	ART 3.10.3
Time Out (Broken Equipment).....	ART E 4.14
Tongue Tie .....	ART E 4.6
Training Level .....	ART E 3.7
Transitions.....	ART E 1.8, E 2.6
Travers.....	ART E 1.13.6
Trot .....	ART E 1.5
Rising .....	ART E 2.2
Round and Low .....	ART E 2.4
Sitting.....	ART E 2.2
Turn on the Haunches.....	ART E 1.15.9
Two-way Communication Devices .....	ART E 4.10 A.6, E 6.10, E 9.1.3, E 15.4
Unauthorized Assistance .....	ART E 6.15.3, E 9.4.15
Unevenness.....	ART E 9.4.11
Violations .....	Section A
Voice .....	ART E 6.9, E 9.3
Volte.....	ART E 1.11.1
Walk .....	ART E 1.4
Western Dressage.....	ART E 3.0 (Chart), E 3.8
Whips .....	ART E 4.9, E 5.3, E 6.9, E 7.4
Young Horse Classes (EC & FEI).....	Chapter 13
Young Rider (FEI)	
Age Limit .....	ART E 3.3.4
Dress.....	ART E 4.2.1
Protective Headgear Requirements .....	ART E 4.0
Zigzag .....	ART E 1.10.7





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CANADA  
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