

# 2014 USEF Rule Changes that will affect Dressage Competitions

compiled by Kaye Phaneuf, as of 29 JAN 14

Links to full text of USEF Rule Book and mid-year changes: <https://www.usef.org/IFrames/RuleBook/rules.aspx>

## Selected USEF rule changes already in effect for this competition year...

### GENERAL RULES

**USEF Non-Member Fee** is now a Show Pass. Same fee, new name.

**USEF Non-Member Amateur Certification** no longer available. Non-members may not compete as Amateurs.

Exception: Equine Canada members may, without fee, sign the Amateur endorsement on USEF member app.

### DRESSAGE CHAPTER

#### DR118 Tests for Dressage Competitions.

3. Addition of Intermediate A & B Tests.

7. Except for a Prix Caprilli Dressage test, Dressage Competitions cannot hold classes or tests that include jumping.

#### DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions

Update Test Equivalent Chart to include Int A & B and Preliminary GP

#### DR125 Competition Licensing and Officials

7. **Veterinarian.** Must be on the grounds during all Level 4 & 5 competitions, all [USDF] Regional Championships, and all competitions that had 250 or more horses the preceding year.

#### DR126.3 Competition Levels Chart

**Footing in warmup** must be similar to that in competition arenas (Level 3-5).

**Stabling** required on grounds (Level 3-5)

**Footing maintenance** required 3xday for Level 4; hourly for Lvl 5.

**Judges:** minimum 2 S for Lvl 3, per HP/Regional Ch stds for Lvl 4; per FEI/Natl Ch stds for Lvl 5.

#### DR127 USEF/USDF Qualifying and Championship Classes and USEF/USDF National Championships

6. Entries in USEF/USDF Dressage Championship classes limited to competitors who have met the qualifications, membership, horse recording and registration requirements, and deadlines outlined below and published by USDF. Competitors who are properly qualified, whose completed entries are received by the Closing Date for a particular Regional Championship and who have complied with all Championship rules may not be denied entry into the Regional Championship class(es) for which they have qualified.

Only one class per division and/or level may be held to determine USEF/USDF Regional Champions.

#### DR129 Musical Freestyle Ride

6.b. Sound checks must be provided ...for no fee, either on the day prior to competition or prior to the scheduled class. *The requirements and timetable for scheduling sound checks must be published in the prize list.*

#### DR133 Dressage Seat Equitation

1.a.... walk/trot equitation classes may be offered.

#### DR135 Pony Measurement

8. If a pony is in possession of a fully and correctly completed Measurement Certificate and the height is questioned by a competition official, the Technical Delegate must request, through the Federation, that the pony be remeasured...Remeasurement must be made within 30 days of the request.

#### DR202 [DSHB] General Regulations

6.... The competition manager and secretary of Federation- licensed/ USDF-recognized competitions must be current USDF Participating or Group members in good standing at the time competition recognition is granted and on the date of the competition.

## Changes effective April 1, 2014...

### GENERAL RULES

#### **GR610 [Hearings] Proceedings before a Show Committee.**

Deals with Protests and Charges brought before a Show Committee, and as been extensively rewritten. Competition Management and TDs should be aware that this rule exists, and where to find it if they ever need it.

#### **GR612 [Hearings] Review of Decisions**

Your options if you don't like the decision of a Show Committee or USEF's Hearing Committee. Does not deal with judges' decisions.

#### **GR821 Opportunity Classes.**

Dressage Rider Tests may be offered as Opportunity Classes.  
If Dressage Opportunity Classes are restricted to Amateurs, riders must have USEF Amateur cards.

#### **GR1210 [Duties of Competition Management] General.**

Competition Management may withhold prize money from exhibitors who owe the competition.

### DRESSAGE CHAPTER

**DR103 The Walk. C.** Illustration of extended walk to be added.

#### **DR120. Dress**

10. Spurs must be 'English-type' with a maximum length of 5.08cm (2") including rowels.
15. Sponsor name and/or logo permitted on rider's helmet, subject to the usual logo restrictions.

#### **DR121 Saddlery and Equipment.**

9. Ring stewards must wear disposable gloves on both hands when inspecting equipment.  
*Also DR126.1.i (4)*

#### **DR124 Elimination.**

Elimination for all dress code violations DR120) used to be at the discretion of the judge; elimination is now **mandatory** for violations of DR120.6-16, which are:

- DR120.6 Protective headgear
- DR120.7 Whips
- DR120.8 Attire when jackets are waived
- DR120.9 Rain gear
- DR120.10 Spurs
- DR120.11 Attire for Pas de Deux & Quadrille
- DR120.12 Attire/ equipment that requires a Dispensation Certificate
- DR120.13 Safety vests
- DR120.14 Cooling vests
- DR120.15 Sponsorship / logos
- DR120.16 Electronic devices

*No, it doesn't really say that we're still talking about violations in the competition arena, nor exactly what constitutes a violation. (If you don't feel safe but don't wear an orange vest? Or if you do wear one and the ring steward disagrees that you should feel unsafe?) Several years ago the manager of EI's shows declared "northwest raingear" to be legal – functional but perhaps brightly colored, rather than just the "transparent or conservative color" specified in DR120.9. It would appear that this is no longer management's call.*

#### **DR125 Competition Licensing, Management and Officials.**

Competition Secretaries must now be USDF Group or Participating Members.  
Co-Manager/Secretary vs Assistant: New language says Co-Managers/Co-Secretaries have the same responsibilities and membership requirements as Manager/Secretary, must be listed in the prize list and must be eligible for the level of the competition. Assistant Managers/Secretaries, however, do not have specific responsibilities or eligibility requirements. Moreover, "The positions of assistant manager or assistant secretary do not qualify individuals to manage or secretary competitions at Levels 3-5."

#### **DR126 [The Levels Chart] Competition Licensing, Management and Officials.**

Adds the secretary's USDF membership requirement to all levels.

Adds language expanding/clarifying requirements to be allowed to manage/secretary shows at Levels 4 & 5.

#### **DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management.**

Judges and TDs are required to provide their e-mail addresses to competition management for the purpose of communicating contracts, prize lists and other show information.

*No, I don't know why this is here, and not in the General Rules with the rest of the rules for Officials.*

#### **DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management.**

Apprentice judges are now **prohibited**, rather than just 'discouraged' from competing before judges with whom they apprentice at the same competition.

#### **DR135 Pony Measurement.**

3. All Level 3-5 competitions must have an official measuring stick on site.

5. At Level 3-5 competitions, [TD and competition vet] must measure any animal upon request of the owner, regardless of whether it is entered in a pony class or competing for a pony award. Rule goes on to specify the 'when' and 'how much can be charged'.

14. and 16. Expand existing language from *competitions where ponies are entered* to include *and all Level 3-5 competitions*.

17. Now that all TDs have earned their Pony Measurement certification, they must attend a recertification clinic at least once every four years in order to keep their licenses.

*Yeah, pretty sneaky place to put this, eh?*

#### **DR136. Exhibition (Class or Demonstration)**

Moved from GR and expanded. Read this if you want to include anything in your competition involving horses other than standard dressage classes. Differences amongst Exhibition Classes, unrated classes and Exhibition Demonstrations are complicated!

#### **DR137. Maiden, Novice, and Limit Classes.**

For the rest of USEF, eligibility for these is determined by blue ribbons. Dressage decided to use scores, so moved this rule here from GR. Maiden/Novice/Limit = horse/rider combination not to have earned 1/3/6 60% scores at that level in USEF/EC competition **nor** to have competed at a higher level in USEF/EC competition, regardless of scores earned. Status determined as of close of entries.

#### **DR202 [Dressage Sport Horse Breeding] General Regulations .**

1. Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes held at a Dressage Competition must be conducted in compliance with DR126.1.

*I think this one slipped in by mistake. There was another rule change proposed that would have significantly modified DR126.1, with this one intended to extend those changes to DSHB. However, that other rule was not approved. As it is, most of DR126.1 can only apply to under saddle Dressage, and DR202.9 already extends the applicable rules to DSHB under saddle classes. DR126.1 also includes equipment inspection, but DR206.7 contradicts that. Yeah, this should have been withdrawn or rewritten when its companion rule didn't pass.*