

United States Equestrian Federation

DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests.

1. Calling Tests. All Federation Tests may be called during the competition except at any Final or Championship Event at which time all tests must be ridden from memory. If test is announced, it is the responsibility of the competitor to arrange for a person to announce the test. Unless an exception is made by the judge, the announcing of the test must start with the first movement. Lateness and errors in announcing the ride will not relieve the rider from "error penalties". Announcing the tests is limited to reading the movement as it is written once only. However, the repetition of reading of a movement is acceptable if there is reason to doubt that the rider heard the original call. Calling of these tests in a foreign language must receive prior consent of the show committee and the Ground Jury. A competition cannot require competitors to use callers employed by the competition management. All FEI Tests (including FEI Jun-ior Tests), the USEF Test for Four-Year Old Horses, *the USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test, the USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test* and all Freestyle Rides must be ridden from memory. FEI Para-Equestrian tests must be ridden from memory unless an exemption is listed on the rider's Dispensation Certificate or Classification Card. In all tests, all movements must follow the order laid down in the test. *BOD 1/23/11 Effective immediately*

2. Salute. At the salute riders must take the reins in one hand. A lady rider shall let one arm drop loosely along her body and then incline her head in a slight bow; a gentleman rider shall remove his hat and let his arm drop loosely along his body or may render the salute as does the lady rider. The military salute is only permissible when riding in uniform.

3. Voice. The use of the voice in any way whatsoever or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least two marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred. 4. Individuals holding either a Federation Dispensation Certificates, a USEF Para-Equestrian Classification Card or International Para-Equestrian Classification card are allowed the following exceptions, provided these exceptions are clearly listed on the Certificate or Card:

a. Visually impaired and blind riders may use callers as "living letters." These callers (a maximum of 9) may be stationed around the exterior of the arena and will call out letters at the appropriate time. No more than one caller may be stationed within the arena. Callers may not give any other direction to the rider other than identifying the letters, center line and quarter lines of the dressage arena. Callers must position themselves as to not obscure the judge's line of vision. Riders may enter the arena prior to the start of their test and make one pass of the arena, once in each direction in order to familiarize themselves with the callers and the arena. After completion of this familiarization, the rider may leave the arena and await the judge's signal to re-enter and begin his or her test OR may halt and stand quietly just within the arena at A to be given the signal to begin their test from inside the arena. Blind and visually impaired

riders are required to wear a red arm band at all times while mounted and in areas where other riders are present. They may remove this armband during execution of their dressage test.

b. Riders may salute with a nod of the head only. Physical contact must remain on the reins at all times.

c. As necessitated by the rider's individual physical limitations, trot work may be performed either entirely sitting or posting.

d. Riders with intellectual impairment or head injury may have a reader to call their tests, including freestyles. If the freestyle is being read, it is required that the caller use radio communication.

e. Riders with hearing impairment may have a reader using sign language or use radio communication.

f. If radio communication is used, a copy of the written choreography must be given to the Technical Delegate or their designee who will monitor the reader and report to the judge if unauthorized assistance is given to the rider.

5. Errors. a. When a competitor makes an "error of the course" (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc.) the President of the Jury warns him by sounding the bell. The President shows him if necessary the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed then leaves him to continue by himself. However, in some cases when, although the competitor makes an "error of the course", the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance for instance if the competitor makes a transition from medium trot to collected walk at V instead of at K or cantering up the center line from A makes a pirouette at D instead of at L it is up to the President to decide whether to sound the bell or not. However, if the bell is not sounded at an error of course, or error of test in which the movement, or a requirement of the movement, is repeated and the error occurs again, only one error is recorded. If a rider performs in a rising trot when a sitting trot is required, or vice versa, the bell must be sounded and the rider warned that this is an error that accumulates if repeated, leading to elimination at the third occurrence. b. In National and FEI tests, every "error of the course" whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalized, except as noted above:

(1) the first time by 2 points; (2) the second time by 4 points; (3) the third time the competitor is eliminated. However, at the discretion of the judge, the rider may continue to finish to test. If the competitor's continued presence in the ring is about to interfere with the start of the next scheduled ride, then the judge must excuse him/her from the ring.

c. For Young Horse tests, the deduction for an error shall be: (1) First error: - .5% from total score *received* (2) Second error: -1% from total score *received* (3) Third error: Elimination *EC 3/21/11 Effective immediately*

d. For FEI Level Freestyle tests, two points will be deducted for each error, however they are not cumulative and will not result in elimination.

e. When the competitor makes an "error of the test" (trots rising instead of sitting; at the salute does not take the reins in one hand, etc.) he must be penalized as for an "error of the course". In principle, a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the President of the Jury decided on an error of course (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 the first movement shown only and, at the same time penalize for an error of course.

f. If the Jury has not noted an error the competitor has the benefit of the doubt.

g. The decision as to whether or not an error of course has been made will be that of the judge at C. The other judges' scores will be adapted accordingly upon approval of the judge at C.

h. The penalty points are deducted on each judge's sheet from the total points obtained by the competitor.

i. Other Errors. For USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, and observation classes, all of the following are considered errors *and two points will be deducted for each of the following errors, however they are not cumulative and will not result in elimination (including for freestyle tests).*

(1) Entering the space around the arena with whip (2) Entering the dressage arena with whip *except carrying the whip for more than three movements will entail elimination.*

(3) Not entering the arena within 45 seconds *but before 90 seconds* after the bell (4) Entering the arena before the sound of the bell; (5) In Freestyle classes, entering the arena after more than 20 seconds of music *but within 90 seconds* (6) *If the Freestyle test is longer or shorter than the stipulated time on the test sheet,*

.5% will be deducted from the total artistic score. EC 3/21/11 Effective immediately

6. Lameness. In the case of marked lameness the judge or President of the Jury informs the competitor that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against his decision. 7. Judging a test.

a. The mark for each movement should first establish the fact of whether the movement is marginal (5 or below) or higher. The judge should state the reason for his judgment, at least when giving marks of 6 and below.

b. Accuracy (moderate) should be a factor only if the inaccuracy avoids the difficulty of the movement, i.e., a larger circle avoids the difficulty of a 10 meter circle. *In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the arena it should be done at the moment when the competitor's body is above this point, except in transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a line diagonal or perpendicular to the point where the letter is positioned. In this case, the transition 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. EC 3/21/11 Effective immediately*

c. If a problem appears once it may be treated lightly by the judge; if it appears successively he will score it more harshly each time, i.e., nodding, stumbling, shying, etc.

d. Grinding of the teeth and wringing of the tail are signs often senses or resistance on the part of the horse and should be considered in the marks for each movement where they appear, as well as in the Collective Marks. Horses which get their tongues over the bit or perform with an open mouth shall be marked down.

e. The levels of dressage are offered as a means of evaluating a horse that is changing. The purpose of each test is printed on the cover and the horse shall be considered in light of the degree of training it should have achieved to be shown at that level. f. In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider the competitor will be eliminated.

EC 3/21/11 Effective immediately

g. If the horse leaves the arena with or without the rider (all four feet outside the fence or line marking the arena perimeter) between the *beginning and end of the test*, the competitor is eliminated. *EC 3/21/11 Effective immediately*

h. A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the final salute, as soon as the horse moves forward; except in Freestyle, where the test begins in the first stride after the salute and ends at the final salute. Except for leaving the arena as described above in 7.g, and for non-permitted movements shown in a freestyle test, anything before the beginning or after the end of the test has no effect on the marks. The competitor should leave the arena in the way prescribed in the test; however, in Federation Training through Fourth Level tests, the competitor should leave the arena at "A" at a walk, on long or loose rein.

i. Horses which enter the arena with their tongues tied down shall be eliminated.

j. The judge may stop a test and/or allow a competitor to restart a test from the beginning or from any appropriate point in the test if, in his discretion, some unusual circumstance has occurred to interrupt a test. Time-outs, as defined in GR833, are not permitted in the Dressage division.

k. After the sound of the bell, the competitor should enter the arena at A as soon as possible. Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination. *In the Freestyle, the rider has 45 seconds to signal to start the music; however, exceeding 65 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination.* Exception: For USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, and observation classes, *entering the arena over 45 seconds but within 90 seconds* after the bell has sounded be penalized for an error as specified under DR122.5. *Exceeding 90 seconds will entail elimination* except where a valid reason is accepted by the Judge at "C" (losing a shoe, etc). No competitor can be required to ride prior to his scheduled time except as required in GR830.

l. Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test longer than 20 seconds is punished by elimination. *However, resistance that may endanger the rider, horse, judges or the public will result in elimination for safety reasons earlier than within twenty (20) seconds.* *EC 3/21/11 Effective immediately* m. All movements and certain transitions from one to another which have to be marked by the judge(s) are numbered on the judge's sheets. They are marked 0 to 10, 0 being the lowest mark and 10 being the highest.

8. NOTE:

The FEI instituted half marks earlier this year. The USEF rule below was approved 3/21/2010. It does not go into effect until 12/1/2011.

**DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests. [Chapter DR. Dressage Division]
020-11, effective 12/1/11:**

8. The scale of marks is as follows:

- 10 Excellent
- 9 Very Good
- 8 Good
- 7 Fairly Good
- 6 Satisfactory
- 5 Marginal
- 4 Insufficient
- 3 Fairly Bad
- 2 Bad
- 1 Very Bad
- 0 Not executed

All half marks from 0.5-9.5 may also be used both for movements and collective marks, at the discretion of the judge.

The scale of marks is as follows:

- 10 Excellent
- 9 Very Good
- 8 Good
- 7 Fairly Good
- 6 Satisfactory
- 5 Marginal
- 4 Insufficient
- 3 Fairly Bad
- 2 Bad
- 1 Very Bad
- 0 Not executed

“Not executed” means that practically nothing of the required movement has been performed. In *FEI Level* Freestyle tests, half marks may be used for the artistic marks. *EC 3/21/11 Effective immediately* 9. Collective marks are awarded (from 0 to 10) after the competitor has finished his performance for: a. Gaits. b. Impulsion. c. Submission. d.

The rider's position and seat; correctness and effect of the aids. The collective marks as well as certain difficult and/or infrequently repeated movements can be given a co-efficient which is fixed by *the USDF*, the Federation (*USEF*) Dressage Committee or the Bureau of the FEI *for their respective tests. EC 3/21/11 Effective immediately*

10. Unauthorized Assistance is forbidden under penalty of elimination. Any intervention by a third party, *including members of the Jury*, with the object of facilitating the task of the competitor, including voice, signals, *remounting, catching a horse inside the ring*, etc., is illegal assistance. *Except in the case of an error, any outside assistance provided by or authorized by a member of the*

Jury will result in elimination. A member of the Jury may not discuss a ride with a competitor before the bell or after the final salute. *BOD 1/23/11 Effective immediately*

11. The execution of the tests is not timed, except for the Freestyle Test. The time shown on the Judges' sheet is for information only. 12. The FEI has published "Directives for Assessing the Degree of Difficulty in a Freestyle Test" and "Directives for International Dressage Competitions for 5 and 6-year old horses". These documents have information on the judging of Freestyle and Young Horse tests and both are available from the Federation upon request or on the Federation website.

13. For FEI Tests for 4, 5 and 6-year old horses, and the USEF test for 4-year old horses, the judges must sit together at "C". Individual movements are not judged. The judges must fill out one Marking Sheet with general comments and marks at the end of the test. For Young Horse qualifying classes, competition management is encouraged to provide a microphone for the judges so that a short summary may be given to the audience after each ride. FEI guidelines for judging shall be followed. Tests must be ridden from memory.