

USEF DRESSAGE RULE HIGHLIGHTS

All CVDA Schooling Shows are run in accordance with USEF Dressage Rules. Here is a summary of the primary rules. ****Please note important rules in "Dressage" section.**** For complete rules, see the USEF rulebook (www.usef.org).

Objective and General Principle

The objective of dressage is the harmonious development of the athleticism and ability of the horse. Dressage should not only make the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen thus achieving perfect understanding with his rider.

Participation in Dressage Competitions

1. No horse may compete in an under-saddle class if it is under 3 years of age at the time of competition.
2. Horses may enter no more than two consecutive levels at one dressage competition.

Dress

1. ***At any CVDA event, it is compulsory that all riders mounted at any time or anywhere on the competition/event showgrounds, competing at any level, wear properly fitted protective headgear. Please see page 3 for full information, requirements, and rider responsibilities.***
2. Recommended dress code through 4th Level is a short riding coat of conservative color with tie, choker, or stock tie, breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots. CVDA allows riders to wear half chaps at schooling shows.
3. One whip no longer than 120 cm/47.2 in with lash may be carried in all classes except championship classes.
4. In extreme heat/humidity, management can allow competitors to show without jackets. However, exhibitors must wear a regulation hat and solid white or very pale colored long or short sleeve shirt (no sleeveless) without neckwear.
5. Exhibitors are allowed to wear a hat cover and a transparent or conservative color raincoat in inclement weather.
6. Spurs must be metal and with the shank pointing directly back from the center. The arms of the spur must be smooth. If rowels are present, they must freely rotate. This applies whenever mounted on show grounds.
7. Exhibitors must display their numbers while competing. It is required that the number be displayed whenever the horse is out of the stall.

Equipment

1. An English style saddle with stirrups is required at all levels. A Western saddle is required in all Western Dressage classes.
2. See the USEF rulebook for approved bits and approved bit material.
3. No gadgets, ornaments, or leg protection of any kind is allowed in the show ring. Leg protection and some training devices are permitted in the warm up areas. Side reins are allowed only while longeing. See USEF rulebook for complete rule.

Execution and Test Judging

1. Be prepared to enter the ring at your scheduled time or earlier
2. If the show is running late, each competitor is responsible to know when they are to ride and remain in close proximity to the ring when their ride time nears.
3. Do not enter the arena until the previous competitor is out.
4. All tests through 4th Level may be read.
5. Exhibitors should instruct the reader to read each movement only once.
6. The unisex salute includes taking both reins in one hand and letting the other arm drop loosely and briefly while inclining the head.
7. Use of voice in any way whatsoever, including clucking and trilling is a fault and will result in deduction of 2 points at that movement each time it occurs.
8. Do not speak to your reader until you are out of the ring.
9. When a rider goes off course, the judge will ring the bell/whistle and designate to the rider where to resume, (The reader may not give direction).
10. USDF Intro Level Tests & USEF Training-Fourth Level test errors will be penalized by 2 and 4 points for the first two errors. The third error will result in elimination. FEI tests will be penalized by 2 points for the first error. The second error will result in elimination.
11. The judge will eliminate a competitor for marked lameness. The judge's decision is final.
12. Leave the ring on a long rein. One or both hands on reins are allowed. At all CVDA Schooling Shows the "open gate" policy is in effect, i.e. part of the ring at "A" will remain open.

Scale of Marks

10	Excellent	4	Insufficient	
9	Very Good	3	Fairly Bad	*Note*
8	Good	2	Bad	A decimal of 0.5 may be used in scoring
7	Fairly Good	1	Very Bad	
6	Satisfactory	0	Not Performed	
5	Marginal			

Elimination

1. Use of illegal equipment
2. Assistance or coaching while riding a test
3. Three errors on a course
4. Horse's tongue tied down
5. Late entry into the ring (Must be in ring within 45 seconds after the bell/whistle rings;
For musical freestyle – within 20 seconds after the music starts)
6. All four feet of the horse leaving the arena
7. Cruelty
8. Marked lameness as interpreted by the judge
9. Resistance of longer than 20 seconds
10. Any situation where a direct rule violation can be cited

***In times of distress, the rider may ask permission to be excused ***