

A COMPARISON OF DRESSAGE RULES

	*USEF Dressage: Training-Fourth Level Tests	*USEF Dressage: FEI Level Tests	FEI Dressage: Rules for Dressage Events 23 rd Ed.	USEF Eventing: All Levels
D R E S S	<p>Test: Tr-4th: Short conservative color coat w/tie, choker or stock tie, white or light colored breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots, hunt cap or riding hat w/hard shell, derby or top hat. Cutaway coat w/short tails permitted. Half-chaps, gaiters & leggings not allowed Ex: Riders thru First Level may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, w/o fringe, matching color of their boots & made of smooth leather or leather-like material. Conservative color gloves recommended. Protective headgear may be worn w/short dark jacket, dark hatcover (where applicable) or Armed Services or police uniform (if eligible) & otherwise conforming as above. Members of Armed Services/police may ride in their service uniform at any level. Riders wearing Armed Services or police uniform must wear the appropriate military/ police cap/hat for their branch of service, or protective headgear. (DR120.1-4) Pas de Deux/Quadrille: Must follow USDF Requirements ex. headgear & boots required as in DR120.1-4. Cooling vests may be worn underneath a riding jacket (DR120) At all test levels, riders may wear jackets in other colors w/in the internat'l HSV color scale, as described in FEI Dres Regs, Art. 427.1. Contrast coloring & piping allowed. Hats, stocks, ties, gloves & boots may be same color as coat. When sponsorship is permit per GR1306, the name and/or logo of individual's sponsor(s) may appear on each of the two sides of jackets or top garments at height of breast pockets not exceeded 80 cm2 in size. Logos described under DR121.1 are also permitted as above. Warmup: Boots/shoes must have distinguishable heel. Dress code required, but elimination at judge's discretion. (DR124.1.b) No penalty for protective headgear. (GR318). USEF 4 yo Test same as FEI YH tests. Riders w/safety concerns encouraged to wear orange vest in warmup.</p>	<p>Test: Dark tailcoat w/top hat, dark jacket w/bowler or hunt cap, white or light colored breeches, stock or tie, gloves, black riding boots & spurs. FEI Jr & 4/5/6 yo Tests: Conserv. color short jacket, stock or tie, breeches, hunt cap or riding hat w/hard shell, derby or top hat & spurs optional. A dark tailcoat is also permitted for FEI Jr Tests. Pony Riders: Dark coat or club uniform coat, breeches or jodhpurs, white shirt w/tie or stock, gloves, boots & hunt cap; top hat or bowler forbidden. Protective headgear may be worn w/dark tailcoat or short, dark jacket, dark hatcover (where applicable) or Armed Services or police uniform (if eligible) & otherwise conform as above. Military/police, Quadrille & Pas de Deux: See Tr-4th. (DR120.1-4) Dress in colors w/in internat'l HSV color scale, sponsorships and logos are permitted as described for Tr-4th level dress code. Warmup: Boots/shoes must have disting. heel. Dress code elim. at judge's discretion. No penalty for protect. headgear. (GR 318)</p>	<p>Civilians: At CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDI-W, CDI/Os, Champs, Reg. & Olympic Games: Black or dark blue tail coat or other colors within in the international HSV color scale (other colors may be approved by applying to FEI Dept), contrast coloring & piping allowed., w/top hat or approved protective headgear, white or off-white breeches, stock or tie, gloves, black riding boots & spurs or hat, neckwear, gloves & boots may be same color as coat. CDI* & CDI**: Same or black or dark blue jacket (see above) w/bowler, hunt cap or approved protective headgear. This dress also desirable for all other internat. events unless otherwise stated in rules. (National colors may only be used on collars of jackets & must be registered w/FEI. Military (includ. students & employees), police, national studs/ schools/ institutes, etc.: Same or civil or service dress. Earphones prohib. while competing but permitted in warmup. (Art. 427). YRs: Same as for Seniors. Jrs: Same as for Seniors ex. dark coat, hunt cap or bowler allowed.</p>	<p>Test: Beg. Novice-Prelim HTs: Black or dark blue hunt cap; dark or tweed coat (tails not permitted); white or light color shirt w/stock & pin, choker or tie; light or white jodhpurs or britches; black or brown field or jodhpur boots or a black or brown full grain smooth leather leg piece and matching leather boots. Optional: dark, tan, beige or white gloves. Chaps &/or half-chaps not allowed. HTs (Intermed-Advan) & 3-days: Same ex. no tweed coat & tails allowed w/black or dark blue top hat, shirt, stock w/pin, white or dark gloves req., pref. black dress boots or black full grain leather leg piece and matching leather boot. Chaps & half-chaps not allowed. Armed & police force members: Service dress w/gloves, reg. headgear & spurs. (EV114.5) Eventing Tests or 1-day Horse Trials: See EV114.8 for options. No penalty for protective headgear. (GR 318) All levels (BN-Adv) must wear req. headgear ex. as otherwise mandated by local law. Upon arrival, wearing a hard hat is compulsory for anyone riding on flat. (EV114.1) Warmup: Appropriate headgear. Boots/shoes must have a distinguishable heel. (GR 318)</p>
S A D D L E R Y	<p>Test: *English saddle w/stirrups req. for USEF & USDF tests. *May be constructed w/wo tree but cannot have horn, swell D gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles (or modified versions) not permitted ex. w/USEF Disp. Certif. Tr-2nd: Snaffle w/ cavesson (not too tightly fixed & adjusted to allow 2 fingers underneath), dropped, flash, crescent or crossed noseband. Headstall & cavesson/noseband must be all leather or leather-like ex. for buckles, crescent & small sheepskin disk on crossed noseband. Padded cavesson/noseband, crownpiece & chinpad w/cavesson allowed. Combined noseband w/no throat latch permitted; when used w/dbl bridle, lower strap of noseband (flash attachm) not permitted. Micklem bridle permitted at any level where snaffles permitted. Not permit w/ dbl bridle. Bit clips not permit w/Micklem. Multicolored browband w/gems, beads, etc. permitted. 3rd-4th: Same as above or simple double bridle (bridoon, bit & curb chain; curb chain may be metal, leather or combin lipstrap & rubber or leather cvr for chain opt.) w/cavesson noseband. English-style stirrups w/o attachmnts or safety stirrups compulsory. Saddle pads opt., but should be white or conserv. color. When sponsorship is permitted per GR1306, logos no more than 200 cm² allowed on each side of saddle pad. (DR121.1-3) Warmup: Tr-2nd: Same as in Test (snaffle). 3rd-4th: May use snaffle or simple dbl bridle. (DR121.7) USEF 4 yo Test same as FEI YH tests. Cavesson, drop., cross. or flash noseband allowed when snaffle is used in warmup or competition, ex. as prohibited for some tests. FEI Para-Eq riders in both PE & USDF or USEF tests must use plain snaffle at Grades 1a-Grade III. Dbl bridle may be used in warmup & competing only at Grade IV.</p>	<p>Test: Dressage saddle which must be close to horse & have long near-vertical flaps & stirrups. FEI tests at national competitions (exclude. HP, Yng Adult, FEI Jr & FEI YR qual cl.) , a plain snaffle may be used, or a simple dbl. bridle (bridoon, bit & curb chain; curb chain may be metal, leather or combination; lip strap & rubber or leather cover for chain optional) w/ cavesson noseband (not too tightly fixed). Cavesson may have chin pad. Multi-colored browband w/gems, beads, etc. permitted. FEI Pony & 4/5/6 yo Horses: plain snaffle req. Crescent noseband not permit. w/snaffle (DR121.1-4) Cross noseband not permitted for 4/5/6 yo Horses. Combined noseband w/no throat latch permitted; when used w/dbl bridle, lower strap of noseband (flash attachm) not permitted. Micklem bridle permitted only where snaffles permitted. Not permit w/ dbl bridle. Bit clips not permit w/Micklem. Saddle pads, stirrups, sponsorship, bridle padding & logos same as Tr-4th Levels. FEI Para-Eq riders may use plain snaffle or simple dbl bridle. Warmup: Same or may use snaffle. (DR121.7)</p>	<p>Test: Dressage saddle which must be close to horse & have long near-vertical flaps. Double bridle (curb, bridoon & curb chain) w/cavesson noseband not too tightly fixed. Optional: lipstrap & rubber or leather chain cover. Curb chain may be metal or leather or a combination. Padding is allowed on bridles. Combined noseband w/no throat lash permitted; when used w/dbl bridle, lower strap of noseband not allowed. Micklem bridle allowed only w/snaffle. YRs: Same as for Seniors. Jrs: Same as for Seniors ex. either snaffle or dbl bridle permitted for Prelim test. Warmup: Same or may use snaffle w/cavesson, dropped, Mexican (crossed, figure-8) or flash noseband. (Art. 428) 5/6 yo Horses: Mexican noseband not permitted & snaffle required.</p>	<p>Test: English saddle & permitted bridle. Double bridle w/cavesson noseband & w/bridoon & curb bits w/curb chain made of metal or leather (optional: lipstrap & rubber or leather chain cover) when permitted by test. W/double bridle, cavesson noseband may never be so tight as to harm horse. W/snaffle may use cavesson, dropped, crossed or flash noseband. (See Appendix 4) Noseband must all leather or leather-like, ex. sheepskin disc of crossed noseband. Breastplate allowed. (EV115.2) Warmup: English saddle & any bridle, inc. double, snaffle, gag or hackamore. (EV115.1)</p>
B I T S	<p>Pictured in USEF Rule Book: Mouthpiece must be metal or rigid plastic but may be made w/rubber, plastic or leather cover; & may not be modified by adding latex, etc. Synthetic or flexible mouthpiece bits (incl. flex. rubber or synthetic) permitted, provided contours conform to a pictured bit. All must be smooth w/ solid surface; no twisted, wire or roller bits. A bushing or coupling is permit. as center link in dbl jointed snaffle ex. surface of centerpiece must be solid w/no moveable parts; mouthpiece of snaffle may be shaped in sl. curve; ported snaffles prohib. Type of bit may not vary, must be attached only as pictured. Any bit combining any mouthpiece pictured in Fig.1A w/any cheek piece in 1A is permitted. Lever arm of curb (length below mouthpiece) must not exceed 10 cm; if sliding mouthpiece, length must not ex. 10 cm. when mouthpiece is at uppermost position. The diam.</p>	<p>Pictured in USEF Rule Book. Same restrictions as Tr-4th Levels, ex. bits (incl. curb and/or bridoon of dbl bridle) must be metal or rigid plastic & may be covered w/rubber (in manufactured state); flexible rubber bits not permitted. For tests and warm up must use dbl bridle or snaffle of metal or rigid plastic pict. under Fig.1B. (In both cases may be cov. w/rubber (in manufactured state) but flexible rubber not permitted) Note that double-jointed bridoon must have rounded middle piece, i.e., Dr. Bristol not permitted. Permitted: Snaffle w/rotating</p>	<p>Pictured in FEI Dres. Regs and USEF Fig. 1B. Same as USEF rules for FEI Levels, ex. note wording for size of mouthpiece: The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon &/or curb must be such so as not to hurt horse. Min. diameter (at rings or cheeks of mouthpiece) is 12 mm for curb, 10 mm for bridoon; 14 mm for snaffle used in Young Horse classes & 10 mm for Pony classes. Wrapping of bits specifically prohibited. (1) D-ring may be used as snaffle but not as bridoon (i.e., w/double bridle); (2) Snaffle w/rotating mouthpiece permitted; (3)</p>	<p>Test: Pictured in USEF Rule Book (Appendix 4) & spec. on each test. A snaffle made of metal, leather, rubber or plastic is permitted for all tests. Curb lever arm must not ex. 10 cm length bel. mouthpiece. If curb has slid. mouthpiece, curb lever arm bel. mouthpiece must not ex. 10 cm when mouthpce is in uppermost posit. Bridoon & curb must be made of metal or rigid plastic & may be cov. w/rubber (flexible rubber bridoons &/or curbs not allowed). Diam. of bridoon ring must be such as not to hurt horse. (EV115.2) An ord. snaffle has str. bar or joint in center. Ord. snaffle w/rotating mouthpiece permit'd. Snaffle w/rotating middle piece permitted. If 2 joints, all parts must be rounded & smooth. All bridoons illustrated in App.</p>

	of snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece must be min. 10mm diam. at rings or cheeks of mouthpiece, ex. for ponies, diam. may be less than 10mm . Diameter of curb mouthpiece must be min. 12 mm at mouthpiece cheeks. Curb bit w/rotating lever arm permitted (DR121. Fig. 1) Plain snaffle req. for Equitation. (DR132)	mouthpiece, curb bit w/rotating lever arm & straight bar snaffle w/mullen mouth & w/eggbutt rings. Snaffles in YH classes must have min 14 mm diam mouthpiece. (DR121. Fig. 1) HP classes: Snaffle or bridoon w/rotating middle piece or rotary bit with rotating middle piece permitted; Curb chain hooks must not be fixed.	Straight bar snaffle permitted w/mullen mouth & w/eggbutt rings; (4) Snaffle or bridoon w/rotating middle piece permitted; (5) Snaffle or bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece permitted; (6) Curb chain hooks must not be fixed; (7) No limit to diameter of bridoon ring. (Art. 428)	4 may be used as snaffle or bridoon.. A dbl bridle should consist of a broken & a straight bit. Bits can be plastic or metal. Any illustrated rings or cheeks permit w/any bit. (App. 4) Warmup: No restrictions.(EV115)
W H I P	Mounted rider may carry one whip no longer than 47.2" (120 cm) incl. lash, in all classes ex. in USEF/USDF Champs & USEF National Dressage Champs. (Except: Sidesaddle riders may carry whip not over 47.2" in USEF/USDF Champ.) Whips permitted in all qual. classes (incl. NAYRC & NAJC) unless otherwise prohib. by USEF or FEI rules or class selection procedures. Warmup: One lungeing whip only when lungeing & one whip not over 47.2" (incl. lash) permitted. Adjustable length whip prohib. while mounted. No restriction on whip length permitted for working a horse in hand. (DR120.5 & 121.9) Optional for Equitation. (DR132).	Same as Tr-4 th Levels, plus no whip in (1) USEF/USDF Champs; (2) USEF HP Champs, Qual. & Select. Trials & Observ. classes; (3) USEF National Dres. Champs. (DR120.5 & 121.9). HP classes: Upon arrival on grounds, only rider when riding, walking, leading or lungeing (lunge whip allowed) may carry whip (max 120 cm). Groom may walk, lead & lunge w/whip. Whip must be drop. before entering space arnd arena or will be penalized for an error.	Test: Forbidden. Warmup: One whip with a total max. length of 120 cm is permitted (100 cm for Pony classes). Upon arrival on grounds, only rider when riding, walking, leading or lungeing (lunge whip allowed), may carry a whip (max. 120 cm & 100 cm for ponies). Groom may walk, lead & lunge w/whip. Whip must be dropped before entering space around arena or rider will receive a penalty/error . (Art. 428 & 430)	Test: One whip no longer than 120 cm (48") incl. lash permit. ex. in USEF/USEA Champs & USEA Champ divisions. Riders competing sidesaddle may carry whip at all competitions, incl. championships. Warmup: One whip no longer than 120 cm (48") (incl. lash) permitted. Standard lunge whip permitted when lungeing. (EV 114.3) Adjustable length whip prohibited while mounted. Whip must be used only to encourage or reprimand; whip use regulated; excessive use prohib. (EV111.3)
S P U R S	Optional at Tr-4 th Levels. Must be metal. Shank must be curved or straight, pointing directly back from center of spur when on boot. If curved shank, must be worn only directed down. Swan-necked spurs allowed. Inside arm must be smooth & one or both arms may have rubber covers. If w/rowels, must be blunt/smooth & free to rotate. Metal spurs w/round, hard plastic knobs on shank are allowed ("Impuls" spur). "Dummy" spurs w/no shank permitted. Restriction also applies to warmup & training areas. USEF 4 yo Test same as FEI YH tests. (DR120.8) Optional for Equitation. (DR132)	Mandatory, ex. spurs optional in FEI Junior Tests and FEI Tests for 4, 5 & 6 yo horses. Pony Riders: only blunt metal spurs no longer than 1.5 cm permitted. Otherwise same as Tr-4 th Levels. HP classes: Same as FEI, i.e. if w/rowels, must be blunt/smooth & free to rotate. (DR 120.8)	Required ex. for CDI-P and CDI-Ch events. Must be metal. Shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from center of spur when on boot. Arms must be smooth & blunt. If w/rowels, must be blunt/smooth & free to rotate. Metal spurs w/round, hard plastic knobs on shank allowed ("Impuls" spur). Dummy spurs w/no shank allowed. (Art. 427)	May be worn at any time. Not req. at Beg. Novice-Prelim. Req. at Int. & Adv. Horse Trials & Int. & Adv. 3-days. Forbidden if capable of wounding horse. Must be smooth metal. If w/shank it must not ex. 3.5cm (1 3/8") and must point only to rear. If shank is curved, it must direct down; metal or plastic spurs w/round hard plastic or metal knobs ("Impuls" spur) & "dummy spurs" w/no shank & swan-necked spurs allowed. Rowels permit. at all levels in comp. & in Dressage practice/warmup. If rowels used, must be free to rotate & must be round & smooth w/no tines. (EV114.4 & 5) Can't be used to reprimand. (EV111.4)
E Q U I P M E N T	Test: Forbidden: Martingales, bit guards, gadgets (bearing, side, running or balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), boots (incl. Easy Boots), bandages (incl. tail bandages), blinkers, ear muffs/ plugs, nose & seat covers, hoods & rein additions/ attachments ex. leg bandages allowed in Pas de Deux & Quadrille; breastplate &/or crupper allowed. Each bit must be attach. to a separate rein. Reins may only be attach. to bits. Decoration of horse forbid. ex. braiding of mane & tail. False tails w/o metal parts permit. Discreet fly hoods not covering eyes permitted only in extreme cases at discretion of judge(s). Warmup: Same ex. ear muffs, run. martingales (only w/snaffle rein of plain snaffle bridle & connect. to rein on same side & free to slide; rings through which reins slide may not be connected to a neck strap), boots, bandages (w/o magnets) are permitted. Single direct side reins (attached from bit to girth, saddle or surcingle on side of horse (not bet. legs) or double sliding side reins (triangle reins) used only when lungeing (mounted or unmounted) are permitted. Only one lunge line perm. only while lungeing. Driving or long lining is prohib. Lunge line must attach only to snaffle bit of bridle, halter or cavesson & go directly to longeuer's hand. Fly hoods/ear covers that don't cover eyes permitted. (DR121.6-7) Numbers req. at all times when horse is exercised or ridden. (DR121.10) Dressage Equitation: Back no's. req. (DR132)	Same as Tr-4 th Levels, ex. breastplate &/or crupper not permitted in USEF HP Champs, USEF HP Qualifying & Selection Trials & Observation Classes. Warmup: Running martingales & ear muffs not permitted for horses entered in USEF HP qualifying & selection trials & observation classes (DR121.6-7 & .10)	Test: Forbidden: Martingales, breast plates, bit guards, any gadgets (bearing, side, running or balancing reins, etc.), any kind of boots or bandages, any form of blinkers, inc. ear muffs & any others. No saddle covers or decoration of the horse w/extravagant items, such as ribbons, flowers, etc. in tail, etc. Normal plaiting of mane & tail allowed. False tails may not have metal parts (ex. hooks & eyelets). False tails & tail extensions are permitted only w/prior permission of FEI. Discreet fly hoods not covering eyes permitted only in extreme cases at discret. of Pres of GJ/TD. Warmup: Same ex. boots, bandages, ear muffs & single direct side reins or double sliding side reins (only when lungeing w/one lunge line only). Running martingales and ear muffs no longer permitted. (Art 428) Numbers req. when working. (Art. 428)	Test: Forbidden: Martingales, bit guards, gadgets (bearing, side, running or balancing reins, etc.), reins w/any loops or hand attachments, boots, leg bandages, blinkers, incl. earmuffs, earplugs, hoods, fly shields, nose & seat covers. Exception: Ground Jury may allow fly shields in except. circumstances. Breastplates permitted. Warmup: Irish & running martingales (w/rein stops), bit guards, boots, bandages, fly shields, nose & seat covers permitted. Side reins permitted only while lungeing unmounted horse, as are running reins and chambons. Forbidden: Other martingales, gadgets (as bearing, running or balancing reins, etc) & blinkers. (EV115.1-2) All horses (competing & non-competing) must wear numbers at all times when horse is exercised or ridden under penalty of warning for 1st offense and \$50 fine if repeated. (EV108.1)
W E A T H E R	In extreme heat and/or humidity, mgmt. can waive jackets. Riders must wear regulation hat & solid or near solid colored long or short sleeve shirt, w/collar , w/o neckwear, & w/o decoration ex. as described under dress. T-shirts not permitted. Members of Armed Services/police may wear summer uniforms. In inclement weather: May wear hat cover & transparent or conservative color raincoat. (DR120.6-7) If coats are waived, a solid-colored cooling or lightweight vest may be worn over a riding shirt as specified in DR120.6.	Same as Tr-4 th Levels. (DR120.6-7)	Waiving coats is not addressed; therefore is not permitted under normal circumstances. However, the Ground Jury is permitted to make decisions in all circumstances not specifically addressed by the rules. (Art. 453) Therefore, the jury could waive coats if it deemed appropriate.	At temps above 85° F, a heat index above 85, or at discretion of the GJ or Organizer, competitions will be permitted to compete w/o jackets. Riders must wear either a long or short sleeved shirt of conserve. color w/o neckwear. Members of Armed Services/p olice may wear summer uniforms. Inclement weather: May wear windbreaker or rain coat over clothing: number must be visible. (EV114.9)
E R R O R	1 st 2 pts; 2 nd 4 pts; 3 rd Elim. (but, at judge's discretion, may finish test unless finishing would make next ride late). For FEI Level Freestyle tests & YH tests, the deduction for an error shall be: 1st error: -1% of possible total score; 2nd error: -2% of possible total score; 3rd error: Elim. Judge at C decides if error is made & other judges' scores are adapted accordingly (penalty points deducted) w/approval of C judge. (DR 122.5b-f).	Same as Tr-4 th Levels. Ex: For USEF HP classes, the following are considered errors: (1) Error of course; (2) Entering space around arena w/whip; (3) Entering arena w/ whip; (4) Not entering arena w/in 45 sec. after bell; (5) Entering arena before bell; 6) In Freestyles, entering arena after more than 20 seconds of music. (DR 122.5b-f)	1 st 2 pts; 2 nd 4 pts; 3 rd Elim. For Freestyle & YH tests deduction shall be: 1st error -1% of poss. total score; 2nd error -2% of poss. total score; 3rd error – Elim. Pres. of Ground Jury decides if error is made & other judges' scores are adapted accordingly. List of possible errors (penalties) same as for USEF HP classes. (Art. 430)	1 st 2 pts; 2 nd 4 pts; 3 rd Elim. After elim. may finish test. (EV136.1) If there is more than one judge, unless all judges are in agreement on an error, the competitor receives the benefit of the doubt. (EV134.14)

*See Dispensation Certificate for Para-Equestrian Riders

** See FEI Rules for Dressage Events for specific dress, saddlery and equipment for Pony Riders and Children