

**NEW 2016 USEF Rules for DSHB classes, Fly Hoods, Vaccinations  
Current rules and information for Dressage headgear, Dress Code and Rising Trot**

**Important USEF rule changes for DSHB classes in 2016:**

- **Handlers, assistant handlers and whip assistants *of any age* must wear protective headgear as defined by this rule and otherwise in compliance with GR801 while handling or assisting in the competition ring. Any handler or assistant violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further participation until such headgear is properly in place.**
- **No handler or assistant handler under age fourteen is permitted to handle two or three year old colts, or stallions of any age.**
- **No rider under age fourteen is permitted to ride a three-year old colt, or stallion of any age, in any under saddle class including Dressage Sport Horse Prospect Under Saddle, Materiale and Suitability classes.**

**New USEF rule, effective 12.1.15:** Horses entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within 6 months prior to entering the stables. Horses not in compliance with this rule may be required to leave the grounds upon request by Competition Management. (See GR845)

**NEW USEF RULE: Fly Hoods now permitted for all classes (indoor and outdoor)**

Fly hoods (ear covers) are permitted for all classes in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet in color and design and should not cover the horse's eyes. After completion of the test, the rider or his representative is responsible for removing the fly hood to present to the designated ring steward for inspection to ensure that nothing prohibited has been added (for example, ear plugs. USEF DR121.7

**Protective Headgear rule for Dressage – effective 4/1/13**

From the time horses are officially admitted to the competition grounds by competition management, anyone mounted on a horse at any time on the competition grounds, including non-competing riders, riders on non-competing horses, and those competing in all classes and tests, including Para-Equestrian tests, must wear protective headgear as defined by this rule and otherwise in compliance with GR801. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. USEF DR120.6

Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. The harness must be secured and properly fitted. Unless jackets are waived, while in the competition ring, exhibitors wearing protective headgear must wear a short, dark jacket, dark tailcoat (only permitted for tests above Fourth Level), or Armed Services or police uniform (if eligible), dark hatcovers (where applicable) and must otherwise conform to DR120 (see GR801). USEF DR120.6

**Modified Dress Code for Riders in Opportunity Classes – effective 4/1/13**

Riders in classes and tests at all levels in Level 1 Competitions, and riders in Opportunity classes in Level 2 and Level 3 Competitions, may compete wearing breeches and shirts of any color as permitted in DR120.8. Jackets or vests of any type are allowed but not required and neckwear may be worn only if the rider chooses to compete in a riding jacket. Boots and protective headgear are required as specified in DR120.1-6. USEF DR120.5

**Waiving Jackets before Competition and Modified Dress Code when Jackets are Waived – effective 4/1/13**

In locations with high average heat and humidity on the date of a competition, management can publish in their prize list that jackets will be waived for the duration of the competition. Alternatively, management can announce prior to or during a competition that competitors can show without jackets when extreme heat and/or humidity is forecast. This waiver applies to all classes including FEI classes at National Competitions. However, competitors must wear protective headgear and a shirt with sleeves and collar, without neckwear, and without decoration except as described under DR120.14. T-shirts are not permitted. Members of the Armed Services or police units may wear summer uniforms. USEF DR120.8

**Definition of correct Diagonal in Rising Trot - effective 4/1/13**

When rising trot is permitted in a test or class, the rider should change the diagonal when changing directions, except during a lengthening. The correct diagonal is considered to be when the rider is sitting when the outside front foot and inside hind foot are on the ground. DR117.7 and DR133.2.i.(e)