



## USEF Dressage Proposed Rule Changes

*Presented for 2019 USDF Convention Committee and Membership Review*

### **DR106 The Rein Back**

4. The steps are counted as each foreleg moves back. After completing the required number of steps backward, the horse should ~~show a square halt or move~~ **immediately** forward in **with a fluid, direct transition to** the required gait immediately. In tests where a rein back of one horse's length is required, it should be executed with three or four steps.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to current FEI rules.

### **DR112 The Pirouette, The Half-pirouette, The Quarter-pirouette, The Working Pirouette, The Working Half-pirouette, The Turn on the Haunches.**

9. The Working Pirouette and Working Half-Pirouette. The pirouette (half-pirouette) is a turn of 360 degrees (180 degrees) executed on two tracks, with the forehand moving around the haunches. ~~The size of the working pirouette should be approximately three meters. The requirements for a working half-pirouette are identical to those of a regular half-pirouette, except that~~ The allowable diameter **of a working pirouette** is increased to approximately three meters. A working half-pirouette is to be judged like a regular half-pirouette except that full credit must be given for a well-performed, but larger (three meter) half-pirouette. Full credit should also be given for a well-performed regular-sized half-pirouette. A significant deduction should be made if a rider attempts but performs poorly a regular half-pirouette.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification as some judges have misinterpreted the current wording

### **DR117 The Position and Aids of the Rider.**

5. Unless indicated on a **USEF Dispensation/Classification Certificate** ~~Federation Dispensation Certificate, International Para-Equestrian Classification Card (FEI PE Card), USEF Para-Equestrian Classification Card, or Presidential Modification letter,~~ the use of stirrups is required.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to correct use to current terminology.

### **DR118 Tests for Dressage Competitions.**

5. Tests for Para Equestrians may be ridden only in classes, including Test of Choice classes, that are limited to Para Equestrians. Young Horse tests may be ridden only in classes, including Test of Choice classes, that are limited to Young Horses. Freestyle tests may be ridden only in classes, including Test of Choice classes, that are limited to Freestyles. Quadrille and Pas de Deux ~~tests classes~~ cannot be ridden in Freestyle Test of Choice classes. Quadrilles and Pas de Deux rides may be ridden only in classes, including Test of Choice classes, that are limited to Quadrilles and Pas de Deux rides.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to correct wording



#### **DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions.**

11. Riders with a diagnosed permanent disability who require the use of compensatory aids or adaptive equipment must hold a Federation Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate indicating their International (FEI) or their National (USEF) classification status. A copy of an athlete's Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate listing all of his or her allowed compensating aids and adaptive equipment must be included with the rider's entry, with a copy then attached to each of their Dressage sheets for the Judge's reference. A copy must remain with the entry records for review by the Technical Delegate.

12. Athletes in FEI Para-Equestrian tests must have a current Federation Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate which indicates their Classification status to be eligible to participate.

13. Riders who do not submit a current USEF Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate or USEF Presidential Modification letter to the competition secretary cannot compete with any modifications, compensatory aids, or dispensations to the rules in DR Chapter 1. USEF affidavits cannot be used to compete with modifications or compensatory aids when either the Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate or Presidential Modification is not available.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to correct wording

#### **DR120 Dress.**

12. Individuals holding Federation Dispensation/**Classification** Certificates may be allowed exceptions, i.e.; gloves not required if unable to wear them, half-chaps and black or brown riding shoes with heels. If dispensation for modified shoes

or boots is given, safety stirrups are required. Riders may also be given dispensation for modified gloves, hand weights and arm belts. All exceptions to required dress must be listed on the rider's Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to correct wording

#### **DR120 Dress.**

16. Earphones and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited while competing and such usage is penalized by elimination. ~~Earphones or similar devices are permitted during training and warm-up.~~

***Electronic devices that transmit and/or receive information may be used in the stabling area and in warm up areas. Electronic devices shall not be used to receive information in the competition area. Exception: medical devices, such as hearing aids, are allowed to be used for the medical condition for which they are prescribed. Riders shall not receive input about the performance of the horse or rider while in the competition area.***

Proposed Effective date: December 1, 2020

Intent: Electronic devices are used to receive and/or transmit information. Communication systems are used commonly in warm up areas. In recent years many devices have become available that can be used, for example, to monitor physiological or biomechanical data from the horse or rider. The intent of this rule is to prohibit the use of devices that could provide information to the rider during a competition.

#### **DR 121 Saddlery and Equipment.**

1. An English type saddle with flaps and stirrups is compulsory for all tests and classes other than FEI tests. Stirrups must have closed branches. An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock,



or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles (exception: competitors with a current approved Federation Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate). A Dressage saddle which must be close to the horse and have long, near-vertical flaps and stirrups is compulsory for FEI tests (**except FEI Para tests**)...

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14. Athletes holding a Federation Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate may use special saddlery and equipment as specifically listed on their Certificate. The following equipment is permitted if listed on the Certificate.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to correct wording

#### **DR 121 Saddlery and Equipment.**

5. Riders competing only in FEI Para-Equestrian tests may use either a plain snaffle bridle or simple double bridle. Riders competing in both FEI Para-Equestrian tests and USDF or USEF tests at the same competition must use a plain snaffle bridle at ~~Grades I-IV levels~~ **Second Level and below**. A double bridle may be used in warm-up and while competing only **at Third Level or above**. ~~at the Grade V level.~~

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to reflect new rule allowing non-consecutive levels to be ridden by Para riders competing in both Para tests and standard dressage tests.

#### **DR 121 Saddlery and Equipment.**

**12. Kicking chains. Kicking chains may be worn only in the stall. They shall be attached around the pastern and the free portion of the chain shall not exceed 25 cm in length. Each chain must swing freely and not be attached so as to have the effect of hobbles.**

Proposed Effective date: December 1, 2020

Intent: Kicking chains are worn in the stall to prevent a horse from kicking or striking at the walls. This behavior may injure the horse and/or damage the stall with the possibility of injury to a horse in a neighboring stall. Current rules are unclear if kicking changes are permitted at competitions.

#### **DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests.**

1. Calling Tests. .... FEI Para-Equestrian tests must be ridden from memory unless an exemption is listed on the rider's Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate. In all tests, all movements must follow the order laid down in the test.

4. Individuals holding a Federation Dispensation/**Classification** Certificate are allowed the following exceptions, provided these exceptions are clearly listed on the Certificate.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to correct wording

#### **DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests.**

5. Errors.

**k. Judges may not mark or deduct points for an error for any reason other than described in DR122.5; i.e. dress code violations (DR120) cannot be penalized by an error.**

Proposed Effective date: Clarification.



Intent: Some judges are penalizing dress code violations with an error. This practice is not allowed by the USEF rules.

#### **DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests.**

9. Collective marks are awarded (from 0 to 10) after the competitor has finished his performance for USEF, **USDF** and-FEI Dressage Tests:

- a. ~~Gaits.~~
- b. ~~Impulsion.~~
- c. ~~Submission (Willing Cooperation)~~
- 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 Sport Committee or the Bureau of the FEI for their respective tests.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Tests now have different collective marks.

#### **DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving.**

1. After each performance and after each judge has given his Collective Marks which must be done with due consideration, **and signing the test**, the judges' sheets pass into the hands of the scorers. Scores and comments must be written in ink. Any corrected score must be initialed by the judge having made the correction. The marks are multiplied by the corresponding co-efficients where applicable and then totaled. Penalty points incurred for errors in the execution of the test are then deducted on each judge's sheet. **Scores and comments may also be recorded electronically, and must be signed either electronically, or by hand, by the judge(s) for the test or class, before being tabulated.**

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to clarify that tests must be signed before being tabulated and that only the person who judged the test may sign it.

#### **DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving.**

**6. Total scores and marks for each movement may be published, however, complete scoresheets or judge's comments are considered private and may not be published.**

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to reflect current practice.

#### **DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving.**

11. After the awards for a class have been presented, the judge's score sheet should be given to the competitor. The score sheet must be handed directly to the competitor or his representative. Privacy must be maintained. **Score sheets may be provided electronically to the competitor, but they shall, upon request, also be provided with a printed copy.**

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: The rules need to be clarify that while tests may be provided electronically, the competitor still has a right to request a printed copy at the show.



#### **DR124 Elimination.**

2. Horse and rider combinations shall be eliminated from the competition (for .a, .f and .i, below) or from the current or next class depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred (for all others), under the following

circumstances:

e. ~~Three~~ **Errors** of the course and/or test **as specified in DR122.** (DR122);

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Update to current rules in DR122 which indicate elimination for two errors in some FEI tests.

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

1.j. Miscellaneous.

1. Management must provide judges and technical delegates with copies of Federation Presidential Modification letters **or Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificates** they have received, prior to the classes where those riders compete under those judges. Competitors will not be allowed to compete with modifications unless a copy of their Presidential Modification letter **or Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate** is provided to the competition secretary by the beginning of the competition.

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: Clarification to correct wording

#### **DR129 Musical Freestyle Ride.**

7. Movements

a. In FEI Level Freestyles, the competitor must include all gaits and movements required on the FEI score sheet at the level shown. Current FEI rules apply. **See current FEI Freestyle directives and handouts.**

~~Failure to include required movements will result in a zero (0) score on the appropriate line.~~

~~b. Any movements included in tests at or below the level declared may be included in Freestyle rides but those not specified as compulsory movements on the score sheet will be scored only as they enhance or detract from the Artistic Impression.~~

~~c. Riders should note that it is compulsory to come into and out of the canter pirouette in canter for the technical mark to be given. Walking into and out of the canter pirouette will be considered only in the artistic marks. BOD 1/12/19 Effective 2/1/19~~

~~d. In FEI Level Freestyles, movements intentionally performed above the level declared shall be penalized by elimination, preferably immediately. Exceptions for FEI Para-Equestrian Freestyles performing movements above the level are noted on the FEI Para-Equestrian tests. A rider showing more than one half-pirouette (i.e., more than 180 degrees) in one continuous movement in the Young Rider Freestyle Test or a rider showing more than one full pirouette (i.e., more than 360 degrees) in one continuous movement in the Intermediate-I Freestyle Test, will receive "0" (zero) for the whole movement and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than "5". See DR124.1m.~~

~~b.-e.~~ Once a movement has been included in the tests of the Freestyle level declared or those below, it can be shown

at any location in the arena (for instance, pirouettes on the center line in Intermediate-I) or at sharper angles (half-pass) or in greater numbers (tempi changes) to enhance the degree of difficulty.

f. Grand Prix Freestyle Tests. Besides all the Grand Prix level movements, double pirouettes, pirouettes in piaffe and half pass in passage are allowed. A rider showing more than a double pirouette (i.e., two pirouettes of more than 360 degrees each) in one continuous movement, will receive a "0" (zero) for the whole movement and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than "5". A rider showing other non-permitted movements in FEI Level Freestyles must be disqualified. One Piaffe has to be shown



~~straight (minimum 10 steps). If the Piaffe is only shown as a Pirouette, a minimum of 10 steps is to be shown before or after turning. Passage shown in Half Pass is not considered as the compulsory passage. Scores and credit for transitions will only be given for the sequence “passage, piaffe, passage”. Airs above the ground and Canter “Terre a Terre” are not allowed. Flying changes must be shown in at least 5 consecutive changes every second stride and minimum nine changes at every stride. g. Mistakes, such as in tempi changes, should not be penalized as exceeding the degree of difficulty of the level shown but only as they affect the technical marks.~~

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: The FEI has removed rules for freestyles from its rule book and now publishes various directives and handouts specifying which movements are permitted and how they are to be judged and scored.

### **DR135 Pony Measurement.**

2. A copy of the Federation Standard or Temporary Measurement card must be submitted with the entry for each pony possessing a measurement card and competing in order to be eligible to compete in Dressage classes, tests or awards limited to ponies or Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes, tests or awards limited to ponies. If a pony, age three or over, is not in possession of a fully and correctly completed measurement card or valid measurement form, ***or if management cannot confirm the measurement electronically with the Federation,*** the Competition Management must order the pony to be measured by an eligible Dressage Technical Delegate who is certified by USEF to conduct Dressage pony measurements, and the Competition Veterinarian, pursuant to GR505 and GR508. ~~Effective December 1, 2009, Competition Management must require measurement by a USEF-certified Dressage Technical Delegate and the Competition Veterinarian if a current, valid measurement card or form is not submitted prior to the competition.~~ A current, valid USEF Driving or Hunter/Jumper measurement card may also be acceptable as long as it is otherwise valid according to Dressage measurement requirements. Failure to allow the pony to be measured will result in the pony being disqualified at that competition from competing in pony classes or tests or for awards limited to ponies. The measurement must be reported to Competition Management, which must then disqualify the pony from the competition if it is over height if it competed in pony classes or tests, or for awards limited to ponies. All measurement forms must be submitted to the Federation once the measurement process has started, regardless of the recorded height of the animal and regardless of the measurement conditions.

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6. Measurements or re-measurements conducted for the purpose of competing in Dressage classes, tests or awards or Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes, tests or awards must be recorded on the Federation “Combined Driving and Dressage Pony Measurement Form,” according to GR505, GR506, ~~and GR508~~, and the requirements on the form. Measurements must be taken and recorded in centimeters. A completed copy of the measurement form will be given to the owner or trainer at the time of measurement, except for “competition only” measurements.

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9. 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 re-measured by a licensed Dressage Technical Delegate and a Veterinarian who are approved by the Federation, pursuant to GR505, GR506, ~~and GR508~~. Re-measurement must be made within 30 days of the request. The owner of a pony with a Standard and valid Measurement Certificate may also request re-measurement, through the Federation, under the provisions of this rule.

10. Animals submitted for measurement or re-measurement must show no evidence of lameness, and must be jogged for soundness prior to the measurement. Animals showing evidence of lameness are not eligible for measurement or re-measurement. ***The official competition veterinarian must confirm the age of the horse or pony and that it was jogged and is serviceably sound. Upon the official competition veterinarian’s verification of soundness, the TD’s measurement is final. If found to be lame by the official competition***





***veterinarian, said animal cannot show at that competition and no measurement may be conducted. Measurement forms indicating an attempt to measure will be sent to the Federation.***

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***13. The animal must stand squarely on all four feet in such a position that the front legs are vertical to the ground and the back of the hocks are in a vertical line with the point of the animal's quarters. The head may be lowered to find the highest point of the withers but then must come up to its natural upright position.***

***14.*** Refer to Chapter GR5, Subchapter 5-B for membership and measurement form requirements. Measurement appeals must be conducted in accordance with GR514 and GR515.

***15.*** Measurements are conducted solely for the purposes of Federation licensed competitions. The Federation, its licensed competitions and its licensed officials shall have no liability whatsoever for measurement errors, except as specified in GR4030 ***1034.2.***

***16.*** All Level 3-5 Dressage Competitions and all licensed competitions holding Dressage classes, tests or awards limited to ponies or Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes, tests or awards limited to ponies are responsible for providing a Federation Approved Measurement Stick, with a metric scale, and a suitable surface for measurements. A suitable surface is defined as a flat, level, hard surface, preferably a concrete slab or paved area. A sheet of plywood is not suitable; however, for "competition only" measurements, a thick sheet of plywood is permitted if a suitable surface is not available. In addition, these competitions must contract a Dressage Technical Delegate to officiate the competition who is certified by USEF to conduct Dressage pony measurements.

***17.*** Only a USEF-certified Dressage Technical Delegate officiating at the competition and the Competition veterinarian are eligible to conduct Dressage/DSHB pony measurements.

***18. The official competition veterinarian must confirm the age of the horse or pony and that it was jogged and is serviceably sound. Upon the official competition veterinarian's verification of soundness, the Technical Delegate's measurement is final. The Technical Delegate and the official competition veterinarian shall sign the measurement form. A Technical Delegate may not measure a horse or pony that is owned by a member of his family or by any of his or his family member's clients. (See GR1039.4)***

***a. Written reports of every measurement or attempt to measure must be sent to the Federation's Lexington, KY office together with the Technical Delegate's Report, or the Technical Delegate will be subject to charges and penalties per Chapters GR6 and GR7.***

***b. If the official competition veterinarian is not present at the competition, or not available when on call (see GR1210.3) the measurement may be conducted by a Technical Delegate and a judge officiating at the competition, or another Technical Delegate officiating at the competition; however, the measurement will be for the purposes of that competition only and no measurement card will be issued. Measurement forms will be sent to the Federation, but will not be given to the owner.***

***19.*** In order to be granted a license and/or maintain his/her license all Dressage Technical Delegate must have attended a Federation Dressage/USDF/DSHB Pony Measurement Certification clinic where certification testing to measure ponies for dressage or DSHB is conducted and passed the certification examination. Effective January 1, 2015, All Dressage Technical Delegates must attend a Federation Dressage/USDF/DSHB Pony Measurement Certification clinic at least once every four years in order to maintain his/her license.

***20.*** For informational purposes only: 148 cm is approximately 14 hands 2 1/4 inches and 149 cm is approximately 14 hands 2 3/5 inches.

Proposed Effective date: 12.1.20

Intent: Correction of rule references, addition of information from Dressage Pony Measurement form and addition of information from GRs and other rules to improve directives for handling measurement issues.



### **DR206 Equipment and Turn Out.**

2. Bridles are mandatory on all horses age two or older in the competition ring, including non-competing mares accompanying a foal. Bridles are forbidden on foals and weanlings but are permitted on yearlings. A bridle shall consist of a snaffle type bit (as pictured in Chapter DR, Subchapter DR-1, Figure 1A) with two reins and headstall with throatlatch. Reins must be attached only to bits as described in DR121.6. Noseband is optional. A split or single chain with a lead may be used instead of or in addition to reins, however a lead shank is required if reins are placed over the horse's neck and the handler must hold the shank. Horses under the age of two may be shown in halters, except as noted above and chain shanks may be used. ***A traditional halter must be used; it must be made of leather or leather-like material and may be reinforced with nylon. European Foal Show Halters (halters with a cavesson, browband and throatlatch but no bit attachment) may only be used by current year foals.***

Proposed Effective date: Clarification

Intent: Some people are using cavessons as halters in DSHB classes. Cavessons do not provide the necessary control and restraint of horses and create a potential safety factor for handlers and other entries. The rules must be clear that a traditional halter is required.

### **GR1009 Recorded Judge.**

2. The following divisions have specific limitations for 'r' recorded judges.

b. Dressage - A Recorded Dressage judge may officiate at Second Level and below and may not officiate at the Third Level and above. Recorded Dressage judges may not officiate in FEI or USEF Dressage Tests for 4 and 5 year old horses or in FEI Pony Tests ***or FEI Para-Equestrian tests***. Recorded Dressage judges may officiate in Eventing or ~~FEI Para-Equestrian Dressage Tests~~ equivalent to Second Level or below. Recorded Dressage judges may officiate in Eventing Competitions at the Intermediate Level or below

Proposed Effective date: Immediately

Intent: There is no longer an "equivalency" between standard dressage tests and FEI Para tests. Therefore, a Recorded dressage judge should no longer be eligible to judge FEI Para tests.

### **GR821 Opportunity Classes.**

#### **Active Rule Change (submitted in USEF system)**

2. Opportunity Classes:

a. do not count towards Horse of the Year Awards and the results from Opportunity Classes may not be used by any entity for a national awards program. Only with permission of the respective recognized affiliate organization may results from Opportunity Classes be used for regional awards.

b. cannot be used as a qualifying class for any championship class held at the competition except an Opportunity Class championship at the competition.

c. cannot be considered in reckoning Competition Championships awarded on points except an Opportunity Class championship at the competition.

d. do not count towards the minimum number of classes nor amount of prize money offered when determining the rating of the competition.

e. Dressage classes can be offered as Opportunity classes at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes as described below:

1. Classes are limited to the following competition levels and dressage tests:

a. Level 1 competitions may offer ***three two*** tests and only ***three two*** classes per level per day at Introductory - ***Fourth*** ~~Second~~ Level.

b. Level 2 competitions may offer ***three two*** tests and only ***three two*** classes per level per day at Introductory - ***Third*** ~~First~~ Level.





- c. Level 3 competitions may offer ~~three two~~ tests and only ~~three two~~ classes per level per day at Introductory - **Second Training Level**.
- d. Level 4 and Level 5 competitions may not offer Opportunity classes.
2. Opportunity Classes are for entry level riders **and may be offered to encourage participation in Federation licensed competitions**.
3. Freestyles may not be offered as Opportunity classes. Opportunity classes cannot be offered as "Test of Choice" classes.
4. If opportunity classes at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes are restricted to amateurs, riders are required to have an amateur status with USEF.
5. All rules and regulations in GR821 must be followed, except for GR821.6.
6. Horses, riders, owners, trainers, and coaches participating only in Opportunity classes are exempt from Federation and affiliate organization membership and Horse Identification (HID) requirements and non-member/Show Pass fees, but are required to list the Federation membership number if the participant is a member.
- f. Breed restricted Dressage classes can be offered as opportunity classes at Regular/Local breed restricted competitions
- .....
9. Opportunity Classes may be judged by any judge officiating at the competition. (**Exception: Judges for Dressage Opportunity classes must be eligible according to GR1007, GR1008 or GR1009.**) Conflict of interest rules in GR1304 apply.

Proposed Effective date: December 1, 2020

Intent: Participation in licensed Dressage Competitions has decreased in many areas. Several shows and potential participants have pointed to the increased cost of licensed competitions as the reason for this decline and have requested that additional levels of Opportunity classes be allowed in order to stimulate more affordable access to licensed competitions.

## **GR1202 & GR1203. CHAPTER SUBCHAPTER 12-A COMPETITION OFFICIALS.**

### **Active Rule Change (submitted in USEF system)**

**GR1202** 1. An individual acting in this capacity, **or as Assistant Manager at a dressage competition**, is required to be a Senior Active Member of the Federation. Any individual acting as the Competition Manager of a hunter and/or jumper Open (not restricted to a breed) competition must be a Senior Active member in good standing of the United States Hunter Jumper Association, Inc. The competition manager of a Federation licensed/USDF-recognized competition must be a current USDF Participating or Group member in good standing at the time competition recognition is granted and on the date of the competition. Anyone acting in the capacity of Competition Manager at a Federation licensed competition must complete applicable Federation education requirements or Federation approved Affiliate education requirements prior to the start date of the competition.

### **GR1203**

1. An individual(s) who processes entries or performs such other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors, the Show Committee or Competition Management, and manager. A secretary of a Dressage Competition may not serve as judge or compete as rider or handler in his/her own competition. However, he or she may show Hors de Concours if he or she designates an assistant in charge while he or she is showing. This does not absolve the secretary's duties and responsibilities. An individual acting in this capacity, **or as Assistant Secretary at a dressage competition**, must be an Individual Senior Active member of The Federation.

Proposed Effective date: December 1, 2020



Intent: Due to Safe Sport Policies, the Dressage Sport Committee would like to require dressage assistant managers and dressage assistant secretaries to be a USEF Active Member, so they would be required to complete Safe Sport Training. Assistant manager and secretaries duties are assigned by managers and secretaries according to the needs and may vary from one competition to another, but in many cases they may work directly with competitors and should be aware and held compliant to our Safe Sport policies.

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## Proposed Annex B to USEF Dressage Rules

### USA Dressage Minimum Entry Requirements for CDIs

draft

	Canada, Central/South America, Asia, Australia	Europe	USA
<b>Big Tour</b>	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 64% in the FEI Intermediate II, FEI Grand Prix, or FEI Grand Prix Special at 2 different CDI events or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.	Athlete/horse combinations must have an average above a 66% on the Grand Prix 12-month ranking list. If the combination resides outside of the U.S., they must have competed in two CDN (national competition) events in the FEI Grand Prix or FEI Grand Prix Special earning 68% or higher.	Athlete must have achieved a minimum of 64% in a national level Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special or consecutive level (see chart in DR 119), at two different national competitions from two different judges, within the 3 competition years preceding the CDI competition.
<b>Medium Tour</b>	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 64% in the FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, or FEI Intermediate II Tests at 2 different CDI events or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum average of 64% in the FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, or FEI Intermediate II Tests at two different CDI events or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.	Athlete must have achieved a minimum of 64% in a national level Intermediate A or Intermediate B or consecutive level (see chart in DR 119), at two different national competitions from two different judges, within the 3 competition years preceding the CDI competition.
<b>Small Tour</b>	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 64% in the FEI Prix St. Georges or FEI Intermediate I at 2 different CDI events or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum average of 64% in the FEI Prix St. Georges or FEI Intermediate I at 2 different CDI events or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.	Athlete must have achieved a minimum of 64% in a national level Prix St. Georges, Intermediate I or consecutive level (see chart in DR 119), at two different national competitions from two different judges, within the 3 competition years preceding the CDI competition.
<b>U-25</b>	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 60% in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and/or the FEI Intermediate II Test at 2 different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum average of 64% in 2 FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Tests or FEI Intermediate II Tests at 2 different CDI-U25 or CDN events within 12 months of the start dates of the event.	No requirement
<b>Young Rider, Junior, Pony Rider, Children</b>	Athlete/Horse combinations must have achieved a 60% between their relevant Team/Individual at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.	Athlete/Horse combinations must have achieved an average of a 64% between their relevant Team/Individual at two different CDI or NAYC/USEF Qualifying Competitions within 12 months of the start date of the event. Scores from European CDN (national competition) events with two more Judges officiating may also be considered.	No requirement
<b>Young Horse (5, 6 year old)</b>	Horse must have achieved an average over a 7.5 (75%) in their relevant tests at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event. Tests of the equivalent level may also meet this requirement.	Horse must have achieved an average over 8.0 (80%) in their relevant tests (or tests of equivalent level) at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event.	No requirement
<b>Young Horse (7 year old)</b>	Horse must have achieved a 7.0 (70%) in their relevant tests (combined quality & technical marks) at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event. Tests of the equivalent level may also meet this requirement.	Horse must have achieved an average over 7.5 (75%) in their relevant tests (combined quality & technical marks; scores from tests of equivalent levels may also count) at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event.	No requirement
<b>Amateur</b>	No requirement	No requirement	No requirement



Proposed Effective date: 12/01/2021

Intent: This information is already included in a memo online. We are expanding on the compete abroad criteria to also include U.S. CDIs for consistency at international events.

## **DR121 Saddlery and Equipment**

The provisions of DR121 apply to both competing and non-competing dressage horses from the time horses are admitted to the grounds which are designated for the Dressage Competition.

**All saddlery and equipment must be attached, worn and used in a conventional manner.**

1. **Saddle.** An English type saddle with or without a tree, and with flaps and stirrups is compulsory for all tests and classes other than FEI tests. For FEI tests it is compulsory to use a dressage saddle that is close to the horse, with long, near-vertical flaps and stirrups. It is not permitted to use a saddle with a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet, or to use an original or modified Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddle.

1.1. **Stirrups.** It is compulsory to use English-style stirrups without attachments or safety stirrups. Safety stirrups must have closed branches of metal or other breakaway material **or mechanism**. The foot must not be fully or partially enclosed and must in no way be attached to the stirrups (for example with magnets). **The stirrup leathers must hang freely from their anchor point without additional attachments to the saddle or girth.**

1.2. **Saddle pads.** Saddle pads are optional and, when used, should be white or of conservative color. Contrast color, and piping allowed. Striped or multi-colored pads are not permitted. While in the competition ring and during awards ceremonies, a logo, monogram or name may appear on either or both sides of a saddle pad. Logos must not exceed 200 sq. cm (26.632 sq. inches) in size. Only the following logos or names are permitted: a breed logo for horses registered with that breed; a national flag for citizens of that country; USEF or USDF names/logos. Professionals of any age may have a business or product name/logo of their official sponsor. Amateurs may not have a business or product name/logo unless they own the business. Competition award pads and stable name pads are permitted. No other advertisement or publicity is permitted on saddle pads or horses, except as noted in **DR121.8: fly hoods.**

1.3. **Seat covers.** Seat covers are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden.

**1.4. Safety strap.** For purposes of rider safety, a short strap in front of the pommel may be attached to the D-rings or to the stirrup bars.

## **2. Bits**

Only those bits listed in **Figure 121.1, Figure 121.2** and Annex A are allowed. Bits must be attached only as illustrated in the diagrams. The type of bit should not vary from those pictured below except where specified.

All bits must be smooth with a solid surface. Twisted bits, **bits with "bumps"**, bits with uncovered wire or cable, and bits that place mechanical restraint upon the tongue are prohibited. **When joint(s) are present in the mouthpiece, they should move freely and not lock. Joints that can lock or that could trap or pinch the oral tissues are not allowed.**



## 2.1. Snaffle bits

A snaffle is a non-leverage bit with the rein attached at the level of the mouthpiece. The rein and cheekpiece attach to the same ring and can rotate freely around that ring. Exception: hanging cheek snaffles.

2.1.1. A snaffle bit may combine any mouthpiece with any cheekpiece pictured in Figure 121.1 and should be attached only as shown.

2.1.2. The mouthpiece of a snaffle bit must be made of metal, flexible rubber or synthetic material. A metal mouthpiece may have a covering of rubber or plastic (in manufactured state), but the bit cannot be modified by adding latex or other material. Leather or leather covered bits are not allowed. The contours of the bit must conform to those of the bits pictured in Figure 121.1. When joint(s) are present in the mouthpiece, they may lock.

2.1.3. The snaffle mouthpiece must have a minimum diameter of 10 mm where it meets the rings or cheeks. Snaffles used in Young Horse and Children's classes must have a minimum diameter of 14 mm. Exception: for ponies, the diameter may be less than 10 mm for riders of any age.

2.1.4. A snaffle bit may be unjointed, single-jointed or double-jointed. The center link in a double-jointed snaffle must be smooth with rounded edges and may not have the effect of a tongue plate. The center link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece and may have a bushing, barrel, coupling or ball joints. The surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts. Only one rolling part is permitted and, when present, the rolling part must be in the center of the mouthpiece as pictured in Figure 121.1.

2.1.5. The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30 mm from the lowest part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30 mm (Figure 121.3). Ported snaffles that do not meet these specifications are prohibited.

## 2.2. Bridoon bits

A bridoon is defined as a snaffle bit used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle. A bridoon is a non-leverage bit with the rein attached at the level of the mouthpiece. The rein and cheekpiece attach to the same ring and can rotate freely around that ring. Any of the bridoon mouth pieces shown in Figure 121.2 may be combined with a loose ring or eggbutt ring. However, D rings, full cheeks, half cheeks and hanging cheeks are prohibited on bridoon bits.

2.2.1. A bridoon bit must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber (in manufactured state). Flexible rubber or synthetic materials are not permitted.

2.2.2. The bridoon mouthpiece must have a minimum diameter of 10 mm where it meets the rings.

2.2.3. The mouthpiece of a bridoon must have one or two joints and conform to Figure 121.2. In a double-jointed bridoon the center link must be smooth with rounded edges and should not have the effect of a tongue plate. A bushing, barrel, coupling or ball joint is permitted as the center link in a double-jointed bridoon. Only one rolling part is permitted and, when present, the rolling part must be in the center of the mouthpiece as pictured in Figure 121.2. The center link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece but must have rounded edges and may not have the effect of a tongue plate. Bridoons in which the joints of the center link can lock and have the effect of a mullen-mouth snaffle, are not permitted.





## 2.3. Curb Bits

A curb bit is an **unjointed, leverage** bit used together with a bridoon in a double bridle. It must conform to **Figure 121.2**.

2.3.1. A curb bit must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber (in manufactured state). Flexible rubber or synthetic materials are not permitted.

The curb mouthpiece must have a minimum diameter of 12 mm where it meets the cheeks.

2.3.2. A curb mouthpiece has no moveable pieces or joints but it may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30 mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30 mm (**Figure 121.3**).

2.3.3. **Leverage is achieved by having cheeks extending above and below the mouthpiece to which the cheek piece and the rein, respectively, are attached. Bits in which the mouthpiece attaches to the same ring as either the cheekpiece or the rein are not permitted.** The cheeks may be straight or S-shaped .

2.3.4. The mouthpiece may be attached rigidly to the cheeks, or it may rotate or slide vertically relative to the cheeks. The lever arm of the curb bit, determined by the length of the cheek below the mouthpiece, is limited to 10 cm (3.9 inches). The method of correct measurement of the upper and lower cheeks is shown in **Figure 121.4**.

The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek. **See illustration (Figure??)**

## 3. Bridle.

**Permitted bridles and bits must be used in a conventional manner.**

The headstall and noseband must be made of leather or leather-like material except the buckles, wear tabs on cheek pieces and reins, and a small disk of sheepskin used at the intersection of the two leather straps of a crossed noseband. Nylon or other non-metallic material may be used to reinforce leather in the headstall but must not come in direct contact with the horse. Elastic inserts are permitted only in the crownpiece and cheekpieces. **Bit clips, buckles, or hooks/studs to attach cheekpieces to the bit are permitted.**

3.1. **Crownpiece.** The crownpiece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll, but it may not be fitted to lie on the vertebrae behind the skull (**Figure 121.5**). The crownpiece may be padded and it may have elastic inserts.

3.2. **Browband.** A browband is required and, except for the parts that attach to the crownpiece or headstall, is not required to be made of leather or leather-like material. At any level of competition, a browband may be multicolored and may be decorated with metal, beads, gemstones and crystals.

3.3. **Throat latch.** A throat latch and/or a jowl strap is required. A jowl strap is considered a throat latch that can be used to replace, or be used in addition to, a traditional throat latch. In order to replace the throat latch, the jowl strap must be fitted around or immediately below the horse's jowl (**Figures 121.6, 121.7**). Nosebands with one or two lower (chin) straps must also have a throat latch, as described above. Exception: Micklem Bridle. **(Note: Recent RCP to be added when in effect.)**



**3.4. Noseband.** A noseband is required and may be a regular cavesson or noseband with an adjustable back piece or chin strap, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (combination of a cavesson and an attached dropped noseband) or a Mexican (figure-8, crossed) noseband (Figure 121.8) except as prohibited in some competitions (see DR121.3.10) A double bridle must be used with a cavesson, with or without an adjustable back piece or chin strap.

3.4.1. The noseband itself may be padded and/or used with a chin pad. Decorations are permitted but must be attached only to the outer surface of the noseband; nothing may protrude through or close to the inner surface of the noseband.

3.4.2. No noseband should be adjusted so tightly that it causes skin irritation. It must be possible to easily insert two fingers under the noseband on the side of the face below the cheekbone. During a tack check, noseband tightness must be checked at the location shown in Figure 121.9 and not on the bony area of the cheekbone or bridge of the nose.

**3.5. Reins.** A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line connecting the bit to the hand. Each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to bits. Rein additions or attachments are not permitted. Clips that attach reins to the bit are permitted.

Reins may be made of leather, leather-like material, or webbing. The material may be rubberized or have a rubber covering and rein stops may be present. The reins must not be made of rope or rope-like material.

**3.6. Curb chain.** The curb “chain” can be made of metal, leather or a combination. A rubber, leather, or sheepskin cover for a curb chain is optional. The curb chain may never be so tightly fixed as to harm the horse. Curb chain hooks are required and can be fixed or not fixed.

**3.7. Lip strap.** A lip strap is optional.

**3.8. Snaffle bridle.** A snaffle bridle has a snaffle bit attached to a single rein. A cavesson, noseband with an adjustable back piece or chin strap, dropped, flash or crossed noseband is allowed when a snaffle bridle is used in warmup or competition, except as prohibited for some tests.

**3.9. Double bridle.** A double bridle has bridoon and curb bits each attached to a separate rein. The curb bit must have a curb chain.

A cavesson with or without an adjustable back piece or chin strap is required and is the only noseband permitted with a double bridle.

### **3.10. Bridles allowed in USEF (national) competitions**

3.10.1 For tests at Second Level and below, FEI Tests for Children, and FEI Pony tests, a plain snaffle bridle is required in warm up and in competition.



3.10.2. For Third and Fourth Level tests a snaffle bridle or double bridle are permitted in the warm up and in competition.

3.10.3. For FEI tests ridden at national competitions, a snaffle bridle or double bridle may be used in competition and in the warm up, as described above in **DR121.2.8.1-2**.

3.10.4. Qualifying and championship classes. A double bridle is mandatory for USEF High Performance qualifying and championship classes, NAYC championship classes, USEF Young Adult qualifying and championship classes, USEF Young Rider championship classes, and USEF Junior championship classes. Snaffle bridles are permitted for NAYC qualifying classes, USEF Young Rider qualifying classes, and USEF Junior qualifying classes.

3.10.5 Young horse classes. For the FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses and the USEF Dressage Test for 4-year old horses, a snaffle bridle is required, as above (**DR121.2**). Either a snaffle or double bridle may be used in the FEI test for 7-year old horses. Snaffle bits used in FEI tests must conform to **Figure 121.2** and Annex A. The crossed (figure-8, Mexican) noseband is not permitted for the FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, 6, and 7-year-old horses and the USEF test for 4-year old horses.

3.10.6 Para-Equestrian athletes. Riders competing only in FEI Para-Equestrian tests may use either a snaffle bridle or double bridle. Riders competing in both FEI Para-Equestrian tests and USDF or USEF tests at the same competition must use a plain snaffle bridle at Grades I -IV levels. A double bridle may be used in warm-up and while competing only at the Grade V level.

**4. Martingales.** Martingales are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden in competition.

In warm-up and other training areas, a running martingale may be used only with the rein of a snaffle bridle. Exception: running martingales are not permitted for horses entered in USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. A running martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth or breastplate at the front of the horse's chest and with the extension of each strap connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side. The reins must slide freely through the rings. The rings may not be incorporated into a neck strap. (Exception: running martingales are not permitted during warm up for horses entered in USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials.

**5. Gadgets such as bearing reins, side reins, running reins, balancing reins and auxiliary reins.** In the warm up and in classes, gadgets such as bearing reins, side reins, running reins and balancing reins, are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. See **DR121.19** for rules describing the use of side reins during lungeing.

**6. Breastplates and cruppers.** A breastplate and/or crupper may be used. Exception: a breastplate is not permitted in USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance Qualifying and Selection Trials.

**7. Neck straps.** Neck straps **of any material** are not permitted in the warm up or in competition.



**8. Fly hoods.** Fly hoods (ear covers) that do not cover the horse's eyes can be used to protect horses from insects. Fly hoods may not be attached to the noseband. They should be discreet in color and design, and may have a promotional or manufacturer's logo that is in compliance with **DR121.1.1.2.**

8.1. Fly hoods are permitted in the warm up and other training areas and for all classes.

8.2. Fly hoods **may be noise-cancelling in manufactured state** but cannot be used with **noise-cancelling** earplugs.

8.3. If a tack inspection is performed after completion of the test, the rider or his/her representative is responsible for removing the fly hood and presenting it for inspection to the designated ring steward who will ensure that nothing prohibited has been added, such as ear plugs.

**8.4. Blinkers or goggles (with clear or colored full eye cups)** and fly masks that cover the horse's eyes are permitted in the warmup but are not permitted in the competition arena.

**9. Ear plugs.** Ear plugs and ear muffs **and noise-cancelling ear plugs** are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Exception: **noise-cancelling** Ear plugs are permitted at prize-giving ceremonies for horses competing at any level, including High Performance classes.

**10. Body tape and body bands.** The use of equine body tape (kinesiology tape) **and resistive or elasticated body bands** are prohibited on the show grounds.

**11. Boots and bandages.** Boots and bandages without magnets are permitted in the warm up and other training areas. In competition the use of any kind of boots or bandages that contact the horse's legs on or above the hairline at the coronet, or tail bandages, are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Exception: leg bandages are allowed in Pas de Deux and Quadrille classes.

**Kicking chains – Please see page 3 of this document.**

**12. Shoes.** Shoes, with or without **clips, complete cuffs or partial cuffs**, that are attached with nails or glue or wraps are permitted. No part of the cuffs or wraps may extend onto or above the hair line at the coronet. **Wraps are also permitted without shoes.**

**13. Nose net.** A nose net may be used in the warm up and in competition provided the entry is accompanied by a signed letter from the horse's veterinarian. A copy of this letter must be attached to each test or class sheet. The letter must be written on the veterinarian's stationery and clearly state that the horse has been diagnosed with head shaking syndrome and the syndrome is improved with the use of a nose net. The letter must also state the brand of nose net to be used. The Federation's website has a list of nose net brands that are approved for dressage.

**14. Nasal strips, bit guards, and tongue ties** are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden during exercise or in competition.



**15. Mane and Tail.** Braiding of the horse's mane and tail is permitted. False tails are permitted but a false tail may not contain any metal parts. Decoration of the horse with extravagant items, such as ribbons, flowers or glitter in the mane, in the tail or on the body, is strictly forbidden.

Exception: A red ribbon in a horse's tail is permitted to identify a horse that kicks.

**16. Identification tags.** One small identification tag, no larger than 1.5" diameter, may be attached to the horse's mane.

**17. Whips.** The length of the lash is included in measurements of the length of the whip.

For schooling the rider when mounted is permitted to carry one whip that is no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) or 100 cm (39.4 inches) for FEI Pony Riders. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) may be carried in all classes except, under penalty of elimination, USEF/USDF Championships, USEF National Dressage Championships, USEF High Performance Championships, and USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. Exception: Competitors riding side-saddle may carry a whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) in USEF/USDF Championships. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) may be carried in all qualifying classes (including NAYRC and NAJC) unless such use is otherwise prohibited by FEI or Federation rules or selection procedures for the classes. However, when a whip is permitted for FEI Pony Tests, the maximum length is 100 cm (39.4 inches). An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider.

The use of one lungeing whip is permitted only when lungeing. There is no restriction on the length of whip permitted for working a horse in hand or on the lunge.

Rules regarding whip use at **USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials.** The following rules apply exclusively to use of a whip at USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials.

**17.1.** Upon arrival on the showground, only the rider when riding, walking, leading or lungeing a horse (lunge whip allowed) is allowed to carry a whip (maximum 120 cm) anywhere on the showground. The groom may also walk, lead and lunge a horse as above. Other parties are allowed to carry a whip, provided it is not in connection with the training of the horse.

**17.2.** The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the rider will be penalized for an error (see **DR122.5h**).

**18. Numbers.** All competitors must complete check-in at the show office, and receive a show number, before schooling or riding on the show grounds. Competition-assigned numbers, or the same number in a personal numbering format, must be worn and visible at all times when a horse is being hand-walked, exercised or ridden, under penalty of elimination.

**19. Lungeing.** Longeurs must use a single lunge line that goes directly to the hand of the longeur and attaches to a halter, a lungeing cavesson, or the snaffle bit of the bridle (either on the same side as the handler or across the head or under/around the chin to the snaffle ring on the opposite side from the handler). A double bridle may not be worn while lungeing.





Single direct side reins, which are affixed to the bit and to the girth, saddle or surcingle on the side of the horse (not between the legs), or double sliding side reins (triangle reins) are permitted only when lungeing (mounted or unmounted). Double sliding side reins may be attached to the saddle, surcingle and/or girth as pictured in [Figure 121.7](#).

Driving and long lining are prohibited.

**20. Dispensation Certificates.** Athletes holding a Federation Dispensation Certificate may use special saddlery and equipment as specifically listed on their Certificate.

The following equipment is permitted if listed on the Certificate:

- Any well fitted saddle that is adapted to the needs of the rider.
- Devonshire, western, or oxbow stirrups, tethers from stirrups to girth; seat covers; velcro and rubber bands (provided the equipment allows the rider to fall from the horse).
- Break-away safety stirrups are allowed for all riders and are required if the rider's feet are secured into the stirrups and shoes with distinguishable heels must be worn.
- Except for sidesaddle, either two stirrups or no stirrups must be used, unless rider has one leg and no prosthesis on the other leg.
- Adapted or bridged reins. If the rein is not to be used in a conventional manner, it must be in as straight a line as possible from the normal hand position (as described in [DR117](#)) to the horse's mouth.
- One or two whips, not to exceed 123 cm (48 inches) in length.

**21. Tack inspections.** The responsibility for the correct attire and equipment rests with the competitor. Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. Ring stewards appointed by competition management are required to inspect the saddlery, dress and equipment worn by at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena. In championship classes, saddlery, dress and equipment inspections are required for each horse. When an inspection is conducted, all equipment including fly hoods, nosebands, whips, bits, and spurs on both sides must be inspected.

The bridle must be checked with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths. Bit inspectors must use new disposable protective gloves on each hand for each horse. When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition.

**22. Stabling.** Horses competing in Competition Level 4-5 classes (for example: USEF/USDF Regional Championships classes and USEF National Championships classes) must be stabled on the grounds of the competition and must remain on the grounds for the duration of the event from the time of entering the showgrounds until the horse has finished competing in classes designated as Level 4 or 5.

Under no circumstance is it allowed to school a horse in the stables.

**23. Designated competition grounds, exercise and training areas.** Horses may only be exercised and ridden in management-designated areas on the competition grounds. Management must post a map in the show office outlining the "designated competition grounds" where horses may be ridden and exercised. Any restricted areas must also be noted. Under no circumstance is it allowed to school horses in the stables.



### **Added Figure to DR121:**

#### **Bridles Allowed in Competitions Under USEF Rules**

NOTE: These rules apply only to tests ridden under USEF (national) rules.

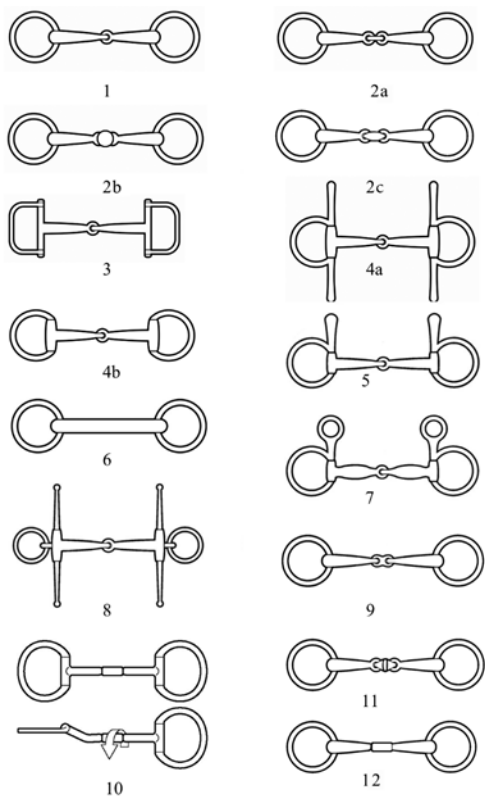
When the same tests are ridden under FEI rules, the requirements may be different. See the current FEI Rules for Dressage.

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Snaffle Bridle</b>	<b>Double Bridle</b>
USEF training, first, second, levels	√	<b>X</b>
USEF third, fourth levels	√	√
USEF FEI tests	√	√
USEF High Performance Qualifiers	<b>X</b>	√
USEF High Performance Championships	<b>X</b>	√
USEF Young Adult National Championships Qualifiers	<b>X</b>	√
USEF Young Adult Championships	<b>X</b>	√
USEF Young Rider National Championships Qualifiers	√	√
USEF Young Rider National Championships	<b>X</b>	√
USEF Junior National Championships Qualifiers	√	√
USEF Junior National Championships	<b>X</b>	√
USEF Dressage Test for 4-year old horses	√	<b>X</b>
FEI Dressage Test for 4-year-old horses	√	<b>X</b>
FEI Dressage Test for 5-year-old horses	√	<b>X</b>
FEI Dressage Test for 6-year-old horses	√	<b>X</b>
FEI Dressage Test for 7-year-old horses	√	√
FEI North American Youth Championships Qualifiers	√	√
<b>FEI North American Youth Championships</b>	<b>X</b>	√
FEI Tests for Children	√	<b>X</b>
FEI Tests for Ponies	√	<b>X</b>
USEF Dressage Seat Equitation Classes	√	<b>X</b>



Figure 121.1: Permitted snaffle bits. The bits pictured and described here are required for all tests at second level and below and are optional at third and fourth levels.

See also Annex A posted on the USEF website for additional information on permitted and prohibited bits.

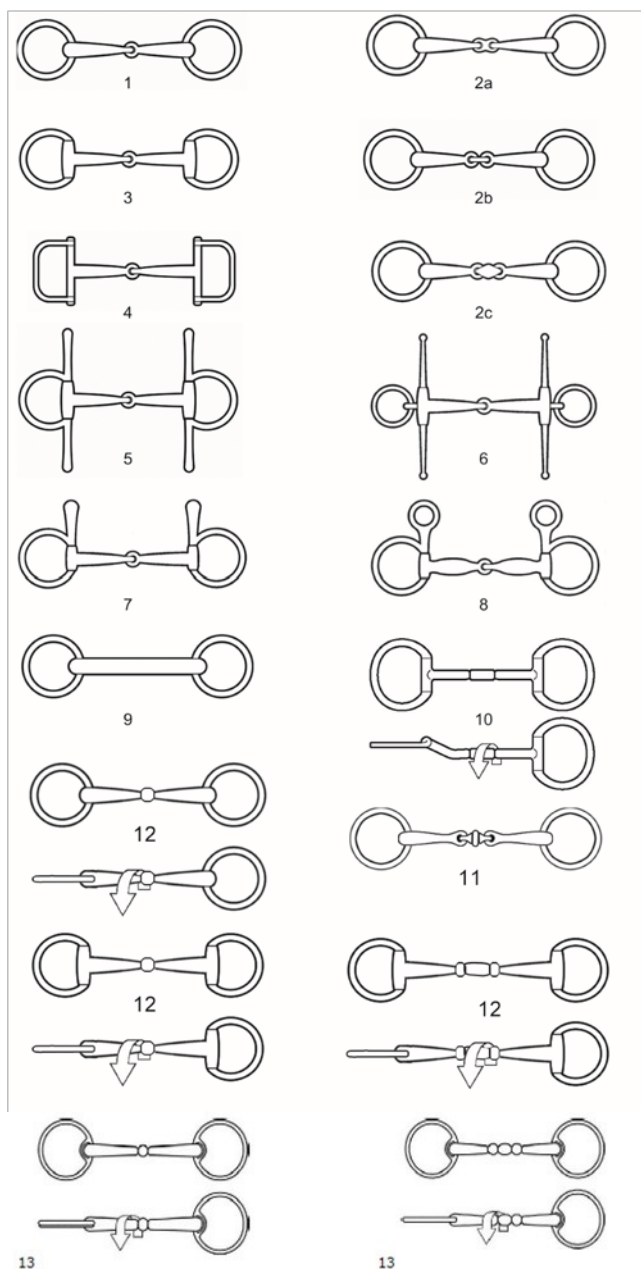


1. Ordinary snaffle with single jointed mouthpiece.
2. (a, b, c) Double-jointed snaffles.
3. Racing snaffle (D-ring).
4. Snaffle.
  - a) with cheeks, with or without keepers.
  - b) without cheeks (Egg-butt).
5. Snaffle with upper or lower cheeks.
6. Unjointed snaffle (Mullen - mouth).
7. Snaffle with cheeks. (Hanging or drop cheek; Baucher). This may be a D-ring or other ordinary snaffle as pictured in Nos. 1-6.
8. Fulmer.
9. French snaffle.
10. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece.
11. Snaffle with rotating middle piece.
12. Happy mouth with roller.

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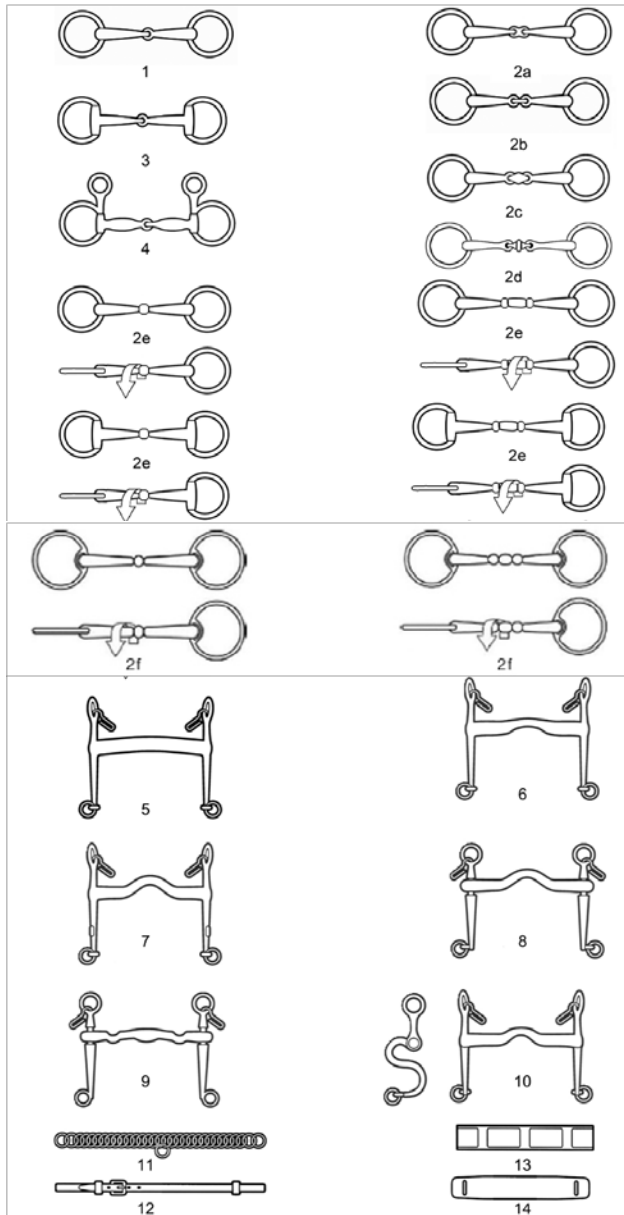
Figure 121.2. Permitted snaffle, bridoon and curb bits. The bits pictured and described here are required for FEI tests and are optional in third and fourth levels. See also Annex A posted on the USEF website for additional information on permitted and prohibited bits.

## SNAFFLES



1. Loose ring snaffle.
2. a.b.c. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece should be rounded.
3. Egg-butt snaffle.
4. Racing snaffle (D-ring).
5. Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks.
6. Loose ring snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer).
7. Snaffle with upper cheeks only.
8. Hanging cheek snaffle.
9. Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with mullen mouth and with eggbutt rings.
10. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece.
11. Snaffle with rotating middle piece.
12. Snaffle or bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece.
13. Rotary bit with rotating middle piece and looped rings.

## BRIDOONS AND CURBS



### BRIDOONS:

1. Loose ring bridoon bit.
2. a.b.c. Bridoon bits with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded. (Note: A Dr. Bristol bit is not permitted.) Eggbutt sides are also allowed.
  - d. Bridoon bit with rotating middle piece.
  - e. Bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece
  - f. Bridoon Rotary bit with rotating middle piece and looped rings
3. Egg-butt bridoon bit.
4. ~~Bridoon bit with hanging cheeks.~~

### CURBS:

5. Half-moon curb bit.
  - 6, 7. Curb bit with straight cheeks and port.
  8. Curb bit with port & sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth). A curb bit with rotating lever arm is also allowed.
  9. Variation of bits Nos. 6, 7 & 8.
  10. Curb bit with S-curved cheeks.
  11. Curb chain (metal or leather or a combination).
  12. Lip strap.
  13. Leather cover for curb chain.
  14. Rubber, leather or sheep skin cover for curb chain.
- \* Curb chain hooks can be fixed or not fixed.



Figure 121.3. Measurement of tongue relief for a snaffle bit. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30 mm (left). The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lowest part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation (center and right).

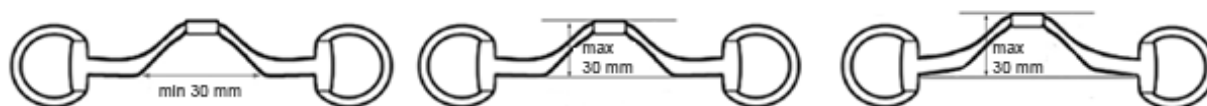


Figure 121.4: Measurement of lengths of the cheeks of a curb bit. The lower cheek, which acts as the lever arm, must not exceed 10 cm in length measured from the underside of the mouthpiece. If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the length of the lower cheek is measured with the mouthpiece in its uppermost position. The upper cheek must not exceed the length of the lower cheek measured from the upper side of the mouthpiece to the top of the ring to which the cheek piece attaches as shown in the diagram. If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the length of the upper cheek is measured with the mouthpiece in its lowest position.

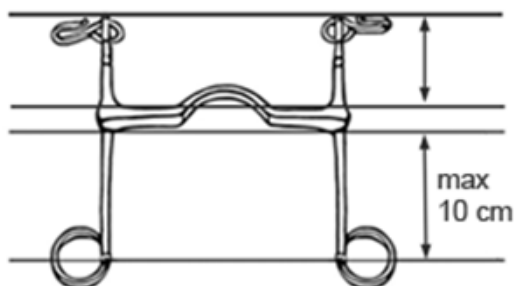


Figure 121.5: Position of crown piece behind the poll. Arrows show the acceptable limits for the width of the crownpiece.

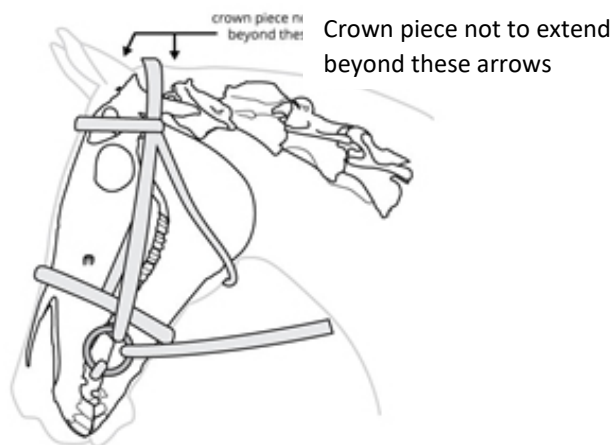




Figure 121.6: Combined noseband (no throatlatch) permitted for use in at any level (including USEF High Performance classes) and in warm-up with either a snaffle (left) or double bridle (right) as appropriate for the level. When used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the noseband (flash attachment pictured with the snaffle on left), is not permitted.

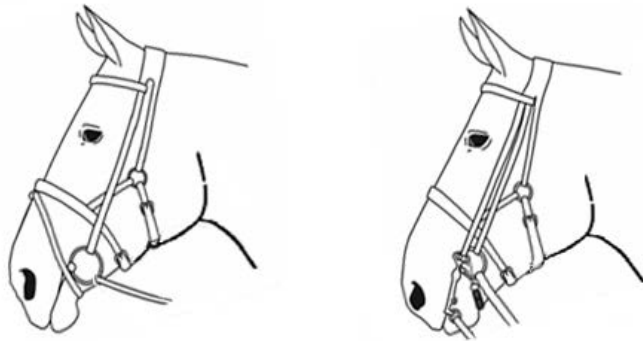


Figure 121.7: Bridle with jowl strap replacing throatlatch. Bit clips may not be used with this bridle.

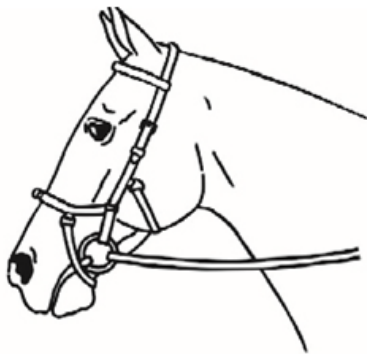
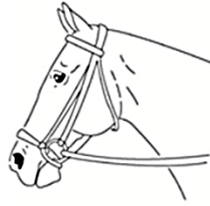


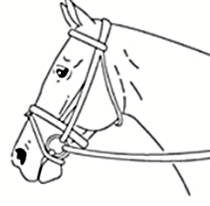
Figure 121.8. Permitted nosebands. With a snaffle bridle it is permissible to use the nosebands shown in the upper row (cavesson (crank), dropped, flash, Mexican (figure 8, crossed)). With a double bridle only a cavesson (or crank) noseband is permitted (lower row).



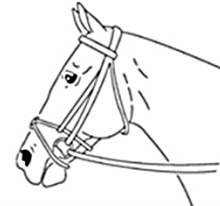
cavesson  
noseband



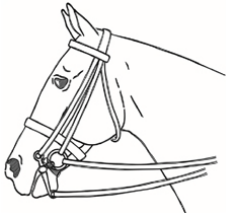
dropped  
noseband



flash  
noseband



Mexican (figure 8, crossed)  
noseband



cavesson noseband  
with double bridle

Figure 121.9. Measurement of cavesson tightness on the side of the face below the cheekbone.

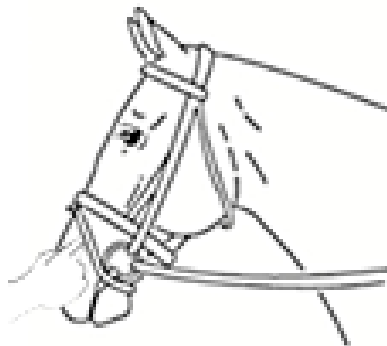
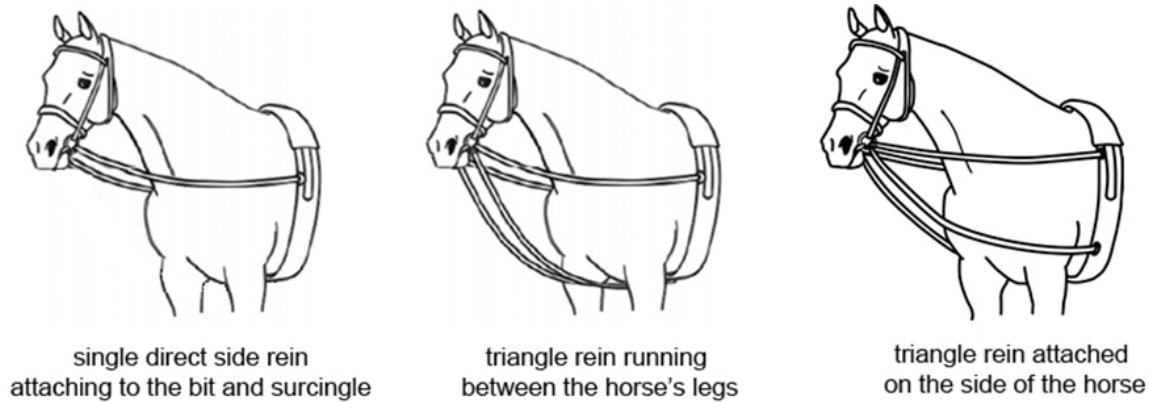




Figure 121.10. Different types of side reins that are permitted during lungeing.



Proposed Effective date: 12/1/2021

Intent: A major re-re-organization of this section of the USEF dressage rules is greatly needed. In its current format, it is confusing and information of the same subject is found in different places. This would also provide the opportunity to clarify and expand on questions frequently asked by membership.

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