

DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION FIELD GUIDE

*****Read the USEF/USDF Dressage Seat Equitation Guidelines for Competition Managers, Judges and Competitors document carefully.**

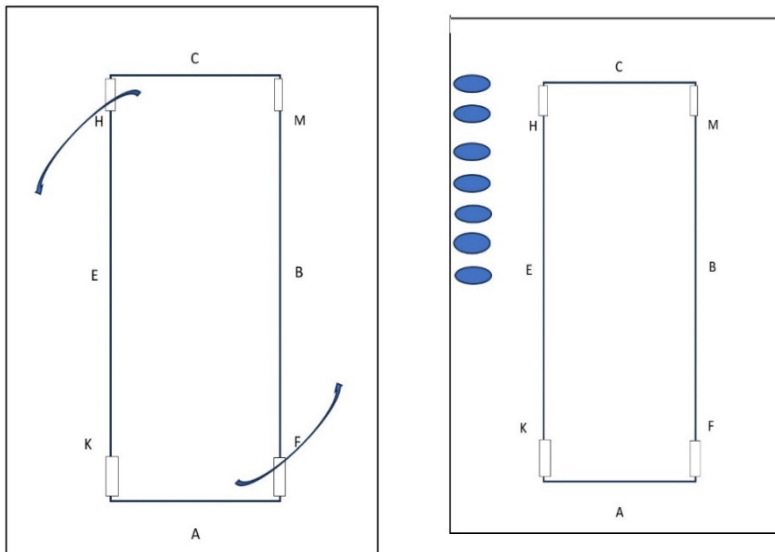
Points for Consideration:

1. Talk to management prior to the scheduling of the competition concerning how these classes will be run. Ask specifics about anticipated numbers in classes, location of classes, scheduling with sufficient time allowed and other technical details about how these classes will run.
2. Whips and spurs are allowed. Horses shall be shown in plain snaffle.
3. **Two numbers (min. 3"x5")** must be provided to Equitation riders and they must be positioned on each side of the saddle pad to be clearly visible at all times. Check with the office to see if these have been given out. Watch the riders as they come to the warm-up to see that they all have their numbers. Carry extra pins with you for numbers.
4. If possible, an announcer should be used to call the movements for riders in the classes. If an announcer is not used, the judge(s) or a ringmaster can call the movements for the group work and make other required announcements for the workout patterns and awards. All instructions must be publicly announced so that all can hear.

NOTE: Borrowed horses are permitted in any equitation class, including Semi-Finals and Finals classes. The "one rider" rules for Regional Championship classes do not apply to DSE or DSM classes and horse may be ridden and warmed up by another rider during the competition. Horses that are participating in regional championship classes may not be used with a different rider in the equitation classes, regardless of when the equitation class takes place.

Arenas: DR 133.1.I Classes should be held in an enclosed ring that is larger than a standard dressage arena, if available. If such a space is not available, an open schooling area is permitted. If classes must be held in a dressage arena, it must be at least 20m x 60m, and no more than 6 horses shall be asked to canter at the same time.

The open schooling area can be non-fenced. For classes with more than six riders, a dressage arena can be set up inside a larger ring so that group work can be done in the arena or in the larger ring and smaller canter groups and workout patterns (if used) can be done in the dressage arena. If the dressage arena is going to be utilized and there are more than six riders in the class, opening the ends of it so that the riders, as indicated below, will make the class run more safely. When riders are doing their patterns, the other riders could be lined up alongside the arena.



Individual Workout Patterns:

1. Are not recommended for non-finals classes, but if used, a copy of all workout patterns, selected in advance by the judge(s), should be posted and distributed to all riders entered in the DSE class(es) at least one day prior to the class. If doing patterns, they must be done in a dressage arena or letters must be set up to guide the riders. The second arena setup will work if patterns are being utilized as the riders/horses are parked outside the dressage court while each rider does their pattern.

Scheduling of DSE Classes:

1. The classes should ideally be scheduled just before the lunch break or (preferably) at the end of the afternoon to allow expansion time if required (i.e. enough time was not scheduled for the class and it runs longer than anticipated).
 - a. At least 3-4 minutes per rider must be allowed for the required group work at all three gaits in both directions of the ring. This equates to a class of six riders, having between 18-24 minutes for group work. With more than six riders in a dressage arena, the riders must canter in groups of no more than six. This requires that additional time be allotted for the class.
 - b. Although not required or recommended for non-championship classes, additional small group work or workout patterns, (at the judge's discretion), will require an additional two (2) minutes per rider.
 - c. If using two judges, the judges must consult and agree on scores for each rider. This process adds 5-20 minutes to the class, depending on the total number of riders.
 - d. In summary, allowing for group work, small group or individual workout patterns, judge score calculations and awards, a class of six riders would take approximately 48 minutes – in other words, approximately 8 minutes per rider. A class for a maximum of six riders may take less or more time, depending on various conditions.

NOTE: USEF rules allow up to twenty-five (25) horses to work at walk and trot at the same time, and no more than six (6) horses to be required to canter at the same time. However, experience has shown that this format is very time-consuming and tiring for horses and riders. Many complaints have been received about the excessive time it takes to run large DSE classes. This is the reason why **the approach given below** has been developed to help facilitate large dressage equitation classes.

The following scheduling format is strongly recommended for DSM Semi-Finals and Regional AA Finals classes that have more than six horses in a class.

1. Each randomly-selected group of up to six riders is assigned a start time in 15-minute blocks (for the required group work at all three gaits in both directions of the ring).
2. After **all** groups have completed their group work, judges will consult and determine which riders will be invited to return to ride individual tests. Depending on the overall size of the class (and number of groups), the consultation process can take 15-20 minutes. Judges may **NOT** select riders for the individual patterns until all riders have been judged/assessed in their group work and the judges have consulted/agreed on the riders to be invited to ride the patterns. There is no way to determine the best riders until after all have ridden!
3. The "individual pattern" segment of the class should be scheduled after the consultation period and riders must be given enough time before the start of this segment to return to the warmup ring and prepare. This may be 30 minutes or more.
4. Eight places are awarded in DSM Semi-Finals and Regional AA Finals classes so the eight highest placed riders and two reserves from the initial group work should be invited to ride the patterns. If there are fewer than ten total riders in the class, all should be invited to ride the pattern.
5. The starting order of riders must be publicly announced along with their entry numbers.
6. The individual patterns must be publicly announced and riders must be given the opportunity to ask questions prior to the start of the patterns. (Management must assign someone to read the patterns and answer any questions once the call-back riders have returned to the warmup area. The location to enter and exit the arena must be explained before riders start.) NOTE: This does not mean that the pattern is read to each rider individually, rather that the pattern is read so that all riders and others around the arena can hear the instructions.
7. Tied scores will be broken by requiring riders to perform an additional independent test, which will be scored by both judges together. The higher score on the additional independent test will receive the higher placing.
8. After the conclusion of the patterns, the judges will place the class and awards will be announced.
9. If judges have not finished assigning scores and comments for all riders when the class is ready to place, they may do so after the awards presentation.
10. Competitions are advised not to schedule any part of the semi-finals class (including the individual patterns and awards segments) when they might conflict with awards ceremonies for other classes.

NOTE: In Semi-Finals and Regional AA Finals classes, it is not required that all riders in a class perform patterns (independent tests). The judges may, at their discretion, choose to require independent tests, and they may select any number of riders in the class to perform one or more independent tests and it is strongly recommended that up to 10 riders be invited to ride the individual pattern. However, independent tests must be required of each rider in USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals classes.