



Section 2:

Discipline Rules Dressage



HORSE COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Horse Council British Columbia

Rule Book 2026

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www.hcbc.ca

Horse Council BC (HCBC)

Recognized by the Government of British Columbia
as the official organization for Equestrian Sport in BC

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules.

It is the duty of the officials and the competition management to make informed decisions in a fair and sporting spirit, approaching as near as possible the intention of these rules, and in doing so protecting the reputation of the sport and the welfare of the horse.

All Competition Organizers hosting HCBC sanctioned competitions, should be familiar with the HCBC rules and policies and should have copies available for the use of exhibitors, parents, volunteers and officials.

The HCBC Rules are reviewed annually and posted on the HCBC website. Submissions for recommended rule changes will be considered until October 1st annually and reviewed for inclusion to the next years' rule book.

Aims, Goals and Objectives

- To ensure that Competition Organizers have the tools and support they need to operate within the recognized sport framework, follow current safety rules and guidelines and be aware of the risk management that is necessary and of the utmost importance for hosting a well-planned, successful competition.
- To provide HCBC sanctioned competitions the support and governance of the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.
- To develop, grow and retain a deep pool of well-educated and knowledgeable officials.
- To capture the activity that demonstrates the value of Equestrian Sport to the government at all levels.
- To provide, through education, participation in a quality structured, grass roots competition system and a well-planned development pathway, a feeder system that will grow and strengthen the development of the discipline sports and equestrian athletes.

Horse Council BC welcomes and encourages all grassroots and entry-level competition organizers to sanction their shows with HCBC. By doing so, the equestrian sport community in BC can work together to ensure an enjoyable and affordable environment within a fair playing field that supports the growth and success of equestrian sport in BC.

Horse Welfare Statement

Statement

HCBC members are responsible for ensuring the well-being, safety, and humane treatment of any equine entrusted to their care. The welfare of the horse shall always take precedence over competition, training goals, or personal objectives. Horses must be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion at all times. The welfare of the horse is paramount. Any inhumane treatment or the abuse of a horse by any person at an approved HCBC show is forbidden.

Scope

This statement applies to all HCBC members, coaches, officials, volunteers, owners, competitors, and any person responsible for the care or handling of a horse participating in HCBC events.

Humane Treatment

- Horses must never be subjected to abuse, neglect, or inhumane handling.
- All handling and training practices must align with generally accepted equine care and competition standards. The standard by which conduct, or treatment will be measured is that which a person who is informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and competition practices would determine to be neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane.

Responsibility of Care

- Individuals who own, use, or care for horses must exercise skill, compassion, and sound judgment.
- All horses, regardless of financial value or competitive status, must be protected from mistreatment.

Prohibited Practices

- The use of equipment, devices, medications, or substances that alter performance, appearance, or natural function in an unethical or unsafe way is strictly forbidden.
- Any form of inhumane training technique, coercion, or excessive force is prohibited.

Event Requirements

- At HCBC-approved events, horses must be managed to ensure their physical and psychological well-being.
- Any suspected inhumane treatment must be reported immediately to event officials or HCBC representatives.
- It is recommended that competition management include a formal statement in the show program or prize list detailing their commitment to humane horse care and the disciplinary actions that will be enforced for confirmed abuse at a recognized event.

Enforcement

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including removal from events, suspension of membership, or further action as outlined in HCBC disciplinary procedures.

Bio Security

It is strongly recommended that horses be up to date on vaccinations and in good health to perform.

Vaccinations offer horses protection from some infectious diseases, but do not eliminate disease risk. Vaccination guidelines vary by region. This should be taken into consideration when weighing the risk for exposure. While there are costs associated with vaccines, those costs are generally much lower than the costs associated with an infectious disease.

Show management has the right and duty to demand removal of a horse from the grounds if it is deemed unfit to compete. Competition management may enforce vaccination requirements for their competition or venue.

A request for supporting documentation confirming a horse's compliance with mandatory vaccination requirements is an acceptable condition of entry.

For more information on bio security practice please visit <https://hcbc.ca/welfare/disease-animal-health/>

Fair and Inclusive Field of Play

HCBC is committed to providing a fair, safe, and inclusive field of play for all participants at Horse Council BC sanctioned competitions and events. Every competitor, official, volunteer, and supporter has the right to engage in an environment that is respectful, equitable, and free from discrimination. All participants must be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of age, gender, identity, ability, background, or experience. The integrity of competition depends on ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability from everyone involved.

- Participants should educate themselves on safe sport principles, ethical conduct, reporting procedures, and prevention of maltreatment.
- Officials and coaches are expected to model safe, positive, and ethical behavior.
- Concerns related to unsafe behavior, misconduct, or maltreatment must be reported promptly to event management or the designated safe sport authority.
- Reports will be taken seriously, handled confidentially, and addressed according to established procedures.

For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

Helmet Policy

Horse Council BC (HCBC) strongly recommends that anyone riding or driving a horse should wear ASTM/SEI/BSI/BS EN; EN; AS/NZS; CE VGI approved protective headgear, specifically designed for equestrian activities. ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials); SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.); BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards); or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are BSI Kitemarked).

The helmet should be properly fitted with safety harness correctly secured, while mounted, riding or driving. Riders/drivers are encouraged to be fitted for their helmet with their typical riding/driving hairstyle. If your hair changes significantly (length, volume, style), rechecking helmet fit is required. It is advised that long hair be neatly tied in a low ponytail, smoothing hair flat, and avoiding bulky buns or high knots inside the helmet shell.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Performance Divisions.

Exception:

The wearing of religious headwear will be accepted for riders/drivers without penalty. The option to wear an approved sports turban helmet for all ages is strongly advised.

Helmets are not required for vaulting.

Concussion Policy

Resources: For concussion education and awareness resources, please visit the Concussion Awareness page on the HCBC website www.hcbc.ca.

Definition: A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (or TBI), caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way the brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. All concussions are serious.

Policy Statement: Anyone participating in an activity with horses should understand the signs, symptoms and implications of sustaining a concussion.

It is recommended by health care professionals that anyone presenting symptoms or suspected of sustaining a concussion should cease the activity until they have been evaluated and cleared by medical personnel.

Anyone having contact with, or handling horses is responsible to educate themselves on the prevention and proper management of concussion related injuries.

All Coaches and Instructors recognized by Horse Council BC will be required to participate in concussion awareness training once in every three-year period to maintain current certification status.

Liability

The Horse Council BC (HCBC) Competition Committee, HCBC and co-sponsoring organization, if any, will not be responsible for any accident, injury of horse or person or loss or damage of any article of any kind or nature that may be lost or destroyed or in any way damaged that may occur to, or be caused by, any horse exhibited at a competition.

Each exhibitor, agent or horse owner will be responsible for any injury that may be occasioned to any person, animal or damage to any property while on the competition grounds, by any horse owned, exhibited or in custody or control and shall indemnify and hold harmless HCBC, its officials, staff and Directors individually and collectively, and any co-sponsoring organization, from and against any and all claims, demands, cause of action costs, charges and expenses of every kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or which may be caused by, or incurred by, reason of the ownership, exhibition, custody or control of any animal exhibited.

HCBC will not be responsible for any financial arrangements between show management, exhibitors, owners, agents, or officials.

All federal, provincial and city laws will be adhered to and shall supersede these rules.

Safety

It is essential that every sanctioned competition/event have an emergency action plan in place.

Competitions must ensure that a First Aid kit is always readily available.

A competition or event must have qualified medical personnel appointed for the duration of the competition who is trained in first aid and emergency medical treatment.

Qualified medical personnel may be defined as the following:

- Doctor
- Professional emergency personnel, such as EMT or Paramedic
- An adult with recognized and valid First Aid certification who is not competing. This individual may act in some other capacity at the competition providing this does not restrict their availability to all areas on the competition grounds.

It is recommended that the minimum certification required for qualified medical personnel be Standard First Aid Certification.

The facility address, emergency contact name and phone number should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

Emergency Phone Numbers: veterinarian, farrier, nearest hospital name and address should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

It is recommended that all shows arrange for a veterinarian and farrier to be available either on-call or on the show grounds for the duration of the show.

In the event where an accident occurs at an HCBC sanctioned competition or event, Accident Report Forms must be filled out and returned to HCBC. Accident Report Forms will be emailed to all organizers as part of the sanctioning package, but can be found on the HCBC website at <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/competition-documents/>

If a competitor suffers a fall in warm-up, on the field of play or anywhere on the competition grounds during hours of the competition, they must be evaluated by the attending medic. Competitors are solely responsible for ensuring on-site medical assistance takes place. If a competitor refuses evaluation, Competition Management may make the decision to disqualify the competitor from the competition.

Administration

Sanctioning

Any organization, club, individual or group may apply to Horse Council British Columbia (HCBC) to sanction an entry level competition or event offering any of the disciplines outlined in the HCBC Rule Book. There is no restriction to prize money offered at the competition.

All management, officials and volunteers at HCBC sanctioned events are held to the HCBC Code of Conduct. For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

The Person Responsible listed on application must be a current HCBC member and is responsible for the conduct of the competition in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.

Organizers must apply through the HCBC/Horse Sport Pro online event sanctioning portal.

All required information, prize list, entry forms and a current, endorsed certificate of insurance must be provided.

Competition applications and all required documentation must be submitted through the online system, preferably at least one month prior to the competition or event date(s).

The competition must be approved before publishing, posting online or circulating the prize list.

Instructions for login and links to the online application process are available on the Competition page of the HCBC website. <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/organizers/>

Every competition must obtain a certificate of insurance endorsed by the insurance carrier to cover law suits, claims or judgment for bodily injury or property damage sustained by spectators, participants, or others arising out of the use of the show grounds or operation necessary or incidental to the show.

All approved competitions will be emailed a Competition Package including a HCBC Certificate of Sanction which is to be printed and displayed in the Competition Office, or other clearly visible location.

The Competition Organizer is required to provide a copy of the approved Competition Prize List to the Official(s).

Competitions or Events should not start earlier than the time listed in prize list or advertised in the schedule.

Competitions sanctioned with another discipline or breed association may apply for dual sanctioning with Horse Council BC for specific divisions. Discipline or Breed Association rules may supersede HCBC rules at a dual sanctioned show in some divisions.

Clubs may include local club rules provided the local rules do not compromise the integrity and safety standards of Horse Council BC sanctioned competition. Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process.

Sanctioning Fees

The fee for sanctioning a Horse Council BC Provincial Competition is \$42.00 per competition.

Payment of fees can be processed by credit card through the HCBC Online Sanctioning Portal or by mailing a cheque to the HCBC office.

Sanction fees are not refundable.

An NSF charge of \$75.00 will be applied for any returned fees.

Prize List

All Prize Lists must contain the following disclaimer:

It is the responsibility of the show/event committee, or competition organizers and the facility owners and managers to ensure that all BC Health Authority and WorkSafeBC directives are followed and enforced. Horse Council is not a regulatory body, and it is understood and agreed that sanctioning and approval of a HCBC Provincial competition / event relates to the use of the rule book and approved officials only.

This Competition is a Horse Council BC provincially sanctioned competition and will be governed in accordance with the Horse Council BC Rule Book. Knowledge of the rules is the responsibility of Competition Management, Officials and Competitors.

The Horse Council BC Rule Book, can be found at www.hcbc.ca

<https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>

Neither Horse Council BC, its Board of Directors, organizing committee, staff, volunteers, officials, or employees of the horse show, will be responsible in any way, for damage, injury, or loss to persons, horses or property of exhibitors, spectators, owners, riders, trainers, or grooms. All competitors and owners of horses must be members of Horse Council BC to participate.

Prize Lists must include:

- The exact competition name, date, and location of the competition (it is recommended a map and/or directions to the competition grounds be included)
- **Management:** List of competition officials (Show Committee, Manager, Entry Secretary, Judges, Course Designers, Provincial Rules Official)
- **Veterinarian:** Name and telephone number of the veterinarian. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- **Farrier:** Name and telephone number of the farrier. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- Type of Competition
- Entry deadline.
- Entry Blank: waiver and entry agreement
- **Statement:** Competition will be run in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book. Every class offered which is covered by the rules and specifications of the current HCBC Rule Book be conducted and judged in accordance as such.
- Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process
- **HCBC Prizelist Disclaimer** (This must be included in its entirety and placed in a conspicuous position in the prize list and or entry form
- Horse Welfare Statement, (HCBC or Club) <https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>

- Bio security/vaccination statement
- Fees Statement regarding entry fees, prizes offered in each class
- Refund policy
- Classes numbers and specifications
- Any Age Categories or horse/pony size where classes will be split.
- **Statement:** Management reserves the right to cancel or combine any class that does not have sufficient entries
- **Statement:** regarding post entries or day of adds (are they allowed)
- **Statement:** regarding Hors Concours entries (not to be judged, whether or not Hors Concours rounds are allowed)
- **Statement:** of type of footing available in warm-up areas and competition arenas (example: jumping will be held on grass)
- Number of placings for ribbons in each class and if there are trophies, prizes and /or prize money.
- **Statement:** Prize Money Payment: as to when and how the prize money will be paid (recommended (maximum of 30 days following the competition.)
- Types of Championships or/and Aggregates and how points will be determined.
- .Any special venue rules eg: minors operating motorized vehicles/scooters/bicycles.
- Motorized vehicle statement: If motorized vehicles are prohibited from show grounds, the motorized vehicle statement must still be published in the prize list.
- Dogs allowed or prohibited
- Other statements such as, competition numbers must be worn on competition grounds

Prize and Awards

If prize money is offered in any classes, the amounts and class entry fee must be specified in the Prizelist. Prize money distribution by total percentage breakdown or dollar amount by placings for each class where prize money is offered must be clearly stated.

Show management must make the full payment of prize monies as specified in the competition Prize List.

If High Point Awards are to be presented at the competition, the method of tabulating points for such awards is at the discretion of show management and must be stated in the Prize List.



The following schedule of ribbons is recommended:

First Place	Red
Second place	Blue
Third Place	White
Fourth Place	Yellow
Fifth Place	Green
Sixth Place	Pink
Seventh Place	Purple
Eighth Place	Brown
Champion	Red, Blue, White
Reserve Champion	Blue, White, Yellow

The following point scale may be used for tabulating High Point Awards:

# in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1	1							
2	2	1						
3	3	2	1					
4	4	3	2	1				
5	5	4	3	2	1			
6	6	5	4	3	2	1		
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9 - 15	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
16 - 20	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
21 - 25	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
26- 30	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
31 - 35	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
36 - 40	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7



Section 1:

General Competition Rules

These are general competition rules only, please see discipline sections for discipline specific rules and exceptions.

1.1 Entries

All exhibitors are required to be current Horse Council BC members when participating in HCBC sanctioned events.

Exception: Lead Line competitors must be accompanied by an adult holding current HCBC membership. Lead line participants may not cross enter into any other classes at the competition.

1.1.1. Hours concours (H/C) Entries:

Hors Concours entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organizing committee. The competition's policy regarding Hors Concours entries must be clearly stated in the prize list.

Hors Concours entries must pay the same entry fee as regular entries (unless otherwise stated in the prize list) and are subject to the same conditions and rules which apply to regular entries.

Hors Concours entries are not eligible for prizes or awards.

1.1.2. Youth Entries

The age limit for a youth competitor is 18 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. A person born on January 1st shall assume the older age as of that date.

Proof of youth's age may be required on entry forms at HCBC sanctioned competitions.

All entry forms for youth exhibitors 18 years of age and under must be signed by parent or legal guardian.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured at all times while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Divisions.

Exception: Vaulting

The Youth competitor need not own or lease the horse he or she is competing with to enter any class.

A horse or pony may be entered in any youth age division.

Youth competitors may not show a stallion in any class, regardless of the age or size of the stallion.

1.1.3. Dogs

Dogs are permitted on the competition grounds **at the discretion of Management** and must be on a leash at all times. The prize list must clearly state one of the following:

- “No dogs allowed on the premises.”
OR
- “Dogs are allowed on the premises but must remain on a leash and under control at all times. Dogs are not permitted in warm-up areas on the field of play or at ingates.”

This restriction applies to all dogs, including service dogs and emotional support animals (ESAs).

Persons who rely on a service dog due to a disability may request accommodation under applicable laws (e.g., the BC Human Rights Code and the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act). Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis, considering safety, competition integrity, and venue limitations. Emotional support animals, which are not recognized as service animals under BC law, do not have the same legal access rights.

1.1.4. Competition Numbers

Competition numbers must be issued by the Show Secretary to each entered horse and must be visible at all times while the horse is competing.

Competition numbers are available for purchase through the HCBC website <https://store.hcbc.ca/>

1.1.5. Officials

HCBC-sanctioned events must be officiated by current, certified Provincial Officials, or by an authorized/approved guest-carded official.

Officials with expired status or recognized by another organization may be used, with a guest card, provided they meet the requirements for that discipline as set out by the body/association responsible for said discipline.

All provincial officials must be current members of Horse Council BC and be listed on the competition or event application. In the event that an official must be substituted, Horse Council BC is to be notified immediately and provided with the name and contact info of the substitute.

Judges are licensed, educated officials. Designation as a judge is considered a privilege and with this comes upholding standards of integrity and ethical decision making. Judges are personally responsible for the decisions made and these are considered final. All judges are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion and respect and are not subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Judges believe in the competitor, and decisions and placings are to be made to assist the competitor in their development. Comments/feedback are meant to be helpful to the competitor. If time permits after the class, the judge may provide feedback.

It is strongly recommended that for the protection of both the official and the competition management, a written contract be completed between both parties.

Officials should arrive on the competition grounds at least ½ before the first class begins.

The Judge's decision is considered as final in all classes.

1.1.5 Officials (cont.)

Judges must be provided with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

Judges may not be approached without the presence of and prior arrangement with management and or a Provincial Rules Official (PRO).

Judges must be provided before the start of competition (or earlier) with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

An official shall not discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of a horse with any exhibitor during a show at which that official is officiating.

An official shall not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, trainer, coach, handler, manager, or conditioner of any horse at any show or event at which they are officiating.

A judge may not act as course designer at the same competition in which they are judging.

No horse may be shown under an official that has acted in the capacity as an owner, coach, trainer, agent, or conditioner of the horse, within 30 days prior to the event, 14 days if the official is presiding over a virtual/online event and is not judging entries in person.

The Official must comply with class specifications and rules governing individual classes. (Class specifications should be noted and included on all class judge's cards where possible.)

Officials are prohibited from using tobacco and/or alcohol products, cellular phones, pagers or electronic communication devices in the arena or judges' booth.

Exception: Electronic devices may be used in relation to and if relevant to the competition.

All Officials must always dress appropriately and professionally during competitions (no jeans, shorts, tank tops, etc.)

1.1.6. Competition Management

- Competition Management, Show Committee and Officials are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct
- Competition Management may not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, judge, course designer, trainer, coach, handler or conditioner of any horse at any show or event they are managing.

1.1.7. Provincial Rules Officials

HCBC Provincial Rules Officials (PRO) may attend provincially sanctioned competitions to offer help and guidance with HCBC rules, assist competition management with the development and rule content in prize lists as well as address questions or concerns arising at a competition. Provincial Rules Officials attendance at competitions will aid to encourage a safe and enjoyable competition experience for both horses and competitors.

1.1.7 Provincial Rules Officials (cont.)

All Provincial Championship designated competitions must have a PRO in attendance.

Provincial Rules Officials are appointed by and will be assigned by HCBC to competitions as requested by competition management or by the HCBC office.

Provincial Rules Officials are governed by the HCBC Officials' Code of Conduct and protocol.

1.1.8. Officials Protocol / Conflict of Interest

Provincially certified officials are trained and qualified in the principles of their respective disciplines and are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct. Certification as a provincial official is a privilege that carries an expectation of integrity, professionalism, and ethical decision-making. Officials are accountable for the decisions they make, and those decisions are considered final. This responsibility is taken seriously.

All provincial officials are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion, and respect, and are never subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Actions should always align with what an informed and experienced horseperson would consider neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane. When welfare concerns arise, officials are expected to intervene in accordance with the standards and rules of the governing body.

Provincial officials also play an educational role. They are expected to support, encourage, and contribute to the development of competitors. Decisions made during competition should help guide competitors in their equestrian pursuits, and feedback should be constructive, fair, and aimed at promoting growth. While judges must evaluate individual performances objectively, competitors should be appropriately recognized for their achievements within the standards of the discipline.

Comments and feedback are intended to be helpful to the competitor. When time permits, judges may discuss performances with competitors during the awarding of placings. Additional time for discussion is encouraged, subject to show management's discretion and the judge's availability.

1.1.9. Guest Cards

Uncertified officials may be permitted to officiate at provincially sanctioned competitions under the following conditions:

- Individuals must have extensive experience and knowledge of the discipline being judged and of the current HCBC Rule Book.
- Uncertified officials may be requested to provide HCBC with a minimum of two references.
- Guest card application must be completed during the competition approval application process.
- HCBC will approve a maximum of three guest cards for an uncertified official. Once three guest cards have been issued, any additional guest card applications for that individual will be subject to a \$25.00 fee, charged to the competition. The guest-carded official will then be encouraged to participate in the HCBC Officials Program to obtain provincial certification.



1.1.10. Support Roles (scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc.)

- Those in competition support roles such as scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc. should arrive and check in with the competition office at least forty-five (45) minutes before the start of the competition. This will allow for enough time to gather any paperwork, tests, bell, whistle etc. or any other equipment needed.
- Cell phones (or any other personal electronic device) must be turned off during competition
- All test sheets must be completed in ink. Pencil is not permitted.
- It is the duty of the scribe to ensure that the test sheets include the competitor's entry number, class, description, and Judge's signature if required.
- Before the test sheet is handed in for calculation, the scribe must ensure the test has been reviewed and signed by the Judge.
- Those in support roles must be appropriately dressed (clean and neat, no cut offs, tank tops, etc.)

1.1.11. Elimination / Disqualification

Elimination From a Class

- After an entry enters the arena, if either the horse or the exhibitor becomes ill or is injured and cannot continue, the entry shall be eliminated from that class.
- Obvious unsoundness shall be cause for elimination in all classes. The judge has sole authority to make this determination, which is final and not subject to appeal or protest.
- All horses must be serviceably sound. Any horse showing unsoundness, broken wind, or impairment of vision shall be refused an award.
- Lack of complying to required appointments for a class will result in elimination of the competitor in that class specifying required appointments.
- The judge shall have the authority to eliminate any entry from a class who at their discretion is not under sufficient control and or considered by the judge to be a safety risk.

Disqualification From the Competition

- All artificial appliances are prohibited in any class.
- Any incident in contravention of the HCBC Horse Welfare Statement may at the judge's or Provincial Rules Officials' discretion result in disqualification of the competitor from participating in the remainder of the competition.
- The judge, Provincial Rules Official and/or competition management have the authority to disqualify and or remove from the competition any exhibitor, owner, coach or agent, for cruelty or abuse of a horse or exhibitor.

1.1.12. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any unsportsmanlike conduct by an owner, exhibitor, agent, or spectator including but not limited to abuse of one's horse, excessive use of foul language, intoxication anywhere on the grounds of the event, blatant disrespect for any other attendee at the event, or any other detrimental conduct shall jeopardize their right to further exhibit at the competition.

At any time, the judge, provincial rules official and/or competition management, may issue a first warning to any exhibitor, owner, or agent for any unsportsmanlike conduct. Upon failure to comply with this warning, the exhibitor, owner, agent, or spectator shall be disqualified from any further participation at the competition.

Any elimination from a class or disqualification from a sanctioned competition for unsportsmanlike conduct by any person may be reviewed by the HCBC disciplinary committee and or applicable breed or discipline association.

No points or awards may be given to any person or person's horses if they are disqualified from a sanctioned competition or event for any unsportsmanlike conduct.

1.1.13. Protests

Protests for any violation of HCBC competition/event rules at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event may be filed by an exhibitor, owner, trainer, spectator and or parent of a youth exhibitor within 12 hours of the incident occurring at the competition or event.

A recommended first step is that an inquiry be made through a member of the competition show management committee or PRO regarding a decision. Should the competitor not be satisfied with the result of the inquiry, an official protest must be lodged to competition management. At no time may the judge be approached directly unless the competition specifically prints an exception to this policy. In the event contact with the judge is permitted, at no time will abusive or confrontational language or gesturing be tolerated, under penalty of elimination and possible further disciplinary action initiated.

No protest will be recognized unless it is accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00 in cash, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.

Neither HCBC nor any organizing committee of the competition will recognize any protest that is not in writing, not signed, or not accompanied by the protest fee.

An official of the competition /event, a director of HCBC, or Provincial Rules Official may file a claim at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event to either the competition committee or the Board of Directors of HCBC for any violation of HCBC recognized event rules.

Any protest shall be adjudicated by a Protest Committee. The protest committee will consist of a maximum of three people, (a PRO and members of the organizing committee.)



1.1.13 Protests (cont.)

Protest Procedure

Upon receiving a protest or a dispute, the Protest Committee shall promptly hold a hearing and obtain from any witnesses, all necessary information and evidence.

All persons directly involved and concerned shall be immediately notified and given the opportunity to attend a hearing.

The Protest Committee shall then adjudicate the issue impartially, make effective its decision upon the parties of interest and report its decision to the parties of interest. A report of the decision shall also be given to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport

Protest Appeals

An appeal of a Protest Committee's decision may be made to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport.

Appeals must be made in writing within 20 days of the date of the Protest Committee's decision and must be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$300.00 payable to Horse Council BC.

The hearing on the appeal shall be heard within a 30-day period from date of filing.

The Appeal Committee of the Board of Directors of HCBC shall consist of two members of the HCBC Board plus one member from the competition organizing committee.

The competition organizing committee of a competition at which a protest is lodged and upheld, must hold all awards, points and prize money for the protested classes in escrow for a placed horse and all following horses, until after a 20-day appeal deadline has passed.

If no appeal is filed, then such awards, points and/or prize money will be awarded at the end of the appeal deadline.



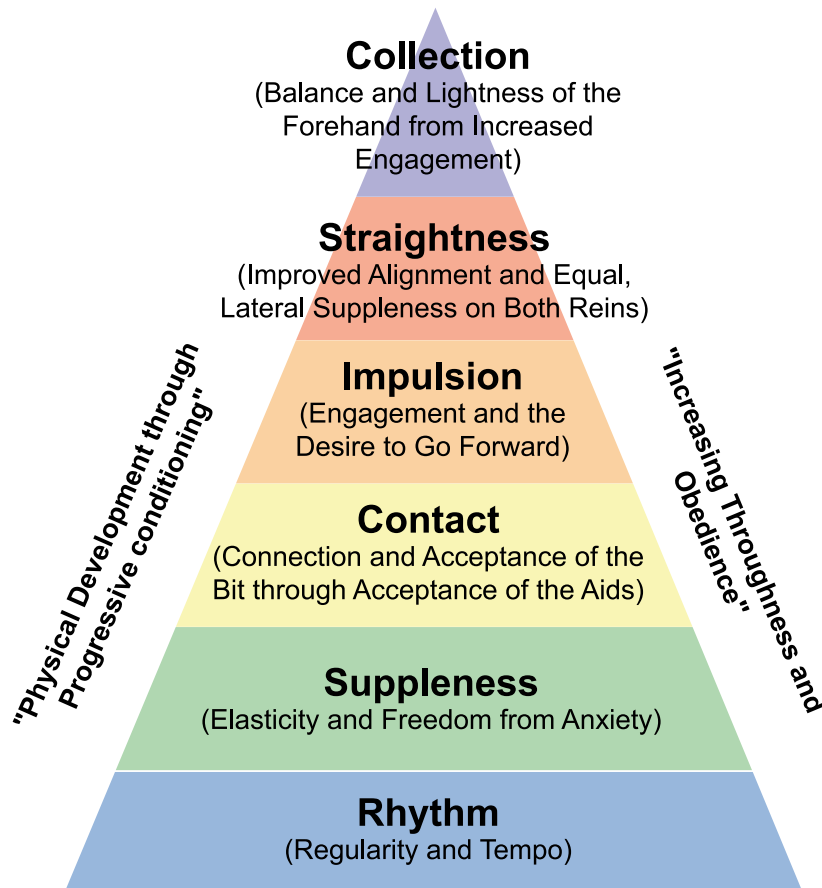
Section 2:

Discipline Rules Dressage

2.1 Dressage

2.1.1. English Dressage

The object of Dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose, and flexible, but also confident, attentive, and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider. These qualities are demonstrated by the freedom and regularity of the paces, the harmony, lightness, and ease of movements. The dressage horse should demonstrate the correct basic training principles, with lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters originating from a lively impulsion, while willingly accepting a light contact on the bit without tension or resistance. At all times the training should be following the pyramid of training (see below) the basis of which is three pure gaits.



The Training Scale (often called the pyramid of training) is a classical dressage framework used to guide a horse's development in the correct order. Each level supports the next, creating a systematic and humane way to train.

2.1.2. Western Dressage

Western Dressage integrates the historic principles of classical Dressage with the best of Western Working Horse tradition. The goal of Western Dressage is to develop a partnership between an equine athlete working in harmony with its rider. The Western Dressage Horse should travel in a natural way demonstrating free flowing, comfortable strides. The gaits are free, regular in cadence and rhythm, consistent in speed and tempo. Lightness and harmony are the hallmarks of a Western Dressage horse with the horse willingly accepting light contact on the bit without tension or resistance to present a balanced harmonious appearance with the rider. Western dressage tests provide the opportunity for horses and riders to demonstrate growth through a series of progressive elements by advancing from test to test and level to level as they develop in physical skill, mental maturity, and partnership.

2.1.3. Dressage Levels – English and Western

Note: For Masters (Age:55 years and over) the rider has the option of rising or sitting the trot at ALL levels.

Introductory Level – Walk, Trot/Jog & introduction of the canter / lope

- The purpose of this level is to provide an opportunity for the horse and rider new to dressage to demonstrate elementary skills to encourage correct performance and prepare the horse for dressage tests, which will include all three gaits.

Training Level

- The purpose of training is to confirm that the horse's muscles are supple and loose and that it moves freely forward in a clear rhythm with a steady tempo, accepting contact with the bit. The correct geometry and lines of travel should be shown.

First Level

- The purpose of First Level is to confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics and, in addition to the requirements of Training Level, has developed the thrust and throughness necessary to achieve improved balance. The horse should show the ability to lengthen the stride while remaining consistently on the bit.

Second Level

- To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics and now begins to accept more weight on the hindquarters as the collected and medium gaits develop. A greater degree of straightness, suppleness, throughness, and balance are required to perform the movements with ease and self-carriage.

Third Level

- The purpose of Third Level is to confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics and has developed an uphill balance with increased engagement, especially in the medium and extended gaits. Transitions between collected, medium and extended gaits should be well defined and performed with engagement. A greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, balance, and self-carriage is required at Second Level. The horse must always be reliably on the bit.

2.1.3. Dressage Levels – English and Western (cont.)

Fourth Level

- The purpose of Fourth Level is to confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and has developed
- sufficient suppleness, impulsion, and thoroughness to perform the Fourth Level tests which have a medium degree of difficulty. As a result of improved engagement and collection, the horse remains reliably on the bit, showing a clear uphill balance and lightness of forehand. The movements are performed with greater straightness, energy, and cadence than at Third Level

FEI Levels

- The horse is expected to show: Maximum collection (e.g., piaffe, passage, canter pirouettes), greater elasticity and engagement, refined self-carriage and balance
- These movements show that correct training has developed the horse physically and mentally to its highest athletic potential.

2.1.4. Prix Caprilli

Prix Caprilli Walk Trot Test (may be ridden in small arena 20 meters x 40 meters or large 20x60 meter arena) Allow approximately 6 mins per test for scheduling

Purpose: For horses with jumping experience showing Training Level Dressage and below - maximum height of crossrails 12” or poles on the ground. It is understood that in the working gaits, a jumping horse is not expected to be as round on the bit as a competing dressage horse. The horse must softly accept contact with the bit and may show more “roundness” in the parts of the tests separate from the jumps. **Trot work to be done posting. Transitions into and out of the halt may be through the walk. Test may be called. Refusals will be penalized as an error of course. Knockdowns will be penalized at the judge’s discretion. In the case of a knocked down rail being in the way, the judge will ring the bell for the rider to stop without penalty. After the jump is replaced the bell will be rung again telling the rider to continue where he stopped.**

Prix Caprilli Test 1 (to be ridden in a large arena 20 meters x 60 meters) Allow approximately 7 mins per test for scheduling

Purpose: For horses with jumping experience showing Training Level Dressage to First Level – maximum height of fences 2’. It is understood that in the working gaits, a jumping horse is not expected to be as round on the bit as a competing dressage horse. The horse must softly accept the bit and may show more “roundness” in the parts of the tests separate from the jumps.

- Trot work to be done posting.
- Transitions into and out of the halt maybe through the walk.
- Test may be called.
- Refusals will be penalized as an error of course.

2.1.4. *Prix Caprilli (cont.)*

- Knockdowns will be penalized at the judge's discretion. In the case of a knocked down rail being in the way, the judge will ring the bell for the rider to stop without penalty. After the jump is replaced the bell will be rung again telling the rider to continue from where they stopped.
- **JUMPS:** In the event of TWO refusals at one of the jumps, the rider should go round the jump and continue with the test. This does not incur elimination.

Prix Caprilli Test 2 (to be ridden in a large arena 20 meters x 60 meters)

Allow approximately 8 mins per test for scheduling

Purpose: For horses with jumping experience competing First Level Dressage and above – maximum height of fences 2'6". It is understood that in the working gaits, a jumping horse is not expected to be as round on the bit as a competing dressage horse. The horse must softly accept the bit and may show more "roundness" in the parts of the tests separate from the jumps.

- Unless otherwise noted, trot work may be done posting or sitting.
- When allowed to change leads the horse may do a flying change or change through the trot. (The quality of the change is what matters).
- Test may be called.
- Refusals will be penalized as an error of course.
- Knockdowns will be penalized at the judge's discretion. In the case of a knocked down rail being in the way, the judge will ring the bell for the rider to stop without penalty. After the jump is replaced the bell will be rung again telling the rider to continue from where he stopped.
- **JUMPS:** In the event of TWO refusals at one of the jumps, the rider should go round the jump and continue with the test. This does not incur elimination

2.2 Dressage General Rules

- Dressage is performed in an arena with a set of letters that designate where movements are to be executed.
- The arena size may be 20m x 40m or 20m X 60m for Intro and Training Levels
- First Level through Fourth and higher levels must be ridden in a 20m x 60m arena.
- It is recommended that the competition arena should be separated from the public by a minimum distance of 10 meters up to 15 meters for outdoor rings and 5 meters for indoor rings. If self-supporting letter markers are used, they should be placed outside the arena.
- During the competition, the arena/ring fence may remain open at A. The letter A must be placed at a minimum of 5 meters away from the arena. The entrance at A should be 1.5 to 2 meters wide.
- If the arena entrance at A is open or the first ride, it must remain open for the whole day. If the arena entrance is closed at A then it must remain closed for the day.
- The footing in the arena should be flat and level.
- The Judge should be positioned 5m from C with a good view of the whole ring.
- Test Callers are permitted.

2.2.1. Errors/Penalties

The judge at “C” will determine errors and penalties

An entry will receive penalty points on their test under the following circumstances:

- Failure to salute is an error of test and the competitor will incur a two-point penalty.
- An “Error of Course” made by a competitor will result in the Judge signaling the rider with their bell/whistle. The Judge will correct the rider by explaining the error and direct them to where they are to resume their test.
- If the rider is not signaled that they have made an error in a movement and the same error occurs again because the same movement is required to be repeated in the test, only one error is recorded.
- If a competitor performs a rising trot when a sitting trot is required or vice versa, the judge must signal the rider with their bell/whistle and warn the competitor that this is an error that accumulates if repeated, which could lead to elimination at the third occurrence. **Exception Masters.**
- Not entering the arena within 45 seconds after the signal (bell/whistle) has been given, but within 90 seconds is a “Late Entry”. This is considered an error. Two points will be deducted. This is not cumulative.
- A competitor who enters the arena before the starting signal is sounded may be directed by the Judge to exit the arena and commence the test again. Competitor will incur two point penalty. The Judge should add the remark “Competitor entered before start signal”. Note: this is not considered accumulative.
- The Judge may stop a test and/or allow a competitor to restart a test from the beginning or from any appropriate point in the test if the Judge feels in their opinion some unusual circumstance has occurred to interrupt a test.
- Use of voice in any way or the clucking of the tongue once or repeatedly is a significant fault, which will receive a deduction of two marks from the movement in which it occurs. Each use of voice and/or tongue will incur a deduction of marks but does not result in elimination. (e.g., 7 becomes 5, with the comment: voice). **Exception: Masters or Western Dressage**
- Error of Course
 - First Error = 2 points,
 - Second Error = 4 points,
 - Third Error = Elimination. At the discretion of the judge, the athlete may finish the test unless by doing so, it will interfere with the start of the next scheduled time.
 - If the judge has not noted or missed an error, the competitor will get the benefit of the doubt.

2.2.2. Eliminations

- Judge’s decision is final with no appeal
- An entry shall be eliminated under the following circumstances:
 - Evidence of blood on the horse
 - Not complying with the dress rules
 - Use of illegal equipment
 - Unauthorized assistance (such as: voice, signs, earphone, electronic communication devices) Exception: Callers for competitors with documented hearing impairment may use a two-way communication device provided documentation of their impairment has been submitted and the PRO (Provincial Rules Official) and the Judge have been advised.)

2.2.2. Eliminations (cont.)

- Continuous irregular pace or unevenness
- Dangerous/unruly behavior of horse. Resistance by the horse of more than 20 seconds in a test or earlier if resistance creates a dangerous situation.
- All four feet of the horse leave the arena during the test
- Fall of horse or rider during the test, rider will not be permitted to continue the test.
- Dismounting during a test
- Three errors of course
- Taking more than 90 seconds to enter the arena at "A" after the start signal.
- Taking more than 30 seconds to enter the arena after the start of the music in a freestyle test.

2.2.3. Dressage Judge Role and Responsibilities

Dressage judges are licensed officials who are thoroughly educated in the principles of dressage and the correct application of the Training Scale. Their role is to evaluate the requirements and directives of each movement in accordance with the progressive levels of the dressage tests.

Designation as a dressage judge is regarded as a privilege, and with this privilege comes the responsibility to uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and ethical decision-making. Judges are personally accountable for their decisions, and the marks they award are considered final. This responsibility is taken seriously and carried out with fairness, consistency, and respect for both horse and rider.

Judges are entrusted with ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion, and respect. They must remain vigilant in identifying any signs of mistreatment, undue stress, or violations of equine welfare. Safeguarding the well-being of the horse is a fundamental component of the judge's duty.

Dressage judges also support and believe in the growth and development of the competitor. Although scores and decisions must reflect the performance within the framework and standards of the specific test being judged, comments should recognize the rider's accomplishments and offer constructive feedback. The purpose of remarks is to educate, encourage, and guide the progression of both horse and rider.

When time permits, judges at provincially sanctioned dressage competitions may discuss a rider's test with them after their ride. Opportunities for such discussion are encouraged when feasible and are offered at the discretion of show management and depending on the judge's availability. These conversations can enhance understanding, reinforce learning, and strengthen the educational value of the competition experience.

It is the judges' responsibility to ensure the set up of the Dressage competition ring is correct. (correct placement of the letters, etc.)

2.2.4. Judging the Test:

Marks are given for each individual movement based on the scale of marks.

Half marks from 0.5-9.5 can also be used for movements and collective marks

Decisions about each movement are based on the directives provided for that movement within the test, as well as the requirements of the test level.

10 Excellent	4 Insufficient
9 Very Good	3 Fairly Bad
8 Good	2 Bad
7 Fairly Good	1 Very Bad
6 Satisfactory	0 Not executed *
5 Sufficient	

Other considerations:

- Accuracy of the test ride ie. Geometry and accuracy of transitions – example: In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point in the arena, it should be done at the movement when the competitor's body is above this point, except in transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular the point where the letters are positioned – transitions are done when the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that horse is straight in the transition.
- If a problem appears once, it may be treated lightly by the judge. If the problem appears to repeat, it will be scored more harshly each time i.e.. Nodding, stumbling, shying.
- Grinding Teeth: If a horse is content and happy to do the work, then it is not a resistance. If the grinding is caused by tension (stiff back, swishing tail, etc.) the score for the movement will go down on the quality of the movement and impact the submission mark (in collective marks).
- Horses with consistently open mouth or tongue out of mouth will be marked down.

2.2.5. Scribes

- Judges depend upon the scribe to quickly, accurately, legibly, and quietly record the scores and comments made about each ride.
- It is the judge's responsibility to judge the test. It is not appropriate for the scribe to comment on the judge's decision, nor to question that decision. It is what the judge sees that matters, so if a judge does not see a mistake, don't comment. In addition, any comments (written or verbal) made by the judge while in the judge's box are strictly between the judge and the rider. Never carry these conversations outside the judge's box.
- Never volunteer information about competitors or their horses, even if asked by the judge.
- Wait for the judge to set the tone as to whether conversation will be encouraged between rides or on breaks. Most judges will initiate some small talk, but some need time to review tests or just clear their minds. While it is tempting for the scribe to ask questions about their own riding or a particular horse problem, please don't do it!

2.2.5. Scribes (cont.)

- Once at the judge's box, the scribe should organize the work area and check for all proper materials:
- Several ink pens, including a red pen to mark errors
- Program to follow the order to go with updated list of scratches and additions. • Bell or whistle and a watch set to official show time.
- Stopwatch to time musical rides or the 45-second entry limit.
- Packet of scoresheets. Check to make sure that it is the packet for the judge and arena assigned.
- Check the order of scoresheets against the order of go, and make sure any additional horses have been assigned scoresheets. There should be blank tests in the packet available for this purpose. If the tests are not in the order of go, a ride may be scribed on the wrong test causing confusion for the office and riders.
- Make sure that the tests in the packet match the tests scheduled in the program.
- Check that there is an extra copy of each different test for the judge to follow as the ride progresses.
- Make sure that all loose items (papers, cups, tissue, etc.) are anchored down with a heavy object so that nothing blows or rustles in a sudden gust of wind.
- Cell phones should be on mute or vibrate before the first test starts.
- All test sheets must be completed in ink; pencil is not acceptable.
- Scribes should familiarize themselves with the tests being judged.
- The Scribe must check that the test sheets include the competitor's entry number, competition name, date, and judge's name.
- Any changes in the marks given by the judge must be initialed in ink by the judge.
- Before the test sheet is handed in for totaling, the scribe must give the test sheet to the judge to ensure all movements have been scored, and any comments filled in. The test must be signed by the judge.
- Scribes must be dressed appropriately

2.2.6. Test Callers

- Test callers are permitted.
- If a competitor requires a test caller, it is their responsibility to provide one.
- Calling the test is limited to reading the movement a maximum of twice without adding anything else which might assist the competitor. Elimination of the competitor may happen should there be failure to comply by the caller. The Judge must monitor this.
- Permitted dress for a Caller is considered "smart casual", such as jeans, slacks, mid length shorts. Tank tops, flip flops, sandals, etc. are not allowed. Inappropriately dressed callers may not be allowed to call a test.
- Callers may not wear two-way personal electronic communication devices, e.g., Bluetooth, headphones, etc. while calling a test, they may however, read tests from any form of media device. (Exception: Callers for competitors with documented hearing impairment may use a two-way communication device provided documentation of their impairment has been submitted and the PRO (Provincial Rules Official) and the Judge have been advised.)
- Callers must position themselves so as not to obstruct the judge's view.

2.2.7. Provincial Rules Official (PRO)

- Provincial Rules Officials provide help and guidance with HCBC rules at Provincially sanctioned competitions. A PRO is to assist show management with questions or concerns and encourage a safe and enjoyable competition experience.
- PRO should be dressed in “smart casual,” such as trousers/slacks, mid length shorts, etc.

2.2.8. Para Dressage

- Intended for equestrian competitors with physical and/or visual impairments and to provide and develop competition opportunities for Para athletes.
- Para competitors must supply the show organizer with the correct documents regarding any permitted compensating aids according to his/her respective degrees of impairment.
- A copy of these documents must be attached to the test(s) for the judge’s information.

2.2.9. Tests

- Dressage Tests available for use are the current USDF/Equine Canada Tests.
- Western Dressage Tests available for use are the current WDAA tests
- Prix Caprilli Tests available for use are the HCBC Tests Walk/Trot, Test 1 and Test 2.
- All tests can be found at : <https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/> and may be used and copied at no charge
- Rising Stars Equitation Score Sheet (see Rising Stars section for more information)
- Rising Stars Adult Amateur Equitation Score Sheet (see RS Adult Amateur section for more information)
- Eventing, Pony Club, English/Western Dressage, Freestyle, Para or other dressage tests may be offered at HCBC recognized competitions as Test of Choice but must be specified in the prize list.

2.2.10. Attire English Dressage

- Horse Council BC (HCBC) strongly recommends that anyone riding or driving a horse should wear ASTM/ SEI/BSI/ BS EN; EN; AS/NZS; CE VGI approved protective headgear, specifically designed for equestrian activities. ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials); SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.); BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards); or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are BSI Kitemarked).
- The helmet should be properly fitted with safety harness correctly secured, while mounted, riding or driving. Riders/drivers are encouraged to be fitted for their helmet with their typical riding/driving hairstyle. If your hair changes significantly (length, volume, style), rechecking helmet fit is required. It is advised that long hair be neatly tied in a low ponytail, smoothing hair flat, and avoiding bulky buns or high knots inside the helmet shell.
- Riders must wear riding boots (plain with or without boot crowns, laced or with zippers) with heels (tall boots or jodhpur/paddock boots). Boots may be of a matching colour to the coat. Tasteful piping or crystal decoration is permitted.

2.2.10. Attire English Dressage (cont.)

- Half chaps may be worn with paddock boots if they are well fitted and are of matching colour to the boots.
- Long or short sleeved shirts with a collar, may be light coloured, two complementary solid colours or pin-striped with a stock tie, bow tie or choker.
- White, light or dark solid-colored breeches are permitted. Contrasting piping is permitted.
- Jackets or tailored dressage vests of any single colour. Subtle pin striping, checks, tweeds and modest piping are allowed. Contrasting colours, collars with modest piping and or crystal decorations are allowed.
- Safety jackets/vests may be worn without penalty, provided they conform to the rules governing jacket colours.
- In case of inclement weather riders may wear a suitable warm or waterproof jacket and protective hat cover. In extreme humidity or temperature, the judge may permit riders to ride without a jacket or vest. When permission is given to ride without jackets, competitors must comply with all other dress requirements.
- Gloves should be worn. Black or brown gloves are recommended. White gloves may be worn at higher levels.

Not Permitted

- Sleeveless shirts or tank tops are not permitted when riding without jackets.
- Multi-coloured/patterned gloves.
- Bright coloured or patterned breeches.

2.2.11. Dressage Equipment /English Bits

- Bits must be smooth with a solid surface and no sharp edges on center links and must not put mechanical restraint on the horse's tongue or cause discomfort or pain to the horse.
- Snaffles and curb bits with smooth ridges are permitted.
- Snaffle bits must be made of metal, durable plastic, synthetic material or flexible rubber.
- Snaffle bits may be Loose Ring, D Ring, Eggbutt, Full Cheek or Baucher
- Snaffle and bridoon rings: inside ring dimensions must be between 3.5cm and 10.16 cm
- Minimum bit diameters where the bit connects to the cheek or ring:
 - Ponies: 10 mm for snaffles
 - Horses: 10 mm for snaffles and bridoons, 12 mm for curbs
- Upper cheek pieces must not exceed 5 cm or be longer than the curb lever arms, measured below the mouthpiece which should not be more than 10 cm when the mouthpiece is in the uppermost position.
- Upper Cheek of a Baucher may not exceed 7cm

Not Permitted

- Wire or hard twisted bits
- Bit burrs
- Bit guards
- Tongue ties

2.2.12. Bridles

- English style correctly fitted bridles with reins, black or brown of any type (may have a subtle accent color on the bridle such as white padding, etc.)
- Reins may be plain, rolled, braided, web and must be leather or rubber.
- Browbands may be plain, contrasting padding, coloured. Tastefully decorated browbands are permitted as long as there is nothing dangling or hanging from the browband (exception: name tags)
- Noseband, at all dressage levels a snaffle bit and bridle with one of the following nosebands are permitted; drop, regular cavesson, flash, figure 8 (also known as a figure eight), comfort noseband (either with or without a flash for a snaffle, must be plain when used with a double bridle) or crescent cavesson (which may only be used with a snaffle bridle). Note: the noseband must not be tight, fit of the noseband may be checked by attending Provincial Rules Official or show management.
- A throatlatch is required except when a combined noseband or Micklem bridle is used.
- Micklem bridles may be used at any level where snaffles are permitted.
- At third and higher, double bridles are optional.
- Bitless bridles may be used at the discretion of Show Management.

2.2.13. Saddles

- Dark coloured English style saddle or side saddle, permitted with a girth and stirrups is compulsory
- White, off-white, grey, black or conservative coloured saddle pads are recommended. Piping of a different colour is permitted. Striped or multi-coloured pads may not be permitted.

2.2.14. Permitted Equipment

- Boots or bandages
- Well fitted "Scoot Boots", hoof boots or glue on shoes are allowed, provided they do not protect the soft structures of the hoof, such as the heel bulbs and coronet bands.
- Girth covers
- Sternum relief girth or pads
- Fore girths
- Breastplates
- Cruppers
- Bucking straps
- Fly bonnets (un-stuffed) or masks
- Net Relief or UV visor for Head shakers or light sensitivity if accompanied by a letter from the athlete and a veterinary certificate recommending its' use.
- Headsets for athletes with documented hearing impairment. (Documentation from a doctor must be provided to show management. Competition organizer must be able to appoint a supervisor to stand with the caller.)
- Whips may be carried at all levels. Note: Total length of whip must not exceed 120cm for horses and 100cm for ponies.

2.2.15. Spurs

- Spurs or 'dummy' spurs may be worn.
- The arms of the spur must be smooth.
- The shank the spur must point downward or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur.
- Rowel spurs must be mounted vertically, free to rotate, and not sharp and point directly back from the center of the spur.
- Junior athletes mounted on ponies may not use spurs with rowels.

2.2.16. Prohibited Equipment

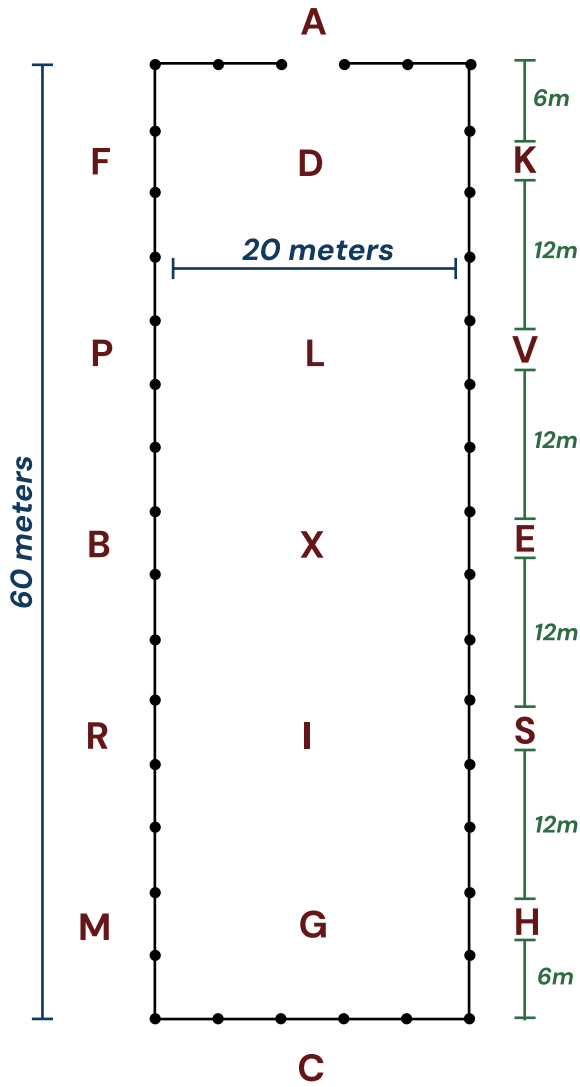
- Martingales (*EXCEPTION: running martingales are only allowed in designated warm-up and/or schooling areas if a snaffle bridle is being used*)
- Draw reins
- Blinkers
- Ear Plugs
- Peacock Stirrups

2.2.17. Turnout of the Horse

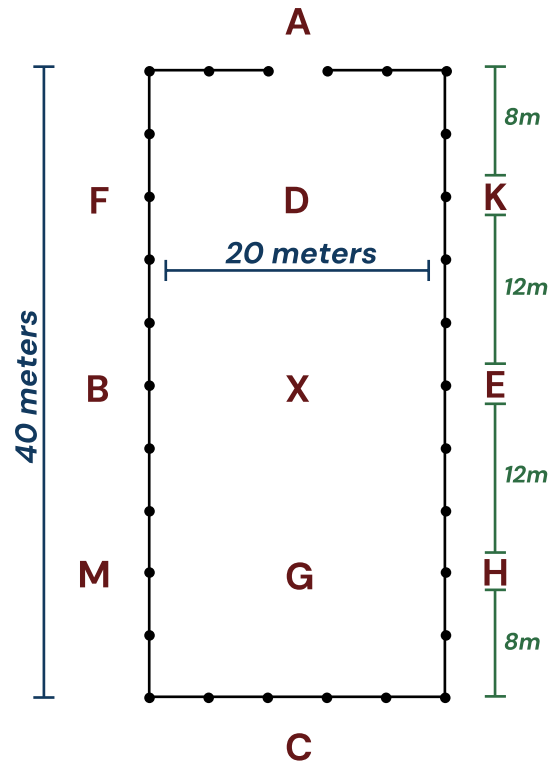
- Manes and forelocks may be braided. There is to be no penalty if not braided.
- Tails should not be braided.
- If braiding:
 - Black, brown, or white braiding tape.
 - Black, white or coloured thread/wool/elastic bands are allowed.
 - Braiding wire is allowed.
 - Braiding bands are allowed. This includes decorative bands with a smooth base and no sharp edges.
 - The forelock does not need to be braided even if the mane is.
 - Items such as ribbons or flowers, etc. in the mane or tail are **Not Allowed**. **Exception:** a simple **RED** ribbon in the tail for safety reasons.



20 x 60 Meter
12 Letters



20 x 40 Meter
8 Letters



2.3 Scheduling Dressage Ride Times

Following is a guide of recommended time allowances to help approximate the time needed to schedule each test. Please note the scheduling time is the average amount of time it takes to complete the test plus two minutes built in for the judge to complete the scoresheet.

An extra 45 seconds should be added to these ride times if the exhibitor must use the inside of the arena for their warmup before the bell is rung.

These time allowances are based on the current USDF/Equine Canada Dressage tests

To calculate time allowance add two seconds to time allotted on the individual level test sheet

Dressage Test	Scheduled Time Allowance (minutes)					
	Ring Size					
	20x60	20x40				
Intro Test A				6:00	5:00	
Intro Test B				6:00	5:00	
Intro Test C				6:00	5:00	
Training Level Tests						
Training Level Test 1				7:00	6:00	
Training Level Test 2				8:00	7:00	
Training Level Test 3				8:00	7:00	
First Level Tests						
First Level Test 1				8:00	xx	
First Level Test 2				8:00	xx	
First Level Test 3				9:00	xx	
Second Level Tests						
Second Level Test 1				8:00	xx	
Second Level Test 2				8:00	xx	
Second Level Test 3				8:00	xx	
Third Level Tests						
Third Level Test 1				8:00	xx	
Third Level Test 2				8:00	xx	
Third Level Test 3				8:00	xx	
Fourth Level Tests						
Fourth Level Test 1				8:00	xx	
Fourth Level Test 2				8:00	xx	
Fourth Level Test 3				8:00	xx	
Prix St Georges						
Prix St Georges				8:00	xx	
Intermediate I				8:00	xx	
Intermediate A				8:00	xx	
Intermediate B				8:00	xx	
Intermediate II				8:00	xx	
Freestyle Tests						
Freestyle (Training-1st)				9:00	xx	
Freestyle (2nd-4th)				9:00	xx	
Freestyle Junior & Young Rider				8:00	xx	
Freestyle FEI				8:00	xx	

2.4 Provincial Rising Stars Dressage Equitation Program

Program

The Rising Stars Equitation Program was developed and continues to be overseen by the Rising Stars Youth Dressage Committee established in 2004 in Chilliwack, B.C. In 2023, Horse Council BC collaborated with the Rising Stars Youth Dressage Committee for approval to offer this program through the HCBC Provincial Competition System.

Mission Statement

To provide Youth Dressage Riders, up to and including 25 years of age, the opportunity to participate in Rider Skill Development programs which foster competence and confidence to take part in Dressage competitions that provide a fair playing field environment for Youth Dressage Riders wherein each can compete with their peers at all levels of skill, from beginners to advanced.

Objectives:

To assist in the development, improvement and continuing advancement of the equitation skills required by Dressage Riders, by providing an ongoing evaluation of their equitation skills during the performance of a technical dressage test.

The improvement of equitation skills is the best pathway forward to developing Dressage Riders toward higher levels.

Categories:

Foundation Level: those competing at: Training, First and Second level. Progressive Level: those competing at: Third and Fourth Level

NOTE: A competition may offer the Foundation Level only or they may offer both the Foundation and Progressive levels. The decision is at the discretion of the show organizers. Offering Introductory level is optional depending on entries. If it is offered, Introductory will have its own Champion/Reserve Champion (including the "Ride Off") and will not be combined with the Training, First and Second Level riders.

2.4.1. Ages and Levels

Youth: up to and including 25 years.

Foundation Level: those competing at Intro, Training; First and Second

Progressive level: those competing at: Third; Fourth.

Anyone judging Rising Stars classes must be a Provincial Senior Dressage Judge. Guest cards are permitted.

- The Equitation Judge for both the judging of equitation during the technical test and for the "ride off" must be the same judge.

2.4.1. Ages and Levels (cont.)

- Rising Stars Equitation classes in each division will be designated in the competition prize list by the show organizers. (i.e., in Foundation Level Training, First and Second level and in Progressive Level; Third, Fourth.
- The show organizer will decide if they will use the two (2) judge system for the equitation judging or the one (1) judge system.
 - Two (2) Judge system: The Judge at C will be judging the technical test. The second Judge, (the Equitation Judge) may sit at E, H, M, B or any marked letter. The Equitation Judge can be added to a scheduled technical class.
 - One (1) Judge system. A class designated as the RS Equitation Evaluation class. The Rider will ride their technical test at their level, but will only be judged on their equitation. The Equitation Judge in this case, would sit at C.

2.4.2. Ride Off/ and Championships:

- The equitation score and technical score are not to be combined to determine equitation placings.
- Based only on the equitation scores of the RSYD Riders, all riders achieving 60% or over, will be eligible to compete in one of two Equitation Championships
- For eligible riders in: The Equitation Foundation Level Championship, the 'Ride Off' will be based solely on equitation skills judged by the 'Equitation Judge'.
- The 'Ride Off' will be a group class including all riders who achieved 60% or over on their Equitation score sheet in Introductory Training, First or Second level.
- Individual patterns may be requested by the 'Equitation judge' to establish the Champion and Reserve.
- **If Introductory is offered, there is a separate Champion/Reserve Championship ride off. This is not to be combined with Training, First or Second level Championship Ride Off.
- For eligible riders in: Equitation **Progressive** Level, the Champion and Reserve will be determined by the highest and second highest equitation scores achieved by those riders who achieved 60% or over on their Equitation score sheet at Third, Fourth or FEI level(s).

NOTE: If for any reason, a show committee is not able to offer the "ride off" for the Champion and Reserve Equitation **Foundation** Level, then the Champion and Reserve will be determined by the overall highest and second highest score (from the Equitation score sheets).

NOTE: This program may be offered to Western Dressage Riders as well.

2.5 Western Dressage

2.5.1. Level Requirements

Through Introductory to Second Level all horses may compete in a snaffle (loose ring, eggbutt, or D-ring configuration, bosal, and be ridden with two hands.

At Second Level, the introduction of a shank bit is permitted and may be ridden in one or two hands.

Third and Fourth Level may compete in a snaffle or shank bit with either a solid or snaffle mouthpiece and can be ridden in one or two hands.

2.5.2. Attire

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Performance Divisions.

The helmet should be properly fitted with safety harness correctly secured, while mounted, riding or driving. Riders/drivers are encouraged to be fitted for their helmet with their typical riding/driving hairstyle. If your hair changes significantly (length, volume, style), rechecking helmet fit is required. It is advised that long hair be neatly tied in a low ponytail, smoothing hair flat, and avoiding bulky buns or high knots inside the helmet shell.

- Adult Western Dressage competitors may wear:
 - Western Style Hats (show management and or venue requirements may make protective head wear a requirement for adults)
 - approved protective Western headgear
 - approved protective English headgear
- No rider may be penalized for wearing equestrian protective headgear or a safety vest in any class.
- Long sleeved shirt of any colour with a collar. Weather permitting and at the discretion of the judge, short sleeves may be permitted.
- Western jackets, sweaters or vests are optional.
- Pants, trousers, clean jeans, or a one-piece long-sleeved collared equitation suit
- Chaps, chinks, or split riding skirt are optional.
- Gloves are optional.
- Necktie, kerchief, bolo tie or pin are optional.
- Boots with a heel

2.5.3. Equipment/ Bridles

Western type headstall must be used. The headstall may be used with or without a cavesson.

- A Western cavesson (flat, rolled, braided or plain, with an adjustable noseband), pencil bosal with or without a get-down rope with space for two fingers placed between the cavesson and the jowl of the horse is allowed. No metal (except for the buckle on the cavesson), studs of any kind, or other harsh substances can be used in conjunction with or part of a Bosal and the jowl of the horse.
- A bitless bridle of western style made of leather or leather-like material is acceptable. A cross-under bitless bridle – a simple and subtle two-loop system, one over the poll and one over the nose that embraces the whole of the head is permitted. No other variations are permitted.
- A Bosal is permitted on a horse of any age, and at any level. It must have a flexible Non-metallic core attached to a suitable headstall. This does not refer to a mechanical hackamore. There must be a minimum of a two-finger space (approximately 1 1/2") between the bosal and the nose, and absolutely no metal under the jaw or on the noseband or in connection with the noseband. Bosals may be wrapped with smooth electrical tape to prevent rubbing.
- Split reins may be used with a snaffle or a curb bit. When used with a snaffle bit, two hands must be used. For a curb/shank bit, riders may use one hand (see "level requirements & Hand position" for exceptions).
- Romels may be used with a solid curb bit but must be ridden with one hand only. The reins must come up from the bottom of the hand and out of the top with no fingers in between the romel reins.
- Curb chains and flat leather chin straps must be at least 12.7mm in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.
- A curb strap or chain (bit hobble) may be used with a snaffle bit. It must be attached below the reins. A curb strap when used as a bit hobble may be braided or narrow.
- A Western style saddle is required.
- A working Western side saddle is also permitted.
- A breastplate and/or crupper may be used.
- Spurs: western style spurs with or without blunt tines, English dressage style, roller ball, and blunt bumper spurs are allowed. Rowels must be vertical.

2.5.4. Prohibited Equipment

- Draw Reins.
- Bits with sharp edges, gag bits , donut and flat polo mouthpieces.
- Wire curb bit
- Any chin strap narrower than 1/2" inch (12.7mm).
- Chin straps cannot have wire, rawhide, metal, beads or other substances in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain.
- Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited.
- Standing or running martingales or tiedowns.
- Bosal without reins attached and used as a noseband.

2.5.4. Prohibited Equipment (cont.)

- Mechanical hackamores.
- Any Twisted wire mouthpiece.
- Rope halters or bridles.
- Bit guards.

2.5.5. Hand Position on the Reins

- Romal reins – the romal is held in one hand with no fingers between the individual reins and the end of the romal may be held in the hand not used for reining. This will keep the romal end from swinging and to adjust the position of the rein.
- Split reins – may be held in one or two hands. **NOTE:** the rider may not switch back and forth from one and to two hands during a test.
- There is no restriction on the method of holding the reins in two hands.
- When split reins are held in one hand, there are two ways in which the rider may use them:
 - The rider may put one finger between the split reins with the ends of the reins falling on the side of the reining hand.
 - The rider may hold both reins in one hand without a finger between the reins. In this method the rider's hand must be around the reins. The end of the split reins may be held in the hand not used for reining in order to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins.
- Should a looped rein/buckled reins be used, the reins are held in one or two hands. There is no switching back and forth between one or two hands during a test.

2.5.6. Turnout of the Horse

- The mane of the horse may or may not be banded.
- Braiding of the forelock is permitted.
- The tail must be left natural.
- Items such as ribbons or flowers, etc. in the mane or tail are Not Allowed. **Exception:** a simple RED ribbon in the tail for safety reasons

Scheduling Western Dressage Ride Times

This is a guide of recommended time allowances to help approximate how long to schedule each test. Please note the scheduling time is the average amount of time it takes to complete the test plus two minutes built in for the judge to complete the scoresheet.

An extra 45 seconds should be added to these ride times if the exhibitor must use the inside of the arena for their warmup before the bell is rung.

These time allowances are based on the current WDAA tests

To calculate time allowance add two seconds to time allotted on the individual level test sheet

Western Dressage Test	Scheduled Time Allowance (minutes)		
	Ring Size		
	20x60	20x40	
Intro Test 1	8:00	7:00	
Intro Test 2	7:00	7:00	
Intro Test 3	8:00	7:00	
Intro Test 4	8:00	7:00	
Basic Tests			
Basic Test 1	8:00	7:00	
Basic Test 2	8:00	7:00	
Basic Test 3	8:00	7:00	
Basic Test 4	10:00	8:00	
Level 1 Tests			
Level 1 Test 1	10:00	xx	
Level 1 Test 2	10:00	xx	
Level 1 Test 3	9:00	xx	
Level 1 Test 4	9:00	xx	
Level 2 Tests			
Level 2 Test 1	9:00	xx	
Level 2 Test 2	9:00	xx	
Level 2 Test 3	8:00	xx	
Level 2 Test 4	10:00	xx	
Level 3 Tests			
Level 3 Test 1	9:00	xx	
Level 3 Test 2	9:00	xx	
Level 3 Test 3	9:00	xx	
Level 3 Test 4	9:00	xx	