



Dressage Rulebook



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I. GENERAL

1.1. This rulebook is an addition to the IASF Rulebook. Everything stated in the IASF Rulebook applies to competitors in the IASF Dressage competition.

II. JUDGING CRITERIA

2.1. The dressage tests will be judged according to FEI rules. The frame of the horse should be compatible with the difficulty of the test.

2.2. Novice: In novice dressage the emphasis is on tact and relaxation. The rider has control over the pace and direction of the horse in a friendly manner. The horse understands the rider's instructions and follows them willingly. The rider is able to follow the movement and remain in balance, so that the natural movements of the horse are not hindered. The aids are given as invisibly as possible.

The test must be ridden in a smooth manner, without being rushed. There is a constant and elastic connection with the mouth. The horse shows no resistance and seeks the rider's hand. In this class the horse's balance is horizontal. This means that the horse's weight is distributed over four legs and the horse is in contact and forward. Both collection and falling on the forehand are not desirable. It is important that the hind feet follow the track of the forefeet, also in the exercises. The correct lateral flexion must be shown where necessary. The tests are structured in such a way that there is more time for the preparation and finishing of the exercises. If an exercise is indicated between two letters, it makes a difference for the score where between these two it is shown. The transitions may also be performed progressively. For example, there may be a few walking steps between halt and trot.

2.3. Advanced: In advanced dressage, the emphasis is on impulse and (light) collection. A friendly and harmonious image remains important here. The horse understands the rider's instructions and follows them willingly. The rider is able to follow the movement and remain in balance, so that the horse's movements are not hindered. The aids are given as invisibly as possible.

In the test, the horse is presented (lightly) collected, with the weight of the horse shifting more to the hindquarters. The horse carries itself and does not lean on the rider's hands. There is a constant and elastic connection with the mouth. The horse shows no resistance and seeks the rider's hand.

If an exercise is indicated between two letters, it makes a difference to the score where it is shown between these two. Transitions are no longer performed progressively.

2.4. Master: In master dressage the emphasis is on collection. A friendly and harmonious image remains important here. The horse understands the rider's instructions and follows them willingly. The rider is able to follow the movement and remain in balance, so that the horse's movements are not hindered. The aids are given in a refined and almost invisible way.

In the test the horse is presented collected, with the movements being elevated and the impulse ensuring a powerful push off the ground. The exercises are ridden and completed smoothly, whereby the requested place is weighed more heavily than in lower levels. The horse carries itself and does not lean on the rider's hands. There is a constant and elastic connection with the mouth. The horse shows no resistance and seeks the rider's hand.

III. EQUIPMENT RIDER

3.1. Protective Headgear

3.2. As a general rule, a properly fastened protective headgear has to be worn by all athletes (as well as any other person) at all times when mounted.

3.3. Any athlete (as well as any other person) violating this provision must immediately be prohibited from further riding until the protective headgear is properly in place.

3.4. Outfit:The following is compulsory:

Protective Headgear	Black or dark colour
Breeches	White or off-white
Stock or tie	White or off-white
Gloves	White, off white or same colour as coat
Riding boots	Black or dark colour
Tailcoats/jackets	Any single colour will be allowed. Striped or multi-coloured coats or jackets are not permitted. Tasteful and discreet accents, such as a collar of a different hue or modest piping or crystal decorations, are acceptable.

3.5. In bad weather, the panel of judges, showmanager and DC together may allow the wearing of light waterproof coat. In very warm weather, the panel of judges, showmanager and DC together may allow athletes to ride without a jacket.

3.6. Military, Police, etc. may wear civil or service dress at all levels. Service dress does not only apply to Members of the Armed Forces and Police, but also to members and employees/students of other State/Military Establishments and National Studs/schools/institutes. They must comply with all protective headgear requirements.

3.7. Spurs are optional in all levels and must be made of metal. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the athlete's boot. The arms of the spur must be smooth and blunt. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth (no sharp edges) and free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard knobs are allowed ("Impuls" spur) and the knobs may rotate. "Dummy" spurs with no shank are also allowed.

3.8. Earphones and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited at whilst competing, and such usage is penalized by elimination. Use of one (1) earphones or similar device is however permitted during training and warmup.

V. EQUIPMENT HORSE

4.1. Dressage saddle must be well-fitting and have long, near-vertical flaps, English-style or safety stirrups and a girth. An all-purpose saddle is permitted.

4.1.1. Stirrups must have closed branches, and no attachments. Safety stirrups may have an opening on the outside branch. The foot must not be fully or partially enclosed and must in no way be attached to the stirrups (for example with magnets).

4.1.2. No saddle covers are allowed.

4.1.3. Pommel straps are allowed. .

4.2. Bridle with noseband

4.2.1. Except for the buckles and padding the headstall and noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. Padding is allowed on bridles. Nylon or other non-metal material may be used to reinforce leather in the headstall but must not be in direct contact with the horse. Elastic inserts are permitted in the crownpiece and cheek pieces only and must not be in direct contact with the horse or the bit.

4.2.2. 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.

4.2.3. The crownpiece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll but must not be fitted to lie behind the skull.

4.2.4. A throatlatch is required except when the combined noseband or Micklem bridle are used.

4.2.5. A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Rein additions or attachments are not permitted. Each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to the bit. Reins must not be made of rope material.

4.2.6. Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations applies in relation to the permitted tightness of the noseband.

4.2.7. Any piece of tack that impairs the ears to move freely is forbidden.

4.3. Double bridle

4.3.1. A double bridle must have a cavesson noseband and bridoon and curb with curb chain. A combined noseband may be used without the lower "flash" strap. Neither a cavesson noseband nor a curb chain may ever be as tightly fixed so as to harm the horse.

4.3.2. A double bridle is allowed for seven (7) year old horses in Advanced and Master Dressage. For horses under the age of seven (7) year a snaffle bridle or bitless bridle is to be used. A plain snaffle bridle is required to be used with a regular cavesson noseband, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband, a crossed noseband, a combined noseband or a Micklem or similar design of bridle.

4.4. Bits

4.4.1. Bitless and snaffle bits are permitted in all levels.

4.4.2. Snaffle, Bridoon and curb bits must have a smooth surface. Twisted and wire bits are prohibited. Bits must be made of metal, durable plastic synthetic material or flexible rubber. Bits may be covered with rubber/latex. Bits must not place mechanical restraint upon the tongue. The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon/snaffle and/or curb must be such so as not to hurt the horse. Minimum diameter of mouthpiece to be twelve millimetres (12 mm) for curb bit, and ten millimetres (10 mm) for bridoon bit. Snaffles must have a minimum diameter of twelve millimetres (12 mm) for horses and ten millimetres (10mm) for ponies. The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece.

4.4.3. Snaffle bits may be used with loose ring, D-Ring, Eggbutt and hanging cheeks. Single or double jointed snaffles may also be used with upper or lower cheeks, full cheeks or Fulmer cheeks. Loose rings may have a sleeve fitted around part of the ring. 3.1.2. A snaffle may have up to two (2) joints. A barrel or ball joint is permitted as the centre link in a double jointed snaffle, however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre 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.

4.4.4. A double jointed snaffle or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm 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 thirty millimetres (30mm). The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped in a curve within the dimensions specified above.

4.4.5. Bridoon bits – a bridoon bit is defined as a snaffle bit that is used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle. Bridoons may be used with loose ring and eggbutt cheeks.

4.4.6. Bridoons must have one (1) or two (2) joints. A barrel or ball joint is permitted as the centre link in a double jointed bridoon, however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre link may not have the effect of a tongue plate.

4.4.7. Bridoons where the centre link(s) of the bit can lock and have the effect of a mullen mouth snaffle are not permitted.

4.4.8. Curb Bits. The length of the lever arm below the mouth piece of the curb bit is limited to ten centimetres (10 cm). The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek and must not exceed five centimetres (5 cm). If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouth piece should not measure more than ten centimetres (10 cm) when the mouth piece is at the uppermost position.

4.4.9. Curbs may have straight or S-shaped cheeks. They may have rotating lever arms.

4.5. Whips. In Advanced and Master it is forbidden to carry a whip of any kind while competing in the arena. However, the use of one (1) whip, with a total maximum length of one meter and twenty (1.20 m) , in the practice area is allowed. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the athlete will be penalized. For safety reasons, whips at prize-giving ceremonies are allowed. In Novice one (1) whip, with a total maximum length of one meter and twenty (1.20 m) is allowed while competing in the arena as well as in the practice area.

4.6. Gadgets. Martingales, breast plates, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins, nasal strips etc.) and any form of blinkers that interfere with the horse's vision are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden during training, warm-up and competitions.

4.7. Ear hoods are permitted and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must not cover the horse's eyes. The ear hoods should be discreet in color and design. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband.

4.8. Earplugs on horses are forbidden but are allowed at prize-giving ceremonies only for safety reasons.

4.9. Boots and/or bandages on the horse's legs are forbidden while competing in the arena. The boots and/or bandages must be removed before entering the space around the competition arena or the athlete will be penalized.

4.10. Braids: The manes of the horses must be braided. Both crest braided as plaits are allowed. The top of the tail is allowed to be braided.