

## T.T.E.A Dressage Competition Rules

**THE TTEA ADHERES TO FEI STANDARDS AND ADVISES THAT  
THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE IS PARAMOUNT.**

Effective 1st January ~~2024~~ 2025

### **1. GENERAL**

- 1.1. All competitors must have a valid competition waiver form on record before entering the warm-up arena prior to the start of the competition and must be a TTEA competitive member.
- 1.2. All competitions will be run in compliance with restrictions and regulations.
- 1.3. Competitions are held in accordance with:
  - 1.3.1. For the FEI Tests, the FEI Rules for Dressage Events, 26th edition, effective 1st January ~~2023~~ 2025 (Annex 1 - DRs) and FEI General Regulations, Pony Regulations and Veterinary Regulations currently in force.
  - 1.3.2. For the USEF Tests the USEF Rules for Dressage ~~2023~~ 2025 (Annex 2 - USEF).
- 1.4. The following exceptions/amendments/additions apply.

### **2. SHOW PROTOCOL**

- 2.1. Warm-up arena protocol must be adhered to at all times. (See section 10 – Warm-Up Arena)
- 2.2. The start time stated on the show invitation refers to the time the first rider of the competition enters the competition arena.

### 3. ENTRIES

- 3.1. Competitors may compete on multiple horses during a show, both at the same Level or at different Levels.
- 3.2. A horse may start a maximum of four times during each Leg of Competition.
- 3.3. A horse and rider combination may enter two consecutive levels at a show.

### 4. COMPETITIONS

- 4.1. The following competitions are sanctioned by the TTEA Dressage Committee:
  - 4.1.1. FEI World Dressage Challenge (See Annex 3 for competition rules.)
  - 4.1.2. CEA Dressage Challenge (See Annex 4 for competition rules).
  - 4.1.3. TTEA Dressage League
- 4.2. Multiple competitions can be run on the same day and at the same location. The order of precedence for tests shall be:
  - 4.2.1. FEI World Dressage Challenge tests
  - 4.2.2. CEA Dressage Challenge tests
  - 4.2.3. TTEA Dressage League tests
  - 4.2.4. Any other tests offered by the host stable.

### 5. LEVELS & TESTS

- 5.1. At each show, the following Levels and tests may be offered:
  - 5.1.1. Introductory Level
    - 5.1.1.1. USDF Introductory Level Test A
    - 5.1.1.2. USDF Introductory Level Test B
    - 5.1.1.3. USDF Introductory Level Test C
    - 5.1.1.4. CEA Introductory Level Freestyle

### 5.1.2. Training Level

- 5.1.2.1. USEF Training Level Test 1
- 5.1.2.2. USEF Training Level Test 2
- 5.1.2.3. USEF Training Level Test 3
- 5.1.2.4. USEF Training Level Freestyle

### 5.1.3. First Level

- 5.1.3.1. USEF First Level Test 1
- 5.1.3.2. USEF First Level Test 2
- 5.1.3.3. USEF First Level Test 3
- 5.1.3.4. USEF First Level Freestyle

### 5.1.4. Second Level

- 5.1.4.1. USEF Second Level Test 1
- 5.1.4.2. USEF Second Level Test 2
- 5.1.4.3. USEF Second Level Test 3
- 5.1.4.4. USEF Second Level Freestyle
- 5.1.4.5. FEI Youth/Children's Team Competition (Junior Division ONLY)
- 5.1.4.6. FEI Senior I/Children's Individual Competition

### 5.1.5. Third Level

- 5.1.5.1. USEF Third Level Test 1
- 5.1.5.2. USEF Third Level Test 2
- 5.1.5.3. USEF Third Level Test 3
- 5.1.5.4. USEF Third Level Freestyle
- 5.1.5.5. FEI Senior II/Junior Team Competition

### 5.1.6. Fourth Level

- 5.1.6.1. USEF Fourth Level Test 1
- 5.1.6.2. USEF Fourth Level Test 2
- 5.1.6.3. USEF Fourth Level Test 3
- 5.1.6.4. USEF Fourth Level Freestyle

5.1.7. Small Tour

- 5.1.7.1. FEI Prix St. George's
- 5.1.7.2. FEI Intermediate I
- 5.1.7.3. FEI Intermediate I Freestyle

5.1.8. Medium Tour

- 5.1.8.1. FEI Intermediate A
- 5.1.8.2. FEI Intermediate B
- 5.1.8.3. FEI Intermediate II
- 5.1.8.4. FEI Intermediate A/B Freestyle

5.1.9. Big Tour

- 5.1.9.1. FEI Grand Prix
- 5.1.9.2. FEI Grand Prix Special
- 5.1.9.3. FEI Grand Prix Freestyle

- 5.2. Riders will be eligible to compete in a Freestyle test once they have completed any other class at the same level during the competition. There is no qualifying score.
- 5.3. FEI tests will be judged according to FEI Dressage Rules – Annex 1 – DRs Art.430-433
- 5.4. USDF & USEF tests will be judged according to USDF Rules – Annex 2 – USEFDR122-123
- 5.5. All test sheets can be found on the TTEA website at:  
<https://www.ttequestrian.org/dressage-league-rules/>

## 6. DIVISIONS

- 6.1. Each Division per Level will be judged separately for both Competition Prizes and League Points.
- 6.2. All levels will be divided into the following divisions:
  - 6.2.1. Junior – 16 years and under
  - 6.2.2. Junior Freestyle – Freestyle tests by competitors 16 years and under
  - 6.2.3. Senior – 17 years and over
  - 6.2.4. Senior Freestyle – Freestyle tests by competitors 17 years and older
- 6.3. The age of the competitor will be taken as that on the 1st of January of the year of the competition.

## 7. ORDER OF GO

- 7.1. A draw for each level will take place to decide the starting order.
- 7.2. The draw is to be sent out to all competitors, coaches, Judges/bells officials etc. and the TTEA Dressage Delegate at least 12 hours before the first rider in the arena.
- 7.3. When videotaping for the Overseas Judge, the order-of-go and schedule of start times for each entry must be made available to both the “official” in the Judge’s box and the videographer before the start of the first rider at each respective barn. Allow 8 minutes or 5 minutes per ride depending on the level.

## **8. ARENA**

- 8.1. The arena must be flat and level, with dimensions of 60m long by 20m wide.(See Annex 1 – DRs Art. 429).
- 8.2. Sand, well maintained turf, or technical footing are all acceptable for competition and warm-up arenas.
- 8.3. A stable may choose to run their Introductory Level and/or Training Level in a small area, which must measure 40m long by 20m wide. The organisers for each stable's show should include any arena adjustments in the schedule of events.
- 8.4. The enclosure for the arena may consist of a low fence which is about thirty centimeters (30) cm high or poles on the ground. The part of the fence at letter A must be movable and the width of the entrance should be at least 2m wide.
- 8.5. The letters outside the enclosure should be placed 50 cm from the fence or poles, are clearly marked, and easily visible from the Judge's box at C.

## **9. WARM-UP ARENA**

- 9.1. Only competitors, coaches and competition officials are allowed within the Warm-Up Arena. No other persons are allowed to enter the Warm-Up arena unless invited by a competition official.
- 9.2. A maximum of six competitors and their horses will be permitted in the Warm-Up Arena at any time.
- 9.3. In the absence of a separate warm-up arena, competitors may warm up in the competition arena. The organisers for each stable's show should include any in-arena warm-up in the schedule for the day's events.

## 10. HEADGEAR, DRESS CODE & SADDLERY

- 10.1. When competing in CEA or FEI Dressage Challenge, their rules take precedence over any other rules pertaining to headgear, dress, and saddlery.
- 10.2. Protective Headgear: Protective Headgear must be worn by all Athletes (as well as any other person) at all times while mounted. 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. (See Annex 5, Art. 1 for information on fitting helmets safely.)
- 10.3. Dress Code: (See Annex 5, Art 2)
  - 10.3.1. White or light-coloured (beige, fawn, light grey) breeches **with a belt**.
  - 10.3.2. Shirt in a conservative colour with stock-tie or integrated standup collar. A polo shirt will be allowed for the USDF Introductory Levels.
  - 10.3.3. Jackets are optional for TTEA Dressage League competitions.
  - 10.3.4. Black gaiters / leather half-chaps with matching short boots will be allowed for both Senior and Junior Division from Introductory to First Level. Tall boots are required for Second Level and higher.
  - 10.3.5. A rider may compete with a whip in USEF tests. A whip of 1.00m (pony) and 1.20m is allowed. No whip is allowed in FEI tests.
  - 10.3.6. An all-purpose saddle will be allowed through First Level only.

10.3.7. Spurs as allowed in Annex 2 – USEF DR120.

10.4. Saddlery:

10.4.1. Permitted saddlery for all FEI tests can be found in Annex 1 – DRs Art.428.

10.4.2. Permitted saddlery for all USDF & USEF test can be found in Annex 2 – USEF DR121.

**11. DRESSAGE LEAGUE ORGANISATION**

11.1. The TTEA Dressage League consists of multiple legs of competition held over the duration of the calendar year, from January to December at TTEA Member Stables.

11.2. TTEA Dressage League competitions are organised by each individual member Stable.

11.2.1. Each member Stable has the option to hold their League show over two days within the 10-day timeframe set by the TTEA Dressage Committee. A representative from each stable should liaise with the TTEA Dressage Committee regarding their chosen days.

11.2.2. If Covid-19 restrictions make the time frame or number of shows too onerous to implement, the time period and number of shows may be increased by the Dressage Committee.

11.2.3. Division of responsibilities and expenses between the host Stable and the TTEA will be as negotiated in the document entitled "~~TTEA & Stable Responsibilities during Competitions~~" MOU for TTEA Events (Annex 6).

11.3. Tests will be run according to competition precedence, as laid out in Art. 4. Within those parameters, the order in which Levels are run will be at the discretion of the Host Stable.



11.4. For TTEA Dressage Leagues, the following officials are required:

11.4.1. Judge

- 11.4.1.1. Qualified Judge approved by the TTEA Dressage Committee to judge in person
- 11.4.1.2. A National Judge (ESEE) may judge Introductory and Training Level tests.
- 11.4.1.3. In the absence of a live judge, the tests are video-taped and sent overseas to be scored by a TTEA approved Dressage Judge.

11.4.2. Scribe (where there is a live judge).

11.4.3. Bell Official (where tests are judged by video-tape). The Bell Official should be stationed in the Judge's box, with the following responsibilities:

- 11.4.3.1. Ringing of the bell to start the test
- 11.4.3.2. Take the salutes
- 11.4.3.3. Following the test movements and alerting the rider of an error on course. Errors and uses of the bell can be found in Annex 1 – DRs Art. 430 for FEI tests and Annex 2 – USEF DR122 for USEF tests. A printed copy of these articles will be made available to the Bell Official through the TTEA Secretary General. This Bell Official will tell the rider where to commence their test after this error.
- 11.4.3.4. If a rider is eliminated, the videotaping will continue and the rider is permitted to finish their test. The rider will not receive a score but will be given comments by the Judge and is awarded participation points.

11.4.4. A Technical Delegate, chosen by the TTEA Dressage Committee.

11.4.5. Letter 'A' official, whose responsibility it is to open and close the arena for each competitor.

#### 11.4.6. Ring Steward

11.5. The Host Stable will allow the TTEA to display official, sponsor and/or promotional materials and banners.

### 12. CEA DRESSAGE CHALLENGE ORGANISATION

12.1. Member stables may apply to host the Caribbean Equestrian Association Dressage Challenge at least two months prior to the desired date of the competition.

12.2. If multiple stables have applied to host the CEA DC event, the Executive will designate the successful stable applicant(s) based upon but not limited to the application date, readiness of showground, and equitable and fair distribution of events amongst stables.

12.3. Organisation of the competition will be as laid out in Annex 4.

12.4. Division of responsibilities and expenses between the host Stable and the TTEA will be as negotiated in ~~“TTEA & Stable Responsibilities during Competitions”~~ MOU for TTEA Events (Annex 6).

### 13. FEI WORLD DRESSAGE CHALLENGE ORGANISATION

13.1. Member stables may apply to host the FEI World Dressage Challenge at least two months prior to the desired date of the competition.

13.2. If more than one stable has applied to host the FEI WDC event, the Executive will designate the successful stable applicant based upon but not limited to the application date, readiness of showground, number of entries and equitable and fair distribution of events amongst stables.

13.3. Organisation of the competition will be as laid out in Annex 3.

13.4. Division of responsibilities and expenses between the host Stable and the TTEA will be as negotiated in ~~“TTEA & Stable Responsibilities during Competitions”~~ MOU for TTEA Events (Annex 6).

#### 14. DRESSAGE LEAGUE PARTICIPATION

14.1. During any Dressage League Year, a rider may change their declared level and move up or down one from that in which they first competed.

14.2. Riders wishing to move down a level shall apply in writing to the Secretary General three weeks before the competition for consideration.

14.3. A rider/horse combination will not be eligible to move down a level and receive league points if they receive a percentage of:

14.3.1. 63% or greater in First Level and above

14.3.2. 65% or greater in Training Level or below

14.4. A rider/horse combination who has received a percentage of lower than 58% twice within the year may move one level down without permission from the TTEA.

14.5. If a rider moves up or down in levels during a Dressage League year, points gained cannot be carried over to the higher/lower level.

14.6. If a rider changes, i.e. moves up or down within a level during a Dressage League Year, there will not be a loss of accumulated points. For example, a rider who first competes at Training Level Test 1 may move up to Training Level Test 2 or Test 3 and retain all points earned for Training Level.

14.7. The entry level of a rider and horse entering competition after a protracted absence (Eighteen Months) will be at the

recommendation of his/her coach and at the discretion of the Executive Committee. An official written request must be submitted to the Secretary General three weeks prior to the competition.

- 14.8. A rider has the option to ride a different horse as their Dressage League horse for each leg.
- 14.9. Horse Schooling: On no account and under penalty of elimination, may any horse take part in the Competition which has been schooled by anyone other than the competitor(s), mounted in the saddle, in or outside the town where the Competition is held, from 6:00 p.m. on the day preceding the start of the Competition until the Competition is finished.

## **15. DRESSAGE LEAGUE SCORING & PRIZES**

- 15.1. Scores for all competitors for that particular Dressage League Leg are combined into a Master Score Sheet by the TTEA Dressage Delegate.
- 15.2. Each Division per Level will be judged and awarded league points separately.
- 15.3. Introductory and Training Level 1, tests can be ridden in either a 20m x 60m arena or a 20m x 40m arena. However, they will be judged together, whichever arena size is used.

15.4. The below percentage point system will be applicable in order to determining placings within each Division and Level.

| <b>Level</b> | <b>Add 0%</b>   | <b>Add 1%</b>   | <b>Add 2%</b>             | <b>Add 3%</b>   |
|--------------|---|---|---------------------------|---|
| Introductory | Test A,<br>Freestyle  | Test B,   | Test C,                   | <del>Test C,</del>  |
| Training     | Test 1,<br>Freestyle  | Test 2  | Test 3                    |   |
| First        | Test 1,<br>Freestyle  | Test 2  | Test 3                    |   |
| Second       | Test 1,<br>Freestyle  | FEI<br>Youth/Children<br>'s Team<br>Competition<br>Test | Test 2                    | Test 3 & FEI<br>Senior/<br>Children's<br>Individual<br>Competition Test |
| Third        | Test 1,<br>Freestyle  | Test 2  | Test 3                    | FEI Senior 2/<br>Junior Team<br>Competition<br>Test                     |
| Fourth Level | Test 1,<br>Freestyle  | Test 2  | Test 3                    |   |
| Small Tour   | FEI Prix St.<br>Georges,<br>Intermediate I<br>Freestyle     |   | FEI<br>Intermediatel      |   |
| Medium Tour  | FEI Intermediate<br>A, FEI<br>Intermediate<br>A/B Freestyle | FEI<br>Intermediate<br>B                                | FEI<br>Intermediate<br>II |   |
| Big Tour     | FEI Grand<br>Prix, FEI<br>Grand Prix<br>Freestyle           |   | FEI Grand<br>Prix Special |   |

15.5. Points are awarded to riders as follows. (Participation points have already been added for first through tenth places.)

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place                         | 55 points |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place                         | 50 points |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place                         | 45 points |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Place                         | 40 points |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Place                         | 35 points |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Place                         | 30 points |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Place                         | 25 points |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Place                         | 20 points |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Place                         | 15 points |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Place or lower               | 10 points |
| Elimination/Withdrawal during a test          | 5 points  |
| Elimination/Withdrawal prior to starting test | 0 points  |

15.6. Points are awarded to riders only (not rider and horse combination) for each Dressage League leg.

15.7. All entries into the arena are eligible for league points.

15.8. If a rider competes in the CEA RDC and or CEA mini dressage, they will receive 15 bonus no matter their placing. However, if eliminated they will receive 5 bonus points for participation. Horses and riders should be approximately at that level of competition to enter. The TTEA will review the CEA entries based on the previous 2 competitions (4 rounds) of Dressage League results and the division entered, with in the past 12 months. The TTEA needs to put the best possible potential team/s forward.

15.9. At the end of the year, the **average highest** number of league points per rider for each Level and Division will be calculated. The rider with the highest **average** league points wins.

15.10. Championship Awards will be **given** awarded to first, second, third and fourth place riders.

15.11.

15.11.1. Only riders who have competed are eligible for prizes.

15.11.2. A rider may be eligible for league prizes at more than one Level.

15.11.3. If a rider and horse combination has previously won the Champion Award in two consecutive years in a single Level with the following average percentage, they may continue to compete in that Level, but are no longer eligible for the Award if they are the lone combination.

15.11.3.1. Introductory and Training Level – average of 65% or higher over two Legs

15.11.3.2. First Level and above – average of 63% or higher over two Legs.

15.12. In the case of an equality of league points, the winner will be the rider with the higher **average** collective marks will be decisive for placing. If a further tie exists, the higher **average** collective marks for the rider (No. 4 Rider's position and seat. See test sheet) will be decisive.

15.13. A single prize for the Champion Dressage Thoroughbred Horse will be awarded to the Thoroughbred Horse with the highest **average** league points in First level and above. In an equality of points, the higher level wins. If an equality remains, the highest **average** collective marks wins. Any thoroughbred horse that has competed in at least 2 dressage competitions during the course of the calendar year will be eligible.