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## 18. Dressage, Dressage Trail

*Dressage Rule Reference USEF DR121-2, USDF*

### 18.1. Required Equipment

#### 18.1.1. Bits

18.1.1.1. The only bit permitted is the Snaffle Bit. All snaffle bits must be smooth with a solid surface

18.1.1.2. Bit checks may be done, at the discretion of the judge, after the completion of the test. These may be done by a qualified volunteer or a judge.

18.1.1.3. See USDF for more information on acceptable bits

#### 18.1.2. Cavesson

18.1.2.1. Dropped, Flash, Crescent, Crossed and regular nosebands are the usable options. Padded nosebands are permitted

#### 18.1.3. Saddles

18.1.3.1. Dressage, forward or all purpose saddle

### 18.2. Optional Equipment

#### 18.2.1. Spurs of an English type

18.2.1.1. Spurs-made of metal, shank must be curved (pointing down) or straight pointing directly back from the center of spur. If rowels are used, they must be free to rotate

18.2.2. Crops, bats, or whips may be no longer than 47.2" for dressage including lash

18.2.2.1. Whips of any kind will not be allowed at the State Championships, but will remain an option at District meets

18.2.3. English breast plate

18.2.4. Braiding of mane or mane and tail

18.2.5. ½ Chaps

**18.2.6. Browbands may be multicolored and may be decorated with metal, beads, gemstones and crystals. Non-metal decoration on the surface of the noseband is permitted.**

### 18.3. Prohibited Equipment

18.3.1. Draw reins

18.3.2. Non-English type spurs

18.3.3. Western, Sidesaddles, or cutback (saddle seat type) saddles

18.3.4. Ribbon, Glitter, & Sparkle

18.3.4.1. Exception: Residual from Working Pairs or IHOR when scheduling does not allow its removal

18.3.5. Any bit with a twist in the metal

18.3.6. Martingales

18.3.7. Bit guards

18.3.8. Protective boots

18.3.9. Leg wraps

18.3.10. Bandages

- 18.4. Judging shall be consistent with USDF rules
  - 18.4.1. Harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse as demonstrated by
    - 18.4.1.1. The freedom and regularity of the gaits
    - 18.4.1.2. The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements
    - 18.4.1.3. The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters
    - 18.4.1.4. The acceptance of the bridle with submissiveness throughout
    - 18.4.1.5. Flowing circles
    - 18.4.1.6. Resistance-free bending with flexion while creating a rhythm in the test will score higher
    - 18.4.1.7. Relaxed posture and horsemanship skills on the part of the athlete should make each element look effortless
- 18.5. Use of a reader is allowed at District Meets, but is prohibited at the State Championships
- 18.6. Use of a raised dressage court is required at the State Championships.
- 18.7. Fall of horse or rider shall be an elimination
- 18.8. Errors
  - 18.8.1. Wrong turns
  - 18.8.2. Omitting a movement
  - 18.8.3. Movement incorrectly ridden
    - 18.8.3.1. Posting instead of sitting or visa versa
  - 18.8.4. Wrong gait
- 18.9. Judging Errors
  - 18.9.1. Shall deduct 2 points for the first occurrence, 4 points for the 2nd occurrence
    - 18.9.1.1. After the third error, the athlete will be eliminated
  - 18.9.2. The Judge may choose to ring the bell for an error on the test. For example, the rider turns the wrong way or omits a movement  
The Judge will instruct athlete as to the nature of the error  
Athlete re-rides the test from the point directed by the judge  
The error is scored as above
  - 18.9.3. The Judge may choose not to ring the bell for an error of the test. Rider incorrectly rides a movement such as posting instead of sitting, incorrect salute, use of voice etc. Rider does not re-ride the movement. The Error is scored as above.
- 18.10. Use of Voice or other intentional audio aid
  - 18.10.1. Considered a serious fault
  - 18.10.2. Deduction of at least 2 marks from what otherwise would have been awarded for the movement where the fault occurred.
    - 18.10.2.1. In movements with a coefficient the judge may choose to deduct only one mark so after the coefficient is applied the total deducted is two vs. four points.
- 18.11. Eliminations

- 18.11.1. Three errors of/on the test
  - 18.11.2. Failure to enter the court within 45 seconds of the Judge ringing the bell
  - 18.11.3. Equine stepping all four feet outside of the court during the test.
- 18.12. Disqualifications
- 18.12.1. If an athlete enters the arena with missing required equipment, illegal equipment, or illegal use of permitted equipment, that is not considered to be unsafe, including uniform violations, the athlete will be allowed to continue on the course but will be disqualified from the event.
  - 18.12.2. Obvious lameness or unsoundness detected in participating equine.

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### DRESSAGE EXPECTATIONS:

Freedom and regularity in gait  
Harmony, lightness and ease of movements  
Lightness of the forehand  
Engagement of the hindquarters  
Acceptance of the bit  
Submissiveness, without resistance  
Horse gives the impression of doing, of its own accord, what is required

At the salute, riders must take the reins and whip in one hand. All riders shall let the other arm drop loosely along his/her body and then incline his/her head in a slight bow. A military salute is not permitted in OHSET dressage.

