

DR129 Musical Freestyle Ride

1. Scoresheets for FEI level Freestyles may be obtained from the Federation office or from the FEI web site. Scoresheets for Federation level Freestyles may be obtained from the USDF office. Freestyles at Training Level and above may be offered at Federation licensed Dressage Competitions. Current FEI and USDF scoresheets must be used and any changes will come into effect at the time of their release, and those changes will supersede the previous scoresheets. Except for 7.a, 7.d, and 7.f below, the following rules apply to both Federation and FEI level Freestyles. The FEI has published "Directives for Assessing the Degree of Difficulty in a Freestyle Test" which has information on the judging of Freestyle tests and is available on the Federation website. Additional information on the execution and judging of Federation level Freestyles is listed on the USDF scoresheets.
2. For time allowed, see individual score sheets. At the beginning and end of a Freestyle Test a halt with a salute is compulsory. Time begins when the horse moves forward after the competitor's halt and ends with the final halt and salute.
3. Equipment and attire must be dignified and conform to the requirements set forth for the corresponding Federation or FEI level. Under penalty of elimination, a rider's hat may not be intentionally removed.
4. Riders are not required to submit a written copy of the ride.
5. The highest score shall be declared the winner of the class. In the case of a tie, the higher artistic score shall determine the winner.
6. Music
 - a. Music is mandatory. It is the responsibility of the competitor to select the appropriate music for the ride and provide the music in the format(s), method(s), and time frame specified in the prize list. Formats must include CDs and/or digital files (MP3 and/or WAV)
 - b. Sound checks must be provided to riders in Freestyle classes for no fee, either on the day prior to competition or prior to their scheduled class. The requirements and timetable for scheduling sound checks must be published in the prize list.
 - c. Each rider will be permitted one representative who may communicate with the person responsible for handling the music to supervise the handling of the music if so desired by the competitor.
 - d. In case of rider's music failing before or during a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no backup system, the rider can, with permission of the judge at "C", leave the arena or start at a later time. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders and the affected rider should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The rider may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. Judging must restart at the point of interruption. In any case, the marks already given will not be changed.
 - e. Under penalty of elimination at the discretion of the judge at "C", a rider must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the music starting. Exception: For USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, see DR122.5. The music must cease at the final salute.
 - f. See DR126.4 (Dressage Levels Chart) for requirements on sound systems to play music for freestyles. Competition Levels 3-5 must have a sound system to play music. Level 2 competitions must have a sound system to play music if freestyle classes are offered. There are no minimum requirements for Level 1 competitions.
7. Movements
 - a. In FEI Level Freestyles, the competitor must include all gaits and movements required on the FEI score sheet at the level shown. Current FEI rules apply. See current FEI Freestyle directives and handouts.
 1. Once a movement has been included in the tests of the Freestyle level declared or those below, it can be shown at any location in the arena (exception: mandatory halts).
8. When two or three judges officiate in a class, they may be located either on the short end of the arena (i.e. H/C, C/M, or H/C/M) or one may sit on the long side (i.e. C/B, E/C, H/C/B or E/C/M).
9. Except for USEF/USDF Championship classes and for FEI Pony Riders, FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider Freestyles, in order to enter a freestyle class at any level, a horse/rider combination must have received a minimum score of 63% for Training through Fourth levels and 60% for FEI levels in the highest test of the declared freestyle level or any test of a higher level at a Federation/USDF Licensed Dressage Competition or FEI recognized Dressage Competition or "open" Dressage class (i.e. open to all breeds) at a Federation Licensed Competition held prior to the competition where the horse/rider combination is entered to ride a freestyle class. To enter an FEI Para Dressage Freestyle class, a horse/rider combination must have received a minimum score of 60% in any FEI Para Dressage test (Introductory, Novice, Team, Individual) at the rider's classified Grade. This score may be earned at a USEF/USDF licensed Dressage Competition or FEI recognized Dressage Competition or "open" Dressage class (i.e. open to all breeds) at a Federation Licensed Competition held prior to the competition where the horse/rider combination is entered to ride a freestyle class. A photocopy of the test verifying eligibility, or copy of the USDF score verification, must be submitted with the entry for a freestyle class. All FEI Pony Rider Tests are equivalent to Second Level; all FEI Junior Tests are equivalent to Third Level; all FEI Young Rider Tests are equivalent to PSG; and the USEF Brentina Cup (Young Adult) Test and FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Tests are equivalent to Intermediate II. For purposes of freestyle qualification, all are considered equivalent to the highest test of that level and may be used to enter a freestyle at that level or a level below. Young Horse and FEI Children Tests cannot be used for freestyle qualification at any level.
10. If Grand Prix Freestyle class is offered at a competition, at least one Grand Prix class must be offered and scheduled prior to the Freestyle (DR126.1.b.6). Additional competition management requirements for freestyle classes are listed in DR126.1.b.6, DR126.1.f.13a, DR126.1.g.4 and DR126.1.j.2-3.
11. All judges of a freestyle test at any level must judge both artistic and technical parts of the test. BOD 6/28/21 Effective 12/1/21