



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

USDF Management Guide to Hosting Para-Equestrian (PE) Dressage Classes

A. Licensing and Prize List

1. On the competition's license, check the Para Dressage box so that USEF and USDF will list your show as offering Para Dressage classes. If not done initially, e-mail USEF and USDF and request the addition of Para Dressage to the competition.
2. When preparing the prize list, offer two Para Dressage Test of Choice (TOC) classes (labelled A and B or 1 and 2). Since the Para Dressage tests are FEI tests, Para Dressage athletes may only ride two tests per day per horse. Also offer two Para Dressage Freestyle TOC classes (labelled A and B, or 1 and 2).
3. All Para Dressage TOC classes may be ridden in a 20m x 60m arena. (Please remember to note that in the prize list, if that is show management's option). Show management is encouraged to put the Para Dressage TOC for Grades I, II and III in the smaller 20m x 40m arena.
4. The Para Dressage Freestyle classes are different. Grades I, II and III freestyles must be ridden in a 20m x 40m arena, while Grade IV and V freestyle tests are ridden in the standard 20m x 60m arena.
5. There is no additional insurance required to host Para Dressage classes.

While most of the entries for Para Dressage classes will likely be Grades I through III, listing the Para Dressage freestyle class as TOC with two options will give the show secretary the ability to split the entries into those who may need the shorter arena (20m x 40m) and those who may need the larger arena (20m x 60m), or for those who are riding two Para Dressage tests. If an additional Para Dressage TOC class is needed due to the entries and the types of arenas to be used, another Para Dressage TOC or Para Dressage freestyle TOC class may be added in accordance with USEF GR903, Changes in Prize List.

B. Entries

When a Para Dressage athlete enters the show, their entry should include a copy of their USEF Dispensation/Classification Certificate (Certificate). They should provide to the show secretary a courtesy copy of the FEI test. Please note that in order to ride a Para Dressage test at a USEF licensed/USDF recognized competition, the competitor must have a permanent, verifiable and measurable physical or visual impairment for which they have a classification either by USEF or FEI and possess a Certificate.

If the competitor does not have a Certificate, and they are classified for FEI Para Dressage, show management should advise the competitor to contact the Director of Para Equestrian at USEF at least 10 days before the show to obtain their Certificate. Copies of the Certificate and an extra copy of the test(s) they are riding should be given to the judge. Copies of the Certificate should also be provided to the technical delegate. The technical delegate should assist the ring stewards with their equipment check per USEF DR307-308 to verify that the items listed on the Certificate are being correctly used and no additional items are being used.

Important note: There are many riders who have Certificates that allow them to use special equipment (i.e.

seat savers) that are not classified as Para Dressage athletes, and those riders are not permitted to ride Para Dressage tests. The Para Dressage athletes must have a classification, either by USEF or FEI and provide a copy of their Certificate to show management.

How to find Para Dressage tests on the FEI website: Copies of Para Dressage tests can be downloaded from the FEI website at www.FEI.org, click "*Inside FEI*", click "*Organiser*", click "*Para-Dressage*", click "*Para-Dressage Tests*" for the appropriate Grade. Note that there are several tests to choose from: Novice A, Novice B, Team, Individual, Freestyle, Introductory A, and Introductory B, any two of which may be ridden by the competitor in the Para Dressage TOC, or one of the Para Dressage TOC and one Para Dressage freestyle TOC.

A horse/Para Dressage athlete pair may only perform two tests per show day. A Para Dressage athlete may also ride a national test (at any level) and FEI Para Dressage test, but again is limited to two per show day (per horse). If the Para Dressage athlete rides only national tests, then the national test rules are followed (three tests per show day per horse for Fourth Level and below).

For further clarification, a Para Dressage athlete may ride more than one horse at a competition. Each horse may only perform two Para tests (or one Para test and one National test) per show day, unless the horse is entered in national classes only. The Para athlete is not limited in total number of rides per day, but each horse participating in at least one Para test is limited in number of rides per show day.

C. Notes for Show Management

The technical delegates should apply the practical interpretation of the USEF rules as they currently exist. **Always remember that the division rules take precedence over the general rules, and that USEF DR301-311 address specifically rules for Para Dressage.**

Para Dressage athletes must ride in their allocated grade if they are riding FEI Para Dressage tests.

Horses must be a minimum of six years old to compete in FEI Para Dressage classes.

TOC classes for Para Dressage competitors must be noted as FEI Para Dressage and are limited to Para Dressage riders only. USEF DR118

Para Dressage athletes may not have their FEI Para Dressage tests called, unless their Certificate allows them to have a "commander" or caller.

There are no longer equivalencies, so that a Para Dressage athlete may ride any national test at a national show no matter which grade they are classified. National test rules apply, so for example, they may have a caller in a national test. If a Para Dressage athlete is riding in a national class, USEF DR Subchapter 1 rules take precedence for those classes, including the bits and bridles that are permitted. However, Para Dressage athletes may use the compensating aids listed on their Certificate, and those compensating aids listed as "all athletes" in USEF DR307.

FEI Para Dressage tests at USEF/USDF recognized shows must be judged either by a USEF Senior (S) or USEF Registered (R) judge. (No recorded judges (r) may judge FEI Para Dressage tests.)

For Para Dressage freestyles, the athlete/horse combination must have achieved a 60% in any FEI Para Dressage Test in their classified grade at a previous USEF or FEI competition.

This includes FEI Para Dressage Introductory A, Introductory B, Novice A, Novice B, Team or Individual test found on the FEI website.

For those shows that shorten the arena, this may be more easily done at a scheduled break toward the end of the day.

D. Quick Guide on How to Shorten an Arena

Most dressage arenas have 4-meter rails, so this quick guide is based on that assumption. If the rails of the dressage arena are a different length, then some minor calculations will be necessary.

A roll of red duct tape and a roll of white duct tape are useful supplies when shortening an arena.

Remember: With 4m rails, the long sides have 15 rails to make 60m. With 4m rails, for a length of 40m, there are 10 rails. Across the short side, there will be 5 rails. At A, the middle rail will be missing for the entranceway.

To shorten a 20m x 60m arena, remember that letters C, M and H will always remain the same as will that part of the configuration.

Take the rails in front of P and V out and lay them on the outside of the arena toward where F and V currently stand. Bring the 4 rails comprising the short side in front of A, including the corner supports and put them in front of where P and V were. This should be the new short end. Use the corner supports as the new end of the shortened arena. To check (with 4m rails), the corners should be at the end of the 10th (4m) rail from the C short side.

Pull P and V away from the arena and pull R and S away from the arena. Move B and E to the center support so that there are five rails on each side of B and E on the long side. Move A to about 5m from the entrance.

Normally, the side rails for the 20m x 60m arenas are left in place except for the ones that were removed near P and V. This simplifies the process when reversing the arena to the longer 20m x 60m version.

Move F and K to 6m from the short end (middle of the second rail).

If there are clip arena markers, move arena markers to F, K, E and B. Remove arena markers not at a letter (or clip them on the outside of the arena, so that they are not visible from the inside). If arena markers are not available, use the red duct tape to denote the new placement of the letters, and use the white duct tape to cover red tape where there should not be a marker for the shortened arena.

If there is a side judge, it is easiest to set up a riser and table with chairs ahead of time at the 5th rail from the C end.