



## **APPENDIX 1: HDS RECOGNIZED SCHOOLING SHOWS DRESSAGE COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS**

The following dressage requirements are based on whole and or partial references from the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Dressage Rules and are intended to be used for HDS Recognized Schooling Shows only. Competitors intending to compete in USEF Recognized Dressage Competitions are advised to refer to the exact requirements contained in the USEF Rule Book located at the following website:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2009/08-DR.pdf>

To be eligible and compete in HDS recognized schooling shows, Schooling Show Management shall communicate the following requirements to their competitors. Schooling show Management shall ensure that the requirements outlined within this document are adhered to by show management, show management personnel (including show volunteers) and competitors. *However, the responsibility for correct attire and equipment outlined in these requirements rests primarily with the competitor.*

### **A. General Requirements**

1. USDF Dressage tests shall be used.
2. Horses may enter no more than 2 consecutive levels at the show. Horses are limited to a maximum of three (3) dressage rides per day *at Fourth Level and below* or two (2) dressage rides per day *above 4<sup>th</sup> level* **Dressage Seat Equitation classes are excluded from the maximum limit of rides per day and horses in these classes may compete at any level for which they are otherwise eligible during the same competition.**
3. Individuals are eligible to compete as juniors until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18. Individuals are eligible as Young Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21. Competitors shall compete as adults from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 22.
4. With the permission of competition management, a horse and rider combination may enter a class as Hors de Concours (not competing). Such entries must pay the full entry fee, but scores for these entries will not be recorded or published, nor shall they count towards any prizes, placing, or yearend awards. Permission must be granted from Schooling Show Management prior to the competition on the entry form.
5. The schooling show competition manager may not serve as judge or compete as his/her own competition. However, he/she may ride Hors de Concours. A judge may not be an owner of any competing horse, except that horses may be shown Hors de Concours.

### **B. Dress, Saddlery & Equipment (Ref. USEF DR120, DR121)**

1. The dress code for Training through Fourth levels is a short riding coat of conservative color (Note: Coats are optional for GAG, Intro and Prix Caprilli classes) with tie, choker or stock tie, white or light colored breeches, jodhpurs. Boots or Jodhpur boots, a hunt cap or riding hat with a hard shell, derby or top hat are required. Gloves of conservative color are recommended. Riders up to and including 1<sup>st</sup> level may wear half chaps, gaiters, or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, made of smooth leather or leather like material matching the color of the rider's boots.
2. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear at any level of competition without penalty from the judge.
3. If the show facility has a policy for *required* protective headgear, the safety requirements will take precedence and shall be communicated to competitors in the entry form and or prize list.
4. In extreme heat and or humidity, coats may be waived by schooling show management. However, competitors must wear a regulation hat (Section B1) and solid white or very pale colored long or short sleeve shirt, without neckwear. T-shirts are not permitted.
5. Competitors will be allowed to wear a hat cover and or rain coat in inclement weather.
6. For special classes identified by the schooling show management (i.e. costume classes, etc.), competitors are exempt from the dress code requirements Schooling show management shall communicate special requirements in the prize list to competitors on or before the show date. Headgear and boots are required as specified in Section B.1. "Exempt" clothing shall not pose a danger to the rider and or competitors. Show Management has the right to prohibit any competitor wearing clothing that they believe may pose a safety hazard to the rider and or competitors.
7. Whips used when mounted while schooling or in completion classes may **not** be longer than **47.2 inches** (including lash). An adjustable length whip may not be carried by a rider when mounted. There is no restriction on length of lunge whip used in for lunging on the competition grounds. There is no length restriction for whips when working a horse un-mounted.



8. Spurs shall be made of metal. The shank shall be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs shall be worn only with the shank directed downwards. However, 'Swan necked' spurs (Fig.1) are allowed. The inside of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have rubber covers. Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs ('Impuls' spur) on the shank are allowed. 'Dummy' spurs with no shank are allowed. Offset spurs with no rowels are only allowed with Federation dispensation.

**Fig. 1 - Swan Necked Spurs**



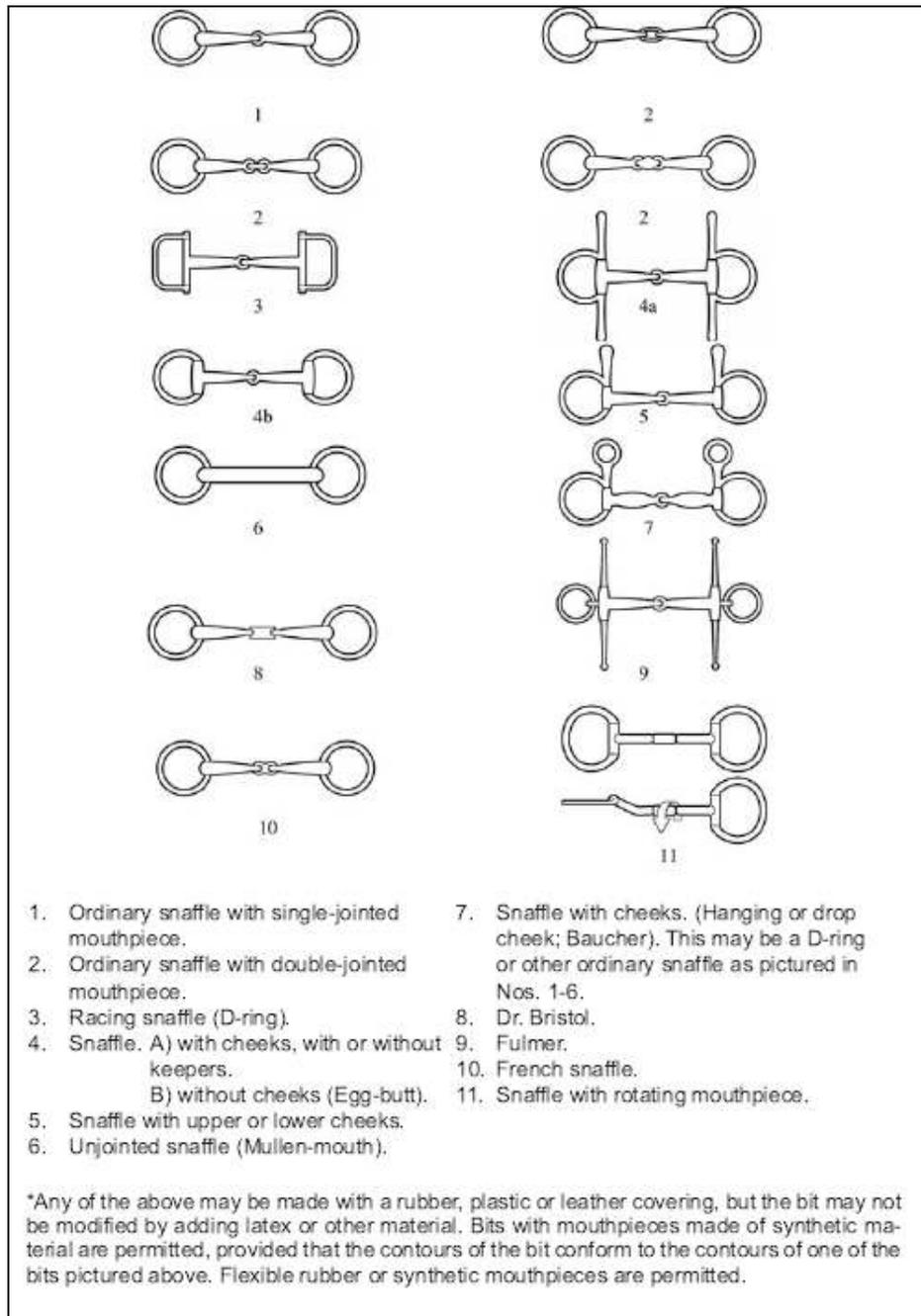
9. If rowels are used, they must be free to rotate.
10. Spur requirements apply to warm-up, training areas, and in the show ring during the schooling show competition.
11. An English type saddle with stirrups is required.
12. Saddle pads are optional, but should be of a white or of conservative color (unless permitted by schooling show management for special classes, e.g. costume classes).
13. All bits must be smooth and with a solid surface. Twisted, wire and roller bits are prohibited. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link in a double jointed snaffle; however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve, but "ported" snaffles are prohibited. A bridoon (Fig 3) is defined as a snaffle bit used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle. Bits must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber, flexible rubber. Flexible rubber bits are not permitted, except as noted in Figure A below. The diameter of the snaffle or bradoon mouthpiece must be minimum 3/8 inches diameter at the rings or cheeks of the mouthpiece (Exception: For ponies diameter may be less than 3/8 inches.)
14. For Training, First and Second Level tests, a plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular cavesson, dropped noseband, a flash noseband, crescent or crossed noseband. Except for the crescent noseband, which has sheepskin at the intersection, the noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather like material. Padded nosebands are allowed.
15. At any level of competition, the noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes irritation to the skin. Cavesson nosebands may be used with a chin pad. At any level of competition a brow band may be decorated with metal, beads, gemstones and crystals.
16. For Third and Fourth level tests, requirements in Section 10 above are applicable or use of a double bridle is allowed.
17. The snaffle bits shown in Figure 2 are acceptable for dressage competition.
18. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal straps, tongue tie down, etc.), any kind of boots (including 'easy boots') or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Fly hoods (ear covers) will only be permitted in order to protect the horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet and should not cover the horse's eyes, and will only be permitted in extreme cases at the discretion of the judge. Permission must be granted prior to the class and applies to all competitors in the class. Note: Leg bandages are allowed in Pas De Deux or Quadrille classes or in "special class competition", i.e. costume classes. A breastplate and or crupper may be used.

The above restrictions apply to warm up and other training areas, however, running martingales (with snaffle only), boots, bandages (without magnets) and ear muffs are permitted in warm-up and other training areas. Fly hoods that do not cover the horse's eyes are permitted in warm-up and other training areas. Single direct side reins are permitted only when lunging (mounted or un-mounted). Only one lunge line is permitted only while lunging. Driving or long lining is prohibited. A side rein is defined as auxiliary rein affixed to the bit and to the girth, saddle or surcingle on the side of the horse (not between the legs). A lunge line must attach only to the bridle, halter, or cavesson and go directly to the hand of the lunging. A running martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth or breastplate (at the front of the horse's chest); the extension of each strap must be connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side and must be free to slide. The rings through which the reins slid may not be connected to a neck strap.



19. A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle 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 bits.
20. Braiding of the horse's mane and tail are permitted. False tails are permitted and if used may not contain any metal parts.
21. Numbers must be worn at all times when a horse is exercised or ridden.

**Fig. 2 - Snaffle Bits Acceptable for Dressage Competition**

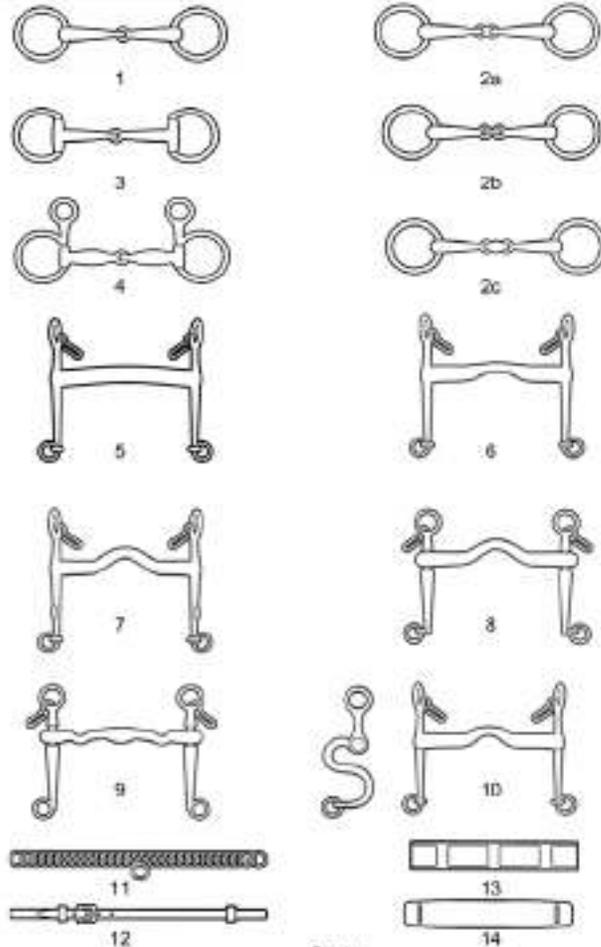


**Fig. 3 – Permitted Bridoon, Curb and Snaffle Bits**



**B. PERMITTED BRIDOOON, CURB AND SNAFFLE BITS (Must be used in FEI Level Tests. Optional in Third and Fourth Level Tests) (Reprinted from the FEI Rules for Dressage Events, 2003 edition)**

**1. Various double bridle bits.**



**Bridoons:**

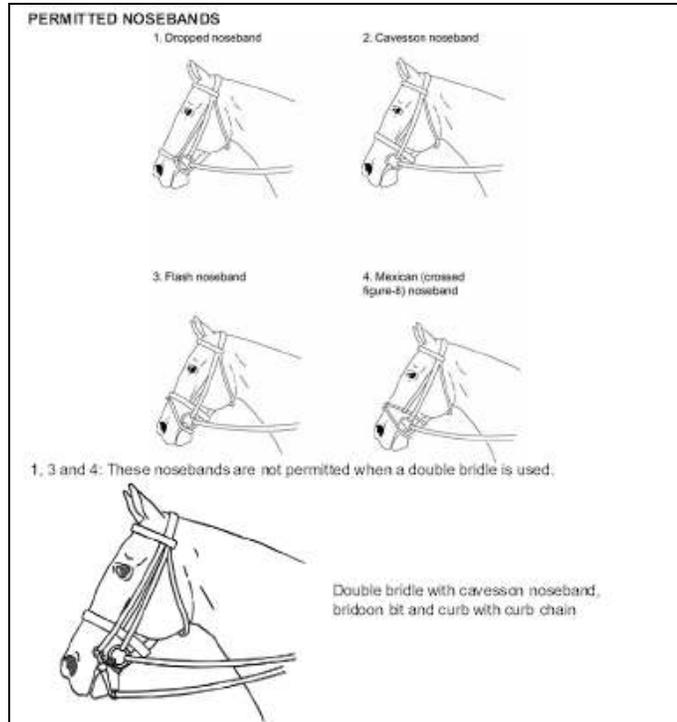
1. Loose ring bridoon bit.
2. a, b, c. Bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded. (Note: A Dr. Bristol bit is not permitted.)
3. Egg-butt bridoon bit.
4. Bridoon bit with hanging cheeks.

**Curbs:**

5. Half-moon curb bit.
6. & 7. Curb bit with straight cheeks and port.
8. Curb bit with port & sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth).  
A curb bit with rotating lever arm is also allowed.
9. Variation of bits Nos. 6, 7 & 8.
10. Curb bit with S-curved cheeks.
11. Curb chain (metal or leather or a combination).
12. Lip strap.
13. Leather cover for curb chain.
14. Rubber cover for curb chain.



**Fig. 4 – Permitted Nosebands**



### **C. Execution & Judging of Tests (Ref. USEF DR122)**

1. Callers are allowed, however reading the test is limited to reading each movement once only. Repetition is allowed if there is reason to doubt that the rider did not hear the original call.
2. At the salute, riders must take the reins in one hand. Female riders must let the free arm drop loosely along their side and incline head in a bow. Male riders may either remove hat and or drop arm loosely at side.
3. Use of voice or tongue "clicking" during execution of the test will result in "error" for that movement.
4. After three "errors" of course, the competitor shall be eliminated; however, at the discretion of the judge, the rider may be allowed to finish the test.
5. If the judge has not noted the error, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt.
6. In the case of lameness, the judge will inform the competitor that they are eliminated.
7. If the horse leaves the arena with or without the rider (all 4 feet outside the fence, between the time of entry and the time of exit at A, the competitor shall be eliminated.
8. Scores and comments shall be written in ink; any corrected score must be initialed by the judge.

### **D. Elimination (Ref. USEF DR124)**

1. Horse and rider combinations shall be eliminated from the competition for a, f, and i or from the current or next class depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred, under the following circumstances:
  - a. Misrepresentation of entry;
  - b. Dress code violations at the discretion of the Show Management and or Judge.
  - c. Use of Illegal equipment;
  - d. Unauthorized assistance during performance of the test;
  - e. Three errors of the course and/or the test;



- f. Horses tongue tied down;
  - g. Late entry into the arena;
  - h. All 4 feet of the horse leave the arena with or without rider;
  - i. Cruelty;
  - j. Marked lameness;
  - k. Resistance of longer than 20 seconds;
  - l. Concern for the safety of the rider, other exhibitors or their entries;
  - m. In freestyle classes, performing movements that are not allowed;
  - n. Evidence of blood on a horse in the competition arena shall be cause for elimination by the judge; Evidence of blood on a horse outside the competition arena shall be cause for elimination by the schooling show competition management from either the last class in which the horse competed or the next class in which it is scheduled to compete, depending upon which is closest to the time that the incident occurred. Insect bites shall not be cause for elimination.
  - o. Failure to wear competitor number when in the competition ring;
  - p. Any situation where a direct rule violation can be cited.
12. Authority for rule enforcement outside the competition ring rests solely with the Schooling Show Competition Management. The Schooling Show Competition Management has the authority to eliminate a competitor for use of illegal equipment during a test that is discovered after the competitor has left the arena.

#### **E. Scoring, Classification and Awards (Ref. USEF DR123)**

1. After each performance and after the judge has given his/her Collective Marks, the judge's sheets pass into the hands of the scorers. Scores and comments must be written in INK. Any corrected scores must be initialed by the judge having made the correction. The marks are multiplied by the corresponding coefficient where applicable and then totaled. Penalty points incurred for errors in the execution of the test are then deducted.
2. It is recommended that the scorer not be a competitor, owner, coach, trainer, or family member of a competitor/horse in the class(s) in which they are scoring.
3. The total score for the classification is obtained by adding the total points. Total final points must be published in marks as well as percentages with numbers to THREE (3) places after the decimal point. Scores should be posted on a public scoreboard as soon as possible after each ride. It is recommended that a print out of the tally and calculation of the score be attached to the score sheet to allow the competitor to verify the accuracy of the scoring (E6).
4. The winner is the competitor having the highest total points. The second placed competitor is the one with the next highest total points and so on. *In case of equality of points the competitor with the highest marks received under General Impressions shall be declared the winner. When the scores for general impressions are also equal, the horses must remain tied.* Errors on a test may NOT be used to break ties. Final results for each class must be posted as soon as possible after the class is completed and all results must include total points and percentages with numbers to THREE (3) places after the decimal point, eliminated horses, and the placing of each horse that receives an award. If a competitor withdraws (scratches) from a class prior to a class or is excused, eliminated or a "no show" prior to or during a performance of a test, the words "scratched", "excused", "eliminated" or "no show" must appear after the competitor's name in the result sheet.
5. A judge is allowed to leave the show grounds when all scores from his/her class are totaled and any ties resolved.
6. If a mathematical error on the score sheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of the schooling show competition management within 1 hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of the competition day. Competition Management must correct the affected score sheet and correct placing/winning of the class, if the corrected score impacts the placing in the class.

#### **F. Requirements of Dressage Show Management (Ref. USEF DR126)**



1. All classes must be listed in the prize list and may be divided into separate divisions or sections based upon qualifications, age or other eligibility of horses or riders. Divisions or sections of a class are considered to be a separate 'class' only if listed as such in the prize list. Divisions or sections of a class may be held in different rings and judged by different judges. When divisions or sections are held under different conditions (i.e. different ring or judges) separate awards must be given. Where more than 25 entries are accepted for a particular class, the class must be divided into two (2) separate divisions for awards purposes. When entries warrant, competitions are encouraged to split classes for Adult Amateurs & Junior riders.
2. No judge shall be required to officiate longer than 8 hours in one day unless the judge had agreed and cannot be required to be on the competition grounds longer than ten (10) hours. Judges must be given at least a 45-minute lunch break and at least a ten (10) minute break every two (2) hours. Judges comments, while judging, may not be audio recorded without prior permission of the judge, the specific competitors, and show management.
3. Show organizers should prepare a time schedule including all rides. Competitors should be notified of their ride times in advance. Dressage classes must be run in their entirety and rides may only be scheduled out of sequence to allow a reasonable interval between two or more horses entered by the same rider in the same class. Also, when preparing a time schedule, consideration must be given to riders entered in more than one class or riding more than one horse. At least 50 minutes must be scheduled between start times for a rider's tests on different horses unless he/she has agreed to a shorter interval between tests. Time intervals should be allowed between rides for a judge's breaks. The time schedule should be posted in a conspicuous place at least one (1) hour prior to start of the competition. Competitions may reserve the right to fill a competitor's subsequent ride times if that competitor fails to notify the competition secretary of his/her intention to scratch (i.e. is a 'no show').
4. Competitors will not be allowed in the arena or around the immediate perimeter of the arena (unless as a caller for the rider) while a class is in progress or inside the arena while a class is in progress or inside the arena at other times except under the following conditions:
  - Management must post or announce designated times that the competitors may school inside the arena(s), and
  - Competitors should be permitted by management to enter the arena prior to their ride if arena conditions do not permit riding around the perimeter of the arena prior to entry.Such permission shall be announced prior to the start of the class.
5. After the awards for a class have been presented, the judges score sheet should be given to the competitor. Tests may be handed directly to the competitor (or his/her representative) or placed in an area that is controlled by show management to ensure privacy of the competitor's results.
6. Scribes should have knowledge of the tests being ridden. Scribes should not be an owner, coach, trainer or family member of a competitor/horse in the class in which they are scribing. Scribe changes should not be made more than once.
7. Ring stewards appointed by show management shall check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs on both sides of the horse for at least one third of the class. Bit inspectors may request the competitor dismount and show bit to inspector. The checking of the bridle must be done with caution as some horses are touchy and sensitive about their mouths. Bit inspectors must use a new disposable glove for each horse when checking bits while in horse mouths.
8. Schooling and warm-up areas must be monitored by stewards starting at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled ride. When a competition operates two or more rings or warm-up areas, the competition must have a sufficient number of stewards to adequately monitor all schooling and warm-up areas, as well as competition rings.

#### **G. The Arena (Ref. USEF DR126)**

1. The arena should be on as flat and level ground as possible. The Standard Arena (Fig. 5) is 60 meters long and 40 meters wide. The Small Arena (Fig. 6) is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide. Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure. It is recommended that the arenas be separated from the public by a distance of no less than 3 meters.
2. The enclosure itself should consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high. The fence should be such to prevent the horse's hooves from becoming entangled and arena stakes, if used, must be covered with a ball or smaller object so as to prevent injury. Rope, concrete or unbreakable chain fencing is NOT allowed. The part of the fence at can remain open. The letter A should be place at least 5 meters away from the



arena. The letters outside the arena should be placed about 0.5 meters from the fence and clearly marked. So that the judges can note the exact point on the track opposite each letter, it is compulsory to place a marker on the fence itself, level with and in addition to the letter concerned. It is permissible to decorate the arena with flowers or greenery.

3. The following must be held in the Standard Arena: Federation 1<sup>st</sup> level tests (except Test 1), 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Tests, 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Tests, 4<sup>th</sup> Level Tests, FEI tests and musical freestyles, except those tests written for a small arena.
4. Use of a grass arena is permitted.
5. Where local conditions necessitate, use of a modified arena is acceptable as long as the dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list. The arena should be shortened no more than five meters.

#### **H. Location of the Judge (Ref. USEF DR126)**

The location of the judge should preferably placed a maximum of 5 meters and minimum of 3 meters from the end of the arena and must be opposite the letter C. At indoor competitions, Judges should preferably be placed a minimum of 3 meters from the arena. A separate enclosure (booth, tent, and trailer) should be provided for each judge and it must be raised at least 0.5 meters (20 inches), for Freestyle Tests possibly a little higher, above the ground to give the Judge(s) a good view of the ring.

#### **I. Exercise Ground (Ref. USEF DR126)**

1. An exercise area must be provided far enough away from the arena so as not to disturb the competitors during their tests. It should be of sufficient size for several competitors to prepare their horses at the same time. It is strongly recommended that a lunging area be provided separate from and in addition to mounted warm up areas and that it be available throughout the competition. If possible, one or two practices arenas with perimeters and letters should be provided.
2. Competition management should make every effort to provide the best possible footing in competition and warm-up areas. Provisions should be made (by having on hand proper equipment and scheduling sufficient breaks in the schedule) to maintain throughout the competition the footing in all riding areas by dragging, watering and, if necessary, raking, if needed.
3. Background music, of a suitable composition and volume so as not to disturb the competitors and judges, may be played during all classes except when freestyle music is being played. Specific background music may not be requested or supplied by competitors for their rides except for freestyle tests. It is strongly recommended that organizers avoid running freestyle classes at the same time as non-freestyle classes that are held in close proximity.
4. A separate number must be issued for each horse/rider combination. Horses or riders are required to display only one number and may not be penalized for displaying only one number.
5. Competitions are not permitted to charge warm-up or schooling fees prior to or during a competition for horses entered in the competition.

#### **J. DR132 Dressage Seat Equitation (Ref. USEF DR 132)**

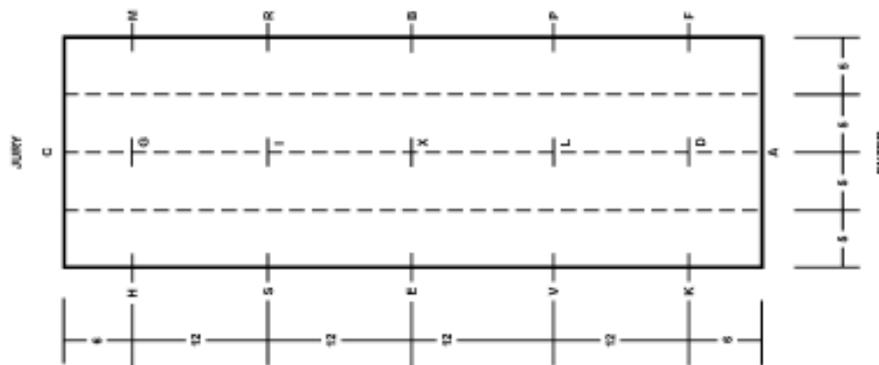
Dressage Seat Equitation classes may be offered for Juniors, Young Riders, Adult Amateurs and/or Open riders according to the following specifications:

1. Medium walk, working trot and canter both ways of the ring must be performed. The rider's position, seat and specifically the correct use and effect of the aids required by the Training and First Level Dressage tests are to be judged. **For Intro Dressage Seat Equitation, only Walk Trot movements shall be performed both ways of the arena. Competitors riding in the Intro Dressage Seat Equitation classes cannot ride in the Walk/ Trot/Canter Classes.**
2. **Horses ridden in Dressage Seat Equitation classes shall not be ridden in more than 2 dressage seat equitation classes in one day.**
3. The movements shall be performed by the exhibitors simultaneously; however, the judge may ask for independent tests.
3. No change of horses shall be required.
4. Whips and spurs are allowed. Horses shall be shown in plain snaffle.



5. The size of a group shall be limited to no more than 25 riders. Groups may be divided into smaller sections, at the discretion of the judges, for safety and convenience. Judges may limit the number of horses required to canter at the same time, at their discretion.
6. Only the rider is judged, however, lameness of horses will be penalized per 'Section D, Elimination'.
8. Back numbers must be provided to Equitation riders and they must be positioned to be clearly visible at all times.
9. Judges are required to give a final percentage score only for the riders placing in the class, plus two reserves (**total 8 scores**), except when two or more judges officiate separately. When judges officiate separately, final percentage scores from each judge must be given to all riders competing in the class.
10. USEF Dressage Seat Equitation score sheets must be used.
11. Juniors may not ride stallions in Dressage Seat Equitation classes.
12. Classes should be held in an enclosed ring that is larger than a standard dressage arena, if available. If such a space is not available, an open schooling area is permitted. If classes must be held in a dressage arena, it must be at least 20m x 60m, and no more than 6 horses shall be asked to canter at the same time.
13. Judges are encouraged to provide verbal comments to riders after the class, but score sheets **must not be posted**.

**Figure 4 – Dressage Arena (Large) 20 X 60 Meters**



**Figure 5 – Dressage Arena (Small) 20 X 40 Meters**

