

CHAPTER II**DRESSAGE TEST**

SECTION 1 TECHNICAL ASPECTS**1. GROUND**

- a) The area of the arena, 60 x 20m, should be absolutely flat and horizontal.
- b) Sand or other all-weather surfaces as specified for pure dressage are recommended. However a fine turf, well tended (sown in 15cm of good soil, regularly watered, rolled and mowed) sufficiently compact, produces an excellent surface. In many cases, a good pastoral turf will do, provided it is flat and well tended (rolled, mowed and if necessary, watered) before the competition.
- c) Whatever the surface (turf, sand or all-weather), it is essential that in the event of rain the arena does not collect water from the surrounding ground and must itself be free-draining.
- d) The care of a turf arena during the competition entails replacing and stamping in the divots. A sand arena must be levelled, raked and re-marked, especially the diagonals and centre line, after approximately every eighth competitor. All-weather arenas must be maintained appropriately, with the necessary specialised equipment.
- e) Dung must be regularly removed from all surfaces.

2. ARENA**2.1 Lay-out**

Not too near routes of communication, jumping arenas, parking areas, trade stands, noise, restaurants, etc...

2.2 Orientation

If possible, oriented so that the Ground Jury (at the end and at the side) does not face the sun. A further point to consider may be the direction of expected rainfall.

2.3 Dimensions

- a) The arena of 60 x 20m should be measured from the inside edge of the enclosure.
- b) The prescribed minimum 15m space between the arena and the public must be measured from the outside edge of the enclosure.
- c) In practice, Organisers should attempt to arrange a distance greater than 15m between the arena and the public, especially if there is expected to be a large crowd.
- d) The immediate vicinity of the Dressage Arena will only contain the Judge's boxes and possibly the Scoring Office and perhaps a small enclosure for Television (see 2.6 later).

2.4 Enclosure

- a) The height of the arena enclosure should be approximately 30cm and the enclosure should be stable, and not affected by wind.

- b) If there is not a permanent enclosure, one can be made of movable parts 2m long constructed with light struts and horizontal battens, the whole surface of the enclosure being painted white. Care must be taken that a horse's hoof cannot get blocked in the structure.
- c) At **A** (the entrance to the arena), a "gate" section is needed. This may be the central 2m section of the enclosure (which must then be moved by the steward to allow horses to enter and leave the arena), or it may take the form of a movable barrier or cord.

2.5 Markers

- a) In accordance with the Rules, the letters for the long and short sides must be placed outside the enclosure, but at about **50cm** from it. It is an advantage to have them painted in black on white, on four-sided or triangular frames, so that they can be seen from all angles.
- b) Their feet should be firmly secured in the ground or they should be heavy enough to stand up to wind, and higher than the enclosure.
- c) In order that the Judges and riders may see the exact spot on the arena, the point for each letter should be marked by an adhesive red strip on the inside edge of the enclosure, by red paint, or by a red stake.
- d) The centre line should be marked throughout its length, and wherever appropriate to the dressage test being ridden, the points **D**, **L**, **X**, **I**, and **G** also. These last by a line on the ground about 2m long, and in a manner that does not disturb the horses.
- e) The best way of marking the centre line, and the points along it, is to use a lawn mower for grass and a rake or a small roller for sand (the normal width of a mower or rake). For sand, it is essential to re-mark the centre line after approximately every eight competitors. Note that some types of "all-weather" surface do not accept marking, so the centre line and points along it cannot be marked.

2.6 General surroundings

- a) Check that there is nothing in the immediate vicinity of the arena which can disturb the competitors (i.e. loudspeakers, shrubs, flags, flowerpots, and bunting which could be blown over or moved by the wind). There is no restriction in the Rules as to how close to the arena flowers may be - this will depend on the type and height of display - but they must not be closer than the markers (0.5m) and should preferably be further away.
- b) It is important to try to ensure that conditions during the dressage tests are constant for all competitors.
- c) Some OC's have successfully arranged for quiet music to be played over the loudspeakers during the dressage – this can muffle other background noise and be very helpful to the horses; it should not include "vocals" and should remain at a constant level throughout all the dressage competition periods.
- d) TV Cameras may be sited closer than 15m from the arena if desired, but the TD must be satisfied that they are positioned so as not to distract a horse and that the operators understand the need to remain as still as possible during tests. Any such camera must be in the same position for **all** competitors.

3. OFFICIALS' BOXES

- a) Each judge's box should be raised about 50cm (two steps) above the level of the arena, and located 5m outside the enclosure, in order to give the judges a good view of the arena.
- b) The President of the Ground Jury's Box must be placed exactly in the centre of the short side at **C**, facing directly down the centre line C-A. This box should be big enough to cater for the President, his writer and an assistant who may be operating the computer scoring, 'reading the test' and/or timing any resistance.
- c) One or two other boxes are required (see Rules Article 527 4), each big enough for the Judge, his writer and assistant if necessary. They are placed:
 - one on the short side to the left or to the right of the President's box, at 2.50m from, and on the inside of, the prolongation of the long side (at **M** or **H**).
 - one on the long side close to **B** or **E** between 5m and 10m from the long side. See note below on the judge's view of the arena.
- d) Ideally the placings of the boxes are:
 - three boxes: **C, H & B** or **C, M & E**
 - two boxes: **C & B**, or **C & E**
 - The TD will decide the exact arrangement in discussion with the OC. However, the specific layout at a particular event may be such that it is impossible or impracticable to place a box on the long side; in this case the boxes may be placed on the short side **C, M** and/or **H**.
 - It is very important to check that each Judge can see the whole arena from his seat. Lateral windows in the boxes are recommended, or if this is not possible the boxes at **H / M** can be angled slightly inwards, and the box at **B** or **E** placed up to 10m from the enclosure. It is also very helpful if the door of the box can be "secured" (and opened) from the inside of the box.
- e) For the convenience of the judges and their assistants, it is necessary to ensure ready access to toilet facilities; if these are of the portable type, they should **not** be available to the general public.
- f) When a judge is seated on a long side, it is necessary to have some means of quick radio communication from that judge's box to the President (shouting or waving is not recommended!).

4. SCORING OFFICE AND CALCULATION OF RESULTS

- a) **Position of Scoring Office**

The best place for the Scoring Office is about 5m directly behind the Judges' Boxes; it should in any case be close enough to the Judges to permit quick collection of score sheets after each horse.
- b) **Scoring Method**

The following is the method of calculation (marks per movement from 0 to 10) for a test with maximum 230 points. Every score sheet should be checked by a second person.

	H	C	M
Good marks of judges	127	138	144
Subtract errors (say 2 errors -> 6 points)	6	6	6
	121	132	138
% good marks ($\div 230 \times 100$) (rounded to 2 decimal places)	52.61	57.39	60.00
Average % good marks (2 places) ($52.61 + 57.39 + 60.00$) $\div 3$		56.67	
Average % bad marks (2 places) $100 - 56.67$		43.33	
Convert into penalty points $\times 1.5$ (1 decimal place)		<u>65.00</u>	

Note penalties for errors of course or test are:

1st error - 2 penalty points

2nd error - 4 additional penalty points (= total 6)

3rd error - elimination

5. WARM-UP AREA, PRACTICE ARENAS, FAMILIARISATION PERIOD

- A warm-up area must be provided at a convenient distance from the arena, so as not to disturb the competitors during their tests. It must be big enough to allow for several competitors to work their horses. A qualified Steward must be appointed to supervise the warm-up area.
- There should be two practice arenas of 60 x 20m (with markers) which must be at the disposal of the competitors 2 days before the first day of the Dressage Test. It is not essential that these practice arenas be fully boarded if material is not available, provided the corners and markers are clear.
- On the day(s) of competition, one arena close to the competition arena should be reserved for the next horse to compete. This desirably should have the same surface as the competition arena.
- The recommended allotted times for each test include approximately 1 – 2 minutes for each competitor to ride freely around the outside of the competition arena preparatory to his test. It is important that the stewards are briefed to make sure that the first horse after any pause is sent into the arena the same time before his test as the other competitors have enjoyed, so that all competitors are treated equally in this respect.
- Especially at events with many young horses, it is often very helpful to allow the horses into the area around the competition arena before doing their test, to familiarise them with the specific atmosphere. For example, on the day of the dressage test the area around the 20 x 60m arena is open for horses to be walked (led in hand or ridden) from say 0730 to 0800. The horses may not be “worked” at this time.

SECTION 2 - ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION & RULES CHECKS

1. OFFICIALS

The correct number of Officials has to be appointed:

- a) 1 **Chief Dressage Steward** with complete responsibility for the Dressage Phase, with as many assistants as he may require, including supervision of the arenas and opening and closing the “gate” at the entrance of the arena.
- b) 1 **Secretary** (writer) for each of the 3 Judges. The writer must be competent to speak **and** write the official language of their respective judge.
- c) 1 **Official Scorer** in charge of calculating the marks with as many assistants as he may require, and runner(s) to collect sheets from the Judges and to take them to the Scoring Office.
- d) 1 Steward to check saddlery – the Tack Steward.
- e) 1 Steward for the warm-up area (this may also be the Tack Steward).
- f) 1 Public Relations Officer (liaison with Press)
- g) 1 additional person per judge to work the computer scoring (if required).
- h) 1 or more Announcers

2. DOCUMENTS

The following must be prepared for each Judge:

- a) A judging sheet for every competitor, displaying the names of the Judge, the rider, the horse and its number, as well as the nationality of the competitor, in French or English according to the language spoken by the Judge. Wherever possible, this information should be put on the judging sheet before it is given to the judge (for example by preprinted adhesive label).
- b) 1 blank judging sheet, in French or English, for the Judge's personal use.
- c) The scoring papers required by the scorers, including starting order and times.

3. CHOICE OF DRESSAGE TEST, TIMETABLE, AND STARTING INTERVALS

3.1 Choice of Dressage Test

- a) The Dressage Tests form a planned evolution, intended progressively to improve the dressage performance of the horse and rider. The Dressage Test to be used can be selected by the OC and is determined by the level of the event. The available tests are defined in Annex 4 of the Eventing Rules.
- b) At a CIC, it is acceptable to use one of the CCI tests of the same star level, if the OC wishes.

3.2 Timetable

- a) For the benefit of the Ground Jury, the best timetable provides for blocks of 7-9 horses, with breaks of 10 - 20 minutes between each block, plus about one and a quarter hours for a luncheon break.

- b) The breaks need to take account of the time needed for maintenance of the dressage arena. The timetable may also need to take account of anticipated climatic conditions, for example great heat in the middle of the day, etc. It is also desirable to schedule competitors in similarly sized blocks and to avoid having, for example, a small group of competitors at the end of a day.
- c) Ideally, not more than 40 horses should be scheduled per day of dressage. However, if the OC expects 45 horses to start in the Event, it is quite acceptable to judge them all in one day. In exceptional circumstances, a maximum of 48 may be judged in one day, but such a decision should be taken by the OC, TD and Ground Jury together in the good interest of the competition.
- d) As the numbers of competitors in some events expands, it may even be necessary to have two and a half or three days of dressage. This is acceptable, but it is to be avoided if possible. Consideration should also be given to dividing the event into two sections of approximately equal numbers (see Annex 9 of the Rules with regard to extra officials).
- e) If there is a small entry, it is permissible to have longer breaks between groups of riders. However, most judges prefer to keep the intervals between riders as normal as possible.
- f) The Ground Jury should **always** be consulted on the matter of scheduling, as their preferences vary considerably.

3.3 Starting Intervals

The recommended starting intervals vary according to the Dressage test used:

Test	Duration	Recommended starting intervals
2002 CCI 4 Star	[5min]	8 minutes
2002 CCI 3 Star "A"	[5min]	7½ minutes
2002 CCI 3 Star "B"	[5min]	7½ minutes
2002 CCI 2 Star "A"	[5½min]	8 minutes
2002 CCI 2 Star "B"	[5½min]	8 minutes
2002 CCI 1 Star "A"	[5min]	7 minutes
2002 CCI 1 Star "B"	[5½min]	8 minutes
2002 CIC 3 Star	[5min]	7½ minutes
2002 CIC 2 Star	[4¾min]	7 minutes
2002 CIC 1 Star	[4¾min]	7 minutes

The recommended intervals are based on allowing the horse about 1 minute to walk around the arena before the bell is rung.

With a large entry, it is advisable to discuss with the Ground Jury the possibility of having alternating intervals of say 6 and 7 minutes, or 7 and 8 minutes. Stewards, riders and judges must all then work in a well co-ordinated way to ensure that the timetable is maintained, and that all riders are equally treated as far as time around the ring is concerned.

4. SAFEGUARDING THE ARENA

Precautions must be taken to ensure that the public, photographers, etc. may not enter the 15m zone around the arena without permission of the Organising Committee, the TD and the Ground Jury.

5. DOCTOR, VETERINARIAN, FARRIER, AMBULANCE

Check that they have been asked to attend and that they are present at the start of the competition at the place reserved for them, which **must** be shown on the overall plan of the competition.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a) During the Dressage Test, it is essential for key officials to have walkie-talkies or some other quick and easy method of communication. Those likely to need them include: President of the Ground Jury; TD; Collecting Ring Steward; Scoring Office; Veterinary Delegate; Stable Office; Press Office; Announcer; Organiser; Secretary.
- b) In the event of a judge at B or E, provision should be made for some rapid means of communication with the other judges (C and H or M) – ideally a walkie-talkie with their own channel.

7. BELL & STOP WATCH

- a) Ensure that the bell or some other audible warning system that is easily heard and distinguished is available to the President of the Ground Jury. Where there are two active arenas near each other, it is important that the 'bells' have different sounds.
- b) The President's assistant should have a stopwatch to time disobediences, etc.
- c) If the bell is electronic or electric, it is prudent to have an ordinary hand-bell available in case of failure.

8. DRESS AND SADDLERY

- a) Before each horse does his dressage and at a suitable moment, the Tack Steward should check that the competitor's dress (gloves, spurs etc.) and the saddlery (especially the bit) are in accordance with the Rules of the FEI.
- b) The competitor is solely responsible for his correct dress and saddlery. This means that if a rider competes with incorrect dress or saddlery, he is liable to appropriate sanction even if the steward has checked beforehand. The steward is there to help and advise the rider if he has incorrect dress or saddlery; **ultimately, the rider alone is responsible.**
- c) If the competitor so requests, the bridle and bit may be checked immediately after the test has been completed; if it is then deemed to be not in accordance with the rules, then in accordance with the Rules, the rider **must** be eliminated from the competition.

- d) The Dressage whip may be used while warming up for the dressage test, and can be carried up to just before entering the competition arena at **A**.
- e) While warming up, the competitor may use any saddlery that is permitted for any part of the Event – not just that permitted for dressage. It is essential that the Tack Steward checking saddlery is thoroughly familiar with the Rules.

Note that for the 2002 CIC* Dressage Test several important exceptions are allowed in dress and saddlery.

9. COLLECTING RING STEWARD & GATE OPENER

- a) Ensure that some means, and official timing, exists of calling competitors from the warm-up area, when they are needed in the 10-minute/final warm-up arena, and in the competition arena.
- b) The competition arena will not be opened until the President has rung the bell, and it must be closed again after the competitor enters the arena.
- c) It will be opened after the competitor has saluted at the end of his test, and closed again immediately after the competitor has left the arena.

10. TEST RIDER (GUINEA PIG)

- a) Fifteen or twenty minutes prior to the first competitor, on the first day of the dressage only, a non-competing rider and horse should be presented to perform the dressage test, in front of the Judges. Ideally, this horse and rider should be regularly competing in Eventing at the same level as the competition. This can be much more helpful to the Judges than a 'pure' dressage horse.
- b) This trial test serves several purposes. It allows the Judges to discuss any aspect of the judging that they may wish. It allows the TD and the OC to check that the arrangements in each box are satisfactory and that everything is in place for the first horse in the competition; it can also serve to help synchronise signals to an electronic scoreboard, if used.

11. SCORE BOARDS

- a) Provide an information board showing the number, name, nationality, starting order and the scores for each horse; this should be kept up-to-date throughout the competition.
- b) In order to make the dressage more interesting to the spectators, it is quite acceptable to show to the public the individual scores of each judge for each movement of the test while the test is going on (by a computerised system, or a system of lights). Some care should be taken (but it is not essential) that the display is not directly in the view of the judges as it may distract them. In all such cases, it is quite acceptable for the judges to be able to see or hear the total good marks and the final penalty score.

12. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The results of the dressage tests should be published as soon as possible after each horse has completed its test, by announcement and by posting on the official scoreboard. Results sheets should be produced for the press, public and competitors at regular intervals. These sheets may show the positive total for each judge, any penalties eg for error of course, the final penalty score and overall placing – and may show the individual placing by each judge.

13. GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RULES

13.1 Lamé horses - Article 526.7

- a) If the President believes a horse to be markedly lame, he should ring the bell to stop the test and then immediately and quickly consult the other members of the Jury. The ultimate decision is the President's, and there is no appeal against this decision.
- b) If it is decided that the horse should be allowed to continue, the competitor should be instructed to resume the test at the beginning of the movement that was interrupted.
- c) If during a test, the Ground Jury is concerned about a horse's soundness, without its being so bad as to warrant instant elimination, they may request the Veterinary Delegate to examine the horse after the Test and report his findings to them. A decision then must be taken as to whether the horse should continue in the competition.
- d) Article 518 1.7 permits the Jury to eliminate a horse in such circumstances, if necessary. On the results sheet, it should be recorded as 'eliminated after dressage'.
- e) Note that at a CIC where there may be no First Horse Inspection, this is the first opportunity for the Ground Jury to observe the horses. The OC should therefore be prepared for this Article 518.1.7 to be used.

13.2 Errors of Test - Article 526.10-12 and Article 528.1.2

If, the President or a member of the Jury has noted an error during the Test, he should inform the other members immediately after the Test has been completed. If all agree, they should ensure that their respective judging sheets **all** note the error. If they do not agree, none of the sheets should show the error, the competitor being given the benefit of the doubt. Note the need for quick radio communication between a Judge in **B** or **E**, and the other judge(s).