

## GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS

All ESDCTA dressage schooling shows included in this Omnibus are conducted according to the USEF Rules for Dressage Competitions, with several exceptions noted here and on the ESDCTA Registration Requirements page. For details of rules, competitors are encouraged to join the USEF and receive a Rule Book, plus "Equestrian" magazine, which publishes rule changes as they occur. Some of the most common questions pertaining to rules are explained briefly here:

1. A simple snaffle, regular cavesson, flash, figure-eight or drop noseband are required. A noseband is required for dressage competitions unless prior approval to ride without one has been obtained. Twisted wire bits are not permitted.
2. Bandages, boots, blinders, martingales, draw reins, side reins, running reins, or artificial devices are not permitted. Lunging with side reins and riding or lunging with boots, bandages, ear muffs, or a running martingale is permitted only in the warm-up arena.
3. Whips may be carried during a test, but may not exceed 47.2" (120cm). Only one whip may be used during warm-up and must not exceed 47.2" (120cm). Whips are not permitted in any championship classes.
4. Riders may have a reader (except in final and championship classes); however, it is the rider's responsibility to know the test. Movements may be read only once.  
All FEI tests, including FEI Jr. tests, must be ridden from memory. Reference USEF Rule DR#122.
5. Use of voice while riding your test is not permitted.
6. Committing three course errors, leaving the arena during the test, or marked lameness results in elimination.
7. Riders may not show under a judge from whom they have received private or semiprivate instruction within 30 days of the show. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities, such as Pony Clubs, unless individual instruction is given, will not be considered as instruction, coaching, or tutoring. Should a rider choose to show, s/he will be then be riding "Hors de Concours" (HC). His/her score will not count toward awards.
8. Horses may not be entered in classes differing by more than one level at any one show. The number of classes entered must comply with the USEF rule limiting the total number of classes in which a horse may be ridden per day. At the time of this printing, the USEF limit is three classes per day. USEF exception: Horses may be ridden in a Dressage Seat Equitation (DSE) class even if they have shown in three regular dressage classes that day.
9. A rider must enter the arena within 45 seconds of the judge's signal (usually a bell or a whistle).
10. If jackets are excused, a shirt of conservative color, with sleeves, must be worn. Stock ties are to be removed and the shirt should be left open at the neck.
11. Smooth leather half-chaps and matching paddock boots may be worn at First level and below

**The following exceptions to USEF rules are permitted at ESDCTA dressage schooling shows:**

1. Jackets are optional; smooth leather or leather like half-chaps may be worn if combined with matching colored paddock boots. If jackets are removed, a conservative top with sleeves and collar must be worn.
2. Seat-savers, nose covers and ear covers are allowed.

# ESDCTA DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Date: September 18, 2011 • Location: Horse Park of New Jersey

Use **2011 ESDCTA entry forms only!** No entries will be accepted without your ESDCTA membership number. USEF official entry forms will not be accepted. ESDCTA entry forms can be downloaded from the website [www.esdcta.org](http://www.esdcta.org).

## 1. Eligibility Rule:

The Dressage Championships are open to ESDCTA members who have earned a qualifying score during the qualifying period. Membership in ESDCTA is required at the time the score is earned and said members must be “in good standing” when these qualifying scores are earned in order for them to count as qualifying scores. Any member not “in good standing” will not be eligible to ride in the championship show. Please use 2011 entry forms and entry must have an ESDCTA membership number on the entry form.

## 2. Qualifying period:

From August 23, 2010, to August 22, 2011

## 3. Qualifying shows:

- Any ESDCTA registered show published in the ESDCTA’s Omnibus or advertised in the ESDCTA newsletter, Collective Remarks

## 4. Qualifying scores:

- Must be earned as a horse/rider combination.
- The same qualifying scores apply for both juniors and adults
- It is NOT required that the horse/rider combination achieve a certain rank in the class (i.e., first, second, etc.), only that the minimum percentage score be earned
- The Starter Divisions (Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Canter) will be open to riders who have not shown above 2011 Training level Test #1.

USDF Intro A or B	60%		
Third Level Test 2 or 3	58%		
USDF Intro C or Training Level 1	60%	Fourth Level Test 2 or 3	58%
Training Level Test 2 or 3	60%	FEI and FEI MFS	58%
First Level Test 2 or 3	60%	USDF Musical Freestyle	60%
Second Level Test 2 or 3	60%		

*\* Scores from 2007 Training, First and Second Level Test 4, earned between August 23 and December 1, 2010, will be accepted as qualifying scores for the 2011 Championships.*

**DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION:** Riders who have qualified for the championships at any level (Intro C and above) are automatically qualified to enter the Dressage Seat Equitation Championships Class.

## 5. Horse/Rider Guidelines:

- A horse and rider qualify as a combination. No substitutions of horse or rider will be allowed at the show.
- **EXCEPTION:** Dressage Seat Equitation class: It is NOT required that the rider use the same horse on which they received their qualifying score.
- A horse/rider combination may compete at only one level in the championships.
- A horse may be ridden by more than one rider at more than one level, provided that the number of classes in which the horse is entered complies with the USEF rule limiting the total number of classes in which a horse may be ridden per day. Currently the USEF rule states: “A horse may be ridden in no more than 3 classes per day. Exception: A horse may be used in a DSE class as a 4th class for the day.”
- Winning horse/rider teams will be ineligible to compete at the same or lower levels in succeeding years. Exception: Grand Prix, GP MFS, Pas de Deux.
- The Dressage Championships will be conducted according to USEF rules. No whips are allowed and tests must be ridden from memory. Exception: The gate at “A” will remain open.

## 6. Class Categories:

- Classes will be divided Adult-Jr/YR
- Starter Riders (both WT and WTC) are those who have never shown above Training Level Test 2
- Riders having ridden at Second Level and below, and riders having ridden at Third Level and above
- Musical classes and those with multiple horses in a test may be combined at the discretion of management